

**JAMES WRIGHT MARKOE, M.D.**, Specialist in Obstetrics, founder of the Sloane Maternity Hospital and the Midwifery Dispensary, now known as the Lying-In-Hospital, occupies a representative place of prominence among New York medical men.

James Wright Markoe was born in New York City, July 19, 1862, a son of the celebrated Dr. Thomas Masters Markoe (Princeton University, 1836, College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, 1841), born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1819. The Markoe family traces its descent through Peter Markoe, who became a resident of the Island of Santa Cruz, in the year 1702, where he continued to reside until 1747, and where he was the owner of large

landed property, his estate being called "Clifton Hall." The family is of French-Huguenot origin, being among that large army of refugees who fled from France from religious persecution upon the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Francis and Elizabeth (Hartmann) Markoe, the great-grandparents of Dr. James Wright Markoe, had for son, Francis Markoe, grandfather of Dr. James W. Markoe, who was born on the Island of St. Croix, West Indies, June 5, 1774. For the purpose of acquiring an education, he came to the United States where he entered Princeton University, graduating therefrom in 1795, upon which he returned home, where he remained, however, but for a short period, and, having made over to his brother all his interest in the family estates, he once more returned to this country, where he took up his permanent abode and founded, in the United States, the Markoe family. After spending a few years in business in Philadelphia, Mr. Markoe at length settled in New York City, where he engaged in the shipping business. He died in that city, February 16, 1848.

His son, Thomas Masters Markoe, M.D., father of Dr. James W. Markoe, was the noted physician who filled so many important and responsible positions with institutions of this city, and of whose activities a brief account only can be compiled within the limits of this article. In 1839, Dr. Thomas Masters Markoe began his connection with the New York Hospital, being then appointed junior assistant, although he had not yet finished his college course; subsequently he became curator of the Pathological Museum, Lecturer on Pathological Anatomy, attending surgeon, and then consulting surgeon. His portrait in oils now hangs in the governor's room in that hospital. For some time, Dr. Markoe filled the chair of Anatomy in the Medical College at Castleton, Vermont; he also filled the chair of Pathological Anatomy in the University of the City of New York for several years. In 1860 he was designated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons to fill a responsible appointment with that institution; he became Adjunct Professor of Surgery, serving in that capacity for ten years when he was made professor in that branch; from 1879 to 1891, he filled the chair of Professor of the Principles of Surgery, and in 1891, upon retiring, he was created Professor Emeritus. Dr. Markoe likewise served as vice-president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for several years. The Governor of New York appointed Dr. Markoe to serve during the Civil War with the medical department of the Union army and he rendered efficient service at Fortress Monroe, Yorktown, Fredericksburg and other points. Various well-known surgical publications and pamphlets owe their authorship to Dr. Markoe. He was a member of the Academy of Medicine, County Medical Society, Pathological Society, Surgical Society, Medical and Surgical Society, and Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men.

Dr. James Wright Markoe was prepared for college in St. Paul's School, New Hampshire, under the instruction of private tutors; he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York in 1881,

from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1885. He then entered the New York Hospital, surgical side, continuing therewith for eighteen months; and then for six months was connected with the Nursery and Child's Hospital. Shortly thereafter he went to Europe and further pursued his studies in the Frauen Clinic, Munich, Germany. Returning to the United States, he became resident physician of the Sloane Maternity Hospital for one year, which institution Dr. Markoe had himself opened in December, 1889. Dr. Markoe, in 1890, founded the Midwifery Dispensary in conjunction with Drs. Lambert and Painter; this Dispensary was absorbed in 1892 by the Society of the Lying-In-Hospital. Since 1892 Dr. Markoe has been chief surgeon at the latter hospital, specializing in obstetrics, and having a general oversight of hospital constitutions, appointments and management.

Dr. Markoe holds membership in the New York Academy of Medicine, Physicians' Mutual Aid Association, and Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans; he is likewise a member of the following social clubs: The Century, the Metropolitan, the Racquet, and the New York Yacht clubs.

In 1894, Dr. Markoe was united in marriage with Annette B. Wetmore, of New York City, daughter of David Wetmore, who traces his lineage from Cotton Mather. Their home is at No. 12 West Fifty-fifth Street.

maniac, Eric Muentner, in the Summer of 1915 after a struggle in the hallway of the Morgan Summer home at Glen Cove, L. I., a hurry call was sent to this city for Dr. Markoe. He was one of the first physicians to reach the Morgan home and, after attending the wounds, he remained with Mr. Morgan until he was out of danger. Muentner, who was known also as Holt, committed suicide a few days after the shooting by jumping from the roof of his cell in the Nassau County jail at Mineola. He manifested similar maniacal tendencies shown yesterday in the shooting of Dr. Markoe.

A few months after Mr. Morgan recovered from the wounds of this attack he became ill with appendicitis, and again Dr. Markoe was summoned. He performed the operation, with Dr. H. H. M. Lyle. For some of the Morgan children he had been the only physician attending them since birth.

#### His Work in Hospital.

It was with the help of the late J. Pierpont Morgan that Dr. Markoe and a group of other noted surgeons who were interested in gynecology expanded the work of the Lying-In Hospital, at Seventeenth Street and Second Avenue. Dr. Markoe became medical director of the institution, and before his retirement, about three years ago, it had been made one of the best specialized institutions of its kind in the world. Course of study were established for graduate physicians, students of medicine and nurses, and the medical profession credits many of its advancements in obstetrical science to the efforts of the staff members of the institution.

Before he had begun to take an active interest in the kind of institution the Lying-In Hospital has become Dr. Markoe and other young physicians, who have since become famous, organized the work of the women's dispensary at 314 Broome Street. Some of those who were associated with Dr. Markoe in this work were Dr. Samuel Lambert, who later became Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; Dr. Austin Flint, the noted alienist and surgeon; Dr. J. Clinton Edgar and Dr. H. McM. Painter. For a long time before Mr. Morgan became interested in their work these surgeons carried on the work, all of it without charge to the patients, by their own efforts and at their own expense.

When Dr. Markoe and his associates took up the work at the Lying-In Hospital they maintained this so-called midwifery dispensary as one of the substations, and its work on the east side has been expanded year by year without cost to needy families. Many of the worthy patients at the dispensary are taken to the Lying-In Hospital for treatment without cost to them.

#### Studied in Europe.

After his graduation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 1885, Dr. Markoe went abroad to study in Munich, and during his period of post-graduate work he developed his interest in gynecology and obstetrics. Upon his return he became the first house surgeon at the Sloane Hospital for Women, where he remained for several years. He went to the Broome Street Dispensary about 1890, but for many years maintained his connection with the Sloane Hospital and the Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, where he was consulting gynecologist for many years. He was medical director at the Lying-In Hospital until about 1917, when he decided that he would devote the greater part of his time to his private practice. Dr. Markoe came from a family of

Dr. Markoe for many years, said yesterday that, although most of the physician's friends had forgotten that phase of his life, he was a good amateur athlete and one of the best amateur middle-weight boxers of the '80s. In later years Dr. Markoe had been interested in yachting, and cruised frequently with Mr. Morgan.

## **DR. MARKOE FAMOUS IN HIS PROFESSION**

**Physician of J. Pierpont Morgan,  
Who Aided Him in Lying-In  
Hospital Work.**

Dr. James Wright Markoe was rated by his associates in the medical profession as one of the foremost gynecologists in the country, and for the last twenty years he had taken an active part in the management of institutions special-