
 IN MEMORIAM

 FREDERICK JOSEPH TAUSSIG

 1872—1943

FREDERICK JOSEPH TAUSSIG, a member of the Advisory Editorial Board of the JOURNAL since its founding, died of pneumonia August 21, 1943, at Bar Harbor, Maine, where he had gone a week before for a vacation following an operation in St. Louis on July 9. Though aged 70, convalescence was prompt and excellent, so much so that in five weeks he was able to depart on his vacation. Surviving are his wife, one married daughter, one son (Frederick Taussig, Jr., a Coast Guardsman stationed in Cleveland), two grandchildren, and a brother, the well-known internist, Dr. Albert E. Taussig, of St. Louis.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, October 26, 1872, he came with his family to St. Louis at an early age. Graduated from Smith Academy, St. Louis, 1889, from Harvard University, B.A., 1893, and from Washington University, M.D., 1898. Interned for two years at St. Louis City Hospital for Women (formerly the "Female Hospital"), where he served as assistant superintendent, and then went to Vienna for further gynecologic study. Began private practice in St. Louis in 1902, and soon became associated with the Washington University School of Medicine, where he continued to teach. He advanced through the various instructor grades to professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, which position he attained in 1911 and graced with his splendid teaching ability and stimulating personality until his death.

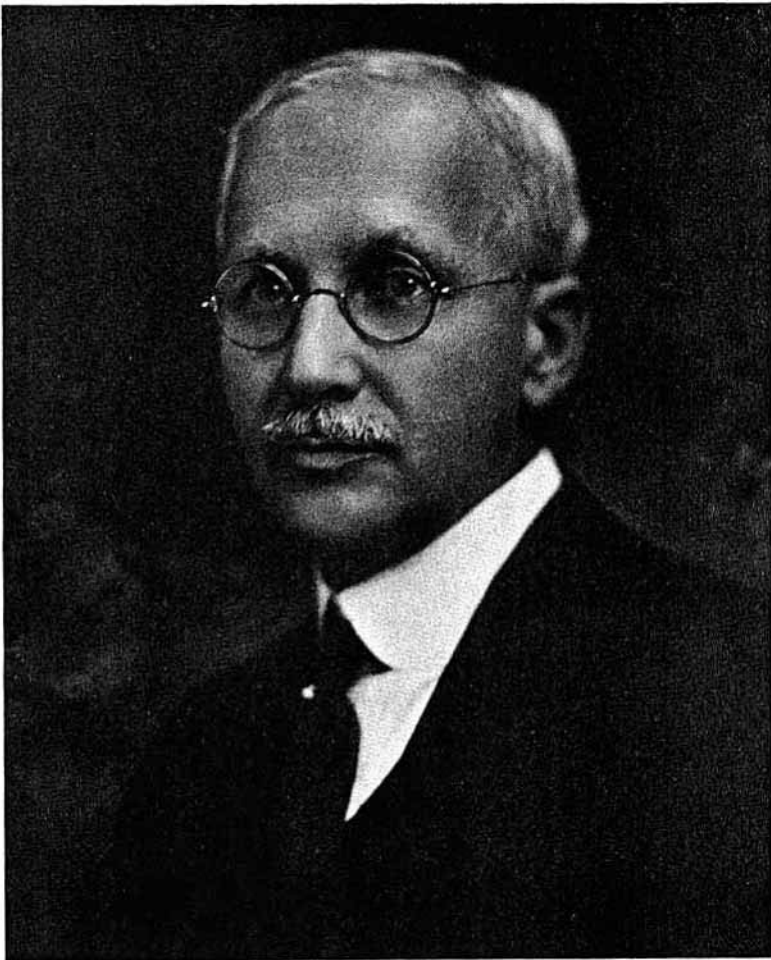
An outstanding characteristic of Dr. Taussig was his tenacity of purpose in seeking the solution of difficult problems. This was manifested in his many useful activities, particularly in his attack on one of the most formidable problems in gynecology, namely, the effective treatment and prevention of vulvar cancer. Long ago when little hope could be given to patients with this disease, in which deep glandular involvement occurs so early, Dr. Taussig attacked the problem with the true pioneering spirit of courageous enthusiasm and persistent industry. Through accurate recording of his cases and laborious pathological investigations and effective study of the same, he was able to establish definite information on which to base the plan of treatment which has saved so many of these patients and which is now standard for this disease. In prevention, likewise, his accurate methods and productive study established leucoplakic vulvitis as a large factor in the origin of vulvar cancer and excision of leucoplakic tissue as a decisive step in preventing the same.

Membership in scientific societies included American Gynecological Society (president, 1936), Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (president, 1932), American Medical Association (section chairman, 1911 and 1924), American Society for Control of Cancer, American Association for Cancer Research, American Radium Society, and the various local societies interested in gynecology and obstetrics. Hospital connections included Barnes, Jewish, Barnard Free Skin and Cancer, and St. Louis Maternity Hospitals. His consuming interest in cancer is shown by his leadership in the Missouri State Cancer Commission (of which he was chairman and which founded the State Cancer Hospital at Columbia) and his productive work for the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital in St. Louis.

Dr. Taussig's extensive experience and study enabled him to do a great deal of informative and dependable writing. He is the author of two monographs, *Diseases of the Vulva* (1923) and *Abortion, Spontaneous and Induced, Medical and Social Aspects* (1935). He also made chapter contributions to Lewis' *Surgery*, Nelson's *Looseleaf Medical and Surgical Volumes*, Curtis' *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Davis' *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Brennermann's *Pediatrics*, and Christopher's *Surgery*, in addition to numerous articles to medical journals through the years.

Dr. Taussig lived strenuously, usefully and happily his three score years and ten, and his well-directed endeavors contributed materially to the advancement of effective practice in his chosen specialty.

H. S. Crossen.



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