

Historical Notes on American Gynecological Surgery

Ronald M. Cyr M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Revised Dec 2014

Milestones in Modern Surgery

- **1840 - 1850 - Anesthesia**
 - Ether (Long 1842; Morton/Jackson 1846)
 - Nitrous Oxide (Wells 1844)
 - Chloroform (Simpson 1847)
- **1860-1880 - Antisepsis**
 - Pasteur/Koch: Germ theory
 - Lister: Antisepsis (carbolic acid)
- **Blood Transfusion**
 - Blood Types: Landsteiner 1900
 - Blood Banking: 1930s-40s
- **Antibiotics**
 - Sulfa 1930s
 - Penicillin 1940s

Pre-Anesthesia Gynecology

- "Diseases of Women" was a medical specialty, usually taught by the professor of Midwifery, along with "Disease of Children" and "Materia Medica"
- This quote summarizes the widely-held impression in the early 1850s when Sims was proposing a hospital for women:

"The field is too small for a special hospital. Any one can apply nitrate of silver to an old ulceration through an old cylindrical speculum; and all that is needed to cure leucorrhea is an astringent injection. There is no difficulty in introducing a Physick globe pessary for prolapsus."

Pre-Anesthesia Surgery

- Since Antiquity lithotomy, trephination, castration practiced.
- Battlefield and farm accidents: amputations
- Abdominal surgery rare and dangerous
 - Cesarean sections reported 1500s: Rousset
 - Lithotomy: 1400s
 - Ovariectomy:
 - McDowell (Danville KY) 1809
 - Smith (Norwich VT) 1821

Ovariectomy

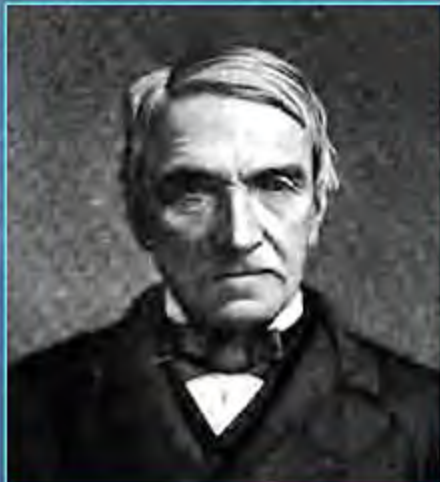
Pre-Anesthesia



Ephraim McDowell
1771-1830
Danville KY
1809



Nathan Smith
1762 – 1829
Norwich VT
1821



John L. Atlee
1799-1888
Lancaster PA
1843



Washington L. Atlee
1808-1878
Lancaster PA
1844

Ephraim McDowell

1771-1830



With the exception of J. Marion Sims, a native of South Carolina, no physician on this continent has contributed such far-reaching and potential influence toward advancing and enriching the resources of surgical science.

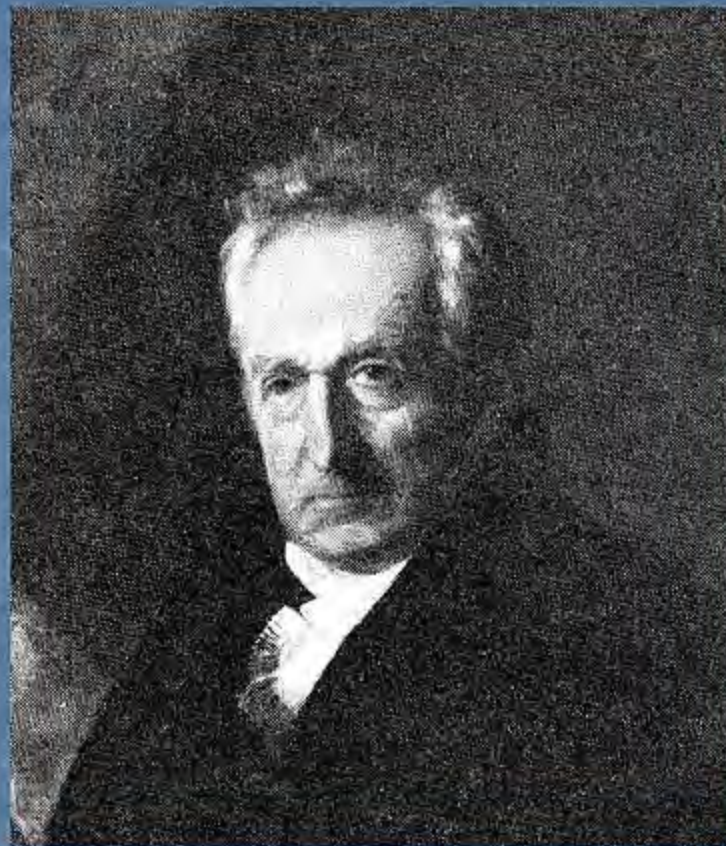
- 1793-94 Edinburgh
- Ovariectomy 1809
Danville KY; patient lived 32 years post-op
- Reported 3 cases
1817

Dr. McDowell planned and put into execution an operation which, though successful, brought him, at the hands of the medical profession, vituperation and violent opposition, posing him before the world as a heartless "woman-butcher." Quoting the words of the late Dr. W. L. Atlee, "he had little else than the book of nature before him, and the consciousness of right to sustain him."

Nathan Smith

1762 - 1829

- M.B Harvard 1790
- Glasgow-Edinburgh-London 1796-97
- Founder 4 medical schools
 - Dartmouth 1797
 - Yale 1813
 - Bowdoin College 1820
 - U Vermont 1821
- Ovariectomy 1821



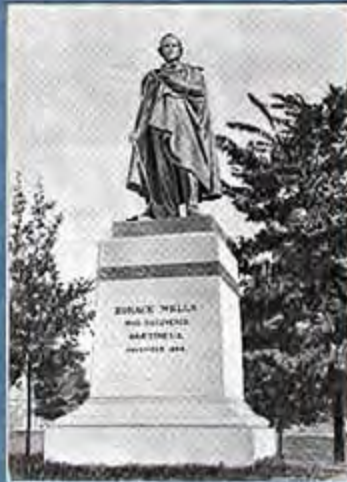
Case of Ovarian Dropsy successfully removed by a Surgical Operation. By Dr NATHAN SMITH, Professor of Physic and Surgery in Yale College, Connecticut; and transmitted, at his desire, by JOHN D. WELLS, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in Bowdoin College, in the State of Maine.

Edin Med Surg J 1822;18:532

Anesthesia



Crawford T. Long
1816-187
Georgia
Ether 1842



Horace Wells
1815-1848
Vermont
Nitrous Oxide 1844



William T. Morton
1819-1868
Massachusetts
Ether 1846



James Y. Simpson
1811-1870
Scotland
Chloroform 1847

Atlee brothers

Lancaster PA



John L Atlee
(1799–1888)

- MD U Penn 1820
- 1st ovariectomy 1843
- 78 cases by 1883



Washington L Atlee
(1808-1878)

ART. III.—Case of Extirpation of a Bilocular Ovarian Cyst by the large Peritoneal Section. By WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, M.D., of Lancaster, Penn., Professor of Medical Chemistry in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Philadelphia. Read before "the Lancaster City and County Medical Society," April 17th, 1844.

- MD Jefferson 1829
- 1st ovariectomy 1844
- 378 more cases
- Treatise Ovariectomy 1873
- 1st myomectomy 1854

Ovariectomy

Post-Anesthesia

OVARIOTOMY IN THE UNITED STATES. (From 1853 to 1864.)

Years.	Cases.	Cured.	Died.	Years.	Cases.	Cured.	Died.
1853 . . .	8	7	1	1859 . . .	7	4	3
1854 . . .	11	8	3	1860 . . .	3	3	0
1855 . . .	21	6	15	1861 . . .	3	2	1
1856 . . .	11	8	3	1862 . . .	4	2	2
1857 . . .	5	4	1	1863 . . .	3	2	1
1858 . . .	5	3	2				

The total of the reported cases, up to 1864, is 117; of which 68, or 58.12 per cent. recovered, and 49 died.

(From January 1, 1864, to October 10, 1871.)

Operators. ¹	Cases.	Cured.	Died.	Per cent. of recoveries.
Atlee, W. L.	246	172	74	70.00
Kimball, G. (Lowell, Mass.) .	121	80	41	66.11
Dunlap, A. (Ohio)	60	48	12	80.00
Peaslee, E. R.	28	19	9	67.85
White	25	17	8	68.00
McRuer (Maine)	22	16	6	72.72
Thomas	27	18	9	66.66
Bradford, J. P. (Kentucky) .	30	27	3	90.00
Emmet	17	8	9	47.05
Sims, J. Marion	12	10	2	83.33
Miner	9	4	5	44.44
Axford	9	6	3	66.66
Crosby	5	2	3	40.00
Bennett, Ezra P. (Connecticut)	4	3	1	75.00
Green	8	5	3	62.50
Tewksbury (Portland) . . .	7	3	4	42.86
Beebe (Chicago)	6	4	2	66.66
Hill (Augusta, Maine) . . .	6	3	3	50.00
Noeggerath	6	1	5	16.66
Smith, A. G.	5	3	2	60.00
Jackson (Chicago)	4	3	1	75.00
Mussey, R. D. (Cincinnati) .	3	1	2	33.33
Total	660	453	207	68.63
Deduct cases previous to 1864 } included in above table }	38			
Total	622	since January 1, 1864.		

Ovariectomy

USA

1864 - 1871

GENERAL AND DIFFERENTIAL
DIAGNOSIS
OF
OVARIAN TUMORS,
WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE OPERATION
OF
OVARICTOMY;
AND
OCCASIONAL PATHOLOGICAL AND THERAPEU-
TICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

BY
WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, M.D.,

With Thirty-nine Illustrations.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
1873.

Washington L Atlee

TO THE MEMORY
OF
EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M.D.,
OF KENTUCKY,
THE FOUNDER OF OVARIOTOMY IN 1809;
AND TO
JOHN L. ATLEE, SR., M.D.,
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
MY BROTHER, PRECEPTOR, AND FRIEND,
WHO SINCE 1848 HAS AIDED IN ESTABLISHING THIS AMERICAN OPERATION,
I Dedicate this Volume,
THE FRUITS OF MY EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATION.
WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, M.D.

OVARIAN TUMORS:

THEIR

PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT,

ESPECIALLY BY

OVARIOTOMY

BY

E. RANDOLPH PEASLEE, M. D., LL. D.,

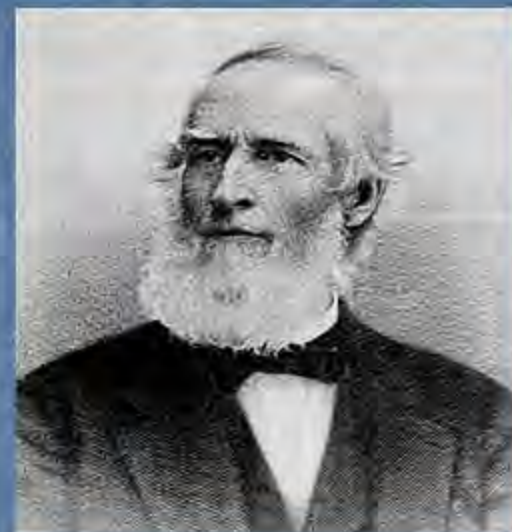
PROFESSOR OF GYNAECOLOGY IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE; ATTENDING SURGEON OF THE NEW YORK STATE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL; CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE STRANDBERG HOSPITAL; CORRESPONDING FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF BERLIN, AND OF THE GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BOSTON; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE LOUISVILLE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY; PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, ETC., ETC., ETC.

WITH FIFTY-SIX ILLUSTRATIONS BY WOOD.



NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON & COMPANY,
640 & 651 BROADWAY.
1872.

E. Randolph Peaslee
1814-1878



TO

THE MEMORY OF

EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M. D.,

THE FATHER OF OVARIOTOMY,

AND TO

THOMAS SPENCER WELLS, ESQ.,

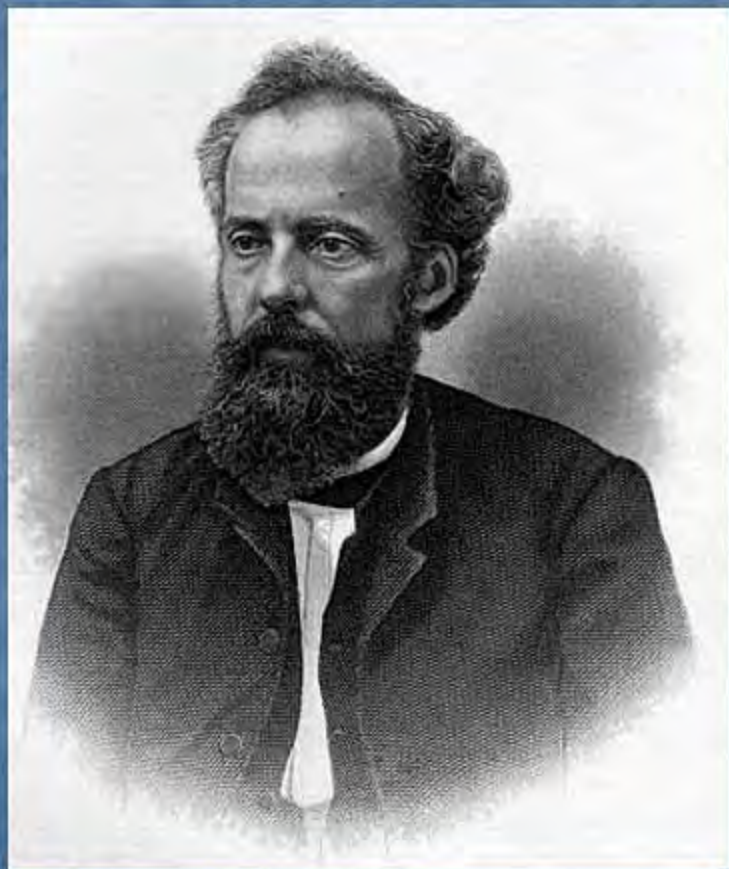
THE GREATEST OF OVARIOTOMISTS,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

Robert Battey 1828-1895

- MD Jefferson 1858
- Paris 1859-60
- Practiced Rome GA
- Prof Obs Atlanta Med College 1872-75
- Notorious for removing normal ovaries to treat PMS
- Pioneered vaginal approach



Battey's Operation 1872

“ In these operations I have sought to effect a cure of the varied maladies complained of, by the removal, in certain instances, of an ovary viciously or abnormally performing its functions, and more frequently, by the removal of both, ovaries to put an end to ovulation entirely, and thus to determine the menopause or change of life ; whereby I have hoped, through the intervention of the great nervous revolution which ordinarily accompanies the climacteric, to uproot and remove serious sexual disorders and re-establish the general health. I have done ten operations in all, of which three fall under the former and seven under the latter head.”

Early American Hospitals for Women

- **Woman's Hospital State of New York, NYC**
 - 1855 J. Marion Sims
- **Woman's Hospital State of Illinois, Chicago**
 - 1871 H. Reeves Jackson
- **Free Hospital for Women, Boston**
 - 1875 William H. Baker
- **Kensington Hospital for Women, Philadelphia**
 - 1883 Howard A. Kelly

Woman's Hospital NYC - 1855



1855



1880

The New York Woman's Hospital stands to-day, and always will stand, a glorious monument to the genius, energy, and humanity of J. Marion Sims.

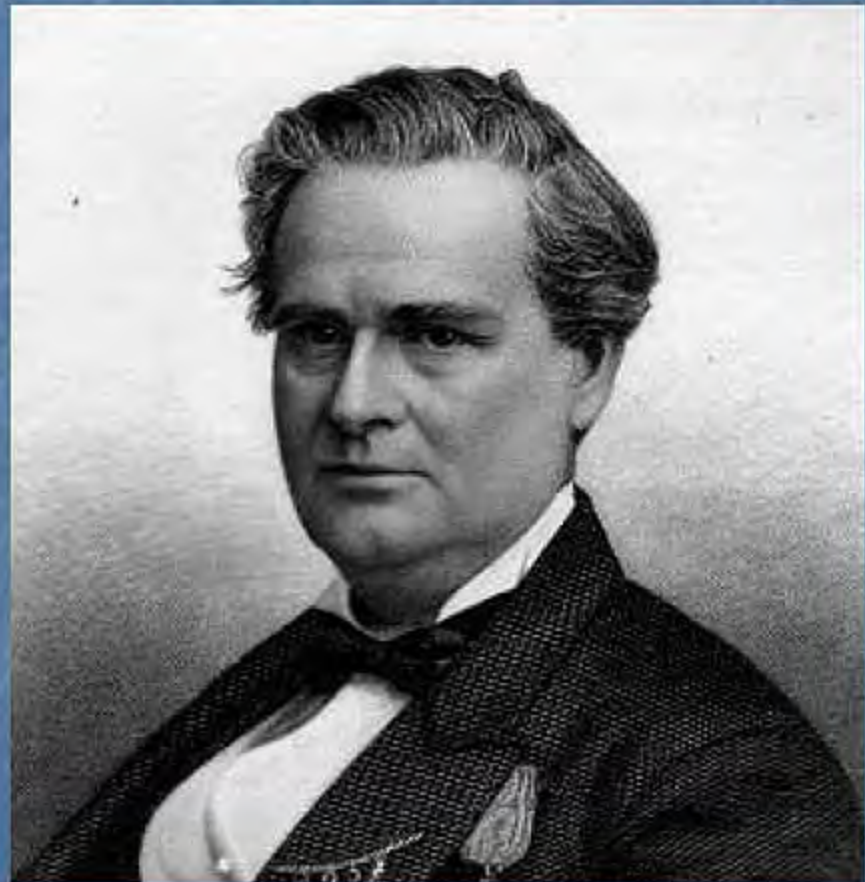


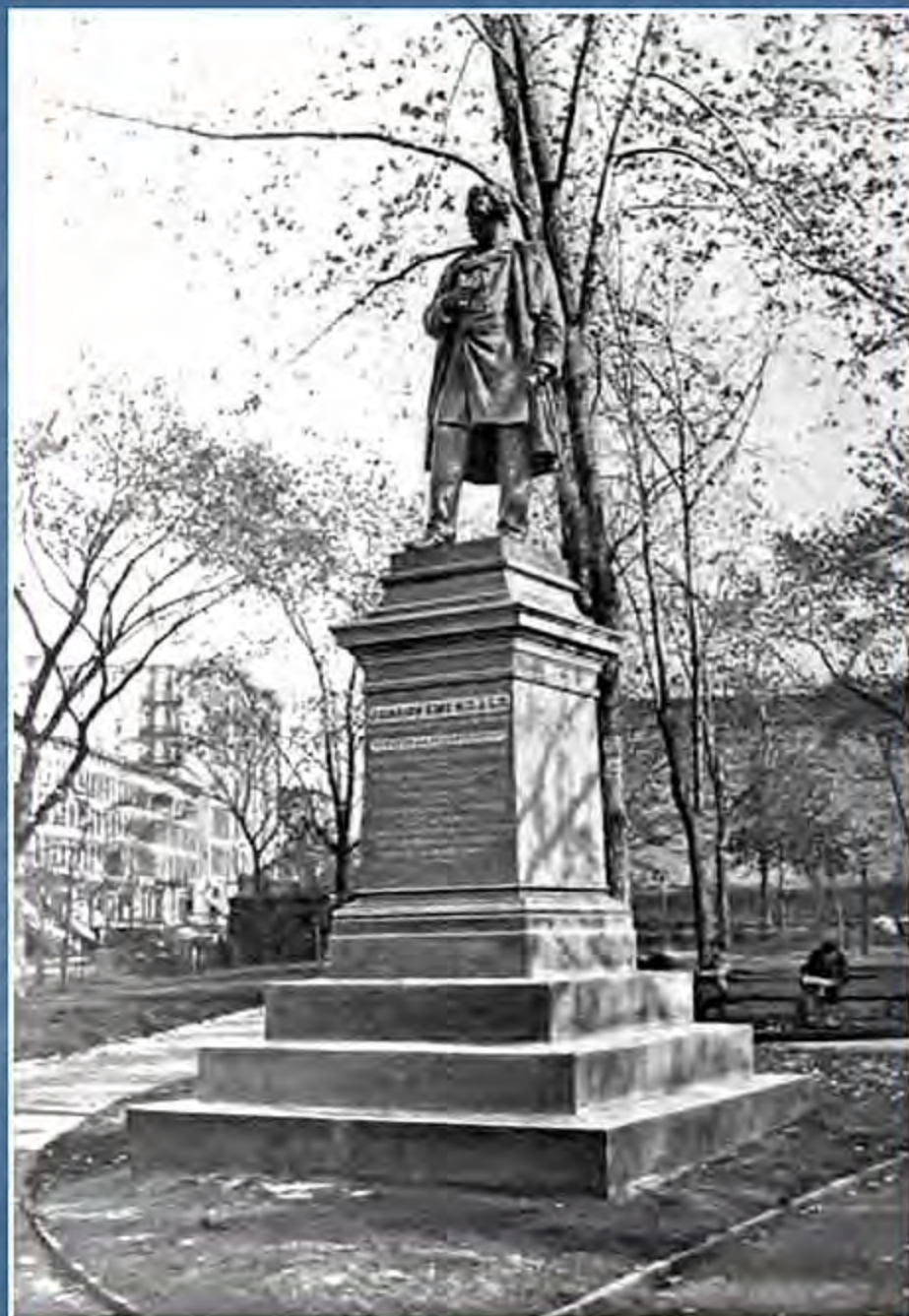
1906

J.Marion Sims

(1813-1883)

- MD Jefferson 1835
- VVF Fistula
- Founder Woman's Hospital NYC 1855
- Famous in Europe
- "Father of American Gynecology"





SIMS Statue
Bryant Park NYC
1884



Vesico-vaginal Fistula Repair (SIMS-EMMET)

Exposure

Excision of scar

Mobilization of tissue

Silver suture



CLINICAL NOTES

ON

UTERINE SURGERY

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE

MANAGEMENT OF THE STERILE CONDITION

BY J. MARION SIMS, A.B., M.D.

LATE SURGEON TO THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL, NEW YORK,

Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine; of the New York Pathological Society; of the New York Historical Society; of the New York State Medical Society; of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London; of the London Medical Society; of the Pathological Society; Hon. Fellow of the Obstetrical Society, London; Honorary Member of the German Society of Physicians and Naturalists, Paris; Hon. Fellow of the Imperial Academy of Medicine of Belgium; Knight of the Légion d'Honneur, &c.

LONDON

ROBERT HARDWICKE, 192, PICCADILLY.

1866.

Sims is remembered for the treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula, and his fame in Europe was the result of this surgery. Sims attributed his success to the use of silver sutures, and described his work in an anniversary discourse in 1857.

Sims wrote little; his assistant, Thomas A. Emmet, was responsible for improving and teaching his mentor's technique.

Emmet was careful to give Sims full credit for the idea, since Sims was notoriously prickly about his reputation; he spent much of his life feuding with Nathan Bozeman and others about priority.

His major work was devoted largely to the management of infertility; it aroused controversy in Victorian England.

Thomas A. Emmet

1828-1919



- MD Jefferson 1850
- Emigrant Refuge Hospital, Ward's Island NYC 1850-55
- Sims' assistant 1855-62
Woman's Hosp NYC
- 1862-1900 surgeon WH
- Trained a generation of surgeons
- Surgery of cervix
- Wrote influential textbooks

VESICO-VAGINAL FISTULA

FROM

PARTURITION AND OTHER CAUSES:

WITH

CASES OF RECTO-VAGINAL FISTULA

BY

THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, M. D.,

SURGEON-IN-CHIEF OF THE NEW YORK STATE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL,
&c., &c.

NEW YORK:
WILLIAM WOOD & CO.
1868.

THE

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

OF

GYNÆCOLOGY

BY

THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, M.D.,

SURGEON TO THE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, ETC.

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY ILLUSTRATIONS.

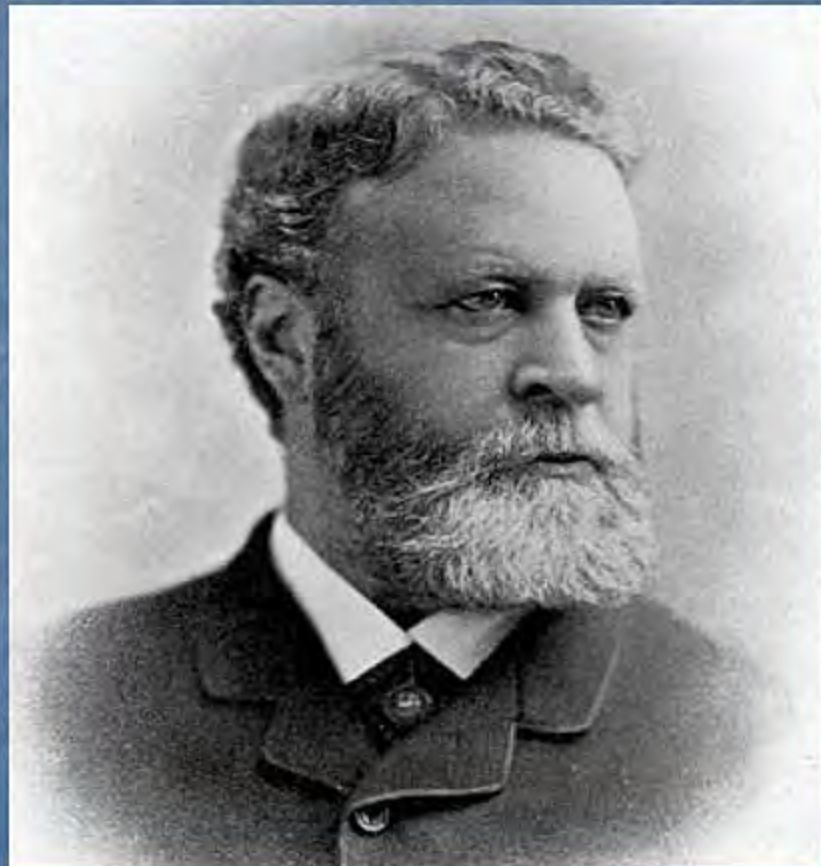


PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY C. LEA.
1879.

T. Gaillard Thomas

1831-1903

- MD Med Coll SC 1852
- Intern Bellevue NYC '52
- Ward's Island under Emmet '53
- '53-'55 Paris/ Rotunda, Dublin
- '58-'63 Chair Obs Bellevue
- '65-'79 Chair ODWC CPS
- '68 Textbook Dis Women
- '72-'87 Surgeon WH
- '79 Chair GYN CPS



PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON THE
DISEASES OF WOMEN

BY

T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
AND SURGEONS, NEW YORK; PHYSICIAN TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL; CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO
THE STATE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL; LATE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK OBSTETRICAL
SOCIETY; MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE; OF
THE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY, ETC. ETC.

WITH TWO HUNDRED AND NINETEEN ILLUSTRATIONS

PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY C. LEA.
1883.

- Most comprehensive American GYN textbook of its time.
- Went through 6 editions and translated into many languages.

Woman's Hospital State Illinois 1871

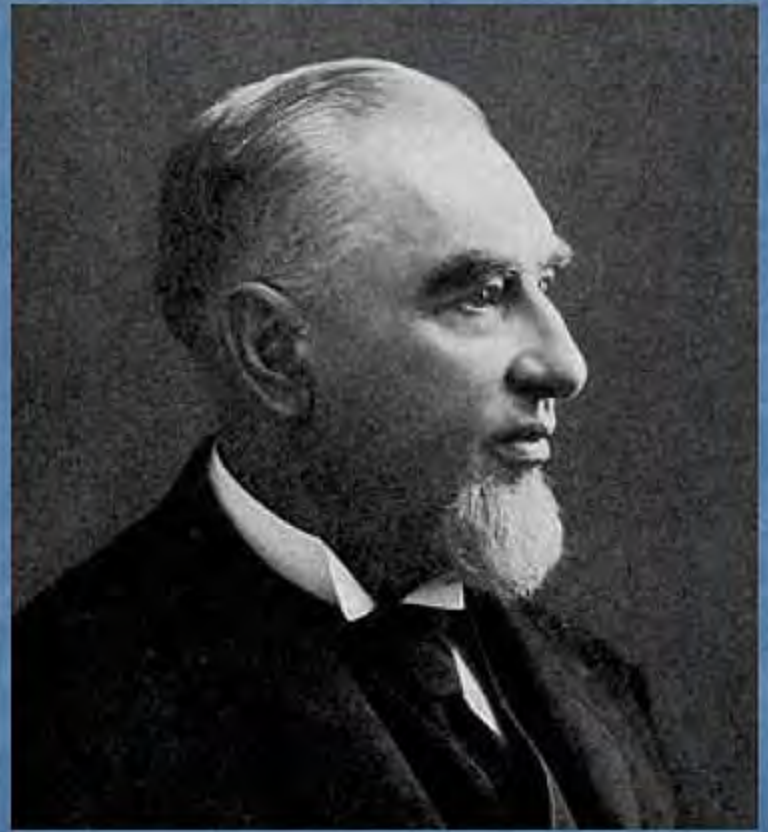
WOMAN'S HOSPITAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS—229 Thirtieth Street. Chartered September, 1871. Has capacity for twelve patients. Devoted to the treatment of diseases and accidents peculiar to women, no cases of general disease being received. Patients able to pay are charged from \$7 to \$15 per week. Application for admission may be made at the Hospital. It is managed by a Board of Governors

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A. Reeves Jackson

1827-1892

- MD U. Penn 1848
- Practiced 20y PA
- Chicago '70
- Founder Woman's Hosp IL '71
- '72-'77 Lect Rush Med Coll
- '82 co-founder Chicago CPS
- Friend Mark Twain: "Innocents Abroad"



Free Hospital for Women

Boston-1875



- Founded William H. Baker, who was its surgeon-in-chief until 1907
- He was succeeded by William P. Graves

Free Hospital for Women, Boston



William H. Baker 1845-1915

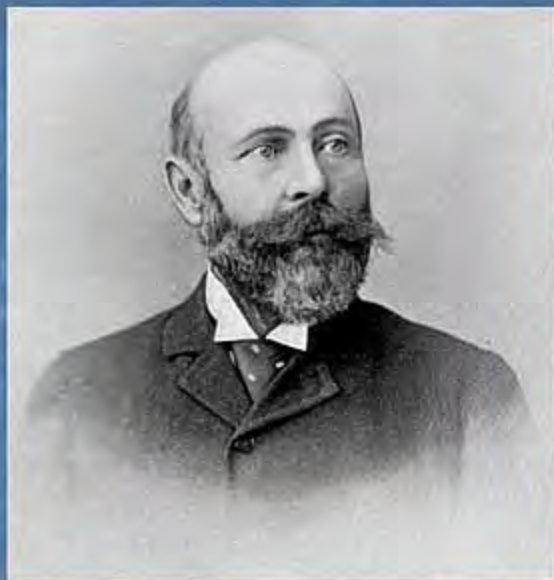
- MD Harvard 1872
- '72-'73 Intern Boston City Hospital
- '73-'75 Woman's Hospital NYC
- '75 founded Free Hospital for Women; chief until 1907
- '82 Prof Gynecology Harvard



William P. Graves 1870-1933

- MD Harvard 1899
- Studied Vienna and Johns Hopkins
- 1907-1933 Chief surgeon Free Hospital
- 1911 Prof Gynecology Harvard

Surgical Pioneers in Philadelphia



William Goodell (1829-1894)

- MD Jefferson 1854
- Surgeon Preston Retreat 1865-87
- Prof Dis Women & Child, U Penn 1874
- Excellent writer and teacher



Joseph Price (1853-1911)

- MD U Penn 1877
- Philadelphia Dispensary 1877
- Admirer Marion Sims/Emmet/Lawson Tait
- Surgeon Preston Retreat 1887-94
- Founder Philadelphia Gyneccean Hospital, 1888
- Private Hosp with J.W. Kennedy 1891
- 1895 Pres AAOG

LESSONS

IN

GYNECOLOGY,

BY

WILLIAM GOODELL, A. M., M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL GYNECOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA, ETC.

WITH NINETY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
D. G. BRINTON, 115 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET,
1880.

*His position in American
gynecology was unique.*

*He was one of the small group
of pioneers who made the
gynecology of this country what
it is, and he alone among these
men possessed the literary
faculty to a high degree.*

B.C. Hirst, Goodell Obituary 1894

National Societies

- 1876 - American Gynecological Society
- 1888 - American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (and Abdominal Surgeons)
- 1913 - American College of Surgeons
- 1930 - American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN
GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I

FOR THE YEAR 1876



BOSTON
PUBLISHED BY H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY
Cambridge: The Riverside Press
1877

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(Elected June 3, 1876.)

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OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS.
VOL. I.
FOR THE YEAR 1888.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1888.

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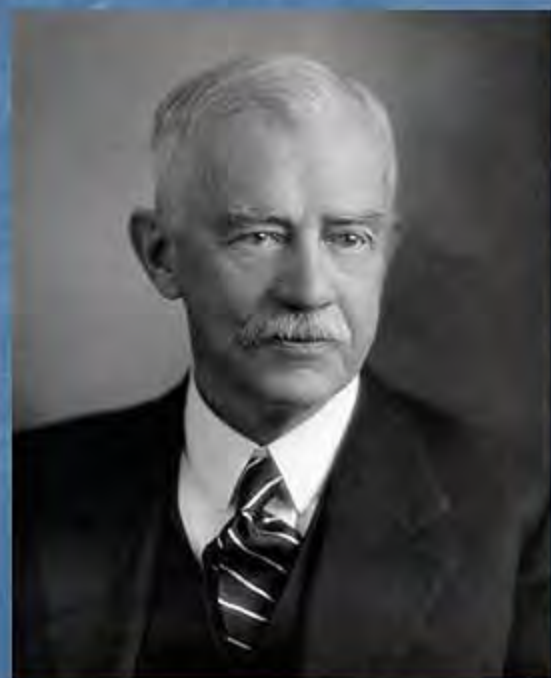
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Howard A. Kelly 1858-1943

- The most influential gynecologist in America from 1890-1920. A complex man, a universal genius: great surgeon, great teacher, great scholar, great entrepreneur, religious zealot.
- Bold and inventive surgeon; he founded 2 private hospitals; created residency program at Johns Hopkins; his "men" are a who's who of US gynecology; wrote numerous textbooks, almost 500 articles, an expert herpetologist and mycologist, collector of rare books, promoter of radium therapy,



Howard A. Kelly

- MD U Penn 1882
- Founded Kensington Hospital for Women 1883, at age 25
- Traveled to Europe 3 times between '83-'88
- Joint Chair (Barton C. Hirst) ObGyn U Penn 1888
- 1st Chair ObGyn Johns Hopkins U 1889
- Established GYN residency at Hopkins
- Delegated OBS to J. Whitridge Williams 1893
- Howard Kelly hospital in Baltimore 1894
- Resigned Chair 1919

Kensington Hospital for Women Philadelphia



- Founded 1883 Howard A. Kelly
- 6th Woman's Hospital in USA
- Hunter Robb assistant
- Surgeon-in-chief
 - 1883-90 Howard A. Kelly
 - 1890-1910 Charles P. Noble
 - 1910-Harry P. Deaver



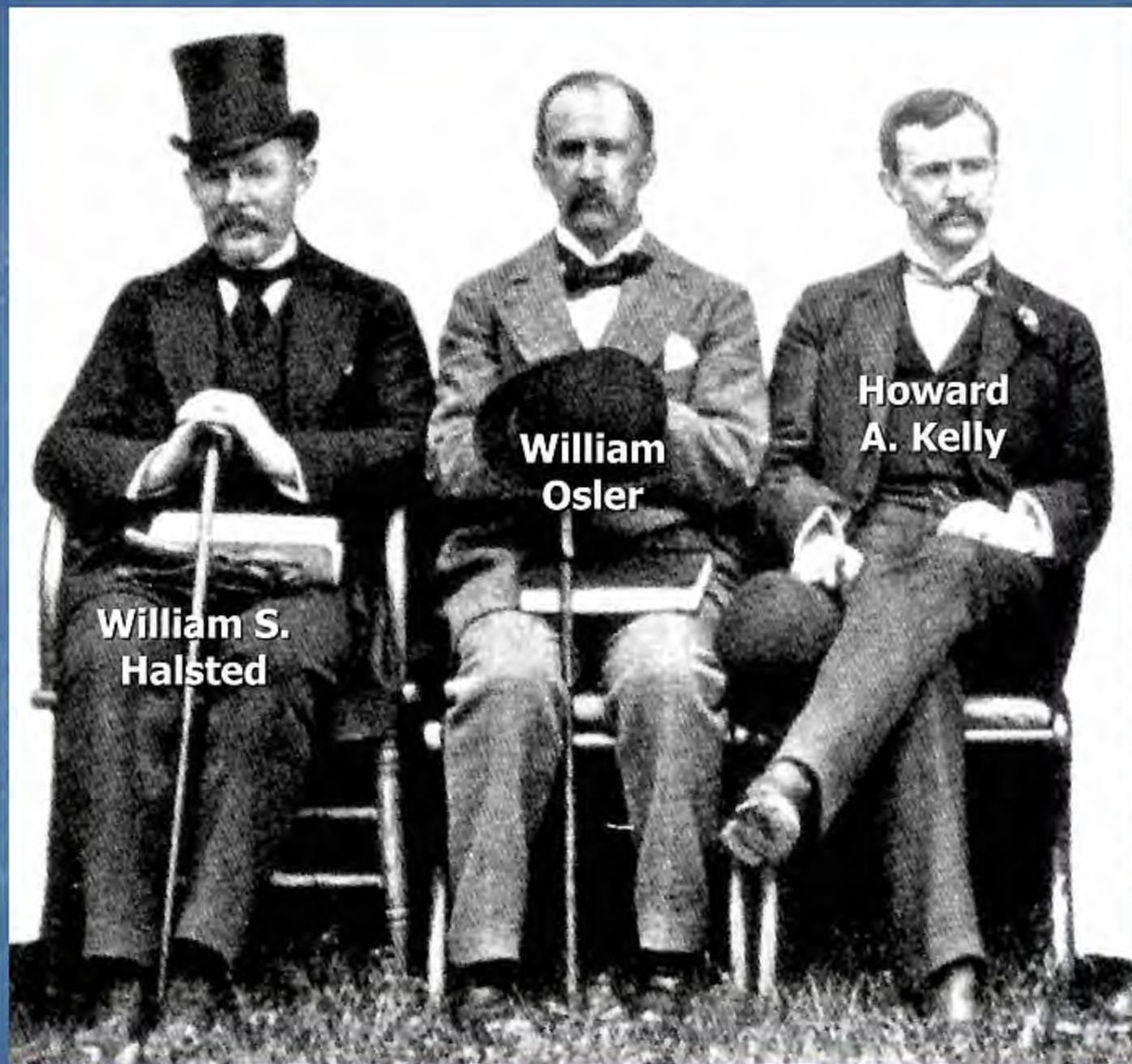
Hunter Robb
(1863-1940)

- MD U Penn 1884
- Followed Kelly to Hopkins in 1889
- 1894-1914 Prof GYN Western Reserve, Cleveland



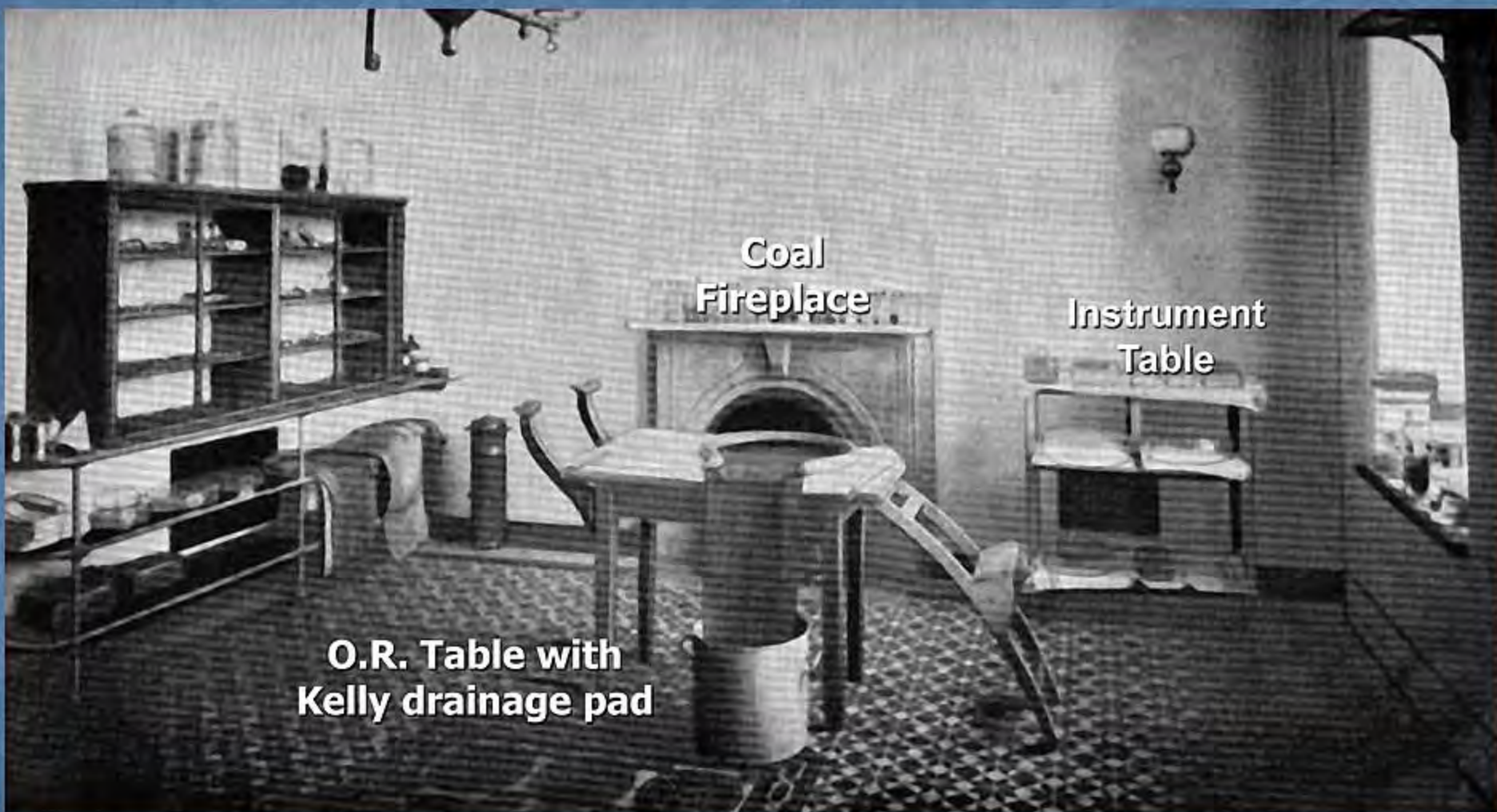
Charles P. Noble
(1863-1936)

- MD U Maryland 1884



**Johns Hopkins
1897
Graduation**

Johns Hopkins - South End O.R.

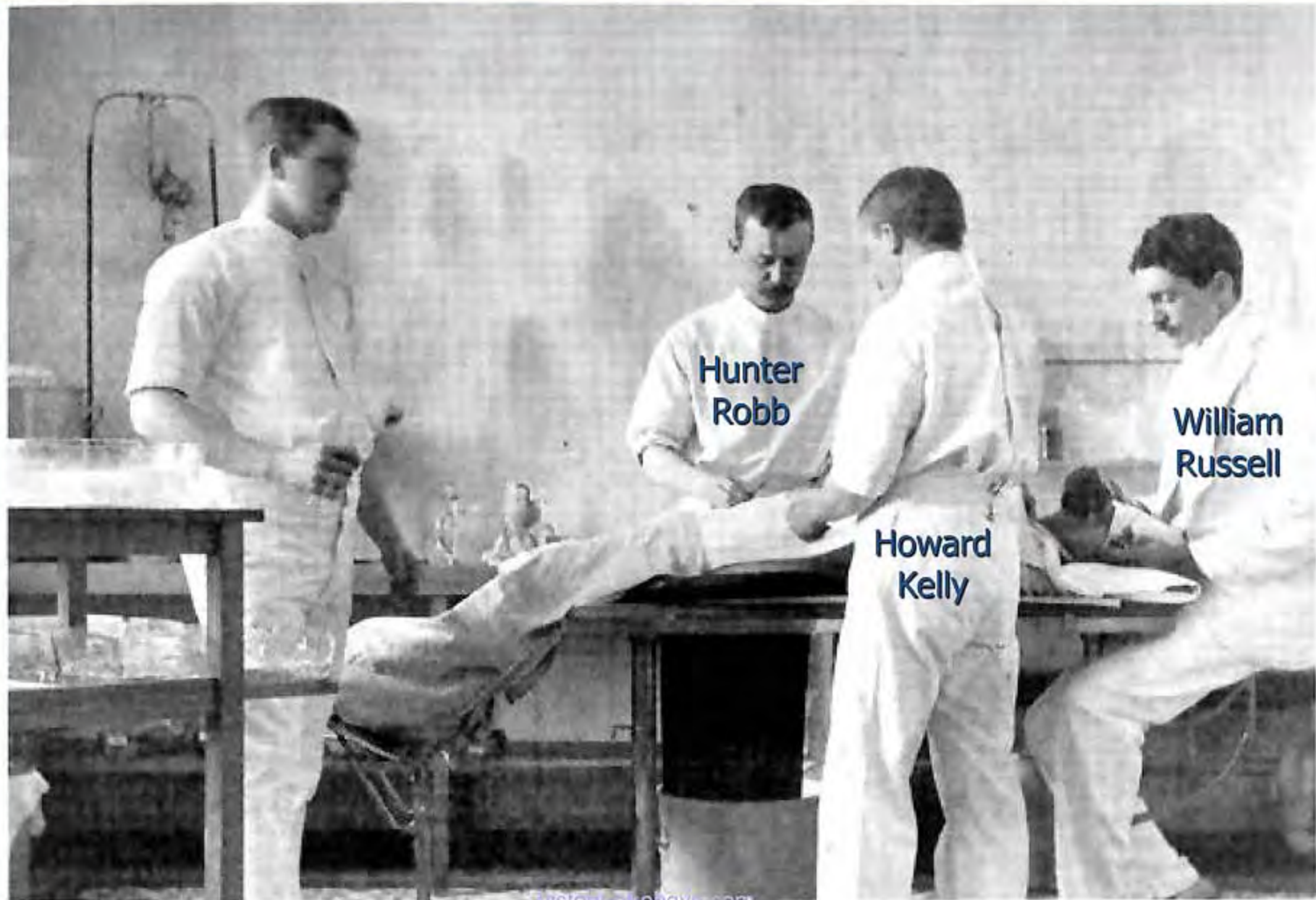


Coal
Fireplace

Instrument
Table

O.R. Table with
Kelly drainage pad

Johns Hopkins – Early 1890s



Ether/Chloroform Masks



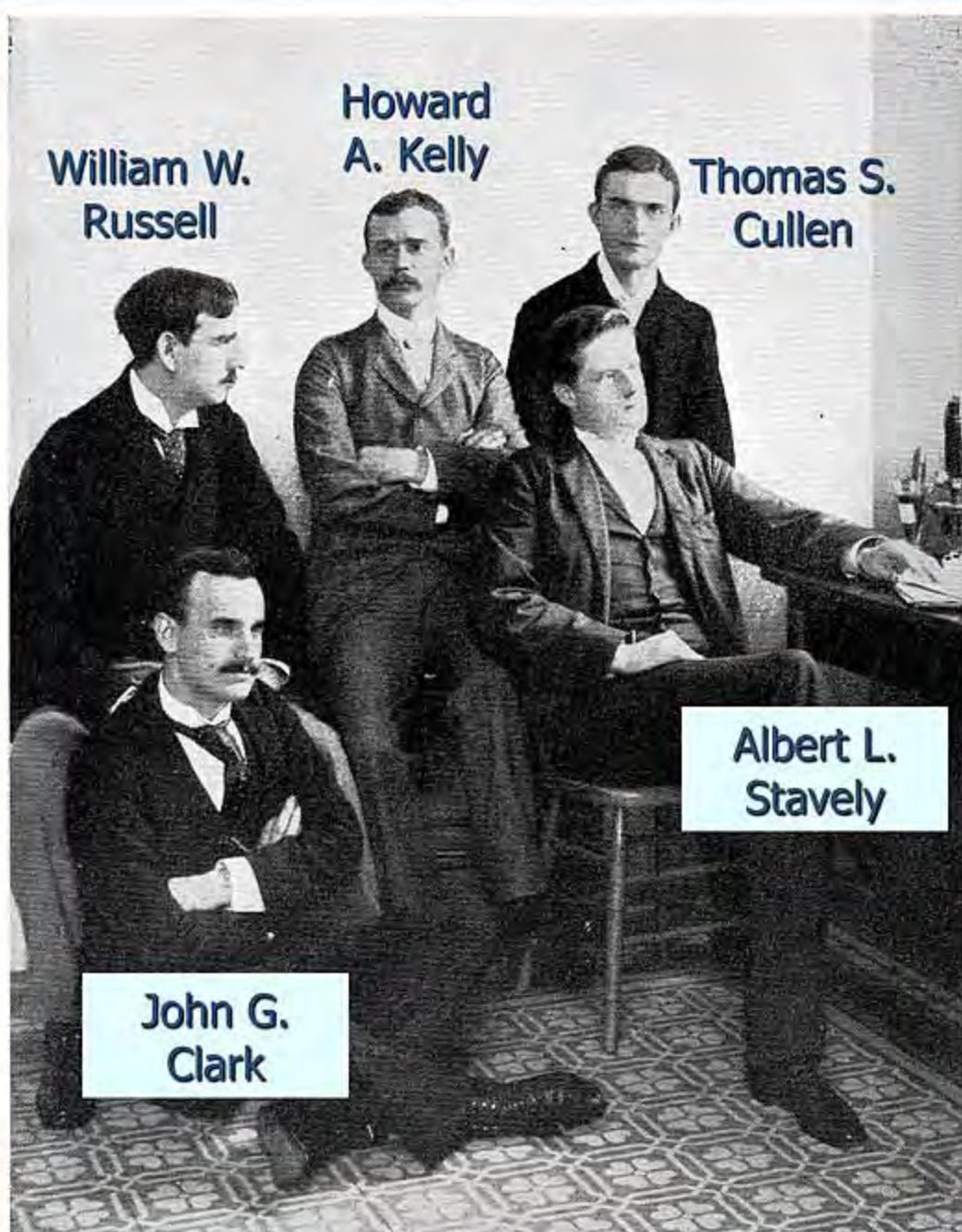
Blake Inhaler 1880



Collin Chloroform
Inhaler 1905



Schimmelbusch Mask
Dropper bottle



William W.
Russell

Howard
A. Kelly

Thomas S.
Cullen

Albert L.
Stavely

John G.
Clark

Kelly & Residents

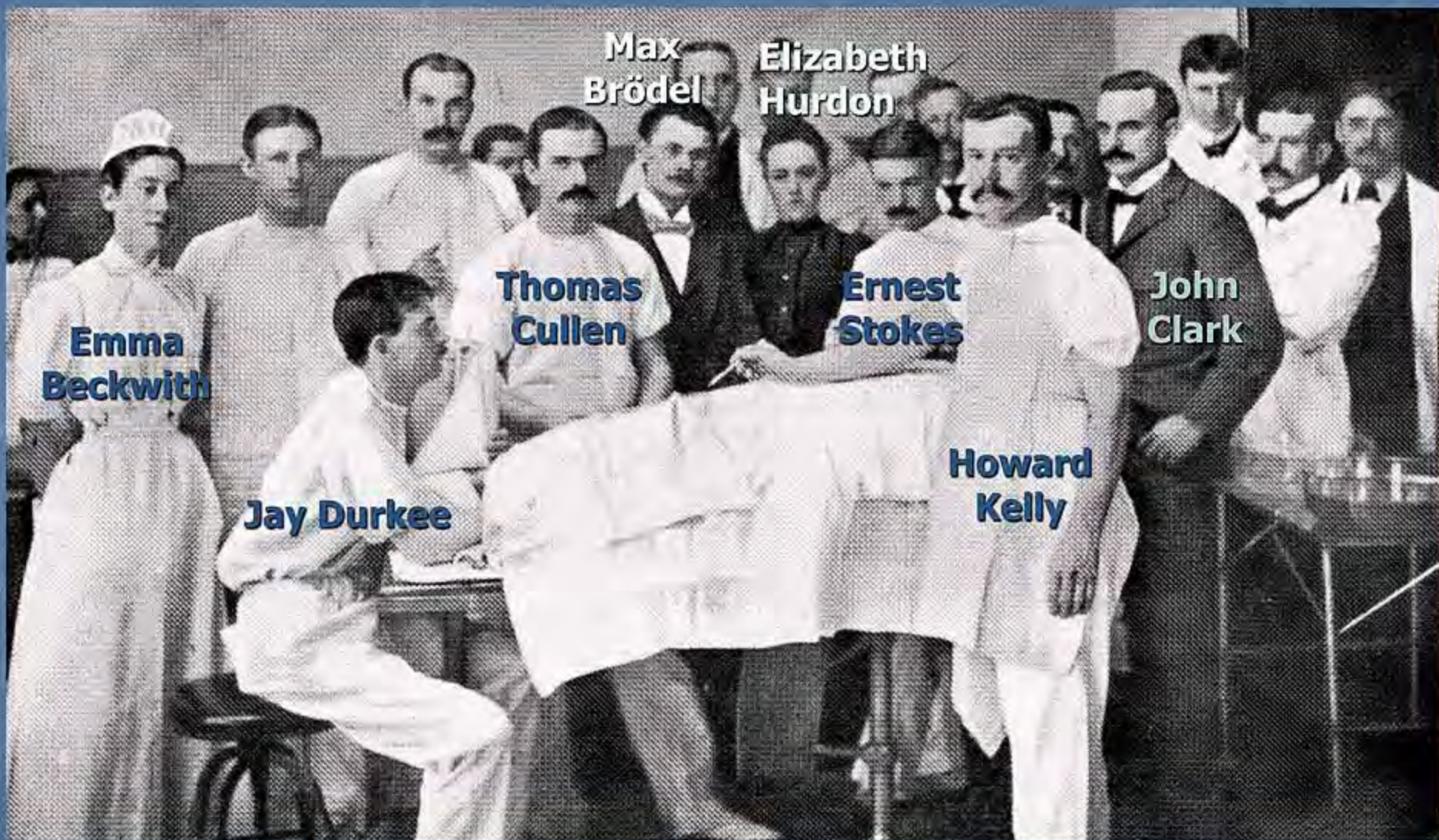
Johns Hopkins 1893

- **Stavely - Resident '92-'94**
- **Russell - Resident '94-'95**
- **Clark - Resident '95-'97**
- **Cullen - Resident '96-'97**

[Photograph by ANTHONY MURRAY

history-of-obgyn.com

Johns Hopkins- late 1890s



OPERATIVE GYNECOLOGY

BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, A. B., M. D.

FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY;
PROFESSOR OF GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS IN THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
AND GYNECOLOGIST AND OBSTETRICIAN TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE;
FORMERLY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA;
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ OBSTÉTRICALE ET GYNÉCOLOGIQUE DE PARIS,
AND OF THE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GEBURTHSHULFE ZU LEIPZIG.

*WITH TWENTY-FOUR PLATES AND OVER
FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS*

VOL. I

NEW YORK
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1898

MEDICAL GYNECOLOGY

BY

HOWARD A. KELLY, A. B., M. D., LL. D., F. R. C. S. (HON. EDINB.)

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*WITH ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE ILLUSTRATIONS
FOR THE MOST PART BY MAX BROEDEL AND A. HORN*

NEW YORK AND LONDON
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1908

THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX AND ITS DISEASES

BY

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1905

GYNECOLOGY AND ABDOMINAL SURGERY

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*Illustrated by Hermann Becker
Max Brödel and Others*

VOLUME ONE

PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON

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1907

MYOMATA

OF THE

UTERUS

BY

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W. B. SAUNDERS COMPANY

1909

DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS, URETERS AND BLADDER

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DISEASES IN WOMEN

BY

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VOLUME I

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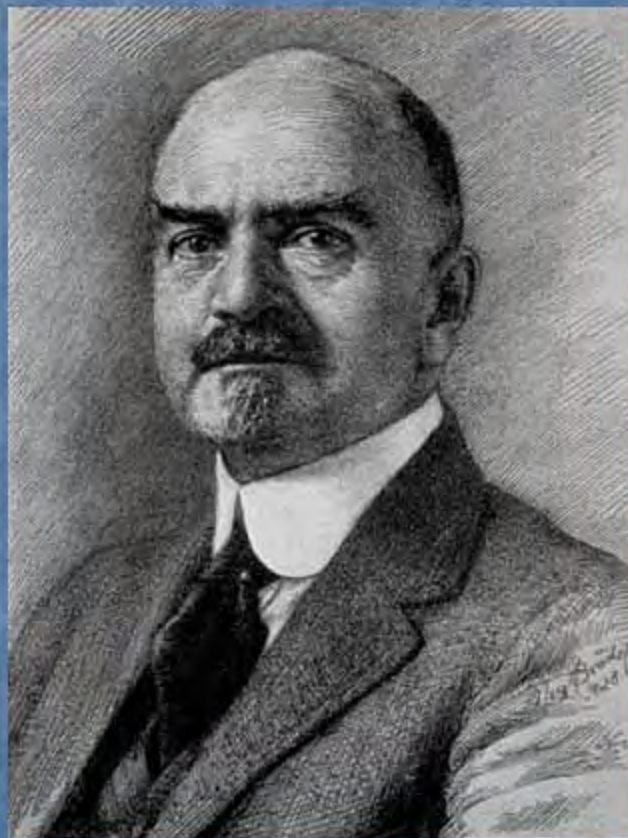
Kelly Residents

Many of Kelly's residents became influential gynecologists in their own right. Some stayed at Hopkins, others became leaders at other institutions:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ■ Hunter Robb (1892) | Cleveland |
| ■ John G. Clark (1897) | Philadelphia |
| ■ Benjamin R. Schenk (1903) | Detroit |
| ■ John A. Sampson (1904) | Albany |
| ■ Stephen Rushmore (1906) | Boston |

Thomas S. Cullen 1868-1953

- M.D. Toronto 1890
- Kelly Resident
1892-97
- Johns Hopkins
Chief GYN 1919-39



EMBRYOLOGY, ANATOMY, AND DISEASES

OF THE

UMBILICUS

TOGETHER WITH

DISEASES OF THE URACHUS

BY

THOMAS STEPHEN CULLEN

Associate Professor of Gynecology in the Johns Hopkins University

Assistant Visiting Gynecologist to the Johns Hopkins Hospital

ILLUSTRATED

BY

MAX BRÖDEL

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