

Paul Albinus Dineen

March 8, 1888 — September 19, 1948

Through the unexpected death of Paul Albinus Dineen on September 19, 1948, at his summer home in New Milford, Connecticut, Cornell University Medical College lost an inspiring teacher and surgeon of wide experience, and his friends a lovable, unselfish and loyal colleague.

Dr. Dineen's early education was in the schools of New York City, after which he entered St. Francis Xavier College where he graduated in 1910. He received his medical education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, completing his formal studies in 1914. Immediately after graduation he entered upon his hospital training as Junior Assistant House Surgeon in the New York Hospital, and followed this by a second year as First Senior House Surgeon.

With the beginning of World War I, Dr. Dineen enlisted in the Army as a First Lieutenant and went overseas in August 1917 with the New York Hospital Unit, Base Hospital #9. The surgical team of which he was a member made a distinguished record for itself, and special recognition came to Dr. Dineen for his skill and unflinching devotion to his work in the award of the French Croix Epidemics.

On return home and to civilian practice, he was appointed in 1920 Assistant Attending Surgeon on the Staff of the New York Hospital, and in 1933 he became an Associate Attending Surgeon. His first appointment to the teaching staff of the Medical College came in 1932, when he was made an Instructor in Clinical Surgery. He was appointed Assistant Professor in 1942, and, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in 1946, a post he held until the time of his death.

Schooled under some of the most outstanding surgeons of his time and developed in an era of conservative surgical methods, meticulous technic, manipulative dexterity and critical learning, Dr. Dineen entered into his chosen profession with a background of sound experience. He set for himself at all times a high standard of achievement, and he possessed moreover the determination to carry through to fruition the worthy ideals he conceived for his profession. By his ability to grasp and critically evaluate facts and interpretations, and by his warmth of understanding of the personal problems of his patients and associates, he engendered a lasting confidence as a counselor and high esteem as a friend.

In his professional life in addition to carrying on an extensive private practice he served for over 20 years as Medical Director for the International Telephone and Telegraph Company. To the employees, their families and friends he was the physician in times of sickness, a wise counselor in many of the everyday problems of life, and a benefactor in periods of reversal and stress.

A regular participant in the activities of the New York Surgical Society, Dr. Dineen served as its president in 1946, and continued as a member of its Advisory Board until his death. He held membership in the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York County Medical Society, and in these groups he gave freely of his time and interest. His special studies include publications on the surgery of bones and joints and on the operative management of acute perforated ulcers of the stomach and duodenum. Some of his most valuable contributions, however, were made in discussions in which he brought fresh and unexpected light on many subjects of broad surgical interest.

His love of sports found expression through membership in the New York Athletic Club and attendance at meets and games of various kinds. In fact practically all forms of athletics held strong interest for him, and it was through these means that he found much relaxation.

The intimate association of teaching and practice is traditional; indeed the very foundation of medicine may be traced to the increasing awareness of these ties and the influence of inspiring leaders in the art of imparting information to others. As a teacher, we think first of the fine personal qualities that endeared Dr. Dineen to students and commanded an abiding respect. Although a strict disciplinarian in the operating room and a staunch advocate of rigid attention to duty, he always had kindly and soft words in times of discouragement and an even temper to calm troubled waters. He was very generous and restrained to sudden original ideas, openminded and receptive to real accomplishments, polite and considerate in estimating achievement in others less experienced than himself.

In everyday life he had a cheerfulness, courtesy, thoughtfulness and sympathetic understanding that endeared him to all. His depth of character, nobility of instincts, and unfailing loyalty to friends remain as an enduring monument to his memory. Of the great privileges of life, none can have a deeper meaning and a richer significance than that of having known Paul Dineen.

D. J. Edwards