

Frederick Whiting

February 4, 1861 — March 12, 1946

Dr. Frederick Whiting was born on February 4, 1861 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Murray Whiting and Mary Elizabeth Ferris Whiting. He was a descendant of William Whiting, the first treasurer of the Colony in Connecticut (1634) and Nathaniel Whiting, Colonel in the British Army at the siege of Louisberg.

Dr. Whiting received an A. B. degree in 1882 and an M. A. degree in 1885 from Amherst College. He studied medicine at the Long Island College Hospital and graduated in 1885. Following an internship at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, he pursued post graduate studies at Heidelberg and at the University of Vienna from 1888 to 1890 with the view of filling the position of pathologist at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. However, upon his return to the United States, he became associated with Dr. Gorham Bacon in Otology and began private practice of this specialty at that time. His association with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary continued through 1927.

Dr. Whiting practiced inconspicuously until he undertook the care of a case of lateral sinus thrombosis, the mortality rate of which was then very high. In collaboration with Dr. Gibson, he worked out a new method of dealing with this serious condition and thereby made a notable contribution to surgery. His success in accomplishing a surgical cure for lateral sinus thrombosis accorded Dr. Whiting great prominence as an aural surgeon. In 1904, Dr. Whiting was appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery in Otology at Cornell University and continued active until 1928 when he was appointed Emeritus Professor. Between the years 1907 and 1920, Dr. Whiting was associated with the New York Polyclinic and Mt. Sinai Hospitals and for a time served as Director of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Otological Society, the New York Otological Society and the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Whiting was a member of numerous clubs, among others the New York Athletic Club, Clove Valley Rod and Gun Club, the Century Association and the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut. He was a collector of paintings of American artists, medallion art and porcelains.

In 1905, Dr. Whiting published his book, "Modern Mastoid Operation." He also contributed many articles on Otology to medical literature.

As a surgeon Dr. Whiting was distinguished particularly for his painstaking thoroughness rather than his brilliance. His mastoidectomies were performed so completely that rarely did his patients have any recurrence of infection. This same characteristic was evidenced in his writings and he once told an associate that he had spent two weeks

on a single paragraph. The illustrations in his book on mastoid surgery still stand out as the best illustrations existing in this particular field.

Dr. Whiting's character was exceptional. He despised all petty politics in medicine and showed a friendly helpfulness to those who were associated with him. He believed in advancing his associates according to their merits alone.

Dr. Whiting's great interest in the Department of Otology at Cornell University Medical College continued up to the time of his death. He gave two prizes each year for the two students of the graduating class making the best records in Otology. He also donated a very valuable collection of instruments and specimens to the Medical College.

Dr. Whiting died of cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 85, on March 12, 1946.

Dr. Arthur Palmer