

Henricus Johannes Stander

June 21, 1894 — May 2, 1948

Henricus Johannes Stander died suddenly at his home in Scarsdale, New York, on the evening of May 2, 1948. From the year 1929 when he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cornell University Medical College and Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief to the New York Hospital, he worked unceasingly for the best interests of the College and the perfection of the Hospital. His untimely death is a grave loss to the University and to the medical profession.

Dr. Stander was born near Georgetown, Cape Colony, South Africa, on June 21, 1894. His father's family had migrated there to escape religious persecution in Holland; his mother's family, being French Huguenots, left their native land for a similar reason. His father fought in the Boer war, and at the conclusion of the conflict much of the family property was appropriated by the British which drastically reduced the family resources. He was educated in the public schools of South Africa and attended South African College in Capetown from 1911-13. In latter year he borrowed funds, engaged passage on a ship, and worked his way to the United States.

Dr. Stander then continued his studies in chemistry at Harvard University (1913-1914), at the same time serving as an instructor. He subsequently attended and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1916 with the degree of Master of Science. He was appointed consulting chemist to the Hercules Powder Company of Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Stander was not satisfied with this promising future in industrial chemistry and gave up this work to enter Yale Medical School. He received his M.D. degree from Yale University in 1921. During the following year, while interning at the New Haven Hospital, he made lifelong friends who influenced him in his decision to go to Johns Hopkins University in 1922.

Dr. J. Whitridge Williams soon recognized in his new associate the dynamic personality, tremendous capacity for work, investigative zeal and other qualities which assured a promising future. During his years in Baltimore, his interest in eclampsia led him to the clinics of Europe for observation and further study. A leave of absence from Johns Hopkins for an additional period of clinical experience with Dr. W. W. Chipman at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal was arranged in 1925.

In 1929 Dr. Stander was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cornell University Medical College and Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief to the New York Hospital. He immediately began planning the physical and administrative organization of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in its new location on

the East River. Before permanently residing in New York, he spent a year abroad visiting various European clinics and making friends with heads of departments.

Dr. Stander moved permanently to the New York area in the spring of 1932 to supervise more closely the completion of construction, installation of equipment and the organization of the new department. Many difficulties had to be overcome and these were multiplied by the depression of the early 1930's. At no time did he swerve from his fundamental principles. The welfare of the Hospital and the Medical College was kept constantly in the foreground, and nothing was allowed to interfere with his concepts of an institution for the care of patients and the teaching and training of young doctors and nurses.

Dr. Stander's contributions to medical science dealt with placental interchange, blood volume, heart output, toxemias of pregnancy, urea excretion, basal metabolism and acidosis in pregnancy, eclampsia, chloroform poisoning, the respiratory quotient of the human fetus, kidney disease and function, yellow atrophy of the liver, purine metabolism, diabetes in pregnancy, the heart in pregnancy, and many other subjects. He was the outstanding champion on this continent of the concept of placing the teaching of Obstetrics and Gynecology on a comparable basis with the other major clinical departments. He spoke on this subject on many occasions during the past twenty years and published a number of articles on the subject. He was a leading advocate of combined departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Stander edited Williams' "Obstetrics" in 1936 and 1941, and in 1945 his third revision, entitled "A Textbook of Obstetrics," was published in his own name. At the time of his death the book was in the process of revision.

Dr. Stander was President of the Medical Board of the New York Hospital from its inception in 1934 until the time of his death. He was a Fellow of the American Gynecological Society, having been Vice-President in 1941-1942, and President of the Travel Club of that Society during the past year. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Medical Association, the New York Medical Society, the Academy of Science and Medicine and the New York Obstetrical Society of which he was President in 1941. He retired from the Council of that Society in 1946. He was, in addition, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, and Nu Sigma Nu. In 1937 Dr. Stander was awarded the Medal of the Order de Finlay of Havana, and in 1947 he was given the degree of Doctor in Medicine *Honoris Causa* at Trinity College in Dublin, Eire.

In September, 1927, he married Florence Mary Leigh Creelman of Vancouver, British Columbia, who survives him, as do his two sons, Robert and John, and his two daughters, Leigh and Margaret. He is also survived by two brothers and one sister in South Africa.

It is difficult to find words adequate for a man of such force and integrated strength. From the very beginning of his career, his intellectual honesty and dynamic moral courage commanded the greatest respect, and he will be remembered by his associates and friends as always tolerant, fair and courteous.

R. G. Douglas