

John Baptiste Pastore

June 5, 1905 — August 18, 1951

Dr. John Baptiste Pastore, the son of Frank and Carmella, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 5, 1905. He received his primary and secondary school education in the public schools of his native city and later entered Brown University from which he graduated in 1927. It was necessary, because of financial considerations, for Dr. Pastore to supplement his income by outside work in different commercial fields during his college years and yet he excelled scholastically and earned membership in the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi societies. This early business training undoubtedly was of great value to him in the solution of many problems in later years.

Dr. Pastore entered the Johns Hopkins Medical School in the fall of 1927 where he distinguished himself as an excellent student and graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1931. Before the completion of his third year he became especially interested in obstetrics and gynecology and medical center at its new location and entered into preliminary negotiations during his fourth year for a resident appointment on the staff of this institution. While awaiting completion of the new buildings he served faithfully as an intern in the Woman's Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. On September 1, 1932 he entered service in the New York Hospital as a Senior Intern in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and did more than his share in establishing order and in the solution of many of the problems of that historic era of this institution.

For the following three years Dr. Pastore served the New York Lying-in Hospital conscientiously and with great equanimity. This was a most difficult time and yet his devotion to his duties and to improvements in the organization was outstanding. On July 1, 1935, upon completion of his resident training period he was appointed as a Research Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the New York Hospital and as an Instructor in Obstetrics and Gynecology to Cornell University Medical College. In 1936 he was appointed Assistant Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist to the New York Hospital and retained his University appointment. During his years of resident training he became intrigued with the problem of hemorrhage as encountered in obstetric practice. For the following 5 years he worked intensively as a full-time member of the department and devoted the major portion of his time to research projects in hematology and related fields. He made many notable contributions including the development of a unique apparatus for the accurate measurement of blood loss at the time of delivery. He devised charts that could be used to predict what would happen to the formed blood elements and innovated many new ideas and concepts in this field. As a direct result of his work practice in the

institution was modified and new routines established in order that the obstetrical patients might benefit from his work. Greater availability of blood became essential and accordingly, in his characteristic way, Dr. Pastore solved the problem by the establishment in his laboratory on the 7th floor of the Lying-in Hospital of the first blood bank in this institution. After its organization and successful operation was well established it was turned over to the Central Laboratories because he accurately predicted the rapid growth and usefulness of this service in the institution as a whole.

At the height of his investigative enthusiasm and partly because of the nature of his investigations, Dr. Pastore became interested in various administrative problems as he saw them in his every day life. Following conversations with Mr. Murray Sargent, then Director of the New York Hospital, who realized his ability as an administrator, Dr. Pastore retired from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on January 1, 1940, and joined the administrative staff of the New York Hospital in the capacity of Assistant Superintendent. During his later years in this department he was appointed Assistant Director of the New York Hospital. He continued his interest in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology but he rapidly expanded his endeavors as a hospital administrator. Within a matter of 3 years he commenced publishing papers relating to hospital administration problems. He soon became associated with the local and national societies and associations in this field. Later in his administrative career Dr. Pastore was largely responsible for reconstructive changes in the hospital that resulted in the addition of 100 beds to the number then in existence. These facilities provided a very useful purpose following World War II in providing greatly needed beds which he had predicted would be required. In addition, Dr. Pastore was cognizant of the changes that were taking place during the war years in the hospital staff and was ever mindful of what might be done to facilitate the return to civilian life of those members of the staff who were serving in the armed forces. Post-war experiences proved that these added facilities made it possible for veterans to bring patients to the institution which would have otherwise been impossible.

Dr. Pastore served as Study Director to the Committee on Future Plans of New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College. He adopted the principle that all members of a community should be provided with comprehensive high quality medical care. He prepared in great detail a program that might be put into operation for such care to 40,000 subscribers by a medical group associated with the hospital. Although this scheme was never adopted and put into operation it was at the same time unique and most complete in all architectural, financial, statistical and legal details. It was subsequently used by others interested in the problem.

During the 6 years that Dr. Pastore served on the administrative staff of the hospital his reputation spread far beyond the walls of our institution. In February 1946, he accepted the position of Executive Director to the Hospital Council of Greater New York. He saw in this organization which was designed to coordinate and improve the hospital services of New York City and to plan the development of these services in relation to community needs, the opportunity of devoting his time and efforts to a new field that proved even more intriguing than that of hospital administration. That he never lost interest in this latter subject is evidenced by the many institutions that called on him for help. Among the many hospitals that sought his assistance might be mentioned the respective institutions in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle which served the community where he resided.

One of the first problems that Dr. Pastore assigned himself to was the completion of the "Master Plan for Hospitals and Related Facilities for New York City". Undoubtedly one of the great highlights in his distinguished career occurred on the evening of April 23, 1947 when he presented this plan following a dinner given by the Hospital Council for the city's most prominent citizens who were interested in the endeavors of the Council. Many instances of tangible evidence of the subsequent execution of this plan developed, such as the announced merger in November, 1949, of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary with the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. Dr. Pastore was steadfast in his opinion that the requirements of the community in the way of medical care were, at all times, most fundamental. He adhered to the belief that what was for the community's best interests was, in the last analysis, in the best interests of the hospital.

In 1950, by presidential order, Dr. Pastore was appointed as a member of the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization and as a member of the National Advisory Committee to Selective Service on Selection of Doctors, Dentists and Allied Specialists. This added responsibility was, of course, in addition to his other work and proved to be a great physical strain as it necessitated biweekly meetings in Washington and many additional conferences in New York. Characteristically, in the last week of his life he faced the call to duty and attended a very important meeting of this latter committee in Washington, which both he and his physician knew was not in his own personal best interests.

Dr. Pastore served in the New York Hospital as Senior Intern and Assistant Resident from 1932-1935 and as Research Fellow and Assistant Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist from 1935-1948. In 1948 he was appointed as an Associate Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist which title he held until his death. He was an Instructor in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Cornell University Medical College from 1932-1948 and in 1948 was elevated to an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. During the period from 1940-1946 he was Assistant

Superintendent and Assistant Director of the New York Hospital. From 1946-1951 Dr. Pastore was Executive Director to the Hospital Council of Greater New York. He was a member of the Federal Hospital Council and a consultant to the United States Public Health Service, a lecturer at the School of Hygiene of Columbia University and a guest Lecturer of the School of Public Health of Harvard University. He was a member of the Greater New York Hospital Association, the New York State Hospital Association, the Medical Administrators' Conference and the Society of Medical Administrators and a Fellow of the American College of Hospital Administrators.

Dr. Pastore had a gentle and kind personality. At the same time he had the attribute of forceful determination. His decisions were based on a thorough study of all data pertaining to the subject. He listened attentively, gave consideration to all phases of subjects under discussion but at all times he adhered to that singleness of purpose that in the last analysis the community must benefit. His opinions might be modified but only if he was convinced that it was in the best interests of the community. He dedicated himself to a job, gave of himself unstintingly and acquired the admiration of his many friends in his home community, in New York City and in the country as a whole.

On August 18, 1951 at the conclusion of a busy week serving the Hospital Council in New York and the people of our country in Washington, Dr. Pastore died suddenly at his home. He was but 46 years old, at the height of his powers, and making his most important contributions for the improvement of medical care in this community. His untimely death leaves a great void and represents an irreparable loss. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Alice Fogg Pastore, a son, John F., a daughter, Miss Susan, and his father, Frank Pastore.

R. G. Douglas