Kyle Bear Steele

January 11, 1890 — June 18, 1942

Dr. Kyle B. Steele, Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Cornell University Medical College, and Associate Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist in the New York Hospital, died suddenly at home on the evening of June 18, 1942. His untimely death, after a busy day of professional activities, came as a shock to all who knew him.

Dr. Steele was born in Covington, Virginia, on January 11, 1890, the son of William Isaac and Mary Ashton Steele. The family came to this country from England in the early colonial days of the Old Dominion. During Dr. Steele's boyhood his parents moved to Charlottesville, where he received his preliminary education. He later entered the medical department of the University of Virginia from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1913. In the same year, in competitive examination in New York, he obtained a coveted appointment on the interne staff of St. Luke's Hospital, where he served for two years in general surgery. During the following year he served on the resident staffs of St. Mary's Hospital for Children, and of the Lying-In Hospital in New York.

War clouds of World War I were gathering over the country at this time, and Dr. Steele, after a brief period in private practice, applied for an appointment in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army, and on January 1, 1917, was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps. With the declaration of war in April of the same year he was ordered on active duty, and in the fall of 1917 went to France with the A.E.F. where he served for nearly eighteen months, chiefly with General Hospital No. 41. After his return and discharge at Fort Dix in February 1919 he resumed his practice in New York, which he continued until his death.

His interest in the practice of obstetrics led to his appointment on the Attending Staff of the Lying-In Hospital, a position which he held with increasing responsibilities during his lifetime.

With the consolidation of the New York Hospital, the Lying-In Hospital, and the Cornell University Medical College, Dr. Steele became a member of the teaching staff of the College.

In spite of the demands of a large and distinguished private practice, Dr. Steele maintained a deep interest in the advancement of obstetrical knowledge and practice, to both of which he made notable contributions.

Several years ago his keen intuition grasped the life-saving possibilities of the application of newly developed methods of roentgenographic examinations in obstetrics. He enlisted the support of his own private patients
who generously supplied the funds to install and maintain this equipment in the New York Hospital. He gave unsparingly of his time in developing this method of examination and in arousing the interest of colleagues. A continuation of the support of this department would be a fitting memorial to this gallant physician, whose own life may well have been shortened by his devotion to his patients and to his profession, to which he gave so much.

In addition to the positions held in the Cornell University Medical College and in the New York Hospital, Dr. Steele was also Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist in the Booth Memorial Hospital, and Consulting Obstetrician and Gynecologist in the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. He was also a member of the following professional organizations: Fellow in the American College of Surgeons, Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fellow in the New York Obstetrical Society, Member of the American Medical Association, Member of the New York State and County Medical Societies, Nu Sigma Nu Medical Fraternity, Hospital Graduates' Club, Riverside Practitioners' Club, Alumni Association of St. Luke's Hospital, Alumni Association of the Lying-In Hospital, of which he was Vice-President.

To his colleagues Kyle Steele was more than an accomplished and skillful physician. He was a fine and loyal friend, sympathetic and helpful at all times. His natural modesty, quick intuitions, and genial sense of humor made his presence always welcome. He was a true gentleman of Virginia in the best tradition of that expression. He will be greatly missed, and his memory always cherished.

Dr. Steele leaves a widow, Marjorie Coats Steele, and two children, Kyle W. and Marjorie Steele. To them we offer our sympathy, and pray that their loss may be supported in some part by the knowledge that it is shared by so many others.