

# William Crooks Thro

*May 1, 1875 — April 6, 1939*

Dr. William Crooks Thro was intimately associated with Cornell University for nearly forty years. Born in Elmira, New York, on May 1, 1875, he received his preliminary education in the public schools of that city, entered Cornell in 1896, and earned the B.S.A. degree in 1900 and the M.A. degree a year later. During the next four years he served as instructor in Histology and Embryology and began his medical studies, receiving his M.D. degree in 1907. After an interval of three years as interne in Bellevue Hospital, bacteriologist in the research laboratories of the New York City Department of Health, and instructor in Bacteriology at University and Bellevue Medical College, he returned to Cornell as assistant professor of Clinical Pathology. He was appointed professor of Clinical Pathology in 1918 and associate professor of Medicine in 1932. In December, 1936, he retired from active service because of ill health; his death occurred on April 6, 1939.

Dr. Thro will best be remembered by his associates at Cornell as a teacher of medicine. His approach was always practical, never didactic. There was a friendly informality in all his contacts with students and he had a natural gift for arousing and holding their interest by the simple clarity with which his subject was presented. His textbook on *Clinical Laboratory Methods* owed its popularity to the same qualities that characterized his work in the classroom and laboratory. Like every great teacher he took a keen interest in the personal problems of his students and gave freely of advice, sympathy, and even more material help when needed. His laboratory and his services were always available to anyone who wished to do serious work in his field.

During his service as assistant to Gage, Comstock, and others in his early collegiate years, Dr. Thro was privileged to see scientific research at its best. The field of investigation had a strong appeal for him and his studies on poliomyelitis, on the streptococci, and on blood dyscrasias were worthy contributions to medical literature. His bibliography, while not voluminous, is select and shows his ever present sense of the practical.

And now this genial, kindly person is gone. His friends will never forget nor cease to miss him. His college will never have a more loyal or devoted servant. Cornell is different, somehow, without Bill Thro.