Cary Eggleston

August 1884 — November 15, 1966

Dr. Eggleston was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated in private schools in this country. Later he went to Germany for special work in the Jena University Medical School. In 1903, on his return to New York, he entered Cornell University Medical College, graduating in 1907. He continued his medical education as an intern in the Department of Medicine in The New York Hospital from 1908-1910. During these years of formal education he became interested in research, teaching, and writing on subjects in pharmacology and therapeutics. His ability as a teacher and his unusual success as a research worker were recognized at once, and in 1911, he was appointed instructor in therapeutics and pharmacology at Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Eggleston’s research on digitalis and allied drugs and their therapeutic effect on heart failure changed the focus of his work from the laboratory to clinical cardiology. His meticulous clinical research led to the determination of the best method for administering digitalis in cardiac failure. The principles laid down by him and taught to his students are still the basic rules that cardiologists follow today.

He contributed many papers to the leading medical journals on the treatment of cardiac decompensation with digitalis. Through his writings and teaching he soon became known as an outstanding cardiologist. He served as a consultant to Willard Parker Hospital, to the Cornell Division of Bellevue Hospital, and many other hospitals in New York.

Because of his interest in medical education he became a member of the editorial staff of the Medical Journal of New York State and contributed generously to other medical journals.

He was a member of numerous medical societies including state, county, and national chapters of the American Medical Association, the Academy of Medicine and the Harvey Society.

Throughout his medical career, Cary Eggleston served his alma mater and the New York Hospital as research worker, teacher, and clinician. He was at all times a student searching for new knowledge to enable him to better serve his fellow man. All who came under his influence appreciated his high standards of scholarship and his meticulous care of patients.

He served the Cornell faculty as instructor, 1911-1921, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, 1921-1939, Associate Professor, 1939-1953, and Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus, from 1953. At The New York Hospital he
was appointed as Assistant Attending Physician, 1932-1933, Associate Attending Physician, 1933-1943, Attending Physician, 1943-1950, and Consultant in Medicine, New York Hospital, from 1950.

Dr. Eggleston is survived by his widow, Mrs. May Parker Eggleston; a daughter, Mrs. Edward S. Holcomb; a son, Dr. Forrest Cary Eggleston, Professor of Surgery at the Christian Medical College in Ludhiana, India; and four grandchildren.

Connie Guion, M.D.