

George Julius Heuer

February 6, 1882 — December 15, 1950

Dr. George J. Heuer, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery at Cornell University Medical College from 1932 to 1947, and Surgeon-in-Chief to The New York Hospital, died in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on December 15, 1950 of coronary thrombosis. Dr. Heuer was born in Madison, Wisconsin, where he received his early education, graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a B. S. degree in 1903. He then entered Johns Hopkins Medical School and received his M.D. degree from there in 1907. Following medical school, he served as intern, assistant resident and resident at the Johns Hopkins Hospital under Dr. W. S. Halsted, then Surgeon-in-Chief and professor of Surgery of the University. He was an outstanding pupil of this surgical master and became a member of his senior staff on completion of his residency.

At the outbreak of World War I, he was in Breslau, Germany, pursuing further study. He joined the American forces in France and served as a major in the Medical Corps and Chief Surgeon of Evacuation Hospital No. 10. At the end of the war he returned to Baltimore. He was an associate professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins when he was called to the University of Cincinnati to be Professor of Surgery and head of the surgical department from 1922 to 1932. He then came to Cornell.

Dr. Heuer was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Medical Association, American Surgical Association, Society of Clinical Surgery and an honorary member of the Society of University Surgeons. He also belonged to the Southern Surgical Association, the American Society of Thoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery Society, New York Surgical Society, New York Academy of Medicine, New York State Medical Society, Harvey Society of New York, American Genetic Association, New York Academy of Science, and the Osier Society of New York. He was an honorary member of the Academy of Science of Havana, a member of the Founders Group of the American Board of Surgery, and a member of the advisory board of the Cushing Brain Tumor Registry at Yale Medical School. He belonged to the University Club of New York and the Megantic Fish & Game Corporation of Andover, Massachusetts.

At the time of his death he was Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Cornell and Consultant in Surgery to The New York Hospital. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Juanita Reid Heuer, two sons, George J. Heuer, Jr. and J. Reid Heuer, and two sisters.

A master of thorough, skillful, and meticulous surgery, Dr. Heuer placed his greatest emphasis on the training of young surgeons through the resident system, which was inaugurated at The New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center by him. He himself was a product of this system of training, under the late William S. Halsted. As Professor of Surgery first at the University of Cincinnati in 1922 and then at Cornell from 1932, he retired in 1947 after 25 years of full professorship. During that time more than a hundred young surgeons either completed their residencies or obtained the major portion of their training under him. It was to these young men, now located across the country, that he devoted his life as a teacher of surgery. Following his retirement, when his activity became limited because of ill health, it was the admiration, appreciation, and love of these men which gave the greatest satisfaction. His ideals and objectives will live in those who grew to professional maturity under his guidance.

Frank Glenn