

Eugene Hillhouse Pool

June 3, 1874 — April 9, 1949

Eugene Hillhouse Pool, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Surgery at Cornell University Medical College, New York, died on April 9, 1949 in his 75th year. At the time of his death, Dr. Pool was also Consulting Surgeon to the New York Hospital and an Honorary Governor.

Dr. Pool was born on June 3, 1874, the son of John Hillhouse and Sophia Boggs Pool. He was graduated from St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, and received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1895. Four years later he was graduated in medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. In 1900 he was appointed Senior Assistant House Surgeon at the New York Hospital, becoming House Surgeon the following year. From 1901 to 1904 he served as Assistant Demonstrator in Anatomy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia, and as Instructor in Surgery from 1904 to 1912. From 1912 to 1915 he was Associate in Surgery. During this period, in 1907, he was appointed Associate Attending Surgeon to the New York Hospital. In 1915 he became Professor of Clinical Surgery and Attending Surgeon in charge of the Second Surgical Division. He served in this capacity until 1932, when the New York Hospital joined with Cornell University Medical College at its present location. He was then appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery in Cornell Medical College and Senior Attending Surgeon to the New York Hospital, which posts he held until his retirement in 1947.

One of the most distinguished surgeons to be associated with Cornell, Dr. Pool did much to develop surgery as we know it today. He was recognized throughout the country and abroad as a master surgeon, an inspired teacher, and an acknowledged leader in his profession. His wide and varied activities produced major achievements in clinical surgery and research. His interest in the young men he gathered about him was deep and lasting, and to many he gave freely of his time, advice, and material assistance to guide them into the positions of responsibility they occupy today in various communities.

As one of the leading surgeons of the United States, he was prominent in surgical circles and made many valuable contributions to meetings and to the current literature. It is a lasting tribute to his name that he held the highest positions in the surgical societies and medical organizations of his era. He was elected President of the New York Surgical Society in 1923, of the Society of Clinical Surgery from 1927 to 1929, of the American College of Surgeons in 1926 and was appointed to the Board of Regents of that organization in 1928. He was President of the American

Surgical Association in 1935, President of the New York Academy of Medicine 1935-1936, and held many other offices of honor and responsibility.

During World War I he went to France with the New York Hospital Unit, Base Hospital No. 9 and then served as Chief Surgeon of Evacuation Hospital No. 1. He was later advanced to Consulting Surgeon to the 5th Army Corps, and at the end of the war was Consulting Surgeon to the First Army. Among his decorations for service were the Legion of Honor from France, the Distinguished Service Medal and a citation from General Pershing for "meritorious service".

Dr. Pool was interested in civic affairs and served on a number of committees for the State, lending advice to those in high position. Of particular note was his work as chairman of the committee appointed by Governor Lehman in 1935 to rewrite the medical provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. He was Administrative Consultant in Surgery for the City Hospitals of New York and a life Trustee of Columbia University.

Throughout his professional life Dr. Pool was closely associated with the affairs of the New York Hospital. He was a member of the Medical Board until his retirement, and served as its President from 1929 to 1931. During his tenure of office he worked untiringly for the advancement of the Cornell Medical Center to its present position.

It would be difficult to estimate the number of lives he saved or made more bearable by his surpassing judgment and surgical dexterity. His patients benefited not only from his operating skill but from his kindly interest in their personal problems. His wise counsel, friendship and loyalty will be sorely missed, not only by the institution, but by the community at large.

Frank Glen