

Arthur Palmer

August 30, 1889 — February 18, 1954

Dr. Arthur Palmer, Attending Surgeon in Otolaryngology at The New York Hospital and Professor of Clinical Surgery, Otolaryngology, at Cornell University Medical College, died February 18, 1954. He had been associated with The New York Hospital since 1932 and on the teaching staff of Cornell Medical College for 31 years.

Dr. Palmer was born in Oswego, New York, on August 30, 1889, the son of Jennie Roberts and the Reverend William H. Palmer. He was graduated from Brown University in 1911 with the degree of B.A., and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Cornell University Medical College in 1915. Dr. Palmer served a one-year internship at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson from 1915 to 1916. He then interned on the Second Medical Division at Bellevue Hospital during 1916 and 1917. In 1917 he joined the United States Army as a First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps and saw active service in France. He continued as a reserve officer after the war and held the rank of Major from 1925 to 1929.

From 1924 to 1925 he took post-graduate studies in bronchoscopy at the University of Pennsylvania. He also studied plastic surgery at the University of Cincinnati, and otolaryngology at the University of Vienna.

In 1927, Dr. Palmer became Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and Acting Director of the Department of Otolaryngology of Cornell University Medical College. In 1932 he was appointed Associate Attending Surgeon in Otolaryngology at The New York Hospital. In July, 1947 he was appointed Attending Surgeon, Otolaryngology, New York Hospital, and Professor of Clinical Surgery, Otolaryngology, Cornell University Medical College, which posts he held at the time of his death.

In 1948 Dr. Palmer originated the yearly award of a first and second prize for efficiency in Otolaryngology, to be given to the two students of the graduating class who showed the best performance in Otolaryngology during their third year.

In addition to Dr. Palmer's association with New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College, he was also associated with the New York Infirmary for Women and Children as consulting laryngologist; with the Mather Memorial Hospital, Port Jefferson, L. I., as consulting otolaryngologist. He was also affiliated with the Southside Hospital, Bayshore, L. I., as consultant. From 1939 to 1942 Dr. Palmer served as President of the Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He had also been a past President of the Society of Alumni of Bellevue

Hospital. Dr. Palmer also was a member of a number of national and local medical societies, as well as a member of various local clubs, which include: the American Medical Association; New York County and State Medical Societies; Diplomate, American Board of Otolaryngology; Diplomate, American Board of Plastic Surgery; Fellow of the American College of Surgeons; American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology; Academy of Medicine; Association of Military Surgeons; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Harvey Society; Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity; Nu Sigma Nu; University Glee Club; Brown University Club of New York; North Hills Country Club, L.I., Carmel Country Club, Carmel, N.Y., and the Salt Air Yacht Club, Salt Air, L.I.

During Dr. Palmer's medical career he wrote on a number of subjects related to his specialty and many of his articles were published by the national societies of which he was a member.

In 1921, Dr. Palmer married Lillis Oliver, who died in January 1950. There were two children by this marriage: a son, Arthur Palmer, Jr., a graduate of Brown University in 1947, and now teaching at that University; and a daughter, Mrs. Lillis Palmer Nelson, a graduate of Pembroke, and now a teacher in Lexington, Massachusetts. In 1951, Dr. Palmer married Inga Wolford, who survives him. Dr. Palmer is also survived by a brother, Ralph M. Palmer; a sister, Miss Marion Palmer; a stepson, James C. Wolford; and a stepdaughter, Janice Wolford.

Dr. Palmer gave generously of his time and of himself to his chosen profession and to the institutions with which he was associated. His death was a great loss to the hospital, the medical college, and the community.

J. A. Moore