

# Sydney Weintraub

*January 20, 1895 — March 24, 1956*

Dr. Sydney Weintraub died in The New York Hospital on March 24, 1956 following a brief illness. He was sixty-one years of age and had been associated with Cornell Medical College and The New York Hospital for thirty-eight years. His unexpected and untimely death came as a great shock to his host of friends and admirers.

Sydney Weintraub was born in New York City and educated in its schools. He received his medical education at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which he was graduated in 1918. Following Graduation he served a one-year internship on the First Medical Division of The New York Hospital. Next followed a nine-month period of service as resident physician of the Hudson Street Hospital, which in the year 1919 was being used as a naval base hospital. Further residency training in medicine was received at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City. To this was added a brief period of training in obstetrics at The New York Lying-in Hospital. In 1921 appointment as Physician in the Department of Gastroenterology of the Cornell Clinic began a long, distinguished and devoted service to Cornell Medical College and The New York Hospital.

In 1932 when the newly formed New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center moved into its present buildings, Dr. Weintraub held the position of Assistant Radiologist to The New York Hospital and Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology in Cornell Medical College. In addition to his hospital and teaching appointments, he was engaged in the private practice of Gastroenterology, sharing offices at 16 Park Avenue with the late Dr. Douglas Palmer.

For the next ten years he combined an active teaching career with private practice. This was interrupted in 1942 by World War II when at the age of forty-seven he volunteered for military service. He was commissioned a major in the medical corps of the Army of the United States and was assigned to the Ninth General Hospital, which had recently been activated and was being staffed with New York Hospital personnel. Dr. Weintraub was placed in charge of the section of Gastroenterology. The professional complement of the Ninth General Hospital comprised the most promising young members of the faculty of this Center. It contained many of the future leaders in American medicine. Sydney Weintraub as a member of this talented company played an important, prominent role and contributed significantly to the distinguished war record established by this unit.

The Ninth General Hospital received its initial military training at Fort Andrews, Boston, Massachusetts, and during this onerous period no one displayed more admirable fortitude, nor accepted with better grace or good-natured understanding the difficult adjustment from civilian life to the particular demands of a military community

than did Major Weintraub. His innate courtesy, consideration of others, sincerity of purpose and devotion to duty won him the admiration and respect of his associates and he was known affectionately to all as "Syd."

In July of 1943 the Ninth General Hospital was sent to the Southwest Pacific area to support the military effort in this combat zone. During this overseas service he was made Assistant Chief of the Hospital's medical service; an assignment he discharged with distinction.

Soon after the successful conclusion of the war in the Pacific and the completion of the hospital's mission, he was rotated home and received a medical discharge because of symptoms of coronary artery disease. He was separated from the service with the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Medical Corps. Following his release from military duty, he returned to the New York Hospital as a full-time member of the radiology staff. In the immediate postwar period the Department of Radiology faced serious problems in its own internal organization as well as in its relation with the other clinical departments. During this difficult period Dr. Weintraub's wise counsel, loyal and faithful conduct was a stabilizing influence on the entire Department.

Perhaps the most outstanding of his many fine qualities was his intense desire to be of service to the attending physician and thus to the patient. His door was always open to those who sought his advice. No effort was too great and no problem too small for his attention. Dr. Weintraub combined with technical aspects of his work a rich clinical experience which accentuated his radiological acumen. He was a keen observer.

His observation that a drink of cold water immediately following the ingestion of barium would hurry the meal through the small intestines led to the development of a technique for the rapid x-ray examination of the small bowel. This technique gained wide acceptance and made practical routine barium studies of the small intestines. His contributions to the literature, while not large in number, were substantial and represented the analysis of a large amount of data. He was engaged at the time of his death in the preparation of a textbook for medical students on gastrointestinal radiology.

His kindly manner, sense of humor, humility in his work, patient and paternal handling of young men in training endeared him to his students and associates and made it a privilege and pleasure to work with him. At the time of his death he was Attending Radiologist to The New York Hospital and Professor of Clinical Radiology, Cornell University Medical College. In his passing our Medical Center has lost a dedicated physician, faithful servant, effective teacher and warm friend.

He is survived by his devoted wife Dorothy, and loving sisters Lillian Hormel and Clara Ehrens.