

Jeremiah Sweetser Ferguson

May 31, 1871 — June 30, 1939

Dr. Jeremiah Sweetster Ferguson, who died on June 30, 1939, was born in Searsport, Maine, on May 31, 1871. He received the degree of bachelor of science in 1889 and that of master of science in 1892 from the University of Maine and the degree of doctor of medicine from New York University in 1892. The University of Maine awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of science in 1922.

After receiving his professional degree he joined the teaching staff of New York University as assistant in Histology and he was instructor in that subject there from 1896 to 1898. In the latter year he joined the teaching staff of the Cornell University Medical College as instructor and was advanced to the rank of assistant professor of Histology, a position which he held until 1913, when he withdrew from teaching in the pre-clinical branches.

During this period he published a rather comprehensive textbook on *Normal Histology and Microscopic Anatomy*, a subject which was inadequately covered in this country at that time. He appears to have been an expert draftsman, for many of the excellent illustrations in this book were drawn by his own hand and many of the microphotographs were of his own making. In addition he was actively engaged in research. During the early part of his career his interest was centered in the minute structure of the thyroid gland. His own work contributed to the studies of the functions and chemical composition of that organ which were being actively pursued by several of the departments of the Medical School at that time. Afterwards his attention was directed to the more basic and perhaps more difficult problems of the minute structure of reticular tissue and the relation of reticular fibers to the elastic and to the white fibers of collagenous tissue.

After he severed his connection with the teaching staff of the pre-clinical branches, his writings turned toward the clinical fields.

Throughout his professional life, extending over a period of forty-seven years, he was also engaged in the practice of medicine and held many important positions in the hospitals of New York City. He was director of Pediatrics at Gouverneur Hospital, where he was a consulting physician at the time of his death. He had also served as assistant attending physician, attending physician and consulting physician at the Willard Parker Hospital for contagious diseases and for a time was a member of the Bellevue Hospital staff.

In 1909 he became the secretary of the Faculty of the Cornell University Medical College and he held that office until his death.