

FRANKLIN H. MARTIN

1857-1935

"The nobler type of man is vexed at his want of ability, not because others do not appreciate him." *Confucius*, xv: 18.

THE life of Franklin H. Martin was characterized by courage. He was born with the hardy spirit of two pioneer families, each of which came west by caravans into the rugged wilderness of Wisconsin. The loss of his



FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, M.D.

Moffett Studio

father in the Civil War when he was five years of age; the remarriage of his mother and the happy union of two families of children; the struggles and sacrifices necessary to obtain his elementary education; his labors as farmhand, brickmaker, carpenter, janitor and, finally, school teacher are mute evidence of an indomitable courage to improve his abilities. To the man

so engaged from childhood in the attempt to increase his knowledge that its practical application might be of some benefit to his fellow men, there is little time left for vexation because others do not appreciate him. His early medical education is a recital of those exciting days which saw the advent of antiseptic surgery and the bacteriologic theories of medicine. His early medical career in Chicago was spent among men who were frank in discussion and whose chief attraction was fearlessness and their ability to make fast friends and implacable enemies, but to the latter they exhibited a spirit of fairness born of their own moral courage.

Early in his surgical career he became imbued with the idea of the need for dissemination of the rapidly increasing contributions to modern surgery. This thoughtful consideration of the actual workers in surgery who were distant from teaching centers, was the motivating factor of his life and will be recognized as the greatest contribution he made to surgical progress. The organizations for the elevation of the standards of surgery and the continuous education of all surgeons may change with the advancement of years but the courage to put into effect the basic principles of that idea, often against obstacles which would have deterred a less courageous man, showed a character devoted to the welfare of his fellowman. His Autobiography records these efforts in a manner typical of the untiring energy and industry of the man.

Fundamentally an idealist, he was extremely sensitive and was reluctant to approach people or speak in public to a degree that to many seems unbelievable. "Have the courage to do the thing you believe to be right but that you are afraid to do." This slogan, together with an ability to arrive at a logical conclusion with incredible speed, drove him forward with an impatience that to many gave the impression that his actions were often autocratic. Few men have been more misunderstood by those unwilling to withhold a quick judgment. From the very start there was no appeal for sympathy for the early hardships endured, no appeal for pity, but throughout only a steadfast, honest hewing to the line of what he considered to be his small contribution to the progress of his chosen profession. The final judgment of the surgical world will stand as his monument.

LOYAL DAVIS

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Original typed manuscripts and illustrations submitted to this journal should be forwarded prepaid, at the author's risk, to the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the ANNALS OF SURGERY

Walter Estell Lee, M.D.

1833 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Contributions in a foreign language when accepted will be translated and published in English.

Exchanges and Books for Review should be sent to James T. Pilcher, M.D., Managing Editor, 121 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Subscriptions, advertising and all business communications should be addressed

ANNALS OF SURGERY

227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.