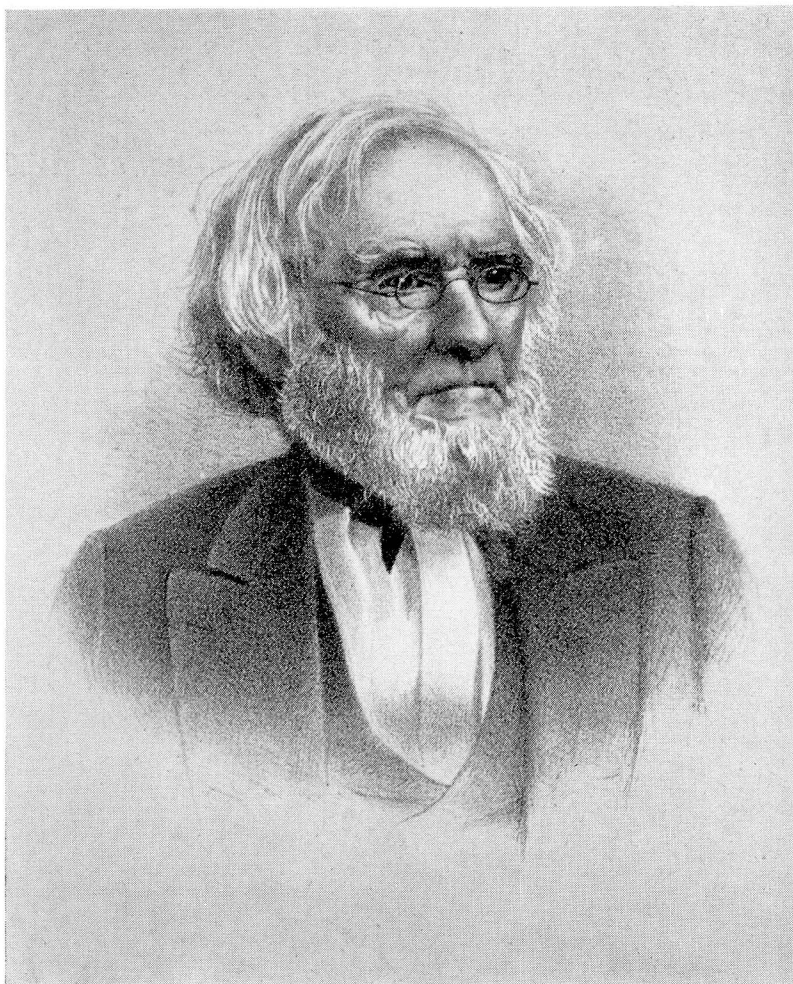


THE AMERICAN
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The First Hundred Years



EDWARD DELAFIELD
FIRST PRESIDENT OF AOS

THE AMERICAN
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

The First Hundred Years

Maynard C. Wheeler

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PREFACE

There was a suggestion, during the early discussions about this centennial volume, that we should call it "One Hundred Years of Progress in Ophthalmology." It was realized immediately that this could not be done without the danger of implying that AOS claimed the credit for this progress. Obviously no society can make such a claim, no matter how venerable or distinguished. Today, few medical papers are epoch-making; instead, progress is recorded very gradually, the summation of many small contributions. However, surveying the record of AOS, as it is faithfully set down in the Transactions, I am tempted to hazard the statement that if a student of ophthalmology had only these Transactions to use as a textbook, he would miss few of the important advances in ophthalmology.

This record of the first 100 years of AOS has been divided into three parts. The first part contains the story of the many activities of and within the Society—a rather intimate account of how it has functioned. In spite of appeals to the older members, no anecdotes have been forthcoming so this must of necessity be largely a factual history. The second part is a biographical and picture section, limited arbitrarily to the officers and to the Honorary members and Howe Medalists who were also members. Space has required that these biographies be limited to the facts that seem to give the best measure of these men. The third part is a rather extensive appendix which it is hoped will be useful for reference.

Many people have earned my gratitude by helping in many different ways in the preparation of this volume. I am especially indebted to Francis Adler who with great patience and tact went over most of the manuscript with me. He gave encouragement when it was most needed and made many valuable suggestions. Nor should less credit go to my wife for her sympathetic understanding and her careful editing of the manuscript. And finally my thanks to Charles Snyder, Librarian of the Howe Library, who furnished many details for the biographies of the men from Boston.

M. C. W.

June, 1963

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SOURCES

The prime source for most of this volume has been the sixty volumes of the Transactions of the Society. In addition, the Society has five important volumes:

1. The copy-book in which the original Constitution was written and the amendments added through 1885. The new members signed, after the Constitution, in this book; since 1895 the signature slips have been pasted in it. The attendance record was kept in the back for 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907.

2. A similar copy-book containing the hand-written minutes of the Secretary from 1864 to 1901.

3. A third copy-book containing the minutes from 1902 to 1916. These were hand-written through 1908 (the end of St. John's secretaryship), then the printed pages of the Executive Sessions from the Transactions were pasted in this book, in place of minutes, and the printed lists of proposed candidates from the Confidential Lists (although they were not called by this name at that time).

4. The minutes of the Council meetings, bound typewritten pages, October 1924 to June 1942. (No minutes by the Secretary or Council minutes have been preserved between 1908 and 1924.)

5. Council minutes from November 1942 to date. (Temporary binding.)

Items 1 and 5 are held by the Secretary, while 2, 3 and 4 are deposited in the Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine.

At the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, there are five items of interest, sent by the Society. The first three are small, green, loose-leaf note-books:

1. Deceased members (one page for each): Haddock through Ziegler, giving city, dates of birth and years in AOS; location of death notices; number of papers read before the Society; offices; other references to obituaries.

2. Living members: city; date of joining AOS. Emeritus members.

3. Lists: Founders; deceased Emeritus members; Honorary members; deceased members, Abbott through Gruening (continued in note-book 1).

SOURCES

Item 4 is a loose-leaf note-book containing letters and other biographic documents bearing on deceased members. These four items are believed to have been prepared by Harry Friedenwald in preparation for his history of the early members given at the 75th anniversary in 1939.

Item 5 is a loose-leaf note-book by Louis Greene which contains the Account of the Origin of the First Meeting (a typewritten copy of Noyes's minutes); Presidents of the Society; a complete list of the members with date of joining; Honorary members; Bibliography of all articles in the Transactions through volume 37, arranged by authors.

For a picture of life in New York in 1864, the following were of some help: the *New York Times*; *Harper's Weekly*; *Valentine's Manual*; *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*; *The Diary of George Templeton Strong*, edited by Allan Nevins and M. H. Thomas (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1952).

For the status of ophthalmology in Europe and America, just before 1864, the following were particularly helpful:

American Encyclopedia of Ophthalmology. 18 volumes. Chicago: Cleveland Press, 1913-1921.

DUKE-ELDER, SIR STEWART: *A Century of International Ophthalmology, 1857-1957*. London: Kempton, 1958.

HUBBELL, ALVIN A.: *The Development of Ophthalmology in America, 1800 to 1870*. Chicago: W. T. Keener & Co. 1908.

KNAPP, H.: *Landmarks in the History of Ophthalmology in the 19th Century*. Maryland Med. J., July 1899.

POSEY, W. C. & BROWN, S. H.: *The Wills Hospital of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1931.

ROSEN, GEORGE: *New York City in the History of American Ophthalmology*. N.Y. St. J. Med. 43: 754-758, 1943.

ROSEN, GEORGE: *Special Medical Societies in the United States after 1860*. Ciba Symposia 9: 783, #9, 1947.

ROSEN, GEORGE: *The Specialization of Medicine with Particular Reference to Ophthalmology*. New York: Froben Press, 1944.

VERHOEFF, F. H.: *American Ophthalmology during the Past Century*. Arch. Ophth. 39: 451-464, 1948.

While most of the material for the biographies of the deceased members came from the obituaries in the Transactions, this record is

not complete, nor did the obituaries always give the desired facts. In addition to the *American Encyclopedia of Ophthalmology*, Hubbell's little book and the history of the Wills Hospital, mentioned above, the following were utilized:

- ATKINSON, WM. B.: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporary American Physicians & Surgeons. 2nd ed., Philadelphia: D. G. Brinton, 1880.
- BROWNING, WM.: Jonathan Slater Prout. Long Island Medical J. 22, Aug. 1928.
- KELLY, H. A.: A Cyclopedia of American Medical Biography, 1610 to 1910. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1912.
- KELLY, H. A. & BURRAGE, W. L.: Dictionary of American Medical Biographies. Philadelphia: Saunders, 1928.
- MANN, WM. A.: The History of Ophthalmology in Chicago. Chicago Med. 63, no. 42.
- American Journal of Ophthalmology*
Archives of Ophthalmology
Journal of the American Medical Association

For the biographies of those still living, before submitting them to the members for checking, as much material as possible was accumulated from the following sources:

- American Men of Medicine*. Farmingdale, N.Y.: Institute for Research in Biography, 1961.
- American Men of Science*. Editor: Jacques Cattell. 10th ed., Temple, Ariz.: Jacques Cattell Press, 1960.
- Directory of American Scholars*. Editor: Jacques Cattell. 3rd ed., New York: Bowker Co., 1957.
- Directory of Medical Specialists*. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co. Various editions.
- Who's Important in Medicine*. New York: Institute for Research in Biography, 1945.
- Who's Who in America*. Vol. 31, 1960-61. A. N. Marquis Co.
- American Journal of Ophthalmology*
Archives of Ophthalmology

PICTURES

The Transactions have provided a majority of the photographs and several have come from the kodachromes in our own collection. Most of

SOURCES

the living members furnished their own photographs, but when I considered one from our collection superior, I used it.

The National Library of Medicine and the New York Academy of Medicine Library both furnished several photographs of members.

The picture of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in 1864 was taken from D. T. Valentine, *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York 1864*, p. 344, courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City.