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Dr. Frank J. Sladen

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This photograph of Dr. Sladen is published with thanks for his many years of scholarly instruction, devoted leadership and personal inspiration.

*The Professional Staff*
DR. FRANK J. SLADEN

The career of Dr. Frank J. Sladen might be expressed as concerned with four periods of activity. The first, that of training and preparation amounted to eleven years at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and abroad as a member of the Hospital staff and of the Medical School Faculty. The second had to do with the beginnings and development of the Henry Ford Hospital; the third, the War Service; and fourthly the administrative and executive functions in the conduct of the Department of Medicine and of the now mature phase of our Hospital.

It is possible to refer here only briefly to a number of his contributions. Note­worthy is the work on the then little known process of the coagulation of the blood with Frank Hinman, in medical student-days.(1) The responsibility for the study and application of antimeningitis serum (Flexner) a product of Dr. Simon Flexner, Director of The Rockefeller Institute, resulted in a number of reports.(2) The 66% mortality of meningococcus infections prevalent at the time was reversed to a 75% recovery. During this period, he reported with Dr. Harvey Cushing the first instance of the application of therapeutic serum by the cerebral intraventric­ular route.(3) Studies of the autonomic nervous system and of the pharmacodynamic reactions, just introduced by Slesinger of Vienna followed, with Dr. Lewellys F. Barker.(4)

For twenty years the basic factors of individual personal health have occupied his interest leading to such developments as studies of the longitudinal curve of life and of the constitutional background of chronic diseases, particularly as applied to rheumatoid arthritis and degenerative states.

In 1940 he delivered the address of dedication of The Physician’s Window at the National Cathedral, Washington, D. C. A major interest in bridging the gap between religion and medicine has been carried out for several years under the National Council of Churches. His organization and conduct of the National Conference on Psychiatry and the War in 1942 must be noted. Dr. Sladen was the editor of a volume under that title published by Charles C. Thomas.(5) Several publications have appeared over his name giving intimate pictures of Sir William Osler and his bedside and clinic teaching. Dr. Sladen’s interests at the present time are concerned with the largely unexplored field of the problems of the aging population and with the basic factors in the so-called physiological aging process of man.