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Foreword

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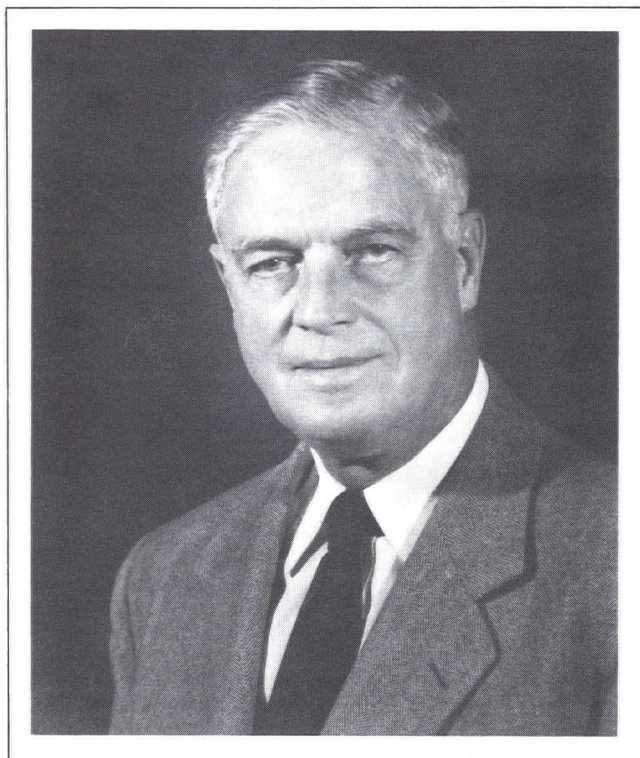
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Foreword

Conrad R. Lam, M.D. *Guest Editor* *



LAURENCE SIDNEY FALLIS, M.D.
1894-1974

AFTER the death of Larry Fallis in Florida on March 18, 1974, it was my honor to prepare a memoir for the Spring issue of the *Journal*, and to serve as guest editor of this commemorative issue which consists of papers by his former residents and associates. The response of busy surgeons to my request for material for the issue has been heartwarming. The result has been a series of 11 original papers on varied subjects which were of interest to Larry Fallis. With contributions from Spain,

Mexico and Canada, this issue is truly an international one.

In the memoir I said, "He was a popular teacher of surgical residents, who will remember especially his frequent reference to pithy surgical aphorisms, such as 'In abdominal pain, it's appendicitis against the field' ". There has been considerable feed-back from those who read the memoir and from the responses to my request for papers for this issue of the *Journal*.

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Lam

Dr. Nicholas P.D. Smyth of Washington, D.C. (resident 1951-55) commented: "He was an interesting and unusual man and although his style of teaching was far from formal, I think I learned more from his 'pearls' than from almost anyone else that I have come in contact with in surgery."

Dr. Leo Chaikof of Toronto (resident 1957-61) wrote: "I was indeed saddened by the news of the death of Doctor Fallis. During my final year at the Ford Hospital I spent a great deal of time with him and got to know this excellent surgeon and fine gentleman fairly well."

Dr. Eduardo Camacho of Guadalajara, Mexico (resident 1955-60): "I feel honored that I have been asked to send my modest contribution to the special issue in memory of Doctor Fallis."

Dr. Jorge Puig La Calle of Barcelona, Spain: "I was very unhappy to get the news about the death of Doctor Fallis and as an old pupil and follower of him, I am very sorry." Later: "Here is my paper for the Memorial Review for Doctor Fallis. I add my last homage to our admired friend and master."

Doctor George Riggs of Hamilton, Ohio (resident 1937-40): "I always liked Doctor Fallis and felt that, in his own way, he reciprocated the feeling. In my time at the Henry Ford Hospital, he made a more earnest effort to teach house officers than did any other member of the senior staff. He was a good speaker and an entertaining raconteur."

Dr. Fred Phillips of Zanesville, Ohio (resident 1933-36): "Although he 'rode' me a lot, he was always good to me, and I remember him most kindly."

Dr. Harry Nelson, retired gynecologist of Detroit, resident in surgery and gynecology in the '20s; "Larry, Sid Allen,

A.P. Wilkinson and I lived in an apartment near the hospital for several years. His tales were not repetitious — always different and humorous. We had a housekeeper who prepared our dinner. Larry paid the grocery bill weekly and it worried him because it seemed excessive for four men. He finally went over to see the grocer, who suggested the explanation. Larry returned and told the three of us 'Don't you fellows know that we are feeding that housekeeper and her whole family? How stupid can you be?' "

Dr. Alton Ochsner (a friend in New Orleans): "I was distressed to see in the Spring Issue of the *Henry Ford Medical Journal* about Larry Fallis' death. I did not realize that he was eighty years old". The implication is that Larry enjoyed that for which every man hopes, to skip if possible the senile phase of life.

Among several letters from his wife Dorothy was the following: "Please forgive the typewriter, but I am so far behind in answering all of the messages from Larry's associates, patients, students and friends. He was really quite a guy, wasn't he?"

I am sure I can answer Dorothy's question in the affirmative, and for the closing statement of this foreword, I will quote the last paragraph of my memoir.

"Those attending the annual meeting of the American Surgical Association in 1953 will recall that, as was the custom, the president read the names of the members who had died during the year. Doctor Dinsmore of Cleveland prefaced his reading of the list by saying, 'Those fellows are laughing at us down here, but the joke is on them. They just think they're dead.' As numerous surgeons of this day practice an art learned at the bedside and across the operating table from Larry Fallis, they, too, will testify that he lives on."