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### C. Paul Hodgkinson, MD

#### Dorothy Porter, MD\*

Born in New Castle, Pennsylvania, Dr. C. Paul Hodgkinson came to Henry Ford Hospital as an intern in 1936, having received his medical degree from Temple University.

Prior to embarking on his medical career, Dr. Hodgkinson had completed pharmacy school at the University of Pittsburg. As a registered pharmacist he had managed the New Castle Drug Company for two years before completing his pre-medical studies at the University of Pittsburg.

His internship was followed by two years of General Surgery training, and in 1942 he completed his four-year Obstetrics-Gynecology residency. During this time he had earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan (1940).

Shortly after he joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as an associate in 1942, Dr. Hodgkinson's career was interrupted by the war. He spent the next four years as chief of the Division of Women's Surgery at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver.

In 1946 Dr. Hodgkinson returned to Henry Ford Hospital as associate surgeon in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology which was still led by its first chairman, Dr. Jean Paul Pratt. Six years later, Dr. Hodgkinson was named Chairman of the Department and held the position until 1973. During these 21 years of leadership he was a member of county, state, and national medical associations including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics. He was a founding member of the American Academy of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and served as president of ACOG from 1959 to 1960. His memberships in other professional groups are too numerous to enumerate.

Although Dr. Hodgkinson's early interests included studies of hypofibrinogenemia, clotting defects during pregnancy, the early use of heparin prophylaxis, and causative factors in toxemia of pregnancy, he is perhaps best known for his many contributions to the study and correction of female urinary incontinence. His pioneer studies of the problem laid the foundation upon which we are still building. A superb surgeon, his technical skill and ingenuity succeeded where others had failed in restoring continence to the many women who were referred to him for this problem.

Dr. Hodgkinson set an example for his residents and staff. Much of his work was done in the early morning, arriving as he did by 5:30 AM, often not finishing his busy schedule until 8 PM



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at night. He never used the elevators or walked through the main lobby. He saw every inpatient once or twice a day and waited at night for the final call from the floor resident before retiring. His staff always knew that he required more of himself than he did of others.

Throughout his career, Paul Hodgkinson was *the doctor* to countless women including the wives of most of Henry Ford Hospital's staff and house officers. During the years of his great obstetrical practice, he personally delivered countless numbers of the present generation of "baby boomers."†

Elements of the residency program which Dr. Hodgkinson developed have become widely embraced as standards for the profession. He emphasized that the diagnosis and surgical treatment of breast disease was essential for a specialty devoted to the care of women. In this regard his surgical training and skill were exceptional. His training program provided the opportunity to follow patients throughout a four-year period, both outpatient as well as inpatient. It also included mandatory rotation through the animal laboratory to develop skills in vascular, urogenital, and gastrointestinal surgery—training not always included in the course of gynecologic residencies.

Although he has been the recipient of countless awards and honors for his exhibits, films, and lectures, surely Dr. Hodgkinson's most notable accomplishment is the great respect and affection of his colleagues, his patients, and his friends.

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†For which the Editor's family is abundantly and forever grateful.

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