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John G. Mateer

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DR. FRANK J. SLADEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HENRY FORD HOSPITAL

JOHN G. MATEER, M.D.

AT THE RECENT Henry Ford Hospital Alumni Reunion a warm and well deserved tribute was paid to Dr. Frank J. Sladen by each of the following group of staff members who worked with him during the period when Dr. Sladen was Physician-in-Chief, namely, Drs. F. Janney Smith, Pratt, Ormond, Menagh, Durham, McColl, Ensign, Doub, Fallis and the writer.

It was most appropriate that this Alumni Reunion was dedicated to Dr. Sladen. For it was he who had the vision to accept Mr. Henry Ford's invitation to start and develop the Henry Ford Hospital as an institution with a full time medical staff dedicated to high quality medical care.

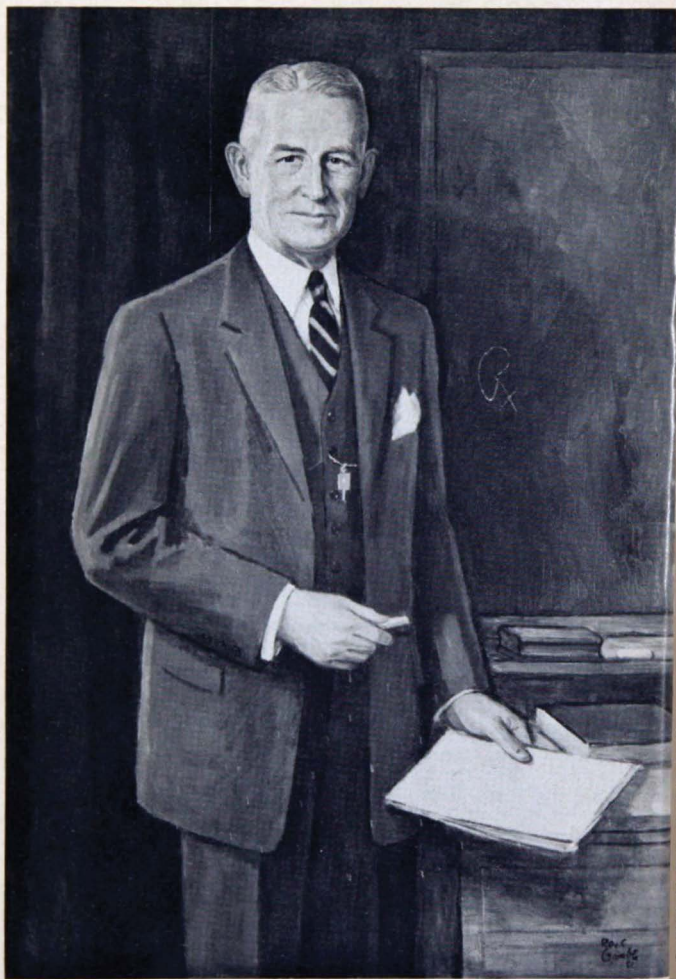
Dr. Sladen's early, pioneer days, starting in 1915, were anything but easy. A less courageous and resourceful individual probably would have relinquished the struggle and found a life with fewer problems. However, Dr. Sladen and his surgical colleague, Dr. Roy D. McClure, along with the associates whom they gathered about them, obviously had a firm conviction and confidence in the principle upon which the hospital was founded and in the genuine interest of the Ford family in the hospital.

Dr. Sladen's magnetic personality, his alert, keen and discriminating intellect and his dynamic, constructive critical sense were valuable assets in stimulating the medical residents and staff to maintain high standards in their work.

During the latter part of his 37 year span of leadership, from 1915 until 1952, one of his most important contributions to the future development of the hospital consisted of the important and effective role he played in persuading the Trustees of the Ford Foundation to donate the large amount of money required to build the new 17 story Clinic Building.

To summarize briefly, the entire hospital staff owes Dr. Sladen a profound debt of gratitude for giving the Henry Ford Hospital its initial momentum and direction, for stimulating high standards of work, for exhibiting unusual courage on numerous occasions, for initiating and maintaining our intern and resident training program and out-patient clinic building, where the majority of our diagnostic studies could be conducted without the expense of admitting patients to the in-patient department. Finally,

FRANK J. SLADEN



we are grateful to him for his warm personality, and for his vital and understanding interest in our recent and further growth and development.