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FIFTY YEARS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

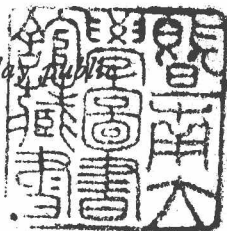
An Autobiographical Sketch

1846

DR. FRANKLIN H. MARTIN

With special reference to the organization and administration of
Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics, the Clinical Congress, the
American College of Surgeons, the Gorgas Memorial Insti-
tute, and the participation of the medical profession in
the World War. Based on personal diary, professional
writings, and digest of professional activities
during fifty years.

*Prepared in narrative form for the lay public
and the medical profession*



TWO FOREWORDS:

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D., *Rochester, Minnesota*

GEORGE W. CRILE, M.D., *Cleveland, Ohio*



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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THIS VOLUME HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE
AUTHOR AS A GIFT EDITION AND IS SENT WITH
HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE FELLOWS OF THE
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN APPRE-
CIATION OF THE IDEALISM AND HELP WHICH
HAVE MADE THE COLLEGE A FORCE IN THE
ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENCE OF SURGERY

Franklin D. Roosevelt

October 1, 1934



Dr Randolph Winchell

with the compliments
of the
author

1934

FIFTY YEARS OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

An Autobiographical Sketch

DR. FRANKLIN H. MARTIN

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

THE JOY OF LIVING; AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 1933

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND; A MONOGRAPH, 1924

GORGAS; A BIOGRAPHY, 1924

SOUTH AMERICA, 1923, 1927

TREATISE ON GYNECOLOGY, 1903

TREATMENT OF FIBROID TUMORS OF THE UTERUS, 1897

*To Josephine and
To Isabelle*

Preface

THIS book, a volume of personal reminiscences, is not a medical treatise; it is written for my friends among the profession and the general public. Having retired after forty years of practice in gynecology and surgery, I consider it a prerogative to discuss freely with the lay reader intimate problems which are met from day to day by every practitioner of scientific medicine—the family doctor, the surgeon, the specialist.

The professional pages of this volume dwell briefly upon co-operation with progressive men during the years of transition in medical practice—1880 to 1920. Within those four decades the “art” of medicine was superseded by the “science and art” of medicine; preventive medicine was introduced and developed; scientific discoveries, and the utilization of organized methods to regulate the environment of medicine, its social aspects, educational requirements, and institutional aids practically revolutionized the teaching and the practice of medicine. In a word, a progressive profession was being rounded out to its maximum of usefulness.

In recording the process of evolution, there is an account of organizations with which I have been and am especially concerned—surgical journalism, through the medium of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*; the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America; the American College of Surgeons; and the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine. These organizations have suggested standards for surgery and for the betterment of hospitals, and they have promoted a partnership between the general public and the scientific profession which has resulted in wholesome and mutual understanding and co-operation.

FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, M.D.

An Acknowledgment

IN THESE days of empire building, of professional combinations, of group literature, and of mass production, the old-time individualist-leader, if he courts success, is of necessity obliged to delegate details of his visions and plans to competent aids. Such important talent is deserving of recognition. But nowhere except in the motion-picture industry is acknowledgment given to associates who perfect the many details of projects and of writings.

There are five women who have been my aids during a period extending well beyond a quarter of a century; and I wish to acknowledge their genius, industry, and loyalty:

Mrs. Margaret Bowen Shepard, who as my private secretary aided in the organization and administration of the Journal, *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*.

Mrs. Florence O'Brien Donnelly, my private secretary for several years, office director of the Medical Section of the Council of National Defense, and the first office director of the Gorgas Memorial Institute.

Mrs. Marion T. Farrow, my private secretary for several years, and executive secretary of the American College of Surgeons from its beginning in 1913 to the present time.

Miss Gladys Newman, at present office manager of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, in Washington, D. C.

Miss Eleanor Grimm, who began service as a young girl, served during the war in the Medical Section of the Council of National Defense, my private secretary from that date to the present time, in charge of details of the yearly scientific programs of the American College of Surgeons, and the responsible aid, with her competent assistants, in preparing and editing this publication. Especially do I wish to acknowledge her untiring energy, administrative judgment, loyalty, industry, and accomplishments.

FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, M.D.

Two Forewords

I

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY by one of the most distinguished of American surgeons is an event of national importance.

Dr. Franklin H. Martin has practiced medicine and surgery during the period in which medical science has made greater strides than in all its previous history. In the nineties, when on a visit to Chicago for the purpose of adding to my store of knowledge, someone told me of a surgeon by the name of Martin who was doing very distinguished work in abdominal and gynecological surgery at the Woman's Hospital. I remember well the morning that I first had the privilege of seeing Dr. Martin perform some most delicate operations with skill and precision. I was greatly impressed, and from that time I was an attendant at his clinics whenever the opportunity arose, and I have followed his work closely in the years since.

Dr. Martin possesses certain impressive qualities, perhaps most conspicuously courage, which with knowledge and character laid the foundation for the respect and admiration held for him by his confrères.

In 1913, when the American College of Surgeons was launched under the aegis of the Clinical Congress of Surgeons by Dr. Martin, he gave freely of his time and energy to develop this great organization which has standardized sound surgical practice in America.

There had existed in America from the middle of the last century various surgical societies of limited membership, such as the American Surgical Association, the American Gynecological Society, and others which formed what one might call a surgical aristocracy. Dr. Martin, with broad vision, wished to develop an association which would have for its purpose the better care of the American people as a whole who needed special surgical service. Knowledge alone was not sufficient. He sought in those who were to become Fellows in the College, character and honesty of purpose joined with adequate surgical training and

experience. To protect the interests of the people and the standards of the College, he established the requirement that a candidate for Fellowship must have served eight years after graduation from medical school, in hospital internship and actual practice, before admission to the College. As a result, the roster of the American College of Surgeons carries to the people of the country the names of men to whom they may safely go for surgical treatment.

As part of the development of this great concept for the benefit of the people, Dr. Martin established a new standard of excellence in hospital service, so that today the hospitals which are recognized by the American College of Surgeons are the best in the country. I need hardly call attention to the part that *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, the greatest surgical journal in the world, of which Dr. Martin was the founder and of which he is still the editor, has played in the perfection of this vast plan that has made Dr. Franklin H. Martin one of the greatest of America's benefactors.

It is therefore a rare privilege to follow in this autobiography the events of surgical progress in the last fifty years, the growth of a master surgeon, and of great importance, the work of the men who composed the Council of National Defense and the Advisory Commission during the World War, their personality, and the effect their joint effort had in advancing the interests of our country, so pitifully unprepared for the trials and tribulations it underwent in the World War.

WILLIAM J. MAYO, M.D.

June 7, 1933.

II

WISCONSIN has sent to Chicago some of the illustrious figures in the Medical History of this period—Senn, Murphy, Ochsner, Billings, Cary, Church—and now we are commenting on perhaps the last medical celebrity to emerge from the Wisconsin era of the covered wagon. The story of this red-headed, befreckled, Wisconsin boy, like that of “David Copperfield,” illustrates well the adage that “the boy is father to the man.” This son of a covered wagon pioneer early became acquainted with life in the raw; he must have been uncertain sometimes whether he would have food and clothing and shelter; he fought, and played, and sang, and loved; he tested the life of the farmer’s chore boy; he made bricks; he was an amateur carpenter; he taught school. By nature sensitive, shy, resourceful, tenacious, with a vivid imagination, with faith and courage, this product of the covered wagon found his way out of the heat and barbs of the harvest field as the result of the lure of medicine, which, too, was in the covered wagon stage. As a student, young Martin won distinction which placed his ambitious foot on the first round of the ladder.

All through his life, and despite every disguise, Franklin Martin has been shy, fearless, imaginative, idealistic and a dreamer. Long will he be known among the great dreamers in medicine. He dreamed a dream, and the greatest surgical journal in the world was born; he dreamed again and the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America appeared; he dreamed yet again and the American College of Surgeons came into being.

Franklin Martin has contributed to every side of medicine—as a teacher, as an investigator, as a contributor to medical literature, as a successful surgeon. He was not only the founder of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, but for twenty-six years he directed its destiny. Significantly, the same group that originally made up the personnel of the Editorial Board and business personnel of the Journal are still associated with him, with the exception of those called by death. The Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America, which was founded by

Dr. Martin, in turn, was metamorphosed into the American College of Surgeons.

The American College of Surgeons has had a far-reaching influence on hospital standards, on ethical standards, on the standards of surgical practice, and on medical education. It was the conception of Franklin Martin that the College of Surgeons should be an active organization with comprehensive field activities covering the United States and Canada so completely that every hospital, whether in the metropolis or in remote places, should be served; that it should establish a standard of staff conferences, of clinical records, of laboratory equipment and service; and even of hospital construction. On the side of education and clinical research, Dr. Martin organized departments of the College for the study of the methods of treatment of cancer, and of the treatment of fractures; for the study of accidents and injuries, of which there are nearly one million a year; and a library which serves any of the 11,290 Fellows of the College at the cost of clerical service. It was Franklin Martin who conceived and carried through the establishment of the Murphy Memorial; and who now has planned permanent exhibits of surgical methods, material, etc. The machinery of these vast activities which spread all over the continent, and are carried on with vigor and judgment for the benefit of the public, is largely due to Franklin Martin. The American College of Surgeons now has assets of more than two million dollars; and a working staff of thirty-six, the outstanding characteristic of which—as in the case of the staff of the Journal—is its long-time loyalty to its Chief. Those who know Franklin Martin best, trust him most.

Franklin Martin did not fight and work and dream alone, as Isabelle Hollister Martin has advised, moderated, and conciliated this colorful personality.

Franklin Martin is a link between the covered wagon of Wisconsin and modern life; between the covered wagon of medicine and modern medical science. He helped, as almost no other contemporary has done, to metamorphose the covered wagon era through the exercise of his boyish contradictions of character—shyness and fearlessness, idealism and outstanding practical common sense. He has always been a constructive dreamer.

June 17, 1933.

GEORGE W. CRILE, M.D.

FIFTY YEARS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

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DR. FRANKLIN H. MARTIN

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An historical record of the organization and administration
of *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, the Clinical Con-
gress, the American College of Surgeons, and the
Gorgas Memorial Institute, of which we have
had the pleasure to be a part.

GEORGE E. BREWER	J. M. T. FINNEY	J. BENTLEY SQUIER
HERBERT A. BRUCE	WILLIAM D. HAGGARD	FREDERIC A. BESLEY
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Contents

FIFTY YEARS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY	1
I. 1876-1877. YES, I WILL BE A DOCTOR	3
An Apparition, 3. My First Professional Hero—My Preceptor, 6. A Staunch Friend, 9. National Politics, 10. Plans Threatened by Financial Stringency, 11. The Great Adventure, 15. My First Meeting with Nicholas Senn, 16. Arrival in Chicago, 18. Enrollment in Chicago Medical College, 20. We "Set up" Our Quarters, 21. Prof. Edmund Andrews—Amputation of a Leg, 24.	
II. 1877-1878. CHICAGO MEDICAL COLLEGE	28
Prof. Nathan Smith Davis, Our Dean, 28. Prof. William E. Quine, 30. An Embarrassing Situation and Strengthened Friendships, 33. "Pay Today or Get Out," 35. Productive Labor, 37. An Epoch-Making Experience—An Olfactory Diversion, 38. Uncle "Ad"—A Debt of Honor, 39.	
III. 1878-1879. "MIDDLE" YEAR AT CHICAGO MEDICAL COLLEGE	44
Familiar Faces, 44. A Visit from Uncle "Ad"—Generous Entertainment, 47. A Friend in Need—Again a Schoolmaster, 49. Oak Grove—The Griffins, 50. An Uncontested Draw, 55. The Haunted House, 58.	
IV. 1879-1880. SENIOR YEAR AT MEDICAL COLLEGE	65
"Batching It" Again, 65. First Obstetrical Case, 66. Competitive Examination for Internships, 68.	

- V. 1880. THE DOCTOR RECEIVES HIS DEGREE OF
"M.D." 71
Utter Darkness, 71. And Dawn, 73. Graduation,
March 30, 1880, 76. A Friend—Edmund Andrews, 78.
A Course in Reading, 79. My First Political Conven-
tion, 79. Post-Graduate Course in Literature, 81.
Affluence, 83. Much Needed Vacation, 84.
- VI. 1880. THE GREAT PROFESSION 85
Mercy Hospital Internship, 85. Septics and Antiseptics, 86. The "Dressing Boxes," 88. Order out of
Chaos, 89. Typhoid Fever, 90. Smallpox, 91.
- VII. 1881. THE DOCTOR BEGINS HIS MEDICAL PRACTICE 96
Experiments with Antiseptic Surgery, 96. Claims of
Lister Are Proven, 96. Childbearing, 102. Teaching
Obstetrics, 104. Senior Internship, 105. Assassination
of President Garfield, 105. Minneapolis Selected
as My Future Base, 106. A Trial at Private Practice,
106. Hay Fever, 107. On My Own in Chicago, 108.
My Boarding House, 111. The Developing Practice,
113.
- VIII. 1882. MOSTLY EXPERIMENTS 114
Tutoring, 114. Scientific Meetings, 116. The Growing
Practice, 116. "He Laughs Best Who Laughs Last,"
117. Interest in Gynecology, 118. An Interlude, 119.
- IX. 1883. LIFE'S GREAT EVENTS 121
"Jim," "Nick," and "Hank," 121. Stepping, 122.
More Serious Business, 122. Affluence and Organiza-
tion, 123. "The Chicago South-Side Medico-Social
Society" (Later "The Chicago Medical Club"), 124.
Something Happens!, 126. Microscopical Observation,
126. Sublimity, Despair, and Sublimity, 128. Ecstatic
Transition, 129. "Yes, Miss Hollister Is at Home,"
130. A World of Literature, 133. A Conspiracy, 135.
Work with Renewed Ambition, 136. The First Ab-
dominal Operation, 138. The Fatal Result, 142.

- X. 1884. PROGRESSION 144
 "Hope Springs Eternal," 144. Chicago Gynecological Society, 144. Apostoli's Treatment, 145. Experiments with Electrolysis, 146. Administering the Treatment, 147. A Literary Venture, 148. Politics—A Diversion, 148. The Republican Convention—I Crash the Gates, 149. Eager to Share My Enthusiasm, 151. The Suitor Continues His Quest, 152. A Straw of Comfort, 154. The Presidential Election, 154. Progress in My Profession, 157.
- XI. 1885. SATISFACTION AND HOPEFULNESS 159
 Hot Springs and New Orleans, 159. Blessed Be Work, 160. Establishing Professional Standards, 161. Practical Application, 162. Interest in Literary Research, 162. Personal Affairs, 163. Renewed Enthusiasm, 166. I Become a Veteran Operator, 166. Progress, 169.
- XII. 1886. "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE" 170
 Overwork and Overplay, 170. The American Medical Association—My First Address, 171. Publicity as Distinguished Guest, 172. The Great Event, 172. A Family to Support, 174. More Literary Work, 174. Thin Ice, 175. A Bad Half Hour, 175. Chicago Medical Society, 176.
- XIII. 1887. AN ACTIVE YEAR 178
 To Do or Not To Do, 178. Hystero-Neurasthenia, 179. "Referred" Cases, 181. Appointment to Woman's Hospital, 184. Ninth International Medical Congress—My Participation in It, 184. Political and Social Aspects of the Congress, 186
- XIV. 1888. NEW VENTURES 189
 Developing a Philosophy of Practice, 189. Oliver Wendell Holmes, 190. Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital of Chicago, 191. *The North American Practitioner*, 193. Political Conventions and Presidential Election, 193.