

## Announcement



ALTON OCHSNER, M.D.



OWEN H. WANGENSTEEN, M.D.

**T**he past thirty-five years have seen the exponential growth of the surgical disciplines. During this period, many significant milestones have been reached, all of which have contributed to the development of the present status of surgery today. Truly great years in wines are few and far between: The year 1937 was a great vintage year for surgery, for coincident with the founding of the American Board of Surgery, in that year which established the essentials and qualifications for the training of surgeons, a fledgling surgical journal began the travails of its nativity.

In the Foreword to the first issue published in January, 1937, Dr. W. J. Mayo stated: "Surgeons having access to the splendid surgical journals already in publication may for the moment wonder whether there is a good reason for such a surgical publication as that proposed by the editorial board of SURGERY, now making its initial appearance." Why, indeed? During the previous year, Dr. C. V. Mosby, formerly a practicing physician who had entered the publishing field, approached two distinguished surgeons, Dr. Alton Ochsner, Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Tulane University in New Orleans, and Dr. Owen H. Wangenstein, Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota, to co-edit a surgical journal which would become "to some extent at least, the organ of clinical surgery of the Middle West." In Dr. Mosby's opinion, "the Mississippi Valley, occupying the great tract of country between the Rockies and the Alleghenies, was the largest area of the United States, geographically if not in numbers of population." Both of the eminent surgeons accepted the challenge and the ensuing thirty-four years have placed this JOURNAL in the distinguished position it holds today.

Dr. Alton Ochsner, who succeeded the famed Dr. Rudolph Matas in 1927 as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Tulane University School of Medicine at the age of 31 years, had already acquired an international reputation as a surgeon. As Surgeon-in-Chief of the Charity Hospital of Louisiana, one of the largest hospitals in the country, he quickly recognized the need for improved dissemination of surgical information, for he was above all an excellent clinical surgeon and an outstanding teacher. Among the better known major contributions which he has made to our surgical knowledge are the diagnosis and surgical management of carcinoma of the lung, the treatment of liver abscess, the extraperitoneal approach to subphrenic abscess, and the management of pulmonary embolism by inferior vena cava ligation. And yet, despite these many clinical accomplishments, Dr. Ochsner, like many other eminent teachers, when asked how he would rank his greatest contributions, always points with pride to the surgeons he has trained, many of whom are now equally well known.

The "Chief," as he is still affectionately known to his former trainees, was and still is an indefatigable traveler in this country and abroad. He has lectured in almost every large surgical center in the world and made many friends, all of whom have contributed to *SURGERY*. With his excellent firsthand knowledge of the world-wide surgical scene, he encouraged significant contributions to this *JOURNAL*, recognizing with a surgical clairvoyance the numerous important surgical contributions being developed in these centers. It is no wonder, then, that in this setting Dr. W. J. Mayo further predicted ". . . and yet, it [this *JOURNAL*] will not be local in any respect, but an organ of the world's surgical thought."

Thirty-four years ago when Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen became Co-Editor of *SURGERY*, he had already been Chairman of the Department of Surgery of the University of Minnesota for slightly over seven years, having assumed this position at the age of 31. He

had made major contributions to surgical knowledge, the best known being advances in the understanding and management of patients with intestinal obstruction. He had already embarked upon his famous training program, urging the many talented young men who flocked to his department to devote several years to serious investigative work, often in other departments such as physiology. He was thus a pioneer in recognizing the need for the surgical disciplines to be constantly enriched by contributions from other fields. The attainment of a Ph.D. degree became the rule for these exceptional residents. The result was a steady output of highly qualified young men whose loyalty to their Chief remains in full evidence today. A recent count indicated that thirteen Chairs in Surgery in the United States and Canada are held by former residents of this remarkable man.

It is no small wonder that *SURGERY* should flourish in this academic environment. Dr. Wangensteen attracted from all over the world countless manuscripts of exciting new investigative work, from both the laboratory and clinical areas. He knew personally many of the authors and the hospitals and laboratories where the work was done. His mind was and is encyclopedic; his ability to evaluate complex investigations, interpret results, and make wise editorial decisions continues to be a source of admiration to his successors. Thus, his achievements have been measured in no small way by the thirty-four years of successful stewardship of *SURGERY*.

It is with considerable humility and a real sense of awe at the accomplishments of our predecessors that the new Editors accept the responsibility of maintaining the high standards of this *JOURNAL*, "devoted to the art and science of surgery," and agree with Dr. W. J. Mayo in the Foreword of the first issue that *SURGERY* should appeal to "our spirit and imagination." The Editors hope that it will continue to do so to the entire surgical community.

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