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# Historical Article

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WM. NILES WISHARD, SR.: UROLOGIST, EDUCATOR, ADMINISTRATOR,  
MEDICAL STATESMAN, CHURCH AND FAMILY MAN

WM. NILES WISHARD, JR.

It has been said that a well written life is almost as rare as a well spent one; to which I hasten to add that any shortcoming of the writer is not the fault of the spender. It has been 7 years since the North Central Section of the American Urological Association requested a biography of Dr. Wm. Niles Wishard, Sr. and 3 years since the Director of Nursing Education of the Marion County General Hospital invited a commencement address on Dr. Wishard's part in the building of that hospital and its school of nursing. Obviously, this essay must draw from similar sources.

Imagine for a minute the scene into which Dr. Wishard was born on October 10, 1851, at Greenwood, Indiana, then a small village separated from the State Capitol, Indianapolis, by 10 very remote miles, difficult to traverse. Schools were rather primitive, communication limited. Millard Fillmore was President. The United States, having only a few years before finished an affair with Mexico, was, as yet unknowingly, drifting toward another more tragic war 10 years later. Gold was only recently discovered in California. The Communist Manifesto was published 3 years before. The cornerstone of the wings of the U.S. Capitol was laid (1851). A medical school was opened in Indianapolis to survive 3 years. Proprietary schools were rampant throughout the country. Medical licensure was yet to come. Anesthesia was only 5 years old. Antisepsis was 30 years away. Most of the great discoveries of scientific medicine remained to light the scene. The Flexner report was far in the future.

#### HIS PARENTS

Dr. Wm. Henry Wishard, father of W. N. Wishard, Sr., was born in Nicholas County, Kentucky on January 17, 1816, 11 months

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before Indiana became a state. His ancestors had come to the United States in 1774 from Scotland via Northern Ireland. A lateral ancestor, George Wishart, was burned at the stake at St. Andrews during the Reformation in Scotland. He was condemned by Cardinal Beaton. Some 400 years later my father did a prostatectomy on a lateral descendant of the Cardinal. The patient said he was glad they did not trace their ancestry until after the operation! The family of Dr. Wm. H. Wishard moved to central Indiana in 1825 because it was a free state. Dr. Wm. H. was chiefly educated by the preceptorial method, though he did attend the old LaPorte Medical School for a period. It was here that he had as a teacher of chemistry Judge John B. Niles, whom he admired so much that he gave my father the middle name of Niles. My grandfather was the first in the area to use chloroform and was a charter member of the State Medical Association. He practiced 70 years, doing a delivery on his 90th birthday. Grandmother Wishard's ancestor, Mark McGahan, was one of the original settlers of Fort Harrod at Harrodsburg, Ky., oldest continuous white settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains.

#### EARLY EDUCATION

Dr. Wm. Niles Wishard, Sr. attended grade school at Greenwood, Indiana and high school at nearby Southport. Many are the stories told of those early days. Skating on the ice with bare feet was a winter diversion. Cooking was a favorite pastime, an art, I might say, which was totally lost in his mature years. Brought up in a devout Presbyterian household, he was not adverse, with his brothers, to certain disruptive pranks on Sunday, such as hitching the lop-eared family horse, old Johnnie, to the mill whistle adjacent to the church, and frightening the poor critter by waving a buffalo rug with resultant consternation to the congregation.

In 1860 the family moved to a farm 2 miles west of Greenwood. Relatives visiting from

Tecumseh, Michigan discussed the advantages of the school there over the rural school father was attending. He was therefore taken by open buggy to Indianapolis where his mother tearfully put him on a Michigan bound train—his first long trip from home. An undated letter in the late twenties or early thirties tells in detail of his experiences. When the train reached Kokomo, Indiana a boy on the platform was singing a song father never forgot:

“Ham Fat, Ham Fat, frying in the pan,  
Roochie, Hoochie, Koochie is a Ham Fat Man.”

In Tecumseh he found an excellent school in which he “profited more that winter than ever before in a similar period.” He also had some diversions not in accord with the strict Presbyterian household in which he lived. A circus came to town; Father, with a neighbor boy, slipped away to see the parade. He felt that it was worth it, in spite of a severe reprimand for committing a mortal sin in watching a circus parade.

Back in Indiana again, he attended Wabash College in 1871 for a year, being forced to leave because of rheumatic fever with subsequent mitral stenosis which he survived for 70 years. After recovery, he entered Indiana Medical College (now Indiana University School of Medicine) where he graduated in February 1874. We find little data dealing with that 2-year period. Then followed a short time of practice with his father pointing to the need of more education. He therefore enrolled in the Miami Medical College (now Cincinnati University), receiving his second M.D. (a thing now impossible) in 1876. For the ensuing 3 years he was in general practice, also being deputy coroner from 1876-79. Little or nothing remains to tell us of this phase of his activity though he often referred to the advantage he had in his specialty from experience in general practice as well as autopsies done incidental to his duties as deputy coroner.

#### HOSPITAL AND NURSING SCHOOL BUILDER

Dr. Wishard was persuaded to take the somewhat odious position of superintendent of the City Hospital on July 1, 1879, where he remained until 1887. These years he regarded to the end of his life as one of his outstanding accomplishments. Smallpox, typhoid fever and malaria had been a scourge of the state when a hospital was first suggested many years before. Dr. Livingston

Dunlap had long fought for a city hospital. Dr. Wm. H. Wishard had once introduced a resolution (1868) in the State Medical Society for a state hospital, but was voted down. After numerous abortive attempts, beginning in 1836 Drs. Dunlap and Bobbs (the latter the world first to operate for gall stones in 1867) petitioned the City Council to erect a hospital. A site was chosen in a swampy, remote part of the town in 1855. Four years later Dr. Dunlap, by the councilman of the Fifth Ward, succeeded in completing a brick building at a cost of \$30,000. No funds were provided for equipment or furniture. The city then tried unsuccessfully to sell or give it away. It then became a rendezvous of the disreputable until 1860 when the city released to the Federal Government for a military hospital, which it remained until June 1, 1866. Thirteen thousand patients were treated there.

With the war's end, the hospital reverted to the city. In the spring of 1866 it was half heartedly refurbished. Dr. Greenly V. Woolen became superintendent until 1870. The hospital was then remotely situated in an unhealthful swamp. It had no sewers, no central water or heat supply and no gas lights. Words cannot describe its deplorable condition. The position of superintendent was passed around as a duty of the members of the Medical Society, 6 physicians serving in the 9 years from 1870-79. Dr. Wishard had great persuasive powers with the City Council so that he was able to have erected a total of three functional buildings at a cost of \$60,000 in a relatively short time. He was severely criticized for his extravagance, but whereas the floors had been warped and the roof leaked so that the cook had to hold an umbrella over the stove when it rained, he now had an institution ready to treat patients. A fire was narrowly averted when a kerosene lamp exploded outside Dr. Wishard's bedroom on the first night of his incumbency. This prompted the Council to install gas mains and a water tower. Sewers were installed. Two practical nurses, one male and one female, with no training, constituted the nursing personnel. The male nurse, a former patient, had to be discharged because of his proficiency in metabolizing the hospital's supply of alcohol. A new male nurse was sought. Dr. Wishard interviewed a medical student who impressed him greatly. He then asked the student how he was financing himself. The young man

long fought for a city hospital. Dr. Wishard had once introduced a resolution in the State Medical Society for one, but was voted down. After multiple attempts, beginning in 1830 and Bobbs (the latter the world-famous for gall stones in 1867) petitioned the city to erect a hospital. A site was chosen in a swampy, remote part of the town in 1835. Dr. Dunkap, by then of the Fifth Ward, succeeded in getting a brick building at a cost of \$30,000. Funds were provided for equipment or furniture, but then tried unsuccessfully to sell it. It then became a rendezvous of the city until 1860 when the city released the building to the Federal Government for a military hospital. It remained until June 1, 1865, when the island patients were treated there. At the war's end, the hospital reverted to the city. In the spring of 1866 it was half burned. Dr. Greenly V. Woolen became superintendent until 1870. The hospital was then situated in an unhealthful swamp. It had no central water or heat supply, no lights. Words cannot describe its condition. The position of superintendent was passed around as a duty of the members of the Medical Society, 6 physicians in all, 9 years from 1870-79. Dr. Wishard used his persuasive powers with the City Council until he was able to have erected a new, functional building at a cost of \$100,000 in a relatively short time. He was criticized for his extravagance, but the floors had been warped and the roof leaked. The cook had to hold an umbrella over the patients when it rained, he now had an office to treat patients. A fire was started when a kerosene lamp exploded in Wishard's bedroom on the first night of the new building. This prompted the Council to build a new main and a water tower. Sewers were installed. Two practical nurses, one male and one female, with no training, constituted the nursing staff. The male nurse, a former barber, was to be discharged because of his inability to metabolize the hospital's supply of soap. A new male nurse was sought. Dr. Wishard interviewed a medical student who was interested greatly. He then asked the student to finance himself. The young man

agreed that he thought any honorable job was available. He was a medical student so he was practicing medicine. My father's face fell. The young man quickly added that he was driving a street sprinkler. He was promptly employed, later becoming the hospital's first intern. In 1883, with the help of funds from the Flower Mission, Dr. Wishard succeeded in establishing the second training school of nurses west of the Alleghenies. Medical practice was primitive by present standards. The doctors filled the prescriptions, leaving the medicine by the bedside, hoping the patient would take it. Surgery included the care of the injured, amputations, and a rare abdominal section. Sepsis and laudable pus were the order of the day, although during this period antiseptics was instituted with revolutionizing effect.

Dr. Wishard recalled a patient with membranous croup who was a prisoner condemned because of murder. Breathing almost ceased due to respiratory difficulty. Mouth-to-mouth breathing revived the patient from death by disease only to be executed later. I remember vividly how this story shocked my youthful ears.

Interest in genitourinary surgery was developed during these years at the City Hospital. An autopsy was done on a patient who had died of urinary retention. An almost pedunculated middle prostatic lobe was found. Dr. Wishard was impressed that removal of this could have averted the outcome. Dr. Simon Steelsmith of Abilene, Kansas (he of street sprinkler fame) was the intern at the time and wrote 50 years later that the patient, who had interested Dr. Wishard greatly, died a week after catheterization. "From the remarks the Doctor often made concerning the old gentleman in the bed in the northeast corner of the middle ward, I know this to be the beginning of his interest in genitourinary work." That was in 1880. We still have in our office the old operating table, and secretary which was used as the first bookkeeping department of the hospital.

#### GOING INTO UROLOGY

In the preface to the History of Urology (1933) Dr. Wishard remarked that general interest in this subject followed slowly the publication of Van Buren and Keyes' work on Genito-Urinary and Venereal Diseases in 1873. Correspondence with Drs. Francis S. Watson and Paul Thorndyke of Boston revealed that the development of

urology as a pure specialty in that city occurred between 1890 and 1900. A letter from Dr. Eugene Fuller in 1931 said that he knew of no one in New York who restricted himself exclusively to urology before 1890, although Bellevue Hospital Medical College had conferred a teaching title in urology on Van Buren in 1877 as a sub-department of general surgery, a trend to which we are unhappily drifting back.

Dr. Wishard resigned his superintendency on January 1, 1887, but held the hospital dear to his heart for the rest of his life. A testimonial dinner was given him. Ever since treating the aforementioned patient with prostatic obstruction he had given special study to this problem. Dr. John Chambers, graduate of Belfast University and a prominent physician of Indianapolis, came to him and said, "Well, William, I understand that you desire to leave the City Hospital." The reply was: "Yes, I think I had better. I don't want to have hospitalitis and would like to go out into practice. I have been wondering whether it would be possible for me to come downtown and associate with you other gentlemen and gain a reputation sufficient to make a living." Dr. Chambers rejoined, "Oh, it is a trivial thing to make a reputation in medicine; an advertising quack can do that, but it is a somewhat serious and an altogether difficult thing to sustain it." Father told him he aspired to make a specialty of genitourinary surgery. Dr. Chambers, who had given more attention to this than our other surgeons, informed him that this department was not understood or appreciated by the profession and that he might have difficulty in making it an exclusive specialty. A few days later Dr. Joseph W. Marsee, later dean, offered him a position in surgery with the understanding that he would soon become chief. Father declined saying that he would like to be a pioneer in genitourinary surgery. Dr. Marsee retorted; "Why, William, what on earth do you want that for? You will be nothing but a respectable venereologist." However, he gave him the chair.

Shortly after leaving the City Hospital we find Father studying in New York. A notebook purchased from "W. J. Byrne, Old and New Medical and Scientific Books, Bought and Sold, 135 & 137 E. 23rd St., New York" is first dated 2-28-'87. On the first page are general comments in Dr. Wishard's handwriting. "Great number of southern men here. Antiseptic methods. Instru-

ment mania. New York Doctor's courtesy. Filiforms, bougie-a-boule and pointed bougie".

He was living at 37 E. 20th St., New York. He saw Dr. Carpenter remove a condyloma, and the same day, 2-28-'87, Dr. Thomas A. Emmet do a cervical repair and Dr. Sturgis a Holt's operation—divulsion of urethral stricture. The next day Dr. Hanks "removed a large ovarian cyst, inserting a glass drainage tube. After closure an absorbent cotten outer dressing was applied." Dr. Sturgis is reported on 3-1-'87 as removing a caseous maxillary cyst at Blackwell's Island Charity Hospital. Dr. Carpenter conducted a Dispensary Clinic showing 12 venereal cases. At the Polyclinic on 3-2-'87, Dr. Thatcher lectured on histology. At the Post-Graduate in the afternoon Dr. Sturgis repeated the Holt's operation, "rapid divulsion by a wedge forced between two lateral bars." The same afternoon at St. Luke's Hospital he observed Dr. McBurney operate for hepatic abscess. The second case was an internal urethrotomy by the Otis method, cut to No. 30F. At 8 p.m., back at the Post-Graduate, Dr. Lloyd gave a clinic; syphilis, acute G. C. and strictures. Dr. Lloyd asked Dr. Wishard to treat a chaneroid with phimosis. "Applied 4% cocaine, burned the sore with nitric acid."

Over at the Skin and Cancer Hospital, 243 E. 34th St., he was a guest of Dr. Currier. His note says, "he operated on a lacerated cervix. Nothing new in his method. He did not approximate the edges carefully. In fact, I think I can do it much better than he did." Then follows several pages of how to fix tissues for microscopic examination as taught by Dr. Thatcher at the Polyclinic.

A note appears under the date of 3-5-'87 where Dr. Sands (Roosevelt Hospital) crushed a soft stone with a lithotrite. This is a modern art which appears to be declining if we can judge by its infrequent use illustrated in case reports being turned in to the American Board of Urology. Dr. McCarroll taught urinalysis on 3-14-'87. "The source of pus can be approximately determined as follows: If renal, the urine is generally acid and there is more pus in the last urine than the first. If cystic, there is more pus in the first urine voided and it is almost always alkaline."

One more example from this note book will suffice. At the New York Hospital Dr. Bull gave a clinic on Saturday, March 12, 1887. "A case of stricture of small calibre  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches down. The stricture barely admitted a filiform over which

was crowded a Maisonneuve urethrotome. The filiform was removed and the blade then run down the groove to split the stricture so an Otis urethrotome would enter. The operation was beautifully performed, and although the moral effect of the great skill of the operator was not overlooked by him in his exultant manner and skillful manipulations, still it was a very careful and successful operation. The quickest, prettiest and best internal urethrotomy I ever saw." It was studied privately under Drs. Eugene Fuller, P. R. Sturgis and the elder Keyes.

#### FATHER HEADS A DEPARTMENT

Back in Indianapolis Father opened an office for the practice of genitourinary surgery and became its professor in the medical school, now part of Indiana University—a position he held as chief for 49 years, probably a record. In 1880 he became a member of the recently founded American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons. He was a charter member and one time (1905) president of the American Urological Association. In 1891 he read a brief paper at a meeting of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons on prostatectomy and in 1892 on "A New Method of Removing the Lateral Lobes of the Prostate by a Median Perineal Incision." (Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases, Feb. & Dec. 1892.) He was not aware that Gouley had suggested this in 1873. By 1906 he had done over 100 such operations. In June 1890 he had used a rectal speculum (fig. 1) through a perineal incision by means of which a cautery was applied to the prostate, probably the first such visual endoscopic use of the cautery. He was among the first to call attention to subsequent atrophy of the prostate after cauterization. In 1900 he devised a cystoscope with an adjustable cautery blade of the Bottini type (fig. 2). In 1902 he reported the use of a cautery through Koeh's air dilating cystoscope.

Some of you will recall the Toronto meeting of the American Urological Association in 1932 when a symposium was held dealing with newer trends in prostatic surgery. Dr. Alexander Randall spoke of pathology, followed by Dr. J. F. McCarthy on transurethral resection; Thomas J. Kirwin, Clyde Collings, H. C. Bumpus and Robert Day also discussed various aspects of the subject. Dr. N. G. Alcock gave his epoch making talk on 10 months experience with TUR, ending

the Maisonneuve urethrotome. The handle was removed and the blade then run down the urethra to split the stricture so an Otis catheter would enter. The operation was performed, and although the moral courage and skill of the operator was not in doubt, his exhausted manner and the complications, still it was a very careful operation. The quickest, prettiest urethrotomy I ever saw." He died in 1906 under Drs. Eugene Fuller and the elder Keyes.

### 3 HEADS A DEPARTMENT

Dr. William Niles Wishard opened an office in Indianapolis in 1881 and was professor of genitourinary surgery and lecturer in the medical school, now Indiana University—a position he held for 25 years, probably a record. In 1889 he was a member of the recently founded Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, a charter member and one time president of the American Urological Association. In 1891 he read a brief paper at the meeting of the American Association of Genitourinarians on prostatectomy and in 1892 he presented a paper on "A New Method of Removing the Lateral Lobes of the Prostate by a Median Perineal Incision and Genito-Urinary Dissection." (See 1892.) He was not aware that this method had been suggested in 1873. By 1906 he had performed 30 such operations. In June 1890 he used a rectal speculum (fig. 1) through a cystoscope by means of which a cauterizing instrument was used to cauterize the prostate, probably the first endoscopic use of the cauterizer. He was the first to call attention to subsequent operations on the prostate after cauterization. In 1891 he used a cystoscope with an adjustable handle of the Bottini type (fig. 2). In 1892 he used a cauterizer through a cystoscope.

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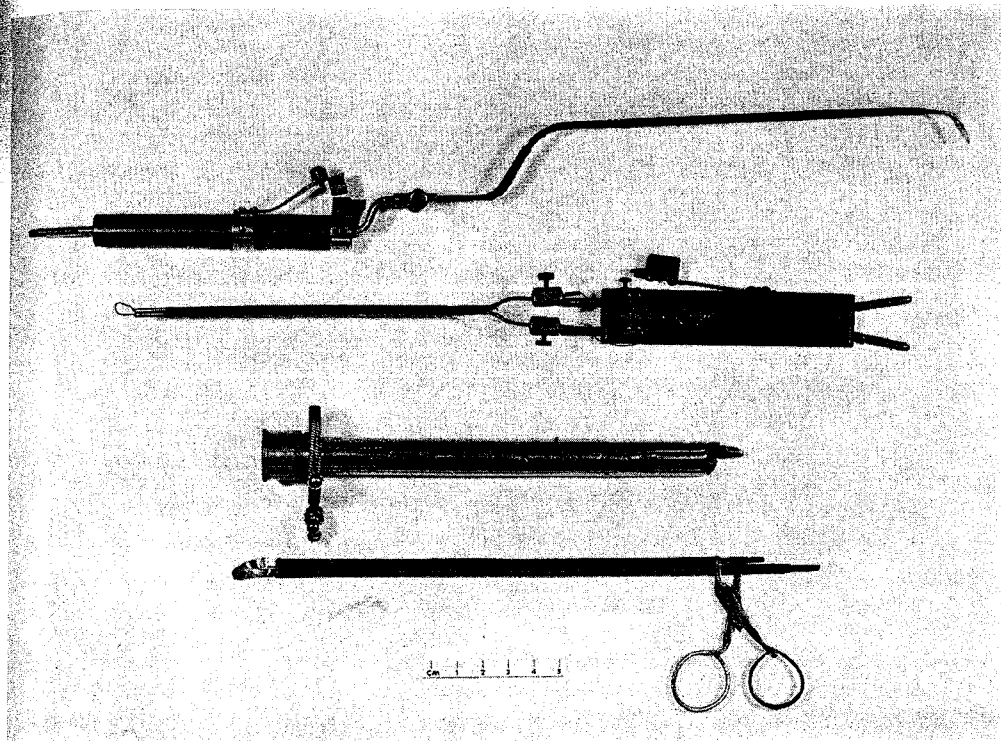


FIG. 1

his discussion with that oft quoted sentence, "I see no reason why a man in medicine should be complimented on being honest." Dr. Wishard led the discussion, using slides of his instruments of the 1890s and early 1900s, showing that endoscopic concepts were not so new after all. For this he received a standing ovation. In 1936 he reminisced again on early days of prostate surgery when he spoke at the 15th anniversary of the James Buchanan Brady Foundation of the New York Hospital.

The Indiana Medical Journal of November 1894 carried his lecture on foreign bodies in the bladder—chewing gum, a pipe stem, a pin, a wire, piece of a catheter and a cigarette holder. A somewhat similar vein was followed in the Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association for September 1919, when he showed a method of removing a hair pin from the bladder by use of a cystoscope armed with a ureteral catheter through the end of which protruded a small wire shepherd's crook. His contributions to the literature continued into the 1930's, but time forbids going into all his bibliography.

In later years he recalled attending an international medical meeting at Berlin in 1890. The announcement was made that the next day Nitze would give a public demonstration of the cystoscope. Three turned up, my father among them. In the early years of his specialization, he journeyed to Paris for discussion with Eynard's regarding catheters. The result of this was the manufacturing of two new catheters. One was of the Mercier type but flattened in a horizontal direction for easier passage through an obstructed prostatic urethra. The other was the Wishard soft rubber catheter, probably used more by urologists than any other until the appearance of the Foley catheter. He was most critical of catheter manufacture. The nose must be soft and the opening a velvet eye. In later years he devised the Wishard flat elbowed ureteral catheter which will by-pass a stone more easily than a straight round catheter. He profited financially by those developments not one cent. Dr. Wm. E. Lower of the Cleveland Clinic said that if Father had done nothing in life but invent the soft nosed

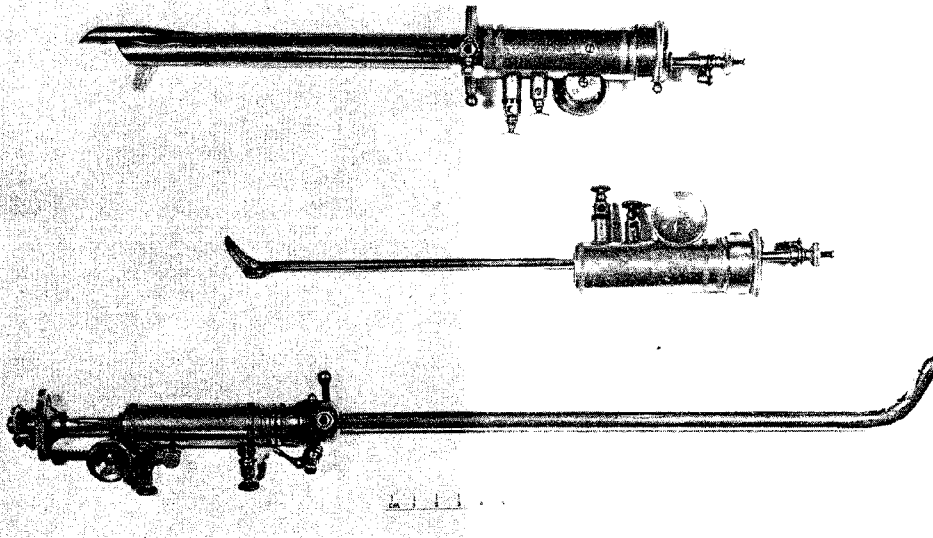


FIG. 2

catheter it would insure him of lasting recognition.

From 1887 to 1909 there was a decrease in the number of medical schools in the United States. Purdue University yielded its school of medicine in 1909, Indiana University maintaining the only school in the state to this day. In the teens the old medical school burned. With Dr. Wishard's help with the legislators, Dr. Wm. Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University, was able to procure the present site on West Michigan Street, not far from what was then the City Hospital. This land being close to White River was low and swampy. There was much criticism. Their plan was far seeing, however, giving room for expansion, now the site of the medical school buildings and its hospitals. When Dr. Bryan told Dr. Wishard of the legislature's approval of the area, the latter was so elated that he kissed Dr. Bryan on the cheek.

As the years rolled by, numerous appointments were made to share the responsibility of ever increasing work. On his retirement as head of the department in 1936, Dr. Wishard became professor emeritus; his colleague, Dr. Henry O. Mertz, becoming chairman until 1952. In that year he, too, retired, leaving the post open to the present professor and head, Dr. Robert A. Garrett. Thus, in 81 years there have been three

heads, a tribute to Hoosier longevity and good health—again probably a record. Dr. W. D. Gatch, dean of the school during Dr. Wishard's later years, said of him 2 years before retirement: "My first observation is that Dr. Wishard made a wise choice in his ancestors; he has inherited long life, and great physical and mental vigor. My second observation is that he is a man of indomitable will and fixity of purpose. My third observation is that he is a firm disciplinarian, who will not tolerate any lapse of loyalty or failure to obey on the part of his subordinates. My fourth observation is that Dr. Wishard is always careful to observe the proprieties of life. My fifth and final observation is that he has an infinite capacity for taking pains. He realizes that trifles make perfection and that perfection is no trifle."

#### MEDICAL STATESMAN

A facet in Dr. Wishard's life was his enduring participation in medical politics in the best sense of the word. As chairman of the State Medical Association's committee on Public Policy and Legislature from 1896 to 1922, he had an uncanny ability to understand, persuade and influence legislators. Prior to 1897 we had no medical practice act. Various cults throve. Realizing the need for state curbs and restriction to those qualified, Father wrote the law which was passed

in 1897 requiring setting up standards. The State Board of Indiana the act was that Indiana a physician, this pulled eclectics, home chiropractors, etc. In due time to inability to changes and as books today. I had any legal

Another field potent was pul was a political secretary. Dr. federal pure for Father's Realist specialist was minister them, suading a Dem of Health comp Republicans to of the Board. qualified perso John H. Hurty outstanding au 1902 to 1922. Board, was abl in having his

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1897 requiring prerequisites for practice and setting up standards of education. He served on the State Board of Registration and Examination of Indiana for a period. The first sentence of the act was that "in order to practice medicine in Indiana a physician must have a license." At the time, this pulled in all the cults under one Board, eclectics, homeopaths, physiomed, osteopaths, chiropractors, etc. having to take an examination. In due time many of these sects dwindled due to inability to meet the standards. With some changes and additions this law remains on the books today. Prior to 1897 no educational basis had any legal recognition in Indiana.

Another field in which Father's influence was potent was public health. The Board of Health was a political appointment as was its executive secretary. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, founder of our federal pure foods laws, was a life-long friend of Father's. Realizing that a trained public health specialist was needed to develop laws and administer them, Dr. Wishard succeeded in persuading a Democratic governor and a State Board of Health composed of three Democrats and two Republicans to appoint a Republican secretary of the Board. Thus came into office the only qualified person at the time in the state, Dr. John H. Hurty, who became one of the nation's outstanding authorities in his field, serving from 1902 to 1922. Dr. Wishard, as a member of the Board, was able to help Hurty in countless ways in having his programs carry through.

In 1898, when president of the Indiana State Medical Association, he had become interested in a pathologic exhibit prepared for the association by Dr. Frank B. Wynn. This was so successful that Father personally paid the expenses of transporting the exhibit to a meeting of the American Medical Association in Columbus, Ohio, a few weeks later (1899). A warehouse was rented where over 700 specimens were displayed. This led to A.M.A. resolutions in 1900 to arrange a similar exhibit. A Section on Pathology was also formed, of which Dr. Wynn was secretary.

This interest in pathology showed up in unusual ways. In the nineties the editor of our state journal informed Dr. Wm. H. Wishard that an eastern surgeon had recently claimed to have done the first gallstone operation in the world. Grandfather denied this, saying that he remembered when Dr. John S. Bobbs had done one in 1867. He found the report in the transactions of the State Medical Society. Dr. A. W. Brayton,

the editor, wrote up the matter, thoroughly establishing premacy for Dr. Bobbs. Dr. W. N. Wishard hunted up the patient, Mrs. Burnsworth. In 1905 he took her to the A.M.A. meeting in Portland, Oregon, where she was exhibited as the first person in the world who had had a cholelithotomy. A few years ago Dr. Robert S. Sparkman of Dallas became interested in the history of gall stones. Last year he came to Indianapolis where he read an encyclopedic paper, "A Day to Remember, June 15, 1867," the history of Dr. John S. Bobbs.

Waiting until the halo of mystery surrounding the doctor had faded away, along with the beard, silk hat and Prince Albert coat, Dr. Wishard proposed a Bureau of Publicity of the State Association, becoming its first chairman in 1922, (aet. 71) serving until 1940. Weekly meetings were held in order to provide the press, as well as other public agencies, with authoritative medical information in a way the laity could understand. The influence of this agency in educating the public without the appearance of the name of a single doctor was unparalleled. It also curbed unbridled individuals too prone to appear in the press. Mr. Thomas A. Hendricks, lately of the A.M.A., was at that time executive secretary of our State Association. He regarded Dr. Wishard as hardboiled as a city editor and as intolerant of fuzzy-mindedness in thought or writing. Mr. Hendricks' notes included the following quotes from the meetings of the Bureau of Publicity: "A man may have a great deal of knowledge and yet lack wisdom." "Every man has a solemn obligation to do something constructive every day." "A cultural background of broad general education is necessary before professional instruction should be undertaken." "We all smack more or less of commercialism and we ought to be smacked for it." "From time to time it is good to do some housecleaning of the intellect, but don't sweep away the principles that are fundamental and essential." "Editors too often like things snappy, and if certain instances are not snappy enough they take it upon themselves to make them so." "Newspapers should be more than informative—they should be educational." He was a strong advocate of Greek and Latin as the cornerstones of a liberal education. He was an avid reader of good literature. He wrote excellent English, an acquired faculty, with little formal training. He believed that rhetoric was to grammar as geometry is to arithmetic.

r longevity and good record. Dr. W. D. during Dr. Wishard's ars before retirement. t Dr. Wishard made a he has inherited long d mental vigor. My he is a man of in- of purpose. My third m disciplinarian, who of loyalty or failure to ordinates. My fourth ard is always careful of life. My fifth and has an infinite capac- lizes that trifles make m is no trifle."

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life was his enduring ities in the best sense of the State Medical r Public Policy and 2, he had an uncanny suade and influence we had no medical throve. Realizing the restriction to those aw which was passed

Dr. Wishard was a life-long supporter of organized medicine, religiously attending meetings unless prevented by illness. Numerous societies honored him. He was president of the Indianapolis Surgical Society in 1890, the Indianapolis Medical Society (now the Marion County Medical Society) in 1894, the Mississippi Valley Medical Association in 1895, the Indiana State Medical Association in 1898, the American Urological Association in 1905, the State Board of Health in 1910, and vice president of the American Medical Association in 1918-19, and served in its house of delegates 1902-13. He was a member of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons and the Association Francaise d'Urologie. Wabash College gave him an honorary A.M. in 1890, The College of Wooster an LL.D in 1919, Indiana University an LL.D in 1924, De Pauw University an Sc.D. in 1928 and Hanover College an Sc.D in 1932 (he was then 81).

Anniversaries were always an important day, particularly that of graduating from medical school, February 28. In 1914 (his fortieth) he gave a dinner for 'his boys'—about 60 of them, from far and wide, including Terry Townsend and Owsley Grant both of whom had studied with him in former years. Later the same year the Indianapolis Medical Society honored him with a public dinner, addressed by Drs. Edward L. Keyes and Harvey W. Wiley. In 1924 a fiftieth anniversary dinner was given. Dr. Townsend was again present. In 1934 the senior class of the medical school honored him with a sixtieth anniversary dinner. Dr. Earl Mericle, now an esteemed psychiatrist of our city, presided. Speakers were Dr. Terry Townsend, Dean Gatch, Dr. E. E. Padgett, president of the State Association, Dr. A. F. Weyerbacher, his associate Dr. H. G. Hamer. A tribute was read from Dr. Wm. Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University.

Much of his early practice was consultation in other cities. At one time he knew by heart the rail connections to every one of the 92 counties in the state. At present itinerant practice is frowned upon because of widespread urologic service in every city, but then, with only one in the state, it was a necessity. He continued to practice to the end of his life, seeing one patient at the office only 6 days before his death. He and his father practiced medicine for 140 years. The aggregate age of the two was 181 years. The elapsed time between the father's beginning of practice until the end of the son's was slightly over a century.

Late in life he assayed to collect and place in an album the picture of every president of the Marion County Medical Society from 1849 to 1940. This he did, together with a curriculum vitae of each. On its completion, a meeting was held at which he showed lantern slides with short discussion of every individual president. He had known them all. As one may imagine, it was not a short meeting. He had long sought the diploma of the first doctor of our city, Dr. Isaac Coe. This was finally delivered to him in an oxygen tent 24 hours before his death. His last injunction was to see that it was put in safe keeping in the medical school library. It was. His last public appearance was on December 5, 1940 when he introduced his old friend and student Dr. Terry Townsend, retiring president of the New York State Medical Society, who had come to address the staff of the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

#### OTHER LOYALTIES

No record of Wm. Niles Wishard, Sr. (fig. 3) would be complete without mention of other and strong loyalties. A man of 6 feet, 2 inches, who wore a seven and three-fourths hat, he had a distinguished appearance commanding the respect of others. He made wise selection of his asso-

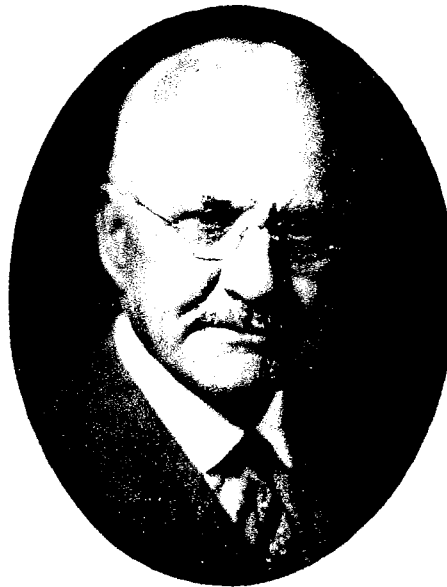


FIG. 3

ciates. His H. G. Hamer becoming president of the Association. his voluminous entered the c to the other ment.

Dr. Wishard in politics; h Republican. distressed wi outspoken c When that c retiring from to say that h do its duty!

His church profession at birth and last over 40 years activities. He General Asse was long an Church of In Dr. Wishard session.

His family less. He was a devoted father nelia Scoville journey radiat M. Townsend bols of the vic Those who w respected him admired him; revered him." Dr. George A him: "He believ trusted men o we commit th honor of our v their confider trusted and h from him a le home was a k happy voyage and for the fu cian's welcome



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Fig. 3

ciates. His first permanent associate was Dr. H. G. Hamer who joined the firm in 1904, later becoming president of the American Urological Association. Dr. Henry O. Mertz, well known for his voluminous contributions to the literature, entered the office in 1918. Each was ever faithful to the other, practicing in harmony until retirement.

Dr. Wishard considered himself an independent in politics; his friends considered him an ardent Republican. He never held public office. He was distressed with the party break in 1912 and an outspoken opponent of Theodore Roosevelt. When that dignitary made his hunting trip on retiring from the presidency, Father was known to say that he hoped every lion in Africa would do its duty!

His church held parallel devotion with his profession and his family. A Presbyterian by birth and later by choice, he was an elder for over 40 years. He was ever faithful in all church activities. He was once a commissioner to the General Assembly. President Benjamin Harrison was long an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. Upon the latter's death Dr. Wishard was elected to his place on the session.

His family allegiance was outstanding and tireless. He was a strict disciplinarian but a wise and devoted father. When he married Frances Cornelia Scoville in 1896 he entered into a life-long journey radiant to both. When he died Dr. Terry M. Townsend said: "He will be one of our symbols of the victory of immortality over mortality. Those who were only acquainted with Wishard respected him; those who came in close touch admired him; those who knew him well loved and revered him." When he died on January 22, 1941, Dr. George Arthur Frantz, his minister, said of him: "He belonged to the company of the most trusted men on earth, our doctors. To your hands we commit the innocence of our children and the honor of our womanhood. His patients gave him their confidence and affection. His colleagues trusted and honored him. His students received from him a legacy more lasting than gold. His home was a kingdom of love to him. He had a happy voyage; such dear companions all the way, and for the future, Heaven, and the great Physician's welcome and work without hindrance."

He established in Indianapolis a urological profession of high tone which has always been friendly and amicable. For the 54 years of his urologic practice and the 27 ensuing years there have been no factions, no cults, no prejudices. The cordiality of the urologists of Indianapolis to each other is a lasting monument to his vision.

I close with a quotation used by Dean Gatch at that sixtieth anniversary celebration:

"I am a part of all that I have met:  
Yet all experience is an arch where thro'  
Gleams that untraveled world whose margin  
fades,  
Forever and forever when I move.  
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,  
To rust untarnished, not to shine in use."

And now you will say I speak from prejudice.  
I do, for how could I do otherwise.

1711 N. Capitol Ave.,  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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