

E. G. W.

Edward Gilmay Waters was born January 14, 1898 in Woodbury near Derby, Connecticut, to Edward Thomas and Bertha MacGrath Waters. He was one of five children of whom four lived to maturity. The father was a construction worker employed in area mills and the family circumstances were modest but comfortable. Ed's attraction to professional study is not clear. He took advantage of the wartime acceleration of curriculum at Yale University to graduate in 1919 with a baccalaureate degree cum laude and credit for one year in the school of medicine. For reasons again unknown Ed moved on to Cambridge and received his M.D. from Harvard in 1922. After a rotating internship at Brooklyn Hospital he went to the Bridgeport General Hospital, attracted mainly by the monthly stipend of \$100.00. Assigned to the medical service he offered to cover obstetrics for an added reward of \$25.00. Finding the care of women to his liking he applied for Obs Gyn resident training at the Jersey City Hospital and served there from 1924 to 1927. Presumably encouraged by the salary of \$2500.00 per year he married his schoolmate Edna Mae MacCabe of Meriden, Connecticut on October 29, 1924. Post-graduate work in surgery at New York University-Bellevue Hospital completed his preparation for specialty practice and

an office was opened in Jersey City in 1929. His services were quickly in demand by patients and his ability recognized by colleagues. Dr. Waters was promptly named Associate Attending Surgeon at the Jersey City Hospital. Appointment as Attending Surgeon to Christ Hospital followed in 1930 and much of his surgery was performed in those institutions until he was no longer active. When the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital was opened in 1931 he was made chief of one of three divisions. This appointment caused some surprise. Hudson County and Jersey City were the stronghold of New Jersey's Democratic Party and its boss, Mayor Frank Hague. Ed Waters was an active and outspoken Republican. But Dr. Samuel A. Cosgrove, director of the new hospital had stipulated that decisions as to staffing were to be his alone. He wanted Dr. Waters! The admirable and productive collaboration of these two splendid men continued until Dr. Cosgrove's death in 1964 and brought the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital to favorable world wide attention for its high standard and volume of obstetrical work, innovative procedures and valuable research. Dr. Cosgrove was superior in experience, judgement and skill in management of pregnancy and its problems. Dr. Waters performed most of the surgery. As to this, former residents and assistants have expressed their debt to his insistence that they master details of pelvic anatomy and employ meticulous technique.

From 1936 to 1956 Dr. Waters held the rank of Assistant Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Columbia University and from 1956 served as Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Seton Hall Medical School, later the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. Fellowship in the New York Obstetrical Society dates from 1935. Dr. Waters was also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the College of Abdominal Surgeons. He was a life Fellow of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, the Society of Surgeons of New Jersey and the New Jersey Academy of Medicine.

Despite an extremely active private practice, Dr. Waters enjoyed writing and found time to prepare interesting case reports and articles for a number of journals. Publications total more than one hundred and cover a wide range of subjects. Probably best known is his modification of technique for extraperitoneal Cesarean Section first described in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology in March 1940. A subsequent report of 250 cases of "Supravesical Extraperitoneal Section, Waters Type," appeared in the same journal in June, 1945. Although well aware of the danger of uterine rupture during pregnancy, having reported 50 such cases in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Volume 20, November, 1962, he supported the contention generally held by

Margaret Hague staff members that vaginal delivery following previous Cesarean Section was both safe and sensible in selected and carefully supervised cases. Most of Dr. Waters' papers dealt with gynecologic problems. His technique for repair of enterocele and vaginal prolapse after hysterectomy was a favorite topic. He was the author of two chapters in Davis' Gyn and Obs "System", one on Cesarean Section technique, the other on "Destructive Operations."

Dr. Waters also liked to talk. In both formal address and casual instruction he injected delightful humor. He was much in demand at meetings near and far, responding generously and receiving honorary membership in medical societies far from New Jersey, and appointments as consultant in hospitals too numerous to mention.

After nominal retirement in 1965 much of his time was spent away from Jersey City. But capable assistants carried on in his office and until 1975 he returned periodically to operate on the patients who seemed always waiting for his personal attention.

It might seem that the professional activity of this remarkable man absorbed all of his energy. This was not so! He was devoted to and thoughtful of his family. With a home in Monmouth County fronting the Shrewsbury River, boating was a convenient and pleasant activity for all. Winter vacations in Florida waters and the Bahamas were spent on his luxurious

yacht. Ed usually had a captain but was himself a qualified navigator, a registered member of the United States Power Squadron. The Beach Club in Palm Beach was his Southern base. Interest in civic affairs was demonstrated when he joined the Rotary Club of Jersey City and later became an honorary member, also when he accepted a place on the board of directors of the Boys Club. He was for a time President of the University Club.

In the final year of his life a somewhat mysterious but certainly malignant mediastinal tumor increasingly reduced respiratory function and sapped strength. Cerebral activity was unimpaired and interest in professional and world affairs continued. He liked to reminisce with former colleagues and just a few weeks before the end I found him delighted by a complimentary letter from Dr. Mattingley announcing acceptance of a most unusual case report for publication. Death occurred on July 11, 1981.

Deploring as we do the loss of this illustrious member it is well to realize that only expert surgery and kindly circumstance made his long life of usefulness possible. Our friend was only 43 when extensive operation was necessary to remove a spreading angioma from the meninges in his lumbar spine. Post operative ileus was persistent and recovery uncertain for a time. Subsequently and for all of his life a painful back tested stamina and courage, but never evoked

complaint. Truly, he was a "man for all seasons."

Dr. Waters is survived by his faithful wife of 57 years, a son E. G. Waters, Jr., a successful and much respected general surgeon of Red Bank, New Jersey, and a younger son, Dean, a nuclear physicist working at Oak Ridge, Tenn. A third and equally accomplished son, Leighton, fell victim to cancer at age 44. There are 11 healthy grandchildren in the family.

Robert A. Mackenzie M.D.

ROBERT A. MACKENZIE
489 Madison Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753