

Memorial Resolution
for the Late

Joshua William Davies, M.D.
1898 - 1979

Read at the Regular Meeting
of the

New York Obstetrical Society

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by

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Joshua William Davies

Joshua William Davies, born in Catasauqua, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania on August 23, 1898, died in his sleep at his residence in Bronxville, Westchester County, N.Y. on October 24, 1979 at the age of 81.

Born of Welsh and German-Swiss parentage, he received his early education at the Whitehall High School, and subsequently attended Pennsylvania State Teachers College from 1915-1917 before entering Medical School at George Washington University. Josh had to work to put himself through Medical School. He found employment as a security guard in the Capital. It was at this time that he discovered a fire in the Capital Library. By climbing through the transom over the locked door, he gained entry to the library and opened the door from within so that the firemen could enter and extinguish the soaring flames. For this act of bravery, he received a Congressional Citation.

After graduating from Medical School with a degree of A.B., M.D. in 1922, he received some experience in general surgery at the Staten Island Hospital, before joining the resident staff of the Woman's Hospital in 1923, under the directorship of Dr. George Gray Ward. After 18 months of training in obstetrics and gynecology, he spent an additional 2 years in general surgery at St. Luke's Hospital.

He joined the active teaching staff of Woman's Hospital in 1927 and in the same year was appointed an instructor in anatomy at the

College of Physicians and Surgeons, a position he held for 18 years.

It was during these early years of Josh's professional life, while developing his private practice and fulfilling his teaching assignments at the Woman's Hospital that he taught and studied the normal anatomy of the female pelvis.

From his studies and observations, made in the dissecting rooms of the Medical School, and on patients in the operating and delivery rooms of the hospital, he obtained and developed a lifelong interest in the teaching and application of basic anatomical knowledge to the mechanisms of labor, the repair of pelvic relaxations, including complete vaginal prolapse and the understanding and correction of urinary stress incontinence.

Indeed, he constructed, with great skill and dexterity, many teaching models of the female pelvis illustrating the influence of pelvic morphology on the mechanism of labor, the anatomy of utero-vaginal relaxations, maternal childbirth injuries and the surgical principles involved in their repair and the correction of urinary stress incontinence. These models are now displayed in the library of the Medical School of George Washington University, having been donated to his alma mater in memory of the late Dr. John Parks.

Among his many and extensive contributions to the literature in which he emphasized the application of his anatomical studies, he described special techniques for the repair of vaginal relaxations particularly

urinary stress incontinence and he was among the first to perform and advocate marsupialization of the Bartholin duct cyst in order to preserve the glandular function.

Josh traveled widely in this Country, Canada and Europe and demonstrated and exhibited his models and drawings of applied anatomy to the repair of gynecologic surgical disorders. He was frequently invited to demonstrate his surgical techniques and his excellence as a vaginal surgeon in some of the teaching operating rooms of London, Cardiff, Amsterdam, Paris and New Delhi.

Josh retired from the active teaching staff of Woman's Hospital in 1961 when he was appointed Consultant in obstetrics and gynecology. Though he continued his private practice in Bronxville, N.Y., where he pursued his research and teaching interests with unlimited enthusiasm and boundless energy, it was not unusual to find him back in the operating rooms at the Woman's Hospital helping a resident or a member of the attending staff with a difficult vaginal prolapse problem.

Among his professional organizations were the ACS, ACOG, the N.Y. Obstetrical Society, the N.Y. Gynecologic Society, of which he was a founding member, the West Side Clinical Society, and the Westchester Obstetrical Society *and the Medical Strollers.*

Among his many hobbies and pleasures were sailing, gardening, traveling and dancing, an art that he gracefully shared with his wife, Elise Renning, ~~and~~ ^{They} together received several awards.

Josh was predeceased by his first wife, Lockie Kincer Davies, who died in 1949. He then married Elise Lorraine Renning, an obstetrician-

gynecologist on the staff of the Woman's Hospital who remained his loyal partner and true companion for 30 years.

Josh had 2 children with his first wife, who survive him, Ruth Cartmell of Boston, Mass. and Dr. Joshua William Davies, Jr. assistant obstetrition and gynecologist at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, and 7 grandchildren.

Those of us who were privileged to have known and worked with Josh will remember him as an original thinker, a sharp wit, an inspiring clinician and a skilled surgeon. His devotion to teaching and his constant sense of inquiry into whatever persuit he undertook gained for him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. We have all benefited from his contributions and teachings and shall cherrish his memory with respect and love.

Mr. President, I would like to suggest that this memorial resolution for our departed colleague be placed in the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be sent to his family.