



Winthrop M. PHELPS

1894–1971

Winthrop M. Phelps graduated from Princeton University in 1916 and from the Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1920. After serving a year of internship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and another at Massachusetts General Hospital, he began his orthopedic training in the Harvard program at Boston's Children's Hospital in 1923. After his training, he joined the faculty of Yale University in 1926, becoming chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery in 1931. Because of his interest in the problems of patients with cerebral palsy, he gave up this position and in 1936 went to Baltimore to establish the Children's Rehabilitation Institute. He remained associated with this Institute for the rest of his career. As a founding member of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and through his work in the Institute, he had great influence in bringing the problems of these patients to the attention of the orthopedic community. He pointed out the importance of a holistic approach, i.e. looking at each individual as a whole person rather than concentrating on specific mechanical or neurologic deficiencies. Phelps' paper on the classification and treatment of cerebral birth injuries, written early in his career, is considered by orthopedic historian Edgar M. Bick to be the most important publication on the subject since the original description of cerebral palsy by Little in 1862.



Dallas Burton PHEMISTER

1882–1951

Born on a farm near Carbondale in Southern Illinois, Dr. Pheemister attended a country school and, after graduation from high school, continued his education at the Normal School of Northern Indiana. While there he decided to become a physician, and entered Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago, thus beginning an association with the university that was to be life-long. After graduation from Rush in 1904, he served an internship at Cook County Hospital. He then entered private practice in LaGrange, Illinois, continuing at the same time his interest in teaching and research as a member of the Rush Faculty. In this period of American medicine, advanced training was available only abroad; so, after 5 years of practice, Dr. Pheemister went to Vienna. Here began what became the most absorbing interest of his career—the study of the pathology of bone diseases. In 1911 he returned to Chicago to resume his teaching position at Rush, and established an association with Arthur Dean Bevan.

During World War I, Dr. Pheemister served with the Presbyterian Hospital Unit, and at the end of the war returned to Rush Medical College, where he soon became professor of surgery. Although he carried on a large private practice, he devoted much time to teaching and laboratory research. Many of his contributions to the knowledge of bone and joint diseases, as well as to the field of general surgery, owe their inception to this period in his life.