Obituaries

M. ALLEN STARR, M.D.
1854-1932

At Marienbad on Sept. 4, 1932, quietly in his sleep death came to Dr. M. Allen Starr. Thus terminated the long fruitful career of one of the pioneers of modern American neurology. He lived through the most active years of the development of neurology, and well he played his part in that development.

Dr. Starr was born in Brooklyn on May 16, 1854, and after a preliminary education in Orange, N. J., he was graduated from Princeton in 1876. In 1879, he received his M.A. from Princeton, and the M.D. degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1880. In 1884, he was awarded the Ph.D. from Columbia. Honors came later: LL.D. from Princeton in 1899 and D.Sc. from Columbia in 1904.

For all of his professional life, Dr. Starr was a neurologist. Trained by Edward C. Seguin at the old College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, he early started to make neurology his life's work, and throughout all his active life he was a neurologist and a teacher of neurology. In 1884, four years after his graduation, he was appointed professor of nervous diseases in the New York Polyclinic Hospital Medical School. Three years later he returned to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then the medical department of Columbia University, to begin that long devoted service to the medical school of his undergraduate days which extended over forty-five years. From 1887 to 1889, he held the post of lecturer on diseases of the mind and the nervous system. In 1889, he became professor of neurology and served as head of his department until his retirement in 1915. Until his death, he remained as professor emeritus of neurology in Columbia University. Dr. Starr to the end maintained his interest in neurology and neurologic research. He supported the research of the neurologic laboratory of Columbia and took a personal interest in what was being done.

All of the neurologic societies counted Dr. Starr among their most active members. He was admitted to the American Neurological Association in 1885, and was its president in 1897. From 1894 to 1897, he was president of the New York Neurological Society, and in 1903, vice president of the New York Academy of Medicine. For many years he was a corresponding member of the neurologic societies of London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna.
It was as a teacher that most medical men best remember Dr. Starr. In his thirty years of active teaching thousands of medical students passed under his tutelage, sat in his clinics and listened to his lectures, and none forgot him. He was at his best as a lecturer. Short, strong and active, with keen, humor-loving eyes, white hair in his later years, he was vivid and dynamic in his lectures. One felt his enthusiasm as soon as he started to talk; an enthusiasm which never lagged to the end of his teaching days. Years afterward, his old students can recall cases he presented in his clinics. This same enthusiasm was seen and felt in his scientific work. It is not only the older men who remember the vigor with which Dr. Starr participated in the scientific discussions of the American Neurological Association meetings.
Dr. Starr's scientific publications covered a wide range of neurologic interest. The Semi-Centennial Volume of the American Neurological Association lists eighty articles published from 1888 to 1921. Besides this, there were his textbooks, "Familiar Forms of Nervous Disease," 1893, and "Brain Surgery," 1895. In 1897, Dr. Starr published his "Atlas of Nerve Cells" in which he brought before American medical men the then new work of Golgi and Nissl. His large textbook "Organic Nervous Diseases," first published in 1903, introduced Dr. Starr to a larger group of students. It ran through a number of editions during the next ten years.

Dr. Starr lived and worked through interesting years in the development of neurology. Starting in the old days of empiric neurology, he watched his chosen subject develop until it took its place among the medical sciences, and in that development he played a telling part. He was no: a neurologist of the old school. His career may well stand as a symbol of the transition from the old to the new. He belonged to both, but primarily he was of the new. 

Louis Casamajor, M.D.
Bernard Sachs
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Bernard Sachs (January 2, 1858 – February 8, 1944) was a Jewish-American neurologist.

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Early life and education

After graduating with a B.A. from Harvard in 1878, Sachs travelled to Europe and studied under some of the more prominent physicians of the time, such as Adolf Kussmaul (1822–1902), Friedrich Daniel von Recklinghausen (1833–1910), Friedrich Goltz (1834–1902), Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902), Karl Friedrich Otto Westphal (1833–1890), Theodor Meynert (1833–1892), Jean-Martin Charcot (1825–1893), and John Hughlings Jackson (1835–1911). Later, in 1885, Sachs translated Meynert's classic treatise Psychiatrie into English.[1]

Career

After returning to the United States, he settled into a private practice in New York, and became one of America's leading clinical neurologists. He was an instructor at New York Polyclinic Hospital, and a consultant at Mount Sinai Hospital and Manhattan State Hospital. In addition, he was publisher of the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease (1886–1911) and president of the American Neurological Association (1894 and 1932). [1]
The condition known as Tay–Sachs disease is named after Sachs along with English ophthalmologist Warren Tay (1843–1927). Tay first described the red spot on the retina of the eye in 1881, while Sachs provided a more comprehensive description of the disease, and in 1887 noted its higher occurrence in Ashkenazi Jews from Eastern Europe.\[2\][3]

Sachs published several books, including *Nervous and Mental Disorders from Birth through Adolescence*, a reference work intended for professionals. In 1926 he published *The Normal Child*, a popular manual on child rearing intended for the general public. In the latter book he advocated a common-sense approach to parenting and the rejection of psychological theories, especially Freudian psychology.\[1\]

**Personal life**

His portrait was painted in the winter of 1914–15 by the Swiss-born American artist Adolfo Müller-Ury (1862–1947), but is presently unlocated.

Sachs, of the notable Goldman–Sachs family, is the son of Joseph Sachs and Sophia Baer.\[4\] His older brother Samuel Sachs was a co-founder of Goldman Sachs.\[5\] His eldest brother Julius Sachs was a notable educator at Columbia University and founded Sachs Collegiate Institute. His nephew, Ernest Sachs (1879–1958), also became a notable physician.\[6\]

**Publications by Sachs concerning Tay–Sachs disease**

- "On arrested cerebral development, with special reference to its cortical pathology", in: -- *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, Chicago, 1887; 14: 541-553.
- -- *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, Chicago, 1892, 17: 603-607.

**See also**

- Ira Van Giesen (1866–1913), a collaborator

**References**

Edward Constant Séguin
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Edward Constant Séguin, M.D. (1843-1896) was an American neurologist and a founder of the American Neurological Association in 1875. He was a practitioner and professor at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

Séguin was the son of Édouard Séguin, a pioneer in the education of mentally retarded children. Edward C. was born in Paris, France, and in 1850, due to political unrest in France, the family emigrated to the United States and settled in Ohio. Edward received his early education in Cleveland and Portsmouth. In 1861, the family moved to New York and he began medical studies at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. When the American Civil War began, Edward C. served as a dresser and medical cadet, resuming his studies at war’s end. He received his medical degree in 1864 and he remained in the U.S. Army. From 1865 to 1867, he served as an intern at the New York Hospital. He suffered from a lung ailment and left the hospital. He re-entered the Army for a tour of duty and was stationed in New Mexico where he regained his health.

Séguin was in Paris from 1869 to 1870 to study diseases of the nervous system. He studied under Charles-Édouard Brown-Séquard and Jean-Martin Charcot. Upon his return to New York in 1870, he joined the practice of William Draper, a prominent physician to whom he introduced the practice of thermometry. The following year, Séguin was named to the Chair of Diseases of the Nervous System at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and founded its neurological clinic. In 1876, he left the practice.

Séguin published many papers on neurological subjects and on neurosis. A large collection of his lectures was published under the title of Opera Minora. In 1823, he helped Brown-Séquard edit the journal, Archives of Scientific and Practical Medicine, which lasted only a short time. In 1879, he helped to found the journal Archives of Medicine. He was active within the short-lived Association for the Protection of the Insane, an organization of neurologists and medical professionals with the goal of improving patient care in mental hospitals.

In 1882, his wife suffered a severe depression, and shot and killed their three children and herself. Following this tragedy, Séguin returned to Europe where he worked in neurology. When he returned to the United States, he spent a year in Providence, Rhode Island, and regularly visited his patients in New York. In 1885, he resumed his practice in New York but resigned his teaching position. He retired from medical practice in 1896.

Séguin died in 1898 from cirrhosis of the liver.

Works

Séguin, Edward C. Higher Medical Education in New York: II. Reorganization of the Medical Staff of Hospitals. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1881.


Séguin, Edward C. The American Method of Giving Potassium Iodide in very Large Doses for the Later Lesions of Syphilis, more especially Syphilis of the Nervous System. New York: [s.n., 1884?]


References


Categories: 1843 births | 1896 deaths | Scientists from Paris | French emigrants to the United States | People of New York in the American Civil War | American neurologists | Deaths from cirrhosis

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Charles Loomis Dana
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Charles Loomis Dana (March 25, 1852 – December 12, 1935) was an American physician, professor of nervous and mental disease at Cornell Medical College.

Dana was born in Woodstock, Vermont. He attended Dartmouth College, a Phi Beta Kappa member, and graduated in 1872. In 1875, he earned a Masters of Arts and a law degree (LLD) from Dartmouth in 1905. He was interested in medicine and studied briefly with Dr. Boynton in Woodstock. He moved to Washington, DC to serve as a secretary for several years to the U.S. Senator from Vermont. In 1875, he became a private secretary to Spencer Baird, curator then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. While in Washington, he attended the medical schools at Georgetown University and Columbian College, and earned his medical degree in 1877. He earned a second medical degree in 1878 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

He interned for two years at Bellevue Hospital in New York under Drs. Austin Flint and Edward G. Janeway. He then opened his medical practice. To supplement his income, he saw patients at the local Marine Hospital from 1879 to 1888. Between 1880 and 1887, he was professor of physiology at the Women's Medical College (which closed in 1918 and became the New York Medical College). He published his medical lectures and edited the weekly publication, Medical Record, with Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe. In 1886, he became a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, serving as President, 1905-1906; Chair of its Public Health Committee, 1911-1928; and a Trustee, 1906-1934.

Dana became interested in neurology through his associations with Drs. Edward Seguin, William Hammond, and George Beard. He joined the New York State Neurological Society in 1881 and the American Neurological Association in 1882, serving as President in 1892. He held the post of professor of Diseases of the Nervous System and Mind at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital from 1884 to 1895. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Neurological Institute of New York. From 1902 until his retirement in 1934, he was a professor of nervous diseases at Cornell Medical College.

Dana published over 250 articles. His Text-book of Nervous Diseases for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine, first published in 1892, went through ten editions until 1925. His publications attempted to apply new ideas and experimental results from general pathology to neurology, and medical topics included the study of medical psychology, eugenics, and public health.
He belonged to many social and literary groups including the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Century Association. He was a founder and member of the Charaka Club in New York (1893-1947), where prominent physicians gathered to discuss literary and historical topics.

In 1927, Dana was invited to deliver the John Hughlings Jackson annual lecture at the University of Edinburgh, and was awarded an honorary LLD.

He died in 1935 at Harmon-on-Hudson, New York.

**Works**

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