

EDWIN BEER

1876-1938

EDWIN BEER was born in New York City in 1876. He was graduated from Columbia College in 1896, and three years later received his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. Upon the completion of his internship at the Mount Sinai Hospital, he went abroad



EDWIN BEER, M.D.

to complete his postgraduate studies in the clinics of Prague, Berlin and Vienna. Shortly after his return to New York, he became associated with the Mount Sinai, Bellevue, Flower, Neurological and the Lenox Hill Hospitals. It was at this latter institution that he developed one of the first cystoscopic departments in the city. In 1910, he was appointed an attending surgeon to the Mount Sinai Hospital and, although in charge of a general surgical service, he became more interested in the field of urology. He served in France during the World War as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. A. Medical Corps. He was a fellow of the New York Surgical Society and its

President upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. He enjoyed fellowship in the American College of Surgeons, the American Urological and the American Surgical Associations, and the International Society of Surgeons. He was a Vice-President of the New York Academy of Medicine and a President of the Medical Board of the Mount Sinai Hospital.

In 1938, upon the occasion of his sixty-second birthday, he was presented with an anniversary volume containing over 70 presentations contributed by his many friends both here and abroad. Although seriously ill at the time with a malady which was to cause his death on August 13, 1938, this volume brought him great joy.

Edwin Beer's medical contributions were innumerable and covered not only the more important problems in many branches of surgery, but especially urology. He was greatly interested in the urologic diseases in the young and perfected one of the first practical cystoscopes for infants. In 1930, he published a monograph on Disease of the Urinary Tract in Children. This was an exhaustive treatise based upon the modern methods of urologic investigation. The crowning event in his brilliant career came in 1927 when, at Brussels, he received the first gold medal given by the International Society of Urology for the use of the Oudin high frequency current in benign bladder tumors, a method which revolutionized their treatment. In 1937, he was awarded the Gold Key by the American Congress of Physical Therapy for his outstanding contributions to the treatment of vesical tumors. His unusual experience in this field enabled him to write an invaluable monograph on Tumors of the Urinary Bladder, which was published in 1937.

Edwin Beer was a born scholar, endowed with a magnificent intellectual background which gave him an unusual clarity of thought whether in surgery or in the field of economics or sociology. He was a great teacher and his surgical approach to any problem was marked with meticulous attention to the slightest detail, a characteristic which could not help but impress those about him. He was a mental stimulus and an inspiration to the younger generation of surgeons, who came to rely upon his judgment and advice. His untimely death deprived surgery and urology of one of its great, original minds.

RALPH COLP.