

The initial history of the Boston Surgical Society was written by Dr. Bradford Cannon, a task duly noted by rousing vote of thanks of the executive council at its meeting of June 6, 1977. The history written by Dr. Cannon was subsequently published along with the 1976 presidential address of Dr. Gordon A. Donaldson, revised by-laws and general information concerning the Society. In October, 1989 the council invited Dr. Cannon to update his history with subsequent publication of the "Red Book" in 1992. The council felt the need for an update once again in October, 2000. Drs. Cannon, Magruder C. Donaldson and Anthony D. Whittemore drafted relatively minor revisions to the 1992 rendition, and further updates have been added by retiring secretaries in 2005 and 2010.

The following remarks, still appropriate, appeared in the introduction to the 1992 version written by Dr. Cannon.

Introduction

Preparation of the history of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc. has proven a fascinating and rewarding experience. A past President has said that he did not envy anyone the task, having himself attempted to compose a history of another society. "I still haven't gotten over it." Some of us are old enough to remember many of the noteworthy individuals who were the founders and early members of the Society. The importance of their contributions to the Society and their influence on the advances in surgery during their lifetime cannot be overestimated. One can only hope that the reader will find this account of our predecessors enlightening.

Bradford Cannon, M.D.

The origin of the "turnip" on the title page is obscure. It was restored by Dr. Soutter when he was Secretary. Perhaps it is simply a bit of printer's ornamentation

Chapter I

BOSTON SURGICAL SOCIETY ORIGINS

The “Surgical Review Club” at the Massachusetts General Hospital was the precursor of today’s Boston Surgical Society. The members of the Club were senior members of the MGH staff who gathered for professional and social interchange for a number of years beginning around the turn of the century. They kept no minutes and had no stated purpose or by-laws. Surgeons from other Boston hospitals were not invited to join. A group of rebuffed younger surgeons in the Boston community were inspired in 1911 to form their own surgical club. Several names for the new organization were suggested including the Burrell Society to honor Dr. Herbert Burrell who had chartered a relief ship, the Bay State, to transport sick and wounded Massachusetts soldiers and sailors from Cuba at the conclusion of the Spanish-American war. Another name was Fenway Surgical Club. They finally chose the name Boston Surgical Society at a meeting of January 18, 1912.

In the meantime the older Surgical Review Club wanted a city-wide society similar to those in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. A formal appeal was made to the younger surgical society to release the title “Boston Surgical Society” to the Surgical Review Club. After months of negotiating, correspondence and personal interviews, an agreement was reached in 1914. The two clubs joined as the Boston Surgical Society, Inc. The “Inc.” was added to distinguish it from the older society. One disgruntled member of the younger group complained, “so far as our Society goes, I feel we will be making a backward step in relinquishing our name to any body of men, however aged or famous.” The younger group continued, renamed the Chirurgical Society of Boston, until a final meeting recorded in March 1920.

These events were the subject of Dr. Gordon A. Donaldson’s presidential address in 1976, reprinted here in its entirety.

THE FIRST TEAM
of the
Boston Surgical Society
Gordon A. Donaldson
President 1976

The Boston Surgical Society as we know it today was founded in the Winter of 1914-15. In this Country in particular it was a time of great activity and growth, of optimism and individual opulence. The Spanish and Mexican Wars had been mere skirmishes, economically at least; and the growth of the railroads, telegraph and telephone, and industry in general had, in large measure, recouped the Country from the devastation of the Civil War. The Lusitania had not yet been sunk in the North Atlantic, and World War I seemed very distant. The ebullience and optimism of the age were personified in the President of the time. And in New York the wealthy railroad and industrial barons, encased in their boiled shirts and vine-leaf garlands, caroused. Diamond Jim Brady was reported to have said, “Hell, I’m rich. I’m going to have some fun.” It was a time when the sexes respected each other, and any reference to “Women’s Lib” would have been considered most superfluous.

As might be expected, Medicine and Surgery were caught up in this milieu of ferment. Challenged by a forbidding mortality in such diseases as Diphtheria, Typhoid, and Scarlet Fever, and a death rate for compound fracture in the Boston area of one in every 10 patients, organizations for the exchange of medical ideas were springing up throughout the Country - The American College of Surgeons in 1914, and in 1916 the New England Surgical Society, to mention but two.

Locally, Boston was flooded with master Surgeons; and it was generally admitted that in Surgery, at least, Boston had displaced Philadelphia as the leader in America. Small wonder then, that George Monks, Charles Scudder, and others became restless to establish opportunities to meet and exchange ideas within the City. To be sure, there was a small group of young

men, chiefly from the City Hospital, composed of Frank Lahey, Austin Brant, Arthur Kimpton, James Gallison, among others, who had organized a club in 1911. And there also was The Boston Surgical Review Club of older men, like Franklin Balch, Charles Scudder, and Howard Lothrop.

The origins of the *Surgical Review Club* are misty; developing in all probability shortly after the turn of the century. It was a loosely knit group that gathered during the winter months. The members reviewed in turn the literature of the day, following which there was a general discussion. Meetings were held in members' houses up and down Beacon, Marlborough, and Boylston Streets. In 1913, attendance at the meetings was falling off, prompting Charles Scudder to write to Secretary Howard Lothrop, dated March 31, 1913, "As I have watched the Club develop and have watched the meetings from year to year, it occurred to me that before long the Club may die a natural death. As we get older and become more busy, or become interested in special lines of surgical work, it may become more difficult for the active meetings of the Club to be maintained. I think it might be a good plan to turn the *Surgical Review Club* into the nucleus for a Surgical Society of Boston - the object of the Society to be a private, good solid Club, made up of the best surgeons in Boston, actively engaged in practice. By such an organization it seems to me that the best of the surgical profession here in Boston could have an organization which would be representative, and by its clinical meetings we could come to know something about each others work, of which at Present we know comparatively little." And he goes on to compare the society of the future with similar organizations in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Such was the genesis of the Boston Surgical Society and its principles and purposes as we know them today - so well stated by Charles Scudder in 1913.

But wait! There already existed a surgical society in Boston called (of all names) "The Boston Surgical Society!" Who were these young upstarts who had stolen a march on the older, established surgeons in town? Only two years previously on June 21, 1911, a small group had met at the home of Arthur R. Kimpton, 483 Beacon Street, corner of Massachusetts Avenue, with the purpose of combining "a review of the literature of the day with Presentations of their own individual work." The first organizational meeting was held at the home of Frank H. Lahey, 845 Boylston Street. In this, the old Beresford Apartment hotel, lived the recently married Dr. Lahey, an energetic young surgeon, three years in practice, and active at the Boston City and Carney Hospitals, where he had trained. The literary review was assigned by a Committee of three to various members in rotation. A card file was kept. And after 30-45 minutes of review, original clinical work was to be reported, with a review of the appropriate literature. Annual dues were set at \$1.50 - to cover postage and refreshments.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to a proper name for the group. "The Herbert Burrell Surgical Club" was suggested. Dr. Burrell had died prematurely the year previously, at the age of 54. Perhaps no man had had more impact on the surgical training of the founders of this Society in the early part of the century than did Herbert Leslie Burrell; and at this time it seems appropriate to digress a moment to honor him.

A graduate of the Harvard Medical School, he trained at the Boston City and Carney Hospitals; and thereafter devoted his life to the teaching of surgery at these two institutions. For 20 years he served as a senior surgeon at the Boston Children's Hospital, and his imprint on the young surgeons of his day was profound. His main forte was as an administrator, whether organizing the Army transport "Bay State" to evacuate fever stricken militia home from Santiago Bay; or as President of the Massachusetts Medical Society and later President of the American Medical Association, or as Secretary of the American Surgical Association.

The preeminence of the Boston City Hospital in the early years of this century was in no small part due to the surgical teaching and administrative ability of this remarkable man. He was a strenuous advocate of continuity of service of the Visiting Staff in General Hospitals, in contrast to the loose, short service system prevalent in most General Hospitals in the Country at that time. It was he who initiated the "case system" of teaching in surgery, borrowing the practice which had long been effective at the Harvard Law School. The extent of his unselfish devotion to the improvement of medical teaching was not generally known, except to his own intimates of that day, and certainly it is not appreciated today. Also, to an extent uncommon today, he generously offered opportunities for distinction to his juniors, while standing aside.

Herbert Burrell was a remarkably modest man.

In addition to the name of Burrell those of Ambrose Pare', John C. Monroe, and the Fenway Surgical Society (being close by Fenway Park) were discarded; and the name of Boston Surgical Society was chosen at a meeting on January 18, 1912. The first President was - guess who? Frank Howard Lahey, with James M. Gallison, Vice President and Austin Brant, Secretary-Treasurer. Initial meetings were held at the Beresford Apartment Hotel of the recently married Lahey at 845 Boylston Street. It would be foolhardy of me to try to sketch the character and deeds of Dr. Lahey, particularly in the presence of those in this room who knew him so much better than I. He was a singular man. Born of sturdy Irish stock, he was the only child of Thomas, a successful bridge builder in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and Honora Lahey. From the beginning, his life was characterized by amazing drive and sense of commitment, whether on his newspaper route, the local High School Track, Baseball, or Football Teams, hunting on his preserve in Alabama, Major in World War I, and in World War II Chairman for Procurement and Assignment of all medical personnel to all the Armed Forces (numbering 60,000 Physicians), at his work desk, with his loyal wife Alice Wilcox at his 60th birthday party, and last but not least, with Blanche Wallace, his one and only scrub nurse for 37 years, through 17,000 operations. Miss Wallace, still alive, recently opined that, left to her own resources, she thought she could find her way around the abdomen pretty well!

It is obvious that I cannot begin to recount Dr. Lahey's contributions to World Surgery. He was unswervingly committed to the practice and teaching of careful surgery, making operations safer in the hands of the average surgeon. In an effort to lower morbidity and mortality during the developmental era of surgery, he described two-stage procedures for Esophageal Diverticula, Thyroidectomy for thyrotoxicosis, and for both large bowel and rectal cancer. His most lasting contributions may be considered in the sphere of 1) postgraduate teaching, and 2) the development of a group type of practice - this last launched in an atmosphere of considerable suspicion in the Boston surgical community in 1925.

Small wonder that a man of such qualities as Dr. Lahey's should have honors heaped upon him, including the leadership of the American Medical Association. On May 10, 1946 he was awarded what he termed in his own words his "greatest honor", that of the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal of the Boston Surgical Society, "because of its being given by one's own confreres in one's own home town". This statement was typical of the man. Small wonder that 1000 people crowded Trinity Church at memorial services held two weeks after he seemingly was recovering from a coronary occlusion.

To return to the original Boston Surgical Society: in 1911 the earlier meetings were attended with great enthusiasm. The first paper was that given by Dr. Lahey himself on "Tuberculous Peritonitis"; and presentations on such subjects as Puerperal Sepsis, the Relation of Acapnoea to Shock and Anaesthesia, Prostatic Abscess, and The Source of Backache in Retroversion of the Uterus are recorded. These original papers presented challenges to the group, but as early as February 1912 there was discussion of ways and means to keep the members up to mark in abstracting their assigned journals; and the problem of "How to deal with members who ineffectively covered their assigned Journal reviews" was put out to Committee. At the Second Annual Meeting, July 18, 1912, at the home of Dr. A. K. Paine, 366 Commonwealth Avenue, methods of increasing the efficiency of the Society were considered. The record indicates that at these midsummer meetings there was no business, no reviews and no papers; and only refreshments were to be had. And then there was the complaint from Price Brothers, Grocers at 188 Massachusetts Avenue. On April 17, 1913, the Secretary announced "the loss of 18 bottles after the meeting of January 16, 1913." Dr. Austin Brant, at who's home the meeting had been held, 483 Beacon Street, offered to "adjust the matter". Eighteen members had been present. The minutes of the following two meetings are preoccupied with this item. On July 12, 1913 "the Treasurer was instructed to pay Price Brothers, Grocers, one Dollar for the bottles lost last January and on August 21, 1913 the Treasurer announced that "Price Bro., Grocers, had been paid as noted at last meeting".

In the early years of this original Boston Surgical Society the average attendance was 10 members and 40-50 guests. House pupils attended and discussion was encouraged. Stephen Rushmore spoke on "Some Therapeutic Uses of Sugar". Dr. Lahey described a new needle. Arthur Kimpton read a paper on the "Use of Cannula Tubes for Transfusing a known amount of blood Withdrawn and Introduced". This was a departure from the custom of direct transfusion, and the forerunner of the Vincent transfusion tube, with

which a number in this audience, including myself, were familiar. "Serum Diagnosis of Pregnancy", and "Experimental Bone Transplantation" were discussed; and Dr. Irving Walker presented a paper on "Acute Abscess and Gangrene of the Lungs". In the discussion which followed his paper there was general agreement that although ether was considered the safest all-around anesthetic, from the standpoint of the lungs alone, chloroform was superior.

Then on July 20, 1914, when the Society had been in existence two and one-half years and could certainly be considered viable, with a limited membership of 23, including many of the more virile young surgeons in Boston, came a stunning request from the faltering Surgical Review Club. It was the suggestion of Scudder, Balch, Stone, Cotton and others of the Review Club that the Society relinquish the name of the Boston Surgical Society to, as the letter stated "a more representative body of Boston Surgeons, recognizing that there was need for a larger society to represent adequately the work done in the City." The new Boston Surgical Society would be comparable to the well established groups in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. When the roll was called at the appointed meeting on July 20, 1914, 16 favored relinquishing the name, 4 opposed. Said Brant and Williams, "Any Society taking the name should be representative of the best of surgery in Boston". Paine: "We have done credit to Surgery in Boston, and any change in the name would weaken the Society." And Tinkham, with words which have a familiar ring today: "We should not be forced into relinquishing our name to a bunch of old men". It was the persuasion of unselfish individuals, lead by Dr. Lahey, that won the day, however, and our Boston Surgical Society was born on August 29, 1914.

Thereafter the original Society continued limited in membership and at the monthly meetings one or two original papers, representative of the surgical activities of that day, were presented. This format did not change for the remaining six years of its existence. In February 1915 the name Chirurgical Society of Boston was adopted. In 1916, a change was made from holding meetings in members' houses to the new Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue. The First World War interrupted meetings for a period of two years and on reconvening on November 28, 1919, meetings were reduced to five per year. There was considerable discussion of keeping the Society wholly in the hands of the present generation or "diluting it with many younger men". In the following year there was an infusion of new blood by the election of Arthur Allen, Elliot Cutler, George Cutler, Donald Monroe, Joseph H. Shortell, and Howard Clute. But the liberal change in policy came too late, and many of the active members of the Boston Chirurgical Society soon became absorbed in the new Boston Surgical Society.

Although Franklin Balch had been President of the Surgical Review Club and Howard Lothrop, Secretary, and both men appreciated that the Club was withering during the Winter of 1913-14, it was clearly Charles L. Scudder who spearheaded the move to rejuvenate a wider surgical intercourse in the city of Boston. It was on November 25, 1914, three months after usurping the name of the Boston Surgical Society, that nine men met at the law office of John W. Ware, 53 State Street, to legally incorporate the new society. At that time George Howard Monks was chosen Chairman and Robert B. Greenough, Secretary, from among the nine men whose names, I wager, the great majority in this audience have never heard.

It is to honor these men, as much as for any other reason that this historical sketch is being presented. Our own Bob Goldwyn has coined the term "neglected Innovators", men who, in review, rightly belong in the Hall of Fame of American Surgery.

Six days after incorporation on December 4, 1914, the first official meeting of the Society was held at the home of Dr. George Monks, 67 Marlborough Street. This proved to be an organizational meeting, and officers for a two year term were elected. Following the business of the evening, the first paper ever presented before this Society was read, very appropriately, by Charles Scudder, entitled: "The Significance of the Red Stippling Sign in Chronic Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer". The paper was presented with slides demonstrating the punctate hemorrhages which occur when the serosa exterior to a benign ulcer is gently stroked with the gloved hand. The enthusiasm of the group that evening seems to have exceeded that of the present day in that no less than four of the assembled nine members discussed this observation - Blake, Porter, Monks, and Lothrop.

Earlier that same evening, 10 members of the old Surgical Review Club had been voted into the Society; and at the following meeting 19 additional members and 16 Honorary members were elected, bringing the total membership to 54.

But who were the original nine Innovators, reflecting, in Surgery, that initiative and restlessness which seemed to have been generally abroad in that decade? A review of their careers in data compiled from various sources has generated nothing but a profound respect for every one of them.

THE FIRST TEAM
NOVEMBER 25, 1914

JAMES S. STONE

HOWARD A. LOTHROP JOHN B. BLAKE

CHARLES A. PORTER

ROBERT B. GREENOUGH

FRANKLIN G. BALCH

JOHN T. BOTTOMLEY

GEORGE H. MONKS

CHARLES L. SCUDDER

FIGURE 1.

Monks

The battery of this First Team has got to be Monks and Scudder. Without doubt, one of the most versatile surgeons of his day, George Howard Monks stands alone in setting the pace and stabilizing the early days of the Boston Surgical Society. Like Dr. Lahey, his father was of Irish background, and he too had established a successful lumber building business, in South Boston. After Harvard College young George Monks attended the Architectural School at Massachusetts Institute of Technology a year, then transferred to Harvard Medical School in 1876 - a move inconceivable today. After one year at the Massachusetts General Hospital, three years were spent in study abroad -Vienna, Leipzig Heidelberg, Dresden, Paris, and London. He passed the examination for admission to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1884. Returning to practice in Boston, he was later described as a “painstaking surgeon, a brilliant lecturer, a remarkable clinical teacher, and a man of great culture”. Connected with various hospitals at different times in his 53

years in surgery, his heart was always at the Boston City Hospital, where a little-used chapel now exists in his memory. In 1910 he became Surgeon-in-Chief at that Institution. For 40 years he was on the Staff of the Harvard Dental School, and as one of the earliest M.D.'s attached to the Dental School, did much to coordinate these two disciplines in those early days.

Monks' contemporaries noted that he always had "an unruffled manner". Nevertheless, he accomplished a great deal during his lifetime. In an era when papers were weighed in ounces rather than by the ton, he contributed 58 papers on a wide range of subjects: rupture of the biceps tendon, carcinoma of the appendix, fracture of the humerus, abdominal trauma, flushing of the intestinal tract through multiple enterostomy openings, acute pancreatitis, aseptic surgical technique, hip dislocation, finger avulsion, a method of one-hand knot tying, and even a way to prevent thumb sucking in children. He classified bursal disorders of the shoulder and devised the Monks' Triangle Splint. Always a deft and ingenious mechanic he busied himself early with the magnetic localization and removal of foreign bodies. In later years Monks turned much of his attention to plastic surgery, and was amazingly successful with it at a time when there were few competent men in this field. He introduced a number of innovative procedures for correcting deformities of the nose, ears, and eyelids.

Monks, however, considered his work on Intestinal Localization his most important contribution. After long study on the cadaver in the surgical anatomy laboratory of the Harvard Medical School, he was able to demonstrate that a coil of small bowel, presenting through any small incision in the abdomen could be closely localized by its physical characteristics, obviating the need for extended laparotomy in the process of establishing an enterostomy. He also demonstrated that the entire small intestine could be fluted on a straight rod or tube 14 inches in length. At a later date Lord Moynihan made use of this observation in devising his long straight tube for evacuating distended coils of obstructed small bowel - a procedure of value, which has been rediscovered only in recent years. This paper is a classic in medical literature, and was presented as the Mutter Lecture before the College of Physicians in Philadelphia in 1905. In retirement Dr. Monks wrote biographical sketches of contemporary surgeons, one of the best of which was entitled "Selections from the Medical Writings and Sayings of Oliver Wendell Holmes."

This man of great charm was handsome, debonair; and was said to be "gravely courteous, never ruffled, never hurried. "For years he was considered an unflinching advocate of bachelorhood, and he was given up by "scheming mammas" until, at the age of 44, he married Olga Gardner, niece of Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner. One of his three children was the late Dr. John Monks, known to some in this audience. In later Years Dr. Monks spent much of his time in his studio sculpturing and painting. His sculptures, whether the admirable portrait bust of George Augustus Peabody, or the little Aphrodite perched on his desk, or the bronze Fountain displayed in his garden, have no trace of crudeness and are quite exquisite creations.

Such was the man who found time to live a long and happy family life, be a diligent President of the Boston Medical Library, his District Medical Society, the Boylston Medical Society, Vice-President of the American Surgical Association, and certainly Captain of the Team in the early days of the Boston Surgical Society. He is described as "one of the most unselfish men who ever lived, a very worthy and admirable gentleman who brought a certain fineness of finish to all he did; an artist in work and in life".

Scudder

The man behind the plate and mask is Charles L. Scudder. As noted, it was his initiating letter to Lothrop of the old Surgical Review Club that sparked the origin of our Society. His long life of 88 years brought him into the acquaintance of some in this audience; and the more I have read about this man the more I realize how much I personally lost by not making my several years of contact with him more than "an acquaintance" · A Yale Bachelor of Philosophy and a Harvard Medical School graduate, he received his House Pupil diploma from the Massachusetts General Hospital and then traveled for six months in Europe. Scudder was quite a different character from Monks. He is described as earnest, able, energetic, seldom smiled and was always busy. He had little time for the usual banter with members of the hospital staff; and when he spoke it was always to the point. At the Massachusetts General Hospital he rose in 1914 to be Chief of the East Surgical Service, a post he held until retirement 6 years

later. His intense interest in surgery resulted in his keeping in close touch with everything that went on, on his Service, and at times his Juniors had less work to do than desired because of this interest. His work was highly individualistic in both surgical practice and in his writings. Of the 126 or more papers listed in the Treadwell Library, extending over a 57 year period, from 1887 to 1944, only 13 are in collaboration with another surgeon.

These papers covered a wide range of subjects. His work on “Tumors of the Jaws”, published in 1912, was considered a classic, and later he wrote extensively on gastric surgery, devising a rubber-shod clamp to be used in his own technique for gastroenterostomy. During all these early years, however, his major interest was becoming more apparent. In 1917 he established at the Massachusetts General Hospital one of the first Fracture Clinics in the country, and shortly thereafter a similar clinic in the Boston City Hospital Out-Patient Department. Between 1900 and 1938 his ”Textbook on Fractures” ran through 11 editions, and brought him international recognition. For years he was Chairman of the American College of Surgeons Regional Fracture Committee, travelled widely to supervise refresher courses; and at the time of his death in 1949 was said to have contributed more to postgraduate education in fractures and dislocations than anyone else in the Country over the previous 50 years. His mechanical bent led him to modify the Lowman Clamp, by which the more accurate adjustment of the prongs of the clamp held fragments of the patella securely in place. He introduced heavy levers in the shape of periosteal elevators to pry bone fragments into place, and he devised a blunt hook for delivering the end of a fractured long bone into the wound. Dr. Scudder developed a Clamp of his own and was one of the early advocates of the open operative treatment of fractures, particularly recent fractures of long bones.

Like that iconoclast, Codman, Scudder was a careful, thoughtful surgeon, interested in follow-up and long term results. One of his papers is entitled “Does Appendectomy Always Relieve Symptoms? An Analysis of Results Years After Operation in 640 Cases of Appendectomy”. Interest in his profession was all-consuming His invalid wife and his family, and for a time his farm and orchard in Sherburne, would seem to have provided him all of his outside activity. His commitment to surgery and particularly fractures never waned to the end of his 88 years. A man of unflinching poise, he had the mental and physical stamina requisite of a back stop on any team.

Bottomley

John T. Bottomley has got to be on first base. Big, strong, smiling, and affable, he is so reminiscent of Sunny Jim Bottomley of the St. Louis Cardinals’ Gas House Gang days. After Holy Cross and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Bottomley trained at the Boston City Hospital. In 1897, in his early years there, he established and managed as few others have done, the Haymarket Relief Station. Shortly thereafter, he assisted Dr. Herbert Burrell on his hospital ship “Bay State” in the early days of the Spanish War. In 1902 he was called to the Carney Hospital to assist one of the leading surgeons of the time, Dr. John C. Monroe, and later he succeeded Dr. Monroe as Chief of Surgery there.

One gains the impression that Dr. Bottomley was bursting with energy at all times. He was consultant to 12 hospitals outside the Boston area - from Fall River to Fitchburg to Peabody - when travel was by train or Model T. He was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and carried a huge practice. He helped place gastric surgery for ulcer and cancer on a firmer footing, and made contributions to surgery of the biliary tract. He was interested in trauma and reported studies on distention and tympanites after laparotomy. A member of the American Surgical Association, he was active in the American College of Surgeons and surgical section of the American Medical Association. In World War I he was discharged with the rank of Major.

His energy, ability, and cheerfulness endeared him to associates and patients alike. Accounts of him overflow with his personality. He is described as “The Prince of Good Comrades”. A wonderful collection of old medical prints and rare books, of both medical and general interest, attest to his love of books and art. One day in December 1925, at age 56, after having operated in two hospitals, big, strong, cheerful and competent John Bottomley succumbed to a coronary thrombosis in his office on Beacon Street.

Porter

With Charles Allen Porter at second base, the infield is over-weighted with personality on the right side. If there ever was an extrovert it was “Ally” Porter, a superb person and a surgeon equipped with uncommon skill and judgement. He represented the eighth generation of a direct line of physicians and surgeons, beginning with Dr. Daniel Porter, who left England in 1635 and settled in practice at Farmington, Connecticut. He graduated with honors from Harvard College, where he rowed on the Crew and was considered one of the best halfbacks of that period in College football. He received both an A.M. and an M.D. cum laude, and followed the footsteps of his illustrious father, Charles Burnham Porter, to the Massachusetts General Hospital. After a year in Vienna he returned to Boston, and rose steadily through the various grades to become, first, the Chief of The West Surgical Service and then Surgeon-in-Chief of the Hospital. Progressive promotions at the Medical School resulted in the John Homans Professorship, a post which he held until retirement from active teaching in 1927. In June, 1915, shortly after the founding of the Society, he volunteered to serve in the First Harvard Unit in English Field Hospitals, and gained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army Medical Corps. His great store of knowledge on surgical subjects was a constant source of attraction to his students and interns. Unpublished or forgotten tricks in diagnosis and treatment were daily demonstrated by Dr. Porter during his long hospital career. He was said to be rather dogmatic in statement. He was distinctly a man of action and like many such men found writing irksome and difficult. His literary output therefore was not as large as others with far less to contribute. He was a pioneer on the subject of major sepsis; and was considered an authority on x-ray burns, numbering among his patients many of the pioneers in Radiology. Over a period of many years he operated upon Dr. Walter Dodd a total of 40 times, before cancer got beyond even his power to help. He was also much interested in the surgery of peripheral nerves, the stomach, and was one of the first at the Massachusetts General Hospital to operate on the thyroid gland.

According to this classmate, Dr. E. W. Taylor, “if one were to attempt to state his outstanding characteristics, one would put moral and physical courage first, enthusiasm second, and a boundless friendliness third, all happily combined in an unusually charming personality”. He was easily approachable and to colleagues and students was always available for advice or consultation on any surgical matter. It was with shock and dismay that at laparotomy on July 3, 1931 an unsuspected unresectable carcinoma of the stomach was discovered. “Ally” Porter had lived a very full 65 years.

Franklin G. Balch

Not as much has been written about Franklin G. Balch - one of the penalties of surviving long after one’s peak of activity. Somewhat crippled by arthritis, Dr. Balch continued to drive about in his old Buick in New Hampshire until two weeks before his death in 1958, at the age of 94.

He was the last of the Presidents of the old Surgical Review Club. He as well as Scudder appreciated that the Club was dying in the Winter of 1913-14. Like so many of our founding fathers he had attended Roxbury Latin School, Harvard College and Medical School, and then spent a year or two in training at the Massachusetts General Hospital - later to become a Visiting Surgeon. In the early days, his son Frank recalls, the Hospital would send a horse and buggy to his office and home at 279 Clarendon Street to carry him to the Hospital for Emergency cases. He travelled, as did so many others, to outlying hospitals; and often operated in private homes, providing his own sterile supplies and instruments, and his own operating nurse. He was one of the first to perform prostatectomy via the perineal route, and was a founding member of the American Urological Association.

In 1903 Dr. Balch moved to Jamaica Plain and the newly founded Faulkner Hospital, as the first Surgeon-in-Chief. This post he held for 28 years - and there followed another 28 years as Consulting and Honorary Surgeon. As a Trustee, he served the Hospital a total of 38 years; and it is said “No name in the history of the Faulkner Hospital is more identified with the Hospital than is that of Franklin G. Balch”. His contributions to Surgery extended far beyond the walls of the Faulkner. In 1917 he organized and led a Red Cross Unit to Halifax Harbor where a munitions ship had blown up in a great explosion, injuring hundreds; and in World War I he organized Base Hospital 55 in France, composed of his young surgical associates and hospital nurses.

He, too, was a man of action, and left few papers in his wake. One of his contributions is a chapter in

Francis Palfrey's "The Care of the Patient". Always kind and thoughtful, not only to his patients, but also to his Interns and Residents, he was referred to affectionately as "Daddy Balch".

Robert B. Greenough

Because of his ability to cover so much ground, the position of short stop must go to Bob Greenough. Our amazing field general, playmaker, and executive extraordinary was known personally to several here tonight. After travelling the route of training, usual for our team of stars, at the cum laude level, he, in 1897, became apprenticed to John Collins Warren. He early became interested in surgery of cancer, particularly of the breast, and at the Massachusetts General Hospital refined Rodman's technique of radical mastectomy. He took an interest in trying to sharpen the criteria of operability to avoid needless operations. Tumors of bone, the mouth, and neck were classified and the appropriate sequence of biopsy and resection described. He was always concerned with defining the relationship of radiation therapy and surgery.

Although Dr. Greenough was one of the real authorities on Cancer in the Country, as a general surgeon he was given comparatively little recognition. He was an organizer and executive, and his own studies and researches were chiefly of a statistical sort; and, like Codman and Scudder, he was interested in end-results and the factors influencing them. As early as 1902 he became Secretary under Herbert Burrell, of the Committee on Surgical Research at Harvard Medical School; and in 1909, as Executive Secretary, he, with John Collins Warren, established the Cancer Commission of Harvard University. This commitment was to last 25 years. With Dr. George Holmes he organized the first Tumor Clinic at the Massachusetts General Hospital; and in 1912 he took an active part in staffing the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital for Cancer Research. Here he remained a Director for 20 years. With Dr. George Bigelow in 1927, he played a leading role in establishing the Pondville Hospital, and was largely responsible for choosing the original surgical and medical staff there.

Small wonder that this man of ability and charm should become involved in many Surgical Societies. He served as President of the American College of Surgeons, Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston Surgical Society, and Secretary of the American Surgical Association. As President of the American Society for the Control of Cancer he travelled extensively and wrote voluminously. His workday began at 5 o'clock in the morning; and many of his contributions, carried on into late life when he was suffering from angina pectoris, might well be classified as public service.

Howard Lothrop

In left field you will note the versatile Howard Lothrop. It is with this member of the Incorporators that I have had most difficulty uncovering personal data - perhaps because he never married. For many years he made his home with his mother at 101 Beacon Street, and at the time of the demise of the Surgical Review Club, he served as Secretary of that organization. Lothrop also followed the pattern of Roxbury Latin School, Harvard College magna cum laude, and A.M. and M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1891, and then a year as House Officer at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Thereafter he became associated with the Boston City Hospital, where he rose through the ranks to become one of its most active surgeons, contributing papers on a wide range of subjects. He described two cases of Filariasis, the treatment of Hypospadias, bilateral subclavian aneurysm, volvulus of the ileum, cleft palate, forward dislocation of the knee, fracture of the upper two thirds of the humerus, frontal sinus suppuration with results of a new operative technique - to mention but a few of his contributions. In 1928, at age 63, while removing a dressing, he scratched his right hand with a safety pin, resulting in an ascending infection in the arm. It was necessary to amputate the arm in 1928, but he was so profoundly septic that he failed to survive.

James S. Stone

At 53 State Street in November 1914 also was James Savage Stone. His education, too, had been standard for the group, and after a House Officership at the Massachusetts General Hospital, he spent some time at the Boston Lying-In Hospital. The following 30 years were devoted to the Boston Children's Hospital. He rose to the rank of Surgeon-In-Chief at the Children's and Dr. William Ladd was later to describe him as "a leading, almost the pioneer, specialist in the surgery of children". The growth of that institution over this 30 year period was in large measure due to his farsightedness and unselfish devotion. It was said that his

ability to make friends with the sick child of any class or age, aided by his exceptionally keen clinical judgement and wide experience, often allowed him to arrive at a correct diagnosis when others failed. His good nature and sense of humor and his sympathetic relationships with staff, interns and nurses made association with him a privilege. His contributions to the literature on surgical diseases of children were extensive.

As President of the Massachusetts Medical Society he inaugurated new policies thought to be so important that he was asked to serve a second term. And when the position of Executive Secretary was created in that organization, he, on retirement from the Children's, held that office until the time of his death in September 1929.

John Bapst Blake

Bapst Blake is another outfielder about whom it has been difficult to gather information. Although the father of seven children, he was modest to the point of hiding his own light. As the editor of the History of the Boston City Hospital to 1904, he had little to say about his own contribution, and this early photograph was found on one of the back pages of this volume.

After Harvard, Dr. Blake trained at the Boston City Hospital interspersed with a year in Vienna with Billroth and Von Eiselsberg. He opened an office at 178 Beacon Street and joined the celebrated Staff of the Boston City Hospital in 1895. In 1911 he assumed the position of Surgeon-in-Chief at the City, a position he held until 1922 when ill health forced retirement.

At the Medical School, Bapst Blake rose to the position of Assistant Professor of Surgery, at a time when full Professorships were limited. He took great interest in Surgical teaching, and with Herbert L. Burrell introduced the method of case teaching at the Medical School; and with Dr. Burrell coauthored a book on "Case Teaching in Surgery".

With Dr. Walter B. Cannon, in the early days of X-ray, he carried out investigations on the effects of gastroenterostomy on intestinal motility. The subjects were cats, studied before and after operation by use of the opaque meal. This was one of the early contributions in this field, and attracted a great deal of attention.

Bapst Blake also served as a Visiting Surgeon at the Long Island and Saint Elizabeth's Hospitals; and he was a member of many Societies. Fond of the outdoors, he was also a poet of some note, and wrote a rather lovely sonnet entitled "To the City Hospital". He was completely unselfish, and contributed greatly to the life of students, interns, and staff alike, in a quiet, sustained way. The "Association of House Officers" at the Boston City Hospital is largely the result of the initiative of John Bapst Blake.

Time does not permit recording further details of the 63 years of this Society. Needless to say it prospered. In the early days alternate meetings were held at the various Hospitals around town; and these consisted of Operative Clinics where staff surgeons displayed their prowess. Evening meetings were held at the homes of the Presidents, and later, at the Tavern Club, Ware Hall in the Boston Medical Library, and the Academy of Arts and Sciences on Newbury Street. Regular meetings have been held at the Harvard Club since 1947. A review of the subject matters discussed, as recorded by the Secretaries over the years, provides an impressive revelation of the development of Boston and American surgery by outstanding surgeons. After World War I members of the Chirurgical Society of Boston gradually found membership in the Society, including Dr. Lahey in 1920. And after World War II, Drs. Cattell, Churchill, Taylor, Soutter, and others were instrumental in enlarging the Society from the original small club-like atmosphere to a Society of tremendous value to all Surgeons who practice in the City of Boston, as well as their residents and friends.

No sketch of the early history of the Boston Surgical Society would be complete without a word regarding the Award established in honor of Henry Jacob Bigelow. Not only has this medal honored the name of Bigelow and brought recognition to its outstanding recipients, but it has also reflected worldwide distinction on the Boston Surgical Society. In its 60 years of existence 14 master surgeons have been honored with the Bigelow Award. It was on June 6, 1921 in Jordan Hall, with 1,000 members and honored guests on hand, that the first award was presented to William J. Mayo by none other than George Howard Monks. In 1947 on the occasion of the award to Elliot Cutler, shortly before his death, former recipients

Rudolph Matas, Allen Whipple, and Frank Lahey were on hand.

And it was that “neglected Innovator” again who had conceived the idea. In March 1915, when the Society was only three months old, Monks broached the subject of honoring Dr. Bigelow to his son, Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow: “The thought evidently pleased him for he at once volunteered to furnish the funds necessary for that purpose (\$5,000), resulting in national and international recognition of the Society”. Obviously another “strike” for George Howard Monks.

Henry Ford once said: “History is bunk”. I don’t believe it. History is sobering, yet stimulating. It puts our present activities in perspective. The Boston Surgical Society does have a rich heritage; and we must keep asking ourselves “Are we as committed, are we as contributing as those who have gone before?” One of my most esteemed teachers in Surgery, Dr. Reginald Smithwick, in his address in 1962 said “It is an honor to be a member of the Boston Surgical Society”. Surely, it is more than an Honor!

But in closing, I will say it is a very great Honor to be your President over the past year, and for this I thank you most sincerely.

CHAPTER II

THE BOSTON SURGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The Surgical Review Club, whose program was probably similar to that of the original Boston Surgical Society, kept no minutes or record of its proceedings. Thus, little is known about this Club, its origin, or its purposes. Certainly it must have been active for a number of years, thus precluding the need for any local surgical society. However, according to a letter written by the late Dr. Charles L. Scudder on March 31, 1913 to Dr. Howard A. Lothrop, Secretary of the Surgical Review Club, the Club was in danger of dying a "natural death" because it had ceased to satisfy the desires of the membership. Dr. Scudder proposed the establishment of a formal surgical society of Boston. Because today's Society was founded as a result of this letter and because the general pattern for the conduct of the affairs of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc. are, over a half century later, essentially as outlined in the letter, it is included in its entirety:

Dear Dr. Lothrop:

As Secretary of the Surgical Club, I am writing to you to make a proposal, and I hope that it may seem wise to present this proposal before the Club at the first meeting in the Fall.

As I have watched the Club develop and have watched the meetings from year to year, it has occurred to me that before long the Club may die a natural death. As we get older and become more busy, or become interested in special lines of surgical work, it may become more difficult for the active meetings of the Club to be maintained. I think that it might be a good plan if we could turn the Surgical Review Club into the nucleus for a Surgical Society of Boston, with a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee, inviting other surgeons to become the Charter Members of such a Society, the object of the Society to be a private, good, solid Club made up of the best surgeons in Boston actively engaged in practice. The Society would have stated meetings during the Winter, at least as often as once a month. At these meetings papers would be read, cases be shown, clinical experience be reported and pathological specimens be shown, the Society including genitourinary members, obstetrical members, gynecological members, and orthopedic members, as well as general surgical members.

Then it occurred to me that it might be wise for this society to have, once a month, a clinical meeting at one of the many hospitals with which its members might be connected. For instance, one morning in October, a meeting at the Massachusetts General Hospital, in November at the City Hospital, in December at the Carney Hospital, in January at the Free Hospital for Women, and one morning at the Children's Hospital, etc., etc., all the details to be arranged for by the Committee. Men from the outside, surgeons of note, as opportunity permits, might be invited to attend the regular meetings of the Society.

By such an organization it seems to me that the best of the surgical profession here in Boston could have an organization which would be representative, and by its clinical meetings we could come to know something about each other's work, of which at present we know comparatively little. My idea would be that the Society would be as representative of Boston Surgery as is the Chicago Surgical Society, or the New York Surgical Society, or the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. This need not in any way interfere with the present organizations.

I make this suggestion that it may be talked about, and mulled over, by the members of the Club, and be gossiped about. I don't know that all will fall in with the suggestions, but it does seem to me a happy solution of the present situation.

Very truly yours,
(signed) Charles Scudder

Having secured an appropriate name for the new society, the next step was its organization. The stated purpose of the new society was “for advancement of science and the art of surgery and the cultivation of cultural and social relations between the members,” a heritage in the best Boston tradition.

The first meeting of the incorporators was held on November 25, 1914 at the office of Arthur D. Hill, 53 State Street, for adoption of bylaws and arrangements for incorporation. The nine incorporators were: Drs. George Monks, Robert B. Greenough, Charles L. Scudder, Franklin G. Balch, Howard A. Lothrop, John F. Bottomley, John Bapst Blake, Charles A. Porter, and James S. Stone. It is apparent from the minutes of the first meeting that a tremendous amount of time and thought had preceded it. The bylaws had been spelled out with infinite care and in great detail. The makeup and dates of the Executive Council were outlined in a manner to insure continuity of survival of the affairs of the Society. Doubtless the social development and success were due to the manner in which the Executive Council was organized. The original bylaws provided for the election of a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer to hold office for two years. These officers together with the outgoing President and five additional members constituted an executive council which was responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the society. At the next meeting of the incorporators, Dr. George H. Monks was elected President, Dr. Robert B. Greenough, Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Charles L. Scudder, Vice-President. Those elected to the Executive Council were Dr. Franklin G. Balch for one year, Dr. John Bapst Blake for two years, Dr. John T. Bottomley for three years, Dr. Charles A. Porter for four years, and Dr. James S. Stone for five years. Thus eight of the nine incorporators formed members of the first Executive Council.

At the first meeting of the Executive Council after incorporation, held on December 28, 1914, ten members of the so-called Review Club were proposed for active membership. A second group containing 19 names were also proposed for active membership. A third group containing 16 names were proposed for honorary membership, the other class provided for in the bylaws. All of these candidates were elected at the first stated meeting of the Society on January 4, 1915. Thus one month after its official incorporation, there were 38 active members, including the 9 incorporators and 16 honorary members. Many of these members are familiar even today and may be known personally by today’s senior members. “Surely one could not have selected a more distinguished group of surgeons from any other city in the United States in 1915.”

Meetings of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., were held on the first Monday of October to April inclusive. The pattern was to have evening meetings at which papers were presented by members or guests followed by discussion. These were to alternate with monthly clinical meetings at one of the Boston hospitals at which operations would be performed followed by the presentation and discussion of the cases. At the beginning of each of the meetings an executive session for members only was usually held to transact the business of the Society.

Meetings of the Executive Council were held as a rule at the home of the President of the Society in the late afternoon. The Council made its own rules as to the frequency of meetings.

According to the original bylaws of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., Article II, the membership of the Society was to be limited to 50. The initial group of members included the nine incorporators named above. Also included in the initial group of members whose names are listed as possible candidates for membership was a group prepared by the committee of the Surgical Review Club. This group of 10 candidates were: Drs. G.W.W. Brewster, Farrar Cobb, E.A. Codman, Harvey Cushing, Lincoln Davis, William E. Faulkner, W.P. Graves, J.C. Hubbard, D.F. Tones and F.B. Lund. Honorary membership, which was the other class of membership approved in the initial bylaws, included 16 very senior Boston surgeons. Additional candidates approved for membership included: Drs. Elliott G. Brackett, Hugh Cabot, F.J. Cotton, J.E. Goldthwait, Edward H. Nichols, Robert B. Osgood, P. Thorndike, and William F. Wesselhoeft.

Despite the fact that attendance was taken at many of the early meetings, Article IV, Section 2, of the bylaws was changed at a meeting on January 3, 1916. Instead of 15 members constituting a quorum, the Article is amended to read: “Ten active members shall consist in a quorum.” It is difficult to single out who were the most faithful among the members in their attendance, but certainly Drs. Monks, Scudder, Porter, Greenough, and Blake were among the most faithful. At the meeting of the Executive Council on October

23, 1916, the following were nominated for active membership and were elected at the stated meeting of the Society on November 16, 1916: Drs. E.A. Crockett, H.T. Hartwell, H.B. Loder, D.F. Mahoney, W.J. Mixter, H.P. Mosher, R.P. O'Neil, E.P. Richardson, S. Rushmore, and R. Soutter. Of interest is that Drs. Loder and Rushmore were the first of the original Boston Surgical Society group to be elected to the newly established Boston Surgical Society, Inc. This brought the total membership to 48. At the stated meeting of the Society on January 10, 1917, several amendments were made in the bylaws, the most interesting one of which was Article IV, Section 5, to read: "The unexplained absence of an active member from three consecutive meetings of the Society, provided notice has been given to him by the Secretary after his second absence, shall be considered the equivalent of his resignation and shall be acted upon by the Executive Council."

The Boston Surgical Society, Inc., early took notice of the qualifications of persons for membership in the American College of Surgeons and at the meeting of December 11, 1916, the Executive Council discussed the nomination of members of the Massachusetts Committee on Credentials of the American College of Surgeons. Several proposals were discussed, but no decision reached.

An apt comment of interest was made at a later meeting of the Society held on April 2, 1923: "Dr. Bottomley called attention to the biographies of distinguished surgeons that are appearing in *Surgery Gynecology & Obstetrics* and mentioned the fact that biographies of no Boston surgeons had appeared."

During the year 1923, when the series "Master Surgeons of America" was begun, until its termination in 1933, a total of 15 distinguished Boston surgeons were cited. The first of these, Dr. Arthur Tracy Cabot appeared in 1924, and the last, Dr. Charles Allen Porter, in 1932. Most of the surgeons whose biographies were recounted were active during the 19th century and the early years of the 20th. These were: Arthur Tracy Cabot and Henry Jacob Bigelow (1924), John Warren (1925), John Collins Warren and Herbert Leslie Burrell (1926), Jonathan Mason Warren, Maurice Howe Richardson, Edward Hickling Bradford, Samuel Jason Mixter, and John Howard (1927) David William Cheever and Charles Burnham Porter (1926), John T. Bottomley (1930), John Collins Warren (1931), and Charles Allen Porter (1932). Doctors Bottomley and Porter were the only members of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc.

Despite the almost coincident birth of the Boston Surgical Society Inc., and the American College of Surgeons, it was not until years later on December 13, 1954, that Article II of the bylaws was amended to require fellowship in the College as a requisite for membership in the Society. On that date, also the Society voted to require certification by the Board of Surgery or a specialty board as being necessary for membership. These provisions were not to be retroactive nor to pertain to the candidates up for election at the current meeting.

At the meeting of the executive council on February 23, 1917, the matter of inviting guests to the meetings was discussed. It was voted that each member had the privilege of inviting one guest upon notification of the Secretary, but that the invited guests at the clinical meetings be limited to colleagues on the staff of the hospital at which the meetings took place. Visitors to Boston could be invited. These stipulations were indicative of the continued exclusiveness of the Society.

At the regular meeting of December 6, 1920, three names were proposed for membership. The third vacancy was open because Dr. Monks was promoted to honorary membership at his request, so that three new members could be chosen. These were: Drs. F.H. Lahey, C.G. Mixter, and W.C. Quinby, all of whom received the necessary two-thirds affirmative vote and were declared active members of the Society. Dr. Lahey was the third of the members of the first Boston Surgical Society to be elected to the new organization. By November 1, 1921, four vacancies in the active membership list came open and the following were voted to active membership at the stated meeting on December 5, 1921: Drs. J.E. Briggs, E.C. Coulter, and R.H. Miller. By the time of the stated meeting on December 4, 1922, there were two additional vacancies in the membership. The names of Drs. William E. Ladd and Wyman Whittmore were proposed and they were elected to membership. At the same time honorary membership was conferred on Dr. William W. Keen of Philadelphia, recipient of the Bigelow Medal. Honorary membership had previously been conferred on Dr. William J. Mayo, who was the first recipient of the Bigelow Medal. A major change in the bylaws concerning membership was voted on by the Society on February 5, 1923, in

which three classes of membership were proposed : active, senior, and honorary. The number of active members remained limited to 50, however. Article II of the bylaws then read as follows:

Section 1: There shall be three classes of members; active, senior, and honorary. The number of active members shall be limited to 50.

Section 2: Surgeons who have had 5 years service on the staff of an accredited hospital of Boston or elsewhere shall be eligible to election as active members.

Section 3: Any active member at his own request and with-out approval of the Executive Council may become a senior member. Senior members shall not vote and shall not pay dues, but may take part in the scientific work of the Society. Senior members shall not be eligible to office.

Section 4: Any distinguished surgeon whose name shall have been approved by the Executive Council, whether or not a resident of the city of Boston, may be elected an honorary member by a unanimous vote at any meeting of the Society.

Thanks to the placing of the three older surgeons on the senior list, the following were proposed for membership and elected at the meeting of December 3,1923: Drs. Nathaniel Allison, Horace Binney ,and George A. Leland, Jr..

By the time of the meeting of December 1, 1924, two vacancies existed which were filled by Drs. A.W. Allen and H.F. Hutchins, who were duly voted upon by ballot and elected unanimously.

Three vacancies were open on December 7,1925 at which time Drs. Robert C. Cochrane, Archibald McK. Fraser, and Edward L. Young were elected to active membership. This was possible because three of the older members had been placed on the senior list at their own request. A paragraph in the Minutes of the Executive Council dated January 12,1926, is rather interesting:

“The attendance at the meetings of the Society was discussed and it was suggested that the President talk personally with Brackett, Newell, Mosher, and Williams relative to their becoming senior members, thus creating vacancies to be filled by some of the younger surgeons. The Secretary was instructed to call attention to certain of the younger men who have not been regular in their attendance to the fact that they may be expelled from the Society.”

Further vacancies occurred in late 1926. The names of George D. Cutler, Ernest M. Daland, Somers Fraser, Otto J. Hermann, Gilbert Horrax, and Frank R. Ober, were recommended to the Society for election as active members and elected at the meeting of December 6,1926.

Membership in the Boston Surgical Society remained restricted to 50 active members for over a dozen years until pressure for new members added an awareness of the fact that the Society was not as active as it should be in the surgery of Boston. Therefore, at a meeting of the Executive Council held at the office of Dr. J.C. Hubbard on Tuesday, November 22,1927, the following statement is recorded in the minutes: “The meeting concerned itself with a discussion of the problem of membership in the Society, together with the advisability of creating vacancies for new members by asking certain of the active members to allow their names to be entered on the senior list. The feeling was rather general that this method of creating vacancies was on the whole unwise. Severe criticism of this policy regarding older members was contained in a letter to the Secretary, Dr. William Quinby, dated November 11,1927, and signed by Doctors David Cheever, Lincoln Davis, and Robert B. Osgood:

November 11th, 1927

Dr. William C. Quinby, Secretary
The Boston Surgical Society
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Boston, Mass

Dear Dr. Quinby:

The Nominating Committee appointed by the President have apparently, according to the By-Laws, no duties except to appoint one member of the Executive Committee for five years. We would suggest the name of Dr. Horace Binney for this office. The other officers hold over for two years, accordingly to the By-Laws.

The Nominating Committee have been asked by the Secretary to pass on the names of candidates proposed by the Council. In this connection they have discussed the purpose and present status of the Society and have been bold enough to ask you to lay before the Council certain suggestions which in their opinion would add to the strength, activity and usefulness of the Society. They feel the Society is not as active as it should be and does not take the place in the surgery of Boston which it ought to take. The suggestions which we make are as follows:

1. That Section 1 of Article II of the Bylaws be again amended by changing the last word in the section which is "fifty," to "seventy-five," so that the section shall read, There shall be three classes of members, active, senior and honorary. The number of active members shall be limited to seventy-five."

2. That the first sentence of Section 3, Article II, be stricken out and the following sentence substituted: "Active members of the Society shall automatically be placed on the senior list at the age of sixty. A Fellow may at his own request be placed on the senior list if the Council so recommends."

3. That an entirely new section be added to Article II, probably following Section 5, to read as follows: "there shall be an associate membership in the Society, to consist of younger surgeons who have been graduates of medicine for at least five years. Associate membership shall be for five years and at the end of this period the Council shall recommend to the Society that either (a) the associate member shall be reelected as an associate member, (b) the associate member shall be elected to active membership or (c) the associate member shall be dropped."

The Nominating Committee feels that it is unfortunate to place on the senior list by suggestion of the Council without receiving a definite request of the active member, men who are still active in practice and hospital work, and that if the Society should vote to increase its membership, those members who have during the last two years been placed on the senior list, if they are under the age of sixty, should be asked to resume active membership, unless they personally desire to be placed on the senior list.

The Nominating Committee suggest that the present active membership of the Society should be filled to its fullest extent and in addition to the five candidates approved by the Executive Council, they recommend that the following men on the waiting list be approved by the Executive Council:

Philip D. Wilson
Donald Munro
John H. Cunningham
Arthur R. Kimpton
Francis C. Newton

Very sincerely yours,

David Cheever
Lincoln Davis
Robert B. Osgood

A special meeting of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., was called for November 28, 1927, at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital "to discuss the matter of membership in relation to the constitution and in regard to the suggested changes proposed in the letter from the Nominating Committee."

1. It was voted on motion of Dr. Cheever duly seconded that the sentiment of this present meeting is

- that the number of active members shall be limited to 75.
2. It was voted on a motion by Dr. Davis duly seconded that an associate membership be established and that associate members be subject to the usual dues but be exempt from initiation fees and have no vote. Temporarily tabled-later accepted.
 3. It was voted on motion by Dr. Osgood duly seconded that members of the active list be automatically retired to the senior list at that age at which the individual member's active hospital work ceases.
 4. It was voted on motion by Dr. Greenough duly seconded that Article IV, Section 5, of the bylaws be amended to read as follows: "The unexplained absence of an active member from three consecutive meetings of the Society, provided notice has been sent to him by the Secretary after his second absence, may result in his name being placed on the senior list at the discretion of the Executive Council."

At the annual meeting on December 5, 1927, held at the St. Botolph Club the Society approved in an affirmative vote of the recommendations of the Committee, including the transfer of an active member to senior membership when his hospital work ceased. The Society also voted that active membership be increased to 75, but the proposal for associate members and the dropping from membership for failure to attend three consecutive meetings were placed on the table.

The distinguished Boston surgeons elected at the annual meetings during the next two decades are recorded in the earlier history (1978).

The second mention of increasing the membership in the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., is recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Council on November 8, 1940. The increase from 50 to 75 had been voted in 1927. The new move was stimulated by a letter from Dr. Henry Marble proposing the eligibility of surgeons from out-of-town hospitals. Excerpts from the letter are as follows:

Within the radius of about 15 miles of Boston there are many hospitals tending to serve a local community. During the past 10-15 years there seems to have been an effort on the part of these hospitals to put their surgery on a higher plane.

If it is the purpose of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc. to encourage such clinical developments, it would seem to me that certain of the surgeons in these hospitals might properly be proposed as members. It would also seem to me that if this were done, the Chiefs of Services in other hospitals might make an effort to improve their work so that they also might be eligible to membership in the Society.

The Executive Council decided that the election of such men would depend on the formulation of a policy by the Society at large. Action on the names suggested by Dr. Marble was deferred until the Society should have an opportunity to express an opinion on the desirability of such a step. It was agreed to bring up the question at the December meeting of the Society.

Dr. Marble's letter was read and discussed, but no action was taken at the December 2, 1940 meeting. The matter of membership was not discussed again until a meeting of the Executive Council held at the Harvard Club on January 15, 1946, with Dr. Donald Munro presiding. The following changes in the bylaws were proposed for presentation to the Society:

Article II, Section 1, shall read: "There shall be four classes of members, active, inactive or senior, associate, and honorary." The second sentence of Section 1, having to do with limited membership was to be omitted. Article II, Section 2, will read: Surgeons who have had 5 years' service on the staff of an accredited hospital in Boston or elsewhere and who are now on the active staff of a Greater Boston hospital shall be eligible to election as active members," and Article IV, Section 1, shall read: "The stated meeting in December shall be the annual meeting." The remainder to be omitted.

At an Executive Session of the Society held at the Harvard Club on April 22, 1946, the recommended changes in the bylaws were presented and, after a brief discussion were accepted by a unanimous vote. By this action the membership was no longer restricted and the size of the Society increased rapidly with elections held at the annual meetings in December.

Added to Article III, Section 3, on November 18, 1946, was the following: "Senior or inactive members shall pay no dues and shall not be eligible for office, but may vote and take part in the scientific work of the Society."

On December 6, 1946, 29 candidates were elected to membership. On December 1, 1947, 21 candidates were elected at the annual meeting, on December 6, 1948, 8 candidates, on December 12, 1949, 7 candidates, and on December 11, 1950, 13 candidates. That the proposal of candidates of membership in subsequent years be initiated by the Secretary was discussed favorably by the Executive Council at the meeting of January 9, 1953. The motion was not incorporated into the bylaws until December 1956. The amendment to Article II, Section 8, to read:

Prior to October 1 of each year, applications for membership must be in the hands of the secretary. The secretary shall send to each active and senior member, before October 25, the names of the applicants who seem to be suitable for membership. Members who have comments pro and con on a candidate should mail them to the secretary before November 7th. Following this date, the Executive Council will compile a list of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting and mail it to each member.

This practice concerning candidacy has been followed to date.

During the last two decades there has been growing concern about the eligibility of surgeons for *active* membership not on the staff of a Boston hospital or medical school. At an Executive Council meeting on October 18, 1954, "It was agreed to drop the time and geographical requirements in Section 2 because the former is covered by certification and the latter is not only difficult to define, but limits the Society from having qualified surgeons who will be within commuting distance of Boston from participating as active members in the Society affairs. Further provisions as to character and the making of some contribution to the advancement of the art of surgery were included so that those who make the contributions to the literature at the meetings of medical societies or the teaching or improvement of surgical standings in their own community would be particularly qualified." These provisions were approved by the Society on December 13, 1954. However, four years later the Executive Council made the following proposals which were passed at the annual meeting on December 18, 1958. To be considered eligible for active membership: "He must have an unqualified professional record in his community and must have made some significant contribution to the advancement of the art of surgery *in a Boston hospital or medical school* or affiliated institution." Also proposed was that "Distinguished physicians in fields closely related to general surgery and *distinguished surgeons living outside of Boston* may be elected to associate membership in the Society.

Because these provisions excluded from *active* membership many highly qualified surgeons practicing in suburban communities, another revision of the bylaws was proposed by the Executive Council to clarify the definition of membership. It was passed at the annual meeting on December 13, 1976: "Associate membership to be eliminated so there will be only four classes of members-active, nonresident, senior, and honorary."

In addition, the membership section of the bylaws was altered to delete the requirement of "on the staff of a Boston teaching hospital or medical school, etc.", substituting "He must have an unqualified professional record and must reside in the Boston area."

It was soon realized that many surgeons who were qualified and in many cases had spent years in training or practice in Boston were located in communities beyond the Boston suburbs and even beyond Massachusetts state lines. Accordingly, after due discussion by the Executive Council and the membership, the bylaws were once again changed at the annual meeting of December 3, 1993 to state in Article II, Paragraph 2, Section 3 that active members "must have an unqualified professional record and must relate their practice and/or academic activities to the Massachusetts area and surrounding states." A mission statement of the Boston Surgical Society was also approved, as follows: "A regional organization of practicing surgeons who meet to learn and exchange views on historical or contemporary topics in surgical care, research, socio-economic issues and the role of surgeons in the greater society."

The limitations on membership and the attendance requirements which were part of the original bylaws had thus been removed by a series of amendments beginning in 1946. The result was a significant increase

in the size of the Society quite in keeping with the increase in the number of surgeons on the staffs of Boston hospitals and medical schools, as well as the wider surrounding area. The latest changes in membership requirements were an enlightened move to recognize the great value of collegial interchange among surgeons with ties to Boston. The membership in 2009 was 496.

In 1998, the council voted to make an outright gift of the archive records of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc. to Countway Library of Medicine, with transfer of legal title to the library. Members would retain access to all records without fee under this agreement. The materials gifted included correspondence on the history of the Society, information pertaining to business and executive council meetings,, officers and membership, finances, materials relating to the Bigelow Award and sundry photographs.

CHAPTER III THE BIGELOW MEDAL

At the meeting of the Boston Surgical Society of March 1, 1915, held at the Boston Medical Library, the following letter was read by Dr. George Monks', Chairman, from Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow. The letter heading read 56 Beacon Street, Boston, dated February 20, 1915.

Dear Dr. Monks:

Referring to the subject of our conversation, I should state the case as it lies in my mind approximately as follows:

I should like to establish a prize in the form of a gold medal to be called the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal for new and valuable work in surgery or connected with it.

The medal is to be awarded by the Boston Surgical Society, of which you are now President, at suitable intervals.

These intervals I should think had better not be rigidly fixed, but left to the discretion of the Society with perhaps certain outside limitations as, for instance, no less than 3 or more than 5 years.

The choice of the recipient, as well as the details by which the choice is made, I think had better be left wholly to the discretion of the Society.

I have inquired of a well-known man of business what the most practical way is of establishing and maintaining a fund for this purpose, of which the interest should be used and am told that a trust company would be the best custodian from every point of view. I am ready to establish an adequate fund if the Boston Surgical Society is willing to undertake the award of the medals.

Will you kindly submit this matter to the Society or any members of it as an informal proposition? I should be very glad to hear of any amendments which may be suggested.

Very sincerely yours,
William Sturgis Bigelow

Dr. Scudder spoke briefly of the importance of the gift to the Society and offered the following motion:

That this trust be accepted, and that the Council of the Society be required to forward an appropriate letter of acceptance to Dr. William S. Bigelow, the donor, expressing the appreciation of the Society.

And that the Council formulate the conditions concerning the award of a medal after proper discussion by the Society shall be submitted to Dr. Bigelow for his approval.

Dr. Paul Thorndike spoke of the gift as a fitting tribute from a generous son to a famous father and stated that the Society should feel itself honored to be named the administrator of such a gift. He seconded Dr. Scudder's motion and stated that he hoped the Council would take every care to invest the gift with the dignity and authority its importance deserves.

Dr. Monks spoke of some of the conditions which would have to be considered by the Council in determining the rules for the award of the Medal and Dr. F.S. Watson (honorary member) paid a warm tribute to Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow both as a teacher and as a surgeon.

The motion was then put to a vote. It was unanimously carried.

At this same meeting, Dr. Monks then presented for consideration the conditions of the award of the Bigelow Medal. There was discussion of these conditions and it was recorded as the opinion of the Executive Council that the award should be given without competition to the surgeon in North and South

America and the territorial possessions of the United States, whose contributions to the science and art of surgery in the opinion of the Executive Council of the Society are of the greatest value and that the award should be made at intervals of from 3 to 5 years.

At a meeting of the Executive Council on May 27, 1915, Dr. Monks gave a report on progress in the matter of the Bigelow Medal and on that of an official seal of the Society. He was to continue his investigation and report at a later meeting. At a meeting of the Executive Council on October 18, 1915, Dr. Monks reported that a deed of trust had been given to Dr. Bigelow and \$5,000 paid to the trustees for the maintenance of the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal. He read letters from Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow and a copy of the Deed of Trust.

Discussion followed upon the possible use of the surplus income over and above the amount needed for the presentation of the Medal. A number of suggestions were received and it was finally agreed that the matter be left for the present for a discussion with Dr. Bigelow. At a meeting of the Society on November 1, 1915, Dr. Monks reported to the Society the receipt of a copy of the Deed of Trust signed by Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow and the New England Trust Company by which the income of \$5,000 gift was placed at the disposal of the Society for the maintenance of the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal. At the meeting of February 28, 1916, Dr. Monks spoke of the difficulties encountered in an attempt to change the provisions of the trust fund of the Bigelow Medal in such a way as to make available the use of surplus income for surgical research or other purposes. After some discussion it was the informal agreement of the Committee that some evidence be obtained of Dr. Bigelow's desires and that the surplus be made available. Further conduct of the negotiations with Dr. Bigelow was entrusted to Dr. Monks.

Not only did William Sturgis Bigelow establish the Bigelow Medal for the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., he was also a perceptive connoisseur of Japanese art and one of the leading contributors to the Japanese collection of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. After graduation from the Harvard Medical School in 1874, Bigelow spent five years in Europe for further medical study, in Paris with Pasteur and with others elsewhere in Europe. His father wished him to take a post of surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, but his temperament was too "sensitive" to make patient care attractive to him. However, on his return he did set up a private bacteriological laboratory in Boston, but showed no interest in the practice of his profession.

In 1881, Edward S. Morse, a zoologist, delivered the Lowell Institute Lecture series on the traditional culture of Japan. He had gone to Japan to study brachiopods of the Pacific, but remained to establish a museum of natural history at the new Imperial University. His lectures attracted the attention of many Bostonians including Bigelow, who then accompanied Morse to Japan in 1882. He remained there for seven years. Morse returned and later became Director of the Peabody Museum in Salem. Bigelow enjoyed the placid life of Japan, having found that the world was moving too fast and there was much of life in Boston that was ugly. He wrote to Morse: "The cruise to Japan was the turning point of my life."

Bigelow's visit occurred about two decades after Commodore Perry's arrival. The Japanese were rapidly discarding their traditional ideals, thoughts and habits for those of the Western world. Japanese treasures of art (swords, metal work, glass, pottery, fans, lacquer, embroidery, paintings, sculpture, etc.) were there for the asking. Within two years, 1884, Japan's National Treasures Act was passed. It required the reporting of all remaining objects of ancient art and the restriction of their export. But before this Act was passed quantities of works of Japanese art of the highest quality had passed into the hands of Bostonians and eventually came to enrich the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. A total of 14,839 objects, not including prints and sketches, were given by Bigelow alone.

One of Bigelow's close friends and fellow collectors was Mrs. John L. Gardner (Fenway Court) who went to Japan with her husband in 1883. Dr. George Monks was her nephew, a relationship which may account for his venturing to discuss with Dr. Bigelow the establishment of the Bigelow Medal award.

During his stay in Japan, Bigelow became immersed in Buddhist philosophy, always wore Japanese garments, and embraced the Buddhist faith, attaining the highest rank possible for a layman. Japanese art and Buddhism remained the guiding pursuits for the rest of his life. He was appointed lecturer in Buddhist doctrine 1908-09 at Harvard, delivering the Ingersoll Lecture on "Buddhism and Immortality." On his death

half of his ashes were sent to Japan to be cared for by the priests of the temple to which he was attached.

An earlier association of Dr. Bigelow senior with the Boston Museum of Fine Arts occurred in 1876 in anticipation of the opening of the Museum. There were committee discussions whether fig leaves should be placed on statues. "The matter of putting on fig leaves was referred to Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow of Harvard with full powers. Apparently, Dr. Bigelow used his prestige to insure that fig leaves were in place at the time of the formal opening.

At the meeting of March 5, 1917, Dr. Monks reviewed the history of the Bigelow Medal and the conditions for the custodianship by the Society. A bronze cast of the Medal was submitted for inspection by the members. At the meeting of the Executive Council of April 18, 1917, Dr. Monks spoke in regard to the Bigelow Medal and also concerning the Bigelow Fund in the New England Trust Company, from the interest of which Fund the medals were to be paid. Certain documents concerning both the Medal and the Trust Fund were handed over to the society, to wit:

1. A copy of Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow's letter bearing the date of February 20, 1915, in which he expresses a desire to establish a prize, the Henry Jacob Bigelow Medal, to be awarded from time to time by the Society.

2. A copy of the letter of acceptance which was sent by the President at the request of the Council.

3. A copy of the Agreement of Trust, bearing the date of September 28, 1915, between the New England Trust Company and William Sturgis Bigelow concerning the establishment of a Trust Fund, from the interest of which the Medals were to be paid.

4. Original letter of Dr. Bigelow, of April 5, 1917, in which he expresses his willingness that any surplus remaining after the Medal has been paid for shall be expended for surgical research, etc., also a copy of the same².

Dr. Monks announced that the die was now in his possession. He was informed by the sculptor, Mr. David V. Brenner, of 18 East Eighth Street, New York City, that a bronze replica would not cost more than \$225.00. The full name of the recipient of the Medal should be given to Mr. Brenner, together with the year in which the Medal was awarded. To strike a Medal, engrave it, and generally prepare it, would take about three weeks. A bronze replica might be ordered at the same time.

Dr. Monks asked for instructions as to what he should do with the die.

Dr. Osgood moved that, if Dr. Monks learned from Mr. Brenner that the United States Mint at Philadelphia was the place where the Medal could be struck as well as a repository, the die be sent to the Mint under proper insurance, at the expense of the Society, and that Dr. Monks be given authority to act. This was seconded and voted.

It was also voted that Dr. Monks be given authority to Place the large plaster cast of the Medal in the study of the Boston Medical Library where it now resides. Bronze replicas of the Medal are said have been deposited with the Boston Medical Library and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The Bigelow Medal conceived by Dr. Monks has been awarded to twenty-eight distinguished surgeons from here and abroad.

At a meeting of the Executive Council held December 1, 1919, Dr. Monks submitted the report of the Medal Committee, which follows:

Boston, November 24, 1919

The Committee appointed by the Executive Council of the Boston Surgical Society on October 23, 1919, to consider the question as to the first award of THE BIGELOW MEDAL begs to report that it has had a number of consultations and that it has reached the following conclusions:

1. That the first Medal should be awarded to an American surgeon.
2. That only one Medal should be awarded at this time.
3. That, as the first award will to a certain extent influence the opinions of surgeons throughout the country as to the real value of the Medal from a professional point of view, it is necessary

to select the recipient with the greatest possible care.

The Committee, having made a list of the names of a number of eminent American surgeons whose contributions to surgery have, in the opinion of the Committee entitled them to consideration, has considered them all; and it has finally reached the unanimous conclusion to suggest to the Council the name of Dr. William J. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. Monks

Paul Thorndike

Charles Scudder

At a meeting of the Executive Council on April 5, 1920, it was stated that, the Society having approved the award of the Bigelow Medal to Dr. William J. Mayo, the Secretary had informed Dr. Mayo of the action of the Society, and Dr. Mayo had accepted the honor. (There had been some delay in reaching Dr. Mayo because of his absence in South America). Dr. Mayo, in accepting the award, had suggested that he would be glad to address the Society and receive the Medal in October 1920. The Medal had already been ordered to be struck at the United States Mint in Philadelphia and would probably be ready for delivery to the Society in the near future. As there would be certain expenses in connection with the arrangements for the meeting, all such expenses to be defrayed from the Medal Fund ultimately, it would make it simpler if sundry expenses were met from the treasury of the Society, after which the treasury of the Society should be reimbursed by drawing on the Medal Trust Fund for a lump sum; and on motion of Dr. Chute, duly seconded, it was VOTED: That the Treasurer be authorized to draw from the funds of the Society to make payment to the United States Mint for the gold medal, the bronze replica as ordered, cases for the gold medal and its replica, printing, etc.; the treasury of the Society later to be reimbursed from the Medal Trust Fund.

At the meeting of the Executive Council on February 16, 1921, Dr. Monks stated that the Medal had been struck at the Mint in Philadelphia; that the Medal had been properly engraved with the name of the recipient and the date (1921); it had seemed proper to the Committee to present to Dr. Mayo a bronze replica (not engraved) of the gold medal; morocco cases had been made for both the gold medal and the bronze replica.

The date of the meeting for award of the Medal had been arranged with Dr. Mayo: Monday, June 6, 1921, this being the first day of the meeting of the American Medical Association in Boston; the Committee recommended that the meeting be at 6:30 p.m. The Committee was not ready to recommend any definite place for the meeting, but was considering several meeting places; a decision on any one would be determined by the number of guests to be invited. The Committee recommended that the members of the American Surgical Association be invited; and that the number present at the meeting should be limited to 150 if possible. The Committee recommended that Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow be asked to Present the Medal personally.

Dr. Lovett suggested that the members of the New England Surgical Society be invited to the meeting; and that the members of the surgical staffs of the larger hospitals in Boston be invited. At the meeting of the Society, April 4, 1921, the President stated that the date for the special meeting at which Dr. W. J. Mayo should be awarded the Bigelow Medal had been fixed: June 6, 1921, at 8:30 p.m.. The place of the meeting was still under advisement by the Committee: admission to the meeting to be by card only. It was planned to send invitations (or announcements) to the American Surgical Association, its honorary, Senior, and active fellows; the members of the New England Surgical Society; the officers of the American Medical Association; the officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society; the Regents of the American College of Surgeons; the Fellows in Medicine and Surgery of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the members of the surgical staffs of the various Boston hospitals; certain officers and members of the National Societies (sections of the American Medical Association) which met in Boston in early June; and the members of the Interurban Society.

On the occasion of the first Bigelow Medal award, the demand for admission taxed the seating capacity of Jordan Hall; in fact, the attendance (estimated 1,000 guests) exceeded that of any meeting of the Society "before or since." The President, Dr. Robert W. Lovett, presided. At the close of Dr. Mayo's address, the

Bigelow Medal was awarded to **Dr. Mayo**³ by Dr. Monks on behalf of the Society. The title of Dr. Mayo's address was "In The Time Of Henry Jacob Bigelow."

In his remarks Dr. Mayo spoke at length of Dr. Bigelow:

Henry Jacob Bigelow was the son of a distinguished physician, Jacob Bigelow. He was born March 11, 1818. After graduation from Harvard in 1833 he began the study of medicine with his father as a preceptor. From the beginning he wished to become a surgeon. He served as house surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1838 and 1839 and received his M.D. degree in 1841. He spent some time in Hanover, New Hampshire, to attend the lectures of Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was professor of anatomy and physiology there at that time. In 1842, Dr. Bigelow went to Paris, which was regarded as the medical center of the world. The microscope had been greatly improved in France, making it possible to study bacteriology and pathology in detail. He journeyed to England once a week to see James Paget, a great philosopher of surgical science, whose book on surgical pathology has never been excelled and seldom equalled. While in Paris he contracted typhoid fever. He went to Rome to convalesce and there, devoted himself to the art of drawing. The skill he acquired added greatly to his subsequent effectiveness as a teacher.

He returned to Boston in 1844. In 1846, at age 28, he was made a full surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, a position which he held for 40 years. He was appointed Professor of Surgery in the Harvard Medical School in 1849, at age 31, a position he held for 33 years.

Dr. Bigelow's self-confidence was remarkable. He did not hesitate to express opinions in the presence of those in high authority, and chafed at attempts to control by authority of position rather than by ability. He was idolized by his students and admired by his assistants as an operator, teacher, writer, and originator of surgical procedures. He made a profound impression on the surgery of his day. Among his contributions were the bloodless reduction of dislocation of the hip joint and the development of the lithotrite.

He dominated the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital for many years, and up to 1879 or 1880 it was within his power to make or mar the careers of the younger surgeons of Boston. He retired from the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1886 and died in 1890 at the age of 72.

Mayo called attention to Bigelow's many avocational interests and his warm friendship with Naturalist Louis Agassiz.

The second Bigelow award was presented to **Dr. William Williams Keen**⁴ of Philadelphia on October 25, 1922. The meeting was held in Jordan Hall. In the audience were members and guests of the Society, but also members of the American College of Surgeons which was holding its session in Boston. The presentation was made by Dr. Harvey Cushing.

In his Bigelow Medal speech, Dr. Keen, one of America's distinguished senior surgeons, spoke on "Sixty Years Of Surgery, 1862-1922."

"My happy young colleagues, you cannot imagine the paradise you have been born with compared to purgatory in which we lived for so many years." He gave vivid descriptions of surgery of 100 years ago: sepsis, suture material, postoperative hemorrhage, etc. He quotes Charles Mayo: "I have not seen death occur as a result of an unnecessary (abdominal) exploration —but many have died solely because exploration was done too late."

Keen continues: "I shall rapidly sketch surgical conditions during the 1860's and 1870's and over the means and methods of surgical diagnosis and treatment."

Keen's was thus a first-hand account of the lamentable conditions of surgical care during the Civil War and the following several decades.

He concludes: "Would that I could return in 1982 and converse" with the great "of that wonderful day." What would he think of the changes and advances since 1922, the year of his address!

The third award of the Bigelow Medal was presented on November 1, 1926, to **Dr. Rudolph Matas**⁵ who

was introduced by Dr. C.A. Porter.

Mata's Bigelow address entitled "Spirit and Art of Surgery" was divided into 16 chapters, defining qualities essential for the enlightened surgeon. He recalls the dark ages of surgery when surgery and medicine were set apart. In doing so he emphasized that the scientific foundations of medicine and surgery are the same, differing only, but "one may say radically," in the therapeutic point of view. Matas describes little pleasure in the impressionist painters because of their lack of detail, comparing them to the "slap and dash" surgical operations which he decries. The desirable qualities he emphasized are general surgical exposure before specialization, familiarity with fundamental sciences, preparation by operating on lower animals, acquisition of knowledge in the hospital ("the supreme laboratory"), daily contact with skillful senior surgeons, trust, concern, decisiveness and health.

Dr. Harvey Cushing presented the Medal on behalf of the Society. On being notified of his later election as an honorary member of the Society, Matas wrote a note of appreciation, the sort of response of which the founders of the Society would be proud, especially Dr. Monks:

I hasten to acknowledge and thank you for your highly appreciated letter of the 23rd instant informing me that the Boston Surgical Society has unanimously elected me to honorary membership in this distinguished body. With the memories of the Bigelow Medal celebration so gratefully alive in my mind, I need scarcely tell you how deeply this added distinction and signal mark of the Society's has touched me. On that occasion, I endeavored to express the sentiments of admiration, respect and affection that since the earliest years of my professional life have been inspired in me by the example and achievements of the great leaders of Boston surgery with whom I have come in contact, and now I am made doubly happy by this last action of the Society which gives me the assurance that the sentiments which I so cordially entertain for its members have been so graciously reciprocated.

Very sincerely yours,

R. Matas

Dr. Ernest Daland, elected in 1926, writes of the award to Dr. Rudolph Matas: "I recall the award of the Bigelow Medal to Dr. Rudolph Matas of New Orleans in 1926. It was held in Rogers Hall of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, this building standing on Boylston Street where the New England Mutual is now located. Dr. Harvey Cushing gave the address of welcome (about 1 hour). Then Dr. Matas talked another 2 hours. Because of the sacredness of the occasion, we and our wives were attired in our best rigs. The heat went off at 10 p.m. In order to leave the hall, one had to walk by the speaker's rostrum, so we just sat and froze."

Apparently, recipients of the Bigelow Medal were inclined to be long-winded. Dr. T.B. Quigley describes the presentation of the Medal to Dr. Lester Dragstedt (the 17th recipient): "He, you may recall, distinguished himself by reviewing his thoughts on peptic ulcer for two hours and 15 minutes. This made an indelible impression on the ladies at the dinner."

Dr. Chavalier Jackson⁶, the fourth recipient of the Bigelow Medal, in his address entitled "Bronchoscopy, Past, Present and Future," emphasized the importance of adequate pulmonary drainage and aeration to insure proper function and normal resistance of the pulmonary tissues. This, of course, was in 1928 when aspiration of the bronchial tree during and after operation was still a novelty, in fact, a debated procedure. He stressed the importance of bronchoscopic aspiration now that the technique was better understood. He emphasized the growing awareness of the bronchoscope as a valued tool, not only for removal of foreign bodies, its earliest use, but for research of pulmonary function, for the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and for the postoperative relief of pulmonary atelectasis.

After Cushing's warm tribute, "Dr. Jackson responded, expressing in a touching manner, the wish that he might exhibit the Medal to his mother and other forebears to whom he owed the ability to carry on the work to which he had dedicated his life."

The fifth recipient of the Bigelow Medal was **Mr. George Gray Turner**⁷. In his address he reviewed the early developments in surgery of the esophagus, a structure once thought to be unapproachable. He cites

the interesting case of Thomas Willis who in 1674 described a “round button of sponge to be stuffed down the esophagus for the relief of cardiospasm or achalasia.” Turner recalls his experiences in a variety of surgical problems of the esophagus. He differentiates between cardiospasm and cicatricial stricture. In the former, a mercury bougie is first utilized, but in the cases cited by Turner, he refers to an esophagogastric anastomosis as a bypass of the narrowed channel. The remainder of the report is essentially a review of clinical

experiences with a variety of neoplasms at several levels of the esophagus and the results of the therapeutic multistage procedures practiced at that time.

The Medal was awarded to Mr. Turner on the evening of June 10th, which marked the 150th anniversary of the Massachusetts Medical Society. That morning in commemoration of the anniversary, Mr. Turner spoke before the Section of Surgery of the Society on “The Paget Tradition.”

Dr. J.M.T. Finney⁸, the sixth recipient, (1932) gave a delightful account of the medical customs, personalities, and teaching methods prevalent during his years in Boston at the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital in his address entitled “Changing Methods In Surgery.” The picture of didactic lectures by preclinical and clinical faculty members proved fascinating when compared to today’s instruction in the laboratories at the school and at the bedside of patients in the hospitals. To one pursuing our Boston past, both his account of individuals and his anecdotes will prove delightful.

Finney compared the surgical practices in Boston in the late 1880’s in which adoption of the teachings of Lister were only slowly being accepted, and their prompt acceptance in the quite new John Hopkins Hospital where practices were unencumbered by tradition. His address proved a captivating reminiscence by a distinguished surgeon and a colorful observer.

The Bigelow Medal was presented to past president **Dr. Harvey Cushing**⁹ on May 3, 1933. He was the first Boston surgeon to receive this honor. The date of the meeting marked the opening of the twentieth birthday celebration of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Dr. Cushing’s address was entitled “Homo Chirurgicus” which was a delightful satire on the shifting boundaries of surgery as surgery was set apart as a specialty “from homo medicus ordinarius et generalis” to “homo chirurgicus superbus et suprimus” becoming then “homo medicus internus” and “homo chirurgicus generalis.” “Homo chirurgicus” soon began to invade the inner recesses through natural apertures and later by apertures created by “weapons” of his making guided often by the “evil eye” of “homo roentgenologicus” so now there are “homo chirurgicus (sub spec) laryngologicus,” “homo chirurgicus (sub spec) intra-thoracicus,” “homo-chirurgicus (sub spec) neuro-chirurgicus,” and others, quite contrary to the intentions of “homo chirurgicus generalis.”

Dr. Edward W. Archibald¹⁰ received the Bigelow Medal in 1937 and gave an address entitled “French Surgery In The Nineteenth Century.” He first gave a delightful account of his own ancestral origins, from northern Ireland to Londonderry, New Hampshire, and Nova Scotia. His predecessors pledged opposition to the “hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the united American colonists” and vowed support to the cause.

He then reviewed the accomplishments of the great figures of European medicine who had influenced the career of Henry Jacob Bigelow. Much of the emphasis was on the French school which was leading both in surgical opportunities for the eager student and in the progress of surgical knowledge. Many of the great figures of French medicine who influenced Bigelow are familiar names to-

day. Archibald emphasized the essential unity of North American medicine and paid tribute to the spirit of scientific inquiry in American surgery as exemplified by the life and work of Henry Jacob Bigelow.

Dr. Allen O. Whipple¹¹ in his Bigelow address (1941) entitled “Present-Day Surgery Of The Pancreas” reviewed the gradually emerging understanding of the internal and external secretions of the pancreas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He emphasized the clinical tests of the external secretory function which, although still in the experimental phase, contributed materially to the diagnosis of lesions of the organ.

After these introductory paragraphs, Whipple reviewed a variety of known ailments of the pancreas both inflammatory and neoplastic, concluding with a detailed account of the radical operation for tumors of the

ampullary region and head of the pancreas - an operation that still bears his name.

Dr. Frank H. Lahey¹² was one of the founders of the first Boston Surgical Society and was the second Boston surgeon to be awarded the Bigelow Medal (1946). Dr. Lahey spoke on "Surgery Of The Thyroid" and reviewed his 30 years' experience. In doing so he discussed some of the then newer developments and some less frequent complications of thyroid diseases. These included the pros and cons of pharmacological control of the metabolic rate, the cardiac complications of hyperthyroidism, exophthalmos and its treatment, the liver in thyroid disease, tumors benign and malignant, the recurrent nerve, the parathyroid glands, and aberrant thyroid gland tissue. In his introduction, Dr. Donald Munro paid tribute to Dr. Lahey's skill as a surgeon and to his great influence among the medical profession through the Clinic which bears his name.

Dr. Elliott Carr Cutler¹³, the third Bostonian to be awarded the Bigelow Medal (1947), spoke on "The Training Of The Surgeon." He gave a biographical sketch of his early professional life at the Harvard Medical School, the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Rockefeller Institute, the years of World War I, and his move to Cleveland and the Lakeside Hospital. Throughout these years, guided by his mentor Harvey Cushing he came to appreciate the value and importance of a year or more of laboratory experience remote from the clinic. On his arrival in Cleveland, however, it was rumored that "I was an excellent laboratory investigator and knew about the surgery of animals, but had little experience with man."

In the remainder of his address, he outlined in considerable detail the ideal program of surgical training with increased responsibilities, gradual development of technical skills, adequate exposure to all the recognized surgical specialties, and a year possibly of laboratory experiences to permit study, reflection, and the pursuit of interesting new ideas before assuming the duties of chief surgical resident. Cutler decried the jumping from one institution to another, stressing that the clinical exposure should

be at the same institution to insure a thorough understanding of the technique and handicraft of surgery. He must demonstrate in this institution his ability to "think" and as his expertise grows to "think" in a critical and logical way.

In his Bigelow address (1951) entitled "Some Considerations About Bronchogenic Carcinoma" **Dr. Evarts A. Graham**¹⁴ pointed the way to what has now become an accepted fact, that "The evidence of cigarette smoking has played an important role in the rapid increase of the disease (bronchogenic carcinoma) seems very convincing." The evidence accumulated by Graham and his contemporaries concerned with the problem of carcinoma of the lung was described in careful detail. Graham acknowledged that occupational exposure and even atmospheric pollution were also potential factors in lung carcinoma. The fact that the disease was predominantly in males had raised the question whether there was a genetic factor in its etiology. Graham presented evidence which disproved this as the explanation. One strong bit of evidence was the parallel between the curves in increase of cigarette sales and the incidence of bronchogenic carcinoma.

Graham discussed the differences between the epidermoid and adenocarcinoma of the lung and concluded with a plea for early diagnosis of the disease, a plea directed principally at his medical colleagues who tended to overlook the obscure but important symptoms of lung cancer.

The thirteenth Bigelow Medal was awarded to **Dr. Edward D. Churchill**¹⁵ in April 1955, at the Harvard Club. Dr. Churchill's talk entitled "The Dark Decades of Surgery, 1816-86" was informal in nature and was given with a presentation of slides and a discussion of the material to which they referred. He presented an extremely interesting picture of the surgical management of problems of this period. His address has never been published, but much of the material which he presented is recorded in his book, "To Work In The Vineyard Of Surgery," which is an outline of the contributions of the Warren family of Boston during the last 200 years.

The fourteenth Bigelow Medal was awarded to past president **Dr. Arthur W. Allen**¹⁶ on November 5, 1956 at the Harvard Club. Dr. Allen's address was entitled "The Development of Surgery for Lesions of the Stomach and Duodenum." His talk was illustrated with pictures of various surgeons who had been instrumental in developing surgery in this region. His talk was witty and inspiring and was received with

great enthusiasm by the audience.

It was Dr. Allen who had suggested in 1946 that the gold content of the Medal be reduced. However, Secretaries Welch and Soutter had restored the Fund by a properly managed financial account and by discontinuing the “bad practice” of using some of the Fund income to pay for the banquets when the Medal was awarded. The first of the restored 13-karat gold Medals was awarded to Dr. Allen. During his speech he referred to the Medal as being an “almost valueless piece of property,” not realizing that what he had in his hand was a very fine piece of gold.

Dr. Clarence Crafoord¹⁷ of Stockholm, was awarded the fifteenth Bigelow Medal on May 1, 1961. Dr. Crafoord’s address was entitled “Thirty Years’ Work With Controlled Pulmonary Ventilation.” In his talk he summarized the development of controlled respiration for open chest surgery and discussed its present status. In doing so he recapitulated a subject central to his interest which had its beginning during his first visit to this country about 30 years before.

The Bigelow Medal was to be presented to **Dr. Alfred Blalock**¹⁸ in November 1964, but his untimely death at age 65 precluded his presence. However, the Medal was awarded posthumously to his widow a few months later.

Dr. Lester Dragstedt¹⁹ was then chosen to receive the Medal in 1964. Dr. Dragstedt spoke on “Peptic Ulcer, A Problem In Abdominal Gastric Physiology.”

Neither Dr. Dragstedt’s address nor those of the next two recipients were formally published, nor are there any comments in the Minutes of the Society.

In 1967, the Medal was awarded to **Dr. Charles B. Huggins**²⁰ who spoke on “Hormones, Cancer and the Surgeon.” The nineteenth Bigelow Award went to another distinguished Boston surgeon, Dr. Robert E. Gross²¹ (1970). Dr. Gross spoke on “Surgery for Cardiovascular Anomalies.”

The 20th recipient of the Bigelow Medal was past president **Dr. Francis D. Moore**²², successor to two earlier medalists, Cushing and Cutler, as Moseley Professor of Surgery at the Harvard Medical School and Surgeon-in-Chief at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. His address (1973) was entitled “Surgical Biology and Applied Sociology - Cannon and Codman Fifty Years Later.” Moore reviewed the careers and contributions of two Pioneer Boston physicians, graduates of the Harvard Medical School, each of whom has had a profound influence on the practice of surgery. Cannon led the way in what Moore terms “applied surgical biology” with his studies of the influences of chemical autonomic mediators in the “homeostasis” of the body’s complex metabolic processes. Codman was a leader in Moore’s “sociology of surgical care.” Dismayed by the inadequacy of hospital records and the lack of control of the quality of surgical care, Codman led the way to what is now “The Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations” and the “End Results System” of evaluation of the surgeon’s skill, judgment, and other factors influencing the outcome of surgical treatment. The contributions of each of these men have endured.

Dr. J. Englebert Dunphy²³ was awarded the Medal in 1978. His address, which was never published, was entitled “The Phoenix, the Hydra and the Eye of the Swallow”. In it, he paid tribute to that most important cell, the fibroblast, and recounted his imaginative prospecting into the obscure biochemical processes during the early hours of wound healing. Much of the content of his remarks was recorded in detail in his book entitled “Repair and Regeneration, the Scientific Basis for Surgical Practice”. He was dying of cancer of the prostate at the time. The occasion was marked by an outpouring of affection toward him by his many admiring acquaintances in the Boston medical community. His very moving “Oration” before the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1976 should be required reading. Its title, “On Caring For the Patient With Cancer”.

Dr. John W. Kirklin²⁴ was the twenty third Bigelow medalist. His address was entitled, “Progress in Cardiac Surgery as Reflected in the Tetralogy of Fallot”. His report was based on a review of or 1100 surgical procedures. He recounted the several interesting variations of the anomaly and suggested the surgical indications and corrective operative procedures for each. In only the most severely cyanotically impaired infant was early operation expedient, and then only the most minimal (Blalock-Taussig or its equivalent). The risks proved to be greatly reduced if the definitive procedure could be safely delayed for several months or even years. Therefore, in the very young, a two-stage procedure was preferred. Delay

allowed time for circulatory adjustments in intravascular pressures and capillary permeability to minimize the possibility of pulmonary or peritoneal effusions and the rare pulmonary hemorrhage. His published report includes a vast array of statistical evidence which give proof to his conclusions.

In 1986, the Medal was awarded to past president **Dr. Claude E. Welch**,²⁵ the twenty fourth recipient. The title of his address was "From Mayo to Kirklin: Riding on Bigelow's Coattails". The theme he chose was to "reacquaint you with the previous recipients, some of whom you barely may recognize, and to assess their influence on the onward course of surgery. Welch contrasts the age of the recipients, all of whom having established reputations, with the selection of chiefs of departments for whom youth and promise are prime recommendations. He stressed the enormous changes in surgery in the previous 65 years as evident from the content of addresses by earlier medalists. He listed those responsible for the astonishing successes in cardiac and thoracic surgery and those responsible for the application of laboratory methods to a better understanding of the underlying processes in surgery. He went on to assay the differing personal characteristics of the medalists, and finally to note those whose leadership and teaching were responsible for establishing a following of illustrious trainees.

The twenty fifth Bigelow Medal was awarded to **Dr. Thomas Starzl**.²⁶ Dr. Starzl's address was entitled "Thirty Years: Liver Transplantation." He gave a very illuminating account of the history, recent advances and current situation in liver transplantation, emphasizing the role of the immunosuppressive agent, cyclosporine, as essential to success. More recently, extracorporeal organ perfusion has made possible the preservation of human livers for as long as 24 hours achieving, thereby, more widespread organ-sharing. The futility of palliative operation and the desirability of early intervention were stressed as was cost-effectiveness when the alternative of repeated and lengthy hospitalization for the patient dying from liver disease is calculated. Comments on certain unanticipated technical details were made, such as venous decompression of the intestine. Finally, Starzl paid tribute to the support and fundamental contributions to advances in transplantation made by members of the Boston medical community.

In December 1990, past president **Dr. Joseph E. Murray**²⁷ was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for his pioneering of human organ transplantation, having achieved the first successful kidney transplants from one human to another—a landmark operation which began the era of transplant surgery. Dr. Murray was also a pioneer in surgery for cranial-facial deformities, particularly among children and infants. The 26th Bigelow Medal was awarded to Dr. Murray in 1992, with his address entitled "Snapshots from a Curious Career" delivered on January 13, 1992. His Bigelow address presented patients from different decades of his career to illustrate both the permanence of surgical principles and changes in surgical techniques. Among those patients presented were the first successful renal transplant, which had a major impact on worldwide research in clinical and cellular immunology and set the stage for current success in all types of human organ transplantation. Another patient presented by Dr. Murray represented the first mid-face advance operation performed in the United States.

In 1996, **Dr. David C. Sabiston**²⁸ was awarded the twenty-seventh Bigelow Medal. His address, entitled "The Development of Surgery of the Coronary Circulation with Comments on the Future of Surgical Research" was delivered before the Society on March 11, 1996. The address drew on Dr. Sabiston's perspective from a long career of leadership in the field of cardiac surgery. He traced the roots of coronary artery bypass surgery through several decades of surgical innovation and improvement. Key contributions resulting from basic research were highlighted at every turn, providing compelling support for the ongoing viability and unique practical impact of surgical innovation. Modern outcome statistics were presented to emphasize the extraordinary success of concerted surgical research and clinical development in the treatment of patients with coronary artery disease.

On April 9, 2001, the twenty-eighth Bigelow Medal was awarded to past president **W. Hardy Hendren, III**²⁹. Dr. Hendren's address, entitled "The First Academic Surgeon" was a fascinating review of the career of John Hunter (1728-1793). In an often humorous talk based upon Dr. Hendren's first hand study at the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, he traced John Hunter's background from humble origins in Scotland to later recognition as the most significant contributor to surgical science to that time. The array of specimens and exhibits at the Hunterian Museum was reviewed in grisly detail to illustrate Hunter's remarkable interest in pathology and natural history and his incredible experiments in

organ transplantation and wound healing. Fascinating connections between Hunter and events in Boston were pointed out, including the surgical lineage of the Warren family and scientific links to later work by Jenner in use of vaccine to control smallpox. The address successfully reaffirmed the importance of practical research to surgery.

The Bigelow Medal was awarded again in 2003, this time to **Hermes C. Grillo (insert footnote 30)** for his pioneering work in tracheal surgery. Dr. Grillo's lecture, entitled "Concentration vs. Specialization? A Case Study of the Arteria Aspera" was woven together with Dr. Grillo's career opus from laboratory work he performed as a young surgeon to refinements that he continued to evolve as his knowledge and practice matured. Dr. Grillo emphasized the need for surgeons to have a broad set of skills in order to make the necessary breakthroughs in advancing fields such as he had done with airway surgery.

The thirtieth Bigelow Medal was awarded to **M. Judah Folkman (insert footnote 31)** on April 4, 2005. Dr. Folkman spoke on the topic "Can Cancer Be Treated Before Seeing It?", detailing his long and groundbreaking career pursuing angiogenesis and its role in growth of malignancies. The lecture covered a field of knowledge established by Dr. Folkman the field from the laboratory to recent applications of clinical strategies using anti-angiogenesis pharmaceuticals to combat cancer. Most exciting was evidence that cancers which produce circulating markers which can be assayed by simple blood sample can be diagnosed, treated and tracked before being detected by the naked eye on radiologic study or at the bedside.

Footnote 30: Dr. Grillo was trained at Harvard and then at Massachusetts General Hospital where he formalized and developed the division of thoracic surgery. A Professor of Surgery who launched a long list of illustrious trainees into leadership careers, Dr. Grillo pioneered the entirely new field of tracheal reconstructive surgery. His thoughtful, imaginative and meticulous approach to surgical problems was widely admired and emulated.

Footnote 31: Dr. Folkman was a graduate of Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was famous for years for his humorous lecture to Fourth Year HMS students on how to survive internship. His clinical work was based at Children's Hospital where he became Professor of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief. An extraordinary parallel career in basic research led Dr. Folkman to create the field of angiogenesis, resulting in numerous applications to fundamental pathophysiologic processes in clinical medicine.

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CHAPTER IV

MEETINGS

Six or seven meetings of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., have been held annually since its incorporation in 1914. Initially, several meetings of the Executive Council, responsible for the general conduct of the Society's affairs, were also held during the year. In the original bylaws, meetings were to be held the first Monday of each month from October through April, with the Annual Meeting designated the one in October. The revision of the Bylaws in 1919 changed the first meeting to November and the Annual Meeting to December. It has remained so ever since with few exceptions.

The monthly sessions were to be "clinical, hospital or scientific." Usually the clinical and scientific sessions were alternated each month. In the early years, clinical meetings were held in every major Boston hospital, scientific meetings in the Boston Medical Library, the Harvard Club, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Tavern Club, or the St. Botolph Club. Meetings of the Executive Council were called at the request of the President and held in his office or home. The time of day of the meetings depended on whether there was an operative clinic with or without case presentations, or whether it was to consist of scientific papers only. The latter was usually an evening dinner meeting. A recently deceased member wrote, recalling a meeting at the American Academy building on Newbury street in 1932, "The dress and speeches were both formal. There was a collection of cheese, crackers, doughnuts, coffee, and ginger ale" (after the repeal of Prohibition beer was served). He adds: "Some of the older members didn't stay for the limited social occasion for reason best known to themselves, perhaps being overweight or having 'dyspepsia. With increasing membership in the latter half of the 20th century, meetings have been held as an evening dinner gathering at the Harvard Club. The hospital meetings during the early years were largely operative demonstrations. Members could watch Dr. Harvey Cushing remove a cerebellar tumor at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Dr. John Bottomley perform a cholecystectomy at the Carney Hospital, see Dr. F.J. Cotton reduce an ankle fracture at the Boston City Hospital, or Dr. Charles A. Porter perform a partial gastrectomy for stomach cancer at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Doctors F.B. Lund and John Cunningham operated simultaneously on a "double hernia of enormous size" at the Boston City Hospital. A symposium on war wounds was stimulated by the realities of World War I in November of 1915.

On perusal of the scientific programs of earlier meetings one discovers a number of interesting reports.

For example, on March 1, 1915, Dr. Monks discussed a device to detect foreign bodies in the tissues "by means of magnetism" with use successfully in three cases. The current in the magnet could be rapidly reversed, attracting in one direction and repelling in the other. The retained metallic fragment would vibrate and could be located by the examining finger. Another technique consisted of magnetizing the retained foreign body and suspending a compass-like needle over it. The latter would be deflected by the magnetized metallic fragment. In the discussion, a more powerful magnetic device used in France at the American Ambulance Hospital was described.

At a meeting of the Society at the Massachusetts General Hospital on April 5, 1915, Dr. Hugh Williams showed a most ingenious electric motor and double suction pump fashioned for the purpose by his chauffeur. Dr. Williams spoke of the treatment of duodenal fistula by doing a jejunostomy for the purpose of nourishing the patient and by attaching the suction apparatus to the duodenal fistula to keep it dry.

At the suggestion of Dr. Monks, Dr. J.F. Percy of Galesburg, Illinois, demonstrated an electrical cautery for the treatment of uterine carcinoma on April 21, 1916, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The cautery was not the kind today's surgeons are accustomed to. The purpose was to warm the diseased uterus to a temperature of 120 degrees F by a heating iron inserted into the uterine cavity. Dr. Percy cited evidence that tumor cell growth was impaired at that temperature, but normal cells could tolerate it. He decried the charring effect of more intense heat which prevented effective heat transfer - a reasonable assumption.

An interesting meeting was held at the recently opened Collis B. Huntington Memorial Hospital on April 9, 1917. Dr. T.C. Warren spoke of the aims and purposes of the institution. Dr. Greenough spoke of the organization of the hospital and the plan of treatment by radium under the supervision of the Cancer Commission of Harvard University. No cases were accepted for radium treatment if radical operation was considered possible. Very complete records were kept and a very complete follow-up system employed.

Permission for autopsy was a requisite for admission. Of 1,065 cases treated in the first three and a half years, the result was unknown in only 39. The treatment of various lesions was discussed: epitheliomata of the face, carcinoma of the lip, tonsil, jaw and tongue, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and sarcoma, carcinoma of the uterus, nose, larynx and myelogenous leukemia.

On April 2, 1923, Dr. Bronson Crothers of the Children's Hospital spoke on "The Effect Of The Forces Used In Delivery On The Central Nervous System Of The Fetus," a paper discussed by Dr. F.S. Newell. In light of the content of his paper, concerned as it was with the coincidence of spasticity with difficult delivery, one can imagine that there may have been rather heated discussion of these observations.

At the clinical meeting on January 10, 1925 at the New England Deaconess Hospital an operative clinic was held. Dr. D.F. Jones did one radical mastectomy and two gallbladder operations. Dr. F.H. Lahey did seven thyroid operations, removed a duodenal diverticulum, and repaired an inguinal hernia.

The meeting of June 12, 1925 was held at the Warren Museum of the Harvard Medical School where Dr. E.A. Codman discussed the bone sarcoma registry and demonstrated specimens, history, and findings reported in this registry. The meeting was held jointly with the Boston Orthopedic Club and the New England Roentgen Ray Society.

On April 6, 1925, Dr. C.A. Porter spoke on "Aneurysms of the Larger Arteries Observed at the Massachusetts General Hospital in the Past Fifty Years."

On February 2, 1925, Dr. Robert Greenough spoke on "The Value of Prophylactic X-Ray Treatment in Cases of Carcinoma of the Breast," and young Dr. Edward Churchill spoke as a guest on "Massive Collapse of the Lung."

On March 3, 1925, a second meeting was held at the Collis P. Huntington Hospital where there was an x-ray therapy demonstration in one of the early centers for this treatment in the New England area. Also demonstrated were the clinical and research work being conducted at the hospital.

The meeting of the Society on December 3, 1925, was held jointly with the Boston Orthopedic Club, a desirable precedent often mentioned in the minutes, but rarely possible because of conflicts in dates and time. There was a large attendance at which Dr. W.E. Gallie of Toronto discussed transplants of fibrous tissue in the repair of anatomical defects. This was doubtless one of the early reports of the transplant to which Gallie's name has often been attached and the carrier needle of which also bears his name.

On December 1, 1930, Dr. Edward Archibald of Montreal, awarded the Bigelow Medal in 1937, spoke on "The Mode and Causation of Post-operative Pulmonary Collapse," calling attention to the current held concepts of the "aspirationists" versus the "embolists." He emphasized the importance of extracting the obstructing plugs in the bronchi by suction or bronchoscope if needed. There was lively discussion of this paper by Doctors Whittemore, Churchill, Lord, King, Binney and Homans. That obstructing aspiration was the cause of collapse was generally agreed. It could be minimized by avoiding morphine, tight abdominal binders, and treated by CO₂ inhalation and frequent turning of the patient. These seem like elementary principles today, but the doubts and discussions were still raging nearly half a century ago.

On January 8, 1934, at the Massachusetts General Hospital there were three papers on parathyroid disease, obviously one of the early reports of this disease which is so closely identified with the Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Fletcher Colby spoke on "Kidney Lesions and Parathyroid Disease." Dr. George Holmes of the Department of Radiology spoke on "Bone Lesions in Parathyroid Disease" and Dr. E. D. Churchill spoke on "Surgery of the Parathyroid," doubtless recounting the tale of the late Captain Martell. Interestingly enough, in his Presidential Address in 1965, Dr. Oliver Cope brought the story of parathyroid disease up to date before the Boston Surgical Society.

An unusual request was made for the meeting of April 8, 1974. The program that evening concerned "psyche-surgery for pain." There had been criticism of this technique by certain elements in the Boston area so that there was fear that demonstrators might infiltrate and disrupt the evening meeting. At the request of the participants in the symposium, a police guard was requested and provided. Fortunately, no demonstration occurred.

One is reminded of the comment by a presiding officer on a rather uninspired address by a well-known

visitor from another city. The story concerned a parrot acquired by a seaman in his world travels which, on his return to the United States, was given with great ceremony by the seaman to his mother. On his next return home he inquired of the parrot and was told that it was delicious. Horrified, he announced that it was a prize bird which spoke several languages, to which his mother asked: "Why didn't he say something?"

On June 26, 1934, at a meeting of the Executive Council held at the office of the President, Dr. David Cheever, the proposition of Dr. Walter E. Lee, President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, to hold a joint meeting of the Boston and Philadelphia groups once a year was looked upon with favor. It was suggested that the President confer with other members and suggest that there be meeting in Philadelphia on the evening of the first Monday or February 1935 in place of the usual meeting. The proposal was accepted with great pleasure with each city to act as host in alternate years.

The first meeting was held on February 4, 1935, in Philadelphia with a program arranged by a Philadelphia committee. The second, February 3, 1936, was held in Boston. The custom continued annually until the meeting of March 4, 1940, held in Boston. The custom was then discontinued because of "unsettled conditions" and the Philadelphia invitation for 1941 was declined.

Resumption of the joint meetings was discussed by the Executive Council on December 6, 1948, but there was "little enthusiasm."

The Boston Surgical Society, Inc., did however keep in touch with the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery during subsequent years. On October 18, 1954, a letter was received from the Academy of Surgery "inviting our Society to send a representative to its 75th Annual Meeting." The invitation "was discussed and Dr. Richard H. Sweet was unanimously elected to represent the Society."

Almost simultaneously an invitation was received from Dr. Alexander Brunschwig inviting the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., to meet jointly with the New York Gynecological Society and the New York Surgical Society. No action was taken.

Another proposal for joint meetings came from the New York Surgical Society on March 10, 1972. Again there was little enthusiasm. However, at the meeting of the Executive Council on June 9, 1975, there was "unanimous enthusiasm" for a joint meeting with the Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore Surgical Societies to be held in Philadelphia on

March 10, 1976. The meeting was held as scheduled and was a great success.

The title of Dinner Chairman was established officially on the recommendation of the Executive Council on Friday, January 9, 1953. The following statement concerning Dr. John McKittrick, the first Dinner Chairman, is included in the minutes of that meeting: "The status of Dr. John McKittrick, who collects money for the dinners, was discussed. It was felt that the unpleasantness of the task should be somewhat relieved by giving him an official title." The title agreed upon was that of Dinner Chairman. Dr. Graves, President, said that he would announce it at the next meeting. That the President had the power to appoint a committee was customary and Dr. McKittrick would be a committee of one. This tradition has been carried on ever since and to date there have been fourteen Dinner Chairmen appointed. The position of Dinner Chairman was made official in a vote at the annual meeting on December 7, 1959, when Article I of the bylaws was amended to include all of the officers of the Society "and a Dinner Chairman."

At the meeting of the Council on June 27, 1956, the following note was made: "the Secretary should be authorized to buy a new microphone for use at the Society's meetings at the Harvard Club." This need was well-recognized by those attending the monthly meetings, but the acoustics and equipment remain imperfect and a frequent topic of conversation, sometimes during lectures.

A Forum for presentations by younger men (residents, surgical fellows, and others) was established during the presidency of Dr. Roger C. Graves at a meeting of the Executive Council on May 27, 1953. The suggestion was made that "the meeting in March could possibly be given over to original papers by younger men not yet qualified to join the Society." At this interesting series of meetings during subsequent years, an average of seven papers on original surgical research and clinical investigation were presented. This annual program was continued for a number of years, but the format was changed in 1971. At a meeting of the Executive Council on January 18, 1971, the following statement was made:

“Fifteen abstracts were reviewed for the meeting on March 1, 1971. It was the consensus of the Council that the number of papers should be lowered to five. It was also the opinion that the papers should be arranged in two groups to give cohesiveness to the program. It was noted that the attendance had been falling off for this particular meeting and that it was the least popular of the six.” At the regular meeting on March 1, 1971, three papers on one topic, the lung in shock and sepsis, and two papers on gastritis and the gastric barriers were presented. The Forum was discontinued until 1979 and ran until 1986 when it was replaced by occasional “What’s New” symposia. The authors of many Forum papers have subsequently taken important positions in and made significant contributions to American surgery.

One of the recurring concerns of the Executive Council over the years has been the increasing cost of the dinners and the deficit resulting from failure of the charges to meet the actual costs. For example, this matter was discussed at a meeting of the Council on May 27, 1953. Since the deficit was covered by the initiation fees and the dues, the Society was not in the red, but the question was raised whether the annual dues of \$5, which had never been increased since 1915, should be raised.

“Because it was felt that the attendance at the dinners should be as large as possible, it was decided to retain the same dinner charge, but to raise the dues to \$10 a year starting in the year 1954.”

The deficit was discussed again in 1963 and at the annual meeting on December 14, 1964, the dues were raised to \$15 to avoid an increase in the dinner charge. Inflation continued to present problems to the Society and on December 8, 1969, it was voted to increase the dues to \$25, and a few months later the cost of the dinner was increased to \$8. One of the significant costs of the dinner meetings is the “bar charge.” By reducing the time the bar is open to 45 minutes, a considerable savings was realized. Nevertheless, in 1974 it was necessary to increase the dues to \$35 and the dinner charge to \$10 a piece.

The annual deficit continued even with the several increases in the dues and the charges for the dinners. However, the attendance remained large, despite the increasing inflationary costs. At the conclusion of the announcement of each meeting the following was added: “It will be necessary to charge any member who signifies his intention of attending the dinner or bringing a guest and fails to do so, unless the Dinner Chairman is notified before noon the day of the dinner.”

The stated purpose of the Boston Surgical Society, Inc., is “for advancing the science and art of surgery and the cultivation of intellectual and social relations between the members.” Perusal of the programs of the meetings over the years reveals that those purposes have been fulfilled. However, there have been a few digressions from the strictly parochial concern with clinical and research reports of surgical progress and innovations. For example, in 1956, there was a panel moderated by Dr. Leland McKittrick entitled “The Costs of Surgical Care,” a matter, even then, of increasing concern. In 1966, Dr. William Holden of Cleveland spoke on “Society and the Education of a Surgeon,” alluding to the change in residency training programs with increasing third-party intrusions. In 1971, there was a panel entitled “New Patterns for the Delivery of Surgical Care.” And in 1975, Dr. William MacAusland spoke on “Ambulance Service in the City of Boston - A Critical Overview.” This last led to an active involvement by the Society in the urgent needs for modernizing the equipment and personnel of the Emergency Medical Services of the City of Boston. Although automobile and other accidents comprise a major obligation of such services, the increasing availability and lifesaving effectiveness of the Intensive Care Units in the Boston hospitals makes prompt access to ambulances equipped with more adequate resources to sustain patients, victims of non-traumatic emergencies on their way to such a unit, of paramount importance. Therefore, in September 1975, the President of the Society, Dr. Joseph E. Murray, appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Medical Services, whose report along with a considerable correspondence is included in the files of the Boston Surgical Society.

At the meeting of November 8, 1976, the “Emergency Medical Service in the City of Boston-Updated” was the topic. Several speakers and several points of view were expressed including the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Society. These included the upgrading of emergency equipment, personnel training, cooperation between city departments, public education, hospital capabilities and the collection of factual data. Most important, however, was the offer of support by the Boston Surgical Society Inc., and the Boston Orthopedic Club to accomplish the needed changes. One later consequence was the

assignment of certain hospitals as trauma centers so that destinations of both public and private ambulances could be coordinated.

As a sequel to the Emergency Service plan in Boston, invited guest Dr. Donald D. Trunkey, Chief of Surgery at the San Francisco General Hospital, spoke on the "Rationale of Regionalized Trauma Care" on January 13, 1983. His remarks reflected the recommendations of the Committee in urging a centralized responsibility for the control of Emergency Medical Services in the City of Boston.

The urgent question of Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit, Category I, was discussed by the Executive Council meeting on June 13, 1978. A sponsor and approval by the Massachusetts Medical Society were needed for credit. On October 3, 1979, the Secretary reported to the Executive Council that Tufts University School of Medicine had agreed to act as co-sponsor. Forms were distributed at each meeting in anticipation of ultimate approval. At the Annual Meeting, on December 15, 1980, the Secretary reported that a request had been made to the Medical Society for approval and retroactive credit. There is no further mention of this matter in the Minutes and as of 2009 CME credits are not given to attendees.

At the Annual Meeting on December 12, 1977, the membership approved a dues increase to \$50.00 and a dinner charge to \$15.00. A question from the floor suggested an onerous effect from these increases, especially the latter. The President proposed a questionnaire to the membership. The result was a consensus of approval of the increases by a sizeable majority. By 1982, it had become obvious that a further increase in the dinner charge was needed, but not until the Annual Meeting on December 10, 1985, was the dinner charge reluctantly increased to \$20.00. In the meantime, dues were increased to \$75.00 in 1984. An honorarium of \$500.00 for out of town guest speakers was approved at the Annual Meeting on December 13, 1976.

From the days of its founding, there had been a joint office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Boston Surgical Society Inc. With the increasing membership, the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer became so burdensome that the Council, at its meeting on October 6, 1981, recommended a change in its bylaws to establish separate offices. This change in bylaws was approved at the annual meeting in December. Additional help for the three busy administrative officers of the Society was voted at the meeting on December 13, 1982. Recommended was a grant of \$2,000.00 for secretarial services to be divided on a ratio of 6-3-1 between the Secretary, Treasurer and Dinner Chairman respectively.

The following year the grant was increased to \$3,000.00 to be similarly divided.

At the June 2, 1986 meeting of the Council, "the Treasurer noted an unexpected surplus of funds". A committee was appointed to study the reason for the surplus. Also, "the committee was to report on the open bar at the Society meetings". Apparently the financial acumen of the Treasurer in 1982 who reported that "reserve funds had been shifted to a higher interest account" proved beneficial to the Society's coffers.

At the Council meeting six months later, the Committee reported that "the cost of the cocktails proved to be \$7.00 per person". But more significant was the motion "that the Dinner Chairman be authorized to use \$5.00 per person per dinner to improve the quality of the dinner and to utilize the surplus". Apparently, the improved quality of the meals intoxicated the members of the Council to such a degree that, at the next Council meeting, on June 1, 1987, "the Dinner Chairman was authorized to further upgrade the quality of the dinners \$1.00-\$2.00 per person for each meeting".

The six monthly meetings continued to be held regularly on the first Monday. On only one occasion was the winter weather severe enough to cause a cancellation. That was on February 14, 1978, when a blizzard struck Boston paralyzing the city for a week. Topics ranged from impotence to sports medicine, often times reflecting the special interests of the incumbent president. The programs have followed the same pattern, but with many of the "old standbys" such as cancer of the breast and other malignancies, vascular diseases, gastrointestinal and biliary tract surgery, transplantation, shock and blood substitutes, and endocrine diseases, appearing less frequently in favor of recent advances, such as: angioplasty, CT and ultrasound scans, laser, lithotripsy and AIDS.

Almost every year a guest speaker has been invited to give one of the programs. Titles have included: "Anesthesia for Ambulatory Surgery, II "Decision Analysis," and "Usual and Unusual Aortic Aneurysms" among many others.

Members of the Society received a shocking report at the meeting of November 13, 1989, when Attorney Lee J. Dunn, Jr., spoke on "The Board of Registration in Medicine: Who Regulates the Regulators?" There had been rumors of the arbitrary manner in which this body served as investigator, accuser, judge and jury. When there is a suspension or revocation of licensure by the Board, the defense attorney and party accused has no access to the records and no impartial investigation is permitted. The accused appears to be guilty until proven innocent. Surprisingly, the statute of limitations applies in all litigation with two exceptions, murderers and M.D.'s.

On a number of occasions the Executive Council has scheduled joint meetings with fellow societies in the Boston area. The 1976 Committee Report on Emergency Medical Services was a project sponsored by the Boston Surgical Society Inc., and the Boston Orthopedic Club. On February 14, 1977, The Obstetrical Society of Boston joined in a discussion of "Recent Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Breast Cancer." And "Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors" was the topic in a meeting with the Boston Orthopedic Club on February 2, 1979. No further formal joint meetings were held in the next decade, but topics of broad interest were often included in the programs. These included: joint replacement and arthroscopy, intracranial monitoring after trauma, intraocular lens implant for cataract surgery and tissue culture of epithelial cells.

Parking over the years represented an increasing problem compounded by the "simultaneous meetings at the same facility by the Boston Obstetrical Society. The Boston Obstetrical Society graciously agreed to change the date of its meetings to another day in 1989" thus easing the problem. Parking resurfaced perennially during the late 1990's, with additional concerns regarding traffic and travel by members from beyond Boston's borders. Attendance remained good nonetheless, and the executive council recommended staying the course with the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue.

Ever since the most successful joint meeting in New York in 1976 marking the Centennial of the New York Surgical Society, at which the Boston Surgical Society, the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, and the Baltimore Surgical Society met as guests of the New York Surgical Society, suggestions of a meeting in Boston were recorded several times in the minutes of the Society. The consensus was that the meeting should celebrate some significant event as it had in 1976. Since 1989 was the 75th anniversary of the Incorporation of the Boston Surgical Society, a special Council meeting was called on March 13, 1989, at which time the proposal was made to invite the New York Surgical Society and the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery to meet in Boston as guests of the Boston Surgical Society. on September 15, 1989. Dr. David E. Marcello was appointed Chairman to arrange a symposium with speakers chosen by each society and an evening dinner (the Copley-Plaza was chosen). The dinner speaker was to be Dr. Francis D. Moore, but when he found it impossible to attend, Dr. Judah Folkman graciously agreed to be the speaker. His title, "Angiogenesis, Its Implications in the Future of Surgery" was an account of the chemical and cellular factors responsible for stimulation and inhibition of new blood vessel growth, which are proving important in a better understanding of wound healing, tumor growth, etc. Inter-city discourse was continued in 1993 when the New York Surgical Society hosted the Philadelphia Surgical Society and the Boston Surgical Society for a successful joint meeting in New York City.

At the suggestion of Dr. John Braasch, the Cattell Lectureship and Visiting Professorship was introduced in 1993 in conjunction with the Lahey Clinic. This special event would be held periodically, by invitation. The first Cattell Lecture, entitled "Management of Pancreatic Cancer" was delivered by John Cameron in November 1995. The second lecture, entitled "Endoscopic Therapy for Pancreatic Disease", was presented by Jeffrey Ponsky in November 1999.

In 1993 a cash bar was introduced for the social hour just prior to each evening dinner meeting. The dinner fee was raised to \$30 for members and guests and held at \$15 for students, residents and fellows in

training. Despite slowly increasing meeting costs, these nominal fees remained in effect into the early new century in order to encourage attendance, particularly among trainees. Unmet expenses were covered with annual dues which, with increased cost for meals, were raised inexorably to \$125 in 2001, \$150 in 2007 and \$175 in 2009. In addition, dinner fees were reluctantly increased to \$50 for members and \$25 for trainees in 2006 to \$75 per meal in 2009, to include parking and wine with meals. These developments accompanied more precipitous increases in cost, specifically related to the Harvard Club venue. In 2009, the Council decided to reduce the number of annual meetings from six to five, with two hosted in Rte. 128 perimeter hotels, two at Boston hospitals as per historical precedent, and the annual meeting at the Harvard Club. In addition, it was felt appropriate to appeal to the departments at each Boston teaching hospital for support.

In 2007, the Society engaged a part time general manager, departing from the long tradition of relying upon capable support from the office secretaries of the Secretary, Treasurer and Dinner Chairman. This change was designed to improve coordination of activities and to allow sufficient centralization to make conversion to internet-based communication with members practicable. A Society web page was created to serve the new era. Finally, in 2007 an official Boston Surgical necktie and scarf was designed and proudly made available to members.

Strong interest in the programs of the Boston Surgical Society Inc. has continued. Attendance at meetings remained over 125 to the turn of the century, often filling to capacity the facilities in Harvard Hall at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue. At about the time of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, attendance dropped to an average of 85 per meeting. Dinners were more frequently held upstairs in Massachusetts Hall at the Harvard Club. In order to accommodate the increased membership in the environs of Boston, one meeting per season on the Rte. 128 perimeter was instituted in 2003, extended to two meetings with the 2009-2010 season.

At the time of this writing in 2010, and as the centennial year approaches, the Society has adapted well to the challenges of changing times. True to its origins, the hopes and aspirations of the founders are being fully realized by today's Boston Surgical Society.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES Forty-eight years after its founding a proposal was made by Secretaries Welch and Frank that each president deliver an address to the Society at its annual December meeting. The first president to speak was Dr. Reginald H. Smithwick, whose address on December 10, 1962, was entitled "Some Notes on the Boston Surgical Society, Inc." His was a thoughtful review of the history of the Society, its origin, its purposes, its distinguished members, its programs, and its Bigelow medalists. Review of the titles of subsequent addresses provides an interesting cross-section of caliber and achievements of those elected to lead the Society.

At a meeting of the Executive Council on November 4, 1957 "It was agreed that the Executive Council wear formal dress at the annual meeting of the Society." This custom, a tribute to the president on the occasion of his address to the Society, has been pursued inconsistently.

A past secretary makes a plea for ending the custom of a presidential address. "Some very fine presidents have given some dull speeches full of reminiscences. Perhaps some day presidents will be elected on the grounds that they will not give speeches."

Presidential Addresses

- 12/10/62 Smithwick "Some Notes on the Boston Surgical Society, Inc."
- 12/16/63 Bartlett "The Choice of Operation for Duodenal Ulcer."
- 12/14/64 Fine "The Intellectual Responsibility of the Surgeon."
- 12/13/65 Cope "The Story of Hyperparathyroidism at the Massachusetts General Hospital."
- 12/12/66 Welch "The Complications of Gastric Surgery."
- 12/11 /67 Colcock "Lest We Forget - An Historical account of Thyroid Surgery."
- 12/2/68 Byrne "The Boston Disease - Pancreatitis."
- 12/8/69 Moore "The Boston Operation - Kidney Trans-plant."
- 12/14/70 Deterling "Spare Parts Business."
- 12/13/71 McDermott "The Thread of an Idea- Ammonia Intoxication Following Portal-Systemic Shunt."
- 12/10/72 Harrison "The Continuing Challenge of Cancer."
- 12/10/73 Frank "De Excitatione Ceordis."
- 12/9/74 Sedgwick "Thyroid Tumors."
- 12/8/75 Murray "An Inquiry Into Indications for Surgery-Or, Is Beethoven Necessary?"
- 12/13/76 Donaldson "The Boston Surgical Society's First Team: Another Bicentennial Address."
- 12/12/77 Egdahl "Surgery and Health Planning."
- 12/11/78 Callow "The Stroke Prone Patient and Carotid Endarterectomy."
- 12/10/79 Cannon "A Follow-Up in the Boston Tradition."
- 12/15/80 Warren "Oliver Wendell Holmes, His Life and His Gift for Aphorism."
- 12/14/81 Austen "Injuries to the Genito-Urinary Tract."
- 12/13/82 Braasch "From the Krankenhaus to L.A.: Pathways to Progress."
- 12/12/83 Scannell "Some Thoracic Surgeons of Boston Before the Cardiac Balloon Went Up."
- 12/10/84 Burke "Progress in the Care of the Severely Burned Patient."
- 12/9/85 Nabseth "Young Boston Surgeons at the Little Big Horn."
- 12/8/86 Ellis "Impact of Surgical Research on Clinical Practice: Personal Perspectives."
- 12/14/87 Mannick "The Surgeon and Research: What Have You Done For Us Lately?"
- 12/12/88 Nardi "The Golden Years of Surgery."
- 12/11/89 Silen "Veritas, Dogma, and Numbers."
- 12/10/90 Brooks "Surgical Illnesses in Our Presidents."

12/9/91 Cleveland "Look Back to the Future of Surgery."
12/14/92 Veidenheimer "From Under the Tent."
12/13/93 Cady "The Tobacco Wars."
12/12/94 Russell "Lessons from Transplantation."
12/11/95 Moncure "The Notables."
12/9/96 Wheeler "I Owe a Cock to Aesculapius...Will You Pay the Debt?"
12/8/97 Grillo "To Impart This Art."
12/7/98 Hendren "From an Acorn to an Oak."
12/13/99 Folkman "Antiangiogenic Therapy in the Clinic: Why Did It Begin in a Surgeon's Laboratory?"
12/4/00 Warshaw "The Pro Bono Activities of American Surgeons."
12/3/01 Whittemore "Boston Surgery: Our Legacy at Risk"
12/2/02 Donahoe "A Lifetime of Training for Surgery"
12/1/03 Menzoian "Carotid Endarterectomy: Fifty Years Old and Still Getting Better"
1/10/05 O'Donnell "Venous Surgery 2004-A Journey to a Kinder and Gentler Technique"
12/5/05 Torchiana "EA Codman and the End Results system: The Glass is Half Full"
1/8/07 Rattner "Innovation, Disruption and the Perils of Success"
12/2/07 Birkett "The Practice of Surgery: From Then to Now"
12/1/08 Patton "The Suburban Contribution to Surgical Education in Boston"
1/6/10 Moore "Six Degrees"
12/6/2010 Donaldson "North on the Boston & Maine"
12/5/11 Shamberger "A Brief History of Boston Children's Hospital"
12/3/2012 Date Schoetz "The Boston Surgical Society, the Lahey Clinic and Colon and Rectal Surgery (in Boston and Beyond)"
? Date Nauta "Chance Events and Planning in the Training of Mules"
? Date Brooks, "A Century of Fellowship"
12/14/2015 Briggs "Responding to Crisis: Surgeons as Leaders in Disaster Response"
12/5/2016 Mackey "Do Your Job"
12/11/2017 Kenney "Promises"

BY-LAWS

Adopted: November 25, 1914; amended: January 1916, February 1923, December 1927, December 1936, December 1938, February 1944, April 1946, February 1947, December 1954, December 1956, December 1957, December 1958, December 1959, December 1963, December 1974, December 1976, December 1981, December 1993, January 2005; December, 2017

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of the Society shall be "The Boston Surgical Society".

Section 2. The purpose shall be:

- A. to furnish leadership and foster advances in surgery;**
- B. to afford a forum for the exchange of knowledge pertaining to practice of the above;**
- C. to stimulate research, investigation, and teaching in surgery;**
- D. to enhance the study and practice of surgery; and**
- E. to afford recognition to those who have contributed to the surgical specialty by extending membership in the Society to them.**

Officers

§ 1. The officers of the Society shall be a president, a president-elect, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a dinner chairperson. Only active members of the Society are eligible to become officers.

§ 2. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society in December, and shall hold office for one year from the first day of the following January. The president shall not be eligible for immediate reelection.

§ 3. In case of a vacancy, an officer shall be elected for the unexpired term, except that the vice-president shall take the place of the president, and a new vice-president shall be elected for the balance of the unexpired vice presidential term. Each vacancy shall be announced at the next meeting of the Society after its occurrence and the election to fill the same shall be held at the next following meeting, the notice of which shall announce that the election is to take place.

§ 4. The general conduct of the Society's affairs shall be in the hands of an executive Council with the power of directors. The Council will be composed of the president, the president-elect, the vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer, the dinner chairman, the outgoing president (who shall serve for three years after his/her presidency), and five other at-large members. One of the five at-large members will be elected at the annual meeting of the Society in December and shall hold office for five years from the first of the following January. The Council may make its own rules as to holding its meetings and giving notice thereof.

§ 5. In case of a vacancy among the five at-large members of the Council, whether caused by an election to an office named in Section 1 of this Article or otherwise, the position shall be filled at the next stated meeting of the Society. Notice of the vacancy and nominees for it shall be announced to the membership either in writing or electronically prior to the next meeting.

6. Candidates for officers of the Society and for at-large members of the Executive Council will be proposed each year by a nominating committee, for approval at the Annual Meeting in December. The

nominating committee shall be composed of the three past-presidents, with the most senior past president serving as the Chair of the committee.

ARTICLE II

Membership

§ 1. There shall be four classes of membership: *active, nonresident, senior, and honorary.*

§ 2. *Active Members* – An active member must fulfill the following requirements:

- (1) S/he must have been certified by the American Board of Surgery or by the American specialty board in her/his surgical subspecialty.
- (2) S/he must have an unqualified professional record and must relate her/his practice and/or academic activities to Massachusetts and the surrounding states. Unless retired from active practice, s/he must possess an unrestricted license to practice medicine in her/his state of residence.
- (3) A member who loses her/his license to practice medicine through the disciplinary action of a state medical board will be removed from the membership list.

At its discretion, the Executive Council may propose for membership any candidate who does not fulfill these qualifications if they do so by unanimous vote of those present at a meeting of the Council. These candidates may include potential members who are in active practice but who are ineligible for certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties because of training outside of the United States or Canada.

§ 3. *Nonresident Members* - An active member who moves her/his practice to a place so far from Boston that s/he cannot be expected to participate regularly in the affairs of the Society shall be offered the privilege, in writing, of becoming a nonresident member or of resigning from the Society. Nonresident members do not pay dues, are not eligible for office, and may not vote, but may take part in the work and meetings of the Society.

§ 4. *Senior Members* - An active member will automatically become a senior member upon reaching the age of sixty-five, or earlier under special circumstances. Senior members shall not pay dues, although they are encouraged to do so. Dues payment will continue to confer active membership status irrespective of age, permitting the member to serve as an officer. As noted above, senior members without Active status shall not be eligible for office, but may vote and take part in the scientific work of the Society.

§ 5. *Honorary Members* - Any distinguished surgeon approved by the Executive Council may be elected an honorary member by a unanimous vote at any meeting of the Society.

§6. *New applicants* - Applicants for membership must meet the criteria specified in #1 above. Prior to November 1 of each year, applications for membership must be in the hands of the secretary. Before October 25, the secretary shall notify active and senior members of the names of applicants for membership. Members who have comments on a candidate should return them to the secretary before November 7th. Following this, the Executive Council will compile a list of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in December of each year.

7. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the active members present shall be required for election into the Society.

ARTICLE III

Dues

§1. Members shall pay annual dues, covering each calendar year, the amount of which for each year shall be determined by vote of the Society at the meeting in December. The proposed amount of annual dues shall be recommended by the Executive Council at its first meeting in June of each year.

§ 2. The names of members whose dues remain unpaid after three notifications in writing or electronically, not less than one month apart, may be deleted from the roll of membership or transferred to the senior list according to the discretion of the Executive Council.

3. Dues are not required for members in the armed forces for the duration of their active service. The member should notify the treasurer if on active duty.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

§ 1. The December meeting shall be the Annual Meeting. The other stated meetings may be held on any day in November, February, March and April that the Executive Council may deem advisable.

§ 2. At the beginning of each meeting an executive session may be held, during which only members of the Society shall be present. At this session the minutes of the previous executive session shall be read, the members and officers elected and any ordinary business of the Society transacted.

ARTICLE V

Suspension of By-Laws

The provisions of Section 2 of Article IV may be suspended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any stated meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendment be given in the notice calling such meeting and also be given at the last preceding meeting. Articles III through V, inclusive, may be amended by a majority vote of the active members present, but Article I, II, and VI shall not be amended except by a two-thirds affirmative vote at a meeting at which at least one-third of the active members are present.

DISSOLUTION In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the Society, all of its assets remaining after payment of its obligations have been made or provided for shall be distributed to and amongst such corporations, foundations, or other organizations operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes consistent with those of the Society, an shall be designated by the Officers and Executive Council

OFFICERS

PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| George H. Monks | 1915-16 |
| Charles L. Scudder | 1917-18 |
| Harvey Cushing | 1919-20 |
| Robert W. Lovett | 1921-22 |
| John T. Bottomley | 1923-24 |
| Charles A. Porter | 1925-26 |
| Joshua C. Hubbard | 1927-28 |
| Robert B. Greenough | 1929-30 |
| Fred B. Lund | 1931-32 |
| David Cheever | 1933-34 |
| Channing C. Simmons | 1935-36 |
| William C. Quinby | 1937-38 |
| William E. Ladd | 1939-40 |
| Irving J. Walker | 1941-42 |
| Arthur W. Allen | 1943-44 |
| Howard M. Cute | 1945 |
| Donald Munro | 1946 |
| Joe V. Meigs | 1947 |
| Thomas H. Lanman | 1948 |
| Francis C. Newton | 1949 |
| Leland S. McKittrick | 1950 |
| Richard B. Cattell | 1951 |
| Grantley W. Taylor | 1952 |
| Roger C. Graves | 1953 |
| Richard H. Sweet | 1954 |
| Samuel F. Marshall | 1955 |
| E. Everett O'Neil | 1956 |
| Langdon Parsons | 1957 |
| Henry H. Faxon | 1958 |
| Franc D. Ingraham | 1959 |
| Robert R. Linton | 1960 |
| Charles C. Lund | 1961 |
| Reginald H. Smithwick | 1962 |
| Marshall K. Bartlett | 1963 |
| Jacob Fine | 1964 |
| Oliver Cope | 1965 |
| Claude E. Welch | 1966 |
| Bentley P. Colcock | 1967 |
| John J. Byrne | 1968 |
| Francis D. Moore | 1969 |
| Ralph A. Deterling, Jr. | 1970 |
| William V. McDermott | 1971 |
| J. Hartwell Harrison | 1972 |
| Howard A. Frank | 1973 |
| Cornelius E. Sedgwick | 1974 |
| Joseph E. Murray | 1975 |
| Gordon A. Donaldson | 1976 |
| Richard H. Egdahl | 1977 |
| Allan D. Callow | 1978 |
| Bradford Cannon | 1979 |
| Richard Warren | 1980 |
| George Austen, Jr. | 1981 |
| John W. Braasch | 1982 |
| Gordon J. Scannell | 1983 |
| John F. Burke | 1984 |

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|-------------------------|------|
| Donald C. Nabseth | 1985 |
| F. Henry Ellis, Jr. | 1986 |
| John A. Mannick | 1987 |
| George L. Nardi | 1988 |
| William Silen | 1989 |
| John R. Brooks | 1990 |
| Richard J. Cleveland | 1991 |
| Malcolm C. Veidenheimer | 1992 |

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|-----------------------|------|
| Blake Cady | 1993 |
| Paul S. Russell | 1994 |
| Ashby C. Moncure | 1995 |
| H. Brownell Wheeler | 1996 |
| Hermes C. Grillo | 1997 |
| W. Hardy Hendren, III | 1998 |
| M. Judah Folkman | 1999 |
| Andrew L. Warshaw | 2000 |
| Anthony D. Whittemore | 2001 |

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|---------------------|------|
| Patricia K. Donahoe | 2002 |
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|-----------------------|------|
| James O. Menzoian | 2003 |
| Thomas F. O'Donnell | 2004 |
| David F. Torchiana | 2005 |
| David W. Rattner | 2006 |
| Desmond H. Birkett | 2007 |
| Anthony S. Patton | 2008 |
| Francis D. Moore, Jr. | 2009 |
| Magruder C. Donaldson | 2010 |
| Robert Shamberger | 2011 |
| David Schoetz | 2012 |
| Russell Nauta | 2013 |
| David C. Brooks | 2014 |
| Susan Briggs, MD | 2015 |
| William Mackey | 2016 |
| Pardon Kenney | 2017 |
| Mark Callery | 2018 |

PRESIDENT-ELECT

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Elliot C. Cutler | 1945 |
| Joe V. Meigs | 1946 |
| Thomas H. Lanman | 1947 |
| Francis C Newton | 1948 |
| Leland S. McKittrick | 1949 |
| Richard B. Cattell | 1950 |
| Grantley W. Taylor | 1951 |
| Roger C. Graves | 1952 |
| Richard H. Sweet | 1953 |
| Samuel F. Marshall | 1954 |
| E. Everett O'Neil | 1955 |
| Langdon Parsons | 1956 |
| Henry H. Faxon | 1957 |
| Franc D. Ingraham | 1958 |
| Robert R. Linton | 1959 |
| Charles C. Lund | 1960 |

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|-------------------------|------|
| Reginald H. Smithwick | 1961 |
| Marshall K. Bartlett | 1962 |
| Jacob Fine | 1963 |
| Oliver Cope | 1964 |
| Claude E. Welch | 1965 |
| Bentley P. Colcock | 1966 |
| John J. Byrne | 1967 |
| Francis D. Moore | 1968 |
| Ralph A. Deterling, Jr. | 1969 |
| William V. McDermott | 1970 |
| J. Hartwell Harrison | 1971 |
| Howard A. Frank | 1972 |
| Connelius E. Sedgwick | 1973 |
| Joseph E. Murray | 1974 |
| Gordon A. Donaldson | 1975 |
| Richard H. Egdahl | 1976 |
| Allan D. Callow | 1977 |
| Bradford Cannon | 1978 |
| Richard Warren | 1979 |
| George Austen, Jr. | 1980 |
| John W. Braasch | 1981 |
| Gordon J. Scannell | 1982 |
| John F. Burke | 1983 |
| Donald C. Nabseth | 1984 |
| F. Henry Ellis, Jr. | 1985 |
| John A. Mannick | 1986 |
| George L. Nardi | 1987 |
| William Silen | 1988 |
| John R. Brooks | 1989 |
| Richard J. Cleveland | 1990 |
| Malcolm C. Veidenheimer | 1991 |
| Blake Cady | 1992 |
| Paul S. Russel | 1993 |
| Ashby C. Moncure | 1994 |
| H. Brownell Wheeler | 1995 |
| Hermes C. Grillo | 1996 |
| W. Hardy Hendren, III | 1997 |
| M. Judah Folkman | 1998 |
| Andrew L. Warshaw | 1999 |
| Anthony D. Whittemore | 2000 |
| Patricia K. Donahoe | 2001 |
| James O. Menzoian | 2002 |
| Thomas F. O'Donnell | 2003 |
| David F. Torchiana | 2004 |
| David W. Rattner | 2005 |
| Desmond H. Birkett | 2006 |
| Anthony S. Patton | 2007 |
| Francis D. Moore, Jr. | 2008 |
| Magruder C. Donaldson | 2009 |
| Robert C. Shamberger | 2010 |
| David Schoetz | 2011 |
| Russell Nauta | 2012 |
| David C. Brooks | 2013 |
| Susan Briggs | 2014 |
| William Mackey | 2015 |
| Pardon Kenney | 2016 |
| Mark Callery | 2017 |
| Frederick Millham | 2018 |

VICE-PRESIDENT

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | Charles L. Scudder | 1915-16 |
| | John Bapst Blake | 1917-18 |
| | Charles A. Porter | 1919-20 |
| | Franklin G. Balch | 1921-22 |
| George W. W. Brewster | | 1923-24 |
| | Frederic J. Cotton | 1925-26 |
| | William P. Graves | 1927-28 |
| | Horace Binney | 1929-30 |
| | Stephen Rushmore | 1931-32 |
| | Irving J. Walker | 1933-34 |
| Frank A. Pemberton | | 1935-36 |
| | Richard H. Miller | 1937-38 |
| | Robert C. Cochrane | 1939-40 |
| | Thomas H. Lanman | 1941-42 |
| | Charles C. Lund | 1943-44 |
| | Otto J. Hermann | 1945 |
| | George D. Cutler | 1946 |
| | Gilbert Horrax | 1947 |
| George Van S. Smith | | 1948 |
| | Robert C. Graves | 1949 |
| | Langdon Parsons | 1950 |
| | Jacob Fine | 1951 |
| | Franc D. Ingraham | 1952 |
| | E. Everett O'Neil | 1953 |
| | Ernest M. Daland | 1954 |
| | Henry H. Faxon | 1955 |
| | John W. Strieder | 1956 |
| | Herbert D. Adams | 1957 |
| J. Hartwell Harrison | | 1958 |
| | John W. Spellman | 1959 |
| | Edward A. Cooney | 1960 |
| | Oliver Cope | 1961 |
| | Thomas J. Anglem | 1962 |
| | Allen L. Davis | 1963 |
| | Richard Chute | 1964 |
| | Thomas B. Quigley | 1965 |
| | Louis Hermanson | 1966 |
| | Donald D. Matson | 1967 |
| | Howard Ulfelder | 1968 |
| | Bradford Cannon | 1969 |
| Gordon A. Donaldson | | 1970 |
| | Eugene A. Gaston | 1971 |
| | Chilton Crane | 1972 |
| | John R. Brooks | 1973 |
| | Melvin P. Osborne | 1974 |
| Harold F. Rheinlander | | 1975 |
| | Irad B. Hardy | 1976 |
| | Paul Gryska | 1977 |
| | George Austen | 1978 |
| | John W. Braasch | 1979 |
| | John F. Burke | 1980 |
| | Carter R. Rowe | 1981 |
| | Donald C. Nabseth | 1982 |
| | James M. Shannon | 1983 |
| | Edwin W. Salzman | 1984 |
| Frank C. Wheelock, Jr. | | 1985 |
| | George Starkey | 1986 |
| | John V. Pikula | 1987 |

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|------------------------|------|
| Eugene F. McDonough | 1988 |
| Charles W. Robertson | 1989 |
| William C. Quinby, Jr. | 1990 |
| David E. Marcello | 1991 |
| John J. Skillman | 1992 |
| W. Hardy Hendren, III | 1993 |
| John Shillito, Jr. | 1994 |
| Patricia K. Donahoe | 1995 |
| Desmond H. Birkett | 1996 |
| Anthony S. Patton | 1997 |
| Samuel H. Kim | 1998 |
| Frederick Ackroyd | 1999 |
| Thomas F. O'Donnell | 2000 |
| Clement A. Hiebert | 2001 |
| Meneloas Aliapoulis | 2002 |
| David C. Brewster | 2003 |
| Pardon R. Kenney | 2004 |
| Susan E. Briggs | 2005 |
| Walter B. Goldfarb | 2006 |
| James W. May | 2007 |
| Erwin Hirsch | 2008 |
| Willard M. Daggett | 2008 |
| Stanley W. Ashley | 2009 |
| Charles M. Ferguson | 2010 |
| Craig Lillehi | 2011 |
| Barbara Smith | 2012 |
| William Mackey | 2013 |
| Richard Ehrlichman | 2014 |
| Marc Rubin | 2015 |
| John Schueler | 2016 |
| Michael Watkins | 2017 |
| Donald Hess | 2018 |

SECRETARY-TREASURER

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Robert B. Greenough | 1915-16 |
| Lincoln Davis | 1917 |
| Waiter C. Howe | 1918-22 |
| Channing C. Simmons | 1923-26 |
| William C. Quinby | 1927-28 |
| Robert H. Miller | 1929-31 |
| Thomas H. Lanman | 1932-36 |
| Grantley W. Taylor | 1937-40 |
| Marshall K. Bartlett | 1941-42 |
| Richard B. Cattell | 1943-46 |
| Marshall K. Bartlett | 1947-48 |
| Claude E. Welch | 1949-52 |
| Lamar Souttar | 1953-56 |
| John J. Byrne | 1957-60 |
| Howard A. Frank | 1961-64 |
| Harold F. Rhineland | 1965-69 |
| John W. Braasch | 1970-73 |
| John F. Burke | 1974-77 |
| Michael Hume | 1978-81 |

SECRETARY

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Leslie W. Ottinger | 1982-1986 |
| Ashby C. Moncure | 1987-1992 |
| Ricardo L. Rossi | 1993-1994 |
| Anthony D. Whittemore | 1995-1999 |
| David W. Rattner | 2000-2004 |
| Magruder C. Donaldson | 2005-2009 |
| Jonathan Woodson | 2010-2011 |
| Mark Callery | 2012-2015 |
| David McAneny | 2016- |

TREASURER

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Patricia. Donahoe | 1982-1985 |
| Samuel H. Kim | 1986-1991 |
| Albert Bothe | 1992-1996 |
| James O. Menzoian | 1997-2002 |
| Francis D. Moore, Jr | 2003-2008 |
| David C. Brooks | 2009-2012 |
| Frederick Millham | 2013-2017 |
| Marc Rubin | 2018- |

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (Five-Year Term)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Franklin G. Balch | 1915 |
| John Bapst Blake | 1915-16 |
| John T. Bottomley | 1915-17 |
| Charles A. Porter | 1915-18 |
| James S. Stone | 1915-19 |
| Robert B. Osgood | 1916-20 |
| Arthur L. Chute | 1917-21 |
| John T. Bottomley | 1918-22 |
| John Bapst Blake | 1919-23 |
| Lincoln Davis | 1920-24 |
| Joshua C. Hubbard | 1921-25 |
| Daniel F. Jones | 1922-26 |
| Charles F. Painter | 1923-27 |
| John Homans | 1924-28 |
| William E. Ladd | 1925-29 |
| Richard H. Miller | 1926-29 |
| Channing C. Simmons | 1927-31 |
| Horace Binney | 1928-29 |
| William P. Graves | 1929-33 |
| William J. Mixter | 1930 |
| Halsey B. Loder | 1930-32 |
| Gilbert Horrax | 1930-34 |
| Frank H. Lahey | 1931-35 |
| William I. Mixter | 1932-36 |
| Arthur W. Allen | 1933-37 |
| Francis C Newton | 1934-38 |
| Donald Munro | 1935-39 |
| Howard M. Clute | 1936-40 |
| Frank R. Ober | 1937-41 |
| James C White | 1938-42 |
| Louis E. Phaneuf | 1939-43 |
| Otto J. Hermann | 1940-44 |
| Henry H. Faxon | 1941-45 |
| George Van S. Smith | 1942-46 |
| Francis C. Newton | 1943-47 |
| Jacob Fine | 1944-48 |
| Leland S. McKittrick | 1945-49 |
| Richard I. Smith | 1946-50 |
| Samuel N. Vose | 1947-51 |
| C. Stuart Welch | 1948-52 |
| Henry H. Faxon | 1949-53 |
| John W. Spellman | 1950-54 |
| Alexander J.A. Campbell | 1951-55 |
| Thomas J. Anglem | 1952-56 |
| J. Englebert Dunphy | 1953-57 |
| Marshall K. Bartlett | 1954-58 |
| David D. Berlin | 1955-59 |
| Orvar Swenson | 1956-60 |
| Lamar Souttar | 1957-61 |
| Charles G. Child, III | 1958 |
| Thomas W. Botsford | 1958-62 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Bentley P. Colcock | 1959-63 |
| | Claude E. Welch | 1960-64 |
| | John J. Byrne | 1961-65 |
| Ralph A. Deterling, Jr. | | 1962-66 |
| | Richard Warren | 1964-67 |
| William V. McDermott, Jr. | | 1964-68 |
| | Howard A. Frank | 1965-69 |
| | Richard Egdahl | 1966-70 |
| | Donald C. Nabseth | 1967-71 |
| Cornelius E. Sedgwick | | 1968-72 |
| | George L. Nardi | 1969-73 |
| | Richard H. Stanton | 1970-74 |
| | George Austen | 1971-75 |
| | John A. Mannick | 1972-76 |
| | Allan D. Callow | 1973-77 |
| | Paul S. Russell | 1974-78 |
| | Carter R. Rowe | 1975-79 |
| | Carl K. Olsson | 1976-79 |
| | Michael Hume | 1977-78 |
| | Herbert Hechtman | 1978-82 |
| | Edwin Salzman | 1978-83 |
| Frank C Wheelock, Jr. | | 1979-84 |
| | M.C. Veidenheimer | 1980-85 |
| | F. Henry Ellis, Jr. | 1979-80 |
| | William Silen | 1981-85 |
| | Lester Williams | 1982-84 |
| Richard J. Cleveland | | 1983-87 |
| | Jade S. Parker | 1984-88 |
| | James M. Shannon | 1985-89 |
| | Charles N. Peabody | 1985-86 |
| | Lucian L. Leape | 1986 |
| | David E. Marcello | 1987-90 |
| | John J. Skillman | 1987-91 |
| | Glenn Steele | 1988-92 |
| | Isaac O. Mehrez | 1989-94 |
| | Edward B. Gray, Jr. | 1990-94 |
| H. Brownell Wheeler | | 1991-95 |
| | David J. Martini | 1992-97 |
| Desmond H. Birkett | | 1993-98 |
| Thomas F. O'Donnell | | 1994-99 |
| | John G. Sullivan | 1995-2000 |
| | Frank W. LoGerfo | 1995-2000 |
| | Joseph K. Hurd | 1995-2002 |
| | Mitchell P. Fink | 1998-1999 |
| Richard S. Swanson | | 1999-2004 |
| Douglas J. Mathisen | | 2000-2001 |
| | David J. Schoetz | 2000-2003 |
| Walter B. Goldfarb | | 2000-2005 |
| Douglas J. Mathisen | | 2002-2006 |
| Barbara L. Smith | | 2003-2007 |
| Jay J. Schnitzer | | 2004-2008 |
| Russell J. Nauta | | 2005-2009 |
| Jonathan Woodson | | 2006-2010 |
| David B. McAneny | | 2007-2011 |
| Paul C. Shellito | | 2008-2012 |
| Frederick H. Millham | | 2009-2013 |
| Steven Schwaitzberg | | 2011-2014 |
| Marc Rubin | | 2011-2014 |
| Patricia Roberts | | 2011-2015 |
| Elliott Chaikoff | | 2012-2016 |
| Michael Watkins | | 2012-2016 |
| Steven Fishman | | 2013-2017 |
| Peter Burke | | 2014-2018 |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Gerard Doherty | 2015-2019 |
| Claire Cronin | 2017-2020 |
| Robert Driscoll | 2017-2020 |
| Kevin McCarthy | 2018-2021 |

DINNER CHAIRMAN

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| John B. McKittrick | 1953 |
| Howard A. Frank | 1954-56 |
| Frank C. Wheelock, Jr. | 1957-61 |
| Cornelius E. Sedgwick | 1962-65 |
| George W.B. Starkey | 1966-69 |
| Paul E. Gryska | 1970-72 |
| John V. Pikula | 1973-75 |
| Charles W. Robertson | 1976-78 |
| Ashby C. Moncure | 1979-81 |
| Ricard L. Rossi | 1985-88 |
| Randolph B. Reinhold | 1989-91 |
| Frederick Ackroyd | 1992-98 |
| Magruder C. Donaldson | 1999-2004 |
| Timothy Babineau | 2005-2006 |
| Daniel B. Jones | 2006-2011 |
| Steven Schwaizberg | 2012-2015 |
| Richard Ehrlicman | 2016-2018 |