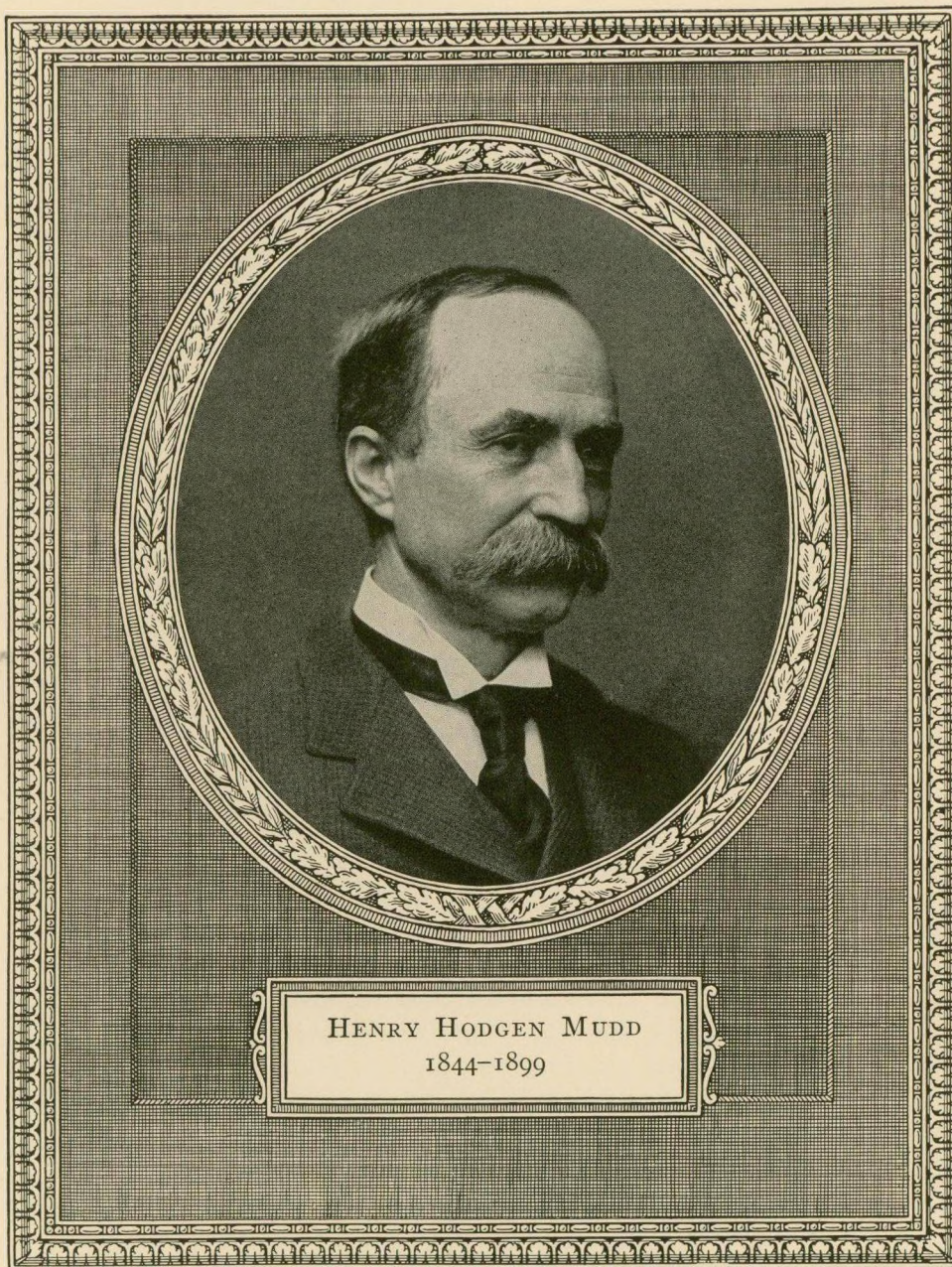




HENRY HODGEN MUDD
1844-1899

MASTER SURGEONS OF AMERICA

HENRY HODGEN MUDD

HENRY HODGEN MUDD, eldest son of Henry Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth (Hodgen) Mudd, was born in Pittsfield, Illinois, April 27, 1844. The earliest record shows that in the fifteenth century some members of the family were forced by religious or political persecution to leave Poland and seek refuge in Wales. The history of the family in America goes back to 1634 when three brothers emigrated from Wales to this country, coming over in the service of Lord Baltimore, governor general of Maryland. It is from one of these brothers that Dr. Mudd traces his descent.

In 1856 Dr. Mudd, then a lad of 11, came with the family from Pittsfield to St. Louis, where he spent the remainder of his life. Educated in her public schools and the Washington University, and pre-eminent in her medical circles for many years, St. Louis may justly claim him as one of her distinguished sons.

He received his medical degree from the St. Louis Medical College in 1866 and was immediately appointed interne in the St. Louis City Hospital where he remained a year. In 1867-68 he served as acting assistant surgeon with the 13th U. S. Infantry stationed in Montana. Returning to St. Louis he began civil practice with his uncle, Dr. John T. Hodgen, January 1, 1869.

It was inevitable from his connection with so distinguished a surgeon as Dr. Hodgen that his practice should become more and more surgical and finally be limited to surgery. Success in this field brought him a large practice and a reputation that acclaimed him the leading surgeon of his city and state and made him nationally known.

A skillful operator, careful and conscientious in his work, he possessed unusual surgical judgment, the result of constant study and the knowledge gained by experience. Rationally conservative he was not restrained by timidity or indecision from carrying out whatever measures, however radical, his judgment approved. He could be bold but never reckless and he met every emergency with coolness. In his relations with his patients, honesty and disinterestedness were outstanding characteristics of the man and won for him their confidence and esteem. Able surgeon that he was and exceptional as were his achievements in that line, his most important work undoubtedly was done in the field of medical education.

For nearly the whole of his professional life he was connected with the St. Louis Medical College, as prosector and demonstrator of anatomy from 1872 to 1883; professor of anatomy from 1880 to 1883; professor of anatomy and clinical surgery from 1883 to 1886; professor of surgical anatomy and clinical surgery from 1886 to 1890; and professor of clinical surgery and dean of the faculty in 1890. His service as teacher and executive was terminated only by his death, November 20, 1899.

As a teacher his constant aim was to make his instruction practical and helpful to his students and he sought to impress them by the clearness of his presentation rather than by ornate diction or elaborate oratory. His lectures therefore were simple, logical, and full of useful suggestions. He was quick to recognize merit in his students and his quiet smile of approval or occasional word of commendation was valued more by them than would have been effusive praise from others. His influence on them was not confined to the class room, for from his character and example they gained an incentive to uprightness and high ideals which must have had a lasting, if unconscious, effect upon their later lives.

As dean of the medical school his unusual administrative ability and his far-sighted policy made him a powerful factor in the advancement of medical education in the Middle West. It was a time of transition and of increasing demands upon the resources of independent medical schools and he fully realized the necessity of a university connection for them if they were completely to fulfill their obligations. It was in the second year of his deanship that the St. Louis Medical College became the Medical Department of Washington University, a union destined to develop one of the great medical schools of the country.

Dr. Mudd was for many years surgeon in chief of St. Luke's Hospital and through his ability and reputation contributed very largely to its growth and prestige. He took an active part in the work of the St. Louis Medical Society and was its president in 1881. He was also a member of the Medical Fund Society of St. Louis (an organization formed solely for the betterment of medical education), the Missouri State Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Surgical Association.

Dr. Mudd's most important published articles are the one on "Hernia" in *Wood's Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences*, the one on the "Surgery of the Mouth and Tongue" in Dennis' *System of Surgery*, and the chapter on "Fractures and Dislocations" in Park's *Surgery by American Authors*. Besides these he was the author of many valuable papers read before various medical societies which, unfortunately, have not been preserved.

He was modest in self appraisal, undemonstrative, and somewhat reserved in manner, and his strength of character and the charm of his personality won for him the confidence and affection of all who knew him well.

He was generous and sympathetic and no one who came to him for advice or assistance failed to find in him a wise counselor or ready helper.

He spent his life in service to others. What higher commendation than this can any man deserve!

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name He writes not that you won or lost—but how you played the game."

When the light of such a life goes out there lingers long in the minds and hearts of those upon whom its light has fallen an afterglow of pleasant memories to encourage and cheer.

JOHN B. SHAPLEIGH.