

WHY THEY BECAME DOCTORS

by NOAH D. FABRICANT, M.D.



GEORGE W. CRILE

HUMOR occasionally plays a role in the selection of a serious lifework. Some time before he studied medicine, George W. Crile's interest was stimulated by an amusing obstetric experience. The village physician called Crile one evening to ask whether Crile would watch a prospective mother while he made a call on a patient requiring immediate attention. Crile agreed. Events moved along rapidly. It was the first maternity experience for the mother-to-be, as well as for Crile, who expected the village physician to return in time for the delivery. To his great relief, a reinforcement arrived at midnight in the person of a thin, aged midwife carrying a small black bag.

About 2 a.m. matters seemed to be reaching a crisis. Convinced that there were fatal complications ahead, Crile kept close watch on the old midwife's face. Suddenly she exclaimed, "Well, Doc, don't you think we'd better quill her?" Although he had no idea of what she meant, Crile quickly approved. She removed a goose quill and a box of snuff from the little black bag, filled the quill with snuff, and inserted one end of it into the patient's nostril while placing the other end in her own mouth. The old woman blew hard. A tremendous sneeze followed, and the baby arrived precipitately. Thus was George W.

Crile first encouraged to become a doctor.

After Crile received his medical degree in 1887, he went abroad to study in Vienna, London and Paris. Following his return to Cleveland, he joined the faculty of Western Reserve University where he served successively as demonstrator of histology, professor of physiology, and clinical professor of surgery. The latter position he held until 1924, when he retired—not to rest but to found and head the Cleveland Clinic.

Crile became one of the outstanding surgeons of his generation, deeply interested in physiological problems. His studies and contributions on shock, hemorrhage, blood transfusion, anoci-association to prevent surgical shock, thyroid surgery, and the surgical treatment of arterial hypertension, are lasting contributions to the development of modern surgery.

George W. Crile was a man of prodigious energy with wide medical and cultural interests. Among his books are "Diseases Peculiar to Civilized Man," "Phenomena of Life," and "Intelligence, Power and Personality." He was gifted with an unusual imagination, an infectious enthusiasm, great tact, innate modesty and deep compassion. All of these qualities combined to make him a beloved figure among his contemporaries.

2300 YEARS OF MEDICAL COSTUME

from the time of Hippocrates to the Napoleonic era



Number XI and XII of a Series of Twelve Prints

Painted by the Swiss artist, Warja Honegger-Lavater, from authentic costume reproductions in the University of Rome's Institute of Medical History, Professor A. Pazzini, Director.

PRINT NUMBER XI—*Surgeon, 18th Century*. Background objects: Surgical saw, lithotomy tongues, surgical spoons and medicine spoon.

PRINT NUMBER XII—*Army Surgeon of Napoleonic Era*. Background objects: Surgical saw, knife and other instruments.

FRAMING SUGGESTION: Mat prints in white or light gray, allowing several inches of the mat around picture as shown in this color sketch. Use ½- to ¾-inch natural- or medium-toned wood frame.

A portfolio containing reprints of the twelve drawings is available upon written request to Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Illinois.