

JUNE 29, 1982

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

DANA ATCHLEY, 89, A TEACHING DOCTOR

Physician Served on the Staff
at Presbyterian Hospital
— Active in Research

Dr. Dana W. Atchley, who blended research, teaching and medical practice and achieved prominence in all three areas, died Sunday at his home in Englewood, N.J. He was 89 years old and had been ill for several years.

His patients included Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Mike Todd, Elizabeth Taylor, Arthur Godfrey, Sara Teasdale, the poet, and Phyllis McGinley, the writer.

Dr. Atchley was a leader in the study of electrolyte balance — the degree of concentration of such elements as potassium and sodium in body fluids — in relation to a variety of disease states.

One study, which linked disturbances in electrolyte balance to a facet of diabetes, has been termed a classic of clinical investigation. The study was instrumental in the modern understanding of the complications of diabetes.

Hospital Unit Named for Him

The Dana W. Atchley Pavilion, an office complex at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, where the doctor spent his entire career except for a stint from 1919 to 1921 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, was named in his honor in 1968. The Association of American Physicians awarded him its Kober Medal in 1959.

Dr. Atchley, who was a prolific contributor to medical journals and textbooks, also wrote for The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly and The Saturday Review of Literature on the relationship between the medical profession and society.

Dr. Atchley's wife, the former Mary C. Phister, died on May 4.

He is survived by three sons, Dana Jr. of Lincoln, Mass.; Dr. John A. Atchley of Manhattan, Dr. William A. Atchley of Tiburon, Calif.; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Columbia-Presbyterian at a date to be announced.