



FRED WHARTON RANKIN, M.D.
Lexington, Ky.
1886-

*Ninety-sixth President, A. M. A.
Atlantic City Session
June 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1942*



WITH THE ELECTION OF DR. FRED W. RANKIN as president of the Association, again a surgeon of international repute was accorded the highest honor in the province of scientific medicine. He had also participated notably in the affairs of the Association and other scientific bodies.

He was born in Mooresville, North Carolina, on December 20, 1886. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Davidson College in 1905, he entered the University of Maryland Medical School, Baltimore, and graduated with the degree Doctor of Medicine in 1909. He received the Master of Arts degree from St. John's College in 1913.

Following his graduation in medicine he became a resident surgeon at the University Hospital in Baltimore from 1909 to 1912, and served as assistant demonstrator of anatomy and associate in surgery at the University of Maryland Medical School from 1913 to 1916. He then joined the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., acting as assistant surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital from 1916 to 1923. For one academic year, 1922-23, he served as professor of surgery at the University of Louisville. In 1923 he married Miss Edith Mayo, a daughter of Dr. Charles H. Mayo. He was appointed surgeon to the Mayo Clinic and associate professor in the Graduate

Medical School, University of Minnesota and Mayo Foundation in 1926, remaining until 1933 when he removed to Lexington, Kentucky, for the practice of surgery.

He has been surgeon to St. Joseph's and the Good Samaritan hospitals of Lexington since January 1, 1934. Since 1941 he has been professor of clinical surgery at the University of Louisville.

In the first World War, Doctor Rankin served as a Major in the Medical Corps for seventeen months, and was attached to the First Army Corps, 4th and 26th divisions, in France, and as Commanding Officer of Base Hospital No. 26. At the close of the war he became a Colonel in the Medical Reserve Corps.

In the American Medical Association he was a member of the House of Delegates, representing the Section on Surgery from 1935 through 1940. In 1936 he was appointed to the membership of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, in which body he was very active until his election to the presidency in 1941. In 1940, the speaker of the House of Delegates appointed Dr. Rankin a member of the Committee on Medical Preparedness, and he was most assiduous in the duties of this committee, and specially for military preparedness in the Fifth Corps Area.

Doctor Rankin was ordered to active duty March 1, 1942 as Consulting Surgeon in the office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army, with the rank of Colonel. He therefore appeared in uniform at the annual session in Atlantic City June, 1942. In his inaugural address he spoke of "The Responsibilities of Medicine in War Time," and referred to its being a quarter of a century since the Association met during war time to install a president. In 1917 the annual session was held in New York City two months after the opening of World War I. The president in 1917 was Dr. Charles H. Mayo, father-in-law of Doctor Rankin—an interesting coincidence. The title of President Mayo's address was "War's Influence on Medicine."

The address of President Rankin was an able, scholarly and serious analysis of the responsibilities that American medicine must assume in wartime. In 1943 Colonel Rankin was advanced to the rank of Brigadier General, Medical Corps, U. S. Army. As Chief Consulting Surgeon to the office of the Surgeon General he made journeys to the theaters of war in North Africa, Europe, the Pacific and the Far East.

At the session of the House of Delegates of the Association in Chicago in December 1945, a special ceremony was arranged for awarding the Distinguished Service Medal to Brigadier General Fred W. Rankin for "exceptional meritorious services from March 1942 to August 1945, which involved the responsibilities of the assignment

of the highest type of surgical personnel and the selection of the most modern surgical supplies and equipment available."

Doctor Rankin has been honored by many medical organizations including the presidency of the Southern Surgical Association and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and member of the American Surgical Association, American Proctologic Society, Eastern and Western Surgical Associations, and Southern Medical Association. When the American Board of Surgery was organized in 1937, he was one of the founder members representing the Section on Surgery of the American Medical Association.

His contributions include a monograph on "Surgery of the Colon"; a work on "The Colon, Rectum and Anus" published in 1932 jointly with Drs. J. A. Bargen and L. A. Buie, and a work on "Cancer of the Colon and Rectum" published with Dr. A. S. Graham in 1939. He has also contributed chapters on these subjects in several systems of surgery. During the war period he published several interesting articles on "some current medico-military problems."

Doctor Rankin received the honorary degree Doctor of Science from Davidson College in 1937, and the University of Maryland in 1939. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi societies, and honorary member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

His has been a career of distinction and of usefulness with the promise of further eminent service for human welfare in the years to come.

