Lessons from my Quirky 60-Year Career

History of Noble Wiley Jones

Noble Wiley Jones, a physician, scholar, and gentleman, was born in Wauseon, Ohio in 1876 to physician Philo E. Jones and his wife Mary Eveline. He graduated from Stanford University in 1895 (with classmate and later President of the United States Herbert Hoover). His medical degree was granted by Rush Medical School in 1901, and he completed an internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. There, he helped take care of 1,000 patients afflicted with typhoid during the 1902 epidemic.

After almost two years of private practice in Wilmot, South Dakota, Jones traveled to Vienna to study pathology at the Allgemeines Krankenhaus. Returning to the U.S. in 1906, Jones was encouraged by his colleagues, Dr. Frank Billings and Dr. A.D. Bevan to take up residence in Portland, Oregon. He did so, becoming the first recognized internal medicine specialist in the city. In 1913, he opened a multispecialty group practice with Drs. R.C. Coffey, T.M. Joyce, and C.E. Sears. After World War I, the group splintered; Jones then went on to form the Portland Clinic in 1921 with Joyce, Frank Kistner, and Laurence Selling. He was Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Oregon Medical School (Oregon Health & Science University) from 1921-1926. He practiced until 1944, when he retired after nearly 50 years in practice.