

Boston Pathology: the Founders and their Descendants

History of Pathology Society, 2015

Robert H. Young, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School

The 19th Century and the Era of Physician-Pathologists:

The Warrens and Their Colleagues

Michael J. O'Brien, Boston University School of Medicine

The Turn of the Last Century and the Transition to Full-Time Pathologists:

William Councilman, Frank Burr Mallory, and James Homer Wright

David N. Louis, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School

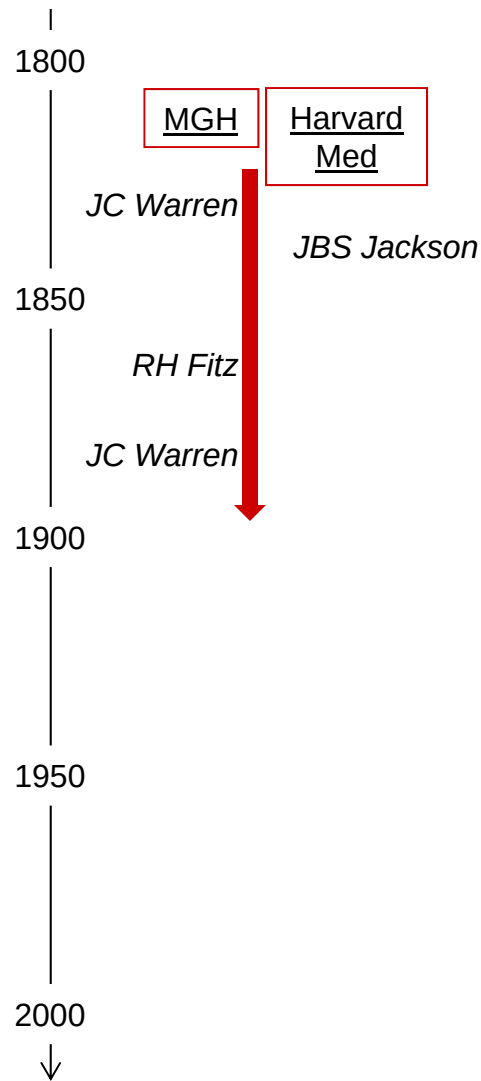
The Early 20th Century and the Spread of Pathology in Boston:

The Many Hospitals and Many Descendants

Boston Pathology: the Founders and their Descendants

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1800
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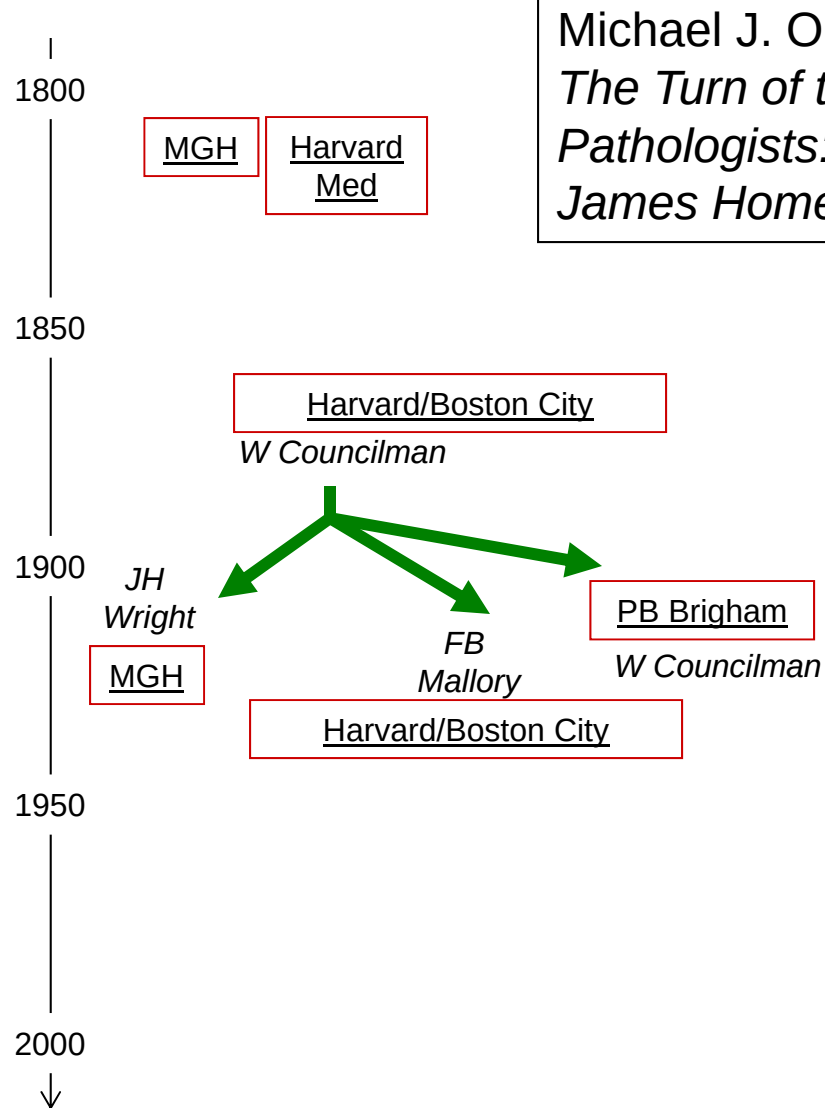
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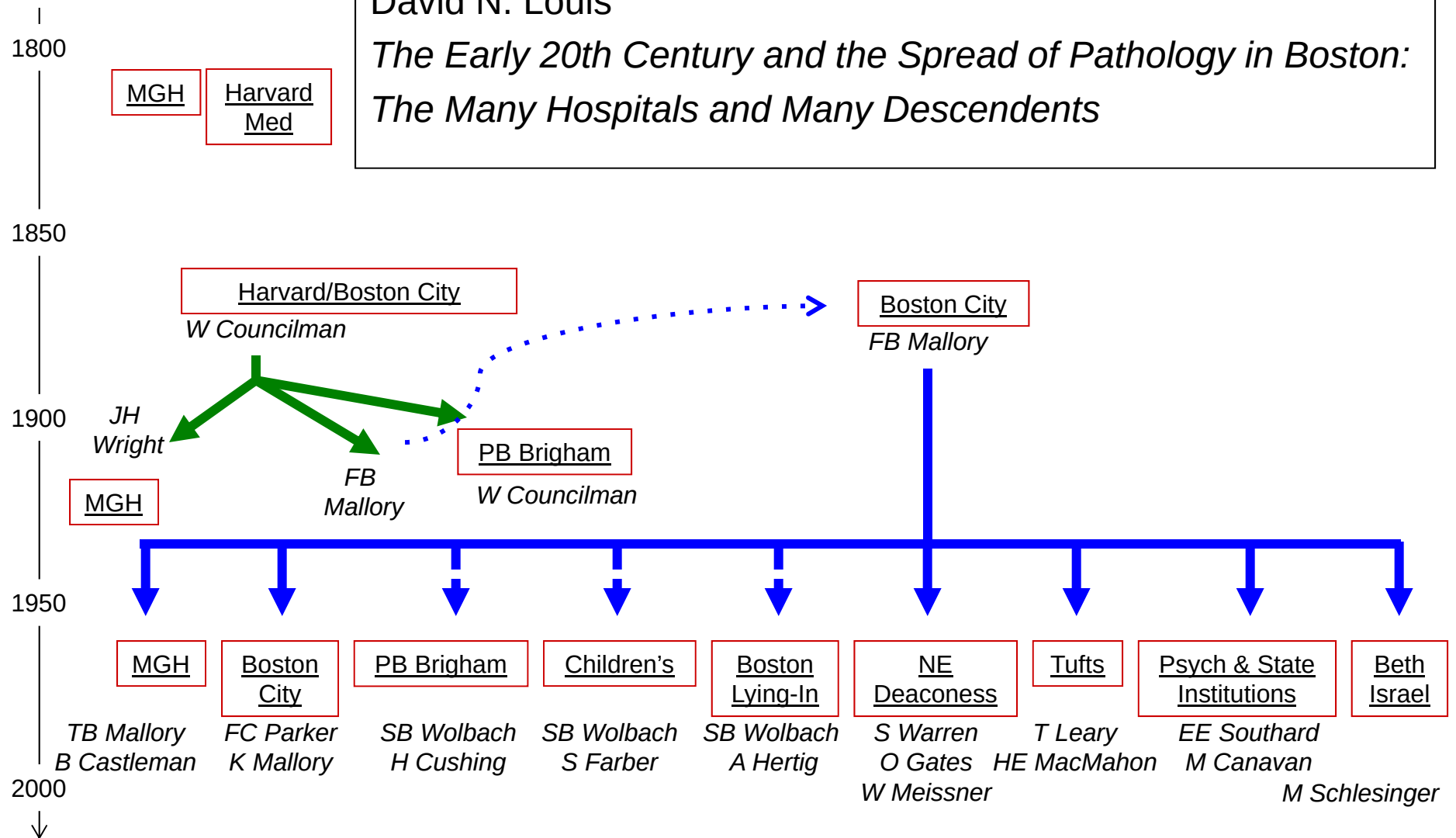
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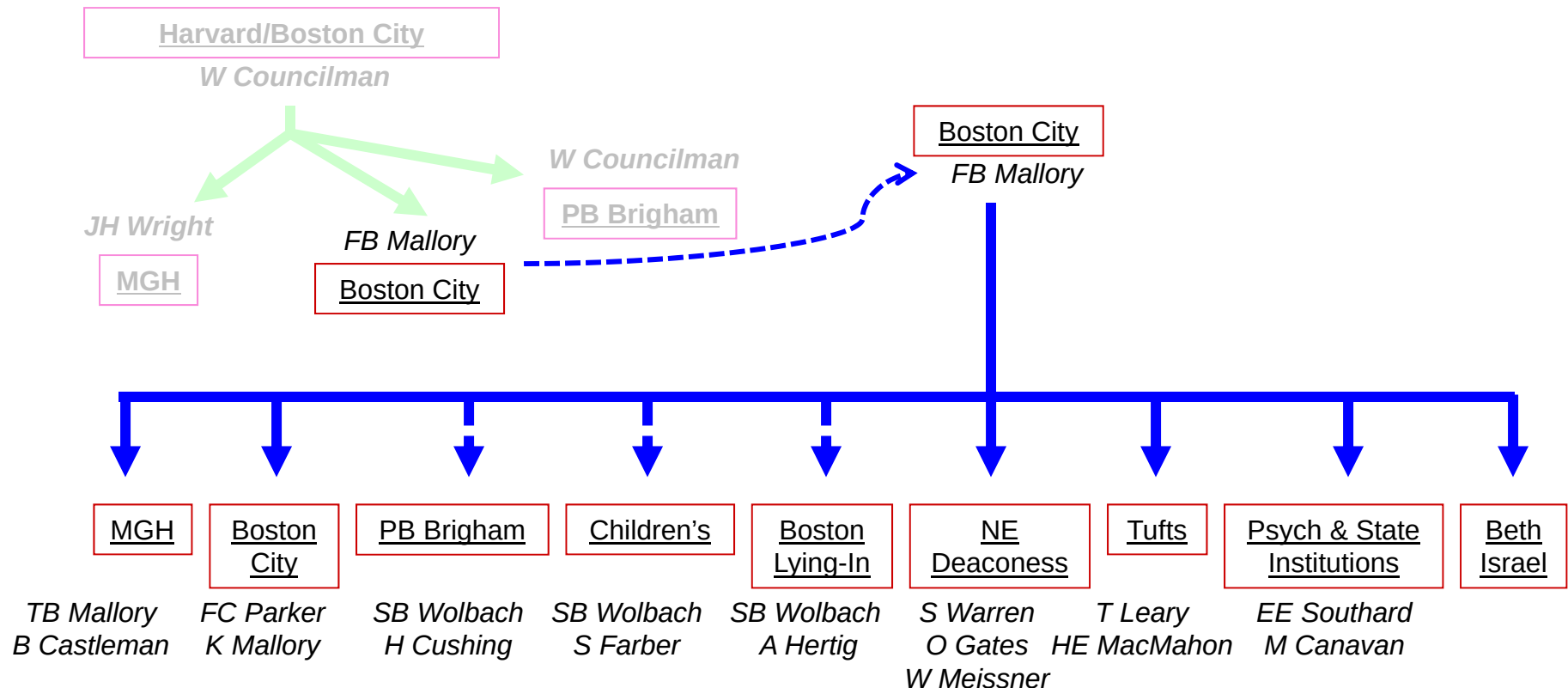
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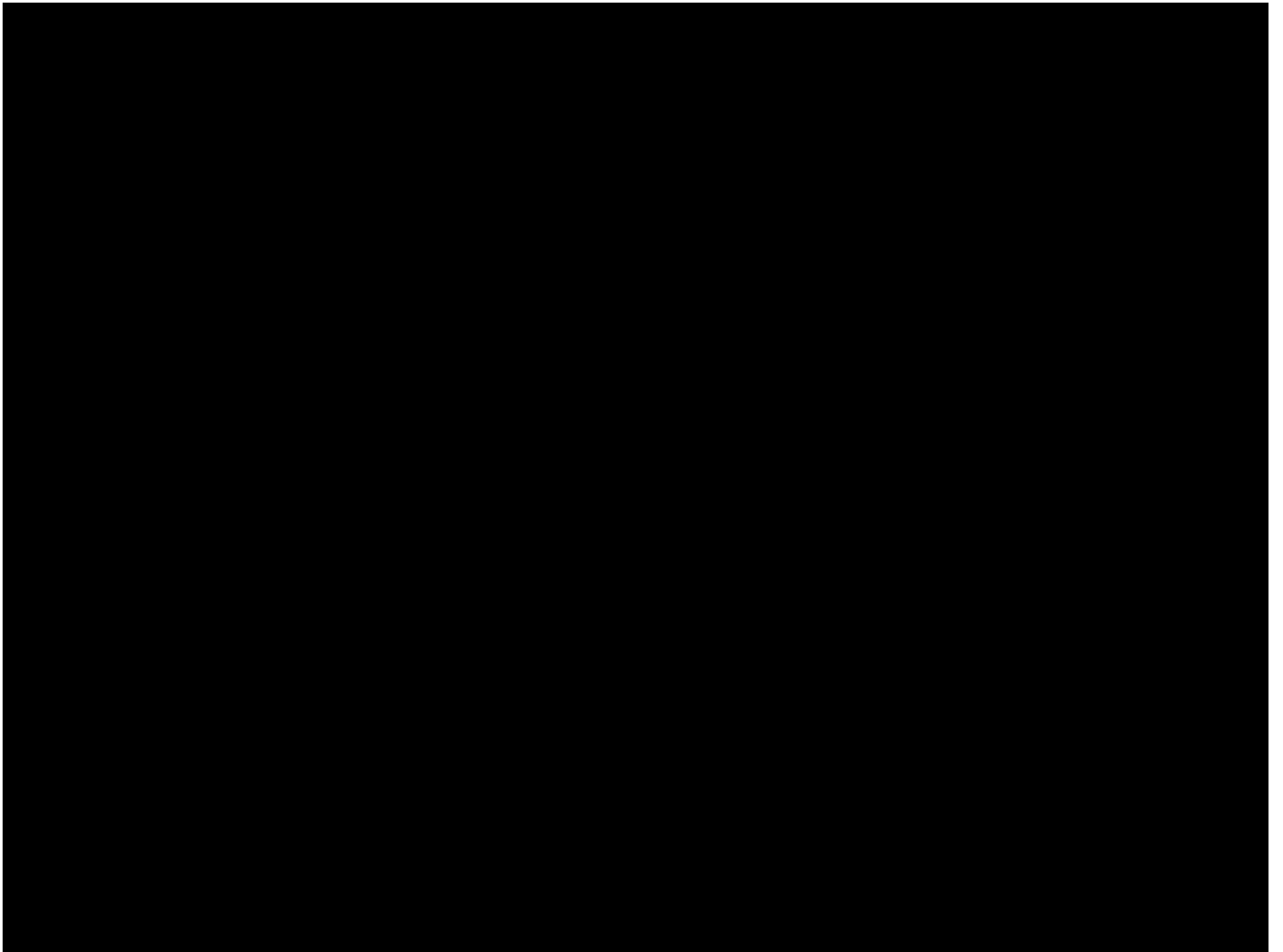


Boston Pathology: the Founders and their Descendants



David N. Louis

*The Early 20th Century and the Spread of Pathology in Boston:
The Many Hospitals and Many Descendants*



The 19th century and the era of
physician-pathologists:
The Warrens and their colleagues

Robert H. Young MD

Robert E Scully Professor of Pathology,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Harvard Medical School.

*Centennial Celebration
of the
James Homer Wright
Pathology Laboratories
1896-1996*



*Massachusetts General Hospital
October 11-13, 1996*

Guiding The Surgeon's Hand

*The History of
American Surgical Pathology*

EDITOR

Juan Rosai

Chapter 6

**SURGICAL PATHOLOGY AT THE
HOSPITALS OF HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL**

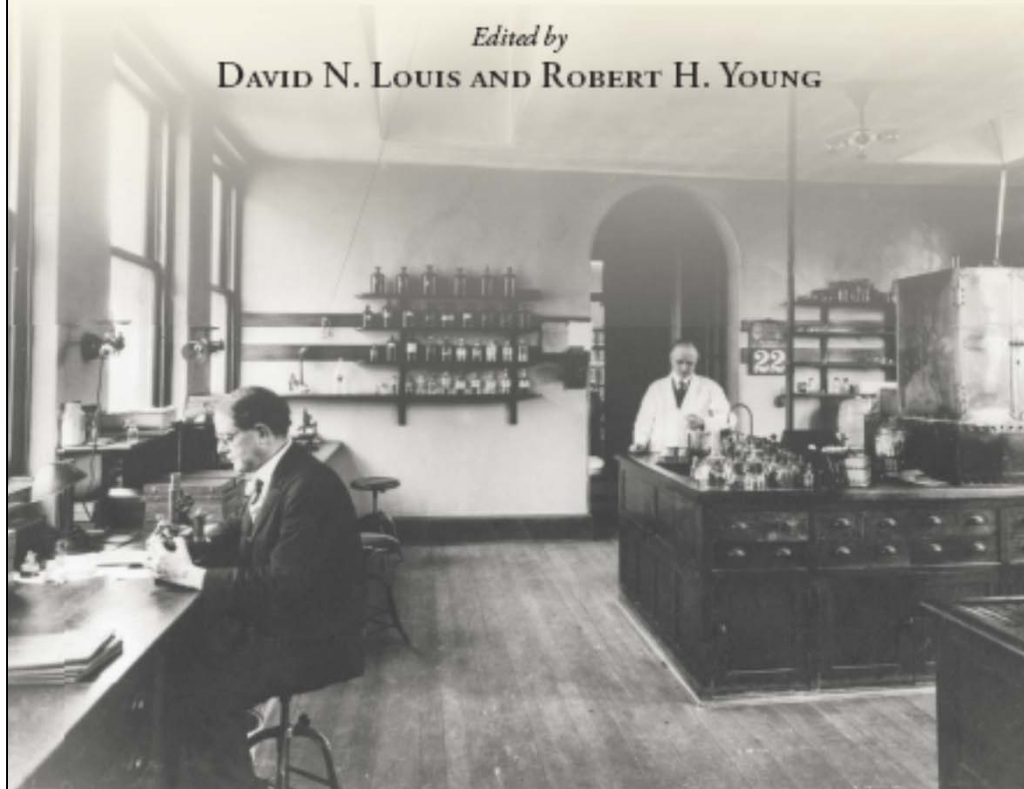
Robert E. Scully, M.D. and Austin L. Vickery, Jr., M.D.

KEEN MINDS *to Explore the* DARK CONTINENTS *of Disease*

A HISTORY OF THE PATHOLOGY SERVICES AT
THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Edited by

DAVID N. LOUIS AND ROBERT H. YOUNG



Early M.G.H. Milestones

- 1810 Activities of Reverend Bartlett and Drs. Warren and Jackson
- 1811 Charter
- 1817 Warren and Jackson appointed Surgeon and Physician
- 1818 July 4th, Bulfinch cornerstone laid
- 1821 Sept. 3rd, first patient



THE WARREN BUILDING

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WARREN FAMILY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDICINE AND SURGERY OF THE NEW WORLD

DR. JOSEPH
WARREN
1741 - 1775

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER
AND PATRIOT
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE
ON BUNKER HILL
AS A GENERAL OFFICER
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY
AT THE HEAD
OF HIS TROOPS

DR. JOHN
WARREN
1753 - 1815

LEADER IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE MEDICAL INSTITUTION
OF HARVARD COLLEGE
FIRST PROFESSOR
OF ANATOMY AND SURGERY
A FOUNDER OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY
DIRECTOR OF A MILITARY HOSPITAL
NEAR THIS SITE
DURING THE REVOLUTION

DR. JOHN COLLINS
WARREN
1778 - 1856

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND
SURGERY AT HARVARD
AND SURGEON TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
JOINED WITH JAMES JACKSON
IN THE FOUNDATION
OF THE HOSPITAL
WHERE HE PERFORMED THE
HISTORIC OPERATION UNDER
ETHER ON 16 OCTOBER 1846

DR. JONATHAN
MASON WARREN
1811 - 1867

VISITING SURGEON
AT THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
INTRODUCED THE ART
OF PLASTIC SURGERY FROM
EUROPE TO AMERICA
AND FIRST PERFORMED FREE
TRANSPLANT OF HUMAN SKIN

DR. JOHN COLLINS
WARREN
1842 - 1927

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AT HARVARD
A VISITING SURGEON AT THE HOSPITAL
PIONEERED IN BRINGING TO AMERICA
LYSTERS TECHNIQUE OF
SURGICAL HEALING WITHOUT INFECTION
PERFORMED ON THIS SITE IN 1888
THE FIRST OPERATION IN A NEW SURGICAL
BUILDING DESIGNED TO PROTECT PATIENTS
FROM OPERATIVE INFECTIONS
WITH HENRY P. BURNAP
BROUGHT THE GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF
A NEW HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TO COMPLETION IN 1906

DR. JOHN
WARREN
1874 - 1928

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ANATOMY AT HARVARD
EXTENDER OF THE ARCHITECTURE
OF THE HUMAN BODY
THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH
ALL MODERN MEDICINE
AND SURGERY
IS BASED

NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL

MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Vol. I.]

JANUARY, 1812.

[No. I.]

REMARKS ON ANGINA PECTORIS.

BY JOHN WARREN, M. D.

In our inquiries into any particular subject of Medicine, our labours will generally be shortened and directed to their proper objects, by a knowledge of preceding discoveries.

When Dr. Heberden, in the London Medical Transactions, first described a disease under the name of Angina Pectoris, so little had it attracted the attention of physicians, that much surprise was excited by the communication. From the most striking and distressing symptoms, with which it was attended, pain and stricture about the breast, it received from him its denomination; and he soon after published farther remarks on this subject, with the history of a case and appearances on dissection.

That all the cases which this author had noticed as accompanied with affections of a *somewhat similar nature*, were instances of true Angina Pectoris, is by no means probable; for not less than one hundred of those were supposed by him to have fallen under his observation. Of those, three only were women, one a boy; all the rest were men, and about the age of fifty.

In the same work were communicated some observations on this disease made by Dr. Wall, who likewise added a case of dissection.

Dr. Fothergill, in the fifth volume of the London Medical Observations and Inquiries, 1774, published his remarks upon An-

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Warren, J. "Remarks on Angina Pectoris." *The New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* 1812; 1(1):1-11.

"Remarks on Angina Pectoris" was the inaugural article of the first issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. The *Journal* was founded in 1812 by John Collins Warren (1778-1856), who one year prior (1811) had co-founded the Massachusetts General Hospital with James Jackson.

Although both men contributed articles to Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Journal*, page 1 was reserved for Dr. Warren's father, John Warren (1753-1815), a Revolutionary War surgeon and co-founder of Harvard Medical School.

We can easily imagine that the junior Dr. Warren honored his elderly father with Page 1 of his new journal, commemorating in perpetuity the profound respect and generosity of spirit that continues to define the MGH family today.

The first eleven original volumes of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery* are housed on the MGH campus as part of the hospital's Archives and Special Collections.



J.C. Warren

- Born 1778
- Family lived in downtown Boston
- At 15 years of age-Harvard College
- Graduated 1797
- Then one year studying French

Warren-Continued

- 1799- to England
- Dresser to Mr. W. Cooper
- Next year to Astley Cooper
- Autumn 1800- Edinburgh
- 1801-1802-Paris
- Then home, marriage, practice
- No. 2 Park St.

Warren-continued

- Active interest in Mass. Med. Society
with Dr. James Jackson
- 1806 Adj. Professor Anatomy and Surgery
HMS
- 1810 Medical school to Boston
- 1815 New medical school building, death
of father
- 1810-1821 Birth of M.G.H.

Leeds Bodman

SURGICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

TUMOURS,

WITH

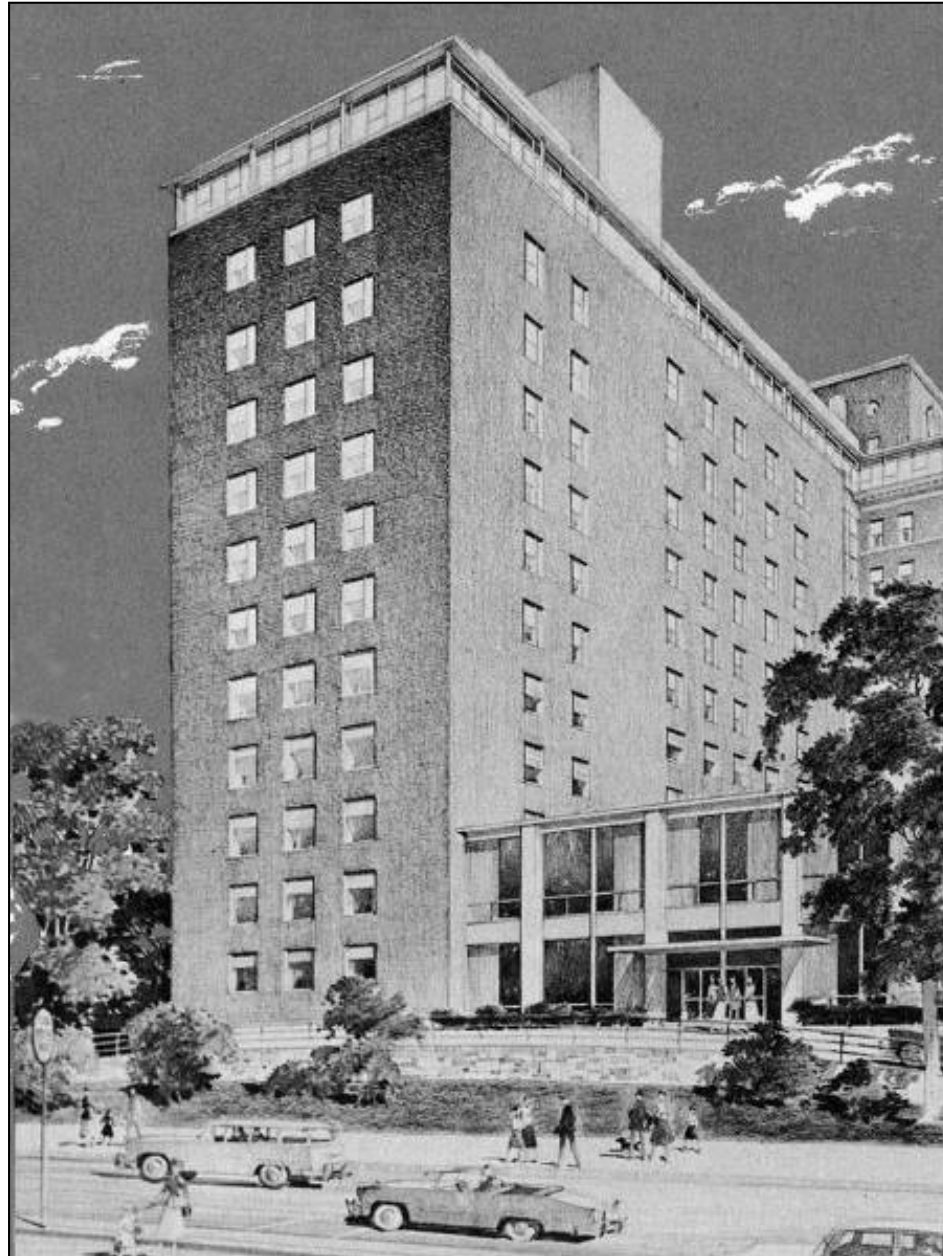
CASES AND OPERATIONS.

BY

JOHN C. WARREN, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND SURGERY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
AND SURGEON OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

BOSTON:
CROCKER AND BREWSTER.
1837.





DEDICATORY EXERCISES

JAMES HOMER WRIGHT PATHOLOGY LABORATORIES
TRACY BURR MALLORY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DECEMBER 15, 1956

WARREN BUILDING LOBBY

2:30 P.M.

Chairman

BENJAMIN CASTLEMAN, M.D., Chief, Department of Pathology

ARTHUR WILBURN ALLEN, M.D., Board of Trustees, Massachusetts General Hospital

DEAN ALEXANDER CLARK, M.D., General Director, Massachusetts General Hospital

FRED WALDORF STEWART, M.D., Pathologist, Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City

ARTHUR TREMAIN HERTIG, M.D., Shattuck Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Harvard Medical School

WILLIAM MERRILL SILLIPHANT, M.D., Captain, M. C. USN, Director, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

WILLIAM BOYD, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Emeritus, University of Toronto

JAMES HOWARD MEANS, M.D., Formerly Chief of Medical Services, Massachusetts General Hospital

The laboratories and library will be open for inspection after the exercises

New M.G.H. Building Is Monument To Six Generations of Dr. Warrens



(Globe Staff Photo by Paul J. Conroy)

NEW WARREN MEDICAL AND SCIENCE BUILDING of the Massachusetts General Hospital on Charles st. between the Baker Memorial and the Phillips House. This modern structure of 12 stories with glass and steel is in contrast to the domed old Bulfinch Building built in 1819.

By FRANCES BURNS

There was a Warren on the Mayflower, but the Warrens are best known in Boston today as one of the great medical families, carrying on the tradition of healing by medicine and surgery in successive generations.

Today six of them were honored when the new \$5 million, 12-story medical and science building of the Massachusetts General Hospital was dedicated as the Warren Building.

Bronze plaques are in the great glass walled, gray-carpeted foyer with inscriptions

1811-1857, "Visiting Surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital introduced the Art of Plastic Surgery from Europe to America and first performed free Transplant of Human Skin."

And his son, perhaps the greatest of them all, was another Dr. John Collins Warren, 1843-1927, "Professor of Surgery at Harvard a Visiting Surgeon at the Hospital Pioneered in Bringing to America Lister's technique of Surgical Healing without Infection Performed on this site in 1899 The First Operation in a new Surgical Building Designed to Protect Patients from Operative Infections with Henry B. Bowditch Brought the Great Undertaking of A New Harvard Medical School to completion in 1906." (This was the group of



THE
DOCTORS
WARREN
of BOSTON

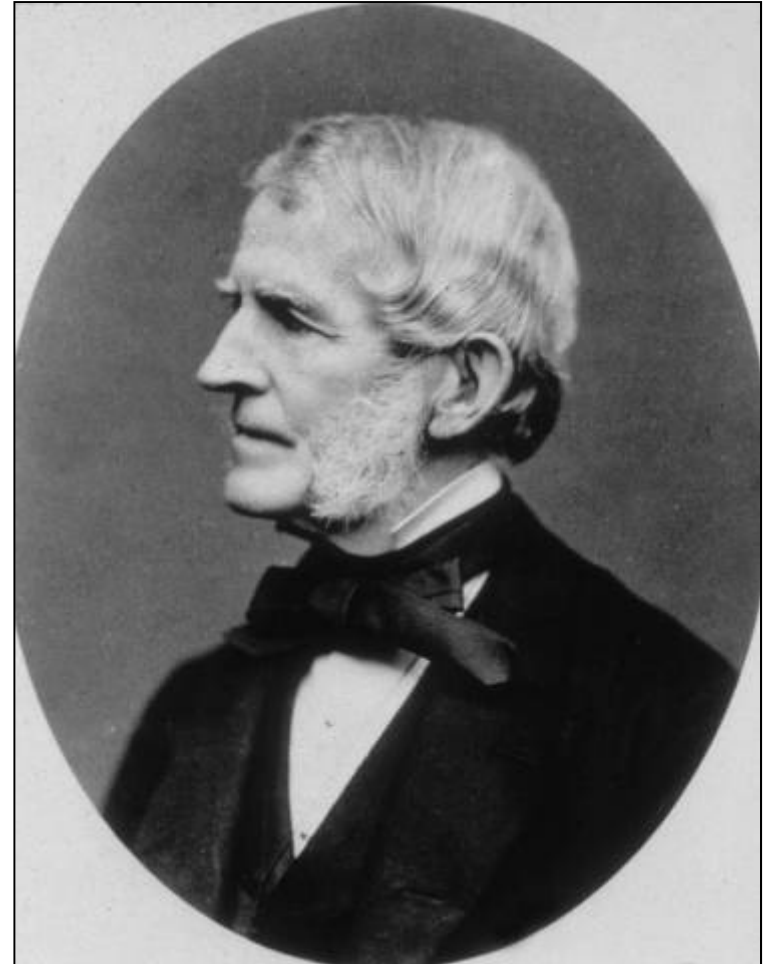
FIRST FAMILY OF SURGERY

RHODA TRUAX

John Barnard Swett Jackson

- **Nephew of James Jackson**
- **Father died when he was less than a year old**
- **Studied with: Dupuytren, Syme, Bright, Addison and Hodgkin**
- **First Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the US (1847)**
- **Curator of the pathological collection of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement**
- **Curator of the Warren Museum at HMS (founded by John Collins Warren)**

His catalogue of the Cabinet of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement was considered by a Philadelphia professor as "the most valuable contribution to pathological anatomy made up to that date in this country."



“He... was never tired of working at his specimens, to get them into the best condition and show them off to the best advantage... He was the picture of cheerful content in the midst of the fragmentary specimens of nature's handiwork by which he was wont to be surrounded. No student in the first blush of his boyish enthusiasm was ever more full of excitement... in illustrating some fact by a new preparation, or in rendering presentable some dilapidated tenant of his immortalizing receptacles.”

“What he knew he knew thoroughly, but he never pretended to have the slightest knowledge beyond what his honest naked eyes could teach him. He was not ashamed of their nakedness: in fact it was next to impossible to coax him to look through a microscope.”

– Oliver Wendell Holmes

In 1847, the MGH trustees voted that “the admitting physician be authorized to purchase one of Oberhauser’s microscopes at a cost not exceeding fifty dollars” with stipulation that one of his duties was to “examine microscopically and analyze all growths, tumors and diseased parts that may be removed from patients by operation or otherwise”.

John Bacon, Jr.

Boston, Dec 2nd 1851

Dear Sir,

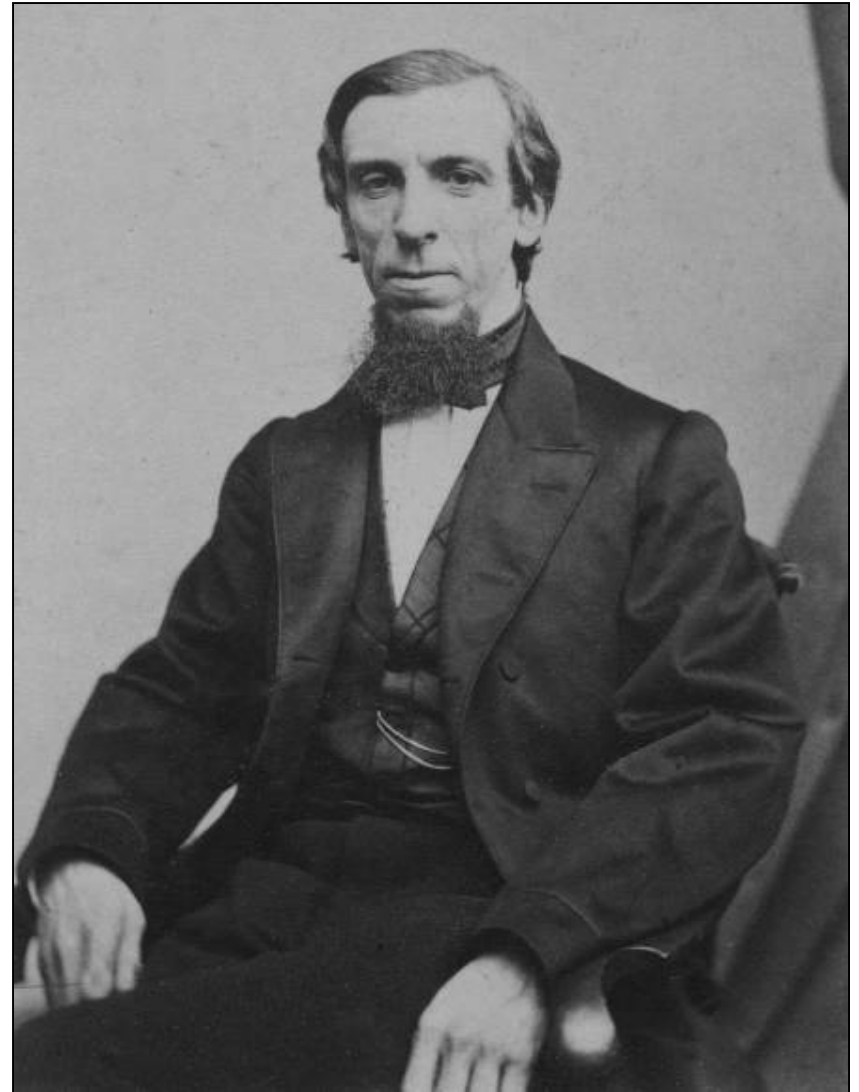
*The notice of my election as
Chemist & Microscopist to the Mass. Gen.
Hospital for the current year is duly
received. You will please communicate
to the Board of Trustees my acceptance
of the appointment which they have
done me the honour to confer upon me.*

Respectfully Yours

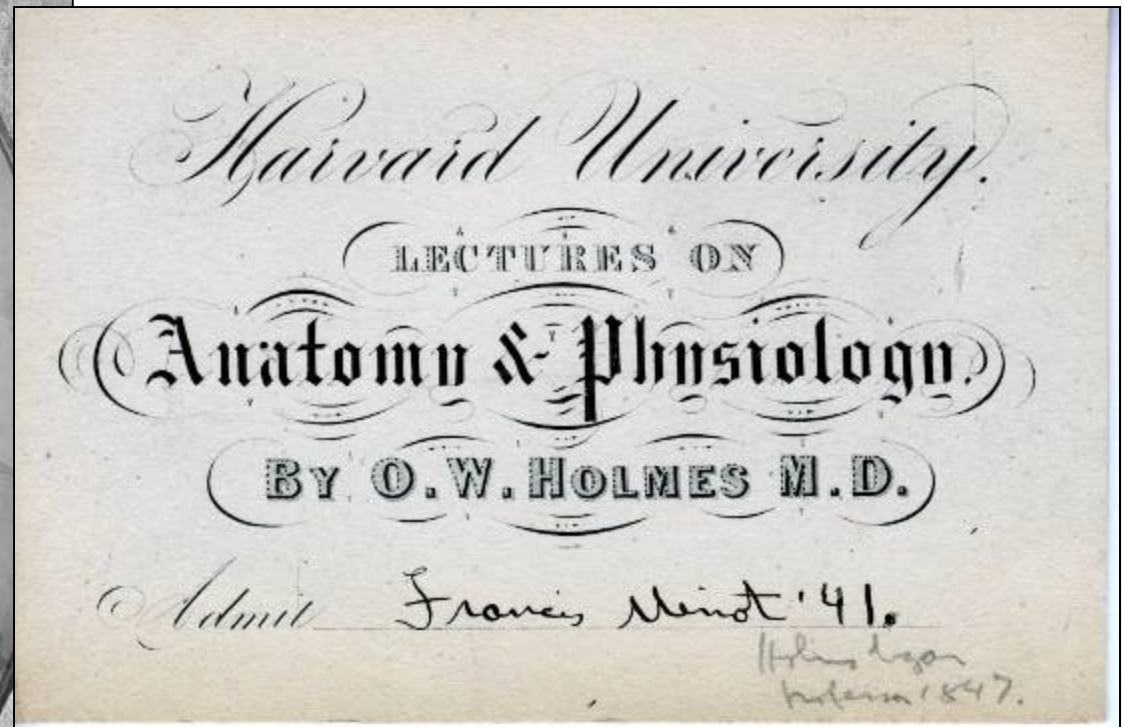
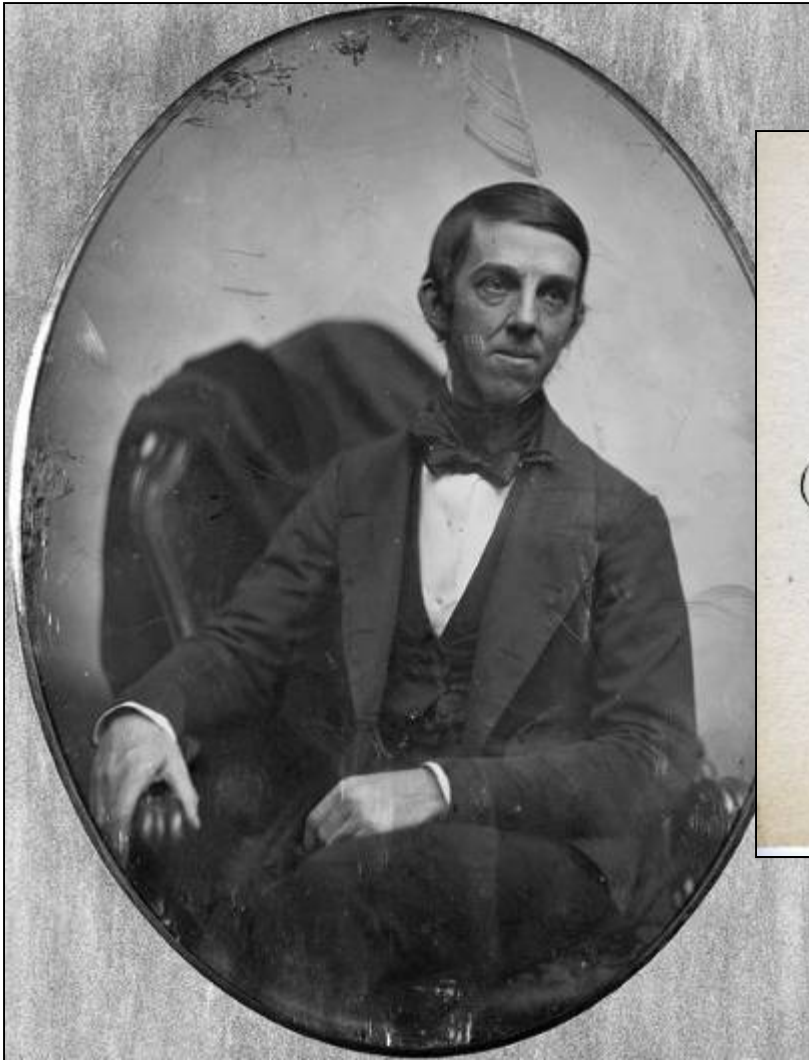
John Bacon Jr

Marcus Morton Jr. Esq^r

Sec^y to the Mass. Gen. Hospital.



Oliver Wendell Holmes

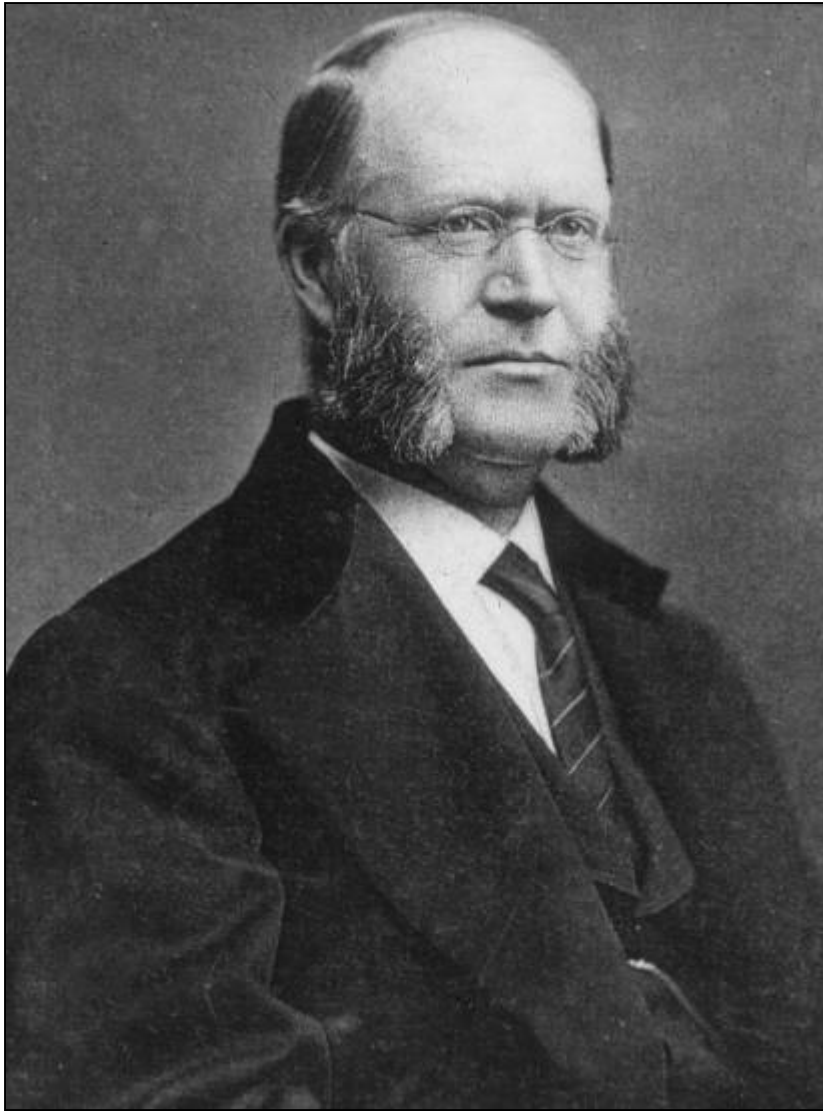




Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever.

ART. V.—*The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever.* Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, by OLIVER W. HOLMES, M.D., and published by request of the Society.

IN collecting, enforcing and adding to the evidence accumulated upon this most serious subject, I would not be understood to imply that there exists a doubt in the mind of any well-informed member of the medical profession as to the fact that puerperal fever is sometimes communicated from one person to another, both directly and indirectly. In the present state of our knowledge upon this point I should consider such doubts merely as a proof that the sceptic had either not examined the evidence, or, having examined it, refused to accept its plain and unavoidable consequences. I should be sorry to think with Dr. Rigby, that it was a case of "oblique vision;" I should be unwilling to force home the *argumentum ad hominem* of Dr. Blundell, but I would not consent to make a *question* of a momentous fact, which is no longer to be considered as a subject for trivial discussions, but to be acted upon with silent promptitude. It signifies nothing that wise and experienced practitioners have sometimes doubted the reality of the danger in question; no man has the right to doubt it any longer. No negative facts, no opposing opinions, be they what they may or whose they may, can form any answer to the series of cases now within the reach of all who choose to explore the records of medical science.



Calvin Ellis

Worked at HMS with JBS Jackson
Curator of the Pathological Cabinet,
MGH, 1854-1870

Microscopist, MGH, 1855-1870

Dean HMS, 1869-1883

HARVARD COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

26 Feb. 1871.

Dear Dr. Ellis,

Thinking over our talk last night, I am clear that it would be enough for this time, if we could accomplish the following changes:-

1. Organize a three years' course which should be truly progressive from beginning to end & actually fill without undue repetitions the three years, the two terms of the year to be as nearly as possible

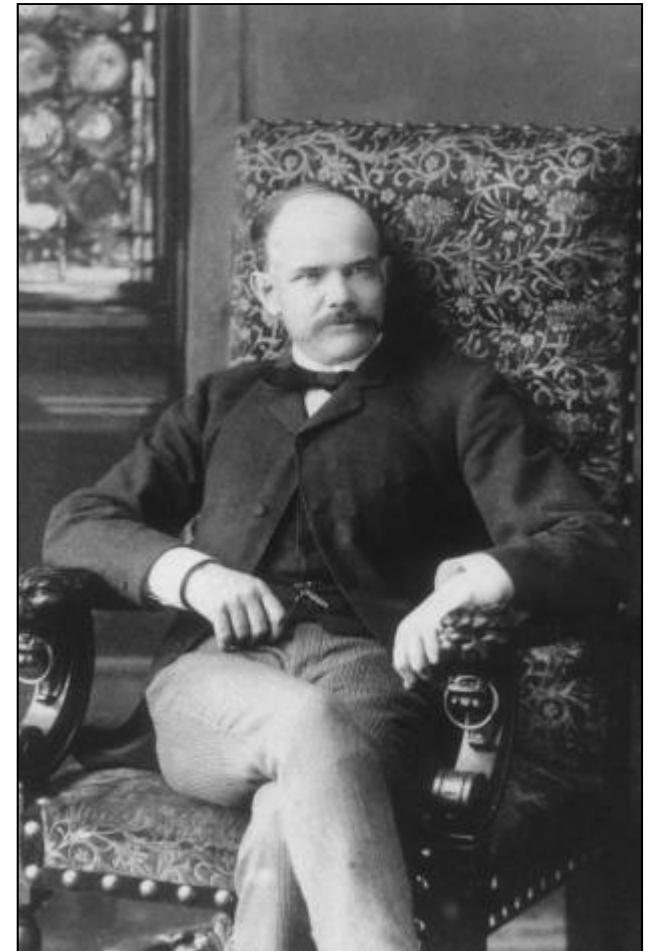
for all the courses of a term shall be at least \$140.

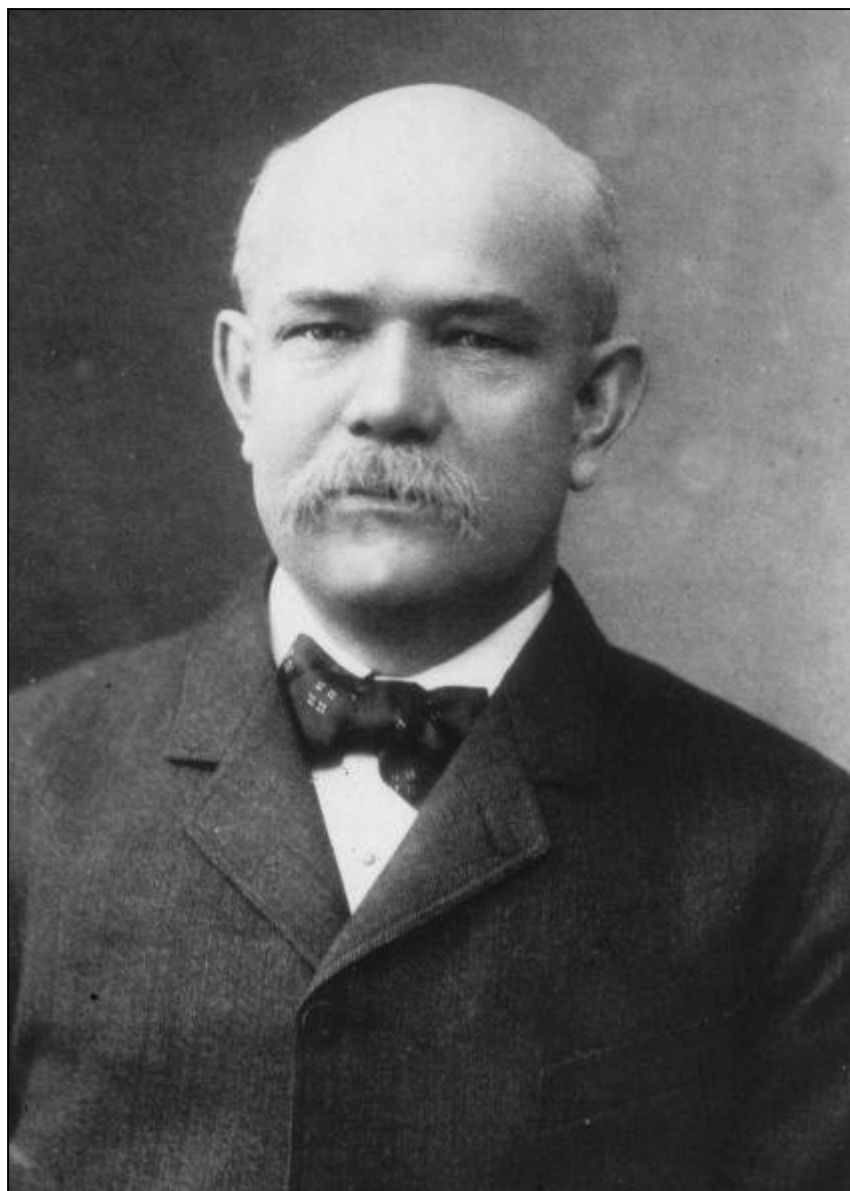
I think No 1. would commend itself to Dr. Shattuck, Nos. 2 & 3 to Dr Jackson; No 4 seems to me a sufficient advance for a first step, & No 5 to be of great promise. I hope the committee will carefully consider the moral effect of having the two terms of the year of equal length, equal advantages as regards teachers & studies and equal cost. Very truly yours
Dr. C. Ellis Charles W. Eliot

Reginald Heber Fitz (1843-1913)

Microscopist and Curator of the Pathological Cabinet, 1871-1888

Pathologist, 1888-1892





PERFORATING INFLAMMATION OF THE
VERMIFORM APPENDIX;

WITH

SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

BY

REGINALD H. FITZ, M.D.,

SHATTUCK PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

REPRINTED FROM THE

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS,

JUNE 18, 1886.

PHILADELPHIA:

WM. J. DORNAN, PRINTER.

1886.

*Med-
ical*

MONOGRAPHS.

No.
2.

*ACUTE
PANCREATITIS*

A Consideration of
Pancreatic Hemorrhage, Hemorrhagic, Sup-
purative, and Gangrenous Pancrea-
titis, and of Disseminated
Fat-necrosis.

The Middleton-Goldsmith Lecture for 1889.

By G. H. Fitz, M.D.

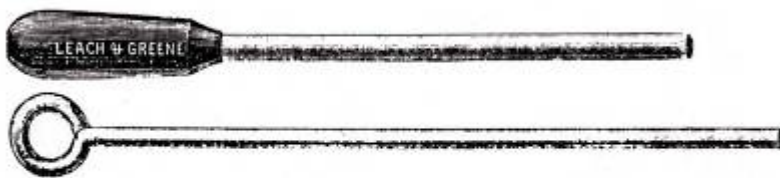
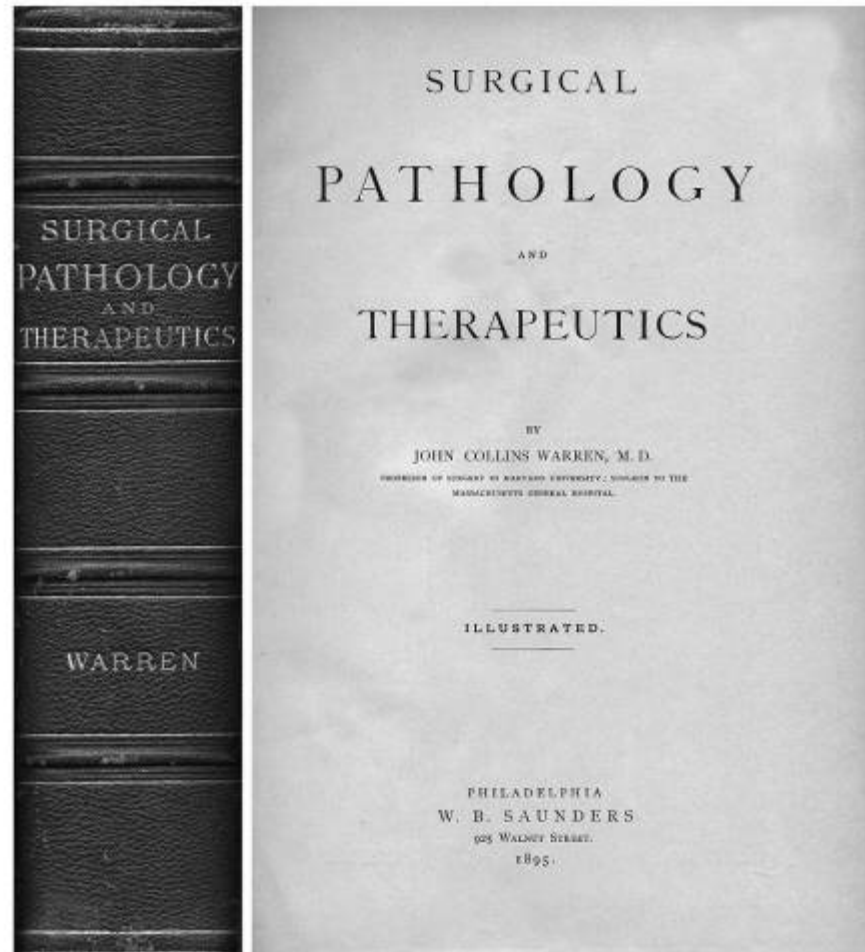
Cupples
&
Hurd,
Publishers,



The
Algonquin
Press,
Boston.



**John Collins Warren, Jr.
(1842-1927)**



Mixer Biopsy Instrument Used by Dr. J.C. Warren (1889).
Early Needle Biopsy Technique

Orations

THE SURGEON AND THE PATHOLOGIST.

**A PLEA FOR RECIPROCITY AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE CON-
SIDERATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND TREAT-
MENT OF BENIGN TUMORS OF THE BREAST.**

**ORATION ON SURGERY AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SES-
SION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,
PORTLAND, OREGON, JULY 11-14, 1905.**

J. COLLINS WARREN, M.D.

BOSTON.

Jama:45,149-165,1905

To Work in the Vineyard of Surgery

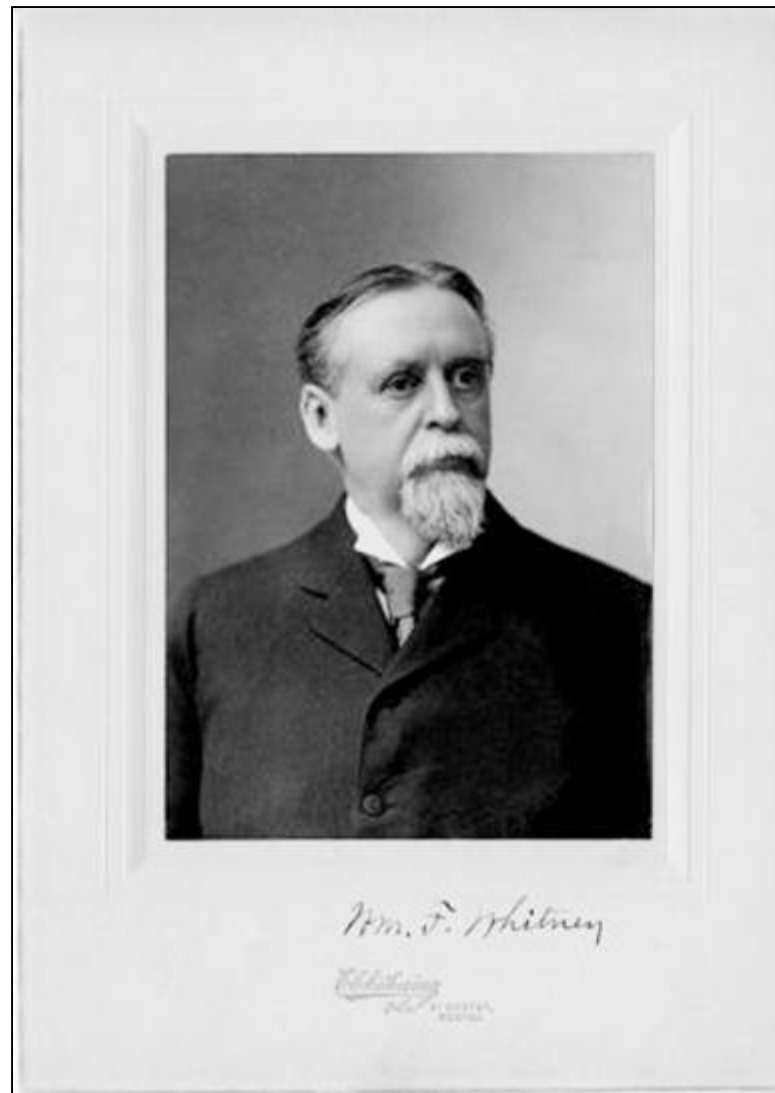
The Reminiscences of J. COLLINS WARREN (1842–1927)

*“ . . . to labour commendably, and with a good
conscience to work in the Vineyard of Surgery.”*

WILLIAM CLOWES (1544–1604),
Maister in Chirurgerie and
Chirurgion to the Queen.

*Edited, with Appendices,
Notes, and Comments, by*
EDWARD D. CHURCHILL, M.D.

William Fiske Whitney
surgical pathologist, 1888-1916



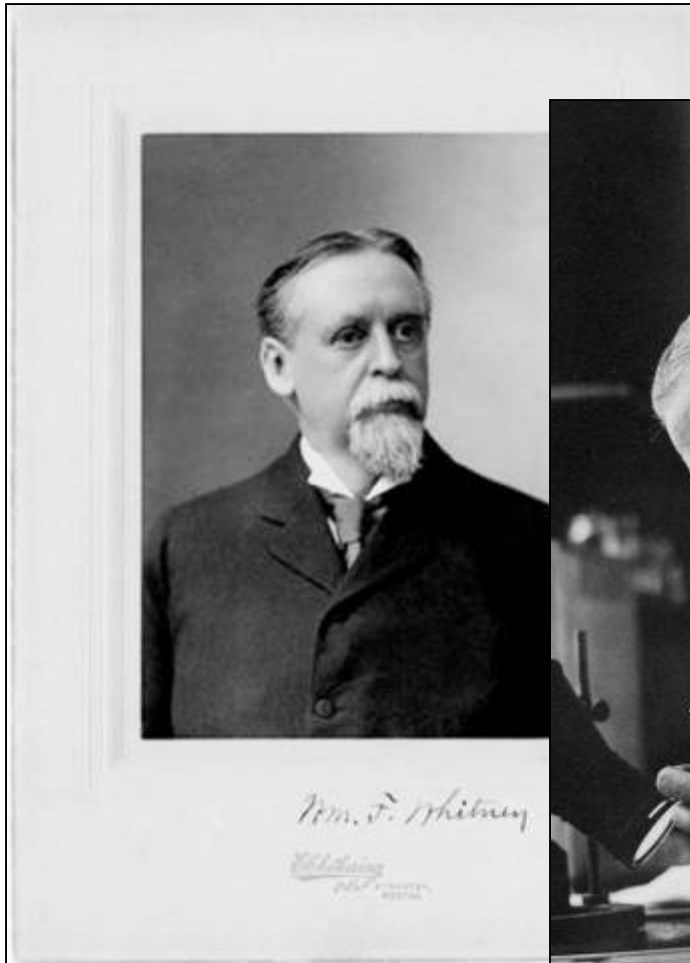
William Fiske Whitney

1850-1921

- HMS graduate
- Early interests in anatomy
- 1879- Curator of Warren Museum
- Expert on forensic medicine
- Professor of parasitic diseases at veterinary school
- Spoke six languages

“The hesitating surgeon, knife in hand, uncertain whether to do a trifling operation or one terribly mutilating and severe, could always depend on the decision of his mastermind and vast experience, and a great number of men and women today owe their intact bodies, or their lives, to his quietly spoken opinion”.

Surgical pathology: 1888-1938



William Fiske Whitney
1888-1916



Harry F. Hartwell
1911-1938

Mass. General Hospital.

All requests for consultations between members of the Medical and Surgical and Out-patient Staff, and also the opinion of the consultant, are to be made in writing unless the consultation is held personally. Such written opinions are to be incorporated in the hospital records. Opinions should be written directly into records, if possible.

To Dr. *James W. Wright*

Name of Patient,

Ward, No. of Bed,

O. P. D. Dept.

Give probable diagnosis, and state particular information desired.

Myeloblastic leukaemia.
Do you agree that the cells are not lymphocytes nor neutrophilic myelocytes but "stroma cells" or myeloblasts?

Date, *Oct 21, 1916*

Signature of Attendant, *R. Cabot.*

Opinion:

The predominating cells do not seem to me to "stroma cells" or myeloblasts, but I think they are atypical tumor cells, closely related to lymphocytes.

J. H. Wright.

Date, *Oct. 21-1916*

Signature of Consultant.

Form 2.

Massachusetts General Hospital.

Boston Dec 7th 1893

The Trustees of the Mass Genl Hospital :-

Gentlemen :-

At a meeting of the Visiting Staff held Dec 6th 1893 the question of the establishment of a Pathological Department to the Hospital was brought up & a plan for such a department was submitted to the Staff by Dr W. J. Councilman.

After a careful discussion of the subject it was voted that Dr Councilman's report be submitted to the Trustees for their earnest consideration -

It is proper to add that this plan has the cordial approval of Dr W. F. Whitney Pathologist to the Hospital -

respectfully
J. Collins Warren
Secretary