

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN F. SISE, M.D.

So intimate was my association with Dr. Lincoln F. Sise and so deep was my sentiment for him that it would be impossible to write concerning him except on a personal basis. I knew him first while I was a student, and as a fraternity brother when he as a graduate returned to Cambridge for meetings. Through these associations I later became interested in him when he was in general practice in Medford, Massachusetts.

Doctor Sise was of a gentle and shy nature and was beloved by all. His lack of worldliness, however, which was one of his charms, made some of the problems of general practice unusually trying. Likewise, his highly developed sense of conscientious responsibility was, I am sure, sometimes a serious burden to him in general practice.

In those early days anesthesia consisted largely of a single anesthetic agent—ether. And too often anesthetists were only too willing to be dominated in their conceptions of anesthetic problems by an aggressive surgeon, to the exclusion of progress in anesthesia. When in my early surgical career I had ideas for improving surgery by improving anesthesia, it was very natural for me to turn to Doctor Sise with his sound general training and experience with the thought that the field of anesthesia might be a more satisfying one for his talents and that this specialty itself might benefit by his inquiring and studious interest. Thus, he entered a specialty for which he was ideally suited, and with his enthusiasm for the subject, there was opened for him a new vista of happiness and opportunity. From 1915 until his death, we were associated with a common interest in the joint improvement of surgery and anesthesia. Not only did he personally play an important role in the development of anesthesia but he was also responsible in a large measure for the establishment of better anesthesia in this Clinic and for a school for the training of anesthetists, the product of which is now scattered throughout the entire country.

Doctor Sise was born on July 1, 1874, in Medford, son of Albert Sise, a merchant, and Edith Ware Sise, daughter of a prominent Boston physician. He attended Boston Latin School from 1889 to 1893, Harvard College from 1893 to 1897, and Harvard Medical School from 1897 to 1901. He completed a two-year rotating internship at the Boston City Hospital between 1901 and 1903, and practiced general medicine in Medford from 1903 to 1915. He married Eleanor Gertrude Stanwood in 1904.

In 1915, when Doctor Sise began part-time association with this Clinic, he was also appointed visiting anesthetist to the Boston City Hospital. In 1916, he was appointed visiting anesthetist to the Long

Island Hospital and clinical assistant in anesthesia in the Harvard Graduate School of Medicine. In the same year, he became a full-time associate of this Clinic.

During World War I Doctor Sise was a lieutenant j.g. in the Navy and later a full lieutenant as an anesthetist to the Chelsea Naval Hospital. On his return to civilian practice in 1920, he was appointed lecturer in anesthesia to the Tufts Medical School. He was anesthetist to the New England Deaconess Hospital and the New England Baptist Hospital from 1925 until his death.

Doctor Sise was a member of the American Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, and American Society of Anesthetists, and a fellow of the American Board of Anesthesiology. He was also a member of the Boston Society of Anesthetists (now New England Society of Anesthesiology), of which he was one of the founders, first secretary, and president during 1929, 1930 and 1931.

The contributions made by Doctor Sise to medical education include fifty-two articles on various phases of anesthesia, in addition to numerous unpublished addresses.

Because of physical disabilities, Doctor Sise retired from active practice in July, 1939, and he died on April 28, 1942, at the age of 68 years. He retained his interest in anesthesia up to the last, however, and many papers published after his retirement were submitted to him first for his careful editing and approval.

Doctor Sise had a most gratifying and useful life and will be remembered as one of the pioneers in the development of the now rapidly widening field of anesthesia. If a personal reference, by one so attached to him as I was, is permissible, I found in him loyalty and affection, in addition to often expressed gratitude, for the opportunity to enter the field of anesthesia, which he wrongly credited to me but which he himself actually created. Any contributions which the Lahey Clinic may have made to the advancements in anesthesia were possible largely because of the personality and services of Lincoln Sise.

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