

Obituary

FREDERICK W. WILLIAMS

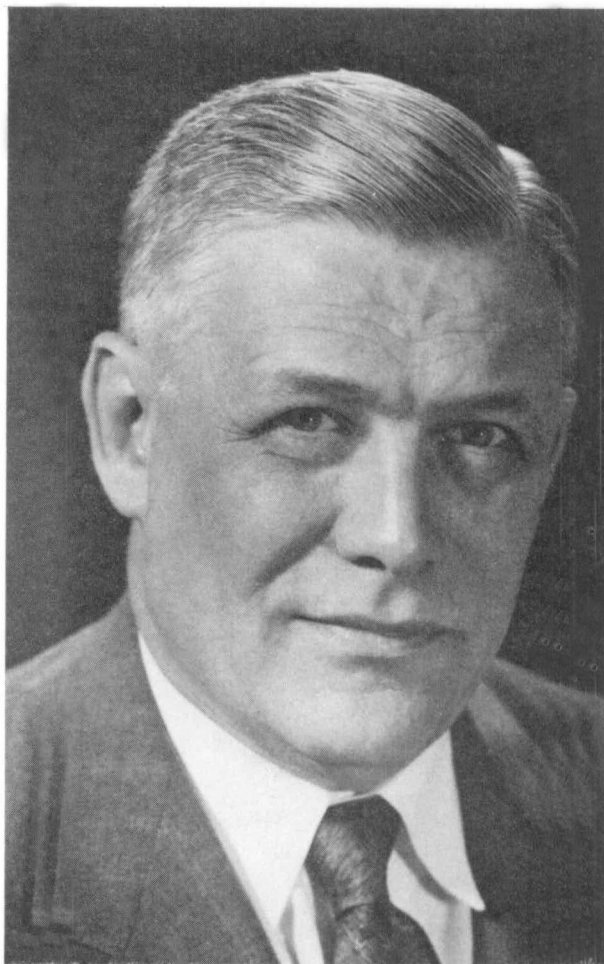
1900-1975

*Randall G. Sprague, M.D.,
Rochester, Minnesota*

Dr. Frederick W. Williams, a founder and past president of the American Diabetes Association, died in Lower Waterford, Vermont, on December 24, 1975, at the age of 75 years. He had played an important role in the establishment and subsequent development of the Association over a period of more than 25 years. His dedication to the cause of diabetes was manifested in many constructive ways during the course of his career, and news of his death has saddened his many devoted patients, friends, and professional colleagues.

Dr. Williams was born in New York City on June 30, 1900. In 1922 he received the degree of Bachelor of Science from New York University. While in college he was a large, well-known figure of a man of warm, engaging personality, famed for his vigorous play as tackle on the university football team. He went on to medical school, and in 1926 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine by New York University.

Dr. Williams' interest in diabetes developed early in his medical career, and he served as Assistant Director of the Bellevue Hospital Diabetes Clinic from 1926 to 1934. He practiced medicine in the Bronx from 1929 until 1965, specializing in diabetes. From 1931 to 1965 he was attending physician at Morrisania City Hospital, New York, with responsibility for care of diabetic patients on all surgical services. In addition, for many years he was consultant in diabetes to a number of other hospitals in the Bronx and other communities. From 1942 to 1953 he served on the



Dr. Williams

clinical faculty of New York University School of Medicine. For 10 years he participated as a member of the faculties for postgraduate courses in diabetes spon-

From the Medical Service, Rochester State Hospital, Rochester, Minn. 55901.

sored by the American Diabetes Association, and he attended all such courses up to 1970.

He was an active and energetic member of the group of physicians who conceived and founded the American Diabetes Association in 1940. Remaining active in the affairs of the Association for many years thereafter, he served as its 17th president in 1956-1957. The Association awarded him the Banting Medal in 1957. He was also a founder of the New York Diabetes Association and served as its president from 1945 to 1948. As chairman of its camp committee for 10 years, he played an important role in the establishment of Camp NYDA, one of the pioneer summer camps for children with diabetes.

Although Dr. Williams' services to the American Diabetes Association and the cause of diabetes were many and significant, he undertook one of the most important of these in 1951, when he was named Editor-in-Chief of *ADA Forecast* (now *Diabetes Forecast*). Working and writing in this capacity for 15 years, he was able to give expression to his strong conviction that there should be a sense of fellowship among persons who have diabetes. He encouraged them to rise above the inconveniences of diet and insulin and to accept philosophically the problems of diabetes and the diabetic life. In his view, to be a

member of "the club" was almost a privilege. In giving expression to his philosophies in "Dave's Diary," a popular feature in the *ADA Forecast* for almost 20 years, he gave help and reassurance to thousands of people, old and young, with diabetes, and their families.

Fred Williams was a man of good will, one who had confidence in the worth and integrity of others. He was also a man of good sense and good humor. The latter quality found expression in his chairmanship for many years of a highly unofficial advisory group of the ADA known as the Committee on Fillosophy and Scope, dedicated to good fellowship among leaders committed to the cause of diabetes. The rolls of this group included physicians and scientists constituting a veritable Who's Who of diabetes around the world.

Fred Williams had diabetes for many years of his life, and this fact seemed to deepen his understanding, both practical and humanitarian, of others with diabetes. To them, and to diabetes as a cause, he always had a great deal to give, and he always gave of himself freely.

He is survived by his gracious wife, Elizabeth, who gave him devoted care and support in his work and in his protracted final illness.

BOOK REVIEW

DIABETES MELLITUS CASE STUDIES, by *Boris R. Boshell, M.D.*, \$10.00, 240 pages. Flushing, N.Y., *Medical Examination Publishing Company, Inc.*, 1976.

The plan of this book is interesting: It consists of a series of real-life case reports drawn from the extensive clinical experience of Dr. Boshell and eleven of his associates at the University of Alabama and its Diabetes Research and Education Hospital. Each case is described in detail in clinical and laboratory terms by Dr. Boshell or one of his colleagues. Each case presentation is followed by a series of provocative and penetrating questions to the reader. Then well balanced and thoughtful answers are provided together with bibliographic references.

Since the 40 cases chosen cover all major aspects of human diabetes (from overt to borderline) this case book is in effect a compact text on diabetes. Because of its entertaining style, it can be taken with profit in small or large doses. Typical problems

include the effect of oral contraceptives on the diagnosis of diabetes; coronary artery disease in the diabetic patient; periodontal disease and diabetes; a boy with a rash (which turns out to be a local skin reaction at insulin-injection sites).

The one fault of the book is the lack of consistent careful editing and proofreading. It is printed inexpensively, and, no doubt, there is an intention to make it available while the contents are current. Unfortunately mistakes abound—I counted two or three per page in some sections—and, undeniably, this shakes the reader's confidence.

Even with these imperfections, this case book is stimulating and instructive as it stands. It should be useful to the advanced medical student and especially to the physician reviewing diabetes with the purpose of passing examinations. It deserves another edition (perhaps with another publisher!). FREDERICK C. GOETZ, M.D.