HENRY LONGSTREET TAYLOR, M.D.

By J. GURNEY TAYLOR, M.D.

In a lifelong work devoted to tuberculosis, Dr. H. Longstreet Taylor stood out pre-eminently as a leader, constructionist, and an inspiration to those engaged in all lines of medical efforts.

He was born in Cincinnati on August 14, 1857; son of David H. and Laura (Carroll) Taylor; died at his home on January 2, 1932. Graduating from Haverford College, he received his medical degree from the College of Ohio, at present the University of Cincinnati, in 1882.

The discovery of the tubercle bacillus by Dr. Robert Koch in the year 1882 provided the stimulus to draw him to Berlin. He studied two years with him, besides devoting two years to pathology and clinical medicine in Prague.

On his return from Germany he located in Cincinnati. After a few years of practice, owing to ill health, removed to Asheville, North Carolina, residing there until 1893. In this year he established his practice in St. Paul, Minnesota, and centered his effective efforts in an active fight against tuberculosis. He was almost alone in the beginning of this work, but he efficiently organized the medical profession and started an excellent publicity campaign, state wide in character.

He gave freely of time and from his own personal resources to a series of addresses throughout the state, which were augmented by frequent medical articles appearing in the local journal, the *Northwestern Lancet*. In the early days of the fight it was no easy task to convince both the public and the medical profession of the necessity of changing the character of the treatment which was in vogue, but his broad conception of the public health questions involved, coupled with his intensity and persistency of efforts, created the foundation for the present organized work against tuberculosis in the state of Minnesota.

It was said by Dr. William J. Mayo: "His life for 50 years has been given to problems connected with preventable diseases, par-

ticularly tuberculosis. This quiet, modest man has done more, not only for the care and cure of sufferers from tuberculosis, but for the care of thousands of people, who as the result of his labors have escaped the disease, than any other man in the Northwest. What more can be said for the life work of any man?"

In 1893 one of the first papers presented was "The Necessity of Special Institutes for the Consumptive Poor." In 1894 he was Secretary of the Ramsey County Medical Society, and on retiring from office in 1895 made a special plea for the founding of a medical reference library, which was the beginning of the library which eventually was taken over by the society in 1897.

By his magnetism and persistence, the Governor and prominent citizens of the state and legislators actively supported his campaign. He was appointed by the Governor on a body to investigate the need of a sanatorium, and therefore was primarily responsible for the establishment of Minnesota's present excellent State Institution at Walker, opened in 1907. This was the initial wedge for the present sanatorium system of the state.

The first sanatorium in the state was his own, located at Pokegama, opened in 1905.

He was largely responsible for opening a tuberculosis department in the Luther Hospital, now St. Paul Hospital, as well as developing the Ramsey County Children's Preventorium at Lake Owasso, established in 1915, and was Medical Director of this Preventorium until the time of his death.

He was a member of the first Editing and Publishing Committee of *Minnesota Medicine* and served until 1923, when he was appointed Councilor of the State Association; President of Minnesota Public Health Association from 1924 to 1927; President of the National Tuberculosis Association in 1928; President of Ramsey County Public Health Association in 1929.

He had the greatest honors conferred upon him that his coworkers could bestow, by electing him to the highest offices. His *alma mater* conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Law.

He had a breadth of vision and an enthusiasm which carried him to the front ranks of scientific workers. He was a humanitarian, sympathetic, kindly, unselfish, and modest, whose criticisms and

counsels were always constructive. His loss is not only deeply felt by the members of our Association, but is felt by his medical confrères and his many friends and patients, who appreciated his sterling character, his accuracy of judgment, his scientific attainments, his honesty of purpose, and his talents as an author and a teacher, and above all his unbounded energy coupled with his personal influence.