

## *Obituaries*

### ERNEST CAULFIELD

Ernest Caulfield, physician and historian of medicine, was born in Hartford on September 8, 1893. He stayed in town for early schooling and for college, graduating from Trinity in 1916, and stayed on for his master's degree. He then went to Baltimore and The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. With medical degree in hand he returned to Connecticut and served his internship and residency in New Haven where he later became an assistant clinical professor at the Yale Medical School. Trained as a pediatrician, Caulfield in the late twenties and early thirties published a couple of medical articles culminating in his study of 1931 on the infant welfare movement of the colonial period. In following up this work, in May 1932 he wrote to this Society asking about some medical imprints he had come across in his research work on an epidemic of throat distemper in early New England. He was interested in coming up from Hartford to look at some of our diaries. This was the start of a long association between us as he went forward with his histories of medicine. His study of throat distemper led to a study that linked closely the epidemic and the Great Awakening.

During the thirties Caulfield was able to visit our library often but, during the Second World War, 'rubber and gas restrictions are going to prevent me from going there.' Somewhere among his patients he had picked up an illness in the early forties that had kept him 'at home under the weather for the last six weeks' but he added that he was 'entertaining myself with some accumulated notes on colonial medicine. At the present I am collecting "Dwarfs and Giants."' After his bad winter he was advised to take a long vacation and he spent two weeks of it at our library. In writing to thank Clifford K. Ship-

ton, our then librarian, he said that 'when and if Gabriel blows his horn as a signal to start the mad rush to Heaven, I think there should be a special section reserved up front for the personnel of libraries (N.B. that goes for Miss Brown, Miss Hamilton, and the rest). They make life so pleasant for other people.' He returned often on his research trips and he and we often swapped duplicates and called each other's attentions to recent finds. In this period he had his important study of the common diseases of colonial children published in the *Transactions* of the Colonial Society. That Caulfield was also a practicing doctor in addition to diligent historian was much the case. He wrote in 1945 to Shipton and Clarence Brigham, our then director, and said 'I may call on you later for some other items on my must list but at the present time the school kids are driving me nuts,' and that 'the ending of the war has had very little effect on the prevalence of wheezes and sneezes.' That October, at our annual meeting Ernest Caulfield was elected a member of this Society. He continued to come by whenever he could and between trips kept in touch through the mails. As librarian of the Hartford Hospital, he offered us some old newspapers that were there. In our part we loaned some medical imprints to him for an exhibit at Yale. His interests had ranged to include colonial infanticide, multiple births, and gravestones, and Shipton tried to get him to give us a paper on such subjects in April 1949 but he deferred it until the next year when he gave 'The Pursuit of a Pestilence.' In trying to get the manuscript of it to the printers on time, Shipton wrote in May but Caulfield had been extraordinarily busy speaking at medical conventions and recovering from a cold he had picked up in the process. Once recovered he got his manuscript off, pleading that it be published anonymously.

In late 1952 Caulfield wrote that he was 'just getting back on my feet after two months in bed and I have given up my practice. Nothing more serious than a touch of generalized disintegration. I now have plenty of time for historical re-

search.' His interest in research was kept high on the subject of stonecutters of gravestones in Connecticut, upon which subject he became expert, and the fruits of his work was published over a dozen years in the Connecticut Historical Society *Bulletin*. In the late fifties he moved from Hartford to a country place at Old Lyme, Connecticut where he lamented about the local historical society—'nice collections of furniture, china, etc., but no books. I feel lost. Expect to be on a committee to start a collection.' In other ways he kept himself very busy, including a visit to Shirley Center, Massachusetts, where the Shiptons introduced the Caulfields to Daniel Farber, a Worcester man intensely and sensitively interested in gravestone sculpture. On other occasions Caulfield attended meetings of the Society at Boston and Worcester where in October 1960 he 'had a very interesting chat with Esther Forbes on "witchcraft" at lunch,' but he regretted that he would not be able to attend the next meeting when she spoke on the subject. He did get up to Worcester the next year for the Society's hundred-and fiftieth birthday.

In 1965 Lloyd G. Stevenson, 'The Historical Writings of Ernest Caulfield,' was published in the *Journal of the History of Medicine*. In the intervening years he busied himself with local office-holding once his sight had gone on him too far for research needs.

On May 16, 1972, Ernest Caulfield died in a nursing home in West Haven, Connecticut, at the age of seventy-eight. He is survived by a son, a daughter, and two grandsons. In a tribute to him a friend wrote, 'a delightful lecturer on this subject, Dr. Caulfield unfortunately set down only a small portion of the wide knowledge he accumulated.'

J. E. M.

#### VERNER WARREN CLAPP

Verner Warren Clapp was born of American parents in Johannesburg, South Africa, on June 3, 1901. He graduated from

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