

Obituary

ELDRIDGE CAMPBELL

1901-1956



“Im Herzen waechst der Arzt, aus
 Gott geht er, des natuerlichen
 Lichts ist er.—Der hoechste
 Grund der Arznei ist die Liebe.”

PARACELSUS

Eldridge Campbell once referred to medicine as the greatest of professions “for by combining the charity which comes from the love of our fellow man with the vast lore of scientific knowledge presently available, we can do much to alleviate the suffering of mankind.”¹ Eldridge Campbell’s life as physician and surgeon was motivated by this charity to which was coupled an innate strive for scientific progress. This he passed on to those with him and about him as a dedicated teacher. In his personal copy of the History of the Peloponnesian War, he underscored the belief to which he adhered in training and teaching and from which many benefited—

*πολύ τε διαφέρειν οὐ δεῖ νομίζειν ἄνθρωπον ἀνθρώπου, κράτιστον δὲ εἶναι ὅστις ἐν τοῖς ἀναγκασιότατοις παιδεύεται.*²

These words of Archidamos illustrate Eldridge Campbell’s concept of teaching, a concept that he upheld throughout his professional life.

Eldridge Campbell was born on December 20, 1901, in Alderson, West Virginia, where his father was a country physician. He attended Alderson High School and Randolph Macon Academy. In 1922 he received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Virginia. As a Rhodes Scholar, he attended Balliol College in Oxford and received his Bachelor of Arts in Physiology. In 1927 he was graduated from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His entire resident training, 1927–1934, was spent at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. His teacher in neurological surgery was Dr. Walter E. Dandy.

Eldridge Campbell married Eleanor Brown of Baltimore, Maryland, on July 2, 1930. Mrs. Howard Ashby of London, England, Miss Jane Campbell of Loudonville, New York, and Thomas R. B. Campbell, a freshman at Princeton University, are their children.

In 1934 Doctor Campbell joined the faculty of the Albany Medical College, Union University, Albany, New York, and served as Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1946 until his death. Under his stewardship, Albany Medical College became a foremost Medical Center. His dedication to teaching was reflected in an outstanding resident training program. His creation of the surgical research laboratories enhanced this program immeasurably.

Eldridge Campbell has made fundamental contributions to the neurosurgical literature. His heartfelt interest in the welfare of the individual patient is reflected in his basic writings on management and care of those afflicted with neurosurgical disorders. His strive for scientific progress is mirrored in detailed analysis and studies in the fields of craniocerebral trauma and cerebrovascular pathology, and in neurophysiology. In recent years one of his prime interests was the scholarly translation and commentation of Theodoric’s works, the first volume of which he published in his life time jointly with James Colton.

From 1942 until 1946 Doctor Campbell headed the Albany Hospital Unit and was Chief of the Surgical Service of the 33rd United States Army General Hospital in North Africa and in Italy. With the rank of Colonel he served as Neurosurgical Consultant in the Mediterranean Theatre and was decorated with the Legion of Merit. His dedicated interest in military neurosurgery was never more profoundly

demonstrated than during the time in the Korean War when he served as civilian consultant for the Surgeon General. His counsel and assistance in the Korean Theatre were vital factors in the welfare of our neurosurgical casualties.

Recognition has come to Eldridge Campbell from many sides. He was a member of surgical and neurosurgical societies, was founder and first president of the Excelsior Club, and served on the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. During the year before his death, the American Board of Neurological Surgery appointed him Chairman.

Eldridge Campbell's virtues as a man inspired loyal friendship and devotion. The profound impact of his endeavors as a teacher of neurological surgery will be felt for times to come.

ARNOLD MEIROWSKY, M.D.

REFERENCES

1. CAMPBELL, E. Objectives and rewards. *J. Ass. Amer. med. Coll.*, 1949, 24: 31-32.
2. THUCYDIDES. *Historiae*. London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1951, 1: 84, 4.