



CHESTER F. WRIGHT
1897-1975

In Memoriam

It is with deepest regret that the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists has been informed of the death in August of Chester F. Wright, South Bend, Indiana, where he had been in practice continuously for the past 47 years. He was president of the Midwestern Component in 1937 and an active senior member at the time of his passing.

Chet Wright was born on the family centennial farm near Dowagiac, Michigan in 1897 and, following in his brother's footsteps, was graduated from dental school at the University of Michigan in 1922. After practicing dentistry for several years he attended the Dewey School of Orthodontia in New York in 1928. Coming back to South Bend, his initial efforts at orthodontics were so discouraging that he almost returned to dentistry and oral surgery. The admitted turning point in his career was when he met a young orthodontist at a meeting in 1929 in Philadelphia named Allan G. Brodie, and there began a lasting, close personal as well as professional relationship. As a result of this friendship and a desire to know more, Chet returned to school and was graduated with the first class in orthodontics from the University of Illinois in 1931.

With his keen mind and tremendous energy, he devoted himself primarily to his private practice in South Bend. He was regarded as one of the finest clinicians in the country for he developed a masterful way with edgewise mechanics and had a running love affair for the past 45 years with normal occlusion. His biological training and clinical discipline resulted in an intuitive diagnostic expertise that he developed into an art. His reality was the ability to see each patient as an individual; he did not have printers' ink for sap nor had he been stricken by

the blight of statistics or numbers. His ingenuity was also revealed by detailed office organization and staff personnel that has been copied by some of his contemporaries.

His career included interest in maxillofacial fractures, and he pioneered in fracture reduction with orthodontic appliances using the dentition as a guide.

His abiding concern for orthodontics was only exceeded by his interest in the young orthodontist; for many years he was a guest lecturer at the University of Illinois and read papers before various orthodontic societies at home and abroad. In addition to this, he wrote the chapter on "The Edgewise Mechanism" included in Anderson's text of orthodontics.

Perhaps his most important legacy, apart from his patients, was that he entered into working relationship with four young orthodontists during his long career. They were: Eugene Peters, Racine, Wisconsin, Douglas C. Walter, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Lamar S. Timmons, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The last man was his son, Jack M. Wright, who continues in his practice. As a spokesman for these four men, I want to record that we live and work as better men because of our invaluable association with Chet Wright.

He always remained a family man and a country boy at heart. With his first wife, Dorothy, he had his only child, Jack. She preceded him in death by some 20 years, and he is survived by his present wife, Libby, son Jack, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman and a competitive golfer at the South Bend Country Club. He kept up the family farm for he enjoyed working in the fields. Chet Wright was a man completely devoted to all his interests and particularly to orthodontics, he will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and by our profession.

L.S.T.