Dr. Thomas Wingate Todd
(1885-1938)

The Angle Orthodontist

A magazine established by the co-workers of Edward H. Angle, in his memory. . . .

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Thomas Wingate Todd

T. WINGATE TODD'S was a life to think about. His was a career that permits not of being quietly laid aside to accumulate dust in the archives of medical history. Perhaps some capable person will write his biography. Should this happen it would be nothing short of tragedy if that author lacks two qualities with which his subject was most generously endowed. Such an author must have imagination and understanding.

Imagination to make immortal the dynamic character of the white-coated director flashing through the halls of the Anatomy Laboratory and out of sight while his energetic footsteps still echoed down the corridors. Understanding to thrill, and cause others to thrill in turn, with the fire of that intent and momentary glance which flashed at the instant his mind met that of another in discussion. Imagination to depict the careful objective reasoning which permitted one man to travel the frontiers of many arts and sciences. Understanding of the sincerity and kindly interest which captivated child and parent while the trained hand appraised the muscle turgor in a hand-shake and the quality of subcutaneous tissue in a gentle grasp of the arm; of the observing eye that read the record of growth in the upturned countenance and the complexities of adjustment revealed in eyes, speech and actions. These were qualities which sparkled through Dr. Todd's infinite activities, giving them color and purpose.

Imagination is a quality which must be born in a man. While it can be developed it cannot be synthetically created. To the prosaic scientist wedded

to charts and figures it is a cause for suspicion. Todd's thinking was not of a pigeonholed and departmentalized variety. He brought all of his resources to bear upon each aspect of his varied problems. It would have been as impossible for him to avoid the poetic imagination which found its way into his titles and presentations as it is for those who do not share that quality of mind to appreciate it. It was his imagination which led him to view the dead body as a record of the living, to look upon a histologic section from vital tissue as but the photograph of the instant, to regard growth from the standpoint of expectancy and function, and to appraise it upon the basis of the attainment of potentialities for living rather than the signs and symptoms of disease.

Upon this imaginative quality hangs vision, which breaks the way for new facts and the correlation of established phenomena. That it can carry men astray, if indulged in without substantiation, is certain. Yet it is no greater obstacle to progress than the lack of it which may shackle intelligence with the chains of method, technic and tradition. Todd was not unmindful of the value of rigid exactitude and statistical method in his research, as the volume of his material, the care with which it was collected and analyzed, and the statistical technics which he utilized all bear eloquent testimony. Yet he did not lose himself in the mire of these technics.

Closely allied to his imagination was the rare quality of understanding—that sense of balance and fitness, that basis of judgment which surgeons know as surgical sense, the quality which dictates that greater weight be given one factor than another irrespective of means or averages. He had that understanding of men which breeds sympathy and intolerance alike, understanding of natural laws which indicates without investigation the futility of certain avenues of research and the possibilities held by others. This quality, perhaps more than any other, is the basis of the homely expression, "horse sense." And, like imagination, it is innate, intensified but not generated by education.

We can train many persons to collect data, to sort it and to reduce it to tabulation and statistics, but only rarely do we find those with energy, intelligence, imagination and understanding who possess the qualities which permit the direction of the labors of those less gifted to the furtherance of human progress.

H. J. N.

Dr. Thomas Wingate Todd
(1885-1938)

Orthodontia mourns the loss of one of its greatest scientific contributors and friends, Dr. T. Wingate Todd, who dedicated his life to the promotion of the health and happiness of the child. His overactive and indefatigable life was brought to a sudden end by coronary thrombosis December 28, 1938 while engaged, far into the night as usual, in the work he loved.

Mrs. Todd and three children, Arthur Wingate Todd, who is in the banking business in New York, Donald Pearson Todd, a student at Harvard University and Eleanor Margaret Todd, a freshman at Smith College, survive. Dr. Todd also has a sister, Mrs. James Redfern, of Timperly, Cheshire, England.

Thomas Wingate Todd was born in Sheffield, England, the son of James Todd, a Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal minister and Katherine (Wingate) Todd, on January 15, 1885. He was educated in Nottingham High School by private tuition, and Manchester University from which he graduated in 1907 with highest honors, receiving the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. (M.B. corresponds to the American M.D.)

At Manchester Dr. Todd was also the recipient of several scholarships and prizes in Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery. After graduation he continued as demonstrator in Anatomy through 1908, senior demonstrator in Anatomy in 1909 and lecturer from 1910 to 1912, as well as examiner of Dental Anatomy in 1911 and 1912.

He served as House Surgeon at Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1909 and 1910. During this time he was in clinical practice and began his research activities, publishing a number of papers on the inter-relation between skeleton and nerves. These were the starting point of work on the sympathetic nervous system carried on by the Manchester School thenceforward.

Between graduation in 1907 and 1912 he organized the courses in Clinical Anatomy at the University of Manchester, and was associated in the development of the University Press. He established a course in Anatomy for students of the School of Art and courses in Neurology for the students in Psychology. At this time he showed his keen and deep interest in Dentistry, for through his efforts there was established a new curriculum for the diploma of Dentistry and the creation of a degree in Dental Science.

Before leaving England Dr. Todd did special work in Anatomy with professors A. H. Young, G. Elliot Smith and Sir Arthur Keith, and was in charge of arranging collections of skeletal material sent from Egypt to England by the Nubian Archeological Survey. The Royal College of Surgeons recognized his outstanding ability and valuable contributions by electing him to fellowship in the college.

In 1912, at the age of twenty-seven, Dr. Todd was married in Ulverston, England, to Eleanor Pearson and that year accepted the call of Cleveland's University to come to America. Here at Western Reserve University he be-

came the Henry Willson Payne Professor of Anatomy and Professor of Physical Anthropology in the School of Medicine.

It is of particular interest that he continued to champion the cause of Dentistry in a Medical School. He created a course in Gross Anatomy in which he instructed students of the School of Dentistry on the same basis as the medical students. His lecture course on Comparative Dental Anatomy led to the publication of his book on "Mammalian Dentition" through which he became recognized as an outstanding authority in this field.

A quarter of a century of teaching and research at Western Reserve was interrupted only by his military service in the World War as Captain in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, 110th Regiment 64th and 65th Batteries, in charge of Surgery, Base Hospital, Military District No. 1, London, Ontario, and consultant at Kinmel Park Camp, Wales.

In 1920 Dr. Todd took over the direction of the Hamann Museum of Comparative Anthropology and Anatomy at Western Reserve University and, following in the footsteps of his preceptor Dr. Carl Hamann, continued to gather material for this outstanding museum. Under Dr. Todd it became the largest and most thoroughly documented museum on human and mammalian growth in the world. What he said of his predecessor is most applicable to Dr. Todd now: "This museum is a most striking memorial of his scientific activity for he had no more idea than John Hunter had, in his day, of the ultimate significance of his efforts."

This is equally true of Dr. Todd's pioneering and remarkable results in the field of child health and development. With the vision of a genius to inspire and recruit co-workers and the ability to enlist financial backing, he began his research under the Brush Foundation in 1928. During the last decade these studies on the growth and development of over 4500 healthy children, along with his success in teaching Anatomy as a living rather than a dead science, made him internationally famous, and focused world-wide attention on his Laboratory of Anatomy and the Associated Foundations.

Never losing sight of the significance of normal development of the teeth and jaws as an index of child health, Dr. Todd in 1929 inspired and fostered the beginning of the Charles Bingham Bolton Fund in connection with the Brush Inquiry, for a collateral study of normal growth of the face. He has guided its course as a member of its board of managers since its inception. He brought to the science of Orthodontia a fresh vision and a new light which tremendously expanded its scope and usefulness. There were produced under his direction, literary and scientific contributions numbering over 500, and of these about one-fourth pertained directly or indirectly to the development of the teeth and jaws of the growing child.

Indicative of his breadth of interests, Dr. Todd held appointments and was affiliated with sixty learned and scientific societies, and characteristic of the man, he never failed to take an active part when he accepted those honors. He was President of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists 1938-1939; Vice President of the American Association of Anatomists 1920-1921, also 1938-1939 and on the council of this Society 1920-1924; Vice President and Chairman of Section H (Anthropology) American Association for the Advancement of Science 1922-1923; Editor of Child Development Abstracts 1932-1933; Associate Editor of the Journal of Child Development from

1930 on; Associate Editor of Growth from 1937 on; Associate Editor of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology from 1918 on; Member of the committee on Child Development of the National Research Council 1925-1933 and Chairman 1932-1933; Member of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection (the committee on Growth and Development) 1929-1931. He was a member of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine, American Museum of Natural History of New York, Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Alpha Omega honors Fraternity in Medicine and Sigma Xi honors Fraternity in Science and many others. He was a Fellow in the Galton Society of New York, a correspondent member of the Societe d'Anthropologie de Paris, the Zoological Society of London and the Academie Royale de Medecine of Belgium. Dr. Todd was distinguished as an honorary member of the Cleveland Dental Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Southern Society of Orthodontists, the Cleveland Neurological Society and the Cleveland Allergy Society.

On January 15 of this year, which would have been Dr. Todd's fifty-fourth birthday, Western Reserve University and all of Cleveland paid tribute to him in a public memorial service in the Amasa Stone Chapel. President Winifred G. Leutner presided, and the heads of every department in the University spoke in appreciation of the man who gave so richly of himself to every field of learning. Dr. Elliott C. Cutler of Harvard, Dr. Todd's close personal friend, spoke on "Science and Humanity," and the Honorable Harold H. Burton, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, represented his fellow-townsmen, to whom Dr. Todd had for so long been a deeply-loved friend, loved not only for his abundant gifts to humanity but for a sparkling and warm personality and a profound and unerring judgment. He was a true benefactor of the human race whose life's work will make possible a heritage of mental and physical well-being for posterity.

Perhaps his greatest tribute and the most fitting benediction to his career is the announcement by the Directors of the Brush, Bolton, Rockefeller and Associated Foundations that the studies he so brilliantly patterned and constructed will continue with the full cooperation of the University. Thus Orthodontia, along with many fields of science, will continue to reap the harvest of a selfless and prolific genius—the manifest destiny of a great life.

Cleveland, January 18, 1939. B. M. B. and B. H. B.