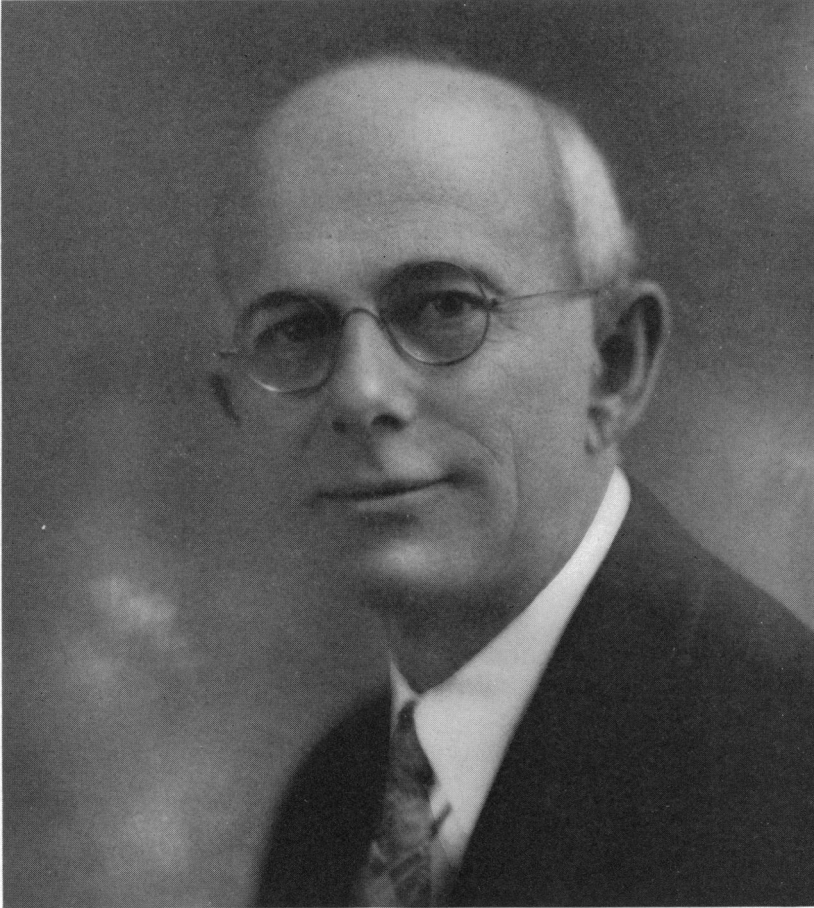


WILLIAM BURTON THORNING

1872-1937

FEBRUARY 12, 1936, marked the passing of one of our most friendly and beloved surgeons, Dr. William Burton Thorning, who died of coronary occlusion at the age of 63.



WILLIAM BURTON THORNING, M.D.

Doctor Thorning was of sturdy New England stock, being the son of William H. H. and Elizabeth (Knight) Thorning. He was born in Sullivan, N. H., July 2, 1872.

His early education was obtained in the public schools at Keene, N. H., and his medical education at the University of Vermont, from which university he was graduated in 1897.

Following his graduation he was for several years the assistant of the great

surgeon, Dr. Maurice Richardson of Boston, Mass. At the end of this period he left Boston, located and practiced his profession at Winchendon, Mass., where he remained for 11 years doing an active surgical practice. At the end of these years of practice in Massachusetts, he went abroad where he enjoyed postgraduate work in Vienna, London and other clinics in England.

Upon his return to the United States he decided against the rigorous bleak winters of the North and determined to cast his lot with the Southern people, locating at Houston in 1910. He mentioned to me that he rather enjoyed the thought of being in a warmer climate, and among such hospitable people.

It was during his early months in Houston that he visited my operating room and it was from the first he became a friendly and welcome visitor. Our discussions of surgical cases were frequent and profitable.

His warm friendliness and deep interest in the problems of organized medicine soon stamped him as a leader in the ranks of medical workers in Texas.

He was a natural and genial leader and in 1920 was elected Councilor of the Ninth District to later become the Chairman of this body. In this capacity he exerted a fine and tremendous influence, as his medical ideals were of an unusually high order.

In 1916, he and his associates organized the Houston Clinic, which is still carried on by his colleagues.

He was a pleasing and convincing speaker, a writer of ability and captivating style. For many years as Editor-in-Chief of the Medical Records and Annals, he wielded a broad and fine influence in this section of the country.

He was a Charter Member of the Texas Surgical Society, and it was my pleasure to serve with him and Prof. J. E. Thompson as a committee to present those surgeons of Texas who were to compose the Charter Membership. Here the fairness of a fine character and discriminating mind exhibited itself. As a member of this Society he was respected and loved by his Fellows. He was a Fellow of the American Medical Association, a Fellow of the Southern Surgical Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. As a member of the State Medical Association of Texas, he was a member of the Committee which rewrote the Constitution and By-Laws in 1924-1925, which Committee produced an instrument said to be one of the most complete of its kind in the country. His interests were not alone confined to medicine but in Civic and State affairs he was very active, always showing a willingness to respond to such calls as were made upon him. He was a thirty-second-degree Mason and a Shriner, being a member of the Arabia Temple Shrine.

Surviving him are his wife, *née* Gertrude M. Goodnow, to whom he was married June 1, 1905, at Keene, N. H., and a son, Dr. Wm. Burton Thorning, Jr., who is now carrying on in the footsteps of his father in the Clinic which his father and his colleagues established so many years ago.

We shall miss the presence of William B. Thorning in the meetings of the Southern Surgical Association and other organizations to which he belonged.

JOHN T. MOORE