

## LEROY LONG—TEACHER OF MEDICINE

By Basil A. Hayes

## CHAPTER 9.

Meanwhile events moved inexorably toward their final decree as to the destiny of LeRoy Long. As far back as 1899 he had read a paper before the Indian Territory Medical Association entitled "Merit Versus Time Requirement For Graduation In Medicine", thus stamping himself as one who was interested in medical education. It was generally known throughout the Indian Territory that his record in medical school had been of the very highest quality, because Dr. Fulton and others who were his friends had discussed it among themselves. The unusual energy and ability which he threw into the work of the Indian Territory Medical Association served to further spread this knowledge. When in his capacity as Chairman of the Choctaw Board of Health and later of the Indian Territory Board of Health, he was constantly called upon to pass upon the requirements of men practicing medicine in the Indian Territory, it was further evidence of his intense interest in the higher ideals of medical practice. As each succeeding year showed him growing stronger and stronger in his abilities, showed him producing better and better papers, and as he traveled to and from the great clinics with different members of the profession, it is small wonder that he was regarded by his friends and associates of the east side of this state as a leader in every form of medical activity. Finally when the two territories merged to become one state, shortly after he moved to McAlester and began to practice surgery, his name was spread over the western territory by being made Counselor-at-Large for the State Medical Association. From this point on his rise was more rapid than ever, and he was universally regarded as one of the most brilliant and successful surgeons in the state of Oklahoma.

In 1911 he was appointed by Governor Lee Cruce to be a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners. This position he filled until in 1915 he was appointed Dean of the Medical School by the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma State University, during the administration of Governor Robert L. Williams. Serving on this Board with him was another brilliant man who had made a mark in Oklahoma medical history. This was Dr. Francis Bartow Fite, of Muskogee, who had begun practicing in the Indian Territory on November 1, 1889, and who had had the distinction of training under Dr. John A. Wyeth of New York City.

Dr. Fite was a few years older than Dr. Long and was himself a man of great and brilliant attainment in medicine. He had received his training in surgery during the very period when Lister's teachings were first heard of in America, and therefore was an original exponent of the new science. Dr. Fite and Dr. Long had been friends for many years through their association in the In-

dian Territory Medical Association and when they were both made members of the State Board of Medical Examiners, their friendship became closer than ever. After serving as a member of the Board of Examiners, most of the time as President, for two years, Dr. Fite was then appointed a member of the State Board of Education. This was in 1913, and the State Board of Education at that time had jurisdiction over all the schools of the state, with the exception of the A. & M. College at Stillwater, and the problems of the State University occupied a considerable portion of the Board's time. It was their largest school and their costliest one; it had the most departments and the most political complications; and probably the most troublesome department of all was the class "B" medical school, located in Oklahoma City, which had never been particularly welcomed by the faculty at Norman.

Here as in so many other states, a wide gulf seemed to exist between medical education and other forms of education. Possibly this is because a medical school requires so much money to run it that the president feels that he must rob other departments in order to supply it. Certainly in the year 1915, the President of the University of Oklahoma had no conception of the requirements of a first-class medical school, because the amount of money allotted the Medical Department that year for student assistants and laboratory supplies was the magnificent sum of six hundred dollars. Such an amount would not run the smallest sub-division of one department, much less a full medical school! Likewise it seems difficult for professional groups in other fields of activity to understand the iron clad rules and regulations imposed on the medical profession by its own organization, rules and regulations in regard to educational requirements which are more strictly observed than possibly in any other field of human activity. Since this is true, medical men constitute a sort of closed group, having their own code of ethics, their own ideas of right and wrong, their own knowledge of the capabilities of their various members, and firmly resent any outside influence. This being the case, medical schools sometimes suffer because of the lack of understanding of state officials. Such officials may or may not include the administrative heads even of the universities sponsoring the school.

The struggling medical department of the University of Oklahoma was in just such a condition, being inadequately staffed, half maintained, and wholly misunderstood by all those who were in a position to do something for it. It stood in need of a champion in high circles who could combine the spirit of medical ethics with political power, and withal who could understand the financial and physical requirements necessary for the maintenance of a first-class medical school.

Dr. Francis Bartow Fite was just such a man. He was a typical doctor, who understood the viewpoint of the medical profession from the highest to the lowest quarters. He was an unusually

brilliant man, and he stood very high politically, being a member of the all powerful State Board of Education. He made up his mind that the cause of Medical education should no longer suffer in comparison with the other colleges of the University.

The President of the University at this time was Dr. Stratton Brooks, who apparently was not able to get the school organized and going. Dr. Fite revolved the matter over in his mind and discussed it with other leading physicians of both Oklahoma and Indian Territory. From his biography as written by Dr. LeRoy Long, I quote:

"With characteristic zeal, industry, and intelligence he took an active part in stabilizing the educational system of the state. He was intensely interested in the development of the Medical Department of the State University, which was then classed as a "B" grade or second-rate school. Due largely to his persistent efforts over a period of nearly two years, there was a change of administration of the school, after which its progress was satisfactory."

Dr. Fite evidently talked the matter over frankly with Dr. W. J. Jolly, who was the acting dean of the school. He and Dr. Jolly were friends and could face facts squarely as they were. They were both interested in the cause of medical education, and in the mind of each of them came the same idea. They talked it over and agreed upon it. At any rate, Dr. Long says:

"In 1913, Dr. W. J. Jolly, then acting Dean of the school, and I were guests at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, while attending a meeting of surgeons. In conversation one evening, he told me that my name had been mentioned in connection with the position and asked me if I would consider it. I thanked him but replied that I did not think I could.

A little later in the same year Dr. F. B. Fite, of Muskogee, who had been designated a member of the State Board of Education, then in charge of the University, spoke to me at some length about the matter, presenting reasons why I should be willing to serve. I was grateful, but I told him that I did not think I ought to agree to take the place.

In 1914 Dr. Fite called me by telephone. He said, "Long, the Board of Education meets tomorrow, and we are going to elect you Dean of the Medical School." I thanked him but told him that I could not accept. He insisted, and I told him that I would be up to see him on the next train, which would leave McAlester (my home) in half an hour. Arriving at Muskogee, I saw Dr. Fite at once, telling him that I appreciated his kindness and confidence so much that I had made the trip to thank him and to explain why I felt I should definitely decline. I pointed out that to abandon friends and clientele and a perfectly satisfactory work that I had spent years in building up would be a tremendous sacrifice; that I had no desire to be Dean of a "B" grade school, and that to do the work that would have to be done to advance it to "A" grade would mean additional sacrifices, worry, and expenditure of energy. He admitted the force of my arguments and was good enough to let the matter rest for the time being.

In May, 1915, I was again requested to serve. This time Dr. John W. Duke, of Guthrie, with whom Dr. Fite had been in communication, was spokesman. Great pressure was brought to bear. Appeal was made to my sense of duty to the medical profession. I hesitated and when I hesitated, I was lost (if I may employ a figure that I hope is not quite applicable) and the next day I was elected."

Ex-governor Williams, in commenting on this appointment, says:

"I had known Dr. Long for many years, not well but socially. I knew that he was a good man and bore a fine reputation among the doctors. When I became Governor and moved to Oklahoma City, I found that the medical school was not being run satisfactorily. Some doctors of Oklahoma City were using it for their own personal profit and did not particularly wish to see it improve. They knew that if it were made a first-class institution, they could not use it to increase their private practice and hence their income. The only hospital facilities they had were in a private institution belonging to one of the surgeons, who made his own interest paramount and, therefore, interfered with the proper teaching of the young men who were studying. I found that most of the boys of Oklahoma were going out of the state to take their medical courses. I talked to some of them and inquired why, and they told me that it was because Oklahoma only had a "B" grade school, which diploma was worthless to them. I made up my mind to correct this situation as far as possible. When I talked to the members of the State Board of Education about it, they recommended Dr. Long for the place. One doctor in particular recommended him. That was Dr. John A. Hatchett of El Reno. After learning of his qualifications and knowing that he was a good man as well as a good democrat, I insisted that he be appointed. Dr. Hatchett, Dr. Duke, and Dr. Fite all recommended Dr. Long. They said Dr. Long ought to move to Oklahoma City. They felt that the American Medical Association would give an "A" class rating to this school if we made him Dean. I wrote to the members of the Board of Education and asked them to meet at Norman. I asked them to get the resignation of the dean or I was going to veto their appropriation. In the meanwhile Long was to let us know whether he would take it or not. Finally he agreed that if we made him Dean and Professor of Surgery that he would come for three thousand dollars a year."

Contrary to the belief of many men who have thought that Dr. Long sought and obtained his appointment as Dean by political maneuvering, it was probably the hardest decision he was ever forced to make when he decided to leave McAlester and come to Oklahoma City. He had lived there for eleven years, during which time he had climbed out of the class of general practitioner into a strict specialty of surgery. During this time his income had increased until it was adequate for all his wants. Both he and Mrs. Long, as well as the children, like the town of McAlester, and were well and favorably known to all the inhabitants of the city.

Dr. Long was at this time forty-seven years of age, and it is difficult for a doctor to uproot himself at this age and become re-established in a new and different community. In spite of all the pressure that was put upon him by his medical friends, he hesitated and considered the move for a long time, discussing it with Mrs. Long and his brother, who lived in Denison, Texas. Dr. Tom felt that he ought to take it. He said, "You ought to go back and tell them that you are coming. Your boys are growing up, the University is close to you, and you will be in a bigger city. I regard it as an opportunity."

Finally one day the matter went far enough that he was actually offered the place. He called Mrs. Long and told her that he was coming home for lunch because he had some matters to dis-

cuss with her. He had hardly reached home when the telephone rang, and long distance informed him that Governor Williams in Oklahoma City, wished to speak to him. When he answered the telephone, the Governor urged him to accept the appointment and assured him of his complete and unqualified cooperation. Even so, Dr. Long held him off until he could come to Oklahoma City and investigate the matter more definitely. A few days later he came to Oklahoma City and agreed to accept the appointment.

This brought about a number of problems. He had to dispose of his home, and arrange for someone to take over his practice in McAlester. These matters required time and it took him some months, but he succeeded in getting Dr. George Kilpatrick, of Wilburton, to come to McAlester and take his home and office. Dr. Kilpatrick was an old friend of many years' standing who had made a European trip with him, and whose ethical principles and professional skill had won Dr. Long's confidence. He continued to practice in McAlester for a number of years until his retirement.

On May 28, 1915, a letter was written to Dr. LeRoy Long, in McAlester, Oklahoma, from Governor R. L. Williams. The letter head bears the name of A. N. Leecraft, Secretary to the Governor, and Ancel Earp, Chief Clerk. It read as follows:

"My dear Doctor:

I am advised by members of the Board of Education that on yesterday you were elected as Dean of the Medical College of this state to take the place of Dean C. R. Day, whose term expires on September 1, 1915. I want to congratulate the state on your election to this place. You will be officially advised of your election in due course by the President of the State University.

Dr. Fite was a member of the Board of Education and after I told him that you would accept the place, he evinced an enthusiasm and a determination to bring about your election at once so that you could make your preparations accordingly.

I hope to see the Medical School make great growth under your administration and it will give you a great opportunity. This puts you officially, in a titular way, at the head of the medical profession of the State and gives you a residence in the largest city of the State.

This is an honor that you merit and the public service that you render will be of great distinction to yourself and usefulness to the State.

Very sincerely your friend,

R. L. Williams."

On that same day another letter came to Dr. Long from the State Board of Education, reading as follows:

"Dear Dr. Long:

The State Board of Education yesterday elected you Dean of the Medical School to succeed the present Dean, Dr. Curtis R. Day. You are expected to begin service as Dean on September 1st. You will receive formal notice of your election from President Stratton D. Brooks of the University. I want to say that I am personally delighted with this action on the part of the Board and wish you the greatest possible success in the work.

Very truly yours,

Leslie T. Huffman,

Secretary, State Board of Education."

One thing stands out with crystal clearness in this whole matter. It is plain that Dr. Long was fearful of the political job and was much more concerned that he be made Professor of Surgery than that he be made Dean of the school. In looking through his correspondence and old papers, numerous places are found where his name is typed LeRoy Long, Dean, and where he added in pen, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and Clinical Surgery. He recognized that the tenure of office of a dean might be short; but if he were established in Oklahoma City as a surgeon, he would still be doing the thing he loved best after his political days were over.

#### CHAPTER 10.

One of the life long characteristics of Dr. Long was that he was slow to make up his mind, often times almost had to be pushed into undertaking a heavy responsibility but having decided to accept it, he threw himself into it with the courage of a lion and let nothing stand in his way until he succeeded in achieving it. When he finally agreed to accept the appointment and heard the news that he had been elected, even then he wondered whether or not he had been wise.

As a young man he had come west to get away from the medical school, the dissecting room, and the library. He had gone out into a raw and undeveloped country of fresh air and cattle and Indians. Now at last he had returned to the laboratory, the dissecting room, and the library, and was once more a medical school teacher.

With characteristic energy he took hold of his new task. He wrote to Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, President of the University, and asked him to meet him in Oklahoma City, so that they could go over the matter together. Dr. Brooks was slightly hostile and felt that the appointment of the new dean had been forced upon him, which indeed it had been. One wonders at this juncture why a president of a university is as well qualified or should feel as well qualified to choose the dean of a medical school as would be a committee of members of the profession itself. Medicine is a highly technical calling, and it is a universal opinion of doctors who know that it is impossible for the ordinary layman to evaluate the ability of a doctor. However Dr. Brooks may have felt, he soon adjusted himself to it and became a warm friend of Dr. Long.

They found that the school was indeed in bad shape.

"There were no full time teachers. The school was housed in temporary quarters at Norman and had no hospital except a leased one of forty beds, the owner reserving certain rights and privileges. (Rolater Hospital). The combined school and laboratory was a tiny room with but little more equipment than should be found in a physician's office. \*\*\*\* There was no X-ray equipment. There was no provision for biochemistry. \*\*\*\* Members of the staff personally furnished apparatus and instruments for examination, treatment, and surgical operations. \*\*\*\* I made it clear that I could not undertake the task without some definite provision for

improvement. The president of the University helped all he could with the limited funds at his disposal."

The above quotations are Dr. Long's own words, charitably describing the facilities which he found the medical school possessed of when he took the responsibility of being its dean. As a matter of fact, the facilities were even worse than they sound. The only real hospital service offered the students was a service provided in the Rolater Hospital, which had been leased by the University for a period of ten years at a rental of eight thousand dollars per year. The original plant consisted of the Rolater home, a large two-story dwelling and on the same grounds a small hospital. In this was an ordinary operating room. The University agreed to increase the bed capacity of the hospital to sixty beds, of which twenty-six were to be clinical beds and thirty-four private beds. The State also built two new operating rooms and established a dispensary and out-patient department in the basement of the hospital. They set aside a certain number of beds for the private use of Dr. Rolater, and granted him the use of the operating room at a specified time. The administrative offices, classrooms, and library of the medical school were in the home building, where the kitchen was used as a clinical laboratory. In addition to these facilities, Oklahoma City General Hospital, located at that time some four blocks from Rolater Hospital, allowed them twenty-five beds in the emergency department. All other hospital plants and dispensary beds were located so far away from the Rolater Hospital as to be of little or no practical value to students. They looked good on paper, but were not under control of the University in any sense and were not practical for teaching purposes.

After looking the situation over and learning exactly what he had to work with, Dr. Long went to the Capitol and consulted Governor Williams, who in turn authorized the Board of Affairs to take such steps as might be necessary to build and equip a chemical laboratory, to buy X-ray equipment, and to secure additional hospital and clinical facilities. Following this action, the City Hospital at Third and Stiles Streets, Oklahoma City, was leased and converted into a combination school and hospital, a clinical laboratory was built, and an X-ray plant was installed.

This much was done immediately and with the Governor showing so much interest in the project, Dr. Long felt encouraged. He moved his family to Oklahoma City and began work in real earnest, forgetting for the time being his own interests. It is true that he opened an office for the practice of surgery, but he was in it very little. He spent all the forenoon working in the school, planning for new improvements, and studying the problems he was having to meet. It must be remembered that he was not a school man primarily, and that he was not familiar with the most recent developments of medical school requirements, all of which constituted a batch of literature to be read and digested and correspondence which

must be undertaken in order to familiarize himself thoroughly with what was required in order to place the school on a firm foundation.

It was his greatest desire to obtain an "A" rating for the school, and in order to do this he knew that the fundamental equipment and hospital facilities required by the American Medical Association must be purchased and installed. Not only this but the Chicago officials of the American Medical Association must be convinced that the school was not merely a political football but rather an "A" rating, the standards thus set up would be maintained. A world of prejudice in Oklahoma City had to be overcome and the influence and help of these doctors (some of whom felt that the Governor had snubbed them in taking an outsider) must be lined up and put to work.

After the improvements began to go into effect and it seemed fairly certain that a new day was dawning for the school, Dr. Long went to Chicago, taking along with him Dr. A. L. Blesh. Here they met Dr. Arthur W. White, who was visiting in Chicago and who was a personal friend of Dr. Arthur Dean Bevin and Dr. N. C. Caldwell, President and Secretary respectively of the Council on Medical Education. At this conference the earnestness of these three faculty members was most impressive. They did not ask for advancement in rating, because they knew the school did not merit it. They only asked for patient advice and constructive criticism. Dr. Long says:

"I made the statement that as long as I was Dean of the school, the regulations and ideals of the Council would be carried out, that if any circumstances making that impossible should arise, *I would retire. That pledge has been kept.*"

As time went on, additions were made to the faculty. Entrance requirements and standards were raised. The Out-Patient Department was enlarged, the clinical facilities generally were improved. Up to the time of Dr. Long's appointment, the State had furnished such a small amount of support for the school that everyone was discouraged, and the clinics which were already organized in St. Anthony Hospital and other places were about to be withdrawn. Now after even a few months, they not only were not withdrawn but were greatly increased. A few months after his appointment, Dr. Long was able to say the following:

"In the work of the school the very first thing upon which emphasis is placed is efficient and systematic service on the part of the teaching staff. \*\*\*\* It is well understood by all, therefore, that men are on the faculty for but one purpose—to render acceptable service. As we see it, this is a basic essential, for an enthusiastic and able corps of teachers may make up to a great extent for lack of equipment and other facilities. \*\*\*\* In addition to the full-time men at Norman, we have here at Oklahoma City, fifty odd active members of the faculty, and there is a perfectly satisfactory esprit de corps. \*\*\*\* There are no bickerings, no jealousies apparent. \*\*\*\* We are endeavoring to impress upon the students that medicine is not a money-making vocation, but a profession that should be dedicated to service of humanity. We are trying to encourage them to have ideals, and to show them that if the medical man



will conscientiously work for the realization of an ideal based upon the traditional conception of altruistic service to his fellow being, the mere matter of making a living will take care of itself. We realize that this is a heavy undertaking, for all of us know, although we may blush with shame when we think about it, that the spirit of commercialism has, especially of late years, been too often manifest in the ranks of our profession. \*\*\*\* But some of us have enough faith to make us feel like continuing the job, for, God willing, we believe the time is not far distant when our work will bear abundant fruit, and those who have wandered away from the paths of professional rectitude and traded upon the misfortunes of the sick will be forgotten, or, worse, and perhaps more justly, remembered with undisguised disgust. \*\*\*\* Recently an arrangement was made through which a considerable sum of money is made immediately available in connection with the present needs of the School of Medicine. Temporarily, this will place us in a splendid situation. Through this arrangement we will be able to install all the equipment now needed both at Norman and Oklahoma City. At present we are operating two hospitals at Oklahoma City—University Hospital and University Emergency Hospital—with an aggregate capacity of 100 beds. In addition, we have clinical arrangements with St. Anthony's Hospital and with several maternity hospitals. This gives the School of Medicine excellent clinical facilities. \*\*\*\* The school is now supplied with all the required full-time professors, and, in addition thereto, we have a full-time pathologist and an expert anesthetist on salary in connection with the work of our two hospitals. After careful consideration, we believe we are justified in making the statement that our work in the School of Medicine, both at Norman and at Oklahoma City, is "A" grade, but we are in "B" grade, and we believe we are kept there mainly for the reason that the work of our clinical years is conducted in rented property. We do not believe that the Council on Medical Education looks with favor upon this temporary, unsettled situation of the school—an unfortunate, crippling situation for a department of the University of the great state of Oklahoma.

This brings us to the most important matter in connection with our most urgent need if we are to grow in the future. If Oklahoma University is to have a medical department of the kind she should have—a medical department of real merit and, withal, a source of greatest good to the people of the state, we must have a large clinical hospital at Oklahoma City. Our ideal is a three hundred bed hospital with an arrangement through which the counties of the state shall send the indigent sick and crippled and afflicted to us for treatment."

Accordingly, in January, 1917, a bill was introduced into the Legislature, providing for two hundred thousand dollars to construct a University Hospital to be used as a teaching institution for the medical school. It had been planned to have it introduced to the Senate but the Senate Hospital Committee refused to report favorably on the bill and recommended that "it do not pass."

Certain doctors in Oklahoma City were not in favor of the hospital, among them, Dr. J. B. Rolater, who was the owner of the hospital under lease by the school and which was being used as a teaching hospital at that time. The matter remained deadlocked for a time. Paul Fesler, who was working all the time lobbying for the bill, grew discouraged and said it was hopeless. Finally Dr. Rolater told Dr. Fite that if his lease could be allowed to run on, he would stop lobbying against the bill. The friends of the bill decided to allow it to run and Dr. Long requested and obtained

a rehearing before the Senate Committee in the Senate Chamber. It was held at noon and a large number of members of the faculty and students attended the hearing: I quote Dr. Long's words:

"With impassioned pleas and unanswerable logic, one after another presented the claims of the School of Medicine; and on that day we solemnly promised that if we could get help, we would remove the odious stigma of "B" grade. And then the members of the medical profession came to our assistance. The members of the Legislature were anxious to secure reliable information, and they received it from the physicians of the state. The struggle continued for longer than two months, when in March, 1917, just before the adjourning of the Legislature, the bill passed with an overwhelming majority. With this victory, the state of Oklahoma now had a class "A" school, whose entrance requirements were as high as any school in the country, whose graduates were receiving adequate instruction, and whose laboratories and equipment were up to the standard required by the American Medical Association. Not only this, but the poor people of the state of Oklahoma finally had a hospital to which they could come and obtain the best type of medical attention."

It was not all eloquence and unanswerable logic, however, which caused the bill to pass. The powerful influence of Governor Williams was on their side and even after the Senate had recommended that it not pass, the governor threatened to veto the college appropriation unless the bill was passed in three days. He says that organized medicine was not back of the bill to build the University Hospital. He says that he and Dr. Long did it. Most likely he is correct.

#### CHAPTER 11.

The new University Hospital was a box like structure built on the bare, treeless side of a hill southeast of the Capitol. It was considerably removed from other buildings of the city, but a street-car line ran past it and a paved street led to it, thus giving access from the city out that way. Not a dollar of the two hundred thousand dollars was spent for architectural beauty, but every penny went into useful construction for the service of the patients. In spite of its lack of adornment, however, the opening of the hospital and the granting of an "A" rating by the Council on Medical Education marked the dawning of a new day in the medical history of Oklahoma. Not only was Dr. Long and the medical faculty happy over this, but more than hundred students as well as leading members of the profession throughout the state were overjoyed that the goal had at last been reached. A great banquet was held at the conclusion of an all day celebration. Prominent officials of the state of Oklahoma and of the State Medical Association attended the banquet and one and all pledged their support and efforts in maintaining the standards of the institution. The banquet was in charge of the senior students of the school; and Dr. Leonard C. Williams, who was then from Pawhuska, was the toastmaster. Those doubting ones who had come to scoff, remained to praise; and the swift and impressive manner in which the new dean had accomplished the building of a first-class medical school constituted an enduring

monument to his ability and automatically made him the acknowledged leader of the profession in the state of Oklahoma.

The hospital was first opened for the reception of patients in August, 1919, and had a normal bed capacity of one hundred and seventy-six. During the next two years this capacity was greatly increased by the addition of an administration building and other repairs, making the total bed capacity at this time two hundred and seventy-six with twenty-five other beds which could be used in case of emergencies. It had well equipped laboratories and an X-ray department, as well as diet kitchens, work shops, and a laundry. Also its record system was well under way. Such an institution was large enough to require considerable personnel and organization. Dr. Wann Langston was appointed Medical Superintendent by Dr. Long; and Paul Fesler, who had begun his career as office secretary for the Dean and who had grown up with the institution so that he understood every phrase of its management, was made Business Superintendent.

The patients were divided during the first year into medical, surgical and obstetrical services; and beginning on July 1, 1920, a medical and surgical resident physician was on duty at all times with internes working under them in each department. The number of students had increased to one hundred and thirty-two, there being forty-seven freshmen, thirty-seven sophomore, twenty-four juniors and twenty-four seniors. The out-patient clinic still remained at the original emergency hospital at Second and Stiles, and the average daily attendance jumped from one hundred to one hundred and fifty patients. So much had this attendance increased that it was impossible to give them adequate attention with the help available.

There was yet one large hurdle to be negotiated. The work of the first two years was still conducted at Norman, and was groaning because of inadequate housing facilities. The number of students enrolling for medicine had shown a sharp increase, and Dr. Long earnestly wished to bring the entire Medical Department to Oklahoma City. He knew that it was far better if students could have all four years in one location so that they would be in contact with patients and instructors during their entire period of instruction. He was forced to wait on this matter, however, and had to satisfy himself with a slower growth. In 1921 the Legislature appropriated sixty thousand dollars for the building and equipping of a nurses' home. Prior to this time the nurses had been quartered in a dwelling some two blocks west of the hospital. Not only were their quarters terribly crowded, but it was quite inconvenient in cold or wet weather so that the hospital was forced to provide transportation for them under such conditions. The new nurses' home was built directly back of the hospital and when it was finished and the landscaping of the grounds began to take form, the University began to look its part in the appearance of the city

in general. At the same time the nurses' home was built, the old laboratory quarters between it and the hospital were remodeled into a convenient and well equipped dispensary. All this time the old dispensary had remained at Second and Stiles—practically a mile away from the hospital. Now for the first time the hospital, nurses' home, and dispensary were all in one unit, the only remaining task being to build a medical school and bring the work of the first two years from Norman to Oklahoma City.

By this time Dr. Long had shown himself not only to be a fine teacher and a splendid surgeon, but a capable administrator and organizer. Also his inherently clean mind and high ideals permeated the entire faculty and were radiating themselves out in every direction through the many contacts which his associates had with other physicians of the state. At this time there were only two fully equipped hospitals in the state and both were in Oklahoma City. One of these was his immediate creation. Owing to his acknowledged ability as a speaker and his numerous old acquaintances throughout the state, he was continually called upon to visit various sections of the state and to attend medical meetings. Every act of his life was to make concrete and actual the dreams which had been growing in his heart since his earliest boyhood; and as he visited the hospital each day and saw the long line of eager, suffering people looking to him and his assistants for help, many times his heart went back to the day of his own graduation when he took the Oath of Hippocrates and dedicated his life to the service of humanity. No doubt he thought more than once of the talks he had had with old Dr. McLean under the shade trees of his North Carolina home. No doubt he thought of the long hours he had spent driving across the country in the cold and the wet as he practiced in Caddo, preparing himself for the day when he could do an even greater work, which was to train other men to take his place.

During the years 1917 and 1918, in addition to carrying on the tremendous load of building the medical school, Dr. Long likewise was forced to carry on his part of a national war effort. As a member of the draft board in Oklahoma City, much of his time was taken up examining army recruits. As a result of his efforts during this emergency, he was made a lieutenant colonel in the medical reserve, heading Base Hospital Number 56, which was to be ready for immediate service in case another national emergency should arise. Fortunately, none did arise during the remainder of his lifetime.

In 1925 both he and the school suffered a severe loss, when Paul Fesler was offered the superintendency of the University Hospital of Minneapolis. Paul had not only been the Business Superintendent of the hospital but was invaluable in many ways, carrying the full details of hospital administration with no effort whatever. He was a perpetual missionary for the University Hospital, traversing the state from end to end, making contacts with legislators,

physicians, and others interested in the welfare of patients. He was a splendid representative when the Legislature was in session, presenting the cause of the University Hospital in language which legislators could understand, bringing them over and demonstrating to them the need for further funds in order to develop the institution which had been started. He made it a business to make friends among all the political groups who controlled the destinies of the state of Oklahoma, and lived his work day and night. Perhaps he, more than any other man, was responsible for the rapid growth of the medical school when it once got a break. Not only was he doing these things at home, but he was attending national meetings and soon became known to the American College of Surgeons as one of the most capable administrators in the nation. Eventually he grew to be too big for his position and was called to Minneapolis. His going left the entire load of public relations on Dr. Long himself, which was more than one man could properly attend to.

Along with the loss of Paul from the working force of the hospital, there were other losses. Dr. Archa K. West, formerly Dean of the School and Professor of Medicine, passed away. Also did Antonio D. Young and Dr. Arthur A. Will, all loyal and devoted faculty members who had helped build the institution to what it was. Naturally their places were taken by younger men, but Dr. Long felt their losses as personal friends.

Meanwhile the institution continued to grow. A Soldiers' Relief Bill was passed by the Legislature in 1921, and among other things it provided for hospital attention for disabled veterans who could not obtain emergency care from the Veterans' Bureau. Working in conjunction with this fund, the third west floor of the University Hospital was fitted up as a soldiers' ward, which it remains today.

At this same time it became necessary to establish a Social Service Department of the hospital, and the first head of this department was Miss Virginia Tolbert, who had been formerly Dean of Women at the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

Among other activities of Paul Fesler and members of the Orthopedic Department was the formation of a Crippled Children's Society. This had a membership throughout the state and speedily became a very powerful organization. Mr. Lew Wentz, a multi-millionaire, of Ponca City, became greatly interested in its work and thereby was induced frequently to visit the University Hospital and see the corrective work which was being done among these children. Finally he conceived the idea of a donation of a more permanent type and decided to build a children's hospital on the grounds adjacent to the University Hospital, so that the children could be cared for properly by members of the faculty. He proposed a donation of three hundred thousand dollars, which could be added to by the Legislature to build the kind of hospital which would be needed and to equip it properly. There were some doubts

and hesitation, some committee hearings and rehearings, some argument pro and con, but finally the Senate and House of Representatives agreed to accept his donation and furnish the necessary equipment and grounds to put it into effect. The result was the erection of one of the most beautiful children's hospitals in the country, located on the hillside east of the University Hospital and forming a part of the same institution. It has a capacity of three hundred beds, and the work in it is done entirely by members of the teaching faculty of the University of Oklahoma. Needless to say, it is continually filled by children from every county in Oklahoma.

Finally in 1927, the long sought appropriation was secured to make the medical school a complete unit with the University Hospital. The Legislature was induced to provide funds for the construction of a medical school building to be erected across the street from the hospital on ground already owned by the state. Dr. L. A. Turley, assistant Dean of the School, was appointed to arrange for the plans and after they were prepared, the building was constructed. On November 2, 1928, it was dedicated to the service of the people of Oklahoma. The dedicatory address was made by Dr. Jabez N. Jackson, old time friend and associate of Dr. Long, who at this time was President of the American Medical Association.

#### CHAPTER 12.

By the time the medical school building was completed, the name of LeRoy Long began to be known more and more throughout the nation. As he traveled about to medical meetings he was recognized as an increasingly important authority in the field of surgery. Medical school men everywhere knew that he had taken a school practically from the start and within ten years had turned it into a class "A" school of the first order. Also they recognized that when he stood on his feet to talk in a medical meeting, they were sure to hear something that was unusually good. By reason of this, honors of various kinds began to flow to him without his seeking them. In addition to his long time membership in the county and state medical associations with their corresponding affiliation in the American Medical Association, he was a charter member of the American College of Surgeons. Throughout his life he was very proud of this and worked at it without ceasing. Also he was a member of the Oklahoma City Academy of Medicine, the American Association for the Study of Goiter, the Western Surgical Association (a very exclusive organization), and the Association of Medicine of North America. He was a fellow and ex-president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science. Due to his knowledge of French literature, he was a member of L'Association des Medecins.

His only hobby was the reading of French literature, and he mastered the language entirely without help when he was located in McAlester. Feeling the need of reading a foreign language in medicine, he sent away and bought a correspondence course in French. After studying this for a short time, he was able to find

a young French woman, who was governess for the children of a fellow citizen in McAlester, and obtained a few lessons in pronunciation from her. From this time on, his interest in the language was so great that he continued to work at it until he read it as well as he read English.

An important movement which started under Dr. Long's fostering tutelage was the Oklahoma City Clinical Society. This movement began in the mind of Dr. Earl D. McBride, then President of the Oklahoma County Medical Society; but the first meeting of committee members which outlined the policies and the plan on which the clinics would be handled each year was held in the University Hospital under Dr. Long's chairmanship in 1930. From that beginning has grown a meeting which has assumed national importance and attracts annually five or six hundred doctors to Oklahoma City. During the past ten years it has had as lecturers practically every famous man of medicine in the United States. Up to the year of his death, Dr. Long had served on its Advisory Committee and as a member of its Executive Board.

In 1926 he grew weary and decided to take another European trip for a vacation. He and Mrs. Long left for a trip to France and were gone most of the summer. During this time with his complete knowledge of French, he was able to get around and enjoy himself much more than on his previous visit. One of the exciting experiences which he recounted with great pleasure was a visit to the University at Lausanne, Switzerland, where he happened to see Professor Roux give the last lecture of his university career to the class in medicine. In his story of this visit one could detect the feeling of one teacher of medicine sympathizing with another as his career closed.

When Dr. Long's party reached the amphitheater, he noticed that it was decorated with flowers and that there was a general atmosphere of gloom prevailing the place. The old professor was talking to the students and occasionally a tear would roll down his cheek. Dr. Long was introduced to the Professor's daughter, who whispered to him that her father was giving his last lecture to the medical class because he had reached the age of retirement and must stop his work. Dr. Long felt embarrassed and told her that he would withdraw, that he did not wish to intrude and would excuse himself. She would not hear of it, however, but insisted on introducing him to her father, who immediately snapped out of his gloom and gave a special operative clinic for the American visitors. At this clinic he used an American made Bard-Parker knife, which he demonstrated to the class and praised very highly. Turning to Dr. Long, he asked him if he knew who invented this knife. Dr. Long did not know.

"It was not a surgeon; he would be too stupid," said Professor Roux.

After the clinic, Dr. Long's party was invited to stay for a few moments visit, during which time he and the professor became fast friends, and for some years after this they exchanged correspondence.

Also on this trip he visited various historic shrines, wherein he learned much about the work of Pasteur and other great medical heroes, who had been his delight as he studied medicine and fought his way upward in the world of science. He reflected these moments of hero worship in his later speeches and passed on to students the inspiration he drew from the great examples of these men.

In 1925 he attended a meeting of the American College of Surgeons in Philadelphia. An important part of the program was the Hospital Section, where he was listed to speak. When his time came, he got up and held the audience spellbound by his discussion of fee splitting, which he termed a "traffic in helpless human beings." Column after column was devoted to his talk in the Philadelphia newspapers; and an interesting fact is that in spite of the distinguished names who were present and who talked on that occasion, more space was allotted to his remarks than to all the others put together. Dr. Long stated that there were probably thirty thousand men in the United States performing operations who used means "other than their knowledge in obtaining patients". "They perform quick operations that are not necessary," Dr. Long declared, "and after bleeding patients of every penny, send them out to die. Such surgeons put men and women on the operating table and carve them up before the patient has time to consult a specialist. In many cases where operations were really necessary, such surgeons have refused to operate until assured of their fee." He went on to say that the remedy lay with the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, who were pledged to give their skill and time freely to the poor.

The reaction to this speech was widespread, and in some quarters not too good. Many surgeons resented it bitterly and wrote letters to him protesting against such an accusation. Newspapers conducted forum discussions on the issue, and the uproar was remarkable. Especially was it so since Dr. Long had not the faintest idea that it would ever be published. He was merely talking to a group of fellow surgeons, pleading with them to maintain the same high principles of ethics which he himself believed in.

Dr. Long was devoted to his wife and two sons. It was one of the great regrets of his life that he had been so busy in applying himself to the ideals of the practice of medicine that he had little or no time for his family. He often advised young men not to get too busy to be with their children, and it was a source of the greatest pleasure when he learned that both of his sons wanted to become doctors. He made no particular attempt to influence them; and, in fact, the younger one thought for a time of going into business but finally swung around to his father's occupation, and it was noticeable to Dr. Long's friends how pleased he was at



his son's decision. He sent them both through Oklahoma University, then through Harvard University Medical Department. Upon graduation he arranged for them to have the finest possible internships, and then gave them each a trip to Europe. When they came back to Oklahoma City to locate with him, his joy knew no bounds. The three of them associated themselves together, forming the Leroy Long Clinic, under which name the two sons still operate.

Dr. Long was a member of many organizations. He early joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South and remained a steadfast member of that body until the day of his death. He was deeply religious and served as a steward at St. Lukes Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, for a number of years. Because of his grave and kindly bearing and his eloquence when on his feet, he was often mistaken for a member of the ministry. One of his strongest personal friends was Reverend Forney Hutchinson, who was for a number of years pastor of the church in Oklahoma City. Many times they were seen together, making rounds calling on patients in the late afternoons, and often Reverend Hutchinson would come with him out to the medical school and University Hospital and stay while Dr. Long saw all his patients and wound up his work for the day. Early in his career he became a member of the Masonic Lodge and enjoyed it exceedingly. While living in Caddo, he became a member of the B. P. O. E., and the Woodmen of the World. He was a life member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and for more than twenty years was District Governor of the American College of Surgeons. All these organizations claimed a portion of his time, in addition to other numerous medical groups to which he belonged.

Dr. Long's character was an interesting complex. Naturally he was timid and shy, above the average, yet when urged to undertake a thing by his friends, he would start into it and show the courage of a lion. On moral principles he never compromised; and when once he became convinced that medicine was a high calling whose ethics should be the highest in the world, nothing could shake him from that belief. This being the case, all his life he was bitterly opposed to fee splitting or to any of the unethical practices which were condemned by organized medicine. That is why being dean of the medical school appealed to him. Here he could put into practice all his principles and live them completely, as well as teach them to the oncoming generation of younger doctors.

That is why when he went to Chicago he gave his pledge that he would run the University Hospital in accordance with the highest principles of organized medicine and when he could no longer do so, he would resign. And that is why when circumstances arose making it impossible for him to maintain those standards, he did resign promptly and without hesitation.

In 1929 he made another trip to Europe, in company with his son, Wendell, this time attending a World Conference for Crippled

Children, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Before leaving Oklahoma City, a telegram came to him from Paul H. King, of Detroit, Michigan, which read as follows:

Dr. LeRoy Long, Sr., Dean,  
University School of Medicine,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

I have learned with great pleasure of your attending the Geneva conference. Anxious for you to preside morning session, Tuesday, July 30th. Theme: Examination and diagnosis of crippled children. Also to make remarks on subjects you may be in a position to make. Glad to have you wire acceptance.

In his telegram, Dr. Long replied:

Paul H. King,  
Detroit, Michigan.

I had not intended to attend Geneva conference but since I will be in Switzerland at the time, I accept your kind invitation to preside morning session, Tuesday, July 30th.

When he delivered his remarks in French, there was great applause in the hall. The official interpreter of the convention was a young Swiss, who was immensely elated that an American could speak French.

After the conference, he and Wendell returned to France, and made a leisurely tour through that country. It was Dr. Long's desire to know how the ordinary common people of France lived and thought; and for this reason their tour included many small towns which are not in the ordinary paths of travel. They went to Grenoble, then to Avignon, Nimes, and Carcassonne. At Nimes was located the ruins of a vast Roman coliseum, and while the scenery was good, the food and wine were no good. One hot day while here, they searched in vain for a cool drink of water, wine, or any other thing which might slake their thirst. After a vain search, they were forced to be content with a very inferior fare; and in spite of his love for France, Dr. Long confided to Wendell:

"The best thing about these people is their language."

From here they went to Toulouse and Bordeaux. His American appetite was plenty strong and after a few days of privation, he was anxious for some kind of food similar to what he was accustomed to. Going into a restaurant, he asked the waiter for an order of fried ham. Apparently the waiter had never heard of such a thing. He offered boiled ham, stewed ham, and every other kind of ham except fried. Dr. Long trotted out his best French and after a lengthy discussion with many gestures, he took the knife out of the waiter's hand, showed him how to slice off a piece of ham, put it into a skillet, and fry it; and finally was served what he wanted.

Shortly after this Dr. Long's sociological interest played out, and he became once more interested in things pertaining to medicine. A few days later they reached Paris, where he could hardly wait until he had seen the Pasteur Institute. He reached it late in the afternoon, almost at closing time, but an old attendant courteously

admitted him and asked if he would like to visit the tomb of Pasteur. A man who had worshiped Pasteur all his life and who had come three thousand miles to learn more about him naturally would. So he was led along a lengthy passage to a dark, cellar-like opening closed by iron gates. After opening these gates, the attendant led them down some steps into another passage leading to a cryptlike enclosure built of masonry. In this room was Pasteur's grave and when the lights were turned on, one could read across the ceiling the words, "Faith, Hope, Charity, Science." Dr. Long stood for a few moments in rapt contemplation, then slowly turned away and followed his guide. Perhaps of all the moments spent in his busy life of achievement, of inspiration, of study, and of dreams, this was the highest single point he ever reached. He often referred to it in making addresses to students in later years. Of all the heroes that Dr. Long worshiped, Pasteur stood the highest; and when in the fullness of time, such success came to him that he could travel across the waters and stand at the grave of this, the greatest hero of all, his cup of happiness was filled.

One other high point stood out in his memory of this trip. This was a visit to the Ecole des Medecins of the University of Paris (Sorbonne). Among the ancient buildings of this institution there is a long pasageway, lined by the statues of great men who have attained fame in the history of French medicine. This passageway is known as the Hall of Lost Footsteps, and here again Dr. Long saturated his soul with the admiration and the inspiration of men whose names have marked the way by which all modern medical science travels.

#### CHAPTER 13.

By 1930 the medical school and hospital unit were completed and all that remained was to add to them from year to year as the population grew and as the demands increased. Also both Dr. Long's sons had finished their schooling and were now at home practicing with him. It appeared as if his life work was principally done, and he could enjoy the fruits of many years spent in careful and conscientious labor.

The faculty was well organized and composed of men quite capable in their various specialties. The student body was enthusiastic and was doing good work, with an increased enrollment at the beginning of each school year. The students had more opportunity for clinical observation than they were able to take advantage of. Everyone was united and was agreed that the school was a good one and that its Dean had the universal respect and admiration of all who knew him. Ordinarily under such conditions, one would assume that the Dean would continue on until the inevitable toll of age had drained his vitality and abilities to a point where he would automatically be retired.

Such was not to be the case, however, in the fast moving state of Oklahoma. A new governor was elected, the Honorable William

H. Murray, a member of the original constitutional convention and a stickler for exact interpretation of laws. He swept into the office with the backing of a host of malcontents, who believed that almost everything in the state was being run against the interests of the people and who wanted a change. As always, there was the usual turnover of State employees in the various departments of government; and an institution as large as University Hospital was not to be overlooked by those who were seeking places for patronage favors. Compromises became necessary for those who desired to remain in power; and the appointment and naming of employees, even including the medical and business superintendents of the hospital, were more or less taken out of the hands of the University authorities and delegated to those whose primary interest was that of repaying political obligations.

Dr. Long stood against such wholesale changing of employees. He took the position that a hospital was an institution which should not be disturbed any more than was necessary. While he recognized that certain non-professional jobs might have a change of personnel without particular damage to the institution, he did not like the idea of discharging faithful employees and replacing them with political hangers-on, whose only qualifications consisted of knowing the right people. He had always managed to weather the storm of previous changes of governors by simply remaining neutral, but this time he could not do so. A more or less constant barrage of criticism was directed at him and those responsible for the management of the University, including all its divisions. Most of this criticism was absolutely unjust and unfounded and consisted of rumors announced before committees wherein the accused had no opportunity for refutation. Conscientious citizens do not like to be thus pilloried, even though the things for which they are criticized can be fully explained as being proper conduct under the circumstances. As a rule, they never are given the opportunity to explain, and newspapers and other organs of publicity are never able to reach the same audience with their explanations as was reached in the original sensational article of criticism. For these reasons, it was a very trying time for Dr. Long and those of his associates who were laboring as hard as possible for the good and steady management of the University Hospital and Medical School.

Along with these troubles came the usual demand of disgruntled elements for a fuller share in the operation of the hospital. Osteopaths, chiropractors, and other groups of healers were alert to the opportunity and began to demand that they be allowed to use the hospital. Notwithstanding the fact that the University Hospital was built primarily for the benefit of the Medical School and was operated by the faculty without salaries for the benefit of students, these groups, who could not qualify under the American Medical Association rule for faculty appointments, were perfectly

willing to ruin the standing of the school in order to carry their point.

Their complaint became so loud that it reached the ears of the Governor, who in looking over the original bill which provided for the construction of the hospital, found that the wording of the law was of such a nature that in his opinion they were legally entitled to attend patients in the institution. Looking back over the incident, it would seem that if he had taken thought for the good and best interests of the state at large, he would have found some method of avoiding the issue rather than to have harmed the school in the manner which his interpretation seemed likely to do. Regardless of the merits of his interpretation, it was naturally ruinous to the medical school; because the moment such irregular practitioners were allowed to participate in the care of patients within its walls, the approval of the American Medical Association was instantly and automatically withdrawn from the school and its rating completely lost.

Dr. Long attempted to show the Governor and those advising him the error of such an interpretation. They were not impressed by his plan, however. The American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons meant nothing to them; and in their rugged individualism, they felt that no one had the right to tell them how an institution in Oklahoma should be administered. For a few days the matter stood thus, while the faculty and students anxiously awaited the Governor's decision. Finally on July 27, 1931, came an executive order from the Governor, reading as follows:

WHEREAS, there exists in Oklahoma City a State Institution known as the University Hospital, which hospital is for the treatment of diseases and to supply remedies for sick and suffering citizens of the state and to aid such sick and suffering as by law may be consigned to said hospital by any means or methods that will relieve their suffering, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. W. O. Burgett was placed in said hospital Saturday morning, July 25th, and

WHEREAS, The medical physicians state that there is very little hope for her recovery, and

WHEREAS, Dr. LeRoy Long has stated to the Governor over the telephone that there is very little hope for her recovery, and

WHEREAS, The husband of said Mrs. Burgett, through the advice of her neighbor and friend who is a practitioner known as chiropractic, informs him that Mrs. Burgett needs a combined treatment of medicine and chiropractic methods, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that every method be used that would relieve suffering humanity and particularly this patient lodged in a state institution, and

WHEREAS, the said institution is a public institution and should admit all physicians, surgeons, and other persons having remedies recognized and licensed by law of the state of Oklahoma, and the denial of the right of the patient and her family to have such treatment is a discrimination in the law between regularly licensed and lawfully permitted attendance upon the sick,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wm. H. Murray, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby direct that the said hospital shall permit any chiro practitioner to treat the said Mrs. Burgett and that the said authorities

of said institution may be authorized to be present while such treatment is progressing to the end that they may know at all times the condition of the patient. This order is effective at once.

Done this the 27th day of July, 1931.

By the Governor of the State of Oklahoma  
Wm. H. Murray.

Attest: R. A. Sneed, Secretary of State  
Una Lee Roberts, Asst. Secretary of State.

On the same day the University Hospital management was served with this order, there appeared in the newspapers the following articles:

"Home concocted remedies are best for the ails and pains that emanate from "Green apple" aches and digestive rumblings of a severe order, quoth Governor Murray.

"For appendicitis, eat grapes, chewing up the hulls and swallowing the seeds whole," his dissertation on the ills of one's anatomy began.

"You can use raisins; soak them in water, don't boil them.

Unpolished rice makes for good teeth.

Use goat's milk for mineral matter to build up body substances.

Never eat roasting ears and sugary materials at the same sitting. It forms "choc" inside you. (He gestured that you might swell under such atmospheric conditions.) Boil your bananas; we always do."

Perhaps this last article was facetious and a concoction of a newspaper reporter. Whether it was or not, it indicated the general disposition of the governing authorities and the public at large to make a light joke of the issue between regular medicine and chiropractors.

Dr. Long could do nothing but comply with the governor's order because that was the law of Oklahoma. He made a desperate attempt to see the governor and get the order rescinded but had no success. He reported the matter to Dr. Bizzell, President of the University, and attempted to get him to do something about it. Dr. Bizzell was under tremendous fire from the same source, and no doubt was resenting the order as much as Dr. Long was; perhaps, however, he did not feel that the disapproval of the American Medical Association Council was as vital a matter as Dr. Long felt that it was. At any rate, it seemed impossible for him to bring the Board of Regents together and obtain their advice, so he suggested a waiting policy in the hope that eventually the matter could be straightened out.

Such a waiting policy was not possible for a man who had spent his life preaching and teaching ethical medicine and who had served on state board after state board, upholding those ideals. Nor was it possible for a man who had taken the oath of the American College of Surgeons and who had devoted his time and money in the cause of hospital standardization to temporize with such an issue in the slightest degree. More than all this, it was not in accordance with the pledge which Dr. Long felt that he had given to the American Medical Association officials when they granted an "A" rating to the school in the second year of his administration. He felt that his responsibility was primarily to them and to the medical profession rather than to the state of Oklahoma or

to its governing officials. Only in that way did he feel that he could discharge his obligation to the public. He placed the code of medical ethics higher than any other social responsibility and lived according to this to the very last of his official capacity.

Under such circumstances, therefore, there was nothing else he could do except to resign. In solitude, as was his custom, he thought the matter through and came to a conclusion. When he had finally decided on his course of action, he issued a call for a faculty meeting in the medical school auditorium. The meeting was held on the evening of August 7, 1931. When they had assembled, Dr. Long gave a history of the matter to them, laying the situation clearly before them and explaining that he could no longer be the head of an institution which admitted irregular practitioners on even terms with the members of the regular profession and which would inevitably bring about a loss of rating of the medical school. He assured them that he had no desire to resign under fire nor had he any criticism of anyone; that it was not his idea to beg for help or mercy but that if the people of Oklahoma wanted a medical school of that kind, he did not care to be identified with it further and, therefore, was sending in his resignation on the following morning. He had thought it out to the end and felt that he had to resign, because the Governor had by a formal executive order interfered with the fundamental functions of the school and hospital without giving its officials an opportunity to be heard. The College of Surgeons had already served written notice on Dr. Long that if this condition were not immediately corrected, the University Hospital would be removed from the list of approved hospitals. It seemed to be impossible to bring the Board of Regents together for official action to end the chiropractor's visits, and Dr. Long did not feel that it was right to allow the institution to operate further under such a handicap. He knew that his resignation would immediately bring official action by the Board of Regents, and that the issue would be settled. Moreover he had given his pledge to the American Medical Association that if they would grant an "A" rating to this College of Medicine, he would conform to their requirements; and that when conditions arose making it impossible for him to do this, he would resign. Under the present circumstances, he could do nothing else. He expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to each and every faculty member for their loyalty and kindness in helping him to build up the institution which they were all so proud of. He told them that his resignation was going to the President of the University that evening and that he would now turn the Chair over to the Vice-Chairman of the faculty.

Following his announcement, there was a shocked silence for a few minutes, then some abortive discussion which simply expressed the feeling of helplessness in the mind of every man present. Some were in favor of resigning as a faculty; others felt that surely some

way out of the difficulty would be found; still others felt that the duty of the faculty was to carry on with the patients until some final ruling was given or until the patients were turned over to the care of other doctors. Resolutions of regret were expressed, though everyone knew perfectly well that there was no use asking Dr. Long to maintain his position as Dean under such circumstances.

The meeting soon adjourned, and he walked out of the medical school building, never again to return in an official capacity. On the following morning he wrote a letter to the President of the University at Norman, stating that because of the intolerable situation and the obvious unwillingness of the Board of Regents to take any early steps to correct it, he was placed in a position where it was impossible for him to properly perform the functions of the Dean of the School of Medicine. He further stated:

"After carefully, deliberately, and sadly thinking over the whole matter, I regret to have to advise you that under the circumstances it will be impossible for me to continue my duties. I, therefore, hand you my resignation from the position of Dean of the School of Medicine and from the position of Professor of Surgery and Head of the Department of Surgery, effective immediately.

I cannot tell you how much pain it gives me to take this step. There are many reasons why it is painful, not the least of which is the annoyance that it might temporarily cause you. You have always helped us in every possible way, and I am profoundly grateful to you. If under the stress of the present situation I have seemed to be impatient, I trust that you will understand the motives which have prompted me."

On the following morning he came over and removed his personal effects from the office of the dean. As he was walking down the stairway, one of the younger instructors met him, stopped and shook hands, and expressed his deep and lasting regret that the school was losing him. Dr. Long merely smiled, patted the young man on the shoulder and said, "The king is dead! Long live the king!"

A few days later the Board of Regents of the University met and elected Dr. Lewis J. Moorman as Dean of the Medical Department. Likewise a short time later a ruling was secured from the Attorney-General, holding that chiropractors could not be admitted to practice in the University Hospital without the approval of the Board of Regents. The issue was carried through the Supreme Court and is now settled forever. If the school loses its "A" rating, it will not be because of irregular practitioners bringing patients to the University Hospital.

After his resignation as Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Long threw himself heart and soul into the work of his clinic. His two sons were now with him, and the three of them speedily built up their private work to where it demanded all his time and energy. He continued to contribute articles to various association meetings, not the least of which was the Oklahoma State Medical Association. Not only this but he remained active in its Council and never once did he lose sight of the interests of ethical medicine nor did he



cease striving constantly for higher standards and better laws governing the practice in the state of Oklahoma. He was one of the leaders of the profession in finally persuading the Legislature to pass a Basic Science Law, which went into effect during the year 1936. A man of his prominence and attainment could not be otherwise than leader as long as he was active; and in the year 1934, he was elected President of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, thus showing that the profession of Oklahoma still had faith in him which they had always had regardless of the fact that he had given up his work in the medical school. Two years later his name was nominated for the Oklahoma State Hall of Fame, and on November 16, 1936, his accomplishments were placed in the permanent record of the history of this state in order that future generations might know that he had been one of the men who have led in building the civilization which future generations will know as the state of Oklahoma.

The only patient who was ever neglected by Dr. LeRoy Long was his most precious one; namely, himself. The driving urge which caused him to fight for more and more knowledge as long as he lived, and the ambition which caused him to attempt to do the things which made him stand out above other men was so stern and vital a part of his nature that it caused him even from his youth to overlook such important matters as rest and food. Moreover he never seemed content to do an ordinary amount of work, but invariably took on a load fully two or three times more than he should have attempted.

Such constant driving shattered his health in Louisville to the extent that he broke down and could not carry on in that city. The result of this misfortune was that he came West in an effort to build up his health and to feel stronger and better. Possibly he obtained a slight tonic benefit from change of climate and more outdoor air, but he had still not learned the important lesson which most men learn earlier in life. During the two months he spent in Atoka, he broke down shortly afterwards with a severe attack of typhoid fever, which laid him up for six or seven weeks. Then as soon as he was able to go back, he began to practice so hard and faithfully that it is a miracle he survived as long as he did.

It has been pointed out earlier in this narrative that he had a great habit of staying up late at night so that he could read and think without interruption. This being his habit, when he was able to stay at home he did not obtain enough sleep; and as everyone who has had experience in country practice has learned for himself, there were very few nights during the first ten years of his practice when he was able to go home and get a full night's rest. Besides working unduly hard and sleeping too little and eating too irregularly, he continually took on himself undue tasks in the medical organizations to which he belonged. This pulled him away from home a great deal, taking him into committee meetings in

smoke filled rooms, where the air was not good and sleep was the last thing he thought of. While yet a boy somewhere along the line, he developed the habit of smoking and enjoyed it greatly, so that during the last few years of his life he smoked a great deal.

As a result of all these things, there came a time when something must snap. He began to notice irregularities of his heart beats somewhere around the time when he moved to Oklahoma City. Finally during the year 1938, he began to notice that after unusual amounts of smoking, eating, or labor, he had an uneasy feeling in the region of his heart, which to his medical mind was a foreboding of trouble. In February of this year, he fainted while working in St. Anthony Hospital. He recovered in a few minutes, however, and that evening delivered a paper before a medical meeting. Two months later, he had another severe attack of pain in the chest and was forced to cease work and place himself under the care of a physician. It was clinically apparent that he had suffered a myocardial infarction and when the diagnosis was definitely made and he understood what was his trouble, he knew that his days were numbered and began trying to conserve his strength and take care of himself. His movements became very slow and deliberate, and he feebly picked his way down the sidewalk like a very elderly man. He did not climb stairs but invariably rode an elevator. Handicapped with such a disability he did less and less work in the operating room. His sons tried to shield him in every way possible, but like an old fire horse who smells the smoke, he could not always be held back; and there were times when he would get out of hand and do more than his strength would permit. He finally ceased to operate, however, because he felt that it would not be right for a man as sick as himself to assume such a responsibility.

In September 1940, he grew much weaker and was forced to remain at home. This was not such a hardship for him because he could still enjoy his books and thoughts. Day by day, however, he grew weaker and suffered more and more physical agony. Finally there came a time when he realized that he could not recover. From this time on, reading no longer interested him, and he had only his thoughts to live with. During the week before his death, he suddenly requested Mrs. Long to send for one of the younger physicians of the city, a friend who had formerly been his assistant. Mrs. Long thought he wanted to chat over old times and hesitated to send the message. He kept insisting, however, and told her that he must see this man because there was little time to lose. The next day he seemed a little stronger and renewed his request, so that she telephoned the message which immediately brought the doctor over. Upon his arrival, Dr. Long shook hands with him, made him be seated, and told him that he had sent for him to ask him to carry out a very special request. Tears came in his eyes but he brushed them away, saying, "I am being foolish now. Please pardon me." Then when he had regained his composure, he said,

"I am going to die in the next two or three days, and I have sent for you because you are familiar with the record of my service in the University Hospital. You have always been my loyal friend, and I want to ask you to write the record of my life." He said, "I have always lived honorably and ethically, and I do not want my record to be left in any other way."

He then gave a detailed history of the last few days of his official career as Dean of the Medical School, explaining his side of the controversy. His friend listened carefully, made such notes as were necessary, fixed the events in his mind, promised him that he would carry out the request, and attempted to reassure him that possibly he was not so ill as he thought. Dr. Long was not to be misled, however. He sadly shook his head and said, "No, I know that I am going before long. I am only concerned that my record will be clear for my boys and my family." He then seemed to be tired, and the doctor shook hands with him and left. Six days later he sank into a coma, from which he never roused.

His death occurred at 8:00 P. M. on Sunday night, October 27, 1940, the first night of the annual meeting of the Oklahoma City Clinical Society. His son, Wendell, happened to be President of the Clinical Society that year and was, therefore, detained at home for the greater part of the meeting. The other officers carried on the meeting, however, and at the County Medical Society banquet in honor of the President of the American Medical Association, a special eulogy to Dr. Long was delivered by Dr. L. S. Willour, of McAlester, who had been his friend for a long time and had been at one time associated with him.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon, burial being in Rose Hill Cemetery. Reverend Forney Hutchinson, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, another long time friend, came over and preached the funeral in St. Luke's Methodist Church. The Clinical Society arranged for special conveyances to bring the visiting doctors from their meeting place to the church and take them back. A large number of doctors from various parts of the state attended the funeral, and the church was filled with friends and patients from within the city.

In his funeral address, Reverend Forney Hutchinson pointed out Dr. Long's sterling worth and true character and held him up as an ideal man, who, when principle and self-interest collided, gave up self-interest and resigned his job rather than go against his life long principles. Expressions of regret were published in the County Society *Bulletins* of Oklahoma County Society and Tulsa County Society as well as in the *State Medical Journal*. Moreover, numerous letters of condolence and sympathy were received from his many friends everywhere. They all felt that they had lost a friend and that the nation had lost a great man.

Dr. Long's death occurred on Sunday, October 27th, 1940. On November 18th, Judge Robert L. Williams, President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, wrote to the Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society as follows:

Mr. James W. Moffitt, Secretary,  
Oklahoma Historical Society,  
Historical Society Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.  
Dear Sir:

I herewith beg to hand you a letter which I have received from Paul A. Walker, Washington, D. C. and copy of the letter I wrote him relative thereto. I ask that you assemble under appropriate file the Dr. LeRoy Long papers and place this letter among them. Also take the matter up with his two sons who were doctors and whose offices are in the Medical Arts Building in Oklahoma City, the matter of assembling appropriate papers and putting them in such file in the archives of the society. . . .

It is essential that an oil portrait of Dr. LeRoy Long be secured and placed in the proper museum in the historical society building. . . . He was over 70 years old. He had rendered great beneficial and distinguished service to the state. It was whilst he was Dean of the Medical School that the site on which the medical department is located was set aside for such purpose, and all of the buildings and the greater part of the equipment therein were constructed and acquired whilst he was Dean of the Medical School. . . . When he came to the medical school as Dean, it was located in what was then known as Rolater's Hospital, a frame building—none of it fire-proof—and a building rented for such purposes. The medical school was then in the B class. . . . But before the close of 1918, before I went out of office as Governor of the state, I am sure the school was in the recognized A class. The medical school is a monument to his leadership. . . .

There should be a copper plaque placed on the appropriate wall in the proper building of the medical school commemorating his services, . . . as a physician and his valuable connection and leadership in the school. There is one as to Dr. Duke and other physicians on the walls of the appropriate building. . . . I take it that the medical association of the state will see that this copper plaque showing the date of his birth and the date of his death, the degrees received by him, his connection with the medical organization in the state, and especially with the medical school. . . .

I wish you would take up with his sons the question of selecting some one to write an article appropriate of his life and his services in the Indian Territory and the State of Oklahoma. . . .

Yours truly,

ROBERT L. WILLIAMS,

President of Oklahoma Historical Society.

Writing to Honorable Paul A. Walker, Washington, D. C. on that same date, Judge Williams said:

"My association with Dr. Long convinced me that he would never surrender a point that involved principle, though it might work a hardship on him."

As soon as the State Medical Association Council got together, they voted the necessary funds to provide for a bronze plaque, commemorating the life and services of Dr. Long, said plaque to be presented at the next State Medical Association meeting and to be erected in a well lighted spot in the hall of the Medical School building. They engaged Professor Joseph Taylor, Professor of Sculpture in the University of Norman, to make the plaque; and he together with a committee from the Association worked out the words which should go on it.

Meanwhile the Phi Beta Pi Fraternity, of the Medical School, voted funds to establish an annual lectureship, called the LeRoy Long Lectureship. Since Dr. Long was a member of this fraternity, it was hoped to perpetuate his name by bringing once a year a distinguished man from some part of the United States, who would come and lecture before the students of the University of Oklahoma. The LeRoy Long Lecture was given on February 7, 1941, in the Medical School Auditorium. The meeting was presided over by General Robert U. Patterson, now Dean of the Medical School, who introduced Dr. Basil A. Hayes, who gave a short eulogy of Dr. LeRoy Long. Following him came the lecturer, Dr. Ernest Sachs, of St. Louis, the topic of whose talk was "Surgery of Brain Tumor Today and Ten Years Ago." Alumni from the entire state of Oklahoma were present, and the auditorium was packed with those who had gone to school under this great man. No more solemn and impressive ceremony has ever been held in that auditorium.

In the following May, when the State Medical Association convened in Oklahoma City, a part of their regular program was the dedicatory exercises for the LeRoy Long plaque. They were held in the afternoon on May 19 as a special order of business. They too were held in the Medical School auditorium, and Dr. Henry Turner, President of the State Medical Association presided. On the platform were President W. B. Bizzell, of the University, Dr. Robert U. Patterson, Dean of the Medical Department, also Dr. J. S. Fulton, of Atoka, and Doctors Willour and Tolleson. Laudatory talks were made by Dr. Bizzell and Dr. Fulton, following which on behalf of the State Medical Association, Dr. Turner presented the plaque to Dr. Bizzell, as President of the University, with instructions to hang it in an appropriate place as a perpetual remembrance to the students of the man who had built the institution and had given so many years of his life to its growth and development. Those who go to the Medical School today and walk into its entrance hall will find a bronze plaque hanging on the north wall to the right of the entrance. Near its upper end they will see the calm and kindly features of Dean LeRoy Long, smiling down at them, while below his likeness appears these words:

LEROY LONG

1869-1940

*Scholar and Surgeon  
Dean and Professor of Surgery  
1915---1931*

*Kind and Understanding Doctor  
Builder of the Medical School  
Courageous Leader of Ethical  
and Scientific Medicine  
Affectionately erected by the  
Oklahoma State Medical Association*