

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

JOHN F. COWAN  
(1880 – 1929)

Dr. John Francis Cowan, clinical professor of surgery, died in Los Angeles on May 17, at the age of 49. His wife, and a son and daughter survive him.

Dr. Cowan's untimely death has taken from us one who was universally loved and respected, and one who stood among the foremost of the surgeons of this coast. He was graduated from Stanford University in 1902 and was instructor in physiology there for the following four years. Then he went to Cornell University Medical School, where he received a degree of M.D. in 1910. The following two years he was intern at New York Hospital, and the next year was spent as resident surgeon there on the private side, as assistant to Dr. Frank Hartley. In 1915 he was invited to join the surgical staff of his Alma Mater, and came here as instructor in surgery. He passed through the grades of assistant and associate professor, and was made full professor in 1923. He resigned from the academic staff in 1926 to accept a clinical professorship, which he held up to the time of his death.

Dr. Cowan had a very excellent groundwork in biology, physiology, chemistry, and pathology, and his extensive clinical work. In New York, as well as here, together with his years of research work, in which he was still actively engaged at the time of his death, qualified him for leadership in his profession, and seemed to mark him as the future outstanding surgeon of the coast. He was a conscientious and painstaking teacher, and was very much beloved by his students and by those associated with him on the faculty of Stanford Medical School. By the profession at large he was greatly respected both for his judgment and his skill.

Besides being an active member of the San Francisco County Medical Society and the state and national associations, he was a Fellow of the American Surgical Association and of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. Modest and retiring to a degree, he enjoyed the confidence and love of all who knew him, and his death leaves a gap that will be slow in closing.