

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FREDERICK LEET REICHERT
(1894 – 1969)

Dr. Frederick L. Reichert died 23 September 1969 in Silver Spring, Maryland after a long illness. He was born 17 November 1894 in Doylestown, Ohio. After attending the Lancaster Pennsylvania High School, he attended the Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, receiving a Ph.D. degree in 1916. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa during his last year in college and was awarded a scholarship in biology to Cold Spring Harbor during the summer of 1916. He received his M. D. degree from Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1920. The first year following graduation he spent in the Hunterian Laboratory of Surgical Research where he had the opportunity of working under the direction and supervision of Dr. William Halsted, with whom he conducted a series of experiments on the replantation of limbs, studying the regeneration of lymphatics and the development of collateral circulation.

From 1921 to 1924 he served as an assistant resident in surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1924-26 he served as resident surgeon at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Instructor in Surgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

In May, 1926 he married Dr. Erida Leuschner, and for the following six months toured Europe, visiting the principal surgical clinics in England and on the continent. Upon his return to the United States he joined the full-time faculty at the Stanford University School of Medicine in San Francisco as an Associate Professor of Surgery.

Although Dr. Reichert received a full training in general surgery at Johns Hopkins, he manifested an early interest in the emerging sub-specialty of neurosurgery and came under the influence of Dr. Walter Dandy. Two of his years spent in training in Baltimore were with Dr. Dandy. Throughout the rest of his professional career, Dr. Reichert practiced and taught neurosurgery but always retained a great interest in the broader field of general surgery. He held the deep conviction that anyone going into the surgical sub-specialties should first receive a thorough training in general surgery.

Dr. Reichert served as an Associate Professor of Surgery from 1926 until 1930. He served as Professor of Surgery from 1930 until his retirement on 1 September 1960, at which time he became a Professor Emeritus. During his early years at Stanford he remained active in the experimental laboratory, continuing work that he had started in Baltimore concerning the development of collateral circulation following major arterial occlusion, and in experimental hypophysectomy. He was devoted to patient care, making no distinction at all between private and clinic cases. Much of his time was given to the resident staff. Not only did he consult and supervise the work on all neurosurgical problems, but also engaged in regular teaching rounds in general surgery. He would serve in rotation several months each year as consultant to the chief resident in general surgery, making daily rounds with the house staff at those times and supervising all of the operating room work.

Dr. Reichert's dedication to medical student teaching was no less than his devotion to patients and to the resident staff. He enjoyed equally the bedside rounds with small groups of students and the large set clinics held every week. He taught for many years a course in operative technique in the experimental animal laboratory. He derived particular pleasure from the elective course that he gave in the History of Medicine.

From 1942 until 1945, while Dr. Emile Holman was serving in the United States Navy, Dr. Reichert was made acting executive of the Department of Surgery. Those who knew him well considered this period of time to have been his "finest hour." Administrative duties, student and house staff teaching and an extremely heavy clinical load were all managed tirelessly and with enthusiasm.

Generations of Stanford medical students will remember Dr. Reichert as a popular and effective teacher. The surgical residents over a period of 34 years who were privileged to know him even better will remember a strict task master, a skillful surgeon, a devoted physician and a friend.

During his professional career Dr. Reichert was active in a number of societies. He was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Xi societies at Johns Hopkins. He also held membership in the American Medical Association, the California Medical Association, the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, the Pacific Coast Surgical Association, the American Neurological Association, the American Surgical Association, the Harvey Cushing Society, the International Society of Surgery, the Pan-Pacific Surgical Congress and the American Association for the Study of Trauma. He was a founding member of the American Board of Surgery and was a member of the American Board of Neurological Surgery. He received an honorary Sc.D. from his alma mater, Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Reichert passed away in 1964. He is survived by two daughters, Erida Reichert Klemmer, M. D., of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Susan Reichert Gortner, Ph.D., of Silver Spring, Maryland.

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