

Memoir of James Ewing Cottrell 1898-1967*

By EDWARD ROSE, M.D.

James Ewing Cottrell was a descendant of Scottish and English forebears who emigrated to this country in the eighteenth century and eventually settled in the Appalachian regions of east Tennessee and southwestern Virginia. Some of them bore arms in the Revolutionary War and in the Army of the Confederacy. His father practiced dentistry in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Jim was born on November 10, 1898.

After two years at the University of Tennessee, he entered the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania from where he was graduated in 1922. Following an internship at the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, he served as resident in medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, an appointment which at that time covered only one year of service. He then entered the practice of internal medicine as an associate of Dr. Joseph E. Sailer, a distinguished clinician of the period. He also established an affiliation with the School of Medicine and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania which lasted until 1946. He was a member of the staff of the Endocrine Clinic there and attained the rank of Associate in Medicine in the School of Medicine. He was also on the staff of the Presbyterian Hospital. He was interested in anthropometry and in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and contributed several papers on these subjects.

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During World War II, he served with the 20th General Hospital in Assam and later with the 142nd Hospital in Calcutta as chief of medicine, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. After a brief resumption of private practice, in 1946 he entered the Veterans Administration where he served until his retirement in 1963. He was successively Chief of Medicine at Kennedy Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis, Manager of the McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond (where he was also Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia), and, finally, Area Chief of Internal Medicine at the Veterans Area Medical Office in Trenton. His retirement was forced by ill health, and after a prolonged illness he succumbed to complications of Parkinson's disease at his home in Medford Lakes, New Jersey, on July 16, 1967.

He was a member of the Sons of the Revolution, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia (of which he became a Fellow on May 12, 1930), the John Morgan Society, the American College of Physicians, American Federation for Clinical Research, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Jim Cottrell was an astute, thorough, and thoughtful clinician, and a scholar whose interests overflowed the limits of his profession. He was widely read and knowledgeable in history and the literature of contemporary culture, and was particularly interested in literary curiosa. His favorite recreational outlets included the library, the bridge table, and the after-

dinner conversational group, where his pungent philosophy and dry wit were always in evidence.

In 1929 he was married to Elizabeth Murray of Harrisburg. Two sons were

born of this union; the elder, James, is an engineer; the younger, Dr. David E., is a staff member of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.