

Frank Emory Bunts / [George Washington Crile].

Contributors

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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FRANK EMORY BUNTS

GEORGE W. CRILE, M.D., F.A.C.S., CLEVELAND, OHIO

ON November 26, 1928, Dr. Frank Emory Bunts, a master surgeon, died suddenly from heart disease. His death brought a deep sense of loss not only to his many friends and associates among the physicians of Cleveland, but also to physicians, friends, and former patients throughout the world, who have at some time come under the influence of his kindly and genial spirit.

Dr. Bunts was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1861, and received his education in the public schools. He then entered the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, from which he was graduated with high rank in the class of 1881. All through his life and in all his relations he always bore the stamp of the navy.

After Dr. Bunts had served for two years with the Asiatic fleet, the opportunity was given the younger naval officers to resign, because the navy was overstaffed, and the young man decided to study medicine. After his graduation from the Medical School of Western Reserve University in 1886, he became house officer at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital, with which institution he was associated in various capacities for the rest of his life—42 years.

Twice Dr. Bunts interrupted his practice to study in foreign clinics. In the Spanish-American War, he served as surgeon to the First Regiment of Ohio Cavalry. He always retained his interest in military affairs and after the war, in the midst of a busy practice, he became captain of Troop A of the National Guard of the State of Ohio and served in this capacity for three years. At the time of the World War he again accepted a commission as Major, later becoming Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding General Hospital No. 9 at Rouen, France (Base Hospital No. 4, U. S. Army).

Dr. Bunts was the first president of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine and also served as president of the Cleveland Medical Library Association in 1927. He was a member of the American Surgical Association, the Ohio State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Prevention of Cancer, the Société Internationale de Chirurgie, and the Société Française pour l'Avancement de Science.

From 1886 to 1893, Dr. Bunts lectured on surgery at Wooster Medical College, and from 1893 until the time of his death he was professor of principles of surgery and clinical surgery at the Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He

was visiting surgeon at various times to St. Alexis Hospital, St. Anne's Maternity Hospital, Mt. Sinai, and the Cleveland City Hospital; consulting surgeon to the Lutheran, Women's and Maternity Hospitals. He was one of the founders of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and was chief of staff at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital, from 1913 until his death.

In 1888, Dr. Bunts married Miss Harriett E. Taylor. They had two children—Dr. Alexander Taylor Bunts and Clara Louise Bunts, wife of Edward C. Daoust.

It is difficult properly to evaluate this man. He possessed so many characteristics which make for greatness, combined with a retiring, unassuming personality. Perhaps one may safely state that the keynote of his character was his loyalty and constancy. His patients, his friends, the institutions he served all attest this fine quality.

Among Dr. Bunts' salient characteristics was his deep interest in civic and national affairs. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and served for years on its Committee on Military Affairs. He was a director of the Cleveland Trust Company. He was interested in, and furthered movements for civic improvement and was a frequent lecturer on patriotic subjects. He was a man of broad culture and wide reading. His numerous medical articles and the small volume of stories which he published some years ago have a characteristic individual charm. He was an enthusiastic fisherman and the month spent at Rose Point each year provided many anecdotes which were a constant delight to his friends.

An emphatic word should be added about his influence as a teacher upon the students with whom he came in contact in the medical school and in the wards of the hospital. Patience and understanding, with insistence upon accuracy in diagnosis and refined surgical technique in operating, were outstanding characteristics of Dr. Bunts, the teacher.

There are certain individuals who possess the rare quality of binding together those with whom they are associated, due to high intelligence, industry, uncompromising justice, fidelity, patience, a deep understanding of human frailties, and unfailing friendliness. Such a man was Dr. Bunts.



FRANK E. BUNTS
1861-1928





