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Contributors

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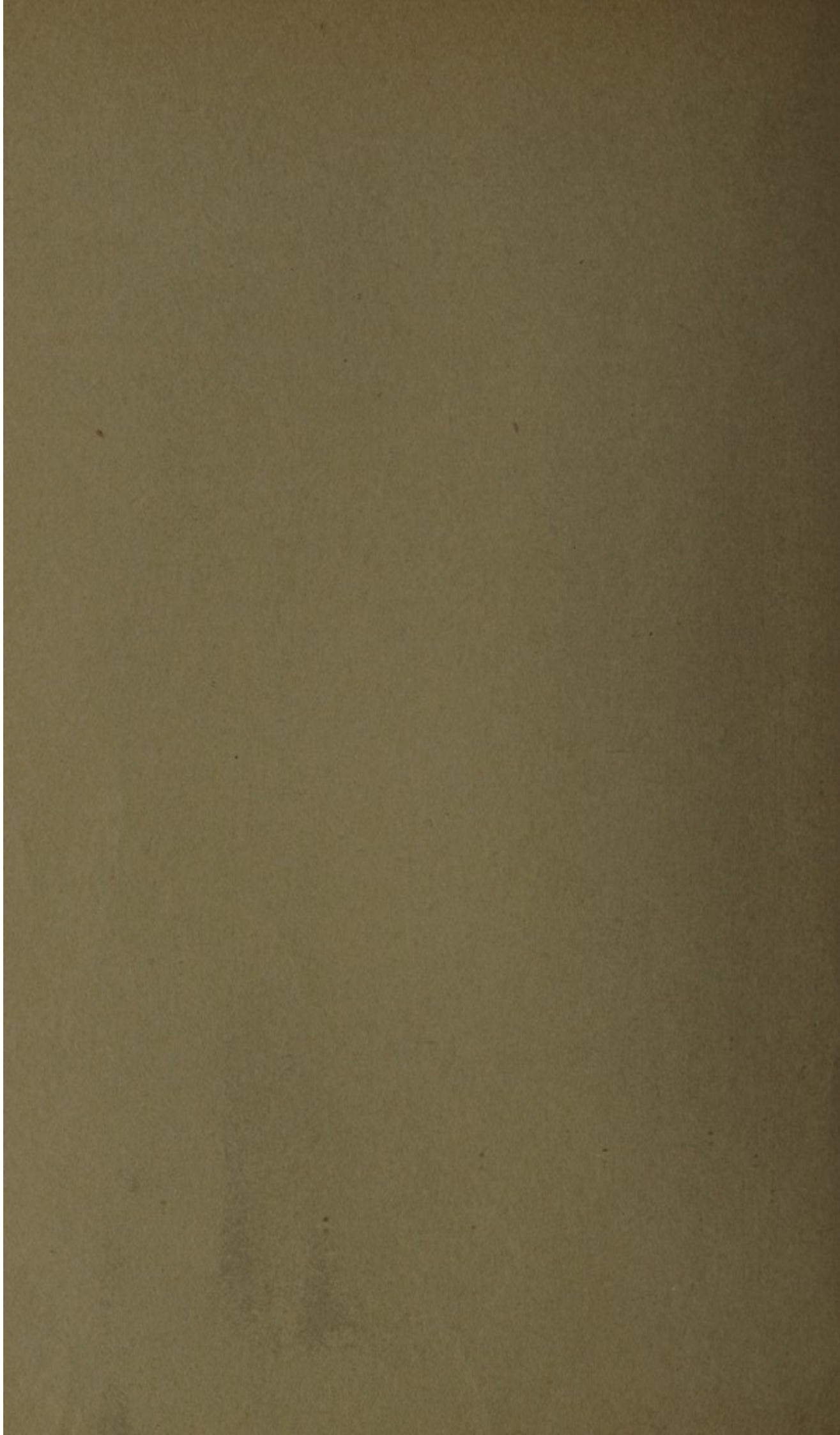
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LeRoy Crummer
1872-1934

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The death of Professor Lasker, who had been a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan for many years, is a great loss to the medical profession.

Lasker's Contributions

Lasker's work in the field of pathology was of the highest order. He was particularly interested in the study of the diseases of the heart and lungs.

His researches on the pathology of the heart and lungs have been of great value to the medical profession. He has shown that many of the diseases of the heart and lungs are due to a specific cause.

Lasker's work has been of great value to the medical profession. He has shown that many of the diseases of the heart and lungs are due to a specific cause.

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LeRoy Crummer

1872-1934¹

The death of Doctor LeRoy Crummer on January 2, 1934, in the city of Los Angeles removes from medicine and medical history a figure of prominence. The setting of this world's reception of Doctor LeRoy Crummer was of a humble, quiet and pioneer character. Shortly after he was born and had gone to primary schools in Elizabeth, Illinois, his father, Doctor Benjamin Crummer, removed his small family to Omaha, Nebraska.¹ He had felt his need, there was no lingering spirit, it was one of hardihood and enterprise. It was in that spirit of Felix Platter who said "In this corner you are going to learn or die." This was to have a molding effect on his son.

LeRoy Crummer was forthwith sent to the University of Michigan for his B.A., and for his medical degree to Northwestern University. His father's dictum "Your first consideration is your patient" gave to LeRoy an added impetus to perfect himself in clinical medicine and carry it west again. He went to Germany, to the clinics at Heidelberg, Berlin and Munich, he was with Neusser in Vienna, he delved in history and psychiatry with Carl Jung at Zürich, he was in England with the cardiologists,—ten to fifteen years of his life. After the war in which he took an active part in the inspection of soldiers, he was made Professor of Medicine at the University of Nebraska (1919), a chair which he held until 1925. His health failed him and he left for California where he became the Professor of Medical History at the University of California and the University of Southern California. In spite of his confinement he was still spiritually aggressive and all of the students who had come in contact with him either in Nebraska or in the far west, felt the keenness of his ideas. He became part of their lives. As Christian Bay writes, "He had a decided *ingenium* for quickly perceiving essential facts and important traits in any field. His success as a diagnostician long ago had become assured.

¹ For a more complete Biography see that of Henry R. Viets in the New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 210, pp. 389-392, February, 1934.

He had a peculiar light and almost whimsical method in anything he undertook, almost as if he were playing with his work." His work on "The Clinical Features of Heart Disease," is a masterpiece of clear writing and clear thinking. His edition of a manuscript by William Heberden, his work on the fugitive sheets in anatomy, his papers on cardio-vascular signs, the library which was the greatest private one west of the Mississippi and the keenness of his own mind portray his character. He used to say, "I deeply respect the physician who, when giving his clinic, restrains himself from the use of medical history, and I also deeply esteem the clinician who knows medical history so well, realizing that it is an active and determining part of the future of medicine, that he can give it in an epigrammatic way which will mean something to the student." He abhorred the dilettante. The whimsical and semi-sarcastic manner in which he would correct mistakes was an emphasis on his ideas of thoroughness. He could not understand how any physician would be happy without knowing not only the present status of medicine but the "Grundsubstanz," its history on which it was molded. When one would pick up in his library that rarity of rarities, Paré's "Universelle" and proclaim that it was only the second copy in the United States, his answer was, "You don't know a thing about it." Crummer could read both Greek and Latin and spoke French, Italian and German. His many visits to Europe during the summer vacations, travelling through Italy with three matchless companions: an Italian nobleman, a learned priest and an antiquarian bookseller, his associations with Garrison, Packard, Sigerist, Cushing, Welch, Klebs, De Lint, Sudhoff and others, the growth of his library of books and manuscripts, the development of his clinic, were to the student in the west an ideal. His books, the past of medicine, have gone to the University of Michigan. His students, those in the present, will carry on. His friends in Baltimore, those who have known him, will always remember him and it is with deep respect that they present their condolences to his wife.

M. P.

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