Dr. Alexander D. Blackader, MD, CM, MRCS, FRCPC

CMA President, 1917
McGill University, 1871
Pediatrics

Dr. Blackader, who had the unique distinction of serving as both President of the CMA and editor-in-chief of CMAJ, also had another distinction: his seven-page obituary, published in 1932, was the longest ever to appear in the Journal. According to that obituary, he was also “one of the first physicians on this continent to insist that diseases of children were important enough and characteristic enough to be recognized as a specialty. Gradually this view gained ground, and he initiated the first pediatric clinic in Canada, at the Montreal General Hospital.” Later, he was a co-founder and President of the American Pediatric Society, and he started lecturing in pediatrics at McGill in 1883. He took over the editorial reins at CMAJ in 1921, and by the time he left in 1929 the Journal was “a going concern and in a strong position.” When Dr. Blackader died, CMA Past President Alfred Bazin wrote about his offer to take over as editorial chair at CMAJ in 1919, when he was 72 (he became editor two years later): “To all intents and purposes he made the editor’s post a full-time job, sacrificing comfort, sleep, pleasure and vacation to the development of ‘his journal.’ ”