Dr. Robert J. Blanchard, MB

CMA President, 1908
University of Edinburgh (Scotland), 1877
General surgery

Dr. Blanchard spent most of his professional life in Manitoba, where he was a long-time professor of surgery at the Manitoba Medical College. He was also one of the College’s founders. In World War I he saw service as commander of No. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. He was also well known for his work before the war as medical adviser and then chief surgeon for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). When he died, a colleague recalled Dr. Blanchard’s work with the CPR: “He gained a reputation, not only by his success in the surgical cases under his care, but by the energy and endurance displayed in making his way to the injured. If a trolley was not available he would tramp for miles through the bush, carrying his surgical outfit, or paddle a canoe, or in winter walk on snowshoes through woods or on the ice. By day or night, in rain or blizzard, he would find his way to the scene of the accident.” He died in 1928.