MR. IRVING H. CAMERON, MB, FRCS (ENG.), FACS, FRCSC

CMA President, 1898
University of Toronto, 1874
General surgery

When Mr. Cameron died in 1933, CMAJ noted that he preferred to be called Mr. instead of Dr. because he “followed the British precedent for surgeons in that regard.” He did have a sparkling career in the operating rooms of Toronto, where he was a professor of surgical principles and clinical surgery and later served as chair of surgery at the University of Toronto. In World War I, he served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps and was chief surgeon at the Ontario Hospital for Wounded Soldiers in England. A former student wrote that many stories about Mr. Cameron circulated in Toronto operating rooms. “When asked what instruments he would require for an operation, his usual reply was, ‘A sharp knife and a piece of string.’ This was not meant to be taken absolutely literally, but he had the art of operating with a minimum number of instruments. In those days, when the house surgeon had to prepare all instruments himself and clean up afterwards (there being no operating room nurse), this was of some importance.”