Dr. Gerald W. Halpenny, MD, FRCPC, FACP

CMA President, 1961-62
McGill University, 1934
Internal medicine, gastroenterology

A World War II veteran, Dr. Halpenny spent much of the war serving with a 1,200-bed general hospital in Italy, and when the war ended he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He had lots of CMA experience before assuming the CMA Presidency, having served as honorary treasurer from 1957 to 1960. He also served as President of the Quebec Medical Association. Later, CMAJ pointed out that he became CMA President during a “significant” year for Canadian medicine. “Saskatchewan was introducing its medicare act and doctors were debating the implications of a national health insurance system. After six years as a salaried physician in the army, Dr. Halpenny had less problem with the principles of medicare than many of his colleagues. ‘But though I approved of the principle, I had misgivings about the way it was introduced,’ he said.”