Dr. Robert E. McKechnie, MD, CM, FACS, FRCSC

CMA President, 1914 and 1920
McGill University, 1890
General surgery

Dr. McKechnie is the only CMA President other than Sir Charles Tupper to serve more than one term as President. He was President when World War I began in 1914, and the CMA responded to the war by cancelling its meetings and most of its operations — publication of *CMAJ* was one exception — for almost all of the war years. Dr. McKechnie, who practised in Vancouver for most of his career, had his second run at the Presidency in 1920. During his career he was a politician in the British Columbia Legislature, served as an examiner for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and was on the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He was also the first president of the British Columbia Medical Association, “which was formed during a meeting held in his office.” Earlier, at McGill University, he had been the Holmes Medallist, meaning he had the highest marks at the McGill medical school during the entire course. Following his death in 1944, a colleague wrote: “To watch him operate was always a delight. Those cool, deliberate, unhurried movements of his were instinct with a certainty and accuracy of orientation which eliminated all doubt and any possibility of fumbling.”