Dr. Harold Orr, MD

CMA President, 1952-53  
University of Toronto, 1911  
General practice, dermatology, syphilology

In 1952 Dr. Orr, a respected expert in dermatology and the treatment and prevention of venereal disease, became the only CMA President to die while in office. His death in December 1952 came about halfway through his term after he fell ill while representing the CMA at a meeting of the World Medical Association in Greece. Dr. Orr left his private general practice to serve in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in WW I and ended his military career as a lieutenant-colonel. After the war he took specialist training in dermatology and syphilology. He became a clinical professor in those fields at the University of Alberta, and for more than 20 years supervised Alberta’s Division of Venereal Disease Control. Dr. Orr served as President of the Alberta Medical Association prior to assuming the CMA Presidency.