Dr. T. Clarence Routley, MD

CMA President, 1955-56
University of Toronto, 1915
General practice

Dr. Routley, the CMA’s Lifetime Honorary President, had a huge impact on the Association because he served as its general secretary for 31 years, from 1923 until 1954. While President of the CMA he also held the same role with the British Medical Association. He was a recipient, in 1948, of the CMA’s highest honour, the F.N.G. Starr Award. Dr. Routley, who served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in World War I, reflected back on his early days practising medicine in Toronto after the war ended. “I collected less than $500 in my first year in practice in Toronto,” he told CMAJ, “and some of my classmates vouchsafed to me that they were not faring much better.” After that humble beginning, Dr. Routley moved on to unmatched success within organized medicine. “He was remarkably successful at getting his own way,” Dr. H.E. MacDermot noted. “He got it by hard work, persuasive argument and, on occasion, by an eloquence that few people could resist.”