A year after he opened his practice in Edmonton in 1938 Dr. Thomson joined the armed forces. He would not return home until the war ended in 1945, when he was serving as surgeon-captain on Canada’s first cruiser, HMCS Uganda. He served as President of the Alberta Medical Association before moving to the CMA Presidency. He also served as speaker for the CMA’s General Council for two years. The CMA honoured him with its Medal of Service in 1978 in recognition of his “many years of valuable service and unfailing zeal on behalf of the CMA and the people of Canada.” Following his death in 1999, CMAJ commented: “During WW I his mother, an Edinburgh-trained nurse, turned their home into a maternity ward, and this brought him into contact with local doctors. That may be one of the reasons why he decided to attend medical school.”