

**FRED WHARTON RANKIN—  
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Again a surgeon of international repute has been elected by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association to the highest honor in the province of scientific medicine. Again the House of Delegates recognized service to organized medicine: the physician selected is one who has participated notably in the affairs of the American Medical Association and of many other scientific bodies. Dr. Rankin was born in Mooresville, N. C., on Dec. 20, 1886. After receiving his bachelor of arts degree from Davidson College in 1905 he received his degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Maryland in 1909 and the degree of master of arts from St. John's College in 1913. He was also made honorary doctor of sciences by Davidson College, his alma mater, in 1937, and honorary LL.D. by the University of Maryland in 1939. Following his graduation in medicine he became a resident surgeon at the University Hospital in Baltimore from 1909 to 1912 and served as assistant demonstrator of anatomy and associate in surgery at the University of Maryland Medical School from 1913 to 1916. He then joined the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., acting as assistant surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, 1916-1923. He was professor of surgery at the University of Louisville, 1922-1923, and served as surgeon to the Mayo Clinic and as associate professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Mayo Foundation, 1926-1933. He then removed to Lexington, Ky., where he became surgeon to St. Joseph's and the Good Samaritan hospitals, with which he has been associated since Jan. 1, 1934. In the World War Dr. Rankin served as a major in the Medical Corps for seventeen months and was attached to the First Army Corps, 4th and 26th divisions in France, as commanding officer of Base Hospital No. 26. He is now a colonel in the Medical Reserve Corps. He has been honored by many medical organizations, including the presidency of the Southern Surgical Association and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Surgical Association, American Proctologic Society, Eastern and Western Surgical associations, Southern Medical Association and many surgical clubs and medical fraternities. He was one of the founder members of the American Board of Surgery, representing in that body



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the Section on Surgery of the American Medical Association. His contributions to medical literature include a monograph on "Surgery of the Colon"; a work on "The Colon, Rectum and Anus," published in 1932 jointly with Drs. J. A. Barga and L. A. Buie, and a work on "Cancer of the Colon and Rectum," published with Dr. A. S. Graham in 1939. He has also contributed chapters on surgery of the colon, with particular reference to carcinoma, in several systems of surgery. In the American Medical Association Dr. Rankin has been especially active. He was a member of the House of Delegates, representing the Section on Surgery from 1935 through 1940. On several occasions he has aided in the work of the reference committees. In 1936 he was appointed to the membership of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, and he has been active in the work of that body. He was appointed by the speaker of the House of Delegates a member of the Committee on Medical Preparedness in 1940 and has been assiduous in the duties of that committee and especially in military preparedness in the Fifth Corps Area. In 1923 Dr. Fred W. Rankin married Miss Edith Mayo, a daughter of Dr. Charles H. Mayo, and he has four children: Frederic Wharton, Edith Graham, Charles Mayo and Thomas Alexander. Almost immediately following his election he was deluged with invitations to attend many meetings of state and other medical

organizations, indicating not only his popularity with the medical profession but his devotion to the work of organized medicine.

**THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**

To the distinguished names of Rudolph Matas, surgeon, James B. Herrick, internist, and Chevalier Jackson, otolaryngologist, the House of Delegates added that of Dr. James Ewing of New York, world famed as a pathologist, as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association for 1941. Although 74 years of age, Dr. Ewing came at once from New York to be present on the platform at the opening session to receive the Distinguished Service Medal in person. To repeat the record of his career is almost unnecessary, since he is widely known on several continents. Dr. James Ewing was born in Pittsburgh on Christmas day, 1866. He received his bachelor's degree from Amherst in 1888 and his master of arts degree in 1891. Following his funda-