

Honoring
Vernon M. Winkle, M.D.



K.P.H.A.
SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE BANQUET
May 15, 1958
Salina, Kansas

THE SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE MEDAL



Presented for outstanding service in public health

Past Recipients

- 1946—Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D.*
1947—Clarence H. Kinnaman, M.D.*
1948—Charles H. Lerrigo, M.D.*
1951—Earnest Boyce, C.E.
1952—E. V. McCollum, Ph.D.
1954—Earle G. Brown, M.D.
1955—Karl A. Menninger, M.D. and
William C. Menninger, M.D.
1956—Ralph I. Canuteson, M.D.

*Deceased

FOREWORD

"There are only three steps leading to the place where perfect harmony lives, yet they are hard to climb. The first is to think kindly of one's neighbor. The second is to speak kindly to him. The third is to act kindly toward him. The reason they are hard to climb is that we are too busily engaged in thinking well of ourselves, speaking well of ourselves, and acting in a manner which we think will do ourselves the most good."

(Taken from the personal files of Dr. Vernon M. Winkle)



VERNON M. WINKLE, M.D.

HONORING DR. VERNON M. WINKLE

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Kansas Public Health Association and public health, the association has chosen Vernon M. Winkle, M.D., M.P.H. as the 1958 recipient of the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal.

Although his untimely death on December 31, 1957, necessitates the medal being awarded him on a posthumous basis, the memories of his leadership, counsel and judgment will always be present with his many friends and colleagues in public health.

DOCTOR VERNON M. WINKLE

Early Life

Vernon M. Winkle was a native of Beatrice, Nebraska, where he was born on November 18, 1901. Following the death of his mother when he was three years of age, he was reared by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hentges, an aunt, Emma Hentges Banton and two uncles, Theo. Hentges and Charles Hentges. Doctor Winkle always cherished a great admiration for his grandparents—both immigrants from Luxemburg, who because of their pioneer activities merited special recognition in the history of Gage County, Beatrice, Nebraska.

All of his early life was spent in Beatrice, where he was graduated from the Beatrice High School. While in high school he worked for the telephone company and developed his initial desire to be an engineer.

He attended De Paw University in Greencastle, Indiana, for one year. Dr. Winkle often stated that his main reason for going there was, "I was sure I could make the football team there." Following his initial year at De Paw, he transferred to the University of Nebraska where he lettered in football and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1925.

Private Medical Practice

Shortly before his graduation in 1925, Dr. Winkle decided he would go into medicine as a career. He received his medical degree in 1929 from the University of Nebraska Medical School at Omaha, and followed it with a one-year internship

at the Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, and later with a year of graduate work at the University of Chicago Medical School in obstetrics and pediatrics.

In June, 1931, he was married to Emma Skudler who at that time was an instructor of fine arts at the University of Nebraska.

Following the completion of his internship, Dr. Winkle was invited to go into practice with a group of physicians in Omaha. But he felt the challenge of "hanging up his own shingle," and, hence, his answer was, "I believe I can help more people if I go to a small rural area." Consequently, he engaged in the private practice of medicine in Norfolk, Nebraska, for eleven years, his special interest being pediatrics. Even after Dr. Winkle had concluded his private practice of medicine, he continued to receive each Christmas, numerous photographs from "his kids" in Norfolk.

Throughout his practice of medicine, finances were no barrier in Dr. Winkle's eyes when it came to providing needed medical care for children. Typical of his concern and attitude was the incident of the man who one day drove up in front of Dr. Winkle's home in Norfolk in an old model A Ford. He asked the doctor to come out to the car since he had a sick child that could not be moved. Arriving at the car, Dr. Winkle found not one child but five crammed into the back seat. Each child had an acute sore throat. During the course of his examination, Dr. Winkle stated he believed each child should have his tonsils out. The father replied, "I have no money." Dr. Winkle's answer was, "Let's don't worry about that. Those kids need their tonsils out." He later removed the tonsils of all five children at no charge.

Dr. Winkle held a reserve commission in the Army Medical Corps. He was very active in reserve corp activities serv-

ing a term as president of the Elkhorn Valley (Nebraska) Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association. At the outbreak of World War II he was notified to report for active duty; consequently, he closed his practice in Norfolk, Nebraska, and reported for his final examination, preliminary to being sent into service abroad, but was rejected because of his hypertension. To offset his disappointment, it almost seems as if fate stepped in, in the person of Doctor A. A. Miller, who opened for him the doorway for service in the field of public health where he rendered equally great medical service.

Public Health Career

Dr. Miller who was then state health officer of Nebraska (and is now a member of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress) suggested to Dr. Winkle that he give serious consideration to entering public health work.

He was assigned as health officer of the Scottsbluff and Grand Island Health Departments where he served for approximately two years. At the time of Dr. Winkle's service in Nebraska these two were the only county health departments in Nebraska.

While at Scottsbluff he took a short leave of absence to start work on his Master of Public Health Degree at the Vanderbilt University School of Public Health, and later completed his work there in 1947.

Dr. Winkle started his public health career in Kansas in 1944 as Epidemiologist and Assistant Director of the Topeka-Shawnee County Health Department. During this time he was also active in the establishment of the Topeka Field Training Center.

In 1947, he became director of local health services for the Kansas State Board of Health. During this time Dr. Winkle was instrumental in furthering the development of

local health departments in Kansas. He often stated that a local health department should be like an old shoe to the people it serves, in that it must fit, it must be maneuverable, and it must be something the people are comfortable in using.

In March, 1949, he accepted the position as director of the Kansas City-Wyandotte County Health Department. He was instrumental in improving and extending the services of the health department. His main contribution that will long be remembered by the leaders of Kansas City, Kansas, came during the flood of July 13, 1951. Through his leadership and skill in organizing emergency health services many lives were saved. The entire staff of the health department was placed on 24-hour call on July 13, and it was not until August 6 that the health department was able to return to regular schedules. Through Dr. Winkle's administrative abilities, the united efforts of many agencies—both official and voluntary—and of various citizens and industries were focused on the many health problems that arose. Without Dr. Winkle's leadership in producing a combined effort, the achievements made would have been limited and far from adequate.

Three years later, on July 1, 1952, Dr. Winkle returned to the state health department as assistant state health officer and director of local health services. In this position he was instrumental in organizing local district offices for the state health department, thus bringing more local health services to the citizens of Kansas. As a member of the committee on public health training and through his wide experience and years of service he made a great contribution to the progress of public health in Kansas.

Thirteen Years of Service to Kansas Public Health Association

Shortly after becoming a member of the Kansas Public Health Association in 1944, Dr. Winkle became very much interested in the association. Through the years, he, more than any other member, had a continuing interest in the goals and objectives of the association. He gave unselfishly of himself in working to improve the association.

In 1946, a famous pioneer state health officer of the State of Kansas, Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D., was the honor guest at the annual banquet of the association held in Wichita. Dr. Crumbine had gained nation-wide recognition as a result of his campaign to abolish the common drinking cup, and was the spearhead of the attack on two other disease carriers—the housefly and the common roller towel. From 1946 to 1952, the association continued to select one individual, and honored him at the annual meeting for having made an outstanding contribution to the public health of Kansas. An individual gift was given to each honoree.

The Creation of the Crumbine Award

Dr. Winkle, however, recognized that it would be only fitting that the life and achievements of Dr. Crumbine be memorialized by honoring in his name, other workers who had contributed outstandingly to the health and well-being of their fellow citizens. He was personally responsible for the creation in 1952 of the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal. He spent many hours in preparing the rough layout of the design for the medal. He contributed immeasurably in working out all of the many details involved in establishing a permanent memorial of Dr. Crumbine's outstanding contribution to public health in Kansas.

Dr. Winkle served as president of the Kansas Public Health

Association in 1951. Even after the completion of his term as president, Dr. Winkle served on many committees of the association.

Hobbies

Dr. Winkle was a man with many hobbies. He loved his home and the various "gadgets" he could continually "tinker with." He took great pride in his cabinet work and in his wood carvings. His outdoor hobby was gardening, and the pride of his vegetable gardening was the tomatoes he could give to his friends.

He was the friend of every dog and every young child. His love for children is best epitomized in the following article by A. J. Carruth of the Topeka State Journal following Dr. Winkle's death:

"We're relieved to know that it wasn't up to us to explain to our near-five-year-old grandson, David, why God had to take Dr. Vernon M. Winkle away. Last spring, summer and fall, David dashed from the house every time he saw Dr. Winkle out in his yard. He watched him plant and pick and weed the flowers, mow the lawn, rake the leaves and took as gospel everything the doctor would say to him. David even went so far as to run down the stairs one hot morning in July and rush out in the yard in the nude—to talk about things' with Dr. Winkle. A man who is granted the confidence and admiration and adoration of children possesses a God-given personality. Dr. Winkle was taken to the hospital one day this week—never to return—David can't understand."

Personal Characteristics

Dr. Winkle's outstanding personal characteristic was that so many of his fellow workers felt close to him. He was

never too busy to give anyone a minute of his time. He was a very sensitive, perceptive person, and anyone having a conference with him felt that the discussion with him crystallized his own viewpoint and helped him to think more clearly. Individuals going in to Dr. Winkle with their new ideas would often say, "If I can get my ideas past your critical scrutiny, I can get anyone to accept them." Through it all, there was never any malice in his criticism, and most individuals had a "good" feeling when they had concluded their conferences. He always was gentle and understanding.

Early in his public health career Dr. Winkle recognized that public health was too big a field for only one or two disciplines to adequately cover. He believed that working with other disciplines taught respect, appreciation, and how to utilize the maximum capabilities of the various disciplines in public health.

He was personally interested in furthering the training of all public health personnel. He often stated that a well-trained employee recognizes his limitations, does self-evaluation, seeks help, seeks improvement, studies, is ever alert to increase productivity, has initiative, and above all is a good team member.

The following quotation, found in Dr. Winkle's desk after his death, perhaps best summarizes why Dr. Winkle was more than a friend to so many of his fellow public health workers:

"I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness, the second is frugality, the third is humility which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men."

—Lao-Tzu

Membership and Honors

Doctor Winkle held three degrees from the University of Nebraska, an A.B., B.Sc., M.D., and a masters degree in Public Health from Vanderbilt University. He was also a member of Delta Tau Delta, social fraternity and Phi Rho Sigma, medical fraternity.

He was a diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, a member of the American Medical Association, a fellow of the American Public Health Association, a member and past president of the Kansas Public Health Association and of the Middle States Public Health Association, a member of the Kansas and Shawnee County Medical Societies, and a past member of the governing council of the American Public Health Association.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and Masonic Lodge at Norfolk, Nebraska; the Scottish Rite bodies and the Shrine in Kansas City, Kansas; and a contributing life member of the Shriner's Hospital for crippled children.

Dr. Winkle was a lecturer on Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, of which he was a faculty member.

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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* Moved out of State

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Crumbine Award Committee

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