



Everett Naughtin Collins, M.D.

Staff Member, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 1931—
Department of Radiology 1931—1936
Head, Department of Gastroenterology 1936—

Born October 25, 1896
Died November 6, 1959

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ED COLLINS died in his sleep during the early morning hours of November 6, 1959. Born on a farm near Ganges, Michigan, in the horse-and-buggy days, Ed was the son of a long line of farmers, and the first physician in the family. His ambition to be a physician arose in childhood and was born of his admiration for the family physician of Ganges, Doctor Brunson. The intensity of Ed's desire to become a doctor was at first not recognized by his family, but it never waned.

He was a self-made man. After graduation from Benton Harbor High School he "worked his way" through Kalamazoo College and The University of Chicago Medical School. Ed was outstanding wherever he was or whatever project he attempted. At Kalamazoo College he was the state champion high jumper, and president of his senior class. The money that paid his way through college and medical school was earned in a variety of ways, such as stoking the furnace in the local church, door-to-door selling of "Keystone Stereoscopic Viewers," being fireman on a train, playing the piano in night clubs.

He met the girl who was to become his wife, the former Dorothy Tempest, at a Christmas party in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1920. At that time, Ed had had to stop attending medical school in Chicago for want of money. Partly because he had been an A student in anatomy and partly through the help of Dr. R. R. Bensley, then Chairman of the Department of Anatomy of The University of Chicago, he obtained a position as instructor in anatomy at the University of Alberta. Ed and Dorothy were married in September of 1922, and Ed used to like to tell of the honeymoon trip in a model-T Ford with a tent, and of the difficulties in the deluge of rain that first night after their marriage.

Dorothy was a social worker in the slums of Chicago while Ed finished his medical training; he intended to become a surgeon, as he found himself greatly influenced by his teacher, Dr. Dean Lewis. However, this ambition was postponed for one more year in order to work with Dr. Bertram W. Sippy. Ed and Dorothy then moved to Aurora, Illinois, with the intention that Ed would practice surgery at the Brennecke Clinic. The need for expert roentgenology was great and his efforts were soon diverted to spending nearly all of his time with gastrointestinal roentgen diagnosis, and for a year or more he continued his postgraduate studies by traveling once or twice each week to attend lectures in Chicago.

Today, physicians specially trained in gastrointestinal radiology, and particularly with a good training in medical gastroenterology are not plentiful—they were much more of a rarity then, and Ed was a pioneer in his field. It was through his experience and continued study that he acquired the distinction of becoming certified as a specialist in two branches of medicine, the first, Internal Medicine in the subspecialty of Gastroenterology, and the second, Radiology.

Dr. Bernard H. Nichols, who was for many years Head of the Department of Radiology here at the Cleveland Clinic, met Doctor Collins in Aurora after Ed

had seven years of experience. Doctor Nichols was impressed by the excellence of the training of this young physician, with his intelligence, friendliness, and enthusiasm. Eager for still more training, Ed joined the Staff of the Cleveland Clinic in 1931, primarily with the idea of becoming a more skillful expert in gastrointestinal radiology.

The extraordinarily high quality of his roentgen diagnoses was recognized immediately by the Clinic Staff, but they were even more impressed by his medical opinions with regard to clinical diagnosis and treatment. As time went on, Ed found himself spending so much of his own time advising other Staff members about difficult problems in gastroenterology it was decided that he should officially be a consultant in that field. The Department of Gastroenterology was formed in 1936, actually by popular demand, with Doctor Collins as Head.

His enthusiasm in his chosen field in medicine never waned, and it is doubtful that anyone on our Staff can remember a single instance in which Ed found it impossible to see a sick person when he was asked to do so. His work was always marked by thoughtful and meticulous care; no detail was too small to receive his careful attention, and for these reasons his opinion was highly respected. His patients, also, soon sensed his deep concern with their problems, and they could see clearly the evidence of kindness and human warmth that made him trusted and beloved.

His devotion to his wife and family was constant, and his generosity to his mother and father, his concern for the welfare of his daughter, Joan Engstrom, the support of the long medical training of his son, Dr. Jack Collins, and of his architect son, Bill, were magnificent.

Ed will continue to live in the memories of his friends, his students, his associates in our group and nationally, and particularly in the minds and the memories of his family, and of the thousands of patients whom he helped.

E. PERRY McCULLAGH, M.D.