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**ALLAN COATS RANKIN, CMG, MD, DPH, FRCPC
1877-1959**

ALLAN COATS RANKIN, CMG, MD, DPH, FRCPC 1877-1959

The UofA Faculty of Medicine 1913 to 1945

(Rankin's)... "thorough understanding of the decisions necessary for survival in the competitive university and political worlds were repeatedly challenged"⁽¹⁾

Introduction

Dr. Allan Coats Rankin was born on February 6, 1877. He graduated in the McGill medical class of 1904. Rankin was preceded by six members of the McGill class of 1902, who came to Calgary and set the pattern.⁽²⁾ Another McGill graduate H.M. Tory, Ph.D. joined them in 1908/9, adding further to McGill's influence on Alberta as the first UofA President, (1908-1928).⁽³⁾ Tory earned his M.A. and D.Sc. from McGill; started the University of Alberta (1908), and the Faculty of Medicine (1913). It was the "only medical school between Winnipeg and Peking".⁽⁴⁾

Dr. Rankin came to Edmonton in 1914, as the second Director of the Provincial Laboratory. He joined the UofA Faculty of Medicine on a part-time basis until WWI broke out. Dr. Rankin immediately enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC). Demobilized, he returned to the UofA in October 1919. In 1920 Dr. Rankin was named the first Dean of Medicine and the third UofA Dean, after Arts and Science and Law. He held that position until his retirement in 1945, except for 1939-1943 when he was the Director of Hygiene in the CAMC.

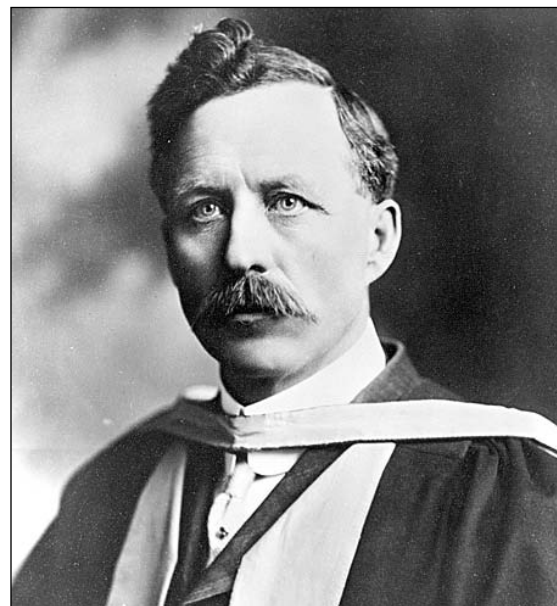
Rankin played the leading role in the development of a degree-granting UofA medical undergraduate curriculum. He guided the Faculty of Medicine for twenty-five years. Rankin met the conditions required to release the \$500,000 Rockefeller grant in 1923 by extending the undergraduate medical program from two to four years. He presided over the granting of the first MDs in 1925, the halving the class size in

the 1930s, doubling the number of classes in WWII, and increasing the graduation class to fifty doctors per year after WWII. During his thirty-two year association with the UofA Faculty of Medicine, 582 physicians convocated from the UofA.⁽⁵⁾

But the UofA Faculty of Medicine did not begin with the appointment of the Dean of Medicine in 1920. It began in 1913 with UofA President H.M. Tory as the program coordinator.

H.M. Tory Ph.D. and the three year program 1908-1913

1) Sewing the seeds: As early as 1908, the year the UofA started its first classes, a Faculty of Medicine



UofA President H.M. Tory Ph.D. 20-2

1. (Rankin, A.C.) Obituary in the CMAJ 81: 57-58, 1959.
2. Johnson, George R. Letter to "Fred" December 6, 1939 in the Johnson Fonds, M600 file 6, Glenbow, Calgary. Six 1902 classmates came to Calgary and stayed: Drs. E.G. Mason (1902), C.E. Coleman (1910), A.H. MacLaren (circa 1907), G.R. Johnson (1908), R.G. Williams (1913). The letter does not indicate who Fred was. The six were later joined by Drs. Mewburn (Surgery), Pope (Medicine) and Conn (Obstetrics), all McGill graduates. For a view of the McGill impact in Alberta and on medicine at the UofA, see Dr. E.P. Scarlett's *Eastern Gate and Western Cavalcade*, CACHB 21(1): 8-24, May 1956.
3. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, page 22, UofA Press, 1990. Corbet described how other graduates viewed the McGill influence at UofA. So did J.R. Vant and T. Cashman, in *More than a Hospital*, pages 65-66.
4. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, page 25.
5. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 11-17.

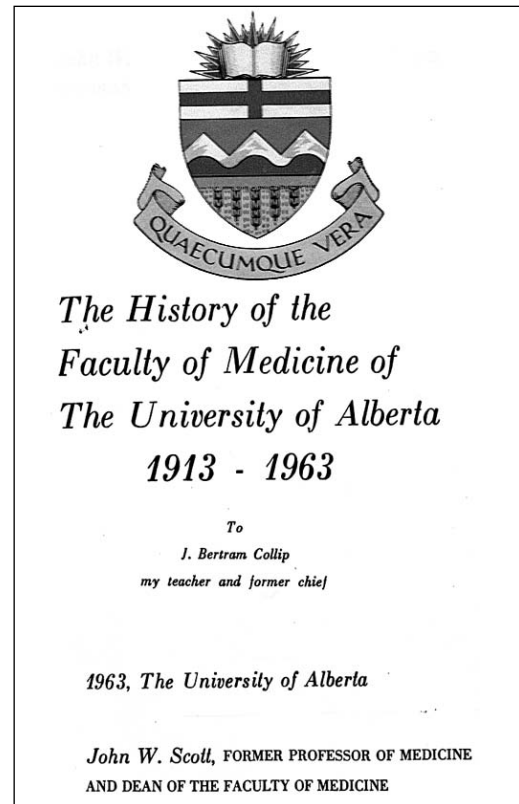
was in the mind of President Tory. Tory was retained in July 1908 and arrived in Edmonton on January 1, 1909 as the UofA's first President. After piloting the revised UofA Act through the Legislature, Dr. Tory spoke of Alberta's need for professional faculties in Law, Medicine and Engineering, despite the small Alberta (300,000) and Edmonton (15,000) populations (1909).⁽⁶⁾

Tory's interest in a medical faculty was closely monitored by the Alberta Medical Association. The AMA had been formed in 1906. Two years later in 1908, the AMA considered petitioning the new University for a medical school, but concluded it was premature. Four members of the AMA were appointed to the first fifteen member UofA Senate in 1908: Drs. R.G. Brett, W.S. Galbraith, W.D. Ferries and G.A. Kennedy. Dr. Brett, the first AMA president, brought to the Senate his experience as one of the thirteen founders and incorporators of the Manitoba Medical College (MMC) in 1883. The MMC was the only degree-granting medical school west of Ontario from 1883 to 1925.

2) The Medical Examination, Registration and Reciprocity Problem: From 1906 to 1911 the new AMA and College grappled with the challenges of appointing examiners and drafting annual qualifying examinations for medical registration and licensure in the province.⁽⁷⁾ In 1907 the four prairie medical associations began to actively pursue the formation of a single medical federation for medical licensing purposes. The proposed Western Canadian Medical Federation (WCMF) was to set its own examinations for physicians applying for registration in any of the four western provinces. Passing the common exam would allow inter-provincial movement of physicians in Western Canada.⁽⁸⁾

Tory was familiar with the problem, from his previous experience in BC.⁽⁹⁾ The Central Canadian lack of interest in a national examination registration and licensing system for Canada vexed the western medical associations. Impatient for a solution, in 1909

the WCMF put the creation of a Medical Council of Canada (MCC) back on the CMA agenda. The CMA listened to the prairie protestors, and proposed revisions to the 1902 Enabling Act, before meeting with MCC leader Dr. Thomas Roddick in 1910/11. By 1912, the Canada Medical Act was passed by the requisite eighteen legislatures, medical associations, CMA, and Parliament. The Act established the Dominion Medical Council. At the 1912 CMA annual convention in Edmonton, a delighted CMA, named Roddick the Honorary President of the CMA for the rest of his life. It helped that President Tory was the Chairman of Proceedings for the 1912 CMA convention.⁽¹⁰⁾ That year the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons asked the UofA Senate to take the over responsibility for examining candidates for medical registration in Alberta. The University Senate agreed



Dr. J.W. Scott's 50th Anniversary History of the UofA Faculty of Medicine, 1963

6. Scott, John W. *The History of the Faculty of Medicine, 1913-1963*, page 1, University of Alberta, 1963.
7. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages xvi-xix. See the Minutes of the College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1906-1913, Volume I, pages 3-140 for the involvement of the College.
8. Kerr, Robert B. *The History of the Medical Council of Canada*, pages 18-23, MCC, 1979. For a more detailed discussion of the 1908-1910 negotiations see "Military Medicine and Medical Care in the North West Rebellions of 1870/71 and 1885," in Part 2; the profiles of Drs. R.G. Brett, G.A. Kennedy, J.D. Lafferty, H.G. Mackid, J.S. McEachern, E.A. Braithwaite, and the editorials IN the Western Canadian Medical Journal from 1907-1910, a journal, which was formed to spearhead the movement.
9. Corbett, Edward A. *Henry Marshall Tory*, pages 105-110, Ryerson 1954.
10. Lampard, Robert "The CMA Convention of 1912," *Alberta Doctors Digest* 30(1): 4-9, January/February 2005.

and requested the College nominate fifteen examiners for the first examinations in 1912.⁽¹¹⁾

3) The University of Alberta Hospital: President Tory wanted an affiliation between the university and a large (teaching) hospital. He joined the Board of the City Hospital and became its chairman. It merged with the Alexandra Hospital, and was renamed the “Royal” Alexandra Hospital (RAH) in 1907. A new hospital was to be completed by 1912. Tory wanted it located at the north end of the High-Level Bridge. When the final decision was made to locate it on the (now named) Kingsway Avenue site in North Edmonton, Tory resigned and proceeded to look for a hospital closer to the University.

President Tory approached the City of Strathcona. In a fashion similar to its Edmonton rival, the City of Strathcona purchased the Strathcona Cottage Hospital and began to actively fundraise to expand it to eighty beds. Tory offered a free lease on the University of Alberta lands. The City agreed to rebuild the hospital on the university site, where the current Walter C. Mackenzie Health Science Centre now stands.⁽¹²⁾ The new Strathcona hospital with ninety-six beds opened in 1913. The UofA became the first University in Canada to build and own a hospital, and start a medical faculty.⁽¹³⁾

4) Relocation of the Provincial Laboratory to the University of Alberta:⁽¹⁴⁾ When the NWT was split into two provinces in 1905, the NWT medical laboratory, built in Regina in 1904/1905, became the provincial laboratory for Saskatchewan. Alberta did not have a laboratory, so the government decided to locate one in Edmonton. Dr. R.G. Brett recommended the government approach UofT graduate Dr. Daniel Revell to become its first Director. Revell came to Edmonton in 1907.⁽¹⁵⁾ In 1910 Dr. Tory petitioned the new Premier A.L. Sifton to move the laboratory from



Strathcona Cottage Hospital, 1906

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the basement of the government's Terrace building to the basement of the new Athabasca Hall on the University site. The move was completed by 1911/12. Dr. Revell expected it would facilitate the attraction of better staff to the University.⁽¹⁶⁾

5) The three year undergraduate medical program. The program began in 1913: The first formal step to establish a medical undergraduate program, occurred when the Senate Executive (Premier Rutherford, President Tory, Chancellor Stuart), recommended the establishment of the Faculties of Law and Medicine in 1909. Action was temporarily postponed by the Rutherford scandal, which led to the Premier's resignation.⁽¹⁷⁾ A further delay occurred when Calgarian and future Prime Minister R.B. Bennett unsuccessfully petitioned to move part of the university to Calgary.

As students had done in Manitoba in 1883, twenty-five petitioned the UofA Senate in 1912 for a Faculty of Medicine. The Senate accepted the petition and

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11. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 102, AMA, 1947. This was an example of the close cooperation between the new University of Alberta, President H.M. Tory and the AMA/College. For a description of this far sighted university decision, to create an umbrella for a professional examination system, see Edward A. Corbett's *Henry Marshall Tory*, pages 106-107, UofA, 1954; and Elise A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 8-11. Another example was the hosting of the CMA Convention in 1912.
12. Scott, John W. *The History of the Faculty of Medicine*, page 3.
13. Revell, Daniel G. "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," CACHB 13(4): 65-75, February 1949. Lord Strathcona contributed \$25,000 to the eventual \$350,000 cost, as noted in J.R. Vant's and T. Cashman's *More Than a Hospital*, page 32, UAH, 1986.
14. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, page 11.
15. Stanley, George D. "Dr. Daniel Graisberry Revell, Medical Teacher, Scholar and Gentleman," CACHB 14: 48-54, November 1949. Also see D.G. Revell's "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," CACHB 13(4): 66, February 1949.
16. Revell, Daniel G. The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta, CACHB 13(4): pages 67-69. Also see E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 6-7.
17. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 7-8.

recommended the establishment of a two-year medical undergraduate program. The government supported it as a solution to the shortage of physicians in rural Alberta communities.⁽¹⁸⁾ It was to be a one-year premedical program coupled with a two-year basic medical science program. The starting date was September 1913. The last two clinical years were to be completed at McGill University, which had signed an affiliation agreement in 1913, and the University of Toronto, which signed one in 1915. The two agreements continued until the 1930s.⁽¹⁹⁾ Enthusiasm for the school was evident in the 1912 retirement speech of CMA President, Calgarian Dr. H.G. Mackid.⁽²⁰⁾

The Pre-War Years 1913-1914:

In 1913 the University of Alberta established the Faculty of Medicine. No Dean was appointed. President Tory remained the program coordinator for the premedical year and the first two medical years.⁽²¹⁾ The 1913/1914 or first year was a natural science year, taught by the Faculty of Arts and Science. The premedical class consisted of twenty-seven students. Eleven continued into the second year.

The first medical faculty curriculum meeting was held April 3, 1914 in the office of President Tory. It took one and a half hours to draft the two-year basic medical science program for the UofA calendar.⁽²²⁾ The UofA curriculum followed the Model Medical Curriculum, designed by one hundred leading medical educators.⁽²³⁾ That curriculum rigorously adhered to the principles contained in the 1910 Flexner report. Flexner recommended: that medical schools affiliate with universities; universities grant the medical degree; studies be based on a two year basic medical and a two year clinical medical program; and full-time professors be retained for the clinical years.⁽²⁴⁾

The Pre-Dean Years 1914-1919:

Dr. Rankin came to Alberta, from McGill where he received his MD (1904) and DPH (1909), before he went to Thailand as the Director of Hygiene from

IN THE autumn of 1913, the Faculty of Medicine came into existence as the fourth University faculty, having been preceded by Arts and Science in 1908 and Law in 1912. Applied Science, which began as an offspring of the Faculty of Arts and Science, was also established as a faculty in 1913. It is fortunate that all the Medical Faculty minutes, since its first meeting on April 3, 1914, have been kept intact. They form an interesting historical record and provide fascinating reading. The brief minutes of the first recorded meeting read as follows:

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

"The first meeting of the Medical Faculty of the University of Alberta was held in the President's office on Friday afternoon, April 3rd, 1914, at two o'clock. President Tory was in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Lehmann, Lewis, Revell, and Race. Mr. Boyle came in at three o'clock.

"The discussion centred around the arrangement of a curriculum for the first two years. It was felt that we should continue the general plan of making the first year a year for a good course in the natural sciences. The following outline was suggested:

First Year

- (1) Physics
- (2) Chemistry (Inorganic)
- (3) Biology
 - (a) Botany
 - (b) Zoology
- (4) Elementary Bacteriology
- (5) French and German

Second Year

- (1) Anatomy
 - (a) Gross Anatomy
 - (b) Histology
 - (c) Embryology
- (2) Physiology
- (3) Chemistry (Organic)
- (4) Biochemistry
- (5) Pharmacy and Materia Medica

Third Year

- (1) Anatomy
- (2) Physiology and Physiological Chemistry
- (3) Bacteriology
- (4) Pathology
- (5) Clinical Medicine
- (6) Clinical Surgery
- (7) Pharmacology

"The President undertook to send out typed copies of this sketch to each of the men concerned so that they might work out general statements for the calendar and come together later to perfect the arrangement.

"The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed:

CECIL E. RACE,
Secretary

Signed:

H. M. TORY,
President"

The UofA Medical Curriculum, 1913-1921 from Dr. J.W.²⁰⁻⁴ Scott's 50th Anniversary History of the Faculty of Medicine

18. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, pages 101-111, AMA 1947.
19. Revell, Daniel G. "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," page 73. Also see E.A. Corbet's "Frontiers of Medicine", pages 13, 31 and A.C. Rankin's "The Provincial Medical School," AMB 1(2): 7-9, 1935.
20. Mackid, H.G. "The President's Address at the annual meeting of the Association," CMAJ 2(9): 801-811, September 1912.
21. Revell, Daniel G. "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," pages 66-69. Also see E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 12-14, 25.
22. Scott, John W. *The History of the Faculty of Medicine*, pages 5-7.
23. Revell, David G. "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," page 67. Also see E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 13-14.
24. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 11-14.

TRENCH FEVER

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir – Mr. E.T. McCarthy's letter in to-day's issue upon the successful disinfection of clothing as practised at Tumu in Siberia, with its suggestion that the success of the process may have been due to some property contained in the Beech wood employed, recalls a parallel experience here in England, and affords opportunity to point out that it is not necessary to travel so far afield for information in regard to the simple and economical destruction of body lice.

In the summer of 1915, in the course of an investigation upon the effects of the sulphurous fumes of coke upon body lice, undertaken at the suggestion of Colonel R. Rennie, C.A.M.C., then A.D.M.S. at Shorncliffe, Captain H. Orr, C.A.M.C., Sanitary Officer of that area, conducted experiments which showed that it was not the fumes, but the heat emanating from braziers which was the effective agent.

The Times of London, Friday, May 24, 1918

1910-1914. There he was decorated for his research into the relationship of Beri Beri and polished rice.⁽²⁵⁾ Rankin was recruited as a Bacteriologist and the Director of the Provincial Laboratory. His first stay at the UofA was a short one. It began as the second premedical and the first medical classes started, in the fall of 1914.

Dr. Rankin's appointment to the Faculty followed those of Dr. D.G. Revell (fall, 1913) as the Professor of Anatomy and Dr. H.H. Moshier (fall, 1914) as the teacher of Physiology, Pathology and Pharmacology. Moshier was also the superintendent of the Strathcona Hospital from 1914-1916.⁽²⁶⁾ Dr. Rankin had succeeded Revell as the second Director of the Provincial Laboratory, when Revell became the full time teacher of anatomy in 1914.⁽²⁷⁾

Dr. Rankin was to teach bacteriology and Dr. H.C. Jamieson, the fourth professor, was to teach medicine and pharmacology. Both of these appointments were part-time. Before the end of the year Dr. Rankin enlisted and joined the CAMC. In France he was in charge of a mobile laboratory, then a field ambulance team and finally a hospital. He identified the flea as the vector that caused Trench fever, in 1915.⁽²⁸⁾ It was a major health problem in WWI. Trench Fever cases filled one quarter of the core Canadian army hospital beds in 1916. After Rankin's discovery, Captain Harold Orr of Medicine Hat designed the Orr Hut. It could disinfect one thousand troops per day, and reduce the spread of Trench fever.⁽²⁹⁾ It markedly reduced the morbidity amongst the Allied armies.⁽³⁰⁾ Not long afterwards Dr. Rankin was transferred to the CAMC headquarters in London as a Lieutenant Colonel.⁽³¹⁾ After the war Lt. Col. Rankin was awarded a CMG.

Back at the UofA, Professor J.B. Collip was hired to teach zoology to the premed students in September 1915. That meant he was available to take over Dr. Moshier's teaching responsibilities. Moshier left to join the CAMC in March 1916 as part of the mobilization of the Eleventh (Western Universities) Field Ambulance.⁽³²⁾ Sixteen first and second year students enlisted as medical orderlies with the unit. Moshier was killed in action in 1918, shortly after he had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and made the Commanding Officer of the Unit.⁽³³⁾

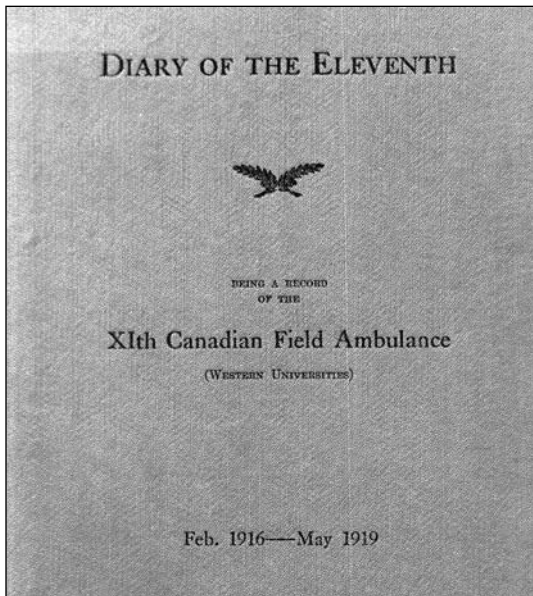
Dr. Jamieson assumed Dr. Rankin's responsibilities as the Acting Director of the Provincial Laboratory and

25. Wilson, Donald R. "The Faculty of Medicine of UofA 1913-1969," in Dr. D.R. Wilson and W.B. Parsons', *Medicine in Alberta: Historical Reflections*, pages 108-119, AMF, 1993. Recounted in an editorial on Allan Coats Rankin, *Edmonton Journal*, May 29, 1959. Also see Dr. Rankin's attached preliminary bibliography.
26. Vant, J. Ross, Cashman, Tony *More Than a Hospital*, pages 43-47, The University Hospitals Board, 1986.
27. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 6-7, 15-16.
28. (Orr, H.A.) Letter to the Editor of the Times (of London), Friday, May 24, 1918.
29. Rentiers, Paul Biography of Dr. Harold Orr (5 pages) written September 1985. Copy in the AMF archives. At Shorncliffe Orr discovered that heat killed the flea at a temperature of 50-55° C. The Orr Hut used a floor heater to reach 65° C of dry heat. Each load of clothes took fifteen minutes to disinfect.
30. Morton, Desmond *When Your Numbers Up*, page 199, Random House, 1993. The Canadian Army had over 17,000 cases with fourteen deaths from Trench fever, before preventive measures were introduced in 1918. Also discussed briefly in D. Morton's "Military Medicine and State Medicine: Historical Notes on the Canadian Army Medical Corps in the First World War 1914-1919," in C.D. Naylor's *Canadian Health Care and the State*, pages 38-66, McGill Queens, 1992. Dr. Harold Orr became the fourth CMA President from Alberta in 1952/53. He died during his term in office.
31. (Rankin, A.C.) Obituary, pages 57-58.
32. (Moshier, H.H.) *Diary of the Eleventh Field Ambulance from February 1916 to May 1919*, 128 pages privately printed, circa 1920. The other university contingent came from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine, as did the first Commanding Officer of the Eleventh.
33. Vant, J. Ross, Cashman, Tony *More Than a Hospital*, page 47. The death of Dr. Moshier was recorded on pages 112-113, of the *Diary of the Eleventh Field Ambulance*. The Diary was dedicated to Lt. Col. H.H. Moshier and the twenty-nine members of the 11th who were killed in action.

became the administrator of the medical program, when President Tory left Edmonton in July 1917 to establish the “Kharki University” within the Armed Services. It was the third of four Canadian universities Tory would initiate: UBC, Alberta, Kharki and Carleton.⁽³⁴⁾

The years 1914-1919 were trying years for both the staff and students. Much of the success of the program was due to bright and competent students applying to enter medicine, and to the faculties of the affiliated eastern medical schools who taught the final two years of medical training. Teaching was not easy as upwards of 25% of the Toronto and McGill faculty members joined the CAMC. Everyone was stretched and challenged to maintain the medical curriculum, student enrollment, and quality of teaching.⁽³⁵⁾

Clinical experience at the UofA would normally have been provided at the Strathcona Hospital. With little forewarning, the hospital was taken over by the Military Hospitals Commission (MHC) in December 1916. The successor to the MHC, the Soldier's Civilian Re-establishment Commission (SCR), continued to run the hospital from 1918 to 1922. Both Commissions were chaired by Senator (Sir) James



History of the Eleventh Canadian Field Ambulance (Western Universities), circa 1920



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Dr. J.J. Ower, Dean of Medicine, 1939-43 (acting), 1945-1948.

Lougheed. It meant the introductory clinical experiences in the second medical year had to be transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Surprisingly the three-year program was not suspended even in the face of the high prairie physician enlistment rates and the departure of twenty percent of the faculty and fifty percent of the medical students to join the armed services.⁽³⁶⁾ No doubt the pressure for more doctors to be graduated for the Western front provided much of the determination to continue the program.

In 1918 the first case of Spanish flu reached Alberta via one of the returning troop trains. 3800 Albertans (population 596,000) died from among the 40,000 Canadians who acquired the 1918/19 flu and passed away. It was almost as many as the number of soldiers who died during the war. The flu affected so many people in Edmonton that in 1919 the new UofA Pembina Residence was converted into a hospital. All UofA academic classes were temporarily suspended.⁽³⁷⁾

Medical assistance was needed at the Provincial Laboratory. Dr. J.J. Ower was retained as a pathologist and provincial serotypist in 1920. Dr. Ower would become the second Dean of Medicine from 1939-1943 (acting), and from 1945-1948. The whole university was re-energized when Dr. H.M. Tory returned in 1920, after his release as President of the Armed Services Kharki University.

34. Corbett, Edward A. "McGill in British Columbia," in *Henry Marshall Tory*, pages 51-64, Ryerson 1954. The book includes chapters on "The University of Alberta – Beginnings," pages 93-111; "The Khaki University," pages 138-156 and "Carleton College," pages 185-198. Reprinted with a 16 page introduction by Douglas Owrarn, Ph.D. of the UofA, 1992.
35. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 16-22.
36. Scott, John W. "Faculty of Medicine," *AMB*, page 58, August 1955. Enlistment figures varied from sixteen to eighteen students, as noted in J.W. Scott's the *History of the Faculty of Medicine*, page 9 and J.R. Vant's and T. Cashman's *More Than a Hospital*, page 47.
37. Rankin, Allan C. "The Provincial Medical School," *AMB* 1(2): 7-11, 1935.

The \$500,000 UofA Rockefeller Grant 1919-1923

In 1919 future Prime Minister Mackenzie King, became aware of the Rockefeller family's plan to make a second fifty million donation to the Rockefeller Foundation (RF). The objective of the RF was to improve medical school training in the United States. King approached the Rockefeller family for whom he had worked as a labor lawyer, and was successful in securing the willingness of John D. Rockefeller to earmark five million dollars for Canadian medical schools.⁽³⁸⁾

The second John D. Rockefeller gift to the Foundation was made on Christmas Day in 1919.⁽³⁹⁾ The Rockefeller Foundation Board quickly agreed to grant one million dollars to the Faculties of Medicine at McGill, Toronto and Dalhousie. The remaining funds were to go to the medical schools that applied, and were visited by the Rockefeller Foundation survey team.⁽⁴⁰⁾ The Rockefeller Foundation team criss-



UofA Medical School, opened 1922
(since 1983, the home of the Pharmacy and Dental Faculties)

crossed Canada to determine which university(ies) could profit the most from the remaining five hundred thousand dollar grants. Dr. Tory and Dr. Rankin worked overtime to prepare for the visit. In the end the Universities of Alberta, Manitoba, and Laval were successful. Each received a \$500,000 grant.⁽⁴¹⁾ The 1920 Rockefeller grant to the UofA had conditions attached to it.⁽⁴²⁾ Only the interest from the grant could be spent.⁽⁴³⁾

Tory had a postwar plan of action for the medical school.⁽⁴⁴⁾ The Rockefeller Grant could markedly accelerate his plan.⁽⁴⁵⁾ One major problem was the loss of teachers during WWI, as noted, in the 1918 and 1919 reports from the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. Tory started by appointing Dr. Rankin as the new Dean of Medicine in 1920. Fortunately the Alberta government supported the university in its desire to offer a full undergraduate course in medicine and grant MD's. The rationale was that it would keep more MD's in the province.⁽⁴⁶⁾

Starting in 1920 the faculty income was augmented by interest from the half million dollar Rockefeller grant.⁽⁴⁷⁾ In 1921 Drs. Rankin and Tory committed the faculty to a full six-year course in medicine including two premedical years. To upgrade the faculty Dr. Rankin requested Dr. Tory use some of the Rockefeller interest income, to send Professor J.B. Collip on his soon-to-be-famous sabbatical in April 1921. His round-the-world tour of research laboratories began in the blood glucose laboratory of Professor J.J. R. Macleod in Toronto. The rest is history. By the end of 1921, the struggling Banting and Best team called for Professor Collip's help to isolate

38. Spaulding, William B. "Why Rockefeller Supported Medical Education in Canada," *CBMH* 10(1): 67-76, 1993.

39. Levold, Edwin Rockefeller Foundation Archivist. Letter to R. Lampard, September 6, 2002.

40. McPhedran, N. Tait *Canadian Medical Schools. Two Centuries of Medical History 1822 to 1992*, pages 155-156, Harvest House, 1993. Tory presented his plan for a Class A medical school "within five years" to the Rockefeller site visiting committee in 1920.

41. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, page 29.

42. Levold, Edwin Rockefeller Foundation Archivist. Letter to R. Lampard, September 19, 2002. "The conditions to be met by the University were to 1) complete and equip satisfactorily the new medical building (estimated cost 900,000) now being erected, 2) expend not less than \$50,000 during the year 1920-1921 for the development of clinical resources and teaching. The second condition was continued for subsequent grants."

43. Fedunkiwi, Marianne "University of Alberta and the Rockefeller Foundation (1920-1923)" in Part 2.

44. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 22-25.

45. Revell, Daniel G. "The Medical Faculty – University of Alberta," pages 74-75.

46. Rankin, Allan C. "The Provincial Medical School," page 7. Also see Elise A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 30-31, 36 and Edward A. Corbett's *Henry Marshall Tory*, page 133.

47. Levold, Edwin Rockefeller Foundation Archivist. Letter to R. Lampard, September 6, 2002. Appropriations by the Rockefeller Foundation were \$25,000 in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and \$500,000 with the grant release in December 1923.

and purify their pancreatic extract.⁽⁴⁸⁾ He did. Banting and Laboratory director Macleod received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923 for isolating insulin. They shared their prizes equally with Best and Collip.

Tory's next quest was to complete the new medical school. The government agreed to the over one million (including equipment) dollar cost. The building started in 1920. The cornerstone was laid by Lieutenant Governor Dr. R.G. Brett. Next, the University of Alberta entered into negotiations with the SCR to repurchase the Strathcona Hospital. It was successful by October 1922. The hospital was renamed the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH).

The eighty-five bed Strathcona Hospital Soldiers Annex for veterans was finished in 1922.⁽⁴⁹⁾ That year Dr. Rankin appointed two full-time and one part-time clinical Professors: Dr. F.H. Mewburn as Professor of Surgery, Dr. E.L. Pope as Professor of Medicine, and Dr. L.C. Conn as Professor of Obstetrics.⁽⁵⁰⁾ They were



Faculty of Medicine, UofA, 1931 20-7
Dr. Rankin is in the front row, 5th from the (L).

allowed to retain the consulting income they earned.⁽⁵¹⁾ The faculty also started two medical teaching clinics, one at the UAH and one, the "Outdoor clinic" in the McLean House on Boyle Street in downtown East Edmonton.⁽⁵²⁾ The Dental School was also started as a sub-faculty.⁽⁵³⁾

These decisions and a satisfactory accreditation report secured the release of the Rockefeller grant on December 5, 1923.⁽⁵⁴⁾ Dr. Tory used the cheque as an occasion to visit Premier Greenfield. The Premier had been expressing a desire not to proceed with the full MD program.⁽⁵⁵⁾ Tory showed the Premier the cheque. The subject was never raised again. The Rockefeller grant was transferred by the university to the Faculty of Medicine by 1951. Its interest income has continued to support research in the faculty ever since.

The Faculty of Medicine, 1923-1939

The First Graduating Class in 1925: The Faculty received an A-Class rating from the American Medical Association in 1923. In 1924 the American College of Surgeons assessed the UAH and termed the University Hospital the "best west of Toronto" with only five its equal in Canada.⁽⁵⁶⁾ Because of the favorable ratings, the University Hospital was approved for internships by the American Medical Association in 1926, one year after the first class of medical students graduated and received their MD's in 1925. The 1925 class gold medalist was Dr. Leone MacGregor. Professor Collip was a member of the 1925 class, but did not graduate until 1926. He had not performed enough obstetrical deliveries. Two years later in 1928 Dr. Collip left UofA, but not until he had trained a successor, Dr. J.W. Scott. Dr. Scott would become the third (1948-1959) UofA Dean of Medicine in 1948.⁽⁵⁷⁾

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48. Bliss, Michael *The Discovery of Insulin*, pages 108-121, 129-130, 133-134, M&S 1982.
49. Macbeth, Robert A. "Alexander Russell Munroe 1879-1965," *Canadian Journal of Surgery* 10: 3-10, January 1967. Also see E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, page 36.
50. Scott, John W. "Memories of a Career in Medical Education in Alberta, 1914-1959" in Dr. D.R. Wilson and W.B. Parsons' *Medicine in Alberta: Historical Reflections*, pages 120-132, AMF, 1993. Also discussed in E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 32-33. The terms of their full time status were slightly different. Dr. Conn was allowed to admit patients.
51. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 29-36.
52. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 104. Also referenced in D.R. Wilson's "The Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta 1913-1969," in *Medicine in Alberta: Historical Reflections*, page 109, AMF, 1993. For a photo of the Boyle Street Clinic see E.A. Corbet's *Frontiers of Medicine*, opp pages 44-45.
53. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 104.
54. Levold, Edwin Rockefeller Foundation Archivist. Letter to R. Lampard, September 19, 2002. The grant was approved December 5, 1923. President Tory was informed December 6 and the cheque was received and deposited by December 10. Chancellor, Chief Justice Horace Harvey acknowledged it on December 11, 1923.
55. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 29-30.
56. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 30, 37.
57. Scott, John W. "Memoirs of a Career in Medical Education in Alberta 1914-1958," pages 122-128. Collip left the UofA in 1928.



UofA Faculty of Medicine's first class of M.D.'s, 1926

The First Specialists 1926-1944

In 1926, the UFA government amended the Medical Profession Act, forbidding a physician to advertise as a specialist without having a certificate from the UofA Registrar.⁽⁵⁸⁾ Dean Rankin was appointed by the university to the committee which assessed the credentials of any applicants. An internship and two and one-half more years of hospital specialty training were required. Alberta was the only province to take this step, prompted in part by the high rate of postoperative deaths in Alberta noted in 1924.

In 1933 Dr. Rankin shared his unique experience with the certification of specialists, in a thoughtful reply to the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, which was formed in 1929. He stressed the Royal College should be the examiner and not the university.⁽⁵⁹⁾ By 1934, eighty Alberta "specialist" certificates had been issued.⁽⁶⁰⁾ The Alberta regulations were repealed in 1944.

Dr. M.R. Bow's arrival in 1927

The location of the Provincial Laboratory to the UofA site and its integration within the Faculty of Medicine must have impressed Dr. M.R. Bow, the Regina MOH and Superintendent of the Regina General Hospital.

He applied for the Alberta's Deputy Minister of Health and Provincial Medical Officer of Health position, when it became vacant in 1927. Successful, Dr. Bow kept that position until 1952.

One of Dr. Bow's many challenges came in 1929. The UAH deficit had begun to increase. The University Hospital Act of 1923 allowed the Alberta Government to appoint one half of the UAH Board members. The government used its prerogative.⁽⁶¹⁾ Dr. Bow was one of the appointees. His support was needed to finish and open the first major addition to the UAH in 1930. The bed total, excluding the Soldiers annex, reached two hundred and eight.⁽⁶²⁾ That year the UAH budget was \$332,000/year. It rose to \$470,000 (1935) and \$528,000 (1940), even though government revenues fell dramatically during the Depression.⁽⁶³⁾ Despite the Depression and drought, Dr. Bow provided remarkable stability and even some growth for health care programs in the province.

The LMCC Hurdle

In 1925 there was trouble on the horizon because the quality of medical teaching at the UofA was unknown. In 1926 eight of the eleven Alberta graduates attempted the national MCC exams for the first

58. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, pages 56-57.

59. Lewis, D. Sclater *The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 1920-1960*, pages 144-147, McGill, 1962.

60. Bow, Malcolm R., Cook, F.T. "The History of the Department of Public Health of Alberta," CPHJ 26: 384-396, 1935.

61. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 37-38.

62. Macbeth, Robert A. "Alexander Russell Munroe," page 5.

63. Vant, J. Ross, Cashman, Tony *More Than a Hospital*, page 389.



*Provincial Laboratory Staff, 1929. Dr. Rankin (in suit)*²⁰⁻⁹ time. Six passed. In Manitoba the pass rate was 85% for the whole class. Dr. Rankin and the faculty studied the results. Curriculum changes were made. By 1932 twenty-two of twenty-four students passed the Dominion medical exams. More notably, the 1935 UofA class had the highest national marks in Canada with an average of 71%, burying forever Alberta's reputation as a second-rate faculty.⁽⁶⁴⁾ In the ten-year period from 1925-1935, two hundred and twenty MD's graduated. One hundred remained in Alberta, for a stay at home rate of 45%.⁽⁶⁵⁾ This number dropped to 40% by 1955.⁽⁶⁶⁾

The Literature Review Clubs

Isolated and almost 1000 miles from the only other Western Canadian Medical School in Winnipeg, Dean Rankin and pathologist Dr. J.J. Ower organized the first joint faculty and student evening literature review meetings as a partial solution. They were called Reporting or Journal Clubs. Each one focused a teacher's area of expertise.⁽⁶⁷⁾ The first one, the Rankin Club, started in 1920 in Dr. Ower's home. Dr. Ower remained the secretary of the Club for thirty-eight years or until 1958, one year before the Club was discontinued. The medical students organized the Osler Club in Medicine in 1924/25. The J.D. Harrison Club in Obstetrics started in the late 1920's, and a Junior Reporting Club for recent graduates was started by Ower in 1929. The original Rankin Club became the Mewburn Club in 1925 and the Ower Club in 1933. A Vango Club was started in pathology. The Fifth Reporting Club began in 1933. The

Conn Club (obstetrics) was named in 1935. The Jamieson Medical History Club began in 1935, and the Collip Research Club started in 1946, to name the most prominent ones. The isolated medical school survived and prospered through faculty and student cooperation, and a determination to learn and keep abreast of the medical literature.

The Depression Years

The 1930s were exceptionally difficult times for Dean Rankin. In 1932/33 there was a discussion by the Western Premiers on ways to reduce university costs, by consolidating the number of professional schools including medical schools, in Western Canada.⁽⁶⁸⁾ Medical faculty funding was reduced to \$60,000/year in 1934,⁽⁶⁹⁾ less Social Credit "script" in 1935. Enrollment declined. Only fifteen students graduated in 1933.⁽⁷⁰⁾ But enrollment rebounded in 1935 and by 1937 a cap of forty second year students was necessary. In 1935 internships, approved as electives in the mid-20s, became an integral part of the medical training program. Then in 1939 another site visit by the American College of Surgeons criticized the shortage of clinical teaching opportunities. In response, the undergraduate clinical program was extended again to the Royal Alexandra Hospital.⁽⁷¹⁾

Despite the Depression, the Faculty established a B.Sc. degree program in Medicine in 1930. It required the student to take an extra year in graduate

BCG Vaccine

ALLAN C. RANKIN

Professor of Bacteriology and Hygiene, University of Alberta

I SUPPOSE a consideration of the extent to which this vaccine has been used as a prophylactic against tuberculosis in the new-born in Canada, by J. Baudouin and his collaborators of the Université de Montréal, on the continent and elsewhere by many observers—and thus of the importance which it has assumed in the world—will exonerate me from any serious criticism in introducing such a contentious subject to this association.

As, also, we have been investigating and experimenting with this vaccine in Alberta for the past six years*, I am able, in many respects, to speak of it from personal experience and may, therefore, escape the possible implication of excessive presumption.

Canadian Public Health Journal, Volume 22, 1931

64. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 38-40.
 65. Rankin, Allan C. "The Provincial Medical School," page 10.
 66. Scott, John W. "Faculty of Medicine," page 58.
 67. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 40-43.
 68. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 48-49.
 69. Scott, John W. "Memoirs of a Career in Medical Education in Alberta 1914-1959," page 125.
 70. Scott, John W. "Memoirs of a Career in Medical Education in Alberta 1914-1959," pages 125-126.
 71. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 52-54.



20-10

A.C. Rankin

studies, or in one of the basic sciences, usually after the fourth year. Any research year required a thesis. No student enrolled for ten years, until Dr. Walter Stanley Hartcroft entered the program and subsequently went on to an illustrious career as a teacher and researcher in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Rankin's medical research and subsequent publications were not extensive. His research focused on nutrition, hygiene, and infection control problems, more specifically Beri Beri deficiency from polished rice in Siam (Thailand), and Trench Fever in WW I. His findings in both represented breakthroughs. After the war, Health Minister Hoadley (1924) asked him to study the value of BCG vaccination in cattle as a way of preventing TB in newborns. Rankin and his TB Research group found BCG to be 84% effective in preventing TB in subsequently exposed calves; attenuated in those that did develop it; and harmless for any side effects.⁽⁷²⁾

War Torn Years again, 1939-1945

With the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 Dr. Rankin was immediately appointed the National Director of Hygiene for the Armed Forces.⁽⁷³⁾ Dr. Ower took over his duties as the acting Dean. After the Minister of National Defence J.L. Ralston requested eight hundred more MDs for the Armed Services in June 1942,

most medical schools in Canada accelerated their training program by enrolling two classes per year and teaching for eleven months of the year. The UofA Faculty of Medicine did so starting in 1942.⁽⁷⁴⁾ That brought Dean Rankin back to the UofA in 1943. So did the retirement of all members of the army who were over the age of sixty. From 1940-1945 the UofA graduated 257 doctors, or double the rate of prior years. By the end of 1945, Dr. Rankin had overseen the convocation of 582 MDs from 1925-1945 and another 150 who started at the UofA and convoked from McGill or Toronto.⁽⁷⁵⁾ Graduating classes rose from a low of eleven (1925) to a high of forty-seven (1942). It was a remarkable accomplishment with so few and uncertain resources.⁽⁷⁶⁾

Following his return, Dean Rankin participated in the design and building of the Mewburn Pavilion for War Veterans (1943-1945). It opened in 1945. He helped draft plans to expand the east and west wings of the medical school, which were opened in 1948 and 1949 respectively.⁽⁷⁷⁾

Passing the Torch in 1945/46

Dr. Rankin retired in 1945 and was succeeded by Dr. J.J. Ower. Rankin had already been made a Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute and an honorary life member of the Canadian Public Health Association.⁽⁷⁸⁾ But to many he remained "the Dean". The UofA awarded him a Doctor of Laws in 1946.⁽⁷⁹⁾ No Dean since has presided over the UofA Faculty of Medicine for as long – twenty-one years. Few have remained on the faculty for as long – thirty-two years. None have had to weather the contraction and growth cycles caused by two World Wars and the Depression, as Rankin did.⁽⁸⁰⁾

To survive and be successful, Dr. Rankin used the time honored qualities of courtesy and kindness, consideration and wisdom, and the requisite organizational skills to knit together a team of teachers. His thorough understanding of the decisions necessary for survival in the competitive academic and political

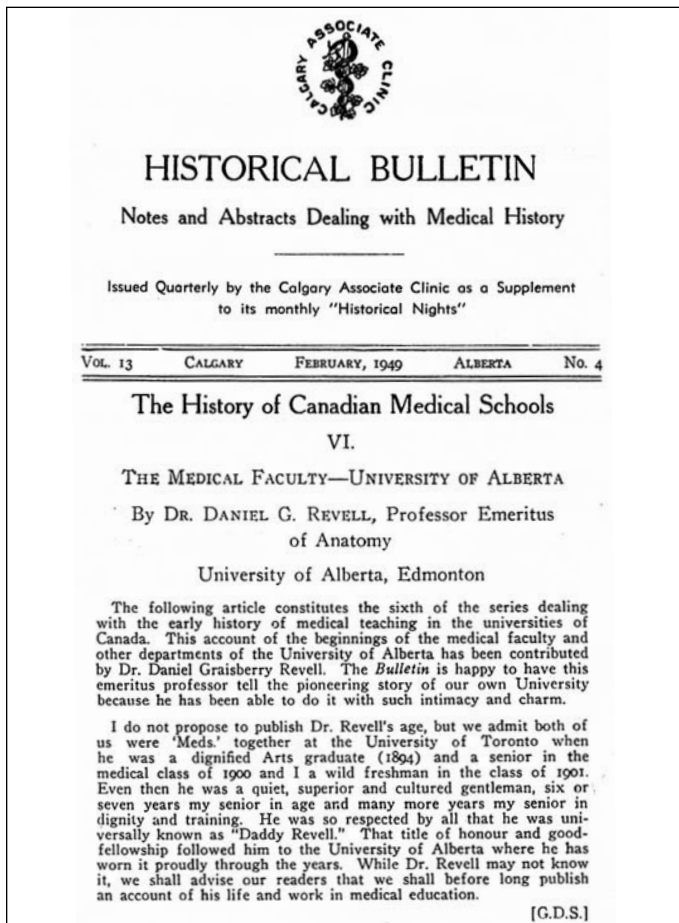
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72. Rankin, Allan C. "Vaccination against Tuberculosis with Bacillus Calmette-Guerin," *Canadian Journal of Research* 1:48-85, May, 1929.
73. (Rankin, A.C.) Obituary, page 57.
74. Corbet, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 56-58.
75. Scott, John W. *The History of the Faculty of Medicine, 1913-1963*, page 1.
76. Scott, John W. *The History of the Faculty of Medicine 1913-1963*, page 41.
77. Corbett, Elise A. *Frontiers of Medicine*, pages 60-63.
78. (Rankin, A.C.) "Leading Medical Man, Dr. A.C. Rankin, Dies." Obituary, *Edmonton Journal*, May 29, 1959.
79. Editor *University Notes, UofA, CMAJ* 54: 407, April 1946.
80. (Rankin, A.C.) Obituary, page 57.

worlds were repeatedly challenged.⁽⁸¹⁾ Retired Chancellor Dr. E.P. Scarlett, on the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine in 1963, described Dr. Rankin as “one of those remarkable Victorian breed, who possess the virtues of that age”.⁽⁸²⁾

Dr. Rankin stood the test of time long enough to be photographed with the first four UofA Deans (Rankin, Ower, Scott, Mackenzie) in 1959, shortly before his passing on May 27, 1959.⁽⁸³⁾ He was survived by two brothers A.G.E. and John Rankin. Burial was in the Mount Royal cemetery in Montreal. His wife Florence Caroline (West), whom he married in 1926, predeceased him. The Rankins had no children.

Related Profiles: Brett, Bow, Jamieson, Collip, Mewburn, W.A. Wilson

Related Perspectives: The University of Alberta and the Rockefeller Foundation, Hons. George Hoadley,



CACHB Introduction by Dr. George Douglas Stanley

Irene Parlby, W.W. Cross and UFA Government Healthcare, Early Pathology/Laboratory Medicine at the UofA, its Teaching Hospitals and the Provincial Laboratory, Medicine in Alberta: the War Years

Key Words: UofA, Provincial Laboratory, Bacteriology, WWI and II, Dean, Faculty of Medicine

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81. (Rankin, A.C.) Obituary, pages 57-58. Dr. Jim Thompson, a UofA Anatomy Professor, compared Rankin to Osler's *Good Physician*, possessing the qualities of Honor and Loyalty, Quietness, and Efficiency; Imperturbability and Equanimity, Savoir-faire, Dignity and Diplomacy, Friendliness and Thoughtfulness. Eulogy deposited in the UofA (BARD) file on Dr. Rankin.

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