EARLE PARKHILL SCARLETT, MD, FRCPC, FACP
1896-1982
A Study in Scarlett by F.W. Musselwhite, 1991, Hannah Dundurn, Toronto
**EARLE PARKHILL SCARLETT, MD, FRCPC, FACP**  
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“The ultimate business of our profession is not research into nerve pathways or devising some new operation, or untangling some abnormal cardiac rhythm but it is with life and human nature.”(1)

**Introduction**  
Earle Parkhill Scarlett was one of the most important figures in the first century of medicine in Alberta. However, his claim to fame was not as a physician – although he was an respected internist and cardiologist – but rather as a scholarly documenter of its passing parade. Dr. Scarlett’s vocational choice was medicine; his avocational choice was history, whether it was medical or medically related. He was honored to be classed as a medical truant, in the same arena as Shelley, Keats and Conan Doyle.

Dr. Scarlett came to Calgary in 1930, drawn by his roots, philosophy, and identification with Canada’s imperious past. The alternatives he had tested had left a disagreeable taste, but the stimulus of the Calgary Associate Clinic and its zest for continuing medical education, fostered by Dr. D.S. Macnab, attracted him and held him. It was a multifaceted clinic, one that was composed almost entirely of specialists.

For Dr. Scarlett the Associate Clinic not only served as a source of medical referrals, but also provided the reservoir of fertile minds he needed, and the supportive staff he required, to develop a critical mass of historically knowledgeable medical men. Scarlett was particularly attracted to his kindred spirit, Dr. George Douglas Stanley.

In 1932 Dr. Scarlett was successful in adding biweekly “Historical Nights” to the continuing medical education program of the clinic. The next turning point came in 1936, when Dr. D.G. Stanley, then sixty, said he was contemplating a new avocation in his life; the writing of his own medical experiences in High River. With Dr. Stanley’s support the two convinced their historically sensitized colleagues, to support the publication of the Historical Nights of the Calgary Associate Clinic Historical Bulletin (CACHB). Scarlett and Stanley soon imbued their clinic colleagues with a never-before-equalled enthusiasm for medical history. They coupled it with the necessary discipline for deadlines, and in so doing captured the essence of NWT and Alberta medical history, from the time Dr. W.M. MacKay arrived in 1868, through the first half of the 20th century, to 1958. Altruistically they shared their insights and fascinating recollections in the pages of the Historical Bulletin, published by the clinic and issued quarterly for over twenty-two years. Gratuitously the clinic paid for the supporting cast of RN prompters, whip crackers and research librarians, while Scarlett’s “comrades in arms”, as he liked to refer to them, never failed the call.

The focus of the CACHB was on Alberta’s medical history but that was by no means its only feature. As co-editor, Scarlett encouraged the Bulletin to give extensive coverage to other Canadian medical figures and medical schools, and sprinkled the selections with a wide variety of international topics. It only ended when Scarlett paused for a year, before fully retiring from practice in 1959. In retirement Dr. Scarlett accepted a bevy of guest columnist requests

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that heralded the most prolific five years of his medical writing life. His written bibliography eventually exceeded 450 references, excluding his speeches, three taped interviews, a book containing an anthology of his best writings, an historical journal of over two thousand pages and a biography, a “Study in Scarlett” by Bill Musselwhite in the AMS/Hannah Medical Lives series.\(^2\)

Colleagues and contemporaries recognized Dr. Scarlett’s unique blend of medical and literary competence. They nominated him as the Chancellor of the University of Alberta, and for three honorary doctorates from Toronto (1953), Alberta (1958) and Calgary (1969). But his most lasting doctorate came in 1967, when the Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School in Calgary was named in his honor, for others not yet born to ask the curious question “who was he?”\(^3\)

**From Youth to WWI 1896-1915**

Earle Parkhill Scarlett was a lone surviving twin. He was born in High Bluff near Portage La Prairie in rural Manitoba on June 27, 1896. The eldest, he was joined by one brother Hartley, and two sisters Aleta (Mrs. W.H. Pollard) and Winnifred (Mrs. M. Hill). His father, Robert Arthur Scarlett, was a druggist who changed his vocation and entered the Methodist ministry. Like his father, his mother was from Ontario. Alma Edith Parkhill had met her husband during one of his trips back east.

Scarlett’s first memories as a youth were about the paucity of toys and the abundance of books he could pull off the bottom shelf in his father’s study. The Bible along with Pilgrim’s Progress became favorites, “to be read and re-read and to be memorized and quoted.”\(^4\) His first literary effort was an article in the high school magazine at age twelve, which earned him a small pittance as well as a book on Northern Explorers. The latter he would keep in his library forever.\(^5\) In those formative years, he cemented a lifelong habit of always having a book in his lap and a pen or pencil in his hand. Penciled highlights and page references can be found in the back of almost any book with the name E.P. Scarlett in it.\(^6\)

Earle Scarlett graduated from the Winnipeg Collegiate Institute at age fifteen and entered Wesley College, the forerunner of the downtown University of Winnipeg. In the summer of 1914 he was teaching summer school in a bush camp, when WWI was declared on August 4. His father Rev. Robert Scarlett was planning to join the Canadian Army. When he detected a similar enthusiasm on the part of his son, Rev. Scarlett discouraged him at least until his University studies were finished. Vocationally his father had wanted Scarlett to be a druggist and his mother wanted him to be a preacher. Instead he became, by his own admission a “lady killer”.\(^7\)

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Bill Musselwhite’s Introduction to A Study in Scarlett, pages 11-15, provided a revealing and personal perspective of the last decade of Scarlett’s life and literary career.

The author had the good fortune to spend many Wednesday evenings with Dr. Scarlett from 1977-1979, as well as knowing him as a member of the Foothills Hospital Board from 1968-1975.


**WWI 1915-1919**

In 1915 Scarlett joined the Western University Battalion. To accelerate his posting overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Scarlett transferred to the 4th Division Cyclist Corps. Then Scarlett and three other students petitioned the President and the General Faculty Council of the University of Manitoba to permit them to graduate without writing their final exams. They were successful.

By December 1916 Scarlett was on his way to the Western front, pausing long enough in Toronto to visit his aunt. During the layover he dated UofT art student, Jean Odell. After leaving Canada in February 1917 he commenced serious training in Sussex, England. On furloughs he would meet his father in London. Training focused on Germany’s new weapon, chlorine gas, which had been introduced on April 22, 1915. During down times he put his thoughts to paper as he recorded in his wartime letters back to Jean. They show him to be an articulate fatalist, quite aware that the life expectancy of a foot soldier was three months and an airman six weeks.

In September 1917, Scarlett accepted another transfer, this time to the Machine Gun Corps. His free time was limited and permitted only a few premium classics to be read: Coleridge, Ruskin and Carlyle. By January 1918, he was on the Western front again, not far from the April 1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge one year earlier. He survived his first German machine gun attack, despite a jammed gun. In April 1918 he survived a mustard gas attack, despite agonizing blisters and searing sore eyes.

Then came the Battle of the Marne, and Amiens, and in August, the Battle of Arras. At Arras his Unit was supporting the Royal 22nd Regiment or Van Doos under the command of twenty-two year old Major Georges Vanier. Six hundred and forty Van Doos were ordered to capture an enemy-held hill. Only one hundred and thirty were left unscathed after the first assault. An hour later, Scarlett’s Company was of one hundred and twenty men ordered to attack. Thirteen survived the first forty-five minutes of combat. Vanier lost his leg. Moments later Scarlett received a shrapnel wound in his neck, one that killed several of his companions. The wound soon led to unconsciousness from loss of blood. Evacuated by his colleagues, he was fortunate not to be paralyzed. He awoke in a tent hospital near Boulogne, France known as the Harvard Unit. His father was standing at the end of the bed and introduced him to the famous Boston consultants Drs. Harvey Cushing and Richard Cabot.

Scarlett was transferred back to England for rehabilitation. Years later he would say “I’m sure I saw him (Sir William Osler) when I was convalescing in a British Hospital”. His evacuation occurred at the same time as Osler’s only son Revere was killed. During his eight months of rehabilitation, Scarlett contemplated studying at Oxford. His experience as a patient must have tipped the scales away from a professorship in Classics. On returning to Canada he resolved to go back to university. At home in Winnipeg, he canvassed a dozen professional friends of his father. Only two were happy with their lot. Both were physicians. That convinced Scarlett to

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study medicine. Since UoT was the choice of three generations of the family, the application to enter medicine went to Toronto. (16)

Medical School at UoT 1919-1924
From 1919-1922 Scarlett secured a well-paying summer job as a conductor on the CPR’s Soo Line, from Portal, Saskatchewan to Banff, Alberta. His summer savings covered almost the costs of his medical education. (17) During his five years as a medical student, Scarlett’s attention often migrated to extracurricular activities. He was a veteran, and he acted like one – expelled twice, class President once. All of his medical student classmates had learned to be frugal. So much so they accumulated $1,200 in unspent dues. Scarlett convinced them to start the University of Toronto Medical Journal. It was the first undergraduate medical journal on the continent and continued despite admonitions that it should not. (18)

A favorite Scarlett “student” anecdote involved his Anatomy Professor J. Playfair McMurrich. McMurrich called him into his office one day as the new Journal was demanding more and more of his time. He told Scarlett to cut out his avocational activities and get back to his vocational studies, namely medicine. Scarlett did. (19) Until the 1960s, it was the anatomists who determined which students passed first year and graduated as doctors. (20)

On seeing his name on the final year graduation list, Dr. E.P. Scarlett booked another visit with Dr. McMurrich, to ask him the difference between vocations and avocations. The answer was to the point. “Sit down Scarlett. Look around. What do you see in the cabinets, on the tops of them and on the walls of this cubicle?” Scarlett replied, “Sculptures, drawings, models and bones.” “What do they have in common Scarlett?” The reply was silence. McMurrich continued, “They all relate to Michelangelo. Once or twice a year I’m called to Europe by some prospective purchaser or famous Museum to authenticate a Michelangelo artifact. That’s what they all have in common. Michelangelo is my avocation. My vocation is just a means to an end. The end is my avocation. Now get on with your life Scarlett, but don’t forget your avocation”. (21)
Although engaged, Dr. Scarlett feared entering matrimony while in debt. He finally found 65 cents in his pocket that he did not owe to anyone, so he promptly proposed to Jean Odell. They were married after his graduation in 1924 and just before Scarlett started three years of postgraduate training at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. That stint was followed by another three years in Iowa studying Internal Medicine, specializing in heart diseases, and performing and reading new electrocardiograms.

His avocational interest in medical history resurfaced in Iowa in 1928 when he anonymously wrote a fifty page article on the History of the Iowa College of Medicine. But his nostalgia for Canada was growing. Overtures to the UofT drew a cool response. His mother suggested he write to a lawyer she knew, R.B. Bennett. He was a Calgary West MP and soon-to-be Conservative Prime Minister of Canada. Bennett was a longstanding political friend of MP Calgary East Dr. G.D. Stanley of the Calgary Associate Clinic. A job offer from the Clinic was soon forthcoming and the Scarletts headed for Calgary in 1930, returning to the city they had visited on their honeymoon or as Scarlett called it “the Baghdad on the Bow”.[23]

The pre-CACHB years 1930-1936

The eight-year-old Calgary Associate Clinic had been founded by Drs. Macnab, Stanley and three other physicians in 1922. A progressive clinic, the members initiated continuing medical education luncheons by the mid-20s.[24] The luncheons promoted loyalty, camaraderie, and were “good scientifically and tied us together”. The first thing Dr. Scarlett did was to start a library in the furnace room.

In 1932 Dr. Scarlett received his FRCP. In 1946 he received an FACP.[25] Neither increased his income. Scarlett soon learned that his consults only came from his clinic colleagues. He received two non-clinic referrals in his first five years.

Because of his interest in medical history, the clinic began to hold an extra evening meeting once a month. Each meeting was devoted to presenting a paramedical or medical historical topic. Soon the presentations focused solely on the History of Medicine. A full time librarian was hired in 1935, although the clinic only had ten medical men. Early in 1936 Stanley took Scarlett aside and said, “Look here Scarlett, I’ve just been doing a little thinking. We’ve got a good Historical Society going here and I understand you are a writer. Why don’t you start a magazine?”[26] The Clinic agreed to go along with the idea and supported the mailing of each issue to physicians who asked to receive it.

The CACHB years 1936-1958

Charles Roland confirmed the uniqueness of the journal with its focus on medical history.[27] It was the only English Canadian Medical History Journal to last at least one generation. Initial printings were one thousand per issue, eventually rising to three thou-

23. Musselwhite, F. William A Study in Scarlett, pages 45-47. For a history of the Associate Clinic see Dr. Scarlett’s manuscript entitled “Historical Sketch, Calgary Associate Clinic 1922-1965” (13 pages) and Valerie Orr’s “History of the Calgary Associate Clinic” (15 pages), 1976, which were deposited at the University of Calgary.
To some members of the medical tribes what has been written in these pages has been foolishness, and to others ‘a stumbling-block.’ To still others it may even have caused an acute fibrillation of the ligament of Treitz. Nevertheless once again—and as a valedictory act—we stubbornly but with entire good nature assert these values, and hope that they may continue to be expressed through some medium in Canadian medicine. Such medical commentary and discussion are vital in providing a matrix and framework for the daily business of medicine, and in developing and deepening insights and judgments. Not that we are too fearful of the future. Medicine through the centuries has been able to provide its own saving graces and disciplines. And what we might call “the humanities” in medicine will not disappear as long as there is one physician left who has not bowed the knee to Baal or who continues to hold the ramparts against the Philistines.

Excerpt from the last CACHB Volume 22(4), February 1958 by Dr. Earle Scarlett

sand. As a rough average clinic members wrote one article about every three years. To broaden the topics outside speakers were brought to Calgary to talk about themselves and their medical experiences. The clinic’s only requirement for covering their expenses was to receive a hard copy of the presentation and a photograph of the speaker. The latter hung in the Rogue’s Gallery in the library of the clinic. The former usually constituted the keynote article in the next issue of the quarterly Calgary Associate Clinic Historical Bulletin (CACHB). (29)

For eighteen years the editors remained Stanley and Scarlett. They were aided in doing the historical research by Francis Coulson along with RNs Aileen Fish, Bernice Donaldson and Margaret Duthie, all of whom had the same avocational interest in medical history. The drafts would be made readable, and the after-thoughts integrated and typed, before Dr. Scarlett did the final editing. This arrangement became the norm. All literary deadlines were met, usually ahead of time.

In the Bulletin Dr. Stanley focused on his own experiences. His recollections were highlighted in his column, “Medical Pioneering in Alberta”. The column related personal experiences during his medical pioneering days in High River and after 1918, in Calgary. (30) Dr. Scarlett initiated his own column entitled “Medical Miscellany: from the Commonplace Book of a medical reader”. He wrote sixty-three columns during the Bulletin’s twenty-two years. As the readership increased, the size of the issues expanded from eight pages to over one hundred pages in the tenth anniversary issue Volume 10(1) in 1946. The norm was forty. Dr. George Prieur outlined how contributions requested by the editors were shared amongst members of the associate clinic, a clinic that expanded to over thirty members by 1958. (31) Although Dr. Stanley remained in active practice and continued his regular column for eighteen years, the Bulletin suffered a near-mortal blow when he passed away in 1954. It did receive a fatal blow when Dr. Scarlett retired as the editor after twenty-two years in 1958.

The eighty-eight issues represent an irreplaceable window on early Alberta medicine, those who delivered it, and how it was practiced. There was an element of selectivity in the Albertan-authored articles chosen for the Bulletin. The Edmonton articles usually were by invitation to members of the Faculty of Medicine. In some cases it was the reputation of the individual, or Scarlett’s observation that their experience should be recorded as in the case of Drs. Baker, Archer, Ower and Revell. There were voids as well. No articles appear on or by two well known Calgary physicians: Drs. J.S. McEachern and G.E. Learmonth. Only one article was written by Dr. H.C. Jamieson, on Marion Moodie RN. (32)

The format was remarkably stable from a literary or content point of view and the quality was consistent, despite deadlines and other time demands. Scarlett’s standards and expectations were high, particularly when he was familiar with the subject. He was chagrined by the impersonal nature of a two-part history of McGill University by Alberta College Registrar Dr. G.R. Johnson. Later he wrote his own article in the Bulletin on the influence of McGill men on the West.

29. Scarlett, Earle P. Dr. Scarlett was the co-Editor of the CACHB with Dr. Stanley. It was published quarterly from 1936-1958. 88 issues were printed. See issues 1(1), 10(1), 20(1), 22(1), 22(4) for anticipatory and reflective comments on the Bulletin and how Dr. Scarlett sought authors. For a discussion of Dr. Scarlett’s impressions of the journal see C.G. Roland’s, “A Transcript of an Interview,” pages 26-31, 37, 42-43, 48-49, 51-52.


31. Prieur, George “My Second Career,” a presentation to a UofC writing course circa 1980. 5 pages. Copy in the possession of his son Dr. Timothy Prieur of Calgary. Dr. George Prieur was a lifelong medical, music and literary friend of Dr. Scarlett and was so invigorated by his Bulletin articles that he went back to University to study history when he retired. Also see Dr. C.G. Roland’s, “A Transcript of an Interview,” page 37.


after giving a speech on the subject to a convocating class at McGill.\(^{(33)}\)

**Retirement, the Rams Horn and Writing 1959-1972:**

When Dr. Scarlett retired from practice and the Clinic in 1959, Earle and Jean left on a fifteen month sabbatical to Spain. The rejuvenation included a side trip to the Greek Island of Kos, the birthplace of Hippocrates. The holiday provided the succor and sustenance Scarlett needed.\(^{(34)}\) He returned to Calgary invigorated. From 1960-1965, or from age 64-69, he wrote regularly in three journals and occasionally in eight more.\(^{(35)}\) Then he developed cardiac difficulties. Survival came with a cost—five heart attacks. Fortunately, his heart arrhythmias were controlled by the new ACE inhibitors and Beta blockers.

How did Dr. Scarlett maintain such a stream of diverse and well researched articles? He did it through prior research, clarity of thought, a mind and pen that flowed freely, and an avocational drive and determination that continued late into each night.

His writing was facilitated by the references he compiled in his commonplace book, “The Rams Horn”.\(^{(36)}\) It was based on the medieval concept used by prolific writers, to accumulate references, ideas and thoughts, on a wide range of topics. It improved his writing efficiency, and the breadth and classical beauty of his writing.\(^{(37)}\)

Dr. Scarlett’s commonplace book “The Rams Horn: A Private Anthology”\(^{(38)}\) was modeled after Sir William Osler’s, but modified by his own preference for more

**References**


35. Scarlett, Earle P. Bibliography: List of Published Papers, Addresses, Contributions to Books, etc by Dr. E.P. Scarlett covering 1928 to July 1971, 36 pages. He wrote over 200 articles and columns from 1961 to 1965 or an average of one per week. Copy in the possession of the author.

36. Bobey, Nikki, Lampard, Robert


38. Scarlett, Earle P. “The Rams Horn: A Private Anthology”, page 293. Also see F.W. Musselwhite’s, A Study in Scarlett, page 76. It was formally started in 1944.
literary topics. The oldest example of a commonplace book Dr. Scarlett included were the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius.

Other commonplace books have been described in the literature. A recent one was compiled by the pathologist Dr. William Boyd and described by Dr. Ian Carr. None were as voluminous as “The Ram’s Horn”.

For Scarlett the pattern became a formalized exercise in 1944. He called his book The Rams Horn because “it takes a horn to sound a full blooded complement to life”. Scarlett elaborated on the Rams Horn, his love of books and their value, in the Second Snively Memorial Lecture to the Canadian Nursing Association in Halifax in 1948. During the presentation he quoted the verse that spirited him throughout his life:

“But at my back I always hear
Times’ winged chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all about us lie
Deserts of vast eternity”.

Jean’s epitaph, recorded in Dr. Scarlett’s MD graduation book, envisioned “The Rams Horn”. “He would hunt half a day for a forgotten dream”. In time “The Rams Horn” became Scarlett’s source book. Scarlett would return to it for quotes and references, or an idea, when he was unable to find it on the shelves of his study or in his basement where he kept his overflow books. He never failed to follow the Ode of Captain Cuttle, “when found, make note of” For instructing others on how to use it, Scarlett turned to Keats: “When man has arrived at a certain ripeness in intellect, any one grand and spiritual passage serves him as a starting post ... How happy is such a voyage of conception, what delicious diligent indolence”.

Scarlett kept adding to his Commonplace book, typing entries two fingers at a time. “The Rams Horn” eventually consisted of fifty-one different topics with 1800 quotes. In the 1950s Scarlett’s daughter Betty typed the index, while she was recovering from a fractured leg. All the topics were non-medical, ranging from life to love, music, finality, oddments, memory, and Canadiana. Each heading was followed by the full quote. With the help of “The Rams Horn”, Scarlett said he could produce an article in about three quarters of a day.

Dr. Scarlett’s early retirement years represented the zenith of his prolific writing career. He wrote a column entitled The Medical Jackdaw. It ran for 120 issues in Group Practice (1960-71). Doctor Out of Zebulin continued for sixty-six columns, in the Archives of Internal Medicine (1962-69). A Doctors Notebook ran for twenty-three issues in the Alberta Medical Bulletin (1961-64). There were other articles in his bibliography that were published in the UofA’s New Trail, The Canadian Hospital, The Canadian Journal of Pharmacy, The Journal of the American Medical Association, the Journal of Medical Education, the Canadian Nurse, the American Journal of Medicine, and the Vancouver Medical Bulletin, to name the journals that were successful in pleading their point for access to his pen. Dr. Scarlett also agreed to be one of the editors of the Strauss

39. Bobey, Nikki, Lampard, Robert


40. Bobey, Nikki, Lampard, Robert


41. Carr, Ian


42. Dorotich, Betty

Personal Communication and Interview with N. Bobey, 4 page transcript, January 1995.

43. Bobey, Nikki, Lampard, Robert


44. Scarlett, Earle P.


45. Scarlett, Earle P.

“The Rams Horn,” Canadian Nurse, page 716. The quote was taken from Marvell’s “To His Coy Mistress”.

46. Scarlett, Earle P.

“The Rams Horn: A Private Anthology”. Dedicated “To Jean”.

47. Scarlett, Earle P.


48. Scarlett, Earle P.


49. Scarlett, Earle P.

“The Rams Horn: A Private Anthology”. 567 pages. Dr. Scarlett created a sixty-one-page alphabetic index to the Private Anthology, which contained the first line of the estimated 1800 quotes. It represented his continuing education in classical literature. He placed his seal of approval on it by quoting Sir Thomas Browne, “In seventy years a man may have a deep gist of the world, know what it is, what it can afford, and what ‘tis to have been a man”. The Rams Horn, page 5, circa June 27, 1966. Copy in the possession of his daughter Betty Dorotich, the author and Dr. Peter Cruse.
The Ram’s Horn: The Commonplace Book of Dr. Earle Parkhill Scarlett

Nicola A.M. Sohey Hon BSc; Robert Lampard MD

Summary

Dr. Earle Scarlett (1896-1982) was “a man for all seasons;” he was a flourishing internist in Calgary, Alta., and a proud, self-confessed “medical runt.” One of his greatest accomplishments was his written work; he published over 500 articles in several journals. His passion for books and reading gave rise to his commonplace book, The Ram’s Horn. He used this collection of poems, prose, quotations, thoughts, and ideas as a resource for his articles, most of which focused on historical and philosophical matters, and were rich in references to literary figures, mythology, and the Bible. The Ram’s Horn contains writings that he deemed to be worthwhile and enjoyed reading over again. This book gives insight into the writings and interests of Scarlett, and in his words, “sound[s] a full-blooded compliment to [his] life.”

Résumé

Le Dr Earle Scarlett (1896-1982) a été un homme universel. Interniste de Calgary (Alberta), il reconnaissait avec fierté être absent de la médecine sans autorisation. Son principal titre de gloire est son œuvre de collection, soit plus de 500 articles dans plusieurs publications différentes. Sa passion pour les livres et la lecture sont à l’origine d’un livre de chevet, intitulé The Ram’s Horn, sorte de recueil des textes de poésie et de prose, des citations, des pensees et des idées qui ont alimenté ses articles et qui, riches d’allusions aux personnages de la littérature, à la mythologie et à la Bible, traitent pour la plupart de questions historiques et philosophiques. The Ram’s Horn renferme les écrits qu’il considérait comme dignes de mention et qu’il avait plaisir à lire et à relire : il donne une bonne idée de ce qui intéressait le Dr Scarlett et constitue, selon les propres mots de l’auteur, un vigoureux hommage à sa vie.

Textbook of Medical Quotations, which was published in 1968.\(^{50}\)

What is not well known is that Dr. Scarlett wrote thirty medical articles for the CMAJ from 1932-1956, on medical diseases, but always with historical content.\(^ {51}\) He wrote another fifteen articles, for the continuing medical education program at the Colonel Belcher Veterans Hospital. None of his innumerable speeches were included in his bibliography, unless they led to an article that was written and published.\(^ {52}\)

Other Contributions

Dr. Scarlett had many other peripheral but related interests.\(^ {53}\) He supported Jean who was actively involved with the YWCA and the School Board. Both were involved in the Recorder Club. He taught sex education for boys at the YMCA (1931-51). Dr. Scarlett was elected President of the Associate Clinic for ten years, after Dr. Macnab retired in 1946. He contributed to a plethora of local and community non-medical organizations. They included an appointment as Chairman of the Regional CBC Advisory Board, positions on the Boards of the Calgary Symphony Orchestra, the Tweedsmuir Girls School, the Calgary Library, the Salvation Army, the Canadian Concert and Organist Societies, the Classical Club, the Humanities Association, the UofA Rhodes Selection Committee, the National Awards and Letters Committee and the Provincial Boy Scouts Council. Nationally he was a member of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Honorary Chairman of the National Committee for the Control of Radiation Hazards. Internationally Dr. Scarlett was a well known musicologist, as well as a corresponding fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

His literary loves included a charter membership in the Sherlock Holmes Baker Street Irregulars, as well as an affiliation with the Scandalous Bohemians (Akron), the Baskervilles (Chicago) and the Bootmakers (Toronto). He was a member of the Keats-Shelley Association, the American Osler Society and the Alberta chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Fraternity. His medical memberships included the Canadian Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Provincial Mental Health Board, the Board of the Canadian Medical Protective Association, and the Foothills Hospital Board. He was given Honorary Life membership in the Calgary Medical Society, the

50. Strauss, Maurice B. Textbook of Medical Quotations. 715 pages, Little, Brown, 1968. Scarlett was one of fourteen editors. There were over 500 topics and over 7000 quotations. The nature of Scarlett’s contribution is unknown. His private Anthology alone would have contributed twenty-five percent of it. Conversely the textbook would have been of inestimable help to him as a reference source, if it had been published a decade earlier.

51. Scarlett, Earle P. Bibliography. List of published papers, addresses, contributions to books, etc. covering 1928 to July 1971. 450 entries.

52. Scarlett, Earle P. Bibliography. List of published papers, addresses, contributions to books, etc. covering 1928 to July 1971.

53. Scarlett, Earle P. Bibliographical Reference Data (n.d.). Circa 1972. Nine pages. The last two pages were a narrative entitled “Notes for biographical article” and were signed “EPS”. Likely they were notes dictated as part of the Interview with Dr. Roland in 1978.
Profiles and Perspectives from Alberta’s Medical History – Dr. Earle Parkhill Scarlett

Awards and Boards
Recognition of the numerous and multifaceted contributions to his profession and his community came through Honorary Doctorates from UoT (1953), UofA (1958), and the UofC (1969). He was awarded two Coronation Medals (1937, 1953), the UofA Golden Alumni Jubilee Award (1966) and the Canada Centennial Medal (1967). In 2005 Dr. Scarlett was named one of Alberta’s 100 Physicians of the Century.

Of all his appointments, the two he enjoyed the most were to the UofA and Foothills Hospital Boards. He was appointed to the UofA Board of Governors (1946-51) and then became the first Chancellor of the UofA from Calgary (1952-1958). Upon his return to Calgary in 1960, he was appointed as the only physician on the Foothills Hospital Board, (1960-1975) by Premier Manning. Concurrent with the Foothills Hospital construction period (1960-66) he chaired the Scarlett Commission, whose 1963 report on Nursing Education strongly endorsed the hospital-based two-year nursing programs with one-year clinical experience, before granting an RN.

The Foothills Hospital Dedications
The original mandate of the Foothills Board did not contemplate a medical school until the 1980s. But the release of the Hall Commission Report in 1964 flagged a pending shortage of physicians to treat post-war “baby boomers” in Canada. New medical schools in Hamilton, Calgary, Sherbrooke and St. Johns started. As the physician emeritus of the Calgary Medical Community and a former Chancellor and strong supporter of the UofA, Dr. Scarlett was approached by the Alberta Medical Association to see if he would support a Faculty of Medicine in Calgary. He took the same position as Dr. Walter MacKenzie, that of accepting the concept, so long as it did not disrupt the mature Edmonton program. Dr. Scarlett supported its family practice thrust, despite his own clinic consisting of almost all specialists based at the Holy Cross Hospital. The hospital and medical school proceeded, with a reduced level of discord amongst the Calgary medical community. The benefits of medical education programs, on the patients of Calgary were rapid and substantial.

Before the Foothills Hospital was opened, the Board asked Dr. Scarlett to write a dedication. He crafted the one that was inscribed in marble at the entrance-way to the hospital, “Built to Serve the Citizens of Southern Alberta, Dedicated to a Fellowship as old as mankind, The Heritage of Service to the Sick, And the Teaching of Medicine”

55. Manning, Ernest C. The other Foothills Board appointees (1960) were James Mahaffy (Chairman), Maude Riley, Clare Manning, Jimmy Morrison, John Cross, Ed Carlson and Reg Adshead (Secretary).
57. Lampard, Robert In the case of the Foothills Hospital, it opened with 385 beds (1966); hired the first medical Department heads (1966); became accredited (1966); jointly hired the Dean of Medicine and the Director of Pediatrics with the University of Calgary (Dr. W.A. Cochrane, 1967); appointed the joint (Hospital and University) Medical Department Heads (1968); fully opened the 766 bed hospital (1968); started an intern program (1968); and residency training program (1969); built a two floor addition on the west wing of the hospital to start the medical school (1970); and received the first clinical clerks in a three year MD program (1972). All steps were conditional on successfully completing the previous ones. No step or deadline was missed. Robert Lampard was the second Foothills Hospital Medical Director from 1968-1981 after Dr. John Phin (1963-1968).
When the hospital opened June 10, 1966, Premier Manning unveiled a commemorative plaque in the Foothills rotunda, written by Dr. Scarlett,

“Within these walls life begins and ends.  
Here are reverence for life, a sense of the dignity of man,  
The distilled medical and scientific wisdom of years  
And a shelter from the winds of illness”

Requested again, on December 1, 1978 Dr. Scarlett added another element of his philosophy to the inscription at the entranceway to the Special Services and Baker Cancer Center, next to the Foothills Hospital:

“Within this temple of medicine, a place of hope and faith,  
May all be granted the wisdom to comprehend,  
The courage to face, the grace to surmount,  
And the compassion to lighten the voyage of life”

Scarlett’s last lingering link with organized medicine was severed when he resigned from the Foothills Board in 1975. That same year Jean died. His lifelong model Sir William Osler, had passed away at age seventy. Scarlett was seventy-nine. The guiding light for his remaining years was dimming. He shared his love for literature and medicine by inviting colleagues of an increasing youthful age to come and spend scheduled evenings with him in his study. He would impart to them the essence of life as he saw it, the art of medicine as he perceived it, and the ideals and philosophy that had sustained him.\(^{59}\)

**In the end “still the bemused boy”**

Dr. Scarlett was quietly pleased when Dr. Charles Roland, the Dean of Canadian Medical Historians, offered to interview him in 1972 and prepare an anthology of his writings. Dr. Roland had become intrigued with the breadth of topics Scarlett covered, the quality of their content, and the familiarity the author had with each subject. Roland was impressed with Dr. Scarlett’s knowledge of classical literature, his familiarity with a broad spectrum of philosophical topics, and the vibrancy of his penmanship.

The anthology of Roland’s selections was published as “In Sickness and In Health” in 1972.\(^{60}\) It is well worth visiting, for those who wish to rejuvenate their faith in the art and humanity of the medical profession. Dr. Scarlett remains unsurpassed in writing so voluminously of the art, science and the history of Canadian medicine. Osler’s bibliography of 730 art...
cicles and books$^{61}$ and Stuart Houston’s 595 books, chapter reviews and abstracts are the only ones to exceed Scarlett’s 450, which exclude his sixty-three CACHB columns and editorship of its eighty-eight issues.

Besides his passion for books, letters, correspondence, writing and his profession, Dr. Scarlett was a valued doctor, clinic builder, and visionary. He feared the advance of medical science. When coupled with an increasingly costly profession he believed it would void any lingering voice that promoted the art of medicine. Scarlett would have argued vociferously against the thought of a five-minute visit. He decried the worst ills of medicine as “the excessive centralized administration and legislation, related to the concept of the welfare state and the rapid growth of science and technology”. Forgotten, he said, “is the individual human being, as a host of new disorders spring up”. $^{62}$

It would have disturbed him if his life were reduced to a few quotes. He preferred discourse, dissection of thought, dialogue and conjecture. In time, when classicists and medical historians revisit Dr. Scarlett, he will rise again as an articulate vision of the honor and privilege he felt it was to give of one’s time, ability, philosophy and example. $^{63}$ Whether it was about Keats or Shelley, Mozart or Handel or Bach, Conan Doyle or Sherlock Holmes, or Osler or Browne, Dr. Scarlett was a man for all occasions, $^{64}$ sought by a

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63. MacDermot, H. Ernest Preface, page 1, in In Sickness and in Health. MacDermot wrote of the value that a Study of Scarlett would be, if it were akin to a Bibliotheca Osleriana. Dr. Hugh Segall suggested the same when he annotated Dr. Scarlett’s entry in Pioneers of Cardiology, pages 117-122, 1988.

64. Gardiner, J. Smitty “Earle Parkhill Scarlett of Calgary, 1896-1982,” CBMH 11(1): 108-113, Summer, 1984. Reaffirmed in the “Transcript of an Interview,” pages 61-64 in In Sickness and In Health – the chapter on Music, Musicians and Medicine, pages 57-65. Dr. Scarlett’s son Robert Scarlett’s avocation was playing the harpsichord for which he was internationally noted. Robert provided surplus parts to modify Dr. Scarlett’s Hi Fi system. The altered amplifier produced superb sound, to the admiration of Dr. Scarlett’s musical colleagues.
wide variety of audiences, comfortable on many a podium, and ever surrounded by a posse of friends wherever he went.\(^{(65)}\)

With a pen that never stilled and an ink well that never ran dry, Dr. Scarlett’s last testament was a private Breviary of Love he wrote to his family, as a memorial to the memories, love and abiding happiness he received from his wife, children, grandchildren and his home at 409 Edinboro.\(^{(66)}\) Dr. Scarlett passed away June 14, 1982,\(^{(67)}\) but not before writing his own epilogue:

“In spite of all that has been set down above, the subject of this inventory is still the bemused boy, sitting in the back row of the cosmic theatre, just as he did long ago in the medical theatre of Toronto Varsity, and listening, and making notes – and wondering ...”\(^{(68)}\)

The Scarlets had three children, Robert (1928), Elizabeth (1931) and Katherine (1935), all raised at 409 Edinboro Road near the Elbow River: a walk south of the Holy Cross Hospital, and a mile north of the Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School. Robert, an engineer and musicologist worked in the solid state physics laboratory in Palo Alto, California.

**Related Profiles and Perspectives:** Stanley, Archer, Jamieson and many more

**Key Words:** WWI, Medical History, Medicine in Alberta, The Art and Science of Medicine, the Calgary Associate Clinic, Calgary Associate Clinic Historical Bulletin, Foothills Hospital

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65. Scarlett, Earle P. Taped interview with “Gloria” in the possession of Dr. Scarlett’s daughter, Betty Dorotich, 16 pages, 1978. Gloria is otherwise unknown. The interview discussed twelve Canadian authors that Dr. Scarlett knew. More authors are referenced in C.G. Roland’s, “A Transcript of an Interview,” pages 39, 61 and the coterie of medical associates and friends, to whom the CACHB was sent and who replied, including the Rt Hon Arthur Meighen, (Transcript, page 39). When conversing with Dr. Scarlett, any story one started, he would complement with a better one, usually in the first person.

66. Scarlett, Earle P. Breviary of Love. The four copies remain in the hands of family members.
