

## John Hopkins - Annual report of the president-1898

### Dr. ALAN P. SMITH.

The following minute commemorative of Dr. Smith was adopted by the Trustees, November 7, 1898:

Dr. Alan P. Smith, who had been a Trustee of the Johns Hopkins Hospital since 1873 (so designated by the founder), and of the Johns Hopkins University since 1881, died at his residence in Baltimore, July 18, 1898, in his fifty-ninth year. During the latter part of his life he was an invalid, and was thus prevented from attending the meetings of the Trustees,—but he retained his interest in the work of both foundations, and was always ready to give a word of encouragement and appreciation to those who were more actively engaged than he in the duties of administration and government.

Dr. Smith came of a family which has included many eminent practitioners of medicine and surgery. His father was Dr. Nathan Ryno Smith, for half a century a distinguished surgeon of Baltimore, and Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland until his death in 1877. His grandfather was Dr. Nathan Smith, who is renowned as the founder of the Medical School of Yale College, and, previously, of the Medical School of Dartmouth College. Among the descendants of this remarkable man who have been devoted to the profession of medicine, are three brothers of Dr. Alan P. Smith, viz., Dr. Berwick B. Smith, who was regarded as a brilliant surgeon and an excellent teacher, and who was demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Maryland; Dr. Nathan Smith; and Dr. Walter P. Smith, who was a surgeon in the Confederate Army at the time of his death; and, besides, Dr. Nathan S. Lincoln, a distinguished practitioner of Washington, Dr. David Paige Smith, Professor of Medicine, and later of Surgery, in Yale College, Dr. Samuel Theobald, now Clinical Professor in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Berwick B. Lanier, lately a member of the Surgical Staff of the Johns Hopkins Dispensary, and two sons of Dr. Alan P. Smith,—Drs. Nathan R. and Walter P. Smith.

In 1873 Dr. Alan P. Smith was elected to the chair of Operative Surgery in the University of Maryland, where he had previously been, for a short time, an adjunct professor; but he had no predilection for the duties of a lecturer or teacher, and he soon sought release from them. He was skillful as an operator and as a clinical adviser, and he preferred to cultivate these talents exclusively. Still, he made contributions to the science of medicine, the most important being a report, in 1878, upon fifty-two cases in which he had performed the important operation of lithotomy without the loss of a single life. In the capacity of a visiting or consulting surgeon, he was connected with several of the most important hospitals of Baltimore. His distinction extended far beyond the city of his residence, and largely rested upon his success in surgery, especially lithotomy, although he was also widely known as a general practitioner. For his gentleness, sympathy, courage, knowledge and skill he was respected and beloved by all classes in the community,—particularly by the poor, whom he was always ready to befriend and assist, and by his professional associates who constantly consulted him.

His career exemplifies in a remarkable manner the advantages of talents, inheritance, and opportunity, and his name will always be remembered with honor among the surgeons of Maryland.

It was ordered that a copy of this minute be sent to the family of Dr. Smith.