

Temple's Famous Professors

By Paul LaFollette, Editor

This is the first in what I hope will become an intermittently appearing series of articles about some of Temple University's famous professors. I plan to begin with some of the faculty that my father, Paul S. LaFollette Sr., knew when he was at Temple University School of Medicine in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and told me stories about as I was about to begin my studies at Temple Medical School in the early 1970s. This issue of the *Herald* will feature Victor Robinson.

Dr. Robinson was born in 1886 in Ukraine to a Russian physician. He studied Pharmacy at New York University, Law at Columbia University, and received his MD degree from the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery (which later became a part of Loyola University) in 1917. He had a lifelong interest in the history of medicine. He founded the journal *Medical Life*, the first English language journal on the history of medicine. In 1924, he was one of the organizers of the History of Science Society.

He was Professor of the History of Medicine at Temple University from 1929 until 1947.

His publications include:

William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft (1907)

Comrade Kropotkin (1908)

An Essay on Hasheesh (1912)

Pathfinders in Medicine (1912)

Poems (1913)

Pioneers of Birth Control (1919)

Don Quixote of Psychiatry (1919)

Life of Jacob Henle (1921)

The Story of Medicine (1931)

Syllabus of Medical History (1933)

Way of Life of a Physician (1941)

Victory Over Pain: A History of Anesthesia (1946)

White Caps: The Story of Nursing (1946)

He edited:

Symposium on Humanitarians (1908)

Medical Review of Reviews (monthly) (1916)

Medical Life (monthly) (1920)

Historia Medicinæ (25 vols.) (1926)

Modern Home Physician (1934)

Sexual Relations of Mankind (Mantegazza) (1935)

Physiology of Love (Mantegazza) (1936)

Encyclopaedia Sexualis (with 100 contributors) (1936)

Psychopathia Sexualis (Krafft-Ebing) (1939)

New People's Physician (8 vols.) (1941)

Morals in Wartime (1943)

According to my father, he was an enjoyable, engaging lecturer. He was also an enthusiastic pilot, often flying himself from New York City to Philadelphia to give his lectures at Temple. On the day of their final exam, he announced to my father's class that Temple had a policy that all courses must have a written final exam, but had no policy as to what the professor might do with said exams. He further stated that in previous years, the exams had always accidentally been swept out of his airplane on his return flight to New York.

The following are excerpts from his 1912 publication *An Essay on Hasheesh*

The entire article, as reprinted in 1925, can be found at http://www.samorini.it/doc1/alt_aut/lr/robinson.pdf