



*P. P. Andrews*

## ROBERT ROBBIN ANDREWS

### AN APPRECIATION

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Dr. Robert Robbin Andrews, a veteran of the Civil War and one of the best known dental surgeons of Massachusetts, died at his home in Waban, Mass., on Wednesday, January 26, 1921. His death was caused by heart trouble.

Dr. Andrews was born in Boston seventy-six years ago. He was educated in the public schools of Boston and was a graduate of Boston Dental College. He entered the Civil War and served two years, having been promoted from the rank of private to lieutenant. He practised his profession of dentistry for many years in the city of Cambridge, Mass. He was professor of histology in Boston Dental College. When this institution was merged with Tufts, and became Tufts College Dental School, he was made a member of the Board of Trustees of Tufts College, which position he held until his death.

In 1892 he received the honorary degree of A.M. from Dartmouth College for distinguished service in the dental profession. In 1911 he was awarded the Jarvie gold medal by the New York State Dental Society "for distinguished service in the science and art of dentistry." He had been president of several of the dental societies, including the Massachusetts Dental Society and the American Academy of Dental Science. He was a member of the Royal Microscopical Society and several other foreign microscopical societies; and was the author of many publications on subjects related to his profession.

He is survived by his wife, Mary LeSeur Andrews, and four children: Dr. Robert E. Andrews of Springfield, Mass.; and Dr. Horatio L. Andrews, Mrs. A. L. Richards and Mrs. Bruce Wyman, of Waban, Mass.

To one who was privileged to know Dr. Andrews, the influence of his inspiring personality can never wane. His genial smile and his cordial greeting were characteristics which endeared him to a host of friends.

The work that he accomplished in the profession of dentistry is epoch making. He was a born researcher; and at a time when the only literature on his favorite subject of tooth development was John Tomes' *Dental Anatomy*, in which the profession had for years been led astray by the erroneous statements concerning enamel development, and by the fantastic perpetration of Le Gros and Magitot—and when there were no precedents—he attacked the problem of tooth development.

He improvised his own microtome, cut and photographed his own sections under the most adverse conditions, and gave the profession the very first suggestion of the true story of the embryology of enamel. He demonstrated for the first time the existence of calcospherite and made clear the true relation of the parts of the enamel organ, thus making possible a knowledge of the involved structures which have been the basis of all subsequent studies in this most difficult subject. (See his review in this relation: *JOURNAL OF DENTAL RESEARCH*, 1919, i, p. 353.)

When it is considered that he devised a method of photomicrography by which he was enabled to produce photographs, through a 1/12 oil-immersion objective, of the minute details of the structures on which he worked, the extremely difficult conditions under which he accomplished his surprising results may be more fully appreciated.

It is to be understood that this work was done at a time when the appliances that are at the hand of the present-day worker had not been invented, and all the results were achieved with improvised apparatus which, in less skillful hands, must have proved inadequate. I have heard him tell many times of the hours spent, after a hard day's work at the dental chair, in this eye-and-brain taxing study.

It is to such pioneers as Dr. Andrews that we owe our best knowledge—men without hope of reward, with only one purpose in mind; and whose absorbing ambition it is to push the horizon back a little farther, to enlarge the world's wisdom and to blaze the way for those who are to come after them, that groping hands and faltering

footsteps might be a little less uncertain. These are the men who have climbed the Mountain and set the signal of success a little higher, so that those in the Valley might mark the way and not fail therein. Malpighi, Leeuwenhoek, Wolff, Hunter, Kölliker, Tomes—these are among the honored names emblazoned on the tablets of the Hall of Fame; and on one tablet, not the least among them, we would write the name of Andrews. We do this with fitting pride for he belongs to us. His well-known form and kindly face are familiar as he went in and out among us; and we are glad to claim him and the honor he has achieved as a part of the heritage that has fallen to us out of his fruitful life and activities.

His interest in the welfare of the profession never faltered. Only a few weeks before his death a company of men gathered at the Harvard University Club in Boston for the purpose of establishing an association for dental research and Dr. Andrews was among them.<sup>1</sup> He was eager to express his interested sympathy with the object of the gathering and his inspiring words were among the most helpful and best remembered of the occasion.

A student, an artist, a soldier, a scientist: he gave the world his best for learning, for patriotism, for the advancement of his beloved profession—what could he do more? He has filled a large place in the lives and affections of his fellowmen. It is the end of a good life and we lay the laurel wreath of victory on his grave and feel, as we turn away to the affairs of life, that we are stronger and better because we have known him.

<sup>1</sup> The author refers to the second meeting of the International Association for Dental Research, of which Dr. Andrews was one of the founders.—(*Ed.*)