

# CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The parade of faculty changes at the Medical School continues. Here is a report on three more of Minnesota's great medical teachers, whose careers have recently taken a major turn.



Dr. H. O. Peterson



Dr. Donald W. Hastings



Dr. Gaylord W. Anderson

## Dr. Harold O. Peterson

He personifies a quiet strength typically associated with the small town lad who rises to a position of prominence in his field. H. O. Peterson got his start in Dalbo, Minn., which he describes as a very small town. Before entering Medical School, Dr. Peterson's nascent interest in x-rays was developed through his job at the Glen Lake T.B. sanatorium. Here, he worked in a laboratory gaining practical experience with x-rays and postmortems.

An interest in x-rays continued as "Pete" (an affectionate nickname tagged on Dr. Peterson by colleagues and friends) chose an elective course in x-rays during his freshman year in Medical School. Following this, he recalls the tremendous course in x-rays in his junior year and the excellent demonstrations by Leo Rigler, former head of Department of Radiology for 30 years.

"Pete" took an internship in Kansas City and was planning to enter general practice, but he says, "During my internship, whenever there wasn't something to do, I hung around the radi-

ologist's office and he asked me to help him on a few reports." These reports were successfully completed, and "Pete's" help was appreciated as this Kansas City radiologist recommended him for a residency in radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. "Pete" worked with Dr. George Holmes, the first person to offer a residency in radiology in the country, though it resembled an apprenticeship with relatively few conferences. Dr. Peterson was one of two residents in the program, on-call 24 hours a day.

Following his residency, "Pete" became an associate of Leo Rigler. Peterson worked closely with Rigler for twenty years before becoming head of the Department of Radiology. Minnesota's radiology department is a noted leader in the field. In a survey of a few years ago of department chairmen, Minnesota's radiology department ranked number one. "Leo Rigler set a tone of excellence for this department," comments Peterson, "and it has gained a tremendous reputation largely from his efforts."

In his own specialty of neuroradiology, Dr.

Peterson says most of the techniques and innovations of the past ten years are standardized and utilized. "What we need is a breakthrough to provide more detailed analysis," adds "Pete." He views the changing of the guard at Minnesota where many former department heads have reached retirement age with new men now occupying their chairs, as generally good. "We tend to run out of steam, not everyone but most of us, and younger people bring new ideas and techniques," observes "Pete." Dr. Peterson has recovered from major surgery and plans to do a little more teaching on the graduate level.

### Dr. Donald Hastings

Like many other people in the medical profession, Dr. Donald Hastings has difficulty pinpointing his decision to become a doctor. Former Head of Psychiatry, Hastings says, "I just always wanted to be a doctor." He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1934, took his psychiatry residency under a Rockefeller grant from 1936-38 at Philadelphia General Hospital and did postgraduate work at Harvard.

Much of Dr. Hastings early work was as chief of psychiatry for the Air Force during World War II. He worked with flying personnel who suffered from severe anxieties produced by the war. Following work with the CIA as a special observer in both Cyban and the Philippines, Hastings became chairman of the Department of Psychiatry of Minnesota in 1946, a post he held for 23 years.

"There was a time when the entire staff connected with psychiatry, Abe Baker, Starke Hathaway, Bert Schiele and myself could sit around a table," muses Hastings. In 1946, a national mental health act provided funding necessary for a rapid expansion of Minnesota's Department of Psychiatry. "There was a huge influx of medical officers who became interested in psychiatry during combat," says Hastings. In 1952, the Department acquired needed research space on the 6th floor of Diehl Hall and rapidly expanded research endeavors.

Hastings is still deeply involved in the teaching of students, interns and residents. Also, he is working on a 10-year follow up study in trans-

sexual research. Since the first transsexual operation in December of 1966 at Minnesota, 20 patients have undergone such operations. In thinking about diseases like schizophrenia, Dr. Hastings say, "Perhaps some young Pasteurs of the psychiatric arena will be able to solve the problems which have escaped my generation."

### Dr. Gaylord Anderson

A self designed mandate for improving public and community health guided the efforts of Dr. Gaylord Anderson for 33 years at the helm of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. A symposium with a theme borrowed from an earlier work of Anderson's, "Health, A Mandate from the People," was held to honor the retiring Dean recently.

Dr. Anderson received his M.D. degree in 1928 and a DPH degree in 1942 from Harvard. He spent 8 years with the Massachusetts State Health Department before coming to the University of Minnesota in 1937 to head the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. The Department was reorganized into the School of Public Health in 1944 and 2 years later Anderson was named Mayo Professor and Director. Also, he was the first dean.

Anderson recalls vividly the struggles in the 20's and 30's with diphtheria immunization, pasteurization of milk supplies, the fight against T.B. and the development of maternal health care programs. "It was only a few years ago that the death rate of 5 per 100,000 population for T.B. was lower than the death rate of cancer of the cervix," comments Anderson. The polio epidemics were special problems because the actual disease had to be combated as well as the community hysteria level.

In the past 10 to 15 years, the School of Public Health has developed programs in air pollution, radiation health, hospital sanitation and engineering, ground water development involving over 62 nations, space biology and training and research facilities at Lake Superior. The public's attention has been directed to these environmental and ecology concerns. Yet, it is interesting to see the problems of public health and environmental health through Dr. Anderson's eyes and his historical perspective.