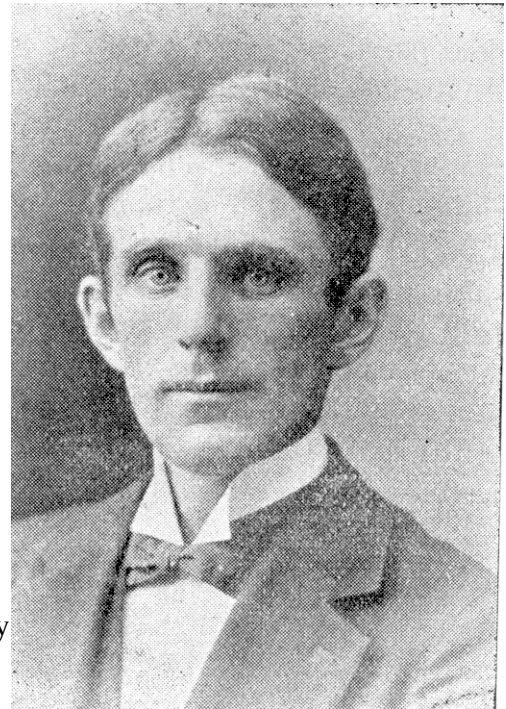


MEDICINE IN FAIRPORT

third in a series

By the end of the 19th century, not only had medical knowledge advanced, but medical education also had significantly improved. The best educated of Fairport's physicians to date began his practice in 1893.

Dr. George S. Price was the son of well-to-do Rush farmers. After graduating from Rush schools, he attended the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima before spending three years as a teacher and another as the principal of Henrietta's Classical Union School. Attracted to the profession of medicine, he interned for a year in the Rush office of Dr. Kellogg before enrolling in medical school in New York City. He furthered his medical education at the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati and then worked for two years in a St. Louis hospital before starting his Fairport practice in the Seeley Block on South Main Street. After ten years he moved his practice (and his home) to 52 South Main Street. In the course of his time in Fairport, George Price married Elizabeth, daughter of Fletcher Diefendorf, who served



Dr. G.S. Price

several terms as Perinton Supervisor around the turn of the 20th century. Elizabeth was a Cornell graduate and worked for a time as a librarian. In 1916, Dr. Price took leave of his practice and family to join the war effort. He was given the rank of captain and served as commanding officer of the Hospital for Communicable Diseases at Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, during the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918-19. After his 1919 discharge he returned to Fairport and his practice. Both Prices were active in community affairs. Among other positions, he was the town health officer and served on the school board and the Fairport Municipal Commission. Mrs. Price also served on the school board and was a long-time member of the library board. Dr. Price, the "dean of Fairport physicians," died in 1947. He was followed by his wife, Elizabeth, in 1953. Both are buried in Greenvale Cemetery.

Dr. James Wilson Fox began his Fairport practice in 1897. Dr. Fox was born in Memphis, New York, and attended school in that community. Lacking the funds to immediately attend college, he worked as a ticket agent and telegraph operator at Palmyra's West Shore Station for three years while he saved money. At the same time he studied with a private tutor. He was eventually able to attend the University of Buffalo Medical College, graduating in 1896. After spending an additional year in the telegraph office in Palmyra, he moved to 29 South Main Street in Fairport and opened his practice. By 1913, according to a local directory, he was practicing at 41 South Main Street and remained at that address until sometime between 1925 and 1932 when he disappears from the record.

As the twentieth century progressed, a number of physicians started their practices in Fairport. Drs. George Dean, John McEachren, and John Kraai came to the village of Fairport in the 1930's, the former two locating on West Church Street and the latter on South Main Street. They were joined in 1945 by Dr. Erich Jacobson at 10 East Church Street and in the 1950's by Dr. Wilbur Buholtz who located at 20 West Church Street. Subsequent columns will further highlight those very well known and respected doctors.

