

John Agar Matson

Born: 1864
President: 1934 – 1937
Died: 1945

John Agar Matson was educated at Belvedere College, Dublin and St. Stanislaus College, Tullamore. He was conferred with BA in 1886, BAO, BCh MB in 1888 and MD in 1889 from Trinity College Dublin. He held a Licentiate in Midwifery and a Special Certificate in Gynaecology from Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. His initial postgraduate training was undertaken at the Richmond and Whitworth Hospitals followed by positions in London as Clinical Assistant at Great Northern Central Hospital and House Surgeon at Royal Southern Hospital.

On his return to Dublin, he held a position at Mater Misericordiae Hospital before appointment as Consulting Physician to the Richmond Hospital. He later served on the Governing Boards of Richmond and Westmoreland Lock Hospitals.

He attained the Licentiate of the College of Physicians in 1901, becoming a Member in 1903 and was conferred with Fellowship in 1904. He was a Censor for College between 1910 and 1912 and was Vice President in 1929. He was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Medicine in 1904 and was an active participant in academic meetings there, presenting papers on 'Aortic Aneurysm Rupture into the Oesophagus' and 'Acute Graves' Disease with Terminal Outcome'. He served on the General Council of the Academy from 1907 to 1917. He held the office of Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1914 – 1916.

John Agar Matson served as President of the College of Physicians from 1934 to 1937. He deserves credit for preserving the identity and educational function of the College within the nascent health service of the new and relatively impoverished State. Matson was popular but yet reserved and shy and known to be a charming gentleman. He had a very special interest in the education of medical students and acted as examiner for the College for many years.

He died at his residence on Burlington Road on 12 January 1945.

MBH



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