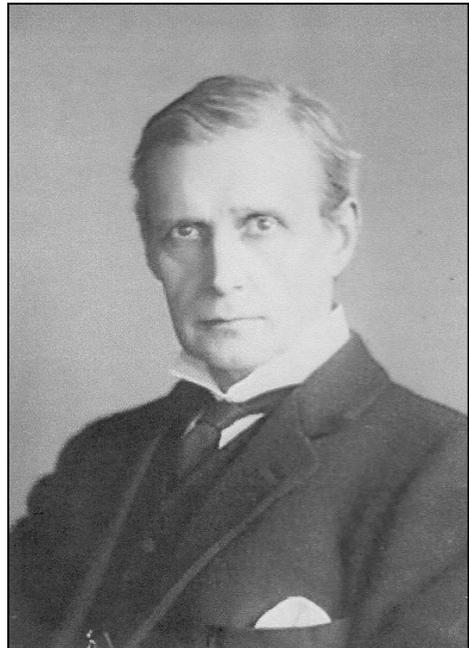


PROFESSOR ALFRED HENRY CARTER (1849-1918). L.S.A., M.D. (Lond.), M.Sc. (Birmingham), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), J.P. - Professor of Medicine at Birmingham.

"Well, how is he" the physician would ask. "I think he's holding his own. No sleep though," I replied. "That's a pity. Well, persevere with the brandy and warm oxygen."

Francis Brett Young. 'The Young Physician.' (1919).

When Alfred Henry Carter (1849-1918) [Epsom College 1863-1865] was first appointed Professor of Medicine at Birmingham there were no antibiotics, immunisation programmes had not yet been introduced, and the treatment of many disorders relied on therapeutic regimens that, today, appear mediaeval. Alfred Carter was born at Pewsey, Wiltshire, where his father, C. H. Carter, practised as a surgeon. He was the brother of Charles Albert Carter [Epsom College 1865-1868], The Rev. Canon Francis Edward Carter, Dean of Grahamstown [Epsom College 1866-1869], and Frederick Heales Carter, M.D., F.R.C.S. [Epsom College 1868-1871]. He won an Entrance Scholarship to University College, London, where he qualified M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1870. He then volunteered for service with a field hospital during the Franco-German war, but returned after one year when he was appointed house-physician at University College Hospital and, in 1871, graduated M.B. with honours. Five years later he took the diploma M.R.C.P. (London) and was appointed Assistant Physician at the Birmingham Children's hospital and Senior Physician at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. In 1891 he was elected F.R.C.P., and two years later delivered the prestigious Ingleby Lecture. Carter was actively concerned with the foundation of Birmingham University and took a prominent part in bringing about a closer connection of the medical faculty of Queen's College with Mason College. The resultant medical school is now one of the largest in the United Kingdom with over 400 medical students graduating each year. For more than thirty years Carter was busily engaged as a teacher clinical medicine. As Professor of Physiology at Queen's College and Professor of Medicine at Birmingham University he helped materially to improve and widen the scope of the teaching and during this period he served as an examiner for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities.



Alfred Carter not only took a large part in the medical life of Birmingham, but a share also in the public affairs of the city, serving for a time on the city council, and as a member of its health committee. As an active member of the British Medical Association, he was Vice-President of the Section of Diseases of Children at the annual meeting at Leeds, in 1889, and President of that section in 1890 and 1911. He was also President of the Birmingham Branch of the B.M.A. in 1895-1896, and President of the Midland Medical Society in 1896-1897. In 1901 he received the degree of M.Sc from the University of Birmingham and was appointed Emeritus Professor of Physiology at Queen's College, Birmingham. He retired from medical practice in 1913, by which time his chief publication, *The Elements of Practical Medicine* (1881), had reached eleven editions. Following the outbreak of the First World War, Carter served for a time as physician to the army hospital at Wimereux and afterwards on the two hospital ships 'Aquitania' and 'Britannic.' He then returned to England, and as a Lieutenant-Colonel in the R.A.M.C. took over duties as Consulting Physician at the Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire. He was twice mentioned in dispatches. Outside medicine he was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Worcester.