

Charles McBurney, M.A., M.D.
OF NEW YORK

This distinguished and highly respected surgeon died at his country home, Nov. 7, 1913, aged 68 years. His career was a long and eminently useful one, in the general surgical field, most of his public work being performed at Roosevelt Hospital, where he developed many improvements of lasting value and importance in both diagnosis and technic. Dr. McBurney was graduated from Harvard University in 1866, and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York in 1869. In 1889 he was appointed Professor of Surgery in the latter institution, retiring in 1907, because of ill health. As a teacher and lecturer he was unusually interesting, clear and practical. As a surgeon he was perhaps best known, both to profession and laity, for his description of "McBurney's Point," in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis, and his skill in the operative treatment of that disease. As stated by one of his colleagues and biographers, "the most important part of his work in relation to appendicitis is perhaps not so well appreciated, namely, what he did to convince the medical profession that acute appendicitis was purely a surgical affection, requiring immediate surgical care, and this he did by constant effort in his clinics, 'precept upon precept, line upon line.'" To his patients, this markedly brilliant surgeon became the man of tender sympathy and human kindness. In his relations with his colleagues, his house staff, and with men in general, he was the polished, polite, considerate and courtly gentleman, who will always be remembered most favorably by all with whom he ever came in contact."

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