

**MEMORIAL NUMBER FOR SAMUEL  
JAMES MELTZER, M.D., FOUNDER  
AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE  
SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL  
BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE.**

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**VARIOUS .**

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*Cover*

# MEMORIAL NUMBER

FOR

SAMUEL JAMES MELTZER, M.D.

FOUNDER

AND

FIRST PRESIDENT

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

ADDRESSES GIVEN AT A MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY HELD AT THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,  
JANUARY 6, 1921, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE  
NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND THE  
HARVEY SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK

1921

**Minute expressive of the sentiment of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine on the death of Samuel James Meltzer.**

The Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine has been deeply moved by the death of its revered founder, Samuel James Meltzer, who, from the beginning of its career, was the Society's devoted mentor and the personification of the Society's spirit and ideal.

Meltzer was eminent for many important contributions to biology, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, and scientific medicine. Most of his contributions to the advancement of science, after the Society's establishment in 1903, were made originally at meetings of this Society.

He was a distinguished promoter of the application of *experimental* methods to research in American medicine. His foundation of this Society was a particularly important means of accelerating that significant development in this country.

He was an enthusiastic embodiment of the spirit of zealous research, and an ardent exponent of idealism in science and in service.

He inspired fidelity to truth. He stimulated achievement in research. By example and precept, in the meetings of this Society for seventeen years, Meltzer appealed always to the best in every member. He quickened, in the oldest as well as in the youngest members, the impulses of emulation of his sterling qualities as a man, as an investigator, and as a servant of truth in every relation, that such attributes as his invariably elicit when radiated from an unselfish leader.

Meltzer's memory will be a continuing inspiration to the members of this society. Proceeding actively along the path his faithful leadership opened to us, and growing steadily in usefulness and strength, our Society will be not only an enduring monument but also a living testimonial to his achievements, his influence, and his character.

Deeply conscious of the personal loss that Meltzer's death involves for each of us, but earnestly grateful for the abiding

value of his unbroken influence in our hearts, we dedicate ourselves anew to the promotion of the principles that Meltzer exemplified; and we are more firmly resolved than ever so to support and cherish this society that it may continue to be a worthy agency, of cumulative effectiveness—as Meltzer projected it—for the active advancement of science, for the exaltation of truth, and for the ennoblement of service, in biology and medicine.

Presented by the council and approved by the Society, at the one hundred and fourteenth meeting, held on March 16, 1921.

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**Dr. Meltzer's relation to the Society for Experimental Biology  
and Medicine.**

By **HOLMES C. JACKSON**, Secretary.

After twenty years of active investigation in experimental medicine and allied branches, it was quite natural that the scientific ideals of Dr. S. J. Meltzer should express themselves in a desire to form a society whose main purpose lay in stimulating experimental work among the younger men entering the fields of biology and medicine.

Accordingly, in conjunction with Dr. Graham Lusk, Dr. Meltzer sent an invitation to eight New York investigators to meet at Dr. Lusk's house on January 17, 1903, for the purpose of establishing a "Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine." This preliminary conference unanimously endorsed Dr. Meltzer's views and appointed a committee for permanent organization. The charter membership was increased to nineteen and the first meeting occurred on February 25, 1903, in the laboratory of physiological chemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Dr. Meltzer became the first president of the new society and served two years.

Dr. Meltzer's first thought was to have the scientific program of the meetings presented in the form of demonstrations, and this idea was carried out during the first two years. As the society grew and the number of papers read at the meetings became greater, it was found necessary to alter somewhat this original intention so as to allow papers to be read by title.

During the first three years, the reports of the meetings of the Society appeared in *Science* and in *American Medicine*. In June, 1906, the decision was reached to publish the PROCEEDINGS as a separate journal, one number appearing after each meeting. The PROCEEDINGS has now established itself as a well-recognized and much sought for avenue of early publication for preliminary communications with an edition of 700 copies reaching all parts of the world. The meetings of the society have been held monthly

each year from October to May inclusive, at the various educational institutions in New York City. In several instances out of town meetings in May were arranged at New Haven, Connecticut and at Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

Dr. Meltzer was a constant attendant at these meetings, adding immensely to their value by kindly discussion of the papers and by his clear cut and pointed criticism. His knowledge of literature was surprisingly accurate, diverse and extensive. He was a great reader and his retentive memory held all that came to his mind.

As a member of the council he gave much of his thought and energy to the various changes in policy which became necessary from time to time. To his mind the society functioned as a stimulus to scientific effort for the younger men in the various fields of biology and medicine. With this in view, he suggested the formation of branch societies in different parts of the country. Two of these branches, one on the Pacific coast and one in Minnesota, now meet every two months. Papers read at these meetings are published in the PROCEEDINGS. Dr. Meltzer lived to see the membership of the society become world wide and grow from fifty-six at the end of the first year, to four hundred and ten in 1920. Membership in the society is now recognized as a mark of scientific attainment; eligibility requires the publication of a "meritorious original investigation in biology and medicine by the experimental method."

Dr. Meltzer's death occurred on November 7, 1920. The funeral took place on November 10 from the Ethical Cultural Church, at which Dr. Simon Flexner and Dr. John Lovejoy Eliot delivered memorial addresses.

At the December meeting of the society it was voted to hold a memorial meeting at the Academy of Medicine in association with the Academy and the Harvey Society of New York. This meeting was largely attended; the president of the Society, Dr. Calkins, presided and addresses were given by Dr. George B. Wallace, Dr. Phoebus Levene, Dr. Graham Lusk, Dr. William H. Howell and Dr. William H. Welch. These addresses are printed in this memorial number of the PROCEEDINGS of the society.

Dr. Meltzer's example was a constant stimulus to the younger