

**MEMORIAL DAY
SET ASIDE FOR
JAMES M. SIMS**

NOVEMBER 13 IS THE DAY

**Story of Life and Work Given—
Bronze Statue in City
of New York**

J. Marion Sims was one of the greatest physicians in the history of the United States and his name is a credit to South Carolina. Many sons and daughters of the state feel that we are not giving enough credit to this man of whom South Carolina should be so proud. Therefore, many persons are trying to arouse interest in Sims, and November 13 has been set aside as Sims Memorial day. At the request of the Woman's Medical Auxiliary of South Carolina, through Dr. L. T. Baker and Professor Babcock, The Gamecock is printing below a short story of the life and work of J. Marion Sims.

James Marion Sims was born in Lancaster, South Carolina, on January 25, 1813, was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the College of South Carolina in 1832. He then entered the Charleston Medical College, but was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia in 1835. Like greatest of all Physicians, Sims was of seemingly rather obscure origin, though the blood of colonists and patriots of the highest ideals and noblest courage flowed in his veins.

Dr. Sims began the practice of medicine in Lancaster, S. C. He met with little success and moved in 1835 to Mount Meigs, Alabama, where he remained for two years. During this time he returned to Lancaster and married Miss Jones, the niece of his preceptor with whom he had been in love since he was eleven and she eight. This proved to be an ideally happy match.

The Simses were driven from Mount Meigs by vicious attacks of delirating and pernicious malaria from which the doctor was a great sufferer. He went from place to place in search of health and finally settled in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1840. Though he had no source of income other than his practice, this in time became large and lucrative, though to the end of his life he always had a long list of charity patients.

Sims was the first man in the South to operate upon and successfully treat club foot. He was also the first man that ever performed an operation for strabismus or cross-eyes.

The discovery that brought Dr. Sims into great prominence was the cure of vesico-vaginal fistula. He labored for four long trying years to find a way to relieve these poor sufferers before he finally succeeded.

He toiled on in spite of discouragements and failures until he finally succeeded in curing by surgery this loathsome and dread condition that had never been healed before.

Marion Sims was one of the greatest physicians and surgeons of all time. When he began the practice of medicine surgery was crude and in its infancy.

While living and toiling in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. Baldwin was his friend. He said of him, "That he was handsome and majestic, zealous, energetic and plucky. He was often criticized because of the petty jealousies engendered by his great popularity and success. But when these ill natured remarks were brought to his ears it never made the slightest difference in his feelings or deportment toward his detractors. Truly he lived upon a lofty plane and we would all do well to emulate his example."

Failing health and a desire to make his discoveries known to the world caused Dr. Sims to remove to New York in 1853. Here he struggled with bitter poverty and ill health and suf-

fered from the jealousy of some of the members of his profession, though a few stood loyally by him.

Some of the prominent women of New York rallied to his assistance and nobly aided him. They greatly helped by their influence and money to enable him to realize his cherished dream of founding a woman's hospital in New York where the rich and poor alike could be treated. It is proof of the great genius and magnetism of Dr. Sims that he, a perfect stranger, hampered by poverty, timidity and illness succeeded in obtaining from the New York Legislature the sum of \$50,000.00 to assist in building the hospital. He also received large donations from people whom he had interested. He induced the City Fathers to grant the land on which the hospital now stands.

Dr. Sims went abroad in 1861. He was as famous and useful in Europe as he had been in America. "In 1870 while in Paris he aided in organizing the Anglo-American ambulance corps for service with the French army in the field during the Franco-Prussian war. He was surgeon in chief at the battle of Sedan. He rendered great and efficient aid to both the French and Prussians."

Dr. Sims was chosen president of the American Medical Association in 1876. This was the highest honor that could be conferred upon him by his professional brethren.

His son says that in February, 1877, he revisited for the last time the place of his birth in Lancaster, S. C. He goes on to say that in 1865 Gen. W. Tecumseh Sherman passed over that section of country. The name Tecumseh was a forecast of his military career—the name of a blood-thirsty Indian savage. The flames of defenseless cities and villages, the smoking ashes of homesteads and school houses were the monuments of his march through South Carolina. Dr. Sims forwarded from France 5000 francs to relieve the suffering of his people. He subsequently added a sum which provided a stately mansion and sixty acres of land to care for the helpless indigent.

On November 13, 1883, Dr. Marion Sims died. He had lived the life of a simple and consistent Christian. In New York City in Bryant's Park stands a noble bronze statue of this great South Carolinian—this benefactor of mankind, especially women-kind.

In almost every little village in South Carolina there are monuments to the men who went to war, and so far as I know not even a tablet to the memory of this great healer of mankind whose achievements cast such lustre upon his native state.

"It is pride in the traditions of the past and in the struggles and accomplishments of the great men gone by that the rock upon which the self-conscious spirit, self-respect, the national pride of republics and kingdoms rest.

It is the soul, the life element of patriotism." Even barbarians have pride in the great ones of their race and do them honor.

The medical profession undertook to raise the money to erect a fitting memorial to Dr. Sims in his native state. They failed. Is it not eminently fitting that the women, who today owe so much of their relief from suffering to him who toiled so long and patiently that they might have health and happiness, should be the ones to take up this work and carry it on to completion? If they determined that a memorial to Sims shall be erected in the dear old Palmetto State, I have so much faith in the ability and zeal of my sex that I believe that it will not be long before we will prove to the world that the women of South Carolina appreciate and honor her noble sons. We would greatly honor ourselves in honoring Marion Sims "whose name shall be forever bright when sun and stars are set in night."

**Governor McLeod to
Speak at "Y" Meet**

**South Carolina's Chief Executive
to Address Y Men for
First Time**

Governor Thomas G. McLeod will address those present at the Y meeting Sunday night, taking as his subject that of next Tuesday night's Bible Discussion, the choosing of a life work.

During his four years as chief executive, Governor McLeod has not heretofore spoken at a Y meeting. The students at Carolina are, therefore, being offered a unique opportunity and it is expected that a large number will take advantage of the chance to hear the state's foremost orator.

The meeting will be held, as usual, in chapel and will begin at seven o'clock sharp. The speech of the governor will be preceded by special music and the usual extra features.

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