To the Glory of God and the Service of Man: The Life of James A. Campbell, M.D.
By Malachi J. Flanagan, M.D., FHC Press, Winnetka, Illinois, 2005, 352 pages.

Malachi Flanagan, a distinguished Emeritus Professor of Urology at Rush University Medical Center after 37 years in practice where he also served as President of the Medical Staff from1985 to1987, gives us his biography of James Allen Campbell as well as his personal knowledge of his subject and his first hand knowledge of the events that led to the rebirth of Rush Medical College and its current status as Rush University. Dr. Flanagan has had a life long interest in history which is reflected in the vigor with which he has pursued documented primary sources in the writing of this biography. He has reviewed and summarized archival material from Campbell's days at Harvard Medical School, Rush Medical College and the University of Chicago. He also personally conducted and collected an impressive number of interviews with from both living and now deceased members of the medical center, colleagues and friends who had knowledge of Dr. Campbell and his career.

To the Glory of God and the Service of Man tells the story of the rise of a gifted man and leader whose roots began in humble circumstances in rural Illinois and who rose to become a compassionate and accomplished cardiologist and guiding force in the evolution of a major Chicago hospital into a national university and medical center. This story is portrayed with broad strokes that tell not only the career of the man, but the background history of medicine in Chicago from the founding of Rush Medical College, the history of its association with the University of Chicago, the history of Presbyterian Hospital and its merger with St. Lukes Hospital through the re-opening of Rush Medical School. Appropriate space is devoted to summarizing the broader context of the growth of American medicine. A dramatic high point in the story is the description of the graduation ceremony for the first graduates of Rush Medical College after a hiatus of over twenty years. Dr. Campbell's belief in one standard of excellent care for all patients, his management style and his relationship to the medical staff, board of directors and employees of the institution are all carefully portrayed. This biography illuminates the manner in which he pursued his goal in his choice of programs and individuals he recruited to the medical center. This is also the story of how Dr. Campbell recognized and adapted to the realities of the financing of excellent patient care in an era of rapidly expanding technologies and health care costs. The account of his relationship to the governing board of the hospital and his ability to tap the resources of their experience in the business world and to explain and inform them on the issues of good patient care is a rewarding subtext in this biography.

All Physicians – and especially Chicago physicians, who will have first hand knowledge of the institutions described, will find this biography both enjoyable and rewarding to read. The accomplishments of Dr. Campbell and many of the other men described in this volume will be sources of inspiration. This is a book that will help physicians to see a longer view of the profession they practice.
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