DR. ERNEST SIDNEY LEWIS

Ernest Sidney Lewis, New Orleans; University of Louisiana Medical Department, New Orleans, 1862; chairman of the Section on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children of the American Medical Association, 1878-1880; professor of materia medica, therapeutics and clinical medicine, 1873-1876, professor of obstetrics and diseases of women, 1876-1911, and since 1911 professor of obstetrics and gynecology, emeritus, Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine; Civil War veteran; fellow of the American College of Surgeons; past president of the Southern Surgical Association; in 1867 state health officer; for many years on the staff of the Charity Hospital and the Hotel Dieu Hospital; aged 94; died, August 12, in the Touro Infirmary, of bronchopneumonia.

From A. M. A. Journal,
Vol. 105, No. 11,

B.Sc. 1859 University of Louisiana
M.D. 1862 " "
LL.D. 1922 Tulane University of Louisiana

10-25-55
Dr. Lewis Honored.—At the golden jubilee of the Louisiana State Medical Society, New Orleans, April 7, Dr. Ernest Sydney Lewis, the only living charter member of the society, was made an honorary fellow and his years of service to the community and profession were recalled by Dr. Rudolph Matas, emeritus professor of general and clinical surgery at Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine. Dr. Lewis, now 88 years of age, retired from teaching at Tulane in 1911, becoming emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynecology, which chair he had occupied since 1876. Previously, he had been professor of materia medica and therapeutics and had occupied other positions on the faculty. A portrait of Dr. Lewis was presented to the society.

Dr. Lewis Celebrates Ninetieth Birthday.—Dr. Ernest S. Lewis, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Tulane, was guest of honor at a luncheon, September 24, given by medical colleagues celebrating his ninetieth birthday. Dr. Lewis has been connected with Tulane University for sixty years. He has served as president of the Southern Surgical Association and was elected in 1929 a life member of the Louisiana State Medical Society for his contributions to medical science. The speaker was Dr. Rudolph Matas.
VETERAN DOCTOR'S BIRTHDAY MARKED

Associates Pay Homage to Dr. Ernest S. Lewis On 90th Anniversary

Dr. Ernest S. Lewis, noted physician, educator and Confederate veteran, was 90 years old Wednesday. He was tendered a surprise party at his home, 1623 Louisiana avenue, by his associates on the staff of Hotel Dieu following the luncheon given for him at noon at the Boston Club. Included in the gifts were an engraved umbrella from the club, a large birthday cake and many flowers.

For 60 years connected with the staff of Tulane University, actively and then as professor emeritus, as well as being on the staff of Hotel Dieu, Dr. Lewis is widely known throughout the state and entire South. Messages of congratulations were transmitted to the house from many sections.

Dr. Lewis has had an extremely active life, winning fame throughout the South when, at 21 years of age and acting as house surgeon at Charity hospital he refused to allow General Butler, when the city was captured, to quarter his sick and wounded at the institution.

"I regret now what I did," he says, "but I was very young then and feeling was very bitter. I told General Butler that of course he might take over the hospital, but that if he did the staff would walk out. He replied that he didn't want anything like that to happen and left."

In the later days of the war Dr. Lewis ran the river blockade in a skiff and joined the Confederate Third Georgia Cavalry as a surgeon. Dr. Lewis served valiantly during the long and heart-breaking campaign.

At the close of the war he returned to New Orleans to serve as head of the Tulane clinic. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, Dr. Lewis served as a health officer on the state board of health. He was a large factor in developing methods of treat-
TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
NEW ORLEANS  

Name (in full) .................................. Ernest Sidney Lewis  
(middle name in full)  

Residence address: .............................. 829 St Charles St  

Present occupation: ............................. Physician  

Business address: .............................. Borneo St  

Degrees (when and where obtained):  
Baccalaureate .................................... University of Louisiana 1857  
Professional ..................................... Tulane University of La 1861  
Honorary ..........................................  

Official positions held since leaving the University:  
Prof. Matron of Obstetrics & Gynecology; diseases of children from 1876 to present time.  

Brief biography since leaving the University:  
Was assistant house surgeon, Charity Hospital after graduating; then acting house surgeon, was surgeon of the 82nd Ga Cavalry's then brigade surgeon, was Surgeon after wards, First and Second of the 6th Med. Res. and Director of the Trustees corps. After the war, was inspector for Board of Health, Inspector to Post.  

Was lecturer on his branch (Gynecology); was surgeon General of the State under Gov. Willy & McGehee, Surgeon General La State Corp. Veterans under Gov. Mahan.  

Have been President of Southern Surgical & Gynecological.
Association and president Charity Hospital Board
of Administrators

E. Lewis

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[Additional handwritten text not legible]
April 17th
1923.

Dr. Ernest Sidney Lewis,
1625 Louisiana Avenue,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Doctor Lewis:

Could you send me at your convenience, a biographical sketch of yourself of about four hundred to five hundred words for filing in this office? I am endeavoring to collect these biographical sketches of all the Emeritus professors of the University, and if you will send me one of yourself we would appreciate it.

Yours very truly,

Registrar.
Dr Ernest S. Lewis,

New Orleans.

Dear Sir:-

The Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation have requested me to forward certain information in regard to the Faculty of the University.

To enable me to comply with their request, will you kindly give me the following data by return mail?

Trusting that you will give the matter your immediate attention, I am,

Very truly yours,

C. W. Craighead
President.

Your name in full          Ernest Sidney Lewis
Title of your present position  Prof. Hist. Gynecology & Obstetrics
Date of your birth          24 Oct. 1846
How many years have you been teaching?        32 years
(Full period spent in any College)            formerly Univ. Ga.
I believe that Dr. Harris is really in a class by himself now as a Faculty member and he deserves our sincere congratulations upon his fine record.

Dr. Charles E. Dunlap,
Department of Pathology,
School of Medicine,
Tulane University.

Yours sincerely,

Dear Dr. Dunlap:

I have your letter of March 26, 1951, relative to the retirement at the close of the current session after 44 years of continuous service to the University of Dr. William Herbert Harris, Sr.

The only other medical faculty members who apparently exceeded the record of Dr. Harris were Dr. Stanford Emerson Chaille who had been Dean of the Medical Department and Professor of Physiology, Hygiene, and Pathological Anatomy for many years, and Dr. Ernest Sidney Lewis, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Chaille's record may not have been continuous because he fought in the War Between the States. He volunteered as a private in the New Orleans Light Horse Brigade. Dr. Chaille became acting surgeon general of Louisiana, surgeon and medical inspector of the Army of Tennessee on the staff of General Braxton Bragg and surgeon in charge of army hospitals at Atlanta. He was captured in 1865, paroled and returned to New Orleans, to resume his old duties at the university where he also served as lecturer on obstetrics and professor of physiology and pathological anatomy. He also studied in Paris in 1850 in the laboratory of Claude Bernard, world-famous physiologist, and renewed his studies in Paris in 1866, but, of course, he may have studied abroad during the summers only.

Dr. Lewis, who appears to have been connected with the Medical Department for the first time in 1866-67, retired in 1912, having apparently served a total of 45 years. When he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1922, however, the newspaper clipping refers to his sixty year connection! It is difficult at this end to secure accurate information on some of the teachers, particularly in the Medical Department in its early days because of conflicting records.

The attached statement on Dr. Rudolph Matas would indicate that his active connection with the Medical School was for only 42 years.

I am enclosing also a statement relative to the service of Mr. John A. Bacon, a staff member who served for more than forty-four years.
I believe that Dr. Harris is really in a class by himself now as a Faculty member and he deserves our sincere congratulations upon his fine record.

Yours sincerely,

Reference Secretary.

Enclosures.

SBK/LK.
Miss Florence Lewis, a daughter of the late Dr. Ernest S. Lewis, recently made a donation, from the Library of her father, of a complete set of the works of John Fisk to the Tulane University Library.

Dr. Lewis served as a member of the Faculty of the School of Medicine for 45 years, having served originally on the Medical Faculty of the University of Louisiana, Tulane's predecessor.

In 1912 Dr. Lewis retired from teaching and became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emeritus.

Dr. Lewis died at the Touro Infirmary in New Orleans on August 18th, 1935, at the age of 95 years. He was the oldest living graduate of Tulane University, and by his brilliant work in the field of abdominal surgery particularly added greatly to the prestige and influence of the Tulane School of Medicine.