

## William Geoffrey Harvey

**Born:** 1876  
**President:** 1943-1946  
**Died:** 1958

William Geoffrey Harvey was born in Dublin in 1876. He was sent to Shrewsbury School in England for his early education and subsequently returned to Dublin where he studied at Trinity College. He apparently had a brilliant undergraduate career, graduating BA and then MD, and was elected Fellow of the College of Physicians in 1908 at the age of 33 years.

During World War I Harvey volunteered for service in France with the RAMC, and was appointed as a physician and anaesthetist at the Urgency Cases Hospital in Revigny.

Clearly a man of many medical interests and capabilities, Harvey had an early interest in diagnostic radiology, and published a paper on the pathological effects of X-rays on animal tissues in 1908. However, his real talent lay in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the skin.

Harvey was appointed as a physician and dermatologist to the Adelaide Hospital, an institution he attended for most of his professional life. He established a reputation as one of the outstanding dermatologists of his time in that hospital and at his private practice in Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. His recognition as an expert in dermatology was reflected in his election as Vice President of the Dermatology Section of the British Medical Association. He presented a paper on occupational dermatitis that was subsequently published at the 101st Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association that was held in Dublin in July 1933.

In 1943 Harvey was elected President of the College of Physicians for a three-year term. Two years following his retirement as President he made a substantial presentation to the College; a silver caduceus. The caduceus he presented had an ebony staff with a silver crown, and around the staff were entwined two silver serpents. Messrs Alwright and Marshall of Fade Street, Dublin made this fine piece which remains a treasured possession of the College.

William Harvey was a good tennis player and a keen angler and golfer. He died at his home in Glenageary on 2 November 1958 at the age of 82 years, survived by his widow, one son and one daughter.

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