

Morris Manges and Edward Aronson

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Morris Manges (1865–1944)

MORRIS MANGES (Fig. 1) (1–3), the first trained gastroenterologist at The Mount Sinai Hospital, was born in New York City on May 10, 1865 and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from City College in 1884. He graduated in medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University in 1887. Manges then interned at the Charity Hospital on Blackwell Island (later renamed City Hospital on Welfare Island), including six weeks at the Maternity Hospital with Dr. Henry Garrigues, who had immigrated from Denmark in 1875 (4). Manges was greatly impressed by the total lack of deaths from puerperal sepsis in the four years before he had arrived. This was entirely due to Garrigues' application of the doctrines of Semmelweis (isolation and antiseptics with careful cleanliness), which led in 1883 to the reduction of maternal mortality from puerperal sepsis from 25% to zero.

Manges spent 1888 and 1889 first with Ewald in the Königin Augusta Hospital in Berlin, and then in Frankfurt and Vienna. On his return to New York, he attracted a large practice, with patients coming from all over the U.S. because he had a sympathetic manner and good diagnostic skills, and because he spoke fluent German and had a wide knowledge of European medicine, so that he could recommend health resorts for his wealthier patients to attend (1).

In 1892, Manges became visiting physician to The Mount Sinai Hospital and was promoted to



Fig. 1. Dr. Morris Manges.

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attending in 1898. At that time, he joined A. Merger, J. Rudisch and N.E. Brill. He also served as consultant physician to the Hospital for Joint Diseases and the Hebrew Orphan Asylum. In 1892 and 1896, he published his most lasting works, translations into English of Ewald's two-

volume classic, *Diseases of the Stomach*. His other singular contribution to American medical history was to purchase from the Curies in 1902 the first specimen of radium for therapeutic use in the U.S.; he later presented it to the New York Academy of Medicine (5). He retired in 1921 but remained a consultant until his death on January 6, 1944.

Manges was a founding member of the American Gastro-enterological Association in 1897 and presented papers at its first two scientific meetings (Carcinoma of the cardia; A case of dilation of the stomach due to latent ulcer of the pylorus; and Operation by Halsted) as well as a detailed survey of stomach diseases at The Mount Sinai Hospital from 1898, at the seventh AGA meeting in 1904. Subsequently, he practiced and taught internal medicine. Crohn (6) commented: "He was really an internist and he contributed nothing to gastroenterology itself."

His non-gastroenterological publications, covering three decades (1890–1921) were protean in subject matter (7): a new rapid tubercle bacillus stain, quantitative estimation of sugar, mucous casts in the urine, treatment of typhoid fever, heart disease in the 18th century, therapeutics of heroin, treatment of coughs with heroin, secondary carcinosis in bone, rheumatism and gout, heart failure, pharyngeal diphtheria, exophthalmic goiter, pneumonia with pericarditis, ulcerative endocarditis, aneurysm, lysol in the treatment of meningitis, cholesterin pleurisy, rectal hypnotics, treatment of pneumonia, meningitis, adherent pericardium, aortic stenosis, abuse of water drinking, liberal diet in typhoid, typhoid fever in the aged, perforation in typhoid, the physician and the medical press, tuberculous pericarditis, lateral thoracic glands, prolonged fevers, whispered bronchial voice, heart disease and epigastric symptoms, mouth, diabetes, eventration of the diaphragm, early diagnosis of cancer, lung abscess, non-tuberculous pulmonary suppuration, pulmonary endarteritis, pulsating spleen, roentgen ray diagnosis, and periarteritis nodosa.

Outdoor recreation and the environment were important to him. He loved the arts, painting in watercolors outdoors, exhibiting at the American Physicians' Art Association, and collecting engravings, etchings and French bronzes. He had a fine scientific and archaeological library, and he was a member of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

Manges was an excellent lecturer, and from 1898 to 1908 he was professor of clinical medicine at the New York Polyclinic Medical School.

From 1911 to 1922, he taught at New York University and Bellevue Medical College. He strongly supported the role of science and research at Mount Sinai, then a non-university hospital. In the 1890s, he was also compassionate enough to break the City Board of Health's rigid quarantine rules by smuggling a child with scarlet fever out of a well-known New York hotel into a building at The Mount Sinai Hospital used to quarantine patients. He ensured total secrecy of the doctors, nurses and attendants, which led to the child's grateful and wealthy mother buying land on East 16th Street to establish the Minturn (later Willard Parker) Isolation Hospital in 1896 (8).

For his era, Manges was unusual in his modesty; when he cited Ewald's book, it was in the format "see Ewald's *Diseases of the Stomach*, American translation, p. 47," thereby concealing his own role as translator (9).

Edward Aaron Aronson (1874–1922)

Edward Aronson (Fig. 2) was born in New York and qualified at Columbia University in 1899 (10). He followed the custom of seeking postgraduate training in Germany; like Manges, he worked with Ewald at the Königin Augusta



Fig. 2. Dr. Edward Aronson.

Hospital in Berlin (11) and also with Theodor Rosenheim for esophagoscopy (12).

On returning to New York, he served as instructor in the Medical Schools of Fordham University and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, as well as the New York Polyclinic. He came to Mount Sinai to join Dr. Bookman in the physiological chemistry department of the pathological laboratory, and investigated the chemical composition of the urine in such diseases as typhoid, pernicious anemia and tetanus (13).

Presumably as a result of his scientific training, he was appointed in 1913 as Mount Sinai's first chief of gastroenterology. In his 11 years as chief, he built a small team of clinical investigators and began that close cooperation with the gastrointestinal surgeons which has been such a strong feature of hepatogastroenterology at The Mount Sinai Hospital during this century (see chapter 2). However, he appears to have done little or no research, and his few papers are mostly clinical case reports or reviews. He died on June 24, 1922, at the age of 47, during an operation for pancreatitis.

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