My Father and His Teachers

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My father’s life and work are described in the next article by Professor Amino et al., and it is my great honor and privilege to present a report about teachers with whom my father Hakaru learned directly or indirectly during the time he studied and worked in Kyushu University. Hakaru entered Fukuoka Medical College, presently Kyushu University, Faculty of Medicine, in 1900 when the college was newly founded as a branch of Kyoto University, Faculty of Medicine. The first president of the college was Professor Ohmori, a noted surgeon (Photo 1). He invited young promising scholars mainly from Tokyo University as heads of the departments. He also scouted ambitious students, who were willing to become the foundation of the college, from high schools all over Japan. Then, the relation between teachers and students was quite informal and friendly. Students studied voluntarily in many departments.

After graduation Hakaru entered the first Department of Surgery (Photo 2). Professor Hayari Miyake, head of the department, was a capable surgeon, a diligent scholar, a good leader for his students and was a man of character (Photo 3). During his 24 year professorship from 1903 to 1927, he trained 176 surgeons and many of them became renowned professors and leading doctors all over the country. He himself specialized in visceral and cancer surgery. A new disease, which was reported by him as “Das primäre Duodenum mobile” and appeared in Langenbeck’s Archiv, is well-known.

Miyake introduced a wide range of research projects to his students, gave them adequate advice and suggestions, and let them study freely. About 400 papers including 80 papers written in foreign languages were published over a 24 year period, the number being rather large compared with the present standard. Surprisingly, about 300 research projects done by students were signed by their names only which was unusual in that period and may show the personality of Miyake who never wanted to gain any fame and was unrelated to any authoritarianism. When he was once asked by his son Hiroshi Miyake, who was also a known professor of surgery, about...
the ideal character of doctors, he replied that every doctor should be one who can be asked by patients to call on their deathbed, meaning that doctors should be completely trusted by patients.

Miyake learned surgery first under Prof. C. Scriba at Tokyo Univ. Scriba studied with V. Cerny, who extended the works of Prof. T. Billroth, the German founder of abdominal surgery. Miyake then studied twice in Germany, first at Königsberg in 1898 and later at Breslau in 1903 both under Professor Mikulicz-R, J von (Photo. 4), one of the most prominent pupils of Billroth at the Univ. of Vienna.

Mikulicz innovated operative technique for a wide variety of diseases, including thyroid diseases. He described what is now known as Mikulicz’ disease, a symmetrical swelling of the lacrimal and salivary glands caused by an overgrowth of lymph tissue. Miyake greatly admired Mikulicz and Mikulicz liked Miyake very much and they were on intimate terms with each other.

In Hakaru’s paper he referred a large part of the paper to discuss his findings on struma lymphomatosa comparing them with those on Mikulicz’ disease, the idea being likely due to advice from Miyake. Through Mikulicz, Miyake learnt surgery indirectly from Billroth and his teacher, B. von Langenbeck, the greatest clinical surgeon and teacher of his day. Langenbeck is well-known to have started the Langenbeck’s Archiv.

Forty papers out of 88 which Miyake’s department published in foreign languages appeared in that Archiv, showing a deep respect of Miyake for Langenbeck. Eight papers written in Japanese and one in German were on thyroid, mostly on Basedow disease. Miyake seemed to be interested in thyroid disease through Theodor Kocher, who was remarkable for his great contributions on surgery, especially for his work on the thyroid gland, and Anton von Eiselsberg, both being pupils of Langenbeck and Billroth. During his stay Miyake must have absorbed brilliant fruits of German surgery constructed by Langenbeck and his prominent pupils.

Besides Miyake, Hakaru learnt histopathology from Professor Heijiro Nakayama (Photo. 5), director of the Institute of Histo-pathology of the college, and microscopic photography from Professor Tsunejiro Sakurai (Photo. 6), Department of Anatomy. They were both quite generous and friendly to students, and Hakaru was very grateful for their great help in doing his research. Nakayama was said to be quite humorous and a good talker. Many students including Hakaru received his assistance.
Photo 5  Prof. Nakayama, H. of the department of Pathology.

Photo 6  Prof. Sakurai, T. of the Department of Anatomy.

The relation among teachers and pupils is shown in Illustr. 1. The excellent teachers, the time when Hakaru studied and worked (Photo. 7), and his own

Illustr. 1  Direct and indirect teachers of Hakaru Hashimoto

Photo 7  Hakaru Hashimoto at the time he was working on struma lymphomatosa

effort must have enabled him to complete his work.

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