



DR. J. C. WILLIS



DR. J. E. KNIGHTON

## Hospital Name Is Changed To Honor Two Physicians

The memory of two famous Louisiana physicians was honored yesterday when the name of the Tri-State hospital was changed to Willis-Knighton Memorial hospital.

The announcement was made by trustees of the Shreveport Hospital and Research Center Inc., a non-profit organization which some time ago assumed title to the Tri-State and its auxiliary services.

Naming the institution in honor of Dr. J. C. Willis and Dr. J. E. Knighton "will preserve the memory of these two outstanding men who did so much for medical advancement in this state and nation," the announcement from the trustees said.

The hospital, one of the best equipped in this region, is located at 2611 Greenwood road. It is operated by a board of trustees which "function for and as representatives of the public, to receive the gift of and to own and operate into perpetuity for the public interest the hospital, its training schools for nurses and technicians, to institute postgraduate education for physicians, and in general to enlarge its scope as circumstances will permit; to develop in Shreveport a medical center for treatment of all forms of diseases and to promote medical research."

In making the announcement the trustees pointed out that the Tri-State was developed largely through the efforts of Dr. Willis and Dr. Knighton.

The two doctors, born a few miles apart in Claiborne parish, Louisiana, took over the Tri-State hospital in 1928. At that time, it had only 50 beds for white patients, plus a small negro ward. On Thanksgiving day, 1929, a new addition was opened which brought the total to 120 beds and 20 bassinets.

The partnership between Dr. Willis and Dr. Knighton began in Homer, La., in 1901. In January, 1904, Dr. Willis moved to Shreveport and became associated with Dr. T. E. Schumpert. His advance was rapid and in 1908 he was named chief of staff of the T. E. Schumpert Memorial hospital. Meanwhile, he also served as chief of the surgical staff of the State Charity hospital.

Dr. Knighton moved from Homer to Shreveport in January, 1909, and resumed his partnership with Dr. Willis. The two gradually developed a clinic here, taking on more physicians as needed. Their first clinic was built on Margaret place opposite the Schumpert sanitarium.

Dr. Willis and Dr. Knighton remained at the Margaret place location until 1928 when they moved to the present Willis-Knighton clinic building on Greenwood road adjacent to the Tri-State hospital.

Dr. Willis was born March 27, 1865 at Arizona, La. He was the son of John Winston and Cledly Ann Nicholson Willis. The Willis family, headed by Dr. Willis' grandfather, had moved to Louisiana from Virginia in 1849.

Dr. Willis' father, John Winston Willis, had been a soldier in the Confederate army. Following the close of the Civil War he established a textile mill at Arizona, La., which employed a number of persons in the manufacture of cotton cloth. The chimneys of the old factory still stand.

Dr. Willis' early education was under the tutelage of his uncle, Col. J. W. Nicholson, who was later

president of Louisiana State university. Dr. Willis received his medical training at Vanderbilt university from which he was graduated in 1887. He started his practice in Homer, moving to Shreveport in 1904.

Subsequently, Dr. Willis did post-graduate work at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minn., at John Hopkins, and at other medical centers. He became a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons in 1918, and was at one time president of the Shreveport Medical society, the Louisiana State Medical society, and the Tri-State Medical society.

He was a member of the Noel Memorial Methodist church, serving on its board of stewards from the time it was established until his death.

Dr. Willis was married to Miss Mattie Taylor of Homer in January, 1888. They had eight children: Mrs. W. W. Armistead, Mrs. Robert A. Hunter, Dr. James C. Willis, Jr., John W. Willis, Harper F. Willis, Robert E. Willis, Ted R. Willis, and C. Perry Willis, who died in World War I.

After the death of his first wife, Dr. Willis married Miss Emma Gehlen of LeMars, Iowa, on June 5, 1918 in New Orleans.

In 1916 Dr. Willis served as chief surgeon of the Brownsville, Texas military hospital during the mobilization of American troops on the Mexican border.

He was a member of the Rotary club, a Royal Arch Mason, Knights of Pythias, and a charter member of the Shreveport Country club.

Dr. Knighton was graduated from high school at Sunset, Texas. Following his graduation, he taught school for a short time but gave up teaching to enter medical school in Louisville, Ky., in 1896. After one year he transferred and was graduated in medicine from the University of Nashville in 1899.

Enjoying a large private practice as a physician, Dr. Knighton also took an active interest in the broader fields of medicine. He was elected a Fellow in the American College of Physicians in 1923 and served as governor for the Louisiana district of that organization. He served a term at president of the Shreveport Medical society, of the Louisiana State Medical society, the Tri-State Medical society and as vice-president of the Southern Medical association.

He was a member of the First Baptist church of Shreveport and was vice-president of the Louisiana Baptist convention.

On Dec. 31, 1899, Dr. Knighton married Miss Mattie Fay Duke in Atlanta, Ark. There were five children born to the Knights: Mrs. W. S. Kerlin, Mrs. P. G. Annan, Dr. James E. Knighton, the late Joseph W. Knighton, and the late Milton Pierce Knighton.

Dr. Knighton was a lover of nature and studied the flora and fauna of Louisiana from a scientific standpoint. He was a contributor to various scientific journals.

Labrador's puffins, rivaling in dependability the cliff swallows of San Juan Capistrano in California, leave their summer and winter haunts on definite dates and arrive at their destinations with equal predictability.