

+ 1974 May 22.

DR. JOHN GERSTER, CANCER SURGEON

Ex-Chairman of Society's
Branch Here Dies at 92

Dr. John C. A. Gerster, a surgeon who pioneered in drawing the public into the fight on cancer, died of the disease Wednesday at his home, 34 East 75th Street. He was 92 years old.

Dr. Gerster's home was where a small group met in 1913 to form the American Society for the Control of Cancer, which in 1922 became the American Cancer Society. He headed its Metropolitan Committee, which evolved into the New York City Cancer Committee, of which he was chairman from 1926 to 1949, when he became honorary chairman. It is now the New York City division of the American Cancer Society.

He kept pushing for a concerted attack on cancer with public backing in the years when the disease was considered socially unmentionable. At the committee's annual meeting here in 1937, he warned that fear of cancer prevented many people from going to their physicians when the disease was still in a curable stage.

Dr. Gerster, whose father, Dr. Arpad G. Gerster, was a surgeon here, attended Cutler's School and Columbia, graduating in 1902 and receiving his medical degree from Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1905. He also studied at the University of Bonn and at the Mayo Clinic and interned at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Support With Phone Calls

A fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he became surgical director at Lenox Hill Hospital. In World War I he rose to the rank of major in the Army Medical Corps and was chief of surgery at the Fifth Evacuation Hospital. His wedding, to Alice Fox, in June 1917 was hurriedly moved up nearly three weeks to precede Dr. Gerster's reporting for active duty. Mrs. Gerster died three years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Ted Allison of New York; a son, Dr. John W. Gerster of Greenwich, Conn.; five grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Services were private.

*New York Times,
1974
May 24.*

GERSTER—Dr. John C. A., on May 22. Husband of the late Alice Fox Gerster. Father of Dr. John W. and Dorothy G. Allison, also survived by five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Friends may call at his residence on Saturday, 3 to 5 P.M. Services private. Contributions to The American Cancer Society or the Adirondacks Museum would be appreciated.

*Epen 100 évvel azután
halt meg, hogy apja
Amerikába jött. (1874)*

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