

## William Dempsey Partlow

By

Martha Jo Franklin

William Dempsey Partlow was born at Ashville, February 4, 1877. He is the son of David A. and Katherine Beason Partlow. His grandparents came from South Carolina to Alabama in 1820.

His boyhood was spent at Ashville with his parents, whose fortune was limited. However, this handicap did not stop him in the pursuit of his life's work. In fact, it seemed to have stimulated him to extra exertions. Since the age of sixteen he has made his own way in the world. He was reared on a farm and attended the public schools, graduating from St. Clair College, the present Ashville High School in 1897. After finishing he became assistant Principal, which gave him a chance to earn money to defray his expenses in medical college. He attended the State Normal School at Florence in the summer of 1897. At the beginning of the session of 1898, he began the study of medicine at the University of Alabama at Mobile. Here he graduated as valedictorian of his class with the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1901. Since then the University has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. After his graduation, he was an interne in the Bryce Hospital at Tuscaloosa. He has served continuously in this institution except for the year, 1902, at which time he was a medical officer of the quarantine board in Mobile.

He was an assistant physician on the medical staff of this institution from 1903 to 1906 and assistant superintendent of the hospital from 1908 to 1919. Since that time he has been superintendent of the institution, succeeding the late Dr. James T. Searey.

Dr. Partlow is a psychiatrist and has spent several years studying in detail the human mind. He is particularly well versed in abnormal psychology.

He has studied in the Polyclinic Hospital and the Bellevue Hospital at New York and at the Newological Institute of New York.

He was Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Bibb, Greene, and Hale Counties. Since 1915 he has been a member of both the State Board of Health of Alabama and the State Board of Medical Examiners for the registration of nurses. In 1917 he was president of the Alabama State Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Public Health Association.