

JOHN P. CAFFEY

[1845–1923]

John P Caffey was born in Castle Gate, Utah [U S] on 30th March 1895, the year WelhelmConard Rontgen [1845 – 1923] discovered the X rays. He completed his schooling in Salt Lake City and received his degree of Doctor in Medicine from University of Michigan in 1919. He did his internship at Barnes Hospital ,St.Louis and was engaged in private practice of Pediatrics for some time. In 1920 went to Poland and Russia along with the American red cross society for three years. After return he became Chief Resident at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Later worked at Babies hospital in Columbia University, New York in Pediatrics. During 1929while he was still in the Pediatrics , he was asked to take the post of in house “Roentgenologist”. Caffey accepted it reluctantly and he felt his entry in to pediatric radiology was a matter of chance played a big role in every one's life. He realized that the field is wide open with lots of opportunities if utilized properly. With his strong clinical back ground, unusual critical attitude he taught himself the radiological appearances of normal and disease manifestations in children.

Caffey shared in knowledge in numerous publications and in 1939 he contributed a section on Pediatric radiology in Golden's diagnostic radiology. The articles dealt with findings in lead poisoning, rickets, hemolytic anemia's, hemophilia and syphilis. His meticulous approach led, in September 1945 first edition of Pediatric X ray diagnosis .It was the first book on radiology in pediatrics in English. It played a major role in establishing pediatric radiology as a



discipline in pediatrics and in radiology. second edition was published in 1950 and the third edition in 1956. His description about Infantile hyper ostoses [Caffey's disease] came in 1945. His observations on infants presenting with frequent fractures of long bones, subdural hematomas - that is battered baby syndrome [Caffey's Syndrome] was published in American Journal of Roentgenology during 1946.

In 1950 Caffey was appointed as professor in clinical pediatrics at college of Physicians and Surgeons Columbia University, new York, after four years appointed as professor of radiology. After his retirement in 1960 he continued his teaching, research by being emeritus in radiology and became visiting professor of pediatrics and radiology at Children's hospital, University of Pittsburgh. He continued to work until his death in September 1978 at the age of 83 years who retained his physical and intellectual faculties intact till end. Caffey is looked upon as the high priest of Pediatric radiology for landing in the field which did not existed that time, made it an scientific, intellectual and humanistic career, launched several disciples, stimulated and supported thousands colleagues through his publications.