

Woman Who Was "Acting Governor" of Oregon.

Mrs. Carolyn B. Shelton Tells of Her Work As Private Secretary and of Being Occasionally the State's Chief Executive.



Mrs. Carolyn B. Shelton, Who Acted as Governor of Oregon.

Every woman's organization there is a "Madam President," "Madam Chairman" or other similar title to signify that one of the opposite sex is holding an office once held sacred to masculine occupancy.

But "Madam Governor" strikes the ear with all the iconoclastic significance of modern times, and to hear it applied to the chief executive of a state is to mark an entirely new era in the march of progress.

And the pioneer "Madam Governor" is Mrs. Carolyn B. Shelton, of Union County, Oregon, who now applies the qualities which once served her in good stead as the Governor of her native state to performing the duties of private secretary to Senator George E. Chamberlain.

To enter a man's business world untried and without any previous training, at an age when a youth would not have yet reached his majority, and to have accomplished all she has, would be an achievement of which any man of middle age might be proud.

Mrs. Shelton began while yet a girl and has forged steadily ahead. Until today, in her capacity of private secretary to a United States Senator, she also performs the duties of clerk to the Senate committee on military affairs, which committee is one of the most important adjuncts to that legislative body.

At the time Mrs. Shelton was Acting Governor of the state the law read that in the event of the chief executive's death the Secretary of State should become Governor, and it was the custom that in the absence of the Governor his private secretary should become acting head of the state.

Oregon, of course, had had other Governors, and during the absence of these men private secretaries had often become the acting heads of the state.

The whole thing, therefore, hinged upon the fact that never before had a Governor had a woman as his private secretary. Consequently, several years before Oregon took its place among the equal suffrage states there had been a "Madam Governor" at its head.

Once Mrs. Shelton, for a period of a week, was actually the Governor, although she was still called "Acting Governor." That was when Governor Chamberlain, elected to the Senate, took the train for Washington February 27, 1909, without having relinquished his office, to be sworn in as a Senator the following March 4. In that interim there was no one above Mrs. Shelton for the duties of the state, in fact, Governor of the State of Oregon.

If perchance one were to meet the clerk of the Senate committee on military

affairs one would find a tall, slender woman, with dark eyes and hair, a woman with a charming manner, and behind it all a subtle personality. And if this same person were such an one as believes the woman who fills public office wears square-toed boots, has short hair and uses spectacles—why, he would exclaim without more ado that this could not be the Mrs. Shelton who was "Madam Governor" of Oregon. And he might, to clinch the argument, tell of her quietness of manner, modulated voice and especially of her taste in dress. In fact, this Mrs. Shelton is just such a woman as he would picture in his mind as seated behind a tea table at a fashionable afternoon function.

Yet the two are one. The Mrs. Shelton who was "Madam Governor" is capable and a born executive. This is the woman to whom one could not easily lie or ask to enter a crooked deal. This is the woman who has proven her ability by having been with one man for 18 years as his private secretary. The other is the Mrs. Shelton who during Senator Chamberlain's term as Governor assisted at innumerable state and other social affairs at Salem, Oregon's capital.

Mrs. Shelton tells the story of her accomplishments simply and with an absolute lack of self-consciousness. In fact, she claims that everything came so gradually that she was really unaware of it until actually placed at the head of a great state.

"I started my business career in the office of Senator Chamberlain, who was then a member of a well-known Portland law firm. At that time I was absolutely untried and without experience so far as business was concerned. But I did have the desire to learn, and become efficient. As a stenographer I came in contact with many of the more technical points of law and these I learned.

"I believe that if one has a natural aptitude for the technical terms of law the study of it becomes comparatively easy. That I was able to grasp the subject was proven by the fact that later on I was allowed to draw many of the legal papers prepared in the office, such as deeds, mortgages, confirmations of sales and others—work which is usually intrusted to a young lawyer.

"When Senator Chamberlain was elected District Attorney of Multnomah County I was with him as his private secretary. All my previous experience had been with commercial law matters, but in my new position I added to it much knowledge of criminal law and learned to draw up indictments, etc.

"It was from this office that I became private secretary to the Governor, Senator Chamberlain having been elected

in 1902. I went with him to Salem, the state capital, and took the oath of office as his private secretary. But I do not think I ever realized that I would in all probability be acting Gov-

ernor of the state. The increased duties and responsibilities of my new office left little opportunity for speculation along other lines.

"By this time I had been with the Governor several years, had become accustomed to his work and his methods, and my elevation from the position of stenographer in his law office to acting as Governor in his absence

was so gradual that I never realized it was happening. It seemed to me only that I should continue with the Senator as his private secretary, as he went from one position to another.

"It was not the office that had broadened so much—it was its legal significance. So when the Senator went away for the first time after he had taken his oath of office as Governor of Oregon, I suddenly found that I was, so to speak, in his shoes, and was really "Madam Governor."

"To be acting Governor of the State of Oregon is no empty honor. And to be the one delegated to "sit on the lid" of a state whose politics are more or less turbulent and complicated means a great deal, especially when the one upon which this duty devolves is a woman.

"About the first question that was asked Mrs. Shelton upon the occasion of her initial occupancy of the Governorship was what she would do in regard to pardons. And Mrs. Shelton answered promptly and emphatically: "I shall grant none," and she told the reason why.

"I do not believe in too free a use of the pardoning power," she said. "Every man and every woman, too, should, in my opinion, submit to the punishment prescribed for their lawless acts whether the penalty be imprisonment or death. Prisons are necessary for the protection of society, and capital punishment is absolutely essential as a deterrent to the commission of capital crimes. It has been my experience that men, hardened criminals, who unchecked would go to any lengths, will stop when they face the only thing that they absolutely fear—a legal death.

"In Oregon conditions are vastly different from those in the East. For instance, Oregon is credited at any times with criminals which do not, rightfully speaking, belong upon her rolls. I mean that lawbreakers, often of the worst class, in endeavoring to escape arrest, will start West. And they may reach our state, and while there be arrested for a petty crime, with the result that they become members of the State Penitentiary convict force.

"When I say I believe in imprisonment and capital punishment I do not intend to imply a lack of sympathy for the criminals themselves. I do not lack that sympathy at all, and I believe that a prison should be made as nearly perfect as such an institution can. There are many conditions surrounding the prison system of today which are bad.

"Take the young man sent up for his first offense. He is thrown into intimate contact with the worst of habitual lawbreakers. When he is released he has his criminal record, a suit of clothes and \$5. And the result is that there is nothing for him, if he seeks honest employment, and tries to overcome the obstacle of his previous life he has yet to face the probable blackmail of other criminals—a phase of criminal life which is by no means

to be overlooked. I believe in the organization of societies for the purpose of helping convicts upon their release.

"The problem of teaching the convict a trade which can follow after their release is a subject that has aroused considerable attention in recent years, and properly so. In Salem there was a tailor shop and shoe factory and, at one time, a foundry, all maintained at the penitentiary. My opinion in regard to prisons and punishment is simply this: While I favor imprisonment, I do not favor a branding a man that his whole future may be ruined.

"There have been many other movements afoot in Oregon in which Mrs. Shelton took a keen interest. And equally important as any have been the feminist movements, which, by the way, have taken more than the shape of "votes for women."

"I am very glad the women of Oregon were enfranchised," Mrs. Shelton said, "because they worked long, seriously and conscientiously for it, and deserved success. But equal rights were far from a sudden victory. Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, called the "mother of suffrage" in Oregon, began the movement there, and she was now past 80. The women of Oregon were ready for the vote, and I feel that they will use it wisely. Long before they received the vote they had accomplished much good in many ways. We have a child labor law and an eight-hour working day for women, and several others tending to help women and children, all of which are the result of the efficient work of our women."

One should not imagine from her interest in prisons and women's movements Mrs. Shelton had neglected the truly feminine side of things—and by truly feminine the old-time idea of a woman is meant. For Mrs. Shelton believes in that peculiar quality possessed by women which they call intuition. She is no more able than most women to tell whence this ability comes or just what it is; yet she believes in it. Furthermore, she says that in her work—coming in contact with all kinds and manner of men and women—it has stood her in good stead. "Hunches," to talk back upon a slang term which may be taken as synonym for intuition, have more often than not proved true.

And so while Mrs. Shelton has gone into the world of politics with a straightforward look in her eyes, and has played games usually entered only by men, she has still clung to her belief in this purely feminine perquisite and had the nerve to use it, all other things being equal.

In summing up her success, Mrs. Shelton said that it was due to hard work.

"If I were asked to give a motto to women about to enter the business world I should say, 'A capacity for, and a willingness to work.' Real success means hard, long hours of work, and comes only to those willing to give them."

How It is Almost Possible to Take The Human Machine Apart And Put It Together Again

"DEAD! My brother dead! But you said the amputation was proceeding favorably!"

"So it was, but erysipelas set in, and I am sorry to say it has proved fatal. A little less than a quarter of a century ago this was not an unusual dialogue at a hospital or in some stricken home. Surgery sometimes cured, but just as often it killed.

"The operation was eminently successful, but the patient died," has been the favorite chat of laymen for more than a generation. But it seldom brings good now. Especially is this true of America, where surgeons are more daring than in any country of the world, and, through their daring, accomplish things so startling that our fathers would have refused to believe them.

A little more than a year ago the Nobel prize was awarded to a New York man for a feat that had never before been believed possible. The recipient was Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute. He had kept alive for 123 days the head of a chicken after it had been removed from the body, and as the result of this experiment he had transferred from the body of a man certain tissues to another man and thereby saved the life of the subject of his operations.

There are many surgeons and physicians who declare that the work accomplished by Dr. Carrel was but a beginning of work along that same line, and that it will be more than a generation before mankind will get the benefits of the experiments. They said that the case on which Dr. Carrel operated was one of a thousand.

Others have won fame.

But there are other American surgeons who have won international fame because they dared to use the knife where it had never been used before and in places where it had hitherto been supposed that the entry of a knife would prove fatal.

One of these men is Dr. J. M. T. Finney, of Baltimore, who is regarded as one of the greatest surgeons in the world. Recently he was prominently mentioned for the presidency of Princeton University to succeed President Woodrow Wilson. But he declined the place on the ground he could not afford to give up his surgical work.

A few years ago Dr. Finney was called in consultation in the case of a man who had an abscess on the brain. The physician had properly diagnosed the case, and they believed there was nothing to do but make the man as comfortable as possible until death came to end his sufferings.

Dr. Finney was called in by relatives who would not accept of the diagnosis. The surgeon had been experimenting for several years along the line of operations on the brain. He told the relatives that there was no chance in a hundred that the operation would be successful, and explained to them that an operation would be a radical departure in surgery.

"Well, he will die in a few hours if



you don't perform the operation," was the reply, "and possibly his life will be spared if the operation is performed."

So Dr. Finney, with several assistants and a corps of nurses, went to work. He cut open the man's head, drained the abscess and relieved the pressure on the brain. It had been supposed that there was little probability of preserving life after brain operations because of the shock. Dr. Finney's work on that occasion astounded those who assisted him. When the patient recovered a careful report of the case was made, and it was received with acclaim by surgeons throughout the world.

Man Like a Machine.

But the surgeons have made so much progress that now it is almost possible to pull a man to pieces and build him up like a piece of machinery. Dr. S. J. Meltzer has been one of the men who have done spectacular things in surgery. He is connected with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. One of his theatrical feats of

surgery has been to take out the stomach of a man, cut away extraneous growth and put it back, sew the man up again and send him on his way rejoicing. This operation was performed about two years ago.

In a little town in the southern part of Maryland there is a man who has been carrying about for 15 years more silver in his face than many men have in their pockets. This man is a prominent real estate dealer.

About the time he was casting his first vote he began to have "neuralgia," and he spent enough money in liniments to keep an ordinary man for a year. About the middle of June his brother, who was attending a medical school in Philadelphia, came home for his vacation. The elder brother thought there was no use in having a "deputy sawbones" in the family without making use of him, and he promptly ordered his junior to do something for that "neuralgia."

The medical student treated his brother for a while and then found out it was not neuralgia, but cancer.

An Account of the Wonderful Evolution In Surgery the Past Few Years.

The entire lower jaw was affected and so was one of the cheekbones. So the medical student hustled his brother off to Philadelphia, and there was a conference with Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, who is as famous as a novelist as he is as a surgeon.

Dr. Mitchell announced that the affected parts of the skull would have to come out and be replaced by silver plates. The operation was arranged for, and in due time the Maryland man lay on the operating table under the influence of an anesthetic. The medical student was in the operating room, watching the use of the knife on his brother.

Willing to "Go the Limit."

When the proper incision had been made Dr. Mitchell discovered that even more of the bones were cancerous than had been supposed, and said that the Marylander might be saved by cutting away more of the bone, but that the operation would be dangerous.

"Cut it all out," was the curt retort of the student brother, who did not hesitate for a moment in his decision. The result was that all the bone of the lower jaw, the right cheek and most of the roof of the mouth were cut out.

Now a man cannot get along without something solid to replace bone in such sections of his anatomy. Silver plates had been made to replace that bone it was supposed would have to be removed. But these plates were found to be useless after the additional cutting and plans were made for a silver jawbone, a silver cheekbone and a silver roof for the mouth. The order was executed without delay, and three or four days afterward the silver was in place and it has remained there ever since. The Marylander has suffered no inconvenience.

From time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary it has been the general belief that a knife could not enter the region of the lungs without causing death. A man shot in the lungs or stabbed there always has "cashed in his checks." But it remained for a daring surgeon of New York, Dr. Willy Meyer, to show that a knife thrust there was not always fatal, but sometimes was decidedly beneficial.

He showed this by operating for pneumonia. This in itself was a radical departure and it set the medical and surgical world by the ears. Pneumonia is congestion of the lungs. It

is one of the hardest diseases in the world to fight, and the death rate for pneumonia is higher than almost any other malady.

Dr. Meyer, who had treated pneumonia cases after the orthodox medical method for a long time, came to the conclusion that if that congestion could be relieved from without the patient would recover immediately. But the trouble with operating in the region of the lungs was that the moment air got into them by other than the ordinary breathing the lungs would collapse. Once this occurred death resulted.

But Dr. Meyer stuck to his theory, and for months experimented on laboratory animals. To prevent the collapse of the lungs he devised a method of pumping oxygen into them constantly while the operation was taking place and thus keeping them inflated.

This device proved to be a success, but it was not used except on animals until there was every indication that it would always work. Then Dr. Meyer decided to try it on a real case of pneumonia in a human being. Right here is where the nerve of a surgeon outclasses that of a soldier. Courage on the battlefield is generally accompanied and impelled by the excitement of the moment. But the courage and nerve of a surgeon come after cold, clear deliberation, from which every element of sentiment and excitement has been excluded. If Dr. Meyer had been less courageous, less cool, less willing to take the consequences—and they would have been serious—the operation for pneumonia would never have taken place. But he knew what he was doing.

Mankind Always Ready.

It was no trouble to get a subject. It is a strange thing about mankind that every time any radical departure is to be made in medicine or surgery there are many men and women who are not only willing but anxious to become the subjects of these experiments. It was so in this case. Dr. Meyer's assistants were capable, and they had been thoroughly instructed. They knew exactly what to do and they did it. The result was that the operation was not only successful, but the patient recovered, and today is the proud boaster that he was the first person to be cured of pneumonia by surgical operation.

But it would not be out of place at

this point to recall two great discoveries that made possible the work of great surgeons—the brothers Mayo at Rochester, Minn.; Dr. Howard Kelley, the eminent gynecologist; Professor Kocher, of Bern, Switzerland, who was the first to cure goitre, and others equally eminent and daring. These were the discoveries of anesthetics and antiseptics. The first was discovered by Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, the second by Lord Lister.

Without the anesthetic nearly all of the major operations of today would be impossible. One only has to recall the number of persons who are operated on each year for appendicitis and then remember that these operations would be impossible without ether to realize what this discovery has meant.

The use of chloroform was first made by Dr. Robert Simpson. As a medical student he had been sorely tempted to give up the study of medicine, more especially surgery, because it was impossible for him to become cold-blooded enough to operate without someone to do the pain. Soon after he had been graduated he began his experiments. One night he discovered the fumes of chloroform would produce unconsciousness without leaving bad results. But it was not until several years afterward that he made a complete statement of his discovery. Before that time the operating room had been more like a torture chamber. When he did announce to the world that operations could be made painless by the use of the drug there was a storm of opposition all over England.

People fought the use of the drug on the ground that it was immoral, contrary to all the principles of religion, and that it was so dangerous as to practically make the surgeons guilty of premeditated murder in case the patient should get too much. But Dr. Simpson fought his battle.

In the meantime Dr. Wells, a New England dentist, who had read of Dr. Simpson's work, began to experiment. The result was the discovery of the efficacy of ether, and to demonstrate it he took ether and had a tooth pulled. It was a perfectly good tooth, too. From that time on the use of ether came into common practice, and the most cruel part of surgery was done away with.

Many Died of Infection.

But even after surgeons had begun to use other thousands of victims of surgical operations died because of infection. The conversation related at the beginning of this article was too typical. Lord Lister, who was professor of medicine at King's College, London, became impressed, he said, with "the greatness of the evil of putrefaction in surgery."

The natural thing with a man of his

type was to find out the cause. He discovered that ordinary cleanliness would not prevent the putrefaction or infection. But about this time Pasteur had given to the world the science of bacteriology, and Lord Lister became convinced that bacteria from the air caused such dreadful after results. Then his problem was to find something that would kill these bacteria, but at the same time would not kill the tissue. After months of experimenting he found out that solutions of carbolic acid would accomplish the desired result. Then other combinations of chemicals were discovered to have the same properties, and the world was given the theory of antiseptic treatment of wounds. From that moment the science of surgery began to make great strides, and it has now advanced to such a point that nobody is surprised at the startling things reported from time to time that surgeons do to the human body.

Stories of transfusion of blood from a healthy man to a patient who had become anemic are so common that they excite only passing comment. Only a few days since the daily papers were devoting much space to the accounts of a bridegroom who was fighting for his life and of how his bride and his brother were giving up their blood for him. The transfusion of blood from the veins of one person to another has entirely changed the treatment of certain ailments.

The First Offense.

Atlantic.

I have seen very many first offenders and talked to them before they got into the hands of pleaders and others, and my experience tells me that a man who has committed his first offense is very like a man who has caught his first attack of serious illness. He is afraid not so much of the results as of the thing itself. Sin has caught him and he is afraid of sin. He wants protection and help and cure. He does not want to hide anything; his first need is confession to some understanding ear. Many, many such confessions have I heard in the old days. That is the result of the first offense.

Passenger Rates on the Tigris.

Christian Herald.

At one ferry on the Tigris River the toll is as follows: For a poor Arab, 2 cents; for a prosperous Arab, 5 cents; for a soldier, 10 cents; for a pilgrim, 20 cents; for a European, 80 cents. The scale of prices for nearly everything goes the way is similar. But many of the Arabs are so poor that they prefer to swim across in the ancient manner. They bind several old gourds together and then, sitting upon them, paddle their way along.