



### **Mayo Brothers**

William and Charles Mayo grew up in a home where knowledge was highly prized. Their mother taught them many things about botany and astronomy, and their father involved them in his work as a doctor.

The Mayo brothers grew up in medicine. Their father took them along when he performed autopsies. In the late 1800's, surgery was limited mainly to amputation. Not enough was understood about infections to make surgery successful.

William, the older brother, was first to go to medical school. At that time, medical school was a three year degree. Later Charles followed. They set up practice with their father. Medicine was the family business, and it was understood that Will and Charles would eventually take over their father's practice.

Their father taught them the importance of working as a team. Many doctors in the early 1900's had too much pride and jealousy to work effectively together.

Will and Charles began taking turns traveling to observe other doctors work. They brought what they learned back to share with the others. Their skills increased and slowly their fame followed suit. Will specialized in abdominal surgery, Charles in throat surgery. Remembering their father's advice to work as a team, they took in new partners in an effort to improve their services. As their popularity increased, so did their wealth. They donated one and a half million dollars to the University of Minnesota for medical education and research.

Today the Mayo Clinic remains as one of the best hospitals in the world. It continues to do research in new medical treatments and technology.