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Robert Sidney Cunningham, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D.
Dean 1937-1951

Dr. Cunningham arrived in Albany in 1937 initially to serve as a Professor of Anatomy at Albany Medical College. That same year he ended up succeeding Dr. Ordway as Dean of the College to become the ninth Dean. Prior to his time at Albany Medical College, Dr. Cunningham was a Professor of Anatomy at Vanderbilt Medical School. Born in Anderson, South Carolina, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Davidson College, and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1915. During his tenure as Dean at Albany Medical College, he was also appointed Chief Administrative Officer of Albany Hospital. Dr. Cunningham was able to foresee and felt strongly about the development of a medical center, and used his time as Dean to pursue this vision. He resigned as Dean in 1951 to become Director of Albany Medical Council, which encompassed Albany Hospital, Albany Medical College, and Union University School of Nursing.