

Philip S. Hench, M.D.

Doctor Hench was born on February 28, 1896, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After attending the University of Pittsburgh, he received the degrees of B.A. (1916), Lafayette College; and M.D. (1920), University of Pittsburgh. He interned at St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh (1920-1921). Doctor Hench entered the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in 1921 and received the M.S. degree in medicine from the University of Minnesota in 1931. He was appointed a Mayo consultant in medicine in 1925 and served as head of a section of medicine (1926-1953). He advanced through the academic ranks to become professor in the Mayo Graduate School of medicine in 1947. His section of medicine specialized in rheumatic diseases and he became a world famous authority on arthritis publishing almost 200 papers. His decision to try the use of the adrenal cortical hormone in patients with arthritis brought him the Noble Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1950. Dr. E. C. Kendall, his Mayo research colleague, shared the honor along with Dr. T. Reichstein of Switzerland. Doctor Hench was active and received numerous honors from professional associations. He was president of the American Rheumatism Association and received seven honorary doctorate degrees. Doctor Hench retired from Mayo in July 1957 and died on March 30, 1965.

(Provided by the Mayo Historical Unit, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.)