

## **SURGEON OPERATES ON HIMSELF**

Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane was a pioneering physician who believed most surgeries should be performed with local, not general, anesthesia.

He was a surgeon working in Pennsylvania in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and a member of a notable Pennsylvania family. Several other members of his family were also surgeons or physicians. Kane was one of the founding members of Kane Summit Hospital in Kane, Pennsylvania, and became chief surgeon there.

A large part of Kane's work was in railway surgery. In this field, he contributed a number of innovations in procedures and equipment. These included asbestos bandages, mica windows for brain surgery, and multiple site hypodermoclysis.

To prove his point, he decided to operate using only local anesthesia. But where would he find a patient willing to be the test case for a new medical theory?

Having performed nearly 4,000 appendectomies, Dr. Kane applied a local anesthetic to himself and removed his own appendix – and made medical history. That was in 1921, at the age of 60.



He operated on himself again at the age of 70 to repair a hernia. In many ways, Kane was idiosyncratic in his practices, which included the tattooing of his patients.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13).

In a sense, God did for the human race what the good doctor did for his patients. God operated on Himself by sending Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, to die for the sins of mankind.

God assumed the risk and endured the pain when He placed the sins of the world upon the shoulders of His one and only Son.

If the love of a doctor is seen by making himself a patient, how much more is the love of God seen by making Himself a sacrifice?

God performed the heart surgery that gave us new life.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter