

Harvey Cushing

Neurosurgeon (1869 – 1939)

Cushing was a neurosurgeon and a pioneer of brain surgery. He was widely regarded as the greatest neurosurgeon of the 20th century and often called the “father of modern neurosurgery”.

Cushing was born in Cleveland, the youngest of ten children, and he was the fourth generation of his family to enter medicine. Cushing graduated from Yale in 1891, and received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1895. In 1896, he studied surgery under the guidance of a famous surgeon, William Stewart Halsted, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore.

Cushing married Katharine Stone Crowell in 1902. They had five children: two boys, William Harvey and Henry Kirke, and the three famous Cushing sisters: Mary Benedict Cushing, who married Vincent Astor and painter James Whitney Fosburgh; Betsey Cushing, wife successively of James Roosevelt, FDR’s oldest son, and JOHN HAY WHITNEY; and Barbara Cushing, socialite wife of Stanley Grafton Mortimer and WILLIAM S. PALEY.

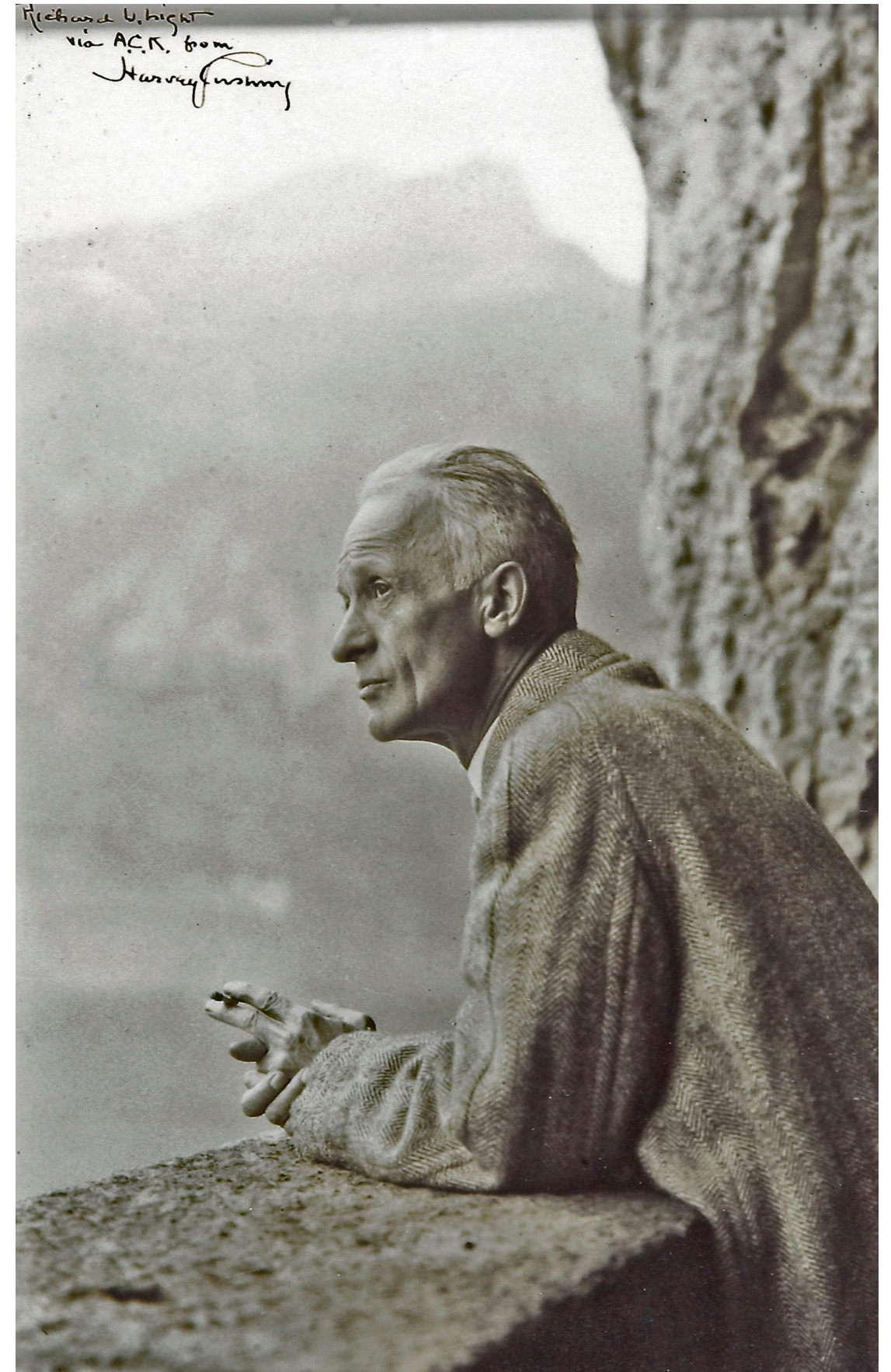
In 1912, he published a landmark monograph on the pituitary gland, and that same year he became surgeon in chief at the new Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as a surgeon with the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I. Years later (1938) he published a classic study of war wounds.

Cushing received the Pulitzer Prize in 1926 for a biography of one of the fathers of modern medicine—Sir William Osler. In 1930, He was awarded the Lister Medal for his contributions to surgical science, and that year he delivered the Lister Memorial Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Cushing was also a professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, retiring in 1932. From 1933, until his death, he was the Sterling professor of Neurology at Yale University School of Medicine.



The illustration is a sketch done by JOHN SINGER SARGENT.



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