EPILOGUE

As I complete this chronology, I can only imagine how inconceivable this might have looked to Dr. Whipple back in 1921. The field of pathology and its role in a complex, tertiary care medical center have evolved beyond anyone’s wildest dreams. As I have learned from my wife, a medieval historian, what was “state-of-the-art” in one period will look antiquated shortly thereafter and yet, at each period in time, was likely the result of significant advances and a source of pride. In many ways, Dr. Whipple was a visionary and created a department that served its patients, its students, and its faculty well. Several generations of scholars and superb clinicians have built upon the foundation he built. Others have spread his influence throughout the country. Our predecessors have created a large and highly complex department that continues to provide excellent patient care services, educational offerings, and contributions to the medical literature. It would be shortsighted to see our current position as anything other than an intermediate one, with incomprehensible changes to follow. I feel honored and truly privileged to be occupying the position now that affords me the opportunity to provide this interim documentary. While I will not be around to read the history of the next one hundred years of the department, I can only guess that future changes will make our current situation seem as “quaint” as the department Dr. Whipple established appears to us now. Congratulations to all who have contributed to the current state of the department and my very best wishes to those who will write the subsequent chapters.