

HERBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, M.D.

BY RAYMOND CLARK, M.D.

Dr. Herbert Franklin Williams, after a brief illness, died on January 9, 1932, at his residence, 416 Grand Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., at the age of 81 years. He was born in the state of Massachusetts and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from New York University in the year 1873. Soon after his graduation he began the practice of his profession in the city of Brooklyn, where he remained faithful to his duties for 57 years. He was elected to active membership in this Society in 1895.

Dr. Williams began his professional career just previous to the epoch of the medical specialties, thus giving to him the opportunity to study the human ailments from a broad medical viewpoint. This, together with the art of medicine and his early classic education, gave him a clientele of the best. His kind, genial and loyal character, his devotion to the care of the sick, endeared him to families as their physician through several generations. In later years he devoted his time largely to internal medicine, with special emphasis on the respiratory diseases.

It is quite fitting in this token of respect for Dr. Williams that we quote a few words spoken by his pastor, Rev. Peter MacDonald, who said, in part, "his associates in various hospitals and medical associations will pay their own tributes to his memory, but the special record of our dear friend in the homes of the people has particular emphasis in this age of specialism in medicine and surgery. In one instance Dr. Williams ministered to five generations and he will be gratefully remembered in thousands of families for his skill, his tenderness, his self-abnegation and fidelity to duty. It is permissible, then, for us to express our gratitude that we knew him, that we have all been enriched by his friendship, by his kindly humor and by what he was and is in faith, hope, love; and in the simplicity and dignity of staunch and worthy character. We shall greatly miss him in the Borough of Brooklyn and particularly in Classon Avenue Presbyterian Church where his warm hand grasp, his words of appreciation and friendly smile have cheered many of us on our way."

This Society has lost one of its older and much esteemed members, but the memory of his life will linger in our minds to stimulate us to carry on toward the highest principles of our profession.