

In Memoriam



DR. WILLIAM V. MULLIN

1884-1935

Dr. William Valentine Mullin, Head of the Department of Otolaryngology of the Cleveland Clinic, died at the Cleveland Clinic Hospital on April 25 from cavernous sinus thrombosis of unknown origin.

Dr. Mullin who was one of the most distinguished otolaryngologists of this country was born in Iowa City, Iowa, on February 14, 1884. He was a student at the University of Iowa from

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1902-1904 and secured his medical degree from the University of Denver in 1908. He was in general practice in Holly and Colorado Springs, Colorado, until 1910 when he decided to specialize in otolaryngology. He practiced his specialty at Colorado Springs until 1926 when he became the head of the otolaryngological division of the Cleveland Clinic. In 1914 he took post graduate work in Germany at the Killian and Halle Clinics.

Dr. Mullin was a member and had been an officer of all the leading medical organizations pertaining to his specialty. He was a Fellow of the American Medical Association and of the American College of Surgeons; from 1926-1928 he was secretary and in 1929 chairman of the section on laryngology, rhinology and otology of the American Medical Association; chairman of the section of laryngology of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine and of the Ohio State Medical Society in 1931 and 1933 respectively. In 1926 he was vice-president, in 1933 treasurer, and in 1934 secretary of the American Laryngological Association; he was secretary of post-graduate instruction of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology. In addition to the above societies he was an Examiner of the American Board of Oto-Laryngology and a member of the American Otolological Association, the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Association, the Association for the Study of Allergy, and the American Medical Editors and Authors Association.

During the World War he became a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army and was stationed at Oteen, North Carolina in General Hospital No. 19, where he remained throughout the War in spite of repeated efforts to be sent overseas.

In 1913 he married Louie M. Nichols of Colorado Springs, who with a daughter, Harriet C. Mullin, survives him.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS *

William E. Lower, M.D.

We are gathered this afternoon to pay tribute to the memory of a man whom we shall see no more. Another river of life has run out into the uncharted sea. I realize full well that we cannot drown sorrow nor gild grief with words, but we can temper our emotions by the memory of the good deeds of those whom we loved. Bill Mullin is dead — but only the mortal part has passed to the Great Democracy of Death. The immortal — the fine deeds, the kindly acts, the gracious and loving sympathy will live on always.

Others will speak of his pre-eminence in his specialty, of his good fellowship. But I cannot speak of him as a colleague without touching upon all his qualities because upon those very qualities rested his value to those of us who had the privilege of working with him.

There was no department in the Clinic in which he was not interested. He criticized sharply sometimes, but always constructively. He was not always angelic but always emphatic. Every one knew where he stood. He had independence and courage. His promise was a fulfillment. His enthusiasm for his work and for the success of the Clinic was unbounded. His influence on all the personnel of the Clinic was masterful; it was wholesome, stimulating and well worth emulating. His characteristics are a heritage which "it seems to me one well might wish to hold in fee."

He was a man of strong convictions. He fought hard for things in which he believed, but if shown a better way, he submitted and supported. His interest was never lukewarm, it was always hot.

He loved friends, and had hosts of them, but his close friends he cherished as something sacred. He was a great companion. He loved the mountain and the forest and the stream, and revelled in Nature's colorings. I shall miss him in the Spring rides along the trails when Nature is budding forth. He always admonished me to let him know when the trillium and dogwood were in full bloom, and I never failed to do so for his presence added to the full enjoyment and pleasure of the ride. In the golden Autumn we sought the hillside with the richest coloring. He was a real

*Address delivered at Memorial Service for Dr. William V. Mullin at the Cleveland Clinic April 27, 1935.

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Nature lover. If he saw anything in passing which interested him he would stop and get all the information possible and then read about it. What he knew he knew well. His interests were wide.

His greatest interest, however, was in his chosen profession. He stood at the very top in his specialty. He was a leader, not a follower. He sought the intellectual light in his work. His face was always toward the East. He was a great diagnostician, a skilled technician. He had a gentle, human touch.

“’Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine.
For shelter is gone when the night is o’er
And bread lasts only a day;
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice
Sing on in the soul always.”

When a new idea struck him, it hit him hard and like a child with a new toy, he would find a listener and tell him about it. We knew his quick, firm footstep and when I saw him coming on our corridor, I could tell at a glance whether it was a new thought or a new worry which prompted the visit.

Hearts break, men die, flowers bloom, leaves fall — but the world moves on. Bill Mullin would not have us stop a minute because of his passing. We must carry on the lighted torch as we shall. Farewell, dear Colleague, we are richer in wisdom for your having worked with us.

“Life’s work well done;
Life’s race well run;
Life’s victory won;
Now comes rest.”
Hail and farewell.
