

Dr. E H COLEMAN.

Dr. E.H.Coleman died suddenly at Brixham, South Devon, on 2nd May, 1953 at the age of 81, and his death has caused much distress to those who knew him during his professional life in the West Midlands. Edward Hayling Coleman was born at Wolverhampton on 20th August, 1871, and was educated at the grammar school there, subsequently going to St. John's College, Cambridge, and qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. from St. George's Hospital in 1897. He then entered practice at Wolverhampton, in which he was engaged until his retirement in 1946. In 1901 he obtained the degrees of M.B., B.Chir., and nine years later he proceeded to the M.D. with a thesis on the use of vaccines in general practice. A pioneer in the early days of motoring, he was reputed to be the first medical man in the West Midlands to drive a motor-car, which he did for four years before the introduction of number plates. He was elected an assistant physician to what is now the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, in 1908, and later became full physician. Here he was in a line of family succession, for his grandfather had been surgeon to the institution and was famous for his participation in the initial stages of the use of nitrous oxide in anaesthesia, and also for his work in the cholera epidemic in Bilston. His father was also a surgeon to the institution. Dr. Coleman's tastes, however, lay in the direction of medicine; here he was a very successful practitioner whose mind retained its sense of curiosity to the end, and in the field of therapeutics before the days of antibiotics he showed an inexhaustible fertility.

J.H.S. writes: As with so many successful practitioners of the difficult art of medicine, Dr. Coleman's hold on his patients and the affectionate regard in which he was held by his colleagues was due essentially to his distinction of character, for he was in truth "a veray parfit gentil knight." In the course of the thirty-tree years in which I knew him he was never once in a bad temper; he never ceased to believe that the world was as honest as he was; and he was one of those exemplars of our profession who literally do spend themselves in the service of their patients. indeed, he served his generation well. Perhaps his generosity of spirit was most manifest in the help he constantly tendered to his young colleagues; as a successful practitioner who might so naturally have sought in consultation those of equal seniority, he invariably did all he could to encourage and help the younger consultants, and I shall always regard his memory with affectionate gratitude. He leaves a son, the fourth in direct line to be in practice in Wolverhampton and associated with the hospital.

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