

THE LATE DR. WEAVER ADAMS.

A Skilled Medical Man and a Great Sportsman.



Photo: Spearman, Eton.

As briefly announced last week, Dr. Edmund Weaver Adams, F.R.C.S., the Medical Officer of Health for Slough, died suddenly on Thursday, September 24th, whilst enjoying a well-earned holiday at Llandrindod Wells. Thus, at the comparatively early age of 62 years, a brilliant career has been brought to a close. Only a few days previously he had said how much better he seemed for the rest, and that he was feeling quite fit again. Dr. Adams was one of the best known public men in the district and the sad news of his death came as a great shock to everyone in Slough, and particularly to members of his own family, for whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

Dr. Adams was spending a holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Boret, his son-in-law and daughter, at Llandrindod Wells, where Mr. Boret was convalescing from the serious injuries he sustained in a motor accident some weeks ago. Everything had gone well and the party were thinking of returning in a few days time.

On Thursday of last week, the doctor and Mr. and Mrs. Boret went for a motor drive in the country. On the return journey they left the beaten track and the car became stuck in a small stream ten or twelve miles from Llandrindod. Dr. Adams, with his customary vigour, endeavoured to extricate the car, but all his efforts were unavailing. It was a lonely spot and Mrs. Boret walked some distance to a farm house in the hope of getting some assistance. She was, however, unsuccessful in her quest. On returning she found Mr. Boret and Dr. Adams still struggling with the car and she again went to seek help.

At that time, Dr. Adams, although apparently rather tired, still seemed perfectly well. His exertions necessitated a great deal of crouching owing to the position of the car, and he took several short rests, but he was unable to move the vehicle. When Mrs. Boret again returned she and her husband both noticed that Dr. Adams was showing marked sign of weariness, and they persuaded him to lie down for a short time. She went and fetched a rug for her father and as she was spreading it he became unconscious and passed away before assistance could be obtained.

Owing to the fact that Dr. Adams had never taken a day off on account of illness and had not been medically examined for some years an inquest was deemed necessary. The facts as stated were laid before the Coroner by Mr. and Mrs. Boret and by Dr. Ralph Weaver Adams. The medical evidence clearly showed the cause of death, and a verdict of death from heart failure was returned.

Although Dr. Adams appeared to be in exceptionally good health, it had been known for some years that his heart was not over-strong. As far back as 1920, he somewhat unwillingly brought his brilliant cricket career to a conclusion on the advice of Lord Dawson of Penn. It was a very fine finish, too, for he ended a remarkable record by scoring three centuries in a week. Full of energy and enthusiasm for his professional duties, Dr. Adams never gave up any of his work, although it was obvious to those around him that at the time he suffered both pain and inconvenience.

A LIFE OF USEFUL WORK.

Dr. Adams was born in London in 1869, and was educated at the City of London School, where he greatly distinguished himself both at work and at play. From school he proceeded to King' College Hospital, and in due course became qualified, obtaining his degree as a Fellow of the College of Surgeons at the lowest permissible age.

There was the promise of a distinguished hospital career, but Dr. Adams elected a life of general practice rather than that of a specialist in surgical knowledge, in which a great opening awaited him. He came to Slough about 1893, and became a colleague of Dr. Dodd, who occupied the same house in Church-street, where Dr. Adams had since resided. He was married in 1894. Two years later he was appointed Medical Officer of Health for Slough, an appointment he held to the time of his death.

Dr. Adams built up a wonderful practice as a "family doctor," and so great were his services in demand that on occasion he appeared to work all day and half the night as well. Despite this, he found time to undertake many duties on behalf of the community. He was medical officer to the Princess Alice Home, where he always had a cheerful word for the men who were disabled in the War. He was Inspecting Officer to the County Education Committee, Surgeon and a prominent organiser in connection with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and in the early days he gave lectures to both the Slough Town and G.W.R. Divisions; also he acted as Hon. Surgeon to the Convalescent Home at Upton, which was associated with the Paddington Green Children's Hospital.

One of his greatest interests was in connection with the Slough Nursing Fund, with which he had long been associated, and its offshoot the Maternity Home. Although he did not appear in an official capacity Dr. Adams was largely responsible for the birth of the latter institution, and he put in a tremendous amount of voluntary work in connection with it. Infant Welfare and Maternity was a work with which he had always closely identified himself, because he was a strong believer in and advocate of the value to the nation of looking after the mother and the child. Dr. Adams was truly regarded as a maternity specialist, and few medical men had seen more babies make their entry to the world than he had. Small wonder then that Mrs. Weaver Adams should desire that any memorial to her husband should take the form of a donation to the Maternity Home rather than in floral tributes.

Dr. Adams was also greatly interested in missionary work, and particularly in the medical side. As Hon. Treasurer of the Slough Branch of the Church Missionary Society, he never lost an opportunity of advocating the necessity of missionaries attending the bodily welfare of those to whom they taught Christianity. For many years he was a member of the Slough Leopold Institute.

AS A SPORTSMAN.

There was no keener sportsman in the true sense of the word than Dr. Adams. From the time of his arrival in Slough he manifested his interest in cricket in general, and in the Town Club in particular. It was always his earnest wish that Slough Cricket Club should become the lease-holders of their present ground, and he was largely responsible in making this an accomplished fact. For several years he acted as hon. secretary, and in 1899 succeeded Mr. R. C. de Winton in the captaincy, a position he held until his enforced retirement. Under his able guidance a great cricket side was built up, and for many years opposing sides considered it a real honour to administer a defeat to his team.

During the first quarter of the century Slough provided many county players. Dr. Adams was perhaps the best of many prime batsmen who played for the Club during that period, and it was very rare that his average for the season fell below 50. As a bowler his lobbs earned a great deal of respect from opposing batsmen, and he occasionally put up some excellent performances for his side. His fielding, like his batting, was exceptionally accurate and reliable. He played for many years for the County, whenever his professional duties allowed him to do so, and on several occasions he rendered very useful service. The highest score of his life was 162, which was compiled for the county.

Since his retirement from active participation in the game, Dr. Adams has maintained his interest in the administrative side of the club, and up to the time of his death was taking a leading part in the effort to complete the purchase of the ground. Dr. Adams' interest in sport was not limited to cricket.

At athletic meetings at the Dolphin Ground he invariably held an official position, and was a keen supporter of the Slough Football Club. In his earlier days he played a good game of tennis, and at fives he attained something above the average of proficiency. As a young man he was a great runner and at school carried off many prizes.

AN IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL.

The esteem and respect in which Dr. Adams was held by all classes in the town was manifested at the funeral which took place at Upton on Monday afternoon in the grave of his son, who was killed in a flying accident during the War. The body was brought from Llandrindod Wells overnight and taken direct to St. Laurence Church. Seldom has a larger congregation assembled, and not one half of those who desired to attend the service were able to be accommodated. The officiating clergy were the Bishop of Buckingham and the Rector of Slough (Canon A. G. P. Baines), assisted by the Vicar of St. Paul's (Rev. A. A. Dowsett), Rev. J. B. Marsh and Rev. F. Waller. The service was extremely simple, and included the 90th Psalm and the hymn, "Art thou weary." At the close the organist, Mrs. Clarence Blanchett played, "O Rest in the Lord." The committal sentences at the graveside were recited by the Bishop of Buckingham in the presence of a great assembly of sympathisers. Afterwards the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade filed past the grave, which was lined with evergreens and flowers, and saluted.

The family mourners were Mrs. Weaver Adams (widow), Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Weaver Adams (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Heath-Godwin (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Boret (son-in-law and daughter), Capt. and Mrs. Baines (son-in-law and daughter), Dr. W. S. Adams (brother), Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Adams (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. John Adams (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs. Joseph Adams (sister-in-law), Major D. Guy Adams (nephew), Major Paul W. Adams (nephew), and Mrs. David Martineau (niece).

The main entrance to the church was lined by the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Cadets and Nursing Divisions, the officers present being: Reserve Supt. Smith, Supt. Hall, Supt. Judd, Cadet-Supt. Druce, Cadet Officers Rees and Orchard, Lady Ambulance Officer Hall, Lady Ambulance Officer Miss Gomm and Lady Cadet Officer Mrs. Butler. Dr. S. J. C. Holden, the County Medical Officer, and County Surgeon to the Brigade, was in attendance, together with Major P. G. Darvil-Smith (County Commissioner) and Mr. W. Scott Evans (County Secretary). For many years Dr. Adams was a Corps Surgeon of the Brigade, and Lecturer and Examiner of the Association.

Nearby were stationed the disabled soldiers from the Princess Alice Home.

The Chairman of the Slough Urban Council was unable to be present, but he was represented by Mrs. E. T. Bowyer, and his son, Mr. C. P. Bowyer. Other members of the Council present were: Councillors L. S. A. Bull (Chairman of the Health Committee), C. E. Shrapnell, W. H. Ford, H. Phillips, F. R. Whiteman and R. M. Price, with Mr. F. R. Duxbury (clerk), Mr. George Moxham (deputy clerk), Mr. Alan Bromly (surveyor), and Mr. J. Dempsey (sanitary inspector).

Many members of the medical profession attended as a token of respect to a late colleague, including Dr. W. Attlee (representing Eton College Medical Board), Dr. and Mrs. Burridge and Mr. Burridge, junr., Dr. and Mrs. Millar, Dr. Frazer, Dr. Hypher, Dr. O'Connor, Dr. Brickwell, and Dr. Stanley Mansfield.

The Slough Cricket and Bowls Club was represented by Messrs. H. Jones, M. L. Waiter, J. Paterson, S. Dupe, R. Young, G. Fisher, E. R. Smith, W. E. Baker, H. G. Willmott, G. Rolph, H. Lewis, G. Dewley, J. C. Berry, C. Rohde.

Mr. F. Proctor and other members of the Committee represented the Leopold Institute. The Elementary Schools of the town were represented by Mr. R. A. Stone (Montem), Mr. W. G. Drewett (Slough National), Mr. S. J. Warring (Chalvey National) and L. A. Hill (Thomas Gray). Miss Power (the Matron) and members of her staff represented the Princess Alice Home; Mr. D. C. Joseph the Slough Y.M.C.A.; and Mr. S. G. Gallop represented the "Court North Star" A.O.F., of which Dr. Adams was medical officer for many years.

Others present were Lady Bisset, Mrs. Arthur Bisset, Mrs. Hugh Taylor, Lady Bell, Mrs. Burt, Lady Nicholls, Mrs. Guy Nickala, General and Mrs. Lewis Jones, Major-General Carteret Carey, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berthley, Mrs. Baines, Mrs. Eliot, Mrs. Herbert Nash, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Nash, and Miss Elsie Nash, Mr. Marcus Quick, Colonel and Miss Ward, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bobbitt, Mrs. Rigden, Miss Newton King, Misses Field, Sister Anita, Mr. Christopher Hanbury, Mrs. FitzHerbert, Mr. R. V. Elvey, Mr. C. M. Woodbridge, Mr. H. L. C. Barrett, Mr. Harold Thomson, Mr. Chas. F. Stevens, Mr. W. H. Oliver, Mr. Cyril Battcock, Mrs. Purnell, Mrs. Alan Bromly, Miss E. Clegg, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lidstone, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lidstone, Mr. H. E. Walden, Mr. C. Dix, Mr. A. Gladwell, Mr. A. G. Trevener, Mr. B. Gilbert, Mr. W. Newman, Mr. S. Symons, Mr. Ray Harbert, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. B. W. Stone, Mr. C. Blanchett, Mr. W. Wigglesworth, Mr. H. J. Stribling, Mr. F. Lawrence, Mr. H. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harris, Mr. E. E. Lavercombe, Mr. C. Sangster, Mr. E. G. Carter, Mr. C. Talmadge, Mr. S. Eagle, Mr. F. H. Grose, Mr. J. H. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. Spriggs, Mr. Cecil Warner, Mr. H. D. Bowyer, Mr. E. R. Bowyer, Mr. E. W. Headington (represented by Mr. Alderman), Mr. Iona Smith, Mr. W. Gregory, Mr. E. Howe, Mr. F. Vallis, Mr. T. Bridger, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Deegan, Mr. E. A. Ward, Nurse Aldana, Mrs. Fricker, Mrs. Willis, Mr. C. F. Schmid, Mr. A. P. Atkinson, Mr. S. W. Golding, Mrs. Sireeves, Mrs. Whish, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Osmond, Mr. George Ashton, Mr. W. Harvey, Mr. A. E. Payne, Mr. H. Pullin, Mr. F. Proctor, Mr. W. Guiseley, Mr. A. Leamon, Mr. T. Clarke, Mr. E. Trimby, Mr. Aylward, Mr. S. Ball, Mr. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Byo, etc.

Supt. E. Tucker and a staff of police officers had charge of the arrangements in the chuchyard, and the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. E. Sargeant.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Although there was a request from the family that no wreaths should be sent there was quite a number of floral tributes. Some of these were homely bunches of flowers from little patients, and there could be no more fitting tribute to the memory of any man. One of these was inscribed:—

"Garden flowers. I'm sure he wouldn't mind. With love from Betty Burton."

Among the others were:—
"From Margot, from her own garden."
"With loving thoughts from Little Hilda."
"With Patricia's love."

"A small token of sympathy and sincere regret from the gardens at 114 and 116, Belgrave-road."

"Doctor, with love from Roly and Jeff."
"With love, from Philippa."

"We shall always remember our Dear Doctor," from Barbara and Joyce Wright.
"In memory of Dear Doctor, from Babe and Gwenie."

"In loving remembrance of a kind doctor and dear friend, Mrs. E. D. Wildrig."

"In remembrance of a kind friend for many years, Mr. T. H. Box."

"In grateful and affectionate memory of an old friend, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Clifton-Brown, Burnham Grove."

"To Dear Doctor, with love and gratitude, from Mrs. T. K. Allen and the Bishop of Sherborne."

"From an old Upton Garden, R. B. and L. R. B."

"In remembrance of 25 years' close friendship and co-operation, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Burridge."

"In deepest sympathy with all mourning the loss of this Beloved Physician and friend of all, from Mrs. Bryan Smith and family, and also from 'Ye Wells' Hotel, Llandrindod Wells."

"With deepest sympathy, from the Matron, Parkside Nursing Home, Slough."

"In memory of our loyal and beloved Doctor, from his Queen's Nurses of the Maternity Home and District."

"Everlasting memory and deepest sympathy, from the Matron, Princess Alice Home."

"With deep sympathy and kind remembrance, from the Vicar of Langley and Mrs. Shepherd."

"With very deep sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Clark, Iwer Heath."

"With deepest sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. T. Catling Butler."

"Mrs. R. O. Wilson, Hillingdon Heath."

"What a blessing is a friend with a breast so trusty that thou mayest safely bury all thy secrets in it, whose conscience thou mayest fear less than thine own, who can relieve thy cares by his conversation, thy doubts by his counsels, thy sadness by his good humour, and whose very look gives comfort to thee."
—From St. Keverne.

SLOUGH.

Office - - 17, WILLIAM STREET.

Telephone: Slough 635.

Editorial Representative - MR. H. SMITH,
"Birchwood," 20, Victoria Street.

Telephone: Slough 90.

Slough's Great Loss.

By the death of Dr. E. Weaver Adams, which occurred with such tragic suddenness last week, Slough has lost one of its foremost public men. For nearly forty years he had been one of the leading medical practitioners in the town, and this, combined with his official position as Medical Officer of Health, brought him into touch with the majority of the inhabitants of the town. As the "family doctor" he was respected by all his patients, who reposed the greatest confidence not only in his medical skill, but in his kindness of heart and fatherly advice. He paid equal attention to all classes, and only this week a panel patient was heard to remark: "Well, he has twice saved my life and he could not have given me greater attention if I had paid him one hundred guineas a visit." That in essence is how the majority of his patients were wont to speak of Dr. Adams, because he was such a humane man. Of him it has been well and truly said, "He went about doing good." His was a very active life, and there were many who thought he should have eased off some years ago. The many activities of Dr. Adams are well known. Apart from his professional duties he took a keen interest in anything that made for the good of the town and the benefit of the community. He was a most able writer, and he had the gift of making a report, whether it referred to cricket or the health of the town, most interesting reading. Above all he was a great sportsman in the truest sense of the word. He played the game for the love of the game, and whether his side was successful or otherwise, he derived the same pleasure with the knowledge that he had done his best. His cricket career was closed somewhat prematurely, but by scoring three separate centuries in the closing stages it had a glorious finish. We had the privilege of seeing his last century, one of the finest he had ever compiled. The suggestions put forward with regard to a memorial to Dr. Adams are excellent. There could be no more fitting testimony to his work than the clearing off the debt on the Maternity Home and naming one of the wards the Adams Memorial Ward. We are sure if such a scheme is put forward by the Committee it will receive the generous support of a large number of people not only in Slough, but in the surrounding district, where Dr. Adams was almost as well known, and his good work equally appreciated.