

"On that day the attacks became more frequent and distressing, and with increasing cyanosis, gravely suggestive of threatened cardiac failure. With the King's permission the doctors issued the first bulletin on Thursday night, but not until it was seen by his Majesty, who somewhat modified its terms.

"From Friday morning his condition rapidly became worse. There were several dangerous attacks, and his Majesty only rallied with the use of powerful remedies. At three o'clock in the afternoon consciousness failed. The end came at 11.45 o'clock after a prolonged period of perfect calm."

It is further stated that the King had suffered from emphysema for some time. This, no doubt, had made serious inroads upon the strength of the heart. These distinguished physicians also state that there was nothing unusual in the case. This would set at rest the rumours about cancer of the throat.

On 12th May the associated press despatches contain a statement from Dr. James L. Holden, of Columbus, Ohio, to the effect that he had examined the King's throat last July and pronounced the condition to be one of cancer. He was called upon by the late King through the good offices of a certain lady who was on intimate terms with the King and Queen Alexandra.

Well, the King is dead and we leave our readers to put their own interpretation upon this statement. We have the announcement from the late King's physicians that there was nothing unusual in the case. They are professional men of very high standing and marked probity, and one would think they ought to know the real conditions.

Of the late King we can all say:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

And now we take farewell with the visible presence of King Edward VII., and place him in our affections with King Alfred, the great, and with his own most noble mother. Though no longer with us, what he has done remains and makes us prouder than ever of the Empire to which we belong and over which he ruled so wisely and well: for he was the noblest King of the greatest power the world has yet known. In the words of Shakespeare he was—

"A combination and a form indeed,
Where every god did seem to set his seal,
To give the world assurance of a man."