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EDITORIAL

DR. R. A. REEVE.

In the death of the late Dr. R. A. Reeve, the medical profession of Canada, and especially of Toronto, has suffered a severe loss. This loss cannot be made good by any one else; for Dr. Reeve was unique in all his characteristics. The only compensation—and it is a great one—is the memory we have left of this truly rare type of the cultured gentleman, the ideal practitioner, the widely read scholar, and true friend.

He was a scholar and a ripe and good one,
Exceeding wise, fair spoken and persuading,
And to those who sought his counsel, as sweet as summer.

For the long period of nearly fifty years he taught the medical students in the Toronto School of Medicine, and, later, in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto, the science and art of his specialty, ophthalmology. Those who have had the pleasure of listening to his lectures must ever remember his candour, the simplicity of his style, and his intense desire for accuracy. His influence as a teacher cannot be set down in numbers, but must remain as a creation of the imagination. He was of the full four dimensions—length of achievement, breadth of view, height of aspiration, and depth of conviction.

He was one of the first to recognize that the proprietary Medical School could never meet the demands of a growing Medical Science. Guided by this view, he advocated the formation of the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto, which was achieved in 1885, when the Toronto School of Medicine ceased teaching. At a later date, Trinity Medical College also ceased teaching and joined its forces with the University. In all these movements Dr. Reeve played a large part.

“Some acquire fame and some have fame thrust upon them” was eminently true in his case; for he both acquired fame, and had a bounteous measure of it heaped upon him. His steady, thorough, and pains-