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John Henry Wigmore

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EDITORIALS

JOHN HENRY WIGMORE

Dean John Henry Wigmore attended the regular meeting of the Editorial Board of this JOURNAL on April 20. It was his last official act. The taxicab in which he started homeward was involved in a collision. The Dean suffered a skull fracture, did not regain consciousness and passed away after several hours.

It is not in the power of words to express the sense of personal loss and the feeling of shock that every member of the Editorial Board has experienced. At such a time every one of us is thinking, not only of the great scholar, leader, writer and moulder of opinion. We have greater thoughts than these. Times almost without number we have all felt Wigmore's friendly personality. We have never been able to describe it. That is what we dwell upon while we pause to reflect upon this most unforgettable character.

He was the great individual: great because without sham and in complete sincerity he was wont to enter into fellowship with others in high or low estate; to weigh their words; to understand their thoughts; to deal justly with their characters and opinions as if they were his very own. No help was too small for him to offer and to give freely. A punctual attendant at the meetings of our Editorial Staff during thirty-three years, he was co-operative and kind. He was never otherwise. Only a few minutes before we adjourned on that last day Dean Wigmore volunteered to do a little time-consuming service that any other one could do. But it was in his spirit to want to do it.

In our "Honoring John Henry Wigmore Number" (September-October, 1941) one of our staff aptly described a "Conversation with the Dean." He said in part: "I realized that what made it (the conversation) was the fact that it was really conversation. I have met other men of wide culture, others who could talk with authority and who did so. But they just talked—unless, worse still, they lectured. Not so Col. Wigmore. He wanted to know just why I was in Chicago and he gave me time to tell him. . . . Though the Dean knew much more than I about everything we discussed, he was genuinely interested in what I had to say. . . . Chicago will always mean to me the city illuminated by the mind of John Henry Wigmore, colored by his charm, made hospitable by his delightful spirit."

The Editors

F. EMORY LYON

Dr. F. Emory Lyon died on April 2. He had been a member of the Editorial Board of this JOURNAL since March 1917. More than forty years ago he organized the Central Howard Association in Chicago. He was its active Superintendent until a few months before his death.

Prior to the creation of the Association there had been no agency, at least in the middle west, that was devoted solely to assisting released prisoners during the critical weeks following discharge from incarceration. Dr. Lyon deliberately chose this type of public service in preference to the conventional Christian ministry for which he had been prepared. He elected to follow the less comfortable of two patterns of professional life. He believed that thus he was helping those who needed him most.

Dr. Lyon was a member and ex-president of the National Prisoners' Aid Association; a member of the Chicago Academy of Criminology and of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1931 the Mayor of Chicago appointed him to the office of Inspector of the City House of Correction.

Many who are prominent in the courts and in a variety of forms of public service have honored both Dr. Lyon's memory and the work he has done. But these attentions are insignificant compared to those of thousands of inconspicuous folk whom he has helped to get into a better way of living. These are honoring him, too, and grieving because they can not again meet him and have the advantage of his personal counsel. In the hearts of these folk and in the memories of a great host of witnesses to his unimpeachable character is Dr. Lyon's richest memorial tablet.

The Editors