

## IN MEMORIAM.

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ERVIN ALDEN TUCKER, A.M., M.D.

BORN FEBRUARY 2, 1862; DIED MARCH 3, 1902.

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AFTER a short illness with pneumonia, Dr. Ervin Alden Tucker entered into his rest on March 3, 1902. In his death the medical profession has lost a member who, while standing as yet on the very threshold of his career, had attained at the early age of 40 a position of great distinction in his chosen specialty of obstetrics. Years of arduous and careful preparation for his lifework, together with wonderful capacity and exceptional ability, enabled him to take his place in the front rank of obstetricians from the very outset of his professional career. Precise, methodical, painstaking, and trained to the observance of every detail which would contribute to success, he perfected a marvellous technique, blending with his skill rare judgment ripened by long experience.

Dr. Tucker was born at Attleboro, Mass., February 2, 1862, and, after his early education in the common schools of Attleboro, he was prepared for college in Mowry and Goff's Classical School at Providence, R. I. He entered Amherst College in 1881, taking the scientific course in order to perfect himself in the sciences and modern languages, which he knew would be of the very greatest benefit to him in his medical course. At the end of his junior year he received a prize for proficiency in French, Italian, and Spanish. He was graduated from Amherst in 1885 with the degree of B.S., and received the degree of A.M. from the same college in 1888. His course in medicine was taken at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, from which he graduated in 1889, taking the second Harsen prize for "proficiency in all the branches of medical teaching." After graduation he was appointed Assistant Resident Physician in the Nursery and Child's Hospital, New York City, and then spent a year abroad, where he studied in Berlin, Munich, and Paris, under Olshausen, Winter, Dürrssen, and Winckel. In December, 1890, he took up his work as Instructor in Practical Obstetrics in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Resident Physician in the Sloane Maternity Hospital, New York City. During his service of five years from 1890 to 1895 the Sloane Maternity Hospital became the largest obstetric hospital in this country. In order to enter private practice as a specialist in obstetrics, he resigned the position of Resident Physician, and was immediately appointed Assistant Visiting Physician to the Sloane Hospital, and was also appointed Tutor in Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In 1895 Dr. Tucker became Attending Obstetrician to the Maternity Hospital on Blackwell's Island—a position which he held for a number of years. He was a member of the New York Academy of Medicine, the Medical Society of the County of New York, the New York County Medical Association, the New York Obstetrical Society, the West End Medical Society, the Alumni Association of the Sloane Maternity Hospital, the Physicians' Mutual Aid Association, the Hospital Graduates and the New York Athletic Clubs. Among his publications were "Fetal Dystocia," published in the *Medical Record*, September 7, 1895; "Deformed Coccyx Causing Dystocia and Death of Child," published in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS, vol. xxxi., No. 6, 1895; and an essay, "Birth of the Secundines,"



which was awarded the "Stevens Triennial Prize" of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, June, 1897, and which was published in the *American Gynecological and Obstetrical Journal* for May, 1898.

Appreciating to the highest degree the advantages and opportunities which the large service at the Sloane Maternity Hospital afforded, Dr. Tucker succeeded not only in bringing the work of the institution to a high state of efficiency and winning the everlasting gratitude of the patients entrusted to his care, but also in establishing for himself the foundation upon which was builded his wide reputation as a teacher and his fame as one of the leading obstetricians of this country. In his speech he was quiet and direct, inspiring the greatest confidence in pupils and patients alike by the absolute faith which he had both in himself and in the truth of all he said. In his private life he was the devoted husband, son, and friend, modest and unaffected by any of the honors which were heaped upon him, and richly deserving the words with which his Master welcomed him, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

GEORGE L. BRODHEAD, M.D.

60 WEST FIFTY-EIGHTH STREET.

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*Whereas*, An inscrutable Providence has removed from our fellowship an honored member, ERVIN ALDEN TUCKER, A.M., M.D., suddenly, in his prime, with only the first sheaf of life's harvest garnered; and

*Whereas*, The Fellows of the New York Obstetrical Society, from long association, have grown into a knowledge of his rare qualities and exceptional equipment for the high sphere of usefulness he had made for himself in his profession; and

*Whereas*, As members of his own guild and calling, thereby entering into a juster appraisal of his skill and capacity, the Fellows of the New York Obstetrical Society especially esteem their departed brother for his unusually long, painfully laborious, and self-contained preparation in the hospital wards; his tireless fidelity as observer and statistician; his methodical evolution of a technique in obstetrics; his soundness and directness as a teacher, carrying his formative influence, through medical graduates of the last decade, to bedsides far beyond his personal ken; his kindly, active, almost paternal interest in each individual of the large family of medical men he himself selected from the city hospitals

and trained as obstetricians; his cohesive power in holding the hospital alumni in fraternal bond; his quiet, self-poised yea and nay, which inspired in patients a merited confidence, marvellously rooted; his clean life; his high conception of the responsibility and dignity of the holy office of ministrant at the threshold of life;

*Therefore be it Resolved*, That the Fellows of the New York Obstetrical Society spread upon their records their pride in the fame of their honored Fellow, their appreciation not only of his individual work but also of the spiritual power of his completed and crystallized life lesson, which will ever be a stimulus to younger men in the profession;

*Be it further Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be conveyed to the bereaved family as a token of sympathy, appreciation, and consolation in that our brother, "though dead, yet speaketh."

*In witness whereof,*

E. C. SAVIDGE, M.D.,  
J. C. EDGAR, M.D.,  
G. L. BRODHEAD, M.D.



ERVIN ALDEN TUCKER, A.M., M.D.