

Dr. K.E. Eckenstein †

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DR. K. E. ECKENSTEIN †

The passing away of Dr. K. E. Eckenstein, which was briefly announced in our last issue came as a great shock to all his friends; although aware of the fact, that the departed had been for some time in precarious health, the sad news of his death nevertheless came as a surprise, and is accompanied with the sincere regret, that owing to my absence abroad, I could not pay my last respects to a man and friend, whom I had highly valued and greatly admired.

Many of the readers of this paper will, no doubt, remember the brilliant articles written previous to the last war, under the heading "ck corner". They dealt with all kinds of subjects from reports on functions and meetings held in the Colony (ck was for many years Press Reporter of the City Swiss Club) to vivid descriptions of his many journeys abroad, especially to U.S.A. and with scientific essays.

Dr. Eckenstein was an intellectual of no mean standing, and had he not chosen a medical career, he would undoubtedly have made a name for himself as a Journalist. The intimate collaboration with the writer which extended over many years was a source of constant delight to him. He was steadfast in friendship, courageous in stating and defending his conviction even if at times it did not meet with the approval of some of his readers; all in all, Dr. Eckenstein was a lovable man, who in spite of many honours bestowed on him by his profession, remained humble and unassuming.

Dr. Kenneth Edward Eckenstein was born in July 1881, the son of Wilhelm Eckenstein, Swiss Vice-Consul at Liverpool and Emma Hutchinson. (British). He was educated at Uppingham School.

In 1906, he became a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery of the University of London, and later on, a member of the Royal College of surgeons and physicians, followed by an early appointment as clinical assistant at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, the Hospital for children, Great Ormond Street, and the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

A year later (1907) he was nominated Resident Medical Officer at the French Hospital in London.

From 1908-1910, Dr. Eckenstein became assistant to Professor Sabrazès at the Clinical Laboratory of Bordeaux, followed by an appointment of Pathologist at the National Hospital for diseases of the heart in London.

At the outbreak of the first world war (1914) our friend joined the French army as medical officer, and first became associated with the Chelsea Clinical Society of which he acted as Honorary Treasurer that year.

In 1919, he was demobilized, and appointed "Medecin de la Société des Professeurs Français". The Chelsea Clinical Society honoured him in 1928 with its Presidency, and the same year he was appointed physician to the French Consulate General in London. It was in that year, that Dr. Eckenstein became connected with the "Swiss Observer" as a correspondent, an honorary position, which he so brilliantly occupied until shortly before the outbreak of the last war.

In 1939, he became Vice-Consul of Monaco, and in 1951 Consul.

During his varied and interesting career, many honours were bestowed on him. 1916: Croix de guerre; 1917: Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Couronne de Belgique; 1921: Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur; 1927: Officier de l'Instruction Publique; and "Chef de Service" French Hospital in London; 1930: Commandant du Nichan Iftikar; 1931: appointed "Esquime Bedell" and Hon. Treasurer of the Chelsea Clinical Society.

Dr. Eckenstein published many medical articles both in English and French. He was for many years a member of the City Swiss Club, London.

After a life of great achievements and the many honours bestowed on him, the eyes are now closed which shone so brightly on all his many friends, the hands, which so often gripped us in his kindly clasp, have lost the touch, but to those who were privileged to enjoy his company and friendship, he will always remain in treasured memory. —Gone but not forgotten —.

Dr. Eckenstein leaves a widow to whom we extend our sincere sympathy in her sad bereavement.

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