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Business Office
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
AT 49 STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Publication Committee
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Editorial Office
134 WEST KINNEY STREET
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Telephone Circle 7-7706

EDITORIALS

DR. CHARLES VICTOR ROMAN

In the death of Dr. Charles Victor Roman the profession has lost one of its most outstanding proponents. He was a tower of strength and a bulwark of defense for the National Medical Association, and for the Negro Medical Profession. In wisdom and in learning, in wit and philosophy, he was without a peer among his contemporaries, nor are we aware that in these respects he was surpassed by his predecessors. "Keep your head on top, and your feet on the ground" was one of his often used exhortations.

On the platform he was at home and nearly always swayed his audiences. His storehouse of wit and wisdom seemed inexhaustible.

He was a prolific writer, and in addition to numerous periodical contributions and monographs, he was the author of several books. His "History of Meharry Medical College" was his last effort, and, as we were advised, was produced under great stress. Doubtless this contributed to his final dissolution. The book appeared at the opening of the Nashville Meeting of the N.M.A. this year, and was placed on sale in one of the advertising booths. We bought a

* Deceased

copy, took it to Chicago with us and in the seclusion of our hotel room read it and immediately sent him our congratulations. We are pleased to have evidence that he received our message for on reaching home not only did we find the sad news of his passing, but also an acknowledgment from him of our commendation.

Dr. Roman has the distinction, and a real distinction it is, of being the first editor of the JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. This office he held for ten years, until 1918, since which time he has been a member of the Editorial Board and has from time to time contributed signed editorials.

He became president of the NMA in 1903, and with one exception was the most constant attendant upon its Annual Meetings and for years was a member of the Executive Board. In the Constitution and By-Laws several of the sections bear the Roman stamp.

He had the good fortune to be among the founders of many projects for the professional and social betterment of his race. As stated above he was one of the founders of the JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. While he was not among the original organizers of the NMA he came into its existence as president in 1903 at a time when the

real life of the organization began. He was one of the founders of the John A. Andrew Clinical Society at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and the most constant annual attendant, not having missed a single meeting.

In 1904 he founded the department of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, and at the time of his death was the senior alumni member of the staff.

Dr. Roman was not only a medical man but he was a church man. He was well versed in the Scriptures and took great pride in teaching Sunday School. With much interest to the reader he portrays in his new book an account of his "Bible class No. 5."

He died at his home in Nashville, Tennessee at 9 A.M., August 25th, 1934.

From 1903 when we met for the first time, and also when we both attended a meeting of the NMA for the first time, our lives were closely interwoven, and it is with deep sadness that we pen these lines concerning our co-worker.

We believe it appropriate here to quote from our address in Indianapolis in 1932.

"And now in conclusion, I present to you the greatest Roman of them all, who increases in wisdom and knowledge and importance as his years with us wane. Like the immortal and lamented, the late Booker T. Washington, when he goes he will leave a noticeable void, there will be no one to take his place. There was only one Booker T. Washington, and there will be only one Roman. During the current year I wrote him urging that he conserve his strength that the medical profession in general and the Negro youth in particular may have the advantage of his great wisdom and unusual learning. I know no man who wears the title of Doctor of Philosophy more appropriately.

(To Dr. Roman) "I wish you, sir, and the public too, while you are living, to know that this is the esteem in which you are held by your comrades after twenty-seven years of constant close-up—the great Charles Victor Roman—the sage of Nashville, Tennessee."

THE NASHVILLE MEETING OF THE N. M. A.

Our editorial section is too overcrowded this issue to do justice to the Nashville Meeting. In many respects this will stand out as an historic event in the annals of the organization. Several features contributed to the phenomenal success of this meeting, despite depression. In the first place, was the selection of Nashville as the place of meeting. Nashville is more or less centrally located, and is always a drawing card for men of the South. But this year there was the added attraction of the New Meharry. Many of her graduates wanted to see their new alma mater. They could accomplish both purposes at the same time.

The dynamic new president of Meharry, Dr. John J. Muldowney, was another drawing card. Not only the Meharry graduates but others wanted to meet this exceptional man who had done so much in so short a time for the cause of Negro medical education.

No man in the country has a greater hold on so many medical graduates of a single school as has Dr. J. H. Hale, the demonstrator of surgery of the Meharry Medical School, and President-elect of the N. M. A. Dr. Hale, used to the limit this wonderful influence in bringing his graduates back to Meharry.

Dr. M. O. Bousfield and Dr. C. A. Lanon, President and Secretary, both did yeoman service during the Nashville Campaign, and this was backed up by a cooperative spirit on the part of all the official family.

The scientific exhibits did us much credit. The prizes offered in the Surgical Seminar was a new departure. The first prize was won by Dr. R. C. Giles and the second by Dr. Payne, both of Chicago.

Perhaps the two most outstanding features of this meeting were the adoption of that part of the Constitution, tabled in Chicago last year, which dealt with the House of Delegates. This gives the organization a more representative