

Thomas Stephenson, D.Sc., F.C.S.

BY the death of Dr Stephenson on October 29, 1938, there passed a distinguished and in some ways unique figure in the world of Pharmacy. He was the grandson of a doctor and the son of a chemist, and probably as the result of his early associations he displayed while quite a young man some of those traits which characterised his maturer years.

He was born in 1864, and became a qualified chemist in 1886, and continued the habit, which he had formed as a student, of reading papers at various professional meetings. He read widely and had the gift of grasping the fundamentals of the subjects, which came under his review.

For a time he held a position in Bombay, and his inquiring mind led him to obtain a knowledge of the various indigenous remedies, a knowledge which was always at the disposal of others. This gift of acquiring and imparting knowledge was a part of his natural make-up, and he was always able in conversation to throw many interesting sidelights on the lands and peoples he had visited in his much travelled life.

He was deeply interested in his work especially on its scientific side, and this found expression in more ways than one.

While engaged in pharmaceutical practice he felt a growing desire to relinquish Pharmacy for a wider sphere of scientific writing, for which he had a distinct flair.

The study of drugs and their reaction on each other and on the body was of absorbing interest to him, and thirty-one years ago he launched *The Prescriber*, a monthly periodical which became an almost universally read epitome of all that was new in medicines. This journalistic venture was a complete success.

Dr Stephenson's room was typical of the man, neat and orderly, its walls surrounded by books whose titles revealed something of his love for the arts, especially Music and Literature, because his tastes carried him far beyond the limits of merely professional work. He found considerable delight in History, the great Novelists, Music and Opera, and especially the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas fascinated him and on the latter he was quite an authority. But he had still room in his heart for his fellow-men, and his devotion to the Rotary Movement was one of the outward tokens of his feelings.

We remember Dr Stephenson as we last saw him, youthful in figure and dignified in bearing, mentally alert and always busy, and it is not easy to realise that this courteous, polite and well-informed gentleman is with us no more.

He was elected a Fellow in 1910.

J. O.