

William Hope Fowler, C.V.O., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.Edin.

DR WILLIAM HOPE FOWLER died in Edinburgh on October 4, 1933, after a long and painful illness due to the effects of exposure to X-rays.

Born in 1876, he received his early education at Daniel Stewart's College, and after completing his medical course at Edinburgh University he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1897. Immediately after his graduation he was appointed House Surgeon with Mr C. W. Cathcart.

Roentgen had discovered X-rays during the time when Fowler was a senior student, and after graduation he became one of the early pioneers of the use of X-rays in medical diagnosis.

In 1901, while still in general practice, he became an assistant radiologist to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, under the late Dr Dawson Turner.

In 1911 he was appointed, in association with Dr Archibald M'Kendrick, as chief of the Radiological Department of the Infirmary, and in 1926 he was made a Consulting Radiologist to the Institution.

In 1924 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and in 1931 a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

From 1911 till 1926 he was Honorary Consulting Radiologist to the Admiralty, and during the Great War he was a member of the War Office X-ray Commission.

He was Lecturer and Examiner in Radiology to the Royal Colleges, and held numerous consulting radiological appointments. He was a Fellow of many learned societies.

His death is a loss which it is difficult to appraise. Long and intimate contact with him makes it even more difficult to say whether the loss sustained by the medical profession and the scientific world in general or by the general public is the greater.

He had many friends, and no enemies. As one of those fortunate friends I pay tribute to his memory. We started together in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in the days when our equipment was little more than a simple spark coil and a totally unprotected X-ray tube, and the X-ray department an old store-room in the basement. Up to the time of building the present X-ray department we worked together as col-

leagues, and strong though his personality was, it was impossible to quarrel with him. Even in those early days, working in dismal surroundings, when most of us exhibited frayed nerves, he emanated a cheery optimism which was infectious.

Ambitious he certainly was, but it was not a personal ambition. He did not strive to appear better than his fellow-workers. It was his ambition that his medical and surgical colleagues should be afforded the greatest help obtainable by improved X-ray technique. His private laboratory (and his lumber-room) bear witness to this side of his nature. He was always keen to procure the latest improvement, and he would purchase it, test it, and either add it to his already large equipment or relegate it to his lumber-room. It is questionable if a more complete history of the advancement of X-ray technique could be found anywhere than in his private museum.

Perhaps one of his greatest assets was his phenomenal memory. It was like a well-kept diary. Old Edinburgh students returning to the Royal Infirmary after many years of absence used to seek him out in the old department. In an almost unbelievable way he could recall the names of the students of any single year, when they qualified, where they had gone, how they had progressed in their profession, and a host of details which would always appeal to the returned student.

He maintained an intimate connection with his old school, and recently presented four Bursaries for Stewartonians at Edinburgh University; for several years also he was President of Stewart's Athletic Club, and President of the former pupils club of this school.

He took all the happiness out of life, and made his life a source of happiness to others. Even in the more acute stages of his painful affliction he was never known to complain. He has bequeathed to all who knew him nothing but the happiest of memories.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in March 1933.

A. M'K.