

Obituary — Prof. C. Y. Wang

The Editorial Board

1931 Volume 10 Issue 1



The death of Professor C. Y. Wang early on the morning of the 15th December, 1930, has removed from the University one of its outstanding personalities and bereft an able family of one of its ablest sons.

Dr. Wang started what was destined to be a distinguished academic career at Queen's College, Hong Kong, and later passed on to the Hong Kong College of Medicine from which College he qualified with honours, in 1909. He then went to Edinburgh, and in the following year qualified for the honours degree of M.B. of that University. He continued his studies there for another year after which he passed the examination entitling him to the Diploma of Tropical Medicine & Health.



In 1912 he took the B.Sc degree of the Manchester University and then returned to Edinburgh to undertake some research in Pathology and Bacteriology at the Royal College of Physicians. For this work, he was awarded the Freeland Barbour Fellowship of that institution and on presentation of a thesis at the University he was awarded his M.D. degree along with the University's Gold Medal. During the war Dr. Wang was Assistant Superintendent in the Bacteriological Department of the Edinburgh University, holding both the McCann and the Carnegie Research Scholarships. His work during the period was later duly recognised when he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

On the 18th May, 1920, Dr. Wang was appointed Professor of Pathology in the Hong Kong University, and thus was forged a happy link binding the old Hong Kong College of Medicine and the new University's Medical Faculty. From his appointment till death, the late Dr. Wang was this University's

Professor of Pathology and the manner in which his work was done is evidenced by the esteem in which he was held not only by all his students but his colleagues and fellow practitioners. Nor was his task a light one. Professor Wang had to build up a department and at the same time endeavour to impart a standard of knowledge equivalent to that of the home universities, to classes just as large as those at home, but with much less assistance and infinitely less equipment. With all this, Professor Wang found time to publish “A Handbook of Pathology” the merit of which is proved by the fact that it has become a standby to students in other medical schools besides our own.

After his return from long leave early in 1930 it soon became obvious to his colleagues and medical friends that Professor Wang was not well. Yet with that strength of will with which he was so liberally endowed he refused to give in. Even after being forbidden to use his voice, he remained at his post, communicating to his staff by paper, and instructing his pupils by typing lectures and having them read in class. The end of the summer however found the unequal struggle producing its inevitable results. In October Professor Wang unwillingly had to give up active work, and in spite of all that medical skill could do, mid-December saw his peaceful passing.

It is beyond the power of this pen to adequately depict to esteem in which Dr. Wang was held by student and teacher, layman and physician, Chinese and European. To his wife and children and his brothers, we offer our deepest and sincerest sympathy. His was a medical life which, begun in our own College of Medicine and nourished in the nursery of Edinburgh’s laboratories, flourished to the full in its own native school, and which, at the time of full fruition, was taken.