

[Huntley, George E.]

DR. GEORGE E. HUNTLEY

The illness of Dr. George E. Huntley, covering more than two months, was ended by death in his home in Cambridge, Mass., on Sunday afternoon, January 8. He was one of God's noblemen and as "Uncle George" he endeared himself to a multitude of every age in Universalist circles. At the time of his death, he was seventy-seven years of age. He was born in Mill River, Mass., and spent his youth with his family in Collinsville, Conn. He was graduated from the Theological School of St. Lawrence University in 1894, beginning his ministry at Framingham, Mass. During this pastorate of nine years, he was a student in the Emerson School of Oratory of Boston. His marriage to Miss Lilla May Putnam occurred in 1895. His pastorate in the Chapin Memorial Universalist Church in Oneonta began in 1903 and in the second year he accepted the position as professor of homiletics and pastoral care in the Theological School of St. Lawrence University.

His major interest at this time was in religious education and as superintendent of the church school in the Universalist church at Canton he led the school into great years. He was one of the founders of the New York State Universalist Sunday School Association and then his interest moved into the formation of the General Sunday School Association. He was its first president serving 1913-1929. In 1917 he resigned from the faculty of the Theological School to give full time to the work of religious education in the denomination. He served as president with distinction, resigning in 1929. He was a member of the Commission to Syria and Armenia in 1919 which was sponsored by the Near East Relief organization and his appeal to Universalists and others brought a marvellous response to these sufferers. He was pastor of the church in Peabody, Mass., 1933-1937 and in Roxbury, Mass., 1937-1940. He then returned to a pastorate in the church at Framingham, his first location as a minister. He received the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from Buchtel College in 1912. This institution is now known as the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

In recent years, beginning in 1945, Dr. Huntley was the executive chairman of the John Murray Atwood Fund Campaign for the Theological School and led this campaign to a great success. It is the campaign that enabled the School to go forward to greater service to its students and the denomination. During these years, Mrs. Huntley was in poor health but she ably stood with him in this success.

Dr. Huntley was the author of the following books: "Seeing Straight in the Sunday School," "Hope Victoria at the Helm," and "Case Work in Preaching." The latter book is for preachers and the author issued his advice in letters to former students. It was written under the non de plume, Ezra Rhodes and had a large sale in all denominations.

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The funeral service was conducted in the Universalist church at Cambridge by the Rev. Frank B. Chatterton, minister. The Rev. Robert H. Barber read selections from the Scripture and poetry. Dr. U. S. Milburn of Melrose and Attorney John Merriam of Framingham delivered eulogies. The service was held on Wednesday afternoon, January 11.

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