

[Rice, Mary Campbell Peckham]

Life of Mrs. Mary C. Rice Draws Editorial Praise

Mrs. Mary Campbell Rice, former resident of New York Mills, whose death in Naples, Italy, was previously announced in this paper, was a victim of pleurisy and angina pectoris, according to a cablegram received here today.

This editorial on the death of Mrs. Rice will appear Saturday in the *Christian Leader*, a Universalist publication in Boston:

"On Sunday, Jan. 6, the editor received a cable from Clarence E. Rice in Naples, Italy, sent the same day and reading as follows: 'Mary died suddenly. Notify friends.' This refers of course to Mary Campbell Rice, the wife of Dr. Rice. Mrs. Rice was spending a year abroad with her husband and son, the Rev. Otis R. Rice. Otis Rice has been studying in Cambridge, England, and Dr. and Mrs. Rice have been traveling slowly through France and Italy on their way to Egypt, where they expected to spend the rest of the Winter. Mrs. Rice apparently was strong and well in every way, and her death comes as a great shock to a large circle of friends, especially [obliterated] Springfield, Mass., Washington, D. C., and other places where she had lived and done her work.

"A cultivated lady, a delightful companion, blessed with a sparkling wit, she was endowed also with a rugged common sense and sound judgment which made her of enormous assistance to her husband in his parish work. Underlying these mental gifts was a kindness of heart which was unflinching. Apparently she thought no evil, for she spoke no evil. Many an incipient parish row dried up and blew away when brought into her friendly presence. When faced with the serious misunderstandings inevitable in the life of a minister, her wise counsel of silence, patience and forbearance steadied not only her husband but her friends.

Born in New York City, brought up in the Church of the Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist], Mrs. Rice was a devoted Universalist and had served her denomination with distinction not only in parishes where her husband was located but as a member of the Board of Foreign Missions. Her home for many years was in Utica. She married Dr. Rice soon after his return from Japan, where he served the Universalist Mission.

"A brave, generous, intelligent, friendly, lovable woman has left us [obliterated] our lives are made richer by our memories, and our faith in the hereafter is strengthened by the way she lived her life among us."

Observer-Dispatch, Utica NY, Wed. 9 Jan 1929