

[Taber, J. Russell]

TRIBUTE TO DR. TABER AT FUNERAL SERVICE
Rev. Dr. T. E. Potterton Eulogizes Him as a Devout Man

Many associates and friends of the late Dr. J. Russell Taber, well-known medical specialist, attended the impressive funeral service, which was held at the family residence, 263 Ryerson st., last night.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Potterton, pastor of the Universalist Church of Our Father, who preached the funeral sermon, said he had known Dr. Taber for 17 years and had loved him as a brother. Dr. Taber at the time of his death was president of the Universalist Church of Our Father.

"I was impressed by the commanding simplicity of his life," Dr. Potterton said. "There was a modesty, a genuineness about him that attracted me. Dr. Taber was a gentleman of God. He was a minister of love and of humanity. He was an ordained minister of the church, but I speak not of that. I refer to him as a minister in a broader sense. He was a devout humanitarian. We know how his knowledge relieved the sufferings of others. I shall think of him as a man who was benevolence itself.

"So suddenly came the call, so quickly did he start upon the great venture that we were shocked," said Dr. Potterton, referring to the sudden death of Dr. Taber while at his office Monday morning.

The Rev. Charles E. Tebbetts in a prayer called attention to the fact that Dr. Taber's life had not been cut short, but had been crowned by long years of usefulness. Dr. Taber was in his 70th year.

Mrs. Olga Osterland sang "Abide With Me" and "Lead, Kindly Light." There were many beautiful floral tributes. The body will be placed in a vault for the present, interment occurring later.

Dr. Taber's pre-eminence in the medical profession was due entirely to his own efforts. As a small boy on his father's farm, in his native town in Milton, N.Y., he longed to study medicine, and it was by dint of sheer persistence, that he managed to persuade his father, who had farming ambitions for his son, to allow him to acquire the elements of the medical profession from a local physician in the town. In 1875 Dr. Taber was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. He began his practice in Poughkeepsie and a year later married Eliza Heaton there. In 1877, Dr. Taber came to Brooklyn moving directly to 263 Ryerson st., where the family has remained ever since.

At this time, Dr. Taber, who had been a member and also on frequent occasions a preacher, in the Friend's Church, identified himself with the Universalist Church, and for two years had charge of a Universalist Church then on Quincy st. Although he had never been officially in charge of a church since then, Dr. Taber spoke from the platform on various occasion[s],

[Taber, J. Russell]

and was up to his death an active member of the Church of Our Father and the president of its board of trustees.

As a physician, specialist and surgeon, Dr. Taber achieved wide prestige through his 44 years of practice in Brooklyn.

One of his biggest contributions to medicine, was a formula for the treatment of epilepsy, which he discovered after a friend, whose child had been afflicted, had aroused his interest in the disease. Through the pressure of friends a company was formed for the manufacture of this formula and a small factory put into operation.

It is believed that if Dr. Taber had lived this undertaking would have grown to important dimensions, as he looked forward ultimately to devoting his entire time to this end of his work.

Dr. Taber was an ardent chess player and bowler, and achieved distinction as an amateur in the Brooklyn Chess Club of which he was a member. He was also a member of the Young Republican Club and a life member of the Brooklyn Free Kindergarten Society. He was a member of the Pan-American Society and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons' Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. William C. Adams of Newtonville, Mass., and Mrs. Virgil Lopez of New Rochelle; a grandson, William Taber Adams; two granddaughters, Lila and Barbara Lopez and one brother, George Taber, of Newburgh, N.Y.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York NY, Thu. 24 Feb 1921

Transcribed on 9 Feb 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY