



Howard L. Beye
1886-1936

In Memoriam

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THE surgical profession has lost one of its brilliant younger members by the untimely death of Howard L. Beye, professor of surgery at the University of Iowa, who was killed in an automobile accident near Marshalltown on September 29, 1936.

Dr. Beye was born at Oak Park, Ill., on September 24, 1886. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1909, and received his degree in medicine at Rush College in 1911. During the following year and a half, he served as interne at Cook County Hospital, and at once began teaching as an assistant in medicine at Rush. In 1914, he came to Iowa City as an instructor in surgery at the Medical School of Iowa State University under his friend and teacher, Dr. Charles Rowan. He was appointed professor of surgery in 1924, and three years later succeeded Dr. Rowan as active head of the surgical department. He served overseas during the World War and was wounded in action at Chateau Thierry. Shortly after returning to Iowa City, he was married to Ruth Ketcham of Oak Park, and to them have been born six children, four girls and two boys.

Dr. Beye's work in the field of surgery has won for him wide recognition and fellowship in outstanding societies. He was a member in good standing in the Johnson County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the Western Surgical Association, the American Association of Thoracic Surgery, and the American Surgical Association. Some weeks before his death, Dr. Beye had consented to accept a place on the Committee on Publications of SURGERY.

Dr. Beye had a wide interest in the field of general surgery, as can be seen from the diversity of his contributions to surgical literature during the past twenty years, but unquestionably his chief interest of late has been in the diseases of the thorax. I know of no better way of paying adequate tribute to his work and character than by quoting from a personal letter which I received a few days ago from his associate of many years, Dr. Frank Peterson, now head of the department of surgery at Iowa City: "His particular interest, as far as surgery was concerned, had been in diseases of the thorax. He had been spending innumerable hours in study and in the laboratory improving his knowledge of the anatomy, particularly as related to the lung and mediastinum. Just a few weeks prior to his death he had done a masterly pneumonectomy for carcinoma of the bronchus, with remarkably little postoperative reaction. That the patient died later from an unexpected complication was a terrible blow to him. His passing has left a terrific void for those of us who have worked with him these many years. There is nothing which can be said about him which will in any way overemphasize his ambition, his honesty, and his straightforwardness."

EDWIN N. MILLER.