

Address of President Stanley
at St. Matthews Church at funeral
Dr. Hattie, Assistant Dean, Medical Faculty, Dec 7, 1931

Mr. Stanley's address at
Dr. Hattie's funeral services - Dec. 7/31

We are gathered together today to do the last tangible honor, which it is possible to do, to a friend, a colleague, a teacher, a healer, a most loyal and lovable gentleman. Most of you who are assembled here, knew Dr. Hattie a much longer time than I. And yet in four months I have learned to appreciate his qualities, and so though it falls to me, on behalf of Dalhousie University, to utter the eulogy that many would fain utter, and which others would utter more worthily, I find no difficulty in testifying to the great service which Dr. Hattie steadily did for the Medical School and the University at large, and to the extreme sense of loss which all of us have at this moment.

Many men are vague in outline, hard to place, difficult to assess. But the men who do the day's task and carry the world forward have a way of being simple, straightforward, transparently clear as to motive and purpose. So it was with our friend, Dr. Hattie. If he had one fault, it was an excess of modesty. And yet in these days of self-advertisement, it was a joy to find a man who was not confident and certain about his own powers. About other men he stated himself precisely, but always about what the man could do, and had done, never about his failings. He was Scotch and critical, and just, yet he grasped clearly the essence of human wisdom, which is to seize on what is possible, and lose little time over the difficulties.

What struck me, when I first met him, was his loyalty, and it has never failed to strike me clearly as I got to know him better. He made

more

no parade of it, but the spirit of it shone through him, in word and action. He was loyal to Dalhousie and its Medical Faculty. The first thing he said to me was: "You may think Dalhousie has a small Medical School compared with other universities you know, but there is good stuff here, and we are making excellent progress." He went on to praise the work of my predecessor, and to tell me how the Medical School had grown under his regime. Of Dean Stewart he spoke with affection, and even reverence. In a later conversation, it transpired that he was a graduate of the University from which I had just come. In every word of reference to it there was the same breath of loyalty.

I think that all of you here, who knew him, will agree about this characteristic of his. Perhaps I may add that he showed a surprising loyalty to me. He seemed to be aware in a strangely sympathetic way of my difficulties in grasping all the necessary threads, and he most unselfishly went out of his way to save me from possible mistakes and misapprehensions. In particular, he took delight in acquainting me with the men I should have to work with. As I met them and saw their bearing to him, I understood fully why the onerous duties of his office had fallen on his shoulders. He knew his colleagues intimately and seemed to draw each man out on his better side. He knew all the students just as personally, and took a fatherly interest in them.

, as Assistant Dean of the Medical Faculty,

Today we speak of it all as in the past, but his work continues and will continue; and indeed the efforts he made in a formative and difficult period will have a multiplied result in the days to come. Dalhousie University will cherish his memory.

Dalhousie University,
December 7, 1931.