

WILLIAM ERNEST BOYD, M.D., F. F. HOM.

Died September 8, 1955

Dr. T. D. Ross writes: At an early age Boyd began researches into the nature and action of homœopathic remedies, his first paper on the subject being published in 1922. This work gradually enlarged and developed along several different lines connected with electronics, biophysics and biochemistry, and reached a successful culmination last year with the publication of his paper "Biochemical and Biological Evidence of the Activity of High Potencies." This work is remarkable for the care taken to control every possible error, and it gave scientific proof of the presence in microdoses of mercuric chloride (diluted to the region of 10^{-41}) of a factor capable of accelerating the hydrolysis of starch with diastase.

A force latent in drugs and liberated by the process of dilution and succussion had long been postulated by homœopathic physicians, but Boyd in this work presented proof of its existence under most stringent laboratory methods and controls, leading the way into a new field of research as to the precise nature of this force. The Boyd Medical Research Trust, of which he was founder and honorary director, is being carried on under the directorship of one of his sons. That Boyd's work achieved such a reputation was due to his original thinking in a wide and little-known field, his forward-looking mind, and his integrity and care for every detail.

Dr. Boyd was largely responsible for founding the Glasgow Sunday Meetings in 1909, which later joined with the Scottish Schoolboys' Camps to form the Scottish Schoolboys' Club, through which many hundreds of boys are encouraged to discover the full meaning of the Christian faith. He maintained an active interest in the movement as vice-chairman throughout his life. It may have been these contacts with youth that gave him a boyish sense of humour

and charm, pleasant foils to his serious and exacting scientific outlook.

His life was dedicated to medicine and research in humanity's service, and he brought great gifts to these high aims. All who knew him were impressed by his statesman-like grasp of the essentials of a problem whether in medicine or administration, by his common-sense understanding of the possible, and by his rare gift of seeing further ahead than most of us. Willie Boyd was a kindly and modest man, and ideally happy in his home. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two sons who are both doctors.

Homœopathy, October, 1955

Dr. W. Karo, M. D.

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