

(Given at Toledo U
Nov 28, 1932)

Dr Elwood C Rowsey

MEMORIAL TO DR. HENRY J. DOERMAN

Dr. Henry J. Doerman understood the proper blending of those qualities that make for life's perfect good -- the qualities referred to by the poet as "The New Trinity" -- Bread, Beauty and Brotherhood.

Some years ago, my dear friend, Edwin Markham autographed for me a copy of his GATES OF PARADISE. Under a little poem entitled "An Epitaph," he wrote these lines: - "Hoping, Elwood, to meet you some day on the road that points toward the Gates of Paradise. It was appropriately written under the lines that Markham himself suggests for his tombstone.

They are appropriate lines for this occasion: -

"Let us not think of our departed dead
As caught and cumbered in these graves of earth;
But think of death as of another birth,
As a new freedom for the wings outspread,
A new adventure waiting on ahead,
As a new joy of more ethereal mirth,
As a new world with friends of nobler worth,
Where all may taste a more immortal bread.

"So, comrades, if you pass my grave sometime
Pause long enough to breathe this little rhyme:
"Here now the dust of Edwin Markham lies,
But lo, he is not here: he is afar
On life's great errands under mightier skies,
And pressing on toward some melodious star."

The man, the memory of whose mighty works call us into session today is on life's great errands under mightier skies, pressing on toward some melodious star.

Dr. Doerman did not know all the secrets of life, but he knew well that life revealed itself through the Individual and through the Institution.

He knew the value and the virtue of the Individual's liberty, and he was just as keenly conscious of the Individual's responsibility to the Social Order. He knew that no Institution could be stronger than the weakest Individuals in it. Those who lived in the presence of his dynamic personality could say with Edna St. Vincent Millay: -

"Come now, be content,
For I have grown just a little taller
Than when I want."

Many individuals, institutions and communities have grown taller because of the days spent in his presence, and because of the planning of his active mind. He planned his work, but better still, he worked his plan. He could never see the value of creeds that could not be translated into deeds. Not words, but work, was the secret of his multiple interests and many accomplishments. His dream was of the immortal bread of nobler destinies ahead. His passion was to improve the "aimless, unthinking, with their souls unfed" -- those who had no light before their feet, no star to guide.

Dr. Doerman was interested in building, but his chief interest was in building men. Five weeks ago, I was discussing with him buildings that are completed on this campus, and buildings that he hoped to see erected here. He was interest in the buildings, but he was more interested in the students that occupy the buildings. He always view the buildings in their proper light, as a means to an end. He quoted these lines from my favorite poet: -

(Manmaking)

"We all are blind until we see
That in the human plan
Nothing is worth the making if
It does not make the man

Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilded goes?
In vain we build the world, unless
The builder also grows."

His capacity for work, his vision, his courage, his sense of justice and good will -- his keen intellect, his indomitable will and his capacity to feel, qualified him as an unquestioned leader.

Speaking for the Chief Executive of this city, I express his sense of sorrow and gratitude -- his sorrow that at so early an age Dr. Doerman should be transferred from Toledo University by the forces that act without asking questions, -- his gratitude that the citizens of this city have learned to know the qualities of life exhibited by Henry J. Doerman.

It is the Mayor's request that the spirit of Dr. Doerman continue to live in the lives of the students who love him and honor him at this hour. He has left an indelible mark upon the lives of many. Joy and victory attend him on the long roads ahead!