

DR. MAUDE E. ABBOTT

It sometimes happens, though but rarely, that one person's name is associated with a branch of medical science to such a degree that to name the one is at once to think of the other. More rarely still is this true in two fields of endeavour. But the mere mention of congenital heart disease or the International Association of Medical Museums anywhere on this continent or beyond the seas is enough to bring to the mind the name of Maude Abbott. Through the long series of the Bulletins of this Association, from the earliest which appeared in 1907 down to the last number the guiding hand and the amazing energy of Dr. Abbott are apparent. From the very inception of the Association she has been secretary, treasurer, and editor of the Bulletin. During these thirty-one years she has not missed a meeting. Indeed a meeting of the Association without "Maude" as the central point round which everything revolves would be like witnessing the play of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.

Only those who have served for many years on the Council of the Association can have any idea of the energy, the enthusiasm, the loving care which she has devoted to its welfare and to the task of maintaining the high standard of the Bulletin. The department of exchanges, the section

on congenital heart disease, the writing of editorials, these are only a few of the features which she has made her own. It would be difficult to say whether the international aspect of the Association or the section on cardiac anomalies which forms so conspicuous a feature of the Bulletin has been dearer to her heart. The large membership of the Association itself is due in no small measure to Dr. Abbott's power of infecting others with her own keenness and enthusiasm.

The time has come when she feels that she must lay down the heavy burden of editorship, and that task is now in the capable hands of Dr. Robert A. Moore, but the editorial board is still to have the assistance of Dr. Abbott's wisdom and experience, and she remains the secretary-treasurer of the Association.

It is easy to catalogue a worker's objective activities; it is much more difficult to express in words the subjective qualities which go to make up personality. Dr. Abbott's personality is as outstanding as her work for the Bulletin and the Association, but only those who have been brought in contact with her warm heart, her unselfishness, her enthusiasm for everything connected with the best in medical science, her reverence for her hero, Sir William Osler, can fully appreciate the imponderable qualities which have made her such a power and an inspiration.

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Editor of the Journal of Technical Methods and Bulletin of the
International Association of Medical Museums during the years
1907-1938