

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Brunel Hawes was Professor of Medicine at the King Edward VII College of Medicine (now the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Singapore) from 1927 to 1941. This was perhaps the best period in the history of the Medical School because it was small enough for the students to be influenced by their teachers. Of these Hawes was easily the most outstanding. He inspired his students and his colleagues by his forthrightness, his clinical acumen and his human approach. When the University of Singapore awarded him an honorary M.D. his old students arranged for him to come over to Singapore to receive the award in person because they felt they were themselves being honoured by the award. Since he only stayed for two weeks it was not possible for him to visit all the towns of Malaya but wherever he went his old students and colleagues gathered to honour him. During this visit he pointed out the need for maintaining high academic standards and expressed his approval of the Medical School because he found amongst the staff a "divine discontent"; the danger, he said, was in being "satisfied."

His students, his colleagues and his patients will mourn an irreplaceable loss to the cause of medicine and of humanity.

B. R. Sreenivasan
