

John Dyson

Transcription of Obituary in Minutes of Methodist Conference

Born at Bumhope, Co. Durham, in 1876. Converted in his early teens, he quickly revealed in the small village church of his birthplace his ability and spiritual earnestness. His lively interest in the young people and his powers of expression persuaded the Leaders to nominate him for the Plan of Shotley Bridge Circuit.

Because of his success in this wider sphere he was sent forward in 1901 as a Candidate for the Ministry. His desire had been to enter Hartley College and to have the privilege of the guidance of Dr. Peake, but this opportunity was denied him, and Conference sent him straight into circuit work at Saffron Walden.

His probation period was spent there and then his native North claimed him and he never left it throughout his ministry. When Coxhoe was merged in the amalgamated Thornley Circuit he remained there and served altogether nine years and completed his active ministry amid many signs of the deep affection with which he was regarded. Indeed, in all his circuits few men have been so greatly beloved by the people.

He was a faithful minister in every aspect of the Ministry. He read widely and gave to his people the best of his mind and heart in the interpretation of the Gospel. He had a special genius for pastoral contacts. He knew his people intimately in their homes and they felt his warm, Christlike humanity and genuine goodness of heart.

As a colleague he was a true comrade of his brethren, of unfailing helpfulness and abiding fidelity. He possessed a quiet humour which made him an attractive companion. On retirement to Sunderland in 1944 after forty-three years' active ministry, he assisted in the work of the Sans Street Mission at Herrington Street in place of a second minister who had been withdrawn. Then he was appointed Free Church Chaplain to the General Hospital where he exercised a truly great pastoral ministry among the patients. He was known throughout Sunderland as a man of perfect sympathetic understanding of the needs of sick and elderly people.

It was in this hospital that on Sunday morning, 21st May 1950, he was seized with sudden illness on commencing his visitation and immediately died. He was on duty to his last hour of life. He went straight from his Master's service into his Master's immediate presence.

His forty-eight years of ministry have left a rich deposit in the heart and memory of the Methodist Church in the North. Many are within it because of his preaching and influence, and many who have served with him bear witness to the noble quality of his Christian character and the uttermost devotion of his ministry.

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References

Methodist Minutes 1950/151

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock