

Ernest Smith

Transcription of Obituary in Minutes of Methodist Conference

Born at Hull in 1881. He entered the Primitive Methodist Ministry in 1906. He received his training at Hartley College. In all his circuits he laboured unceasingly to win a verdict for the Master. His ministry was rich in every way. As a preacher, his outstanding gifts of exposition enabled him to bring from the Word of God ' treasures old and new '.

He read widely. His judgement of men and affairs was discerning. His keen interest in art and his knowledge of history enabled him to set forth the truth in telling fashion. As a pastor he was greatly beloved, his gracious personality endearing him to all.

It was a great sorrow to him that ill-health necessitated retirement when he might have anticipated further years of service, but his fortitude in the limited service he was able to render in the Bournemouth (Punshon Memorial) Circuit was impressive.

To those privileged to be with him in the closing months of his life, the experience was almost too sacred for words. Isaac Watts's words, quoted by John Wesley in a similar situation, ' I'll praise my Maker while I've breath ' aptly expresses his own desire.

He passed peacefully to the Homeland on 7th September 1949, in his sixty-ninth year and the forty-fourth of his ministry.

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References

Methodist Minutes 1950/124

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock