I

OBITUARY

DR. E. R. TOWNLEY CLARKSON, M.A.Camb., M.R.C.S.

IT is with the deepest regret that we inform our readers of the death in May, 1939, of Dr. E. R. Townley Clarkson, Hon. Secretary of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases since its formation in June, 1922, and one of the co-editors of this Journal since its inception in 1925.

Although taking up medicine comparatively late in life he speedily took a prominent place in the campaign against venereal diseases which he held until his recent illness. Dr. Clarkson brought into his medical and scientific circles a wealth of classical knowledge, an unfailing courtesy and a broad vision which was a constant surprise to those who were unaware that for many years prior to taking up medicine he was a deacon of the Church of England.

Some of Dr. Clarkson's oldest friends will remember him as a demonstrator of anatomy and coach at Cambridge. Many an undergraduate, whose knowledge of anatomy was somewhat sketchy, used to resort to Dr. Clarkson's rooms when a demonstration that the "peritoneum is a closed sac," with a sheet and a number of solid articles, solved for them an apparently insoluble problem.

His great interest in the social aspects of venereal diseases was expressed by his serving on the executive and medical committees of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and later in his allegiance to the National Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases.

Of the clinical aspects of venereal diseases he had a wide experience, having held posts at the West London Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, and the

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London Hospital, where he was recognised as a sound clinician and an excellent teacher. He was also the author of "The Venereal Clinic."

The many contributors to this Journal will recall vividly Dr. Clarkson's tact, encouragement, and kindly criticism and help over a period of many years.

All who were associated with him will remember his geniality and sincerity, which were unchanging.