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In Memoriam

Ella B. Everitt, M.D.

Born, November 26, 1866
Died, January 24, 1922

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DR. ELLA B. EVERITT.
EDITORIAL AND TRIBUTE OF THE FACULTY

On January 24, 1922, so suddenly that we can scarcely yet realize the tragic truth, a gifted and valued life was cut short in our midst, and our Faculty was bereft of one of its oldest and most devoted members. The shock of Dr. Everitt's instant death, in an accident to her automobile, scarcely a block from the College Hospital, remains with us today as poignantly as on that fatal date now more than a month ago.

For twenty years Dr. Everitt gave tirelessly of her time and energy to her Alma Mater. We who have worked with her—students, professional colleagues, friends—find words singularly inadequate to express the significance of our association with her. Until we realized that she was gone we were hardly aware of our dependence upon her for the meeting and solving of many current problems.

The Faculty of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, on February 10, 1922, spread upon the minutes of its meeting the following resolution:

In the death of our colleague, Dr. Ella B. Everitt, we, the members of the Faculty of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, desire to record our sense of loss.

During the twenty years of her connection with the College she proved her unswerving loyalty to her Alma Mater. As a
teacher she consistently maintained the high standard of her department, stressing the importance of gynecology to women in medicine. Her relations with her students were not limited to the class-room and her interest in their religious life was deep and sincere.

Her services were of inestimable value in the founding and development of the College Hospital, in the success of which her achievements have always been a powerful factor.

The Faculty will miss from its counsels Dr. Everitt’s clear insight and her unusual ability to grasp and formulate the salient points of an issue.

Be it therefore resolved that this minute be spread upon the records of the Faculty.

We dedicate this number of our College Bulletin to a brief and all too incomplete record of Dr. Everitt’s achievements and personality. What we have failed to express others will here say for us, for throughout city and state a host of friends are today in sorrow through the loss of her who was to them the beloved physician.

A TRIBUTE FROM THE BOARD OF CORPORATORS

WHEREAS Dr. Ella B. Everitt, Professor of Gynecology of the College Faculty since 1902, and Chief Gynecologist on the staff of the Hospital since 1903, was instantly killed in an automobile accident on January 24, 1922, the Board of Corporators desire to place upon their minutes the expression of their sense of loss and of their appreciation of the long period of Dr. Everitt’s service in this institution.

Herself a graduate of this College, her interest in its progress was unfailing and her belief in its future was unaltering. Her high professional attainments were not due alone to her unusual capacity and skill, but also to her strong personality and tireless energy, encouraging the students of the College by her example as well as by her teaching in habits of industry and zeal in preparing themselves for their chosen calling.
A TRIBUTE FROM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF CORPORATORS

By Lucretia M. B. Mitchell
Secretary of the Board, 1905-1917.

As a member of the Board of Corporators of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1902, when Dr. Everitt was elected to fill the Chair of Gynecology in the College, I have always been glad to have had the privilege of adding one voice in the choice of an incumbent to that Chair.

In her new office Dr. Everitt was no disappointment to the College. She brought all the enthusiasm for hard work that was expected of her, and fulfilled all the promise of upholding the high standard of her profession.

She was an inspiration to the whole student body, in her physical and mental vigor, in her loyalty to truth as she saw it, and in her strict adherence to duty.

The College may always be proud that it could offer to its students (the many young aspirants to the medical degree) the opportunity to sit under the direction of such a woman, who exemplified in a remarkable degree in her own life what she stressed in teaching; for in this lay Dr. Everitt's power, that the high ideals she held for others she herself kept.

AN APPRECIATION

By Clara Marshall, M.D.
Dean, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1888-1917.

When, in 1902, the Corporators of the College selected Dr. Ella B. Everitt for the Chair of Gynecology, she brought to that department a mind well-trained, a splendid physique, a forceful personality, unusual surgical skill and—the teaching gift.

Professor Everitt was what might be called a good Faculty worker, concerning herself actively with the problems presented at our monthly meetings. Since she had the gift of expression, both verbal and written, her activity frequently took tangible form either in clear and forceful speech or in well-written papers.

When, in 1903, an interregnum occurred in the Department of Obstetrics, pending the arrival from Vienna of the new incum-
bent, Dr. Edith W. Cadwallader, Professor Everitt's executive ability was brought into most efficient service during her temporary conduct of the department.

Later, when the College was confronted with the urgent need for a hospital for men, women and children, under the teaching control of the Faculty, Professor Everitt's administrative experience in three different hospitals was again brought into requisition. She gave valuable assistance in planning the "temporary hospital" opened in September, 1904.

This new venture was to Professor Everitt at once an opportunity and a vital interest. She naturally gravitated to the chairmanship of the Faculty Committee on Hospital, and afterward, when the building of the permanent structure was undertaken, she was added to the membership of the Building Committee appointed by the Board of Managers.

The aforesaid Managers, originally in charge of Barton Dispensary only (then at 1207 S. Third Street and known by the brief title of "The Hospital and Dispensary of the Alumnae of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania"), were in possession of a charter which gave them hospital privileges. Through a merger these privileges were transferred to the College, and the Managers were put in charge of the new undertaking, including the maternity on Washington Avenue.

Being made up of a goodly proportion of non-medical women or of medical women who were inexperienced in hospital administration, it was with caution and by degrees that the Board of Managers assumed their full duties and authority. It was during this transition period and under these unusual circumstances that Professor Everitt was for a time, in truth if not in name, Medical Director of the Main Department of the College Hospital.

The establishment of the Hospital immediately brought with it financial responsibility, including the question of State aid. Professor Everitt wrote the "Application to the Board of Public Charities for State Aid," which able paper formed a part of the "Statement of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Support of its Application for State Aid," a printed document prepared by the Corporators for presentation to the Legislature of 1905.

Professor Everitt was a member of every committee appearing before the Board of Public Charities or the Legislative Committee on Appropriations during my connection with the College.
For her colleagues, students, patients and friends time may soften the shock caused by the tragic ending of such a life, cut short of its full fruition; but for her students during the twenty years of her connection with the College, the helpful memory of her clear, concise, and thorough instruction in the lecture-room and her brilliant and successful work in the clinical amphitheatre, this memory will endure.

A TRIBUTE FROM THE HOSPITAL STAFF

We, the members of the Staff of the Hospital of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, wish to express the sense of personal loss which has come to us in the death of our colleague, Dr. Ella B. Everitt, Gynecologist-in-Chief to the Hospital.

We recall with deep appreciation Dr. Everitt's active interest in the founding of the Hospital, the time and thought which she gave to the plans for the construction of the building and her careful attention to the practical details of its equipment and management.

We recognize that to her skill and success as an operator is due in large measure the high position which the Hospital holds in medical circles. We remember that the last hour of her life was given to its service.

At the time of her death Dr. Everitt was President of the Staff and its representative at the meetings of the Associate Hospital Board. In our years of association with her we had come to rely on her sane judgment, her wise counsel and her unusual knowledge of hospital administration. Her last contribution to the efficiency of the Hospital was the development and inauguration of a plan for scientific meetings of the Staff.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE

WHEREAS, In the sudden death of Dr. Ella B. Everitt, Gynecologist-in-Chief to the Hospital of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, this institution has sustained an immeasurable loss; be it

Resolved, That this Associate Board here record its appreciation of the devoted service she has so faithfully rendered since the
organization of this Hospital, and our profound sense of sorrow
that her beautiful and useful life has thus been closed; and be
it further

Resolved, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of
this Board.

A TRIBUTE FROM THE STUDENTS OF THE WOMAN'S
MEDICAL COLLEGE

When the news of Dr. Everitt's death came to the students it
brought with it a sense of unreality. It seemed impossible to
conceive of our College and Hospital without her. It is only as
we have come to realize how ever-present will be the influence of
that triumphant personality in our College and in our individual
lives that our sense of loss merges into a deep gratitude for the
privilege of having known and loved her, and into a firmer deter-
mination to live true to that high calling which was hers and
which will be ours as women physicians.

Dr. Everitt's professional attainments need no comment. As
a keen diagnostician, a skilful surgeon, and a careful physician, she
was a constant inspiration. Those of us who knew her in the
capacity of patients knew well that she was much more than
physician to the body, and that her devotion to her work was but
a part of the dedication of her whole life to the deep faith which
was the source of her power.

Like every true teacher she ever held us to her own high stand-
ards, and knew well the secret of expecting the best from her
students. The friendly interest she took in anything affecting the
welfare of her students, the personal help she gave so gladly when
needed, and the searching knowledge of each student that she
gained so quickly were a constant wonder to us, when we consider
the multiplicity of her interests. We admire the fulness of her
life, her remarkable breadth of interest, and her ability to bring
to each of the varied objects to which she gave herself the same
sincerity and whole-hearted devotion which characterized her
medical work.

Deeply conscious of the rare value of her life, we feel strongly
our unique opportunity as her students to "carry on" its influence
and to accept as our standard that high idealism which she
embodied.
A REMINISCENCE

By Mary Riggs Noble, M.D.

It was my great good fortune to serve my internship in the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia under Dr. Ella B. Everitt. Her leadership guided us through a year of the most useful kind of preparation for professional work, and I feel sure that as a particularly happy interne group we recognized her ability to make the training most telling. She made a "superior officer," to whom we owed inexpressible gratitude. Her skill as a surgeon and as a diagnostician, particularly in her specialty, gynecology, stood out before us as a great stimulation to our lesser talents and spurred our ambitions. Her ward routine and her insistence on prompt, correct and minute history-taking were of great value. I have always counted myself happy to have had what she gave the internes who were fortunate enough to serve under her as "Chief."

A TRIBUTE

By President Ethelbert D. Warfield,
Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa.

Dr. Ella B. Everitt graduated from Wilson College with the class of 1888. Her college course was marked by those qualities which made her career so distinguished. She was an earnest student, of excellent capacity and the highest ideals. Her work was always well done and the purpose in her work was clearly defined as a preparation for the practice of medicine and the service of humanity.

She early exhibited a great interest in the welfare of the College as an alumna, and when provision was made for the election of alumna trustees it was natural that she should be chosen as the first member of the Board elected upon the nomination of the Alumnae Association.

She brought into the Board a loyal devotion to the College, which carefully discriminated between the mere enthusiasm of college memories and the deeper realization of a college's true worth and purpose. None knew better than she that Wilson College could not fulfil its destiny nor do its work without constantly improved educational standards and increased endowment.
Many questions with reference to the future of the College were under discussion when she entered the Board in June, 1909. These affected especially the organization of the curriculum and the maintenance of a definite Christian character. In both of these matters she represented a position which is often spoken of as conservative; but on neither question was Dr. Everitt to be regarded as conservative. In whatever she did she was progressive. Conservatism for her meant the building on a sound foundation, not the being content with what the past had achieved. She worked vigorously for a better college and a more fully realized Christian life and thought.

Among the specific matters which she was deeply interested in was the provision in the College for courses which should thoroughly prepare students for admission to the best medical colleges, and in this connection to maintain as the basis of such education, thorough study of Latin and mathematics, because of their value in the training of students to work and to think. She knew that no education is worth while which does not teach students to think and to think straight. She also appreciated the fact that the subject matter of thought must be of a high plain, and that thinking must be systematic and lead to the acquisition of a sound and extensive body of knowledge.

Dr. Everitt was greatly interested in the election of Dr. McKeag to the presidency, and after Dr. McKeag resigned, in 1911, was herself invited to become president of the College. She rightly appreciated that her position in the practice of medicine and the professorship which she not only occupied but thoroughly filled at the Woman's Medical College, her Christian work in Philadelphia and her service to the Board of Foreign Missions constituted a body of obligations too great for her to leave for the administrative duties of a college presidency. She continued on the Board, and, having been elected a life member, actively cooperated in the various movements for the increase of the endowment, the extension of the curriculum and the increase of the student body which have marked the rapid development of the College in the past seven years.

Wilson College cordially appreciated Dr. Everitt's services and ideals. No one has more fully represented the purpose of the founders and the development of the College. A confident trust in the indispensable value of the severer mental discipline represented by the classics, mathematics and the sciences, of the neces-
sity of a definite and high purpose in life, and a realization that a useful life is best built upon a high Christian faith, were as characteristic of her as they have been of the College from its foundation. She never wavered or temporized. In every time of difficulty she insisted on courageous pressing on toward the highest goal. She believed that in this age provision should be made for the higher education of women, and that, no matter how great obstacles were encountered, eventually generous men and women would adequately provide for the endowment of a Christian college of the highest intellectual standards. It was in the unfa]tering support of such ideals, through a membership of more than twelve years on the Board of Trustees, that Dr. Everitt rendered to Wilson College a service the value of which cannot be adequately expressed.

A TRIBUTE FROM A MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN LEAGUE

By Mary C. Peacock

It was in 1915, at the close of the Sunday campaign in Philadelphia. In many sections of the city business women were asking for intensive Bible study groups. The Tenth Presbyterian Church, at Seventeenth and Spruce Streets, was chosen as the location of one of them. We wondered whether the busy professional woman who was already a leader of Bible study in the church could add another to her many activities. She could! And so she came among us.

In April of that year the Business Women's Christian League was formed. The members of Dr. Everitt's Bible Class became charter-members of the League. Dr. Everitt was made a director of the organization and later its president. In 1920, the League became a branch of the Young Women's Christian Association of Philadelphia, Dr. Everitt continuing as chairman of the Committee of Management of the branch, and serving also as a member of the City Board of the Young Women's Christian Association.

At a meeting of the membership of the city association, a few days after her tragic death, a portion of the time was given to
an appreciation of the service she had rendered. To quote from the minute:

For seven years, almost without fail, Dr. Everitt met her Bible-study group every Thursday night. In spite of the many demands upon her time, she followed every detail of the activities of the League and the League Branch with the closest interest. She was never too busy for the personal word which made even those members who seldom saw her feel that they had lost a friend, when the news of her death came.

The most that we can do is to accept the challenge that the quality of her life and her home-going hold out to those of us who count ourselves favored in having known her.

To quote from the words of a friend and fellow-worker: "We loved her." The words sum up our loss, for love knows the secret of grief.

Not for her splendid mental gifts, nor yet her marked balance and poise in hours of stress, nor her almost absolute sense of justice that made her the rare leader she was; nor for any or all of these, nor for the radiance of her spiritual vision, nor for the liveliness of her humanism, but for her own self we loved her.

Her going is a challenge to our powers of service; to our love for the Master she so loved; to our faithfulness to the cause to which she gave herself so generously.

A secretary who had been closely associated with Dr. Everitt said:

With all the demands made upon her time she gave herself unstintingly in her work with the League to bring greater fulness of life and thought to Philadelphia's young women.

Those who knew her in the Association work are hoping to glimpse the things that are most worth while from the newer vantage point that is hers.
POEM

Who dreamed she stood on the threshold
   Of the larger life above,
As all unaware, she wrought with care,
   Her commonest deeds of love?

To think, that in just a moment,
   Her hands that were laden so,
Should loosen their clasp, and be stretched to grasp
   The treasures unseen below.

How radiant, vivid and royal
   Her impress upon us all.
The deeds that she wrought, and her constant thought,
   Like benedictions fall.

Love’s flower of memory tender,
   I drop at her vacant place,
She is just away with her Lord today,
   Beholding Him face to face.

JULIA H. JOHNSTON.