Obituary

DR. CASEY WOOD

The death of Casey Albert Wood on January 26, 1942, at the great age of 85 is announced. He was born in Canada in 1856 and took his M.D. from Bishop's College, Montreal, in 1877. In those far off days he was one of Osler's clinical clerks at McGill, and the friendship between them lasted until Osler's death.

Casey Wood started practice in Montreal as a physician, but he was always interested in ophthalmology and in 1886 he left Montreal and spent some years in post graduate work in England and on the Continent. In 1890 he settled in Chicago and rapidly developed a large ophthalmic practice. He was professor of ophthalmology at Northwestern University in 1900, and from 1904-1925 at the University of Illinois. Casey Wood was a prolific author. Besides a great many papers of clinical interest he was an editor of the American Encyclopaedia of Ophthalmology and also of a system of ophthalmic operations. But probably his best known work was done in comparative ophthalmology; the fundus oculi of Birds came out in 1917 and later he issued a large quarto "introduction to the literature of vertebrate zoology," a copy of which, a present from the author, is one of the writer's treasured possessions. He was a generous benefactor to McGill, and the "introduction" referred to above, is practically a list of all the works on this subject there, many of them donated by himself.

After retirement from active practice Casey Wood spent much of his time abroad and worked in Rome at the Vatican Library. His scholarly translation of Benevenutus Grassus on the eye, and the memorandum book of Jesus Hali are well known. His knowledge of the history of ophthalmology was most extensive, while the Blacker Library of Zoology and the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology at McGill are a lasting memorial of his generosity and ability. His ophthalmological collections also went to McGill Medical Library, and he was the donor of some valuable oriental manuscripts to the Osler Library. McGill gave him the degree of M.D. in 1905 and LL.D. in 1922.

An obituary notice of Casey Wood appeared in the March number of the Canadian Medical Association Journal and to it we are indebted for most of the facts recorded here. At the same time we may state that the writer has been acquainted with Casey Wood for certainly the past 15 years, and has been indebted to him for much friendly correspondence, reprints and books.