

OBITUARY

EMERITUS PROFESSOR EDWARD FAWCETT

Edward Fawcett was born in 1867 and graduated M.B., C.M. at Edinburgh in 1889. He was demonstrator in anatomy in the school of medicine for two years before he qualified. He obtained his M.D. (Thesis Gold Medal) in 1906 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1923 because of his work in embryology.

Dr. Fawcett came to Bristol as Professor of Anatomy in University College in 1893. He became Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 1905, and held that post until 1934. Thus many generations of students came to know him, and to appreciate his real concern for their welfare, as well as his insistence on a high standard of performance and conduct. He was an outstanding teacher, and was interested in the students' games, as he himself excelled at both cricket and golf.

When the University Spelæological Society was formed in 1919 Dr. Fawcett became its President, and presented to the Society the hut which, with additions, has been its Burrington home ever since. He took a keen interest in the work of the Society, especially in the human remains which were unearched. He delivered a Presidential address every year, and always presided at the fortnightly meetings held in the University. His work for the Society was of the greatest value in securing its recognition as a serious scientific body in its early days, and great regret was felt when he resigned the presidency in 1936.

He was not only a distinguished anatomist, but had many other interests; in particular he was a keen student of ecclesiastical architecture, on which he was an authority, and in his later years published many papers on this and cognate subjects.

After his retirement from the Professorship of Anatomy he retained the use of a small laboratory at the University in which he continued his research work. Unfortunately this room, containing all his scientific apparatus and a considerable amount of material, including his large collection of lantern slides, was destroyed in a fire due to enemy action. This was a severe blow, but he faced it, and, beginning again with improvised apparatus, continued his anatomical and archæological work.

He was always a keen and energetic cyclist, and only a few days before his death had ridden fifty miles to photograph churches for the National Society for the Care of Churches, for he was an excellent photographer as well as a good draughtsman.

He died suddenly, after a morning spent in working on local records, on September 22, 1942.