

Edwin John Doty

December 9, 1903 — March 19, 1948

Edwin J. Doty, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Cornell University Medical College, died on March 19, 1948, at the age of 45. Dr. Doty's death brought to an end a promising and productive career in clinical psychiatry. He was known as an outstanding clinician, and brought to his clinical work unusual training and skill in clinical neurology, clinical psychiatry, and psychoanalysis. His outstanding personality traits were particularly suitable for the practice of his specialty; unflinching kindness, thoughtfulness, sympathy and warmth for people, broad cultural erudition, and a delightful sense of quiet humor. He had unusual intuition into human problems, and the greatest of warmth for troubled people.

Dr. Doty received his medical training at the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1929. During his years in medical school he served as an assistant in anatomy and in internal medicine. During the year following graduation he remained as an instructor in anatomy. He then undertook his internship in medicine at the Peter Brent Brigham Hospital, Boston. Following this he began his formal training in psychiatry, first at the University of Michigan Psychiatric Hospital, then at the Westchester Division of the New York Hospital, and subsequently for two years at the Payne Whitney Clinic of the New York Hospital. Following this intensive training in psychiatry, he undertook training in clinical neurology at the Neurological Institute of New York. In 1937 he returned to the Payne Whitney Clinic as resident psychiatrist. In 1940 he became Associate Attending Psychiatrist, and in July 1947 Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Cornell and Associate Attending Psychiatrist, New York Hospital.

For a number of years Dr. Doty acted as main consultant to the various departments of the New York Hospital. Here his combined talents proved most effective, and he accomplished much in the inter-relation of Psychiatry with the other divisions of medicine in the Hospital. He was particularly effective at this because of his sound background in internal medicine as well as neurology. He was an outstanding diagnostician, and an excellent teacher. He was particularly beloved by all the staff members of the New York Hospital, and the sorrow at his death is shared by an extensive circle of psychiatric and non-psychiatric colleagues and former students. Dr. Doty was the psychiatric consultant for several years to the medical students of Cornell and to the Cornell-New York Hospital School of Nursing.

In addition to these attributes, Dr. Doty possessed a wide knowledge of psychiatric literature and creative ability in psychiatric research. He organized a system of indexing of psychiatric records of great value, which has been adopted by other psychiatric centers. He made real contributions to our knowledge of depressive states and the psychiatric problems of ageing.

Dr. Doty's death came at the very peak of his professional and personal success. Within the year he had married; he had undertaken the part-time practice of psychiatry with every promise of a successful and active practice. He had achieved his academic goal of professorial rank. His death, coming at the very fulfillment of his life goals, brings particular sorrow to those hundreds of colleagues and friends who miss him and mourn him.

I. A. C. Rennie