

## Dr. V. E. A. BOWLEY

Victor Bowley died in June 1968 at the comparatively early age of 67, of a coronary thrombosis, shortly after the Fives Dinner at the Public Schools Club. His letter of regret, that he was unable to attend, on his doctor's advice, was read out at the dinner. He had not felt particularly well for some months, after a heart attack earlier in the year, but his family and friends had not expected his recent tragic death.

The present generation of fives players probably knows V. E. A. Bowley only from his name in this Handbook as a Vice-President of the Association and from the reference to him in the history of the Association as the first Honorary Secretary.

We were fortunate in having him as our Honorary Secretary in those early days for he was full of ideas and, although a busy man, he still found time, as such men usually do, to carry out the duties of his office with energy and enthusiasm. His reports at annual general meetings, written with wit and elegance, became, with Dr. Cyriax's coffee and cakes at Welbeck Street, an attractive feature of those occasions.

He was full of fun and lively comment. At the first dinner of the Association he produced the now classic story about his visit to the hairdresser. Thinking about fives and not about how he wanted his haircut he said, in reply to the barber's question, "How would you like it?," he replied "Half-way up and down the side!"

He was a good but not outstanding player who enjoyed the whole business so much that he spread his enjoyment to all those with whom he played; and he was an imperturbable and generous partner who would congratulate you on your good shots and apologise when he made a bad one, but he was no good at all at gamesmanship. From 1923 until the second World War in 1939 he was a regular member of the formidable Old Sinjuns side. In those years he must have played in most of the courts up and down the country.

Mention was made at his memorial service of his many and varied interests: a French scholar; his wide knowledge of English literature; his deep love of music—he played the piano and the organ; his success as a teacher, his chosen profession, both in school and later in university. He much preferred walking to motoring and wherever he was he was a great talker. A good companion to many; and a lovable friend.

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