

THE NEW YORK OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Royal C. Van Etten, one of our oldest members, died at his home in Ridgefield, Conn., on July 24, 1980 at the age of 94, from the changes of old age. He became a Fellow of this Society on January 11, 1921, and was one of the oldest in length of Fellowship.

Dr. Van Etten was born in Rhinebeck, N.Y. in 1886. He graduated from Amherst in 1906 at the age of 20, the first recorded instance of the speed and rapidity of movement which became his hallmark through the years. In 1910 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and taking the shortest distance between two points he went across the street to Roosevelt Hospital, where he took a two year Internship in Surgery. In 1912 he moved another shortest distance and began a one year Internship (as it was then) at Sloane, to be followed by the 3 year Residency which used to be the Glory of Sloane. Dr. Van Etten then entered private practice, serving on the Ward Services of Sloane and the teaching Staff of P&S. He continued on the Staff all of his life, becoming Team Chief and Attending, until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1952. He was then appointed Consultant to the Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Van Etten did not restrict himself to Sloane, which then became part of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center far uptown. He was an active member of the Staff in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Lenox Hill Hospital. He was made Chief of this Service in 1941 and retired in 1951.

Dr. Van Etten was a rapid and tireless worker in all that he did. He was always on call, and often arrived at the Hospital before his patients did. He took the best possible care of them, and his patients long after remember him with great affection.

He married Louise Greenfield and they had one Son, who died some years ago. Mrs Van Etten died a few months before her Husband, so that Dr. Van Etten is survived by 3 Grand-children and 4 great Grand-children.

Charles M. Steer

Charles M^l. Steer M.D.