

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY

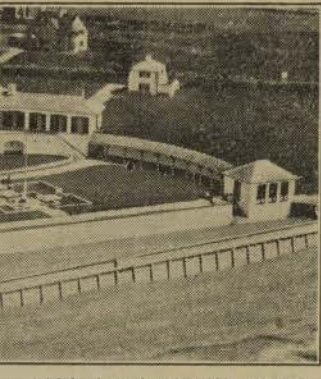
Obituary

ADMIRAL GRAYSON

PHYSICIAN TO THREE PRESIDENTS

Our Washington Correspondent telegraphs:—

The death early yesterday, at the age of 59, of Rear-Admiral Cary Travers Grayson, chairman of the American Red Cross since 1935, takes from the life of Washington and from the public activities of the United States one of those rare men who can unite vigorous action with the practice of an unerring personal discretion. This was not only demanded of him professionally, for he



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in connexion with its health services.

was attending physician to three Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, and Woodrow Wilson, but it was native to and inseparable from him.

Cary Grayson was a Virginian, which is to say he was a Southerner. But he was also a Southerner who had inherited and expressed that grace, ease, and personal charm which belonged to a day which had ended when he was born in 1878. If there lived in him, however, something of the past uncontaminated by the social and economic present, it was a tradition maintained because of his sense of its value and not as a symbol of any inherent provincialism. He was an American in the sense of that word which makes the best of this country, like the best of all others, the salt of the earth.

Whether he has left any ordered record of his experiences cannot yet be known. A man who had lived on terms of intimacy with Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, and who rarely left the side of Woodrow Wilson through the years which saw the coming of the War, the American entry into the camp of the Allies, the President's participation in the Peace Conference, and the slow approach of tragedy—such a man had much to tell and his anecdotes were the delight of his friends. He told nothing uncharitably, and would have set down nothing in malice, for a sort of wide, humorous tolerance dwelt in him. It would be sad to think that no permanent record should remain.

Since he accepted from his friend President Franklin Roosevelt appointment as chairman of the American Red Cross, he had given himself unsparingly. The great floods in the Eastern States in 1936, and the Ohio and Mississippi floods in 1937, tested him and found him tireless. But it was not great emergencies alone which moved him. He carried the Red Cross into the field of accident, and along with it, by force of example and practice, many Governmental and civic organizations.

Admiral Grayson will be buried to-morrow—a man who had deserved the gratitude of his country and the love of his friends.

Our New York Correspondent telegraphs:—

At the time of his death Grayson was chairman of the International League of Red Cross Societies. When President Wilson suffered an attack of paralysis in September, 1919, Grayson assumed responsibility for his continuing to maintain authority as President, and it was he who defeated a proposal made in secret by Mr. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, to place Mr. Thomas R. Marshall, the Vice-President, at the head of the Government. He flatly declined to certify that Wilson was "incapacitated." Later, when Wilson learned of Lansing's proposal, he forced the Secretary of State to resign. Meanwhile, allowing Wilson to work on occasion in two-hour periods, Grayson decided what matters the President must be told about, and Mrs. Wilson carried his reports to the President. When President Harding took office he ordered the Navy Department to instruct Grayson to remain in Washington so that he might continue to attend Mr. Wilson.