

We are saddened tonight because Death has again invaded the friendly circle of this Club. Last spring it was Ivor Hughes who was taken. Now at the closing of the year it is Claude Meeker. Mr. Hughes, always gracious and genial, was a charter member. Mr. Meeker, benignant, dignified, gentlemanly, was among the first to be elected to active membership. In the loss of men like these, we are comforted only by the memory of their perfect fellowship.

Mr. Hughes, who died April 20, 1929, at the age of eighty-two, was at that time the oldest member of the Columbus Bar Association. For fifty-six years he had here practiced law, making and maintaining an unsullied reputation. For fifteen of those years he was master commissioner of the Court of Common Pleas. One of his law partners was the late Charles C. Pavey, another of our Club members, and at one time its President.

Mr. Hughes found his diversion in the companionship of men. He was a member of York lodge of Masons, and of Junia lodge of Odd Fellows, and by each of these orders was elevated to posts of high honor. On the occasion of his 82nd birthday, he was signally honored by his Odd Fellow associates with a special meeting to which his friends outside of Odd Fellowship were invited. His response to the several tributes that were offered was memorable. It was marked by expressions of gratitude for the friendships that had enriched his years, of satisfaction with the past, and of courage to meet the future. His words, which all realized, might be his last public utterance were an exhortation to a life of loyalty to oneself and one's friends, and fell on the audience like a benediction.

*By Osamu Estep*

The last meeting of the Club attended by Mr. Hughes was that of January 15, 1929, when the life of Samuel Medary was under consideration. His contribution to the discussion, that evening, was a description of the Gahanna resistance to the draft during the Civil War, and its sudden collapse at the first show of military force. He never made the principal address at a Club meeting, preferring to take part in the subsequent discussion. That he did frequently, drawing on a long experience and a well-stored memory. His remarks were at times impassioned or full of sentiment, at other times humorous. No one more than he enjoyed a joke, and the memory of his shrill laughter rising above the general applause is still with us. He was not only companionable with his equals, but also exceptionally helpful of young men seeking an education. Living near one of the fraternity houses in the University district, he interested himself in the problems of the members, and by his kindly acts won their affection, being at last accorded the unusual distinction of election, as an elder brother, to honorary membership.

Mr. Hughes was a native of Wales, and a relative of Thomas Hughes, the famous English author and educator. He came as a boy with his father's family to the United States, living for a time in New Jersey, and later in Iowa, where he grew to young manhood, graduating in 1868 from the University of Iowa, and completing his law education at the University of Michigan.

To him, as a witness of and participant in the development of Columbus for more than fifty years, we pay the tribute of respect and admiration.