

Dr. Knighton, Sr. Dies Suddenly

Funeral Friday
For Well-Known
Physician, Civic Leader

Dr. J. E. Knighton, Sr., 79, of 923 Erie street, president of the Tri-State hospital, and an outstanding figure in medical, church and civic circles of Shreveport



Dr. J. E. Knighton, Sr.

since 1909, died suddenly at the Tri-State at 5 a. m. Thursday.

Dr. Knighton up until Tuesday morning had been enjoying apparently good health having been at his office daily, until that time. He was stricken with a heart attack and this resulted in his death early Thursday.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. at the First Baptist Church with Dr. M. E. Dodd, pastor, and the Rev. Rowland Crowder, associate pastor, officiating. Interment will be in Forest Park cemetery.

The body will remain at Osborn chapel until noon Friday when it will be taken to the church where it will lie in state until hour for services.

Active pallbearers will be Dr. J. C. Willis, Jr., Dr. R. R. Brown, Dr. T. E. Strain, Dr. O. O. Jones, P. Simmons and E. J. Dedman.

Honorary pallbearers will be staff members of Willis-Knighton Clinic and the Tri-State Hospital, members of the Shreveport Medical Society, the board of deacons and directors of the First Baptist Church.

Dr. Knighton is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mattie Duke Knighton; one son, Dr. J. E. Knighton; two daughters, Mrs. W. S. Kerlin and Mrs. Paul G. Annan, all of Shreveport; three grandchildren, Martha Annan, J. E. Knighton, Jr., and Ruth Carter Knighton, all of Shreveport; two sisters, Mrs. Y. M. Lyons and Mrs. Len Langston, both of Arcadia; one brother, D. W. Knighton of Homer.

Dr. Knighton's standing in the medical profession was pronounced. Besides doing post-graduate work in the clinics of Baltimore and Chicago, and at Tulane University medical school, specializing in the field of internal medicine in the latter institution in 1925, he attended clinics in England, Scotland, Ireland and France, thoroughly acquainting himself with the methods of practice in those countries.

Authored Many Medical Articles.

He was a frequent contributor to leading medical journals, and had written many articles on the medical profession and its history. Many of his papers have been strictly of a scientific nature.

He had long been identified with the American Medical Association and for many years served as governor for Louisiana on the board of the American College of Physicians, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1923.

In 1917 he was elected president of the Shreveport Medical Society. In 1920 he became president of the Tri-State Medical Society, and in 1922 was elected president of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

For six years he was counsellor from Louisiana to the Southern Medical Association, and served one term as second vice-president of the association. This body was organized and exists solely for scientific study. Throughout his whole career as a physician Dr. Knighton had diligently kept in touch with professional thought and research.

He served as president of the Southern Gastroenterological Society, which was later merged with the Southern Medical Association as its department of gastroenterology.

For a period of eight years he served a chief of the medical service of the Shreveport Charity hospital, and for two years was chairman of the consulting staff of the Pines Sanitarium, and served as chairman of the board of directors of the Caddo parish Anti-Tubercular Association, of which the Pines is a subsidiary.

Headed Hospital.

Dr. Knighton was president of the board of directors of the Tri-State Medical Journal, president of Tri-State Hospital, and chief of its medical staff as he also was of the Willis-Knighton Clinic.

During the world war he served as a member of the Caddo parish examining board and was a member of the Volunteer Service Medical Corps. For a period of 14 years he served as a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Knighton began the practice of medicine in Claiborne parish immediately following his graduation from the Medical School of the University of Nashville in 1899. On Jan. 1, 1900 he moved to Homer, where he carried on active practice until the latter part of 1908, when he retired for a season to take up postgraduate work in Baltimore and Chicago.

Moved Here In 1909.

Moving to Shreveport in 1909, he joined Dr. J. C. Willis, with whom he had been associated at Homer, and for several years they maintained offices in downtown Shreveport. Their practice grew steadily and other physicians were added to their staff.

In 1925 they established the Willis-Knighton Clinic on Margaret place, which they outgrew by 1928. Their next step was to take over the Tri-State Hospital to which they added their clinic. The hospital was purchased from the late Dr. L. H. Pirkle and T. E. Williams.

In addition to his activities in the medical profession, Dr. Knighton had always been a prominent figure in the First Baptist Church of Shreveport, in which he had long served as a member of the board of deacons.

Civically he was identified with the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, serving as a member of the directorate, and had been identified with the Rotary Club for a number of years.

In the early years of his medical

practice Dr. Knighton served as coroner of Claiborne parish, and also as parish health officer. He also served one term as a member of the parish school board and one term as a member of the city council while residing in Homer.

He was a native of Claiborne parish. His father settled in Louisiana soon after the end of the Civil War and engaged in farming. He also taught school for two years in Claiborne parish. After which he entered the Medical School of the University of Nashville from which he graduated and received his degree in medicine in 1899.

Dr. J. E. Knighton, Sr.

Dr. J. E. Knighton, Sr., brought into his long career a rich blend of service to the medical profession, to his community and his state and nation. The success which was his in the field of medicine was matched by outstanding contributions to the civic, religious and cultural life of Shreveport.

His unexpected death Thursday brought sorrow to those who knew him well. A man of action, a believer in deeds as well as words, Dr. Knighton nonetheless walked his way in serenity, calm, unassuming, always ready to offer friendliness. At the age of 79 he was alert, fresh of mind. Along the way, in his medical career, he had sifted out a formula for living which was envied by more hurried, less serene acquaintances.

The honors which came to him in the realm of medicine were many, too numerous to list in detail here. They came to him over the marching years and were an evidence that since the time he started practice just before the turn of the century, in Claiborne parish, he kept abreast of advancing thought in his profession.

Since 1909, when he came to Shreveport, his name has often been listed among leaders in civic enterprises. The clinic of which he was a co-founder, and the hospital of which he was co-owner, have had a part in maintaining our city's position as a medical center.

A life well-lived, filled with an interest in his fellowmen and desire to serve them, was that of Dr. Knighton. He will be missed by friends far and near, gathered through the years, and they join The Times in extending to his bereaved family sincere condolences.