

Courtenay Church Loses Beloved Parishoner



Dr. Tillman A. Briggs

On Sunday evening, April 20, in St. Peter's Parish Hall death came suddenly to Dr. Tillman A. Briggs of Courtenay. Surrounded by his Brother Knights after having witnessed the exemplification of the Second and Third-Degrees, listening to the closing remarks of his Bishop, the doctor collapsed and died. Needless to say that the members of the Knights of Columbus who were present are still in a daze. The last Rites were administered by Monsignor Baker in the presence of the Bishop and the other clergy present.

Doctor Briggs was born in Victoria in 1886. He attended the public schools and after graduation enrolled at McGill University as a medical student. After graduation he interned at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. After serving his internship he came back to Victoria and served as house physician at St. Joseph's. He remained there until the War and then joined the Medical Corps, serving overseas in France and Belgium under General Pearkes. He won the Military Cross which was conferred by King George. After the War he came to Courtenay where he started a practice which lasted until his death.

Funeral services were held at Canadian Martyrs Church on Saturday morning, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. A Requiem High Mass was sung by the pastor, Father Tunner coram Episcopo. In the sanctuary

were Monsignor Baker, Very Rev. G. Penfold, Rev. John Penfold, Rev. Wm. Bulloch, Rev. Fr. Rachford, Rev. Reg. McNeill, R.C.A.F., Fr. Lehane was present for the prayers the night before. His Excellency preached an inspiring sermon in which he praised the sterling qualities and catholicity of the doctor. The Bishop also gave the absolution.

A most unusual honor was conferred upon Dr. Briggs. Having been instrumental in having the K. of C. established here in Courtenay, he applied for acceptance into the Fourth Degree and was accepted. The ceremony was to take place next September. And for the first time in the history of the K. of C. has the Fourth Degree been conferred posthumously.

Fourth Degree members were present to act as honor guard, from Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

The Courtenay Council at their meeting conferred another honor upon their first Grand Knight by voting unanimously to have their new council called the Doctor Briggs Council. We know that his untiring service towards his church and the newly formed Council will live long in the memory of the Courtenay people. Our departed friend was an honor to his profession; he was skilful and conscientious; but even greater praise for him is the tribute of tears devoted to his memory by many a poor man, many a poor woman, who can testify to the kindness of heart of this good man. May he rest in peace.