

November 1952

IN MEMORIAM

And In Thanks



Two years ago, on November 16th, 1950, R. H. S., died in Akron, Ohio.

It was Thursday, close to noontime, one week before what would have been his 71st Thanksgiving Day.

It was fifteen years and five months after his own last drink...and it was fifteen years and five months in which he had personally ministered as friend and teacher and physician to 5,000 alcoholics.

To each of them he was simply "Doctor Bob." And to history he will be "Co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous." And to Bill he is "The Prince of Twelfth Steppers"...and "The Rock Upon Which AA Is Founded"...and simply "Smitty."

He met death serenely, for he had to the fullest given himself to life. He left the rich gifts of simplicity and love and service.

We who have followed him in The Way Out give him thanks anew for the message he so tirelessly carried. And we think this man who learned true humility would most like the memorial that is still to come...those thousands now sick and despairing who will yet find our way out of dilemma into recovery ...strengthened by the invisible hand of Doctor Bob...