

DR. LOVEDAY:

SOUTHPORT:

13/VIII/51.

[300 Hill St, Accra, Pa.]

NO 1943
Dr. L. attended H. for the last ten or twelve years. I vetted him several times but found nothing seriously wrong. When he was Acting PM about 1944 I took a serious view of his high blood pressure, and I knew that his kidneys were not in a good condition. I approached Smuts and told him it was important for H. to have a holiday. Smuts could not consent. In 1943 H. suffered from a thrombosis in his right arm of which I took a serious view. I put him on diet and went to see Mrs. H. about the diet. When the King was here he told Smuts that he was not to work H. as he was doing. At one time the blood pressure was up to 230-240. His heart was starting to miss beats. I had his blood examined but did not find any excessive urea concentration. I do not know how many times I appealed to Smuts to give H. a holiday. All I got for him was a weekend in the Game Reserve. H. himself said, "I can't take a holiday, the work must be done."

I often dropped in to see him. I told him Income Tax was driving me out of practice - two-thirds of my income was going in tax. He would say to me, "Is your boy still at Hilton?" He was as stubborn as a mule, but he did write letters to the Commissioner on my behalf, urging that my case should be treated as a special one. But nothing came of it. He was very punctilious about interfering with officials. But he was stubborn about relieving professional men, arguing that we were benefitting by the absence of our colleagues (although we were paying them half). But we remained friends.

We tried to keep him from cricket and tennis, but we were not successful.

He was at Parliament in 1948 and I hadn't seen him for six months. He fainted once in Parliament and had to be taken out. But I had no letters from the Capetown doctors. (X)

I was called in when he returned from the cricket opening. He had collapsed twice that morning. His mother pleaded with him not to go. He said, "I can't let the YMCA down - I must go." (X)

When he came to see me he would take his turn, sit down amongst the others. Not so, Smuts. He would stamp up and down impatiently until I saw him.

They sent for me urgently when he came back from Johannesburg. He was in great pain. We soon discovered it was a coronary thrombosis. The majority recover from it, but he also had a high blood pressure and this kidney disturbance, and every now and again passed small stones. This was definitely a major incident. After he recovered from the major incident he was not in pain and was impatient

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at being in bed. He had a day and a night sister. He joked with them and with me. He would say when I was late, "Where is that little doctor of mine?" Reggie F. came on the day before or the day of his death, and told H. about the match between H's side and the Aussies at Govt. House. He brought a souvenir card with all the Aussies signatures for H. H. was very pleased. X

I had seen him twice on the day of his death, but he died before I came again. I knew the position was grave. Guy Elliott came over from Johannesburg. H. had been quite bright the whole afternoon. He had his evening meal and then the others had theirs. After the first course the Sister came to see him and was horrified by his appearance. She sent for me at once but he was dead when I arrived. I had told his mother that the position was very grave. She had realised it herself. She would say, "He can't recover from this."

Once during the eight day illness, Smuts asked me about H. He was greatly upset by the death. The family knew I was very worried about H.

The last four or five years at her birthday parties AB had whisky and soda in a little room. H. would say to me, "If you want a drink, you can join the toughies in there."

If I ordered anything in treatment, he said to me, "You must tell my mother, yourself."

He always urged me to look after his mother.

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NOTE: L. ADVISED A. to see Dr. Goldsmith in Capetown re H. Also Mrs. Roux in Pretoria for stories of the domestic life.