

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

DR. T. E. SCHUMPERT.

Thomas Edgar Schumpert, the only child of Dr. John Ira and Mrs. Mary Pauline (Holt) Schumpert, was born forty-five years ago in Bethany, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

A common school education was followed by two years at the Louisiana State University. He began the study of medicine under Dr. David Y. Yandell, a noted surgeon of Louisville, and in 1884 graduated with distinction from the University of Louisville. For a while he practiced in his home town, but later formed a partnership with the Dr. Yandell and moved to Louisville. However, his health showed early evidences of decline and he returned to his native state, rather to Texas, where he was associated with Dr. O. L. Abney.

The field here, though, was too narrow and on being tendered the position of house surgeon for Allen's Infirmary he gladly accepted. His ability as a surgeon was plainly displayed and won for him the place of first assistant surgeon to the Charity Hospital. So satisfactory were his services that the Board of Trustees unanimously elected him house surgeon at the next annual meeting. While at the head of the surgical staff of this great institution he successfully ligated the subclavian artery, winning thereby national and international reputation. There is scarcely an operation of any character which he did not at one time or another perform, the most intricate of all being the stitching of a man's heart wounded by a pocket knife cut. In his practice he operated a large number of appendectomies with the exceedingly low death rate of less than three per hundred.

Early in 1898 his services were sought by so many privately that he opened the Schum-

pert Sanitarium in Shreveport. Its growth was rapid, necessitating in a short time the removal to more commodious quarters. These in turn had to be vacated on account of lack of room and the spacious building now occupied was purchased, the name of the institution meanwhile being changed to the Shreveport Sanitarium. The demands upon his time forced him to resign the Charity Hospital in 1899 and give his attention solely to the Shreveport Sanitarium where, surrounded with trained nurses and competent assistants, he was in a position to give a service second to none.

It was here, in his own building, that he passed his last days. After a confinement of less than half a month, constantly attended by a devoted father, diligent physicians and nurses, he suffered from a severe hemorrhage, due to typhoid fever, on May 15, 1908, and breathed his last.

It is doubtful if any other physician has done more for the profession in Louisiana than this man. He was born with superior powers and great physical endurance, yet rose to fame through the genius of labor. His life and soul were in his work and from the treasury of books and nature he had a mind stored with a rich array of wealthy thought.

He was an active member of the various medical associations, both local and otherwise, and held important offices in more than one, among these being the presidency of the Louisiana State Medical Society in 1901, and vice-presidency in the Tri-State Medical Society, of which organization he was one of the founders. He enjoyed the distinction of being chief surgeon to the Louisiana Railway and Navigation Company, division surgeon to

the Kansas City Southern, and local surgeon to a number of others.

In 1903 he was chosen vice-president of the State Board of Health and two years later was made president of the Shreveport City Board of Health. In 1903 also he joined with several others in establishing the *Medical Recorder*, holding the office of vice-president of the company until his death. Only a few months ago he accepted the invitation to become one of the collaborators to the Southern Medical Journal. His contributions to medical literature have been numerous.

Dr. Schumpert was prominent in almost

every local enterprise looking to the upbuilding of Shreveport, and in the course of his life-time accumulated a handsome competency. At his death he bequeathed to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word the Shreveport Sanitarium, and the residue of his estate, which will amount to more than one hundred thousand dollars, with the understanding that the Sisters are to add one hundred thousand dollars and erect a modern institution, in every respect, to be known as the Schumpert Memorial Sanitarium. Thus has he perpetuated his memory.

OSCAR DOWLING, M.D.