

John A. C. Lattimore, MD

No man is a hero to his valet, someone has said. This was not the case with Dr. John A. C. Lattimore of Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Lattimore was not a valet, but he fulfilled the real spirit of the saying in that he was very close to the man who influenced him to enter the medical profession.

Dr. Lattimore when a lad was a buggy boy for a physician, Dr. Bullock of Greensboro, North Carolina. He was a very observant boy and was quick to note, as he went with the Doctor in making his daily calls, the cordial greeting he received and the high esteem in which he was held. He also made a note of the handsome income which came from a large practice. Thus unconsciously, Dr. Bullock influenced his buggy boy to become a physician. Seeing the interest magnified by his buggy boy in his work the good Doctor suggested to him that he study medicine, a suggestion which he was quick to adopt. Having formed the purpose he held to his course until he received his diploma and hung out his shingle.

Dr. Lattimore was born in Lawndale, North Carolina, where he received his early training in the Lawndale Public Schools. After passing through the public schools he entered Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, and was graduated from this institution in the fall of 1897. His next enrollment was in Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, from which Institution he received his doctors degree and the same year, 1901, he began practicing in Louisville, Kentucky.

The goal was a magnet to draw him through meshes of difficulties before the end was obtained.

However, his way through school was not one fraction as easy as it is to relate. The young medical student was far from rich and had to toil at many things to defray his expenses. In vacation time, like many other students, he worked in the hotels of Atlantic City, New Jersey and New York as bell boy and waiter. Throughout Dr. Lattimore's life of hardship as a student he remembers with great tenderness the kindness of the president of Bennett College, who took the young man into his home and cared for him as a father would do for his son. This side of his training brought into the life of the young man a new phase, that side which neither the text-books nor the laboratory can discover; that is, the spirit of helpfulness. This, Dr. Lattimore exercises in his relation to the individual, but more so in his public spirited attitude toward life and needs in his community. He is always willing and eager to lend a hand to any progressive enterprise of his city or state. With money, with counselor with time, he has helped all movements for the betterment of his race in his city, state, or country. He is found holding many responsible positions of his city: A member of the executive board of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an ex-member of the board of managers of the Y.M.C.A., and a trustee of his church. He is a member of the K. of P., of the Masons, of the U.B.F. and of the Court of Calanthe. He is ex-Grand Medical Register of the Knights of Pythias of the state, a position which he held until he resigned to become Treasurer of the Pythian Mutual Industrial Association of Grand Lodge of the

State, a position he holds until today. In all these bodies he is looked upon as a wise leader, a generous helper, and a man with initiative. He also belongs to all the leading National organizations of his race: the National Medical Association, and National Negro Business League, etc. Dr. Lattimore is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Lattimore has been fairly successful financially. He owns a beautiful home and other property to the value of ten thousand dollars. He is also interested in several business enterprises in Louisville.

Written by Clement Richardson, *The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race; Vol. 1.*