

GARVEY AID AND AUTHOR PASSES AWAY

Hubert H. Harris Dies in New York

(Photo On Picture Page)

New York City, Dec. 23.—The brilliant career of Hubert H. Harrison, lecturer and author, which began 44 years ago in Concordia, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, came to a sudden end last Saturday night at the Bellevue and Allied hospital following an operation for appendicitis.

For nearly a score of years, Dr. Harrison has been a picturesque figure in Harlem. It will be remembered how night after night, when the weather would permit, hundreds and hundreds of persons would crowd around the soap box on which he would make vigorous appeals for the Race to seek economic freedom.

Recruited By Garvey

Because of his gift of speech, Dr. Harrison was recruited by Marcus Garvey when he was building up the Universal Improvement association. He was commissioner of education for the organization and editor of The Negro World, official organ of the Garvey movement.

The orator was naturally interested in books. Perhaps there are very few works of any consequence that he has not read. As a matter of fact, those who knew him best say he would read or write all day and half of the night without stopping to eat a meal.

Since 1907 Dr. Harrison has been a regular book reviewer for leading metropolitan dailies and magazines. His poignant editorials which appeared in The Voice, a weekly publication owned by the lecturer, caused a great deal of discussion and constructive programs to be instituted in Harlem.

Enters New York at 17

Coming to New York at the age of 17, young Harrison began working at odd jobs, including that of an elevator operator, hall boy, messenger and porter. At the age of 15 he had taught school in his native land and had made the "Grand Tour" (Wanderejahre).

Two years later, after his entrance into New York, the young man was able to secure a position as clerk in a Japanese fan company. He then took the examination to become a postal clerk.

While working at odd jobs, young Harrison read and studied diligently social and economic problems. In 1910 he became an instructor in English and economics in the Harlem School of Social Science. Several years later he became adjunct professor in comparative religion in the Modern school.

Recently he was maintained by New York university, uptown branch, as a special lecturer. The Worker's college, one of the largest schools of its kind in the country for industrial workers, secured the services of Dr. Harrison last year as teacher and lecturer. For a time he was a professor of embryology at the Cosmopolitan College of Chiropractic.

Although the author's works have not been widely read by his own people, they have been used for several years as texts and supplementary reading in large universities. His works include "The Negro and the Nation," "When Africa Awakens" and "Natural Health." He also claims that he is the writer of "The Rise and Fall of Marcus Garvey," the manuscript of which Mrs. Amy Ashwood Garvey holds and claims authorship.

At the trial of Mrs. Garvey No. 1, last November, here for divorce, Dr. Harrison was one of the principal witnesses for Garvey. He told how Mrs. Garvey had made overtures to him to attempt to build up an organization to compete with that of her husband. He also declared that he had been hired by Mrs. Garvey to write the manuscript.

Besides writing for leading newspapers, Dr. Harrison contributed to The New Republic, Masses, being assistant editor under Piet Vlag in 1912; Truth Seeker and The New Negro, of which he was editor. Dr. Harrison was a member of the Negro Literary and Historical society and Colored Unity league, being president at one time.

The lecturer is survived by a wife, Mrs. Irene Horton Harrison, and five children, Frances, Alice, Ivas, William and May.



SEEK MAYOR'S HELP—Mayor William Hale Thompson (sixth from right end) is seen receiving petition from Dr. Carl G. Roberts, representing the medical men of the city, asking official assistance in combating poor health conditions.

—Photo by Defender Staff Photographer.

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