OBITUARY

Laurence Richard DeBuys—1879-1957

Dr. Laurence Richard DeBuys of New Orleans, the seventh President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, died at his home on June 20, 1957, at the age of 78 years. Dr. DeBuys died of a heart attack in his office while talking to his personal physician on the telephone.

A native of New Orleans, Dr. DeBuys gained international reputation as a pediatrician and was one of the organizers of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which he served as president in 1936-37.

Dr. DeBuys was graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in 1904 and practiced general medicine in Houma for 2 years following his graduation. He went to New Orleans in 1910 after doing postgraduate work at the Harvard Medical School and limited his practice exclusively to pediatrics.

Affiliated with Tulane University since 1907, Dr. DeBuys held the chair of pediatrics at the university from 1925 to 1929 and was chief of staff of pediatrics at Touro Infirmary from 1919 to 1939.

Dr. DeBuys originated the first “Service to the Newly Born in the World”—a clinic for the newly born in 1920, and in 1926 was invited to address the English-speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare in London on the clinic.

He was a delegate from the United States to the International Pediatric Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1930 and later was appointed delegate to pediatric conferences in leading cities of Europe and the United States.

President Herbert Hoover appointed Dr. DeBuys a member of the original White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.

He was active in the early development of the Southern Medical Association and was the first president of the Louisiana State Pediatric Society in 1924-28.

Dr. DeBuys was an honorary member of the Endocrine Society and a member of the American Medical Association, Southern Medical Association, Louisiana State Medical Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Pediatric Society, and the Central States Pediatric Society.

Author of 60 papers on pediatrics, Dr. DeBuys was said to have been the first to employ motion pictures in medicine to illustrate his papers, in 1913.

Dr. DeBuys is survived by five sons, Laurence DeBuys and Herbert F. DeBuys of New Orleans, William DeBuys of Baltimore, Maryland, John Forrester DeBuys and Harry Duggan DeBuys of Birmingham, Alabama, and 18 grandchildren.
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Pediatrics 1957;20:747

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