

The Weather

Fair today, tonight, Sunday; slightly warmer. High today, 80; low tonight, 57.



LATEST NEWS

NEW ORLEANS ITEM

Sixty-Ninth Year—118

Saturday, October 27, 1945

Price Five Cents

FINAL HOME

Death Takes Dr. Dimitry

Dr. Theodore J. Dimitry, 65, noted eye specialist who created an artificial eye that moves in conjunction with a real one, died at 3:40 a. m. today at the Baptist Hospital. He had been in ill health because of a weak heart for almost a year.

However, the physician continued intermittently to practice as well as to fulfill teaching engagements as a member of the Louisiana State University faculty.



Dr. T. J. Dimitry

Dr. Dimitry was chief of the ophthalmology department of LSU and chief of the eye clinic at Charity Hospital. He held the latter post for 35 years.

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Dimitry

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A native of New Orleans, he received his medical degree at Tulane University in 1901.

After a short period of general practice, Dr. Dimitry went to New York for special studies of the eye and thereafter devoted himself to that specialty. He became internationally known for miraculous cures of eye conditions even before he publicly announced his invention of a plastic eye made of lucite which can be fitted to the muscles to permit motion.

BOMBSHELL

His paper telling of his discovery created a medical "bombshell" heard round the world when he read it at a scientific session of the International Congress of Surgeons in Mexico City in 1941.

However, he only recently perfected it to a point where it was ready for the commercial market and none has been manufactured so far. Dr. Dimitry nevertheless is protected by several patents he has already taken out.

The Dimitry eye is composed of three parts. A cup about the size of a small walnut shell forms the "white" of the eye. It has a hole in the middle and the other parts are attached by means of a peg stuck into this hole and fastened with silicate.

"The plastic artificial eye," Dr. Dimitry wrote in the Journal of the International College of Surgeons, "is an accomplishment and may even be superior to the glass eye."

MOTION SOUGHT

"Throughout the years, motion for the glass eye has been sought; the plastics, however, are readily moulded and designed even in the hands of the surgeon. Therefore, an ambition of years—motion—has been made possible."

Other advantages he reported, were that lucite is considerably lighter than glass, and is not subject to either of two common difficulties found with glass—breakage caused by temperature changes, and erosion from fluids in the eye socket.

Dr. Dimitry wrote hundreds of articles for all the medical journals. He was a member of local, state and national medical societies; a member of the American College of Surgeons, and the International Congress of Surgeons.

His death comes as a great blow to the LSU faculty, recently riddled by the resignation of 23 doctors.

FUNERAL SUNDAY

Dr. Dimitry resided for many years at 4335 St. Charles Ave., but during the last year had taken an apartment at 1607 Napoleon Ave.

Funeral services will take place at 2 p. m. tomorrow from the House of Bultman, followed by the rites of the Catholic Church and interment in Metairie Cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, the former Miss Fernande Jacob of New Orleans, and two sons, Dr. Theodore J., Jr., and Dr. Earl Dimitry.