

could afford them buying. their own, while many had been obliged to do without.

ADAMS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This society antedates by some two months the Illinois State Medical Society, and is with one exception the oldest medical society in Illinois. Its senior by about four years is the Aesculapian Society of the Wabash Valley, organized at Lawrenceville in 1846, and which has drawn its membership from the whole southeasterly, and largely also from the southern, portion of the state and from western Indiana.

The Adams County Society was organized at Quincy, March 28, 1850, at a meeting presided over by Dr. Samuel W. Rogers, and also participated in by Doctors Warren Chapman, James Elliott, J. W. Hollowbush, F. B. Leach, Joseph N. Ralston, M. J. Roeschlamb, M. Sheperd, Louis Watson, and Isaac T. Wilson. Of these Dr. Elliott was a resident of Clayton, and Dr. Sheperd of Payson, the others lived in Quincy.

At the banquet commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the society, held at the Newcomb Hotel, Quincy; March 28, 1900, it was announced that Dr. Wilson (who was on the program for a speech, but who was at the beside of his sister in Kentucky, then very ill) was the sole survivor of the founders. He was one of the speakers at the annual dinner of the society, February 11, 1904; which he survived some four months, dying in Quincy, June 24, 1904.

The officers elected at the organization were: Joseph N. Ralston, president; S. W. Rogers and M. Sheperd, vice-presidents; J. W. Hollowbush, recording secretary; Louis Watson, corresponding secretary; F. B. Leash, treasurer; I. T. Wilson, M. J. Roeschlamb and L. Watson, censors. Vice-President Sheperd was elected delegate to the American Medical Association meeting that year in Cincinnati.

The first president, Dr. Ralston, was one of the most prominent men of Quincy. For many years by common consent at the head of the general practitioners of medicine, and his home was for a long time a social center. He died in 1876, in his seventy-sixth year. Of his character and personality a memorial minute found in the records of the society thus speaks:

"He was rather tall and spare in figure, dignified in carriage, courteous almost to punctilious in manner, clean and precise in speech; self-poised, keen in his perceptions; steadfast in his convictions, sagacious in council, the sturdy virtues which commanded for him universal respect were rooted in a kind and sympathetic nature which won for him the enduring love of kindred and the affectionate regard of those to whom he ministered."

Three daughters, all widely respected and beloved, survive him—Mrs. Emilie Caldwell and Mrs. Margaret Charles, both widowed and residing with the third and youngest sister, Mrs. Minnie Hayden, wife of Philip C. Hayden; of Keokuk, Iowa.

Another of the earlier members deserving especial mention was Dr. Edward G. Castle, a native of England, who joined in 1856, and at once left the impress of his aptitude for affairs, breadth of mind and high character upon the proceedings of the society. His name disappears from the records January 14, 1867, to March 3, 1873, during which period he was absent from the country as United States consular agent at Carlisle, Eng., the early home of his wife. He never resumed the active practice of his profession after his return, but retained all his old interest in its organic life, accepting a re-election to the presidency of the society, also the presidency of the medical staff of Blessing Hospital, both of which places he held at the time of his death, which occurred September 20, 1880. His personality as it impressed itself upon his co-workers is well reflected in the following from the memorial minute recorded by the society at his death: "Honored in his profession, honoring it by a dignified, faithful, and fearless discharge of its duties, wise in council, upright in character, ruling with firm yet gentle hand, carrying all the generosity and freshness of youth into the autumn of life, he has passed away in the maturity of years. The key to his life and character lies in a word: No man ever thought of doing a mean, unkindly, unmanly or unprofessional act in his presence."

Two children, Mrs. George Wells and Mr. George Castle, both well known residents of Quincy, survive him.

Owing to the small number of members of the society and the wide extent of the field then covered by practice of Quincy physicians, it seems to have been impossible to get a quorum of the members together even for the annual meetings, and there is a break in the records from November 10, 1850, to April 19, 1856, when at a special meeting called by the president at which a number of new members were proposed, and at the annual meeting the following month fourteen were elected, and the society took on a new lease of active life, which has since remained practically unbroken, although in the first year of the civil war it was found expedient to omit the quarterly meetings owing to the absence of so many members in the army.

At the annual meeting (May 13) of 1861, resolutions were adopted tendering the gratuitous services of the members of the families of volunteers from Adams County; and declaring that

they held themselves in readiness to obey any call which the state or nation might make upon them as physicians or patriots.

Down to the close of the civil war there had been enrolled fifty-seven members, of whom the following were in the military service:

Dr. Moses M. Bane, colonel of the 50th Illinois infantry; lost his right arm at Shiloh ; subsequently assessor of internal revenue and later register of the general land office at Salt Lake City, Utah; Dr. Garner K. Bane (brother of Col. Bane, whose arm he amputated on the field), assistant surgeon, 50th Illinois infantry; Dr. Frederick K. Bailey, surgeon 20th Illinois infantry, detached and in charge of division No. 3 of the Quincy military hospital; Dr. Leander D. Baker, surgeon 24th Missouri infantry, and later division surgeon of the Department of the Gulf; Dr. Moses F. Bassett, assistant surgeon of the board of enrollment of IVth congressional district, headquarters at Quincy; Dr. Edward G. Castle, not mustered, but temporarily surgeon in charge of division No. 1, Quincy Hospital; Dr. Henry J. Churchman, surgeon, assigned to the army of the Potomac; details not obtainable; Dr. Bartrow Darrack, surgeon, died soon after being mustered, of smallpox contracted while caring, for his own family stricken with that disease; Dr. Samuel W. Everett, brigade surgeon on staff of Gen. B. M. Prentiss, was killed at Shiloh while rallying retreating troops; a nephew of the Hon. Edward Everett, the orator and former secretary of state, a cousin of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, the author of "The Man Without a Country," and a younger brother of Edward Everett, who during his long residence in Quincy was a soldier in the Mormon and Mexican wars, and an assistant to Gov. Wood, quartermaster general of Illinois from the outbreak of the civil war until the duty of equipping Illinois troops was taken over by the war department; Dr. A. M. D. Hughes, adjutant of the 50th Illinois infantry; killed at Shiloh ; Dr. J. R. Kay, surgeon 124th Illinois infantry; Dr. Henry W. Kendall, surgeon 50th Illinois infantry; Dr. Rus Kendall, assistant surgeon, regiment not ascertained, Dr. Samuel C. Moss, surgeon of the 78th Illinois infantry; Dr. Charles H. Morton, major, and later lieutenant colonel of the 84th Illinois infantry; captured at Chickamauga and confined in Libby Prison, and after the war became county clerk of Adams County and later police magistrate of Quincy ; Dr. Virgil McDavitt, surgeon 1st Alabama (colored) cavalry; Dr. N. A. McNeall, assistant surgeon 137th Illinois Infantry; Dr. George O. Pond, surgeon 73rd Illinois infantry; Dr. Daniel Stahl, surgeon 7th Illinois cavalry; Dr. Joel G. Williams, assistant surgeon 2d Illinois cavalry; Dr. Louis Wat-

son; surgeon 16th Illinois infantry, and later medical inspector of the Army of the Cumberland; Dr. Isaac T. Wilson, contract surgeon in charge of division No. 2 of the Quincy Hospital during the war; Dr. Reuben Woods; surgeon 119th Illinois infantry, and later division surgeon of the Department of the Gulf; against the name of Dr. Henry Douglass, one of the earlier members and at one time postmaster of Quincy, in an analytical roster in the back of the record book, stands the notation, "In the army," but of what his service was nothing seems now ascertainable, but it was probably professional.

Of those who joined after the close of the war the following were in the service during its continuance: Dr. D. Bryan Baker, private, 137th Illinois infantry; Dr. P. A. Marks, subaltern in the navy; Dr. Robert W. McMahan, who in the earlier part of the war was surgeon on the Mississippi River fleet commanded by Col. Ellet, of whose gentle courtesy and apparent absolute unconsciousness of danger he was wont to speak with unbounded admiration, and later was surgeon of the 146th Illinois infantry; Dr. J. B. Shawgo, private, 85th Illinois infantry, who was detailed as a scout on reaching the front and as such during the war; and Dr. Robert J. Christie, Sr., senior surgeon of Gen. Price's brigade of Missouri (Confederate) infantry.

General sanitation early engaged the attention of the society. Pursuant to a resolution adopted November 22, 1865, Drs. E. G. Castle and Joseph Robbins appeared before the city council and asked that in view of a probable visitation of epidemic cholera, steps be taken to put the city in a proper sanitary condition. The authorities acted promptly, created a board of health of which Dr. Castle was made president, and under his direction the city was put in such condition that when in the following summer disease came up the Mississippi River, Quincy escaped with less than a dozen cases, and only two or three of these were fatal.

In August, 1866, the secretary, Dr. Joseph Robbins, presented to the city council a memorial adopted by the society asking the passage of the necessary ordinances to secure a complete record of deaths with the cause of death in each case, and to provide that no interment should take place without such a certificate from the practitioner in attendance or from the coroner after an inquest. The latter provision provoked opposition in the council and it was not until three years later that the continued efforts of the society in this direction were crowned with success. The record, in which the first entry was made November 21, 1869, has since been kept up, not perfectly in its earlier years, but more accurately since a state law of the same end

with stringent penalties for neglect, came into operation.

Meanwhile the agitation of the record matter and the continued efforts of individual members led to the re-establishment of a board of health in place of the one which had fallen into desuetude. During the administration of Mayor Rowland, which began in 1870, an efficient board was provided for, consisting of five members of which three were regular physicians, with one layman, like them appointed by the Mayor, who was himself a member ex-officio. The high character and demonstrated efficiency of the board was maintained for only a few years; it soon became an asylum for lay politicians, wholly losing its professional character, and then giving way to the present organization in which there is no provision for the participation of medical men. Within the past year (1904) the medical society has again taken action looking to the restoration of the professional character of the board, but no visible progress has been made. The society now has about seventy members.

The present officers of the, society are as follows: President, John A. Koch ; first vice-president, G. M. Grimes; second vice-president, Henry Hart; secretary, George E. Rosenthal ; treasurer, R. J. Christie, Jr., censors, Joseph Robbins, L. B. Ashton, and E. B. Montgomery.

CHAPTER LXVI.
THE COUNTY POOR FARM COUNTY AND DISTRICT
OFFICERS. BY D. L. HAIR.

Very early in the history of Adams County, the benevolence of its pioneer citizens began to be manifest in the provisions made for the indigent and deserving poor within its borders. At first, and for a number of years, the paupers were provided for in the several localities where they resided. But in the year 1847, the Board of Commissioners deemed it advisable, as a matter of economy to the county, and for the better provision for these unfortunate objects of public charity, to purchase a farm to be devoted to their support, to which they could be removed and cared for in a body, and where those not entirely disabled might be furnished some employment, and thus in a measure, became self-supporting. Consequently, after some investigation, the board bought the eighty acre farm owned by H. T. Ellis, parts of the Northwest and Northeast quarter of Section 16, of township 1 north and 7 west, lying near the center of Honey Creek, the transfer bearing date March 16, 1847, and the

consideration being \$700. The farm was under a fair state of improvement, and had a frame house containing several rooms and a shed kitchen. A barn and other outbuildings, and a blacksmith shop were on the premises.

The farm was under the supervision of a competent man, and the paupers were removed to it, and sustained there until May, 1855, when by order of the Board of Supervisors--the county having gone into township organization in 1849 --the county poor farm was sold to John White, for \$800, the board reserving the use of the farm until the next year.

At a session of the County Board of Supervisors held January, 5, 1856, it was resolved to purchase 200 acres for a poor farm, and a committee consisting of Wm. Laughlin, A. H. Doan, and Baptist Hardy, were appointed to select and make the purchase. On June 10, the committee reported that they had bought of John F. Battell 160 acres, the northeast quarter of Section 11, in Gilmer township, for \$5,000. The committee also reported, at the same meeting, the purchase of 50,000 brick and other material with which to erect buildings thereon. The following year, 1857, the farm was rented out and the paupers were hired, kept by contract, at a specified price per capita per week. Upon the completion of the buildings the paupers were removed to the county farm, where they have been provided for since.

This county house then consisted of a building 24 feet by 40 feet, two stories high, with a basement, and it is estimated cost about \$2,500. In 1857, when the new home was entered, there were about fifteen persons brought from the old farm. In 1860, we find twenty-five members, and to make room for the increase of paupers in 1863, the county built an addition to the first building, 30x30 feet, two stories high and basement, at a cost of about \$3,000. Osborne & Son did the brick work, and Ligget & Bachey, the carpenter work.

In 1861, the first barn was built at a cost of \$300 by Ben Wegle. In 1862, the old building for the insane was built, at a cost of \$1,000. This building, however, has been taken down, since it did not give satisfaction as a place to confine the insane.

In 1867, the county built a pest house at a cost of about \$500. This building is still standing.

In 1868, because of the increasing numbers, another building was erected, 24x48 feet, two stories high; costing \$6,000.

In 1874 the city of Quincy went into township organization, prior to which time the paupers of the city had been under the charge of municipal officers, one alderman from each ward constituting the pauper committee, to which was