

OBITUARY.

PROF. JOHN HUGH McQUILLEN, M.D., D.D.S.

SUDDENLY, on March 3, 1879, JOHN H. McQUILLEN, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

Dr. McQUILLEN was born in Philadelphia, February 12, 1826. He was the son of Captain Hugh McQuillen, who served under Decatur during the war of 1812. The ancestors of his mother, Martha Scattergood, came to America with William Penn. He received his early education in the Friends' schools in Philadelphia, and at the age of sixteen entered as clerk in an importing house with the purpose of devoting himself to commercial pursuits. His tastes, however, inclined him to medicine, and after attaining his majority he commenced its study in the Jefferson Medical College, from which he graduated in 1852. Meantime he was also studying dentistry, and in 1853 he received the honor degree of D.D.S. at the first commencement of the Philadelphia College of Dental Surgery. In 1857 he was elected to the chair of operative dentistry and dental physiology in the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, holding the position for one year, and relinquishing it to take the chair of General Anatomy and Physiology, which he resigned in 1862. In 1863, principally through the efforts of Dr. McQuillen, a charter was obtained for the Philadelphia Dental College, of which Institution he was made Dean and Professor of Physiology, retaining position until his death. In 1859 the publication of the Dental Cosmos was commenced, Dr. McQuillen became one of its editors, which relation was continued until his retirement in 1871.

Dr. McQuillen has been a frequent contributor to the literature of the profession from the first connection with it, and has held important positions in various dental societies, including the presidency of the American Dental Association, of the Pennsylvania State Dental Society, and of the Odontographic Society of Pennsylvania.

As an operator Dr. McQuillen was recognized as possessing more than average skill, supplemented by an earnestness and conscientiousness which were a guarantee of faithful service.

As a teacher he was enthusiastic and ambitious, labouring to the best of his ability to prepare those whom he instructed for the intelligent and successful practice of their vocation. Hundreds of the alumni of the institutions in which he taught will hear of his decease with sincere sorrow.

Dr. McQuillen was by nature an organizer. To his organizing faculty, as well as to his zeal, energy, and tact, the success of the Philadelphia Dental College is largely due, and it was these qualities which caused him to be recognized as a power in the profession at large. If ever any man was consecrated to the chosen work of his life, John H. McQuillen was. He devoted to the original organization of the American Dental Association, to its development and to the general educational interests of the Dental Profession, the best efforts of his life. Other men may be found of greater natural gifts, of larger attainments, and of more brilliancy, but none who have contributed more freely, more constantly, more unselfishly to the general good. And though he possessed personal gifts and graces which won the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends, professional and otherwise, who will hold his memory in affectionate remembrance; though he was courteous, genial, and kindly in spirit and manner; though he was hospitable to a fault, it was not to these qualities chiefly that he owed his position and his usefulness in the profession, but to a life devoted to its improvement and elevation. Considering his energy, his industry, his unselfishness, the worthiness of his aims, the work he has done, the influence of his example as an advocate of educational progress and reform in his profession—an influence which will be felt for good through many years to come—the sudden termination of his earthly career is a calamity, not alone to his family and personal friends, not alone to the institution of which he was the recognized head, but to the practitioners of dentistry wherever located, and especially to American dentists. His place will be difficult to fill; perhaps not in this generation will it be in all respects completely filled.

The sad side of the history is that he allowed his interest in the school with which he was associated, and the general interests of the profession as an organized body, to make exhausting and damaging drafts upon him, involving the sacrifice of time, money, practice, ease and pleasure. Had he brought the same ability, the same industry, the same energy, the same concentration, the same persistence to the accumulation of means by the practice of his profession, he might have left his family handsomely provided for. That he did not do so not only constitutes a cause of regret for their sakes, but calls for a substantial recognition of his valuable labors and services in the advancement of the dental profession in usefulness, self-respect, and public regard, and in strengthening fraternal courtesy and co-operation among its members.

Dr. McQuillen leaves a widow and four children, one of whom, Dr. Daniel Neall McQuillen, a graduate of the Philadelphia Dental College, has but recently engaged in practice. Mrs. McQuillen will receive the hearty sympathy of hundreds in the profession who have shared the hospitality of her home, and who will remember with what interest and kindness she received and ministered to her husband's friends.

The resolutions appended show the estimate in which Dr. McQuillen was held in his own city, and by his colleagues and pupils.