

During most of his professional life, Professor Burr was also librarian of the White Historical Library, given to Cornell University by her first president, Andrew D. White. Through his devotion, learning and collecting zeal, the White library has become famous for its riches in the fields of mediæval history, superstition, intolerance, witchcraft and allied subjects. As teacher, historian, librarian and book collector, Professor Burr's every thought was for Cornell and when he died at Ithaca on June 27, 1938, he left the bulk of his estate to the university he had served so long and loved so well.

R. W. G. V.

HOMER GAGE

Homer Gage, surgeon, industrialist, philanthropist, civic leader, and a member of the Council of this Society, died at his summer home "Iristhorpe" in Shrewsbury, July 3, 1938. He was born in Worcester, the elder son of Dr. Thomas Hovey and Anne Maria (Lane) Gage, October 18, 1861. After fitting for college at the Worcester High School, he entered Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1882 with the degree of A.B., followed by the degrees of A.M. and of M.D. in 1887. He then came to Worcester for his career, pursuing a general practice for several years, but finally devoting himself entirely to surgery. He served as visiting surgeon in the three Worcester hospitals and contributed numerous articles on surgical subjects to medical journals. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, vice-president of the American Surgical Association, and president of the New England Surgical Association. During the World War Dr. Gage became a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of the United State Army, went to Camp Devens where he served as Major in charge of surgery at the Base Hospital, and in 1919 was discharged from the Army with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In his field, he became one of the leading

surgeons of New England, recognized alike for his skill in operating and for his adherence to the high standards of his profession.

In 1920 his brother-in-law, Lucius J. Knowles, president of the Crompton & Knowles Loom Works, died suddenly in London. Dr. Gage, with his conservative judgment and his wide knowledge of the affairs of the Company, in which he had been a director for twenty years, was elected its president. Gradually he began to give most of his time to the duties of his new office and in 1923 retired from medical practice. The transition from a scholarly professional life to an industrial career did not seem especially marked. Dr. Gage's knowledge of men and the ability to understand the human equation were of decided value to him in his new executive position. As in the medical profession, he soon acquired distinction in business life, with his advice generally sought in the solving of the city's financial and industrial problems. Yet he never lost his love for his original career. As he once said, "I have enjoyed my business life immensely, and it has not been unprofitable, but if I were to begin life over again, I should prefer to start as I did in medicine. The pecuniary reward is less, but the durable satisfactions of life are incomparably greater. I would not exchange my thirty-five years of medicine and surgery for anything that I can think of."

Dr. Gage married, June 15, 1893, Mabel Reynolds Knowles, daughter of Francis B. Knowles of Worcester. They had one son, Homer Gage, Jr., who entered Harvard in 1914, left college to join the American Ambulance Service in France, returned and received a war degree as of the Class of 1918. He died at Shrewsbury, unexpectedly and in the vigor of youth, September 2, 1925. The Gages' home in Worcester was built soon after their marriage, at the corner of Chestnut and Pearl Streets, and their summer home was at Shrewsbury—a beautiful estate called "Iristhorpe," noted for its gardens and for its hospitality.

In late years Dr. Gage was deeply concerned in various projects in France. Both he and his wife aided in the support of French orphans and became keenly interested in French reconstruction problems after the War. When an international student center was developed in Paris where dormitories were to be erected by different countries, for students pursuing higher education in Paris, he became the head of an American committee appointed to raise funds for an American dormitory. As a result of his own activity, and the generosity of himself and his wife, a splendid building with room for two hundred and fifty students was completed in 1930 and has since been in successful operation. In 1927 he was decorated with the medal of officer in the French Legion of Honor, and in 1930 was promoted to the rank of commander. Both he and Mrs. Gage were recognized in many ways by officers of the French Government, and their frequent visits to France in recent years brought much happiness to his life.

In his own city of Worcester, Dr. Gage was a leader in every cause planned for uplift or social betterment. His great contribution was in the leadership of the Golden Rule campaigns. In 1920 the Worcester Welfare Association, comprising thirty-two of the leading charitable and welfare organizations of the city, was established for the purpose of supervising the work and expenditures of those organizations, and raising the funds necessary for their maintenance. In 1921 he was elected president of the Association and was continued in that responsible office to the year of his death. Tirelessly he gave of his own energy, and although he modestly disclaimed credit for the nationally recognized success of the undertaking, it was largely due to his guidance, the example of his own generosity, and his conception of high ideals of public service that this organized attempt to spread charity and to alleviate suffering achieved its purpose.

Dr. Gage, as would be expected, was allied with the

leading cultural and social organizations of his native city. His early interest in education led to his election to the board of trustees of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1907, to his later appointment as treasurer, and to the recognition of his services in 1929 by the grant of its honorary degree. From Clark University in 1937 he received the degree of LL.D., in honor of his "nobility of citizenship." His primary college interest, however, was in Harvard. Always active in his support and endorsement of the college, he was elected a member of the board of overseers of Harvard University in 1921 and served two successive terms of six years each. Here he served on various important committees, including the committee which supervised the notable bequest to the college from Artemas Ward, philanthropic New Yorker descended from the Shrewsbury Ward family. His college associations, as he frequently said, were among the pleasantest of his life. Among Worcester social organizations, he took the most interest in the Worcester Fire Society, to which he was elected in 1904, and in the St. Wulstans Society to which he was elected in 1912. At the meetings of these Societies he found relaxation from professional and business cares, contributing scholarly addresses to their literary exercises, and deepening his friendships with their members.

Dr. Gage was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1910 and was elected to its Council in 1933. Always deeply interested in the welfare of the Society, he aided its efforts constantly, both with his counsel and his support. His generous bequest to the Society, according to the terms of his will, solved one of our most pressing problems, and evidenced his faith in the Society's future. This inadequate sketch of so full a life cannot better close than with the words of the Council's resolution passed after his death: "The death of Homer Gage removes one of our most able and beloved associates. The loss to his native city is incalculable. Eminent surgeon, successful

industrialist, outstanding public citizen, he filled a place of supreme importance in the community. Foremost in all undertakings designed to aid his fellow men, he spent a life largely in the service of others. Calm, judicial, kindly, he gave freely of his counsel and support to many institutions, financial, educational, charitable and social. With a conservatism balanced by optimism and faith, he inspired confidence and service in those who were associated with him. His love of life, of social contacts, of his family, brought him happiness and contentment, as well as the affection of his friends."

C. S. B.

THOMAS HOVEY GAGE

Thomas Hovey Gage, for seventeen years recording secretary of this Society, died at his home in Worcester, after a long illness, July 15, 1938. He was born in Worcester, January 13, 1865, the son of Dr. Thomas Hovey and Anna Maria (Lane) Gage. He attended the public schools in Worcester and then entered Harvard College, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1886, followed by the degrees of A.M. and of LL.B. at the Harvard Law School in 1889. Immediately admitted to the bar, he became associated with Senator Hoar as his private secretary for one winter. He then set up practice for himself, with an office in the Worcester Five Cents Savings Bank Building, which was so filled with lawyers that it seemed like the roster of the Worcester Club. In 1902 he joined with Frank Bulkeley Smith and Frank Farnum Dresser in forming the law firm of Smith, Gage & Dresser, really a continuation of a succession of earlier firms going back to the early part of the previous century. In this firm, later changed to Gage, Hamilton & June, he remained until his death.

In his profession Mr. Gage attained a high place in the community. Conservative and shunning the popularity of trial work, he became one of that dwin-

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