



DR. LUTHER D. WATERMAN.

LUTHER DANA WATERMAN.

ARTHUR L. FOLEY.

Dr. Luther Dana Waterman was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, November 21, 1830; died at Indianapolis, Indiana, June 30, 1918, age eighty-seven years, seven months and nine days. Dr. Waterman was the son of Joseph Aplin and Susan (Dana) Waterman, the father being a native of Cornish, New Hampshire, the mother of Belfry, Ohio. The mother died in 1837, leaving five young children, of whom Luther, the subject of this sketch, but seven years old, was next to the oldest. On the death of the mother Luther went to live with his grandmother at Oxford, Ohio. Although his father later remarried, Luther continued to make his home with his grandmother until he had completed the work of the public schools of Oxford and entered upon a college course at Miami University.

The father, Joseph Aplin Waterman, was a farmer in his earlier years. Later he became a physician and still later a Methodist minister. It appears that he was successful in each of these callings, particularly as a minister. It is said that he was not only a zealous expounder of the Gospel but that he was an earnest and capable biblical student. He died at Oxford, Ohio, at the age of fifty-five years.

Luther's maternal great-grandfather was Captain William Dana, who was in charge of one of the companies from New England that, under General Putnam, settled at Fort Marietta, now the city of Marietta, Ohio.

Dr. Waterman's early education was obtained in the public schools at Oxford, Ohio, where he was known as a very capable and ambitious lad. After completing the work of the public schools, he attended Miami University four years, and the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, two years. During his college work he was frequently obliged to drop out and teach a term to get money to continue his college work. At one time while a student in Cincinnati he got so near the end of his resources that his only alternative appeared to be to drop his medical work and seek employment. As a last resort he decided to try for a prize of fifty dollars offered by one of the Cincinnati papers for the best poem for the coming New Year's edition. By New Year's day young Waterman's funds were so low that he did not have money enough to buy a paper to see whether or not he had won the prize, and it was by accident that

he learned of his success. He spent a part of the prize money to buy a pocket set of surgical instruments. He used these instruments during his forty years of surgical practice and it was with pride that he exhibited them to his friends, particularly after he and the instruments had "retired."

Dr. Waterman graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in 1853. For two years after graduation he practiced medicine in Cincinnati, and, like the usual young doctor, was not burdened with patients. Concluding that he could do better in a smaller town, he moved to Kokomo, Indiana, in 1855, and established a partnership with Dr. Corydon Richmond. The move proved to be a very wise one. The population of the town and surrounding country grew rapidly and with it the practice and reputation of the firm of Richmond & Waterman. For several years these doctors led a very strenuous life—with an office full of patients and constant calls for country trips through swamps and over corduroy roads. Although Dr. Waterman remained in Kokomo but six years, leaving there in 1861 to become a surgeon in the Union Army, nevertheless it was at Kokomo that he got the practical experience that made his work with the army so successful, and it was there that he secured the nucleus of his later fortune.

Being a man of strong idealism and patriotism, Dr. Waterman did not hesitate a moment, when the integrity of the Union was threatened, to sacrifice a large and lucrative practice to offer his services to the Government. In August, 1861, he was commissioned Surgeon of the Thirty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Although his total service in the Army extended over a period of three years and two months, nevertheless he was not with the Thirty-ninth Regiment much of the time, being frequently detailed to other companies and to hospitals. During his three years of service he was Surgeon of the Eighth Indiana Cavalry, Medical Director of the Second Division of the Second Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, then Medical Director of the First Division of the same Corps, and during the absence of superior officers was Medical Director for a month of the Corps under General Phil Sheridan. He was Surgeon at the hospitals at Huntsville, Alabama, and at Bridgeport and Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was twice captured by Confederate forces, once at Harpeth Shoals, Tennessee, and again at Newman, Georgia. He was held for three weeks in the prison stockade at Macon, Georgia, and then transferred to the workhouse prison at Charleston, South Carolina. He was later released (exchanged) near Fort Sumpter.

At the conclusion of the war Dr. Waterman located at Indianapolis and once again began to build up a practice. He soon came to be recognized as a successful surgeon and one of the best general practitioners

in the State. He was for several years one of the surgeons of the City Hospital and was one of the charter organizers of the old Indiana Medical College, in which he was Professor of Anatomy from 1869 to 1873, and Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine from 1875 to 1877. With the consolidation of the several medical schools of the State into the Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Waterman became Emeritus Professor of Medicine. He was for many years an active member of the Indiana State Medical Society, and was Secretary and President of that organization. It was in May, 1878, as President of the Society, that he gave an address entitled "Economy and Necessity of a State Board of Health." The address was published by the Society and five thousand copies were distributed throughout the State. In that address his arguments were so conclusively presented that they caused a state-wide movement which resulted eventually in the establishment of a State Board of Health in Indiana. Up to that time but thirteen States in the Union had provided for state medical boards, and all these had been established within the previous decade.

Dr. Waterman retired from active practice in 1893, at the age of sixty-three years, after forty years of practice of medicine and surgery. Nowadays when a physician retires not many know about it or care. In this day of specialists, when a different one is employed for each and every ailment, physician and patient rarely know one another intimately; indeed, they may not even be acquaintances. Once each family had but one doctor, regardless of the nature of the case. Whatever such a physician lacked that the specialist possesses was balanced by the former's broad and comprehensive knowledge and experience, his understanding of the patient's history, habits and peculiarities, and a sympathy and personal interest that many times amounted to genuine affection. Dr. Waterman was such a physician, a family physician of the highest type, and there was sincere regret in thousands of homes when he announced his retirement from active practice.

Dr. Waterman was not only a progressive and successful physician and surgeon; he was a man of wide intellectual interests, a constant reader, all his life a student of science, language and literature, himself a writer of ability.

The writer remembers well the first time he met Dr. Waterman, then eighty years of age. He was attending a dinner of the Indiana Academy of Science and sat beside the writer—in order to discuss the electron theory. The last time the writer ever saw the Doctor alive was when the Doctor accompanied him on a two-hundred-mile auto trip to attend a meeting of the Indiana Academy at Turkey Run and The Shades—only a month before the Doctor's death. He was still interested in the electron theory. He was interested, too, in the research

work of the Waterman Institute and discussed minutely the work in progress. But what impressed the writer even more than the aged Doctor's knowledge of and continued interest in science was his knowledge of language, literature and history. He rarely faltered on Latin or Greek derivatives and he read Spanish readily. In fact, he was at that time reading a history of Mexico in Spanish. He had made an extended trip into Mexico in 1886 and had acquired some knowledge of the Spanish language. Thirty years later, at an age of more than four score, we find him reading Spanish and studying Mexican history. Here we find the secret of Dr. Waterman's success. He had the desire to know, and he had the perseverance and energy required to acquire the knowledge. In addition he had the instincts of the scientist, the faculty of observing details and appreciating their importance. This is strikingly illustrated in a paper presented to the writer a few years ago. It is a four-page description of an aurora witnessed by the Doctor when a young man, written as the display was taking place. For vividness of description and terse, straight-forward English it is superior to most of the studied memoirs published in our magazines of science. Dr. Waterman's ability was recognized by his alma mater, Miami University, by conferring upon him in 1892 the honorary degree M. A.

Dr. Waterman was originally a Whig, but became a Republican when that party came into ascendancy and remained a staunch Republican all his life. When Fremont was running for President the Doctor stumped Howard County in his behalf. Throughout his life he remained more or less active in his party's councils.

At the time of his visits to Europe, 1878 and 1881, also to Mexico, 1886, Dr. Waterman wrote a number of articles for the Indianapolis papers descriptive of his travels. He published a paper on "The Regimental Surgeon" in the *Indiana Medical Journal*, February, 1906, and a book of verse, entitled "Phantoms of Life," in 1883. In this little volume he "presented his philosophy of existence in stately phrasing. The ideals there shown are high, and those who knew him may well believe that he tried to fulfill them." Dr. Waterman, the son of a minister, was not himself an enrolled member of any church. Yet he was in thought and deed a deeply religious man. At his funeral both Jew and Gentile attested to the nobility of his character and the grief his death brought to them.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Indiana University, May 12, 1915, Dr. Waterman placed in their hands deeds to property amounting in value to one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of founding an Institute for Scientific Research. This is the largest gift for scientific research ever made in Indiana. Dr. Waterman believed the highest form of charity is to discover useful truth, and for this purpose he

gave the savings of a frugal and industrious life. The Luther Dana Waterman Institute for Research began its work in September, 1917. It is a satisfaction to know that Dr. Waterman lived to see the work inaugurated and to express interest in its progress. It is to be regretted that he did not live to see at least one publication from the Institute which with wisdom and generosity he had established.

At the Indiana University commencement exercises, June 23, 1915, President Bryan chose Dr. Waterman's life as a theme for his address to the senior class. No more fitting conclusion to this biography could be written. I therefore quote from President Bryan's address:

"I wish to say a few words to the oldest member of our faculty—Dr. Luther Dana Waterman, professor of medicine emeritus.

"Surgeon in the Federal Army, prisoner of war at Macon and Charleston, in civil life physician and professor of medicine, you have in eighty-four years won position and honors and fortune such that many would for them sacrifice everything else in the world. But I wish these my children to see that you have made your way up to a great practical success *without* sacrificing everything else in the world. You have not sacrificed your interest in the worlds that lie outside of your vocation of physician. Most men of every calling are caught within the trap of their own business. Not you. You have escaped that trap. You have traveled far among men and books and ideas. You are not of those who bear a title from the college of liberal arts and are yet aliens from its spirit. In the world of the liberal arts you are a citizen. You are friend with Plato and Virgil and Darwin and their kind. You know that these are not dead names in the academic catalogue, but living forces and makers of society. In that world you have spoken your own word in verses which are resolutely truthful, discriminating and brave. The joy of living as you have done in the wide, free and glorious world of the liberal arts is such that many for it have sacrificed everything else, including that practical success which you have not sacrificed.

"But besides your successes inside and beyond your calling you have had another fortune. Long ago there came to you an idea. You had lived from the days of the tallow candle and a thousand things which went with that to the days of the electric light and a thousand things which go with that. Within your lifetime you had seen an incredible access of power, enlightenment and freedom, from the discovery of truth of which all preceding generations had been ignorant. You had then the insight, the conviction that the Great Charity is the discovery of truth, which is thenceforth light and power and freedom for all men. This conviction became your deepest purpose. Thirty-two years ago you wrote:

He who would make his life a precious thing
Must nurse a kindly purpose in his soul.

“These lines were your confession. There was a great secret purpose which you were cherishing. You worked for that. You saved for that. For that you had the secret joy of living sparsely, austere as a soldier.

“Sir, you have no son. But the scholars who work upon the foundation which you have established here shall be your sons. Far down the years when all of us are in the dust your virile sons shall be here keeping alive your name and your hope. And so shall be fulfilled your saying that

They live longest in the future who
Have truest kept the purposes of life.”