

JOHN NEWELL HURTY.

LEBANON, OHIO.
FEBRUARY 21, 1852.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.
MARCH 27, 1925.

John Newell Hurty, M. D., Phar. D., was born February 21, 1852, at Lebanon, Ohio, and died at his home in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 27, 1925.



JOHN NEWELL HURTY.

He came of excellent parentage. His father was a teacher and a man of culture who gave skilled direction to his son's education. On his mother's side he was descended from General Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame.

Doctor Hurty came to Indianapolis in 1875 after having been a student in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the Jefferson Medi-

cal College. In Indianapolis he established himself as a pharmacist and chemist. From the beginning he took an active interest in questions of sanitation and conducted an aggressive campaign for the improvement of the city water supply and the eradication of typhoid fever.

In 1882 he was appointed lecturer on analytical chemistry and sanitary science in the Medical College of Indiana, and continued as a teacher in that institution and its successors the remainder of his life.

During the same year, 1882, he assisted in founding the Purdue University School of Pharmacy of which he served as dean for a time. From Purdue University he received the degree Doctor of Pharmacy.

In 1886 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Indiana and later was licensed as a physician.

In 1881 Doctor Hurty became teacher of chemistry in the Indiana Dental College and remained an active and influential member of the faculty until his death.

From 1890 to 1893 he was chemist for the Indianapolis City Board of Health and was secretary of the Board from 1893 to 1896.

In these positions he demonstrated his character and exceptional understanding of sanitary problems. This led to his appointment as secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health in 1896. With Doctor Hurty installed, this office immediately took on a new and more important significance. He made of it an opportunity to render the State of Indiana, and incidentally many other states, such signal service that soon he was recognized as one of the highest authorities in the nation on questions of public health administration and reform.

During the twenty-six years he served as secretary of the State Board of Health he was instrumental in securing the passage of more than a score of laws and amendments for the betterment of living conditions in Indiana. Many of the enactments were secured only after the most determined and prolonged fights lasting through years. In these reform struggles Doctor Hurty gave unsparingly of his time and strength as a leader. Doubtless the severe strain of these struggles shortened his days.

As a result of his arduous service, Indiana now ranks second to no other state in respect to laws dealing with the public health.

For many years Doctor Hurty was a member of this Academy. The taxing duties of his office prevented him from taking an active part in the work of the Academy, but he was always a sympathetic friend and counselor, ready to do anything he could to advance the interests of the Academy.

His keen appreciation of the relations of pure science to an understanding of our economic and health problems was constantly finding expression in his public addresses. As he went over the state talking to physicians, nurses, schools and various other assemblies, he lost no opportunity to pay a tribute to workers in science who had contributed knowledge that had resulted in practical benefits to the people. In this way he rendered a peculiar and valuable service to the Academy that it is fitting for us to acknowledge and remember.

An outstanding trait of Doctor Hurty was his kindness to young

men. In him the earnest, purposeful young man could always find sympathy and help.

Doctor Hurty was the author of many articles in magazines, journals, health bulletins and newspapers. Three books of especial merit were published. These are "Life with Health," "Health Lessons," and the "Indiana Mothers' Baby Book." A fable entitled "The Young Mother and the Fat Hog" was published and read throughout the world and was read in the United States Senate. A worthy article on "The Book-keeping of Humanity" was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and later issued in pamphlet form.

Especially noteworthy were the laws for which Doctor Hurty was responsible.

Quoting from the report of the committee appointed to draft resolutions in appreciation of Doctor Hurty, published in the Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association, volume 18, April 15, 1925:

"Perhaps no better or more comprehensive portrayal of his sanitary statesmanship, his remarkable understanding of health problems and his ability to constructively define them, can be given than a mere recital of the titles of a considerable number of the laws that he wrote and secured the passage. The incomplete list includes original laws and amendments of existing laws. It is as follows:

"The Fundamental Health Law of the state as an amendment to the Health Law of 1891; Health Law of 1891; Vital Statistics Law; Quarantine Law; Sanitary School House Law; Medical School Inspection Law; Prevention of Infant Blindness Law; Hydrophobia Law; Free Antitoxin Law; Public Water Supply Law; Pure Food and Drug Law; Law for the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis; Sanitary Food Law; Clean Milk Can Law; Renovated Butter Law; Sanitation of Bakeries Law; Water Analysis Law; Weights and Measures Law; General Housing Law; Anti-Rat Law; Eugenics Law; Law providing for the publication and distribution of the Indiana Mothers' Baby Book.

"In addition to the above, the laws creating the Food and Drug Laboratory, Water and Sewage Laboratory, and the Laboratory of Bacteriology and Pathology of the State Board of Health were enacted under Doctor Hurty's administration.

"Doctor Hurty always considered the publication and distribution of the Indiana Mothers' Baby Book and the establishment of the State Board laboratories the most important achievements of his administration, for the reason that the Mothers' Baby Book, going as it did to every first mother in the state with its message as to the proper care and protection of the baby, was instrumental in saving life at its source; while the laboratories of the State Board of Health provided valuable service to all the people of the state.

"He had, while yet among us, a visible monument in every county and practically every township of Indiana in the form of a modern and sanitary school house, the result of the law he secured giving the State Board of Health power to condemn unsanitary school buildings.

"The Vital Statistics Law which he wrote and secured the enactment of was so highly esteemed that for some years after its enactment the United States Public Health Department sent government repre-

sentatives annually to Indiana to study and observe the operation of what the government regarded as a model law."

The distinguished services of John Newell Hurty are remembered with pride and gratitude and in his death we mourn the loss of a friend of singularly sweet and lovable nature.

JOHN S. WRIGHT.