

practical, and sounder practices, which in turn had become hopelessly slow and expensive by the time that he edited the *New Letters of Abigail Adams* for this Society in 1945. To be fair about it, Stewart's high editorial standards were achieved only because he had a dual personality in office, the other one being Miss Marjory M. Bruce. Even with her help the output of his years in office was pitifully small because he worked only when the spirit moved him.

The decision which shaped Stewart Mitchell's life was made in our graduate student days. Those were lean years for young men in our field, particularly those with families to support. Mrs. Thomas offered to settle a life income on him if he would forego marriage and be her social companion. So he moved out of our graduate-school world and became for our children an out-of-season Santa Claus who used to come in a big chauffeur-driven limousine. After the death of Mrs. Thomas he developed serious personal failings which were a trial to his friends, who never ceased to regard him with exasperated affection. His health failed swiftly after his retirement from the Massachusetts Historical Society, and he died on November 1, 1957. C. K. S.

WILLIAM HUTCHINSON PUTNAM

William Hutchinson Putnam died at Hartford, March 10, 1958. Only a month before his death he was honored on his eightieth birthday as "Hartford's Number One Citizen," at a testimonial dinner attended by some eight hundred government, business, and civic leaders. Forty years of his life were given to advancing the civic life of the city of Hartford. He once listed his principal interests as "Hartford Hospital, Hartford parks and horticulture, education of women at Connecticut College, major improvements in the

city of Hartford, and the welfare of its citizens." A commentator at his testimonial dinner stated that Mr. Putnam had diverted millions of dollars into good works over the years.

Mr. Putnam was born in Brooklyn, Connecticut, February 1, 1878, the son of Albert Day and Harriet Eliza (Dorrance) Putnam. After a public school education and a few years in banking and finance, he entered into the field of stock brokerage, which was to be his career for the rest of his life. But his philanthropic activities consumed the greater part of his time and energy.

He received an honorary M.A. from Trinity College in 1942 and an honorary Litt.D. from Hillyer College in 1955. He was a member of the leading social clubs and civic organizations of Hartford. He took much interest in his membership in the Walpole Society, a group of scholars and collectors which met frequently in the East and made an outlet for social friendships. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1941, and showed continued interest in its Library and its welfare. He was active in many fields of collecting, especially in the study of early American clocks.

Mr. Putnam was married in 1899 to Adabelle C. Lyon who died in 1944, and he was survived by two sons and a daughter.

C. S. B.

FRANCIS HENRY TAYLOR

The death of Francis Henry Taylor, on November 22, 1957, deprived this Society of a recent and much interested member, and the community of an active force in the cultural world. He was born in Philadelphia, April 23, 1903, the son of Dr. William Johnson and Emily Buckley (New-

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