

OBITUARIES.

JOHN SHAW BILLINGS.

John Shaw Billings, a member of this Society since 1899, died in New York City, March 11, 1913. He was born in Switzerland County, Indiana, April 12, 1839, was graduated from Miami University in 1857 and from the Medical College of Ohio in 1860.

In 1861 he entered the United States Army as assistant surgeon and after nearly thirty-four years service retired in 1895 holding the rank of deputy Surgeon-General. During the Civil War he was in charge of hospitals in West Philadelphia and New York, was in field service with the army of the Potomac and in 1864 went to Washington where he organized the Veterans Reserve Corps and had charge of the physicians' contracts and of property and distributing accounts, remaining until 1875 during which time he developed the library of the Surgeons-Generals' office till it became the largest collection of medical books in the world.

Under his directions a catalogue which has been called "Epoch Making" was prepared. Among his many public services at this time he helped reorganize the United States Marine Hospital, was Vice-President of the National Board of Health, edited the mortality and vital statistics of the tenth census and the vital and social statistics of the eleventh census and was advisor to several hospitals.

In New York he found two libraries established on three foundations, three miles apart with 350,000 volumes and a staff of forty persons, and he left the present public library with its home building planned by him,

forty branch buildings, a collection of over two million volumes, with a staff of over 1,000 persons. He was a member of more than forty learned societies. These degrees were conferred upon him: A. M. from Miami University; M. D. from the Medical College of Ohio, also from Munich and Dublin; LL.D. from Edinburgh, Harvard, Buda Pesth, Yale, and Johns Hopkins; D. C. L. from Oxford. He married Kate M. Stevens, of Washington, September 3, 1862. s. u.

FRANCIS BLAKE.

Francis Blake was born in Needham, Mass., December 25, 1850, and died in Weston, Mass., January 19, 1913.

He was connected with the U. S. Coast Survey for thirteen years and later devoted himself to experimental physics. He invented many electrical devices, among them the Blake Transmitter which plays an important part in telephones throughout the world. The honorary degree of A. M., was conferred upon him by Harvard in 1902. He was a member of many learned societies, American and Foreign, including this Society to which he was elected in 1900.

He married Elizabeth L. Hubbard, of Weston, Mass., on June 24, 1873. s. u.

GEORGE EBENEZER FRANCIS.

George Ebenezer Francis, was born in Lowell, Mass., May 29, 1838, and died in Worcester, November 20, 1912. He was graduated from Harvard in 1858 with the degree of A. B., which was followed by that of M. D. in 1863 and by that of A. M. in 1872. After short terms of service as volunteer surgeon in the U. S. Army he was appointed acting assistant surgeon in the U. S. Navy and held that position over two years. In October 1865, he began the practice of medicine in Worcester and continued in that profession until just before his death.

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