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OF

Pittsburgh and Environs /

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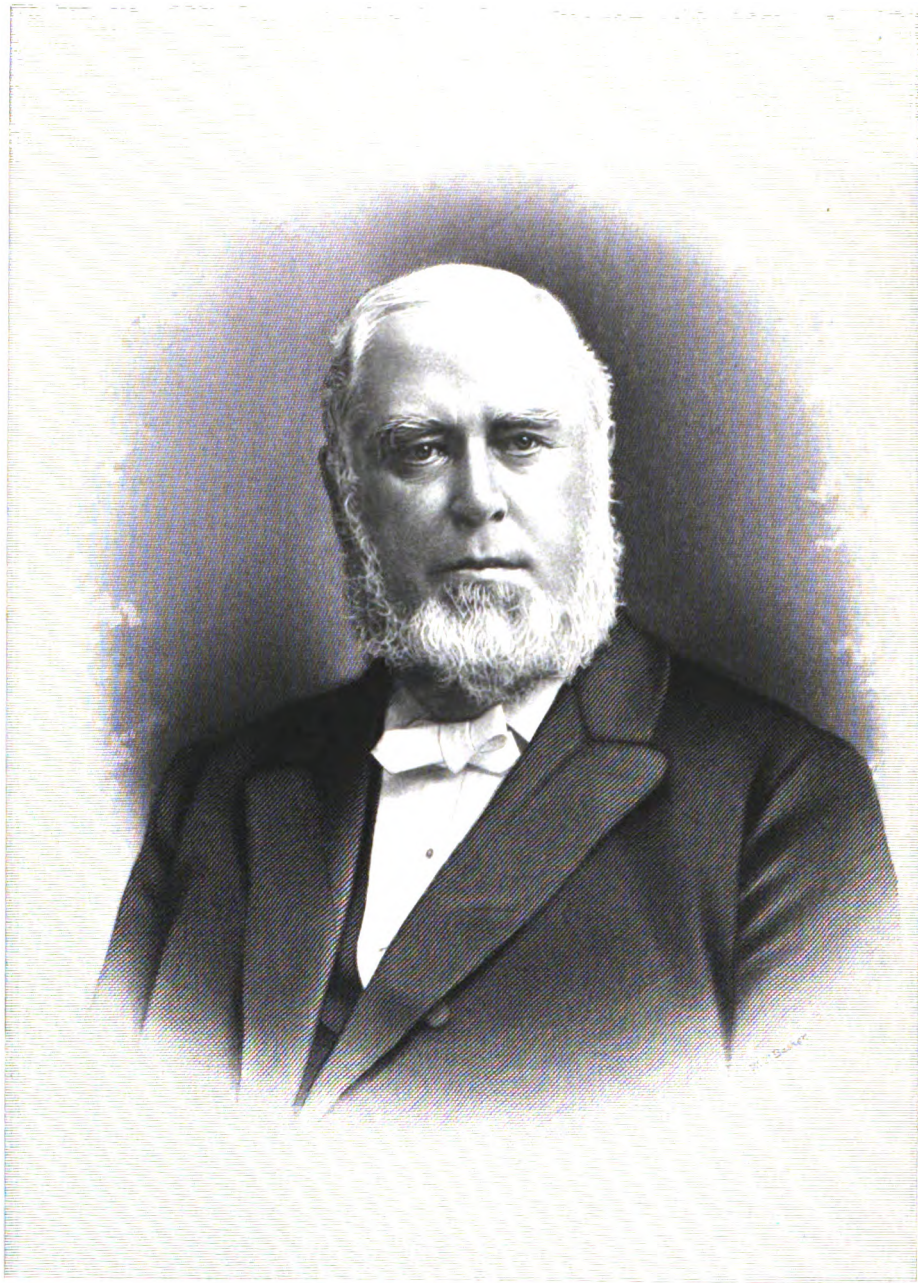
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The Century of the Century, 1911

William J. Reid.

the dining room and service buildings at the Dixmont Hospital for the Insane, the Carnegie Library, Beaver Falls; and the Allegheny County Mortuary and Allegheny County Jail, Pittsburgh. Of his residential work the following beautiful Pittsburgh homes are representative: That of Thomas Morrison, on Highland avenue, of H. C. Frick, Penn and Homewood avenues, of D. H. Hostetter, on Fifth avenue, of C. D. Armstrong, on Lexington avenue, of George M. Von Bonnhorst, of Ingram, and of the Hon. R. S. Frazer, on Shady avenue, Pittsburgh. Of industrial buildings from Mr. Osterling's designs, there are a goodly number in Pittsburgh and vicinity, including the Armstrong Cork Company warehouse; the American Vanadium Company, Bridgeville; the Consolidated Ice Company, Pittsburgh; the L. Vilsack warehouse; the Haugh & Keenan Storage & Transfer Company's building; Campbell's Department Store, and an important portion of the plant of the Westinghouse Airbrake Company, Wilmerding, Pa.

Perhaps, however, the work which has attracted the widest attention, and which will be of most lasting interest to the citizens of Pittsburgh, is standing in the schools of Pittsburgh and its environs. Besides the Allegheny High School, which, as above noted, was his first work, Mr. Osterling designed the North Public School, Duquesne Way; the Dormont Public School, Dormont; the Eleventh Ward Public School, known as the Horace Mann School, at the corner of Shadeland avenue and Eckert street; the Sunnyside Public School, at the corner of McCandless avenue and Sixty-sixth street; the Oakmont Public School, Oakmont; the Thaddeus Stevens Public School, on Main street, West End; and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic School, on Center avenue.

Mr. Osterling's work includes, in almost every instance, the oversight of the entire construction of his buildings, and he sometimes has as many as six hundred workmen busy under his direction. His own office building, which he constructed in 1917, containing his offices, drafting rooms, etc., and occupied entirely by himself and his assistants, is a wonderful example of modern compactness, and a structure of rare beauty and symmetry.

Mr. Osterling's interests center in his business, and he has no hobby but work. He achieved his present high position entirely by his own efforts, and may well be congratulated upon having realized his cherished ambition to a degree rare in a world of struggle and competition.

Fraternally, Mr. Osterling is prominent, holding the thirty-second degree in the Masonic order, and being a member of all the Masonic bodies. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and of the United Order of American Mechanics. He is an influential and honored member of the Pennsylvania State Architecture Association. Politically, he reserves the right to individual decision, in local affairs, with which he keeps in close touch, but supports the Republican party in matters of national import. He has often been sought as a candidate for public office, but has thus far consistently declined to accept political honors. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Athletic Club, and of the Union Club. He has never married, and his church membership is with the Smithfield Methodist Episcopal Church.

WILLIAM JAMES REID, D. D., LL. D.—Truly a part of the history of Pittsburgh, the life work of Dr. William J. Reid can be localized only insofar as it concerns the lifelong occupancy of one pulpit, that of the First United Presbyterian Church, of Pittsburgh. In a much larger sense he belonged to the denomination, to the church general, and to the body of mankind for whom he felt a close brotherhood. If it is possible to summarize his life and character, it can only be done in the statement that at all times and under all conditions he followed, as closely as it was given him to know them, the will and example of his Divine Leader.

Dr. Reid was born Aug. 17, 1834, near the town of Argyle, Washington county, N. Y. He was descended from the earliest settlers in that section, sturdy Scotch immigrants, who built up the God-fearing communities where even to this day almost Puritanic ideals of Christianity prevail. Dr. Reid's great-grandfather, Duncan McArthur, was one of the grantees of the Scotch Patent, and drew town and farm lots No. 44 in a grant of land made by George III. to the Duke of Argyle, of Scotland, and passed on by him to one hundred and seven persons, emigrants from Scotland with Capt. Laughlin Campbell, in the years 1738 or 1739 and 1740. This original grant came into possession of the ancestral line in the year 1764 or 1765, and descended from the great-grandfather to the grandfather, Maj. John Reid, and from him to Dr. Reid's father, John Reid, 2nd; then to Donald Reid, Dr. Reid's elder brother. The original parchment given by the Duke of Argyle is still in the possession of the family, and it was here, on this old homestead, that Dr. Reid was born.

John Reid, the doctor's father, was a man of simple tastes and domestic habits, devoted to his family, and industrious in the tilling of the soil on the ancestral acres. He was a deeply religious man, always active in church work, and for more than thirty years was a ruling elder in the South Argyle Congregation. He married Elizabeth McQuarie, a descendant of another old Scottish family of that section. They had two other sons, Donald and John McArthur.

William J. Reid was not attracted to farming in his early manhood. He delighted in books, and as his two brothers gave the father ample assistance in cultivating their land, he was able to develop his natural tastes. His education was begun in the little country school house near his home and continued at Argyle Academy, after which he entered Union College, in Schenectady, N. Y., being graduated in 1855. From Union College he went to Allegheny Theological Seminary, and upon the completion of the full course was licensed by the Presbytery of Argyle, April 2, 1861. A large share of the cost of his education was met by his own efforts. For three winters, 1851-52-53, he taught district school, and in 1855-58-60 taught mathematics and ancient languages at Whitestown Seminary, at Oneida, N. Y. In 1858 Union College bestowed upon him the degree of Master of Arts. On April 7, 1862, he was ordained and installed in the pulpit of the First United Presbyterian Church, of Pittsburgh, and there served until his death, which occurred Sept. 22, 1902.

Dr. Reid was a man of remarkable personal charm, a

natural leader of his fellows. He was a true friend and a great preacher. Convincing in argument, persuasive in appeal, earnest and sincere at all times, he seemed to inspire in presenting the gospel to his hearers.

Dr. Reid was also a voluminous writer. He compiled the minutes of the general assembly of which he was principal clerk for twenty-seven years. Among his books were "Unseen Battles of Youth," "The Nation's Duty to the Nation's Dead," "Lectures on the Revelations," "United Presbyterianism," "United Presbyterian Digest." For many years he wrote and published the United Presbyterian hand book, and for the last fifteen years of his life he was editor of the "United Presbyterian." Among the many positions to which he was called in the church organization were those of membership on the Board of Church Extension, 1864-71, the Board of Freedman's Mission from its organization until 1876. He was also corresponding secretary of the Home Board from 1868 to 1872, and remained a member until his death. From 1867 to 1893 he was financial agent of the Monongahela Presbytery, and from 1866 to 1878 was clerk of the Synod of Pittsburgh. He was a trustee of Allegheny Theological Seminary from 1869 until his death. Monmouth College honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1874, and in 1901 Westminster College conferred upon him that of Doctor of Laws. From 1872 until his death, Dr. Reid taught a class in Bible study every Saturday at the Young Men's Christian Association. In 1873 he was elected president of Westminster College, but felt obliged to decline. From his pulpit, in his books, in his lectures, and in organized church work he had a sphere of influence of exceptional breadth, and the unusual opportunities that came to him were utilized to the utmost for the good of the church and the extension of the kingdom. His passing in 1902 was a deep and permanent loss to the church which he served, to the city and state, and to every individual who had known his ministrations. He commanded the respect and regard of those who disagreed with him in matters of theology, and obstacles of opinion were readily surmounted by his all-embracing love for his fellows and his fidelity to the vision of service that held him to his task.

Dr. Reid married, Oct. 29, 1862, Mary Bowen, of Troy, Bradford county, Pa. She died in 1904, and of their four children only one survive.

Rev. William James Reid, Jr., son of Dr. William James and Mary (Bowen) Reid, was born in Pittsburgh, July 10, 1871. He received his early education in the public schools of the city, and was graduated from the Pittsburgh High School in 1889. He then entered Princeton University, from which he was graduated in 1893. His special preparation for the ministry was at Allegheny Theological Seminary, and he was licensed by the Presbytery of Monongahela on April 2, 1895. He was ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Butler as a pastor of the United Presbyterian Congregation of Kit-tanning, June 23, 1896, and was released by that church Sept. 30, 1900. Rev. William J. Reid, Jr., became his father's associate in the pastorate of the First United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Oct. 5, 1900, and on the death of Dr. Reid succeeded him as pastor.

The present Dr. Reid received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University in 1893, and the Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Monmouth College in 1909. Since 1910 he has been on the Home Board, and has been on the editorial staff of the "United Presbyterian" since 1913. He was a member of the committee to prepare a new version of the Psalms.

Dr. William James Reid, Jr., married, in Pittsburgh, in 1896, Margaret Morton Thompson, of that city, and they have five children: Elizabeth T., Mary B., Janet D., Helen L., and Frances B.

AUGUST SOFFEL, M. D.—Numbered among the leading general surgeons of Pittsburgh is Dr. August Soffel, whose breadth of experience and long service in his chosen profession give him the confidence of the people to an unusual degree.

Dr. Soffel is a son of Jacob Soffel, who came to this country from Germany when he was seventeen years of age. He served two years in the Civil War, on the Union side, and for many years before his retirement was official interpreter for the city of Pittsburgh, speaking several languages. He is now eighty-three years of age, and retired from active interest in public affairs. He married Catherine Ulrich, now long since deceased, who came to America from Germany when five years old.

Dr. Soffel was born in Pittsburgh, May 24, 1873. He received his early education in the public schools of the city, then took a college preparatory course at the Park Institute. In 1891 he entered the University of Western Pennsylvania, now the University of Pittsburgh, taking the medical course, and was graduated in 1894 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was interne at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for one year, then began practice in Pittsburgh. He has now practiced for twenty-six years in the same location, and in that time has made an enviable record as both physician and surgeon. He practices general surgery, and has won a reputation for remarkable success in both minor and major operations. In 1907 Dr. Soffel began service with the dispensary service of the Eye and Ear Hospital, with which he was identified for twelve years, but his private practice became so extensive that he was obliged to resign from this position. He is surgeon for the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad Company.

At the time of the American intervention in the World War, Dr. Soffel offered his services to the United States Government, and on Oct. 17, 1918, was commissioned first lieutenant of the Medical Corps of the United States Army. He was sent first to Camp Crane, Allentown, Pa. He was ready to go overseas when the Armistice put an end to the hostilities, and he was discharged from the service, Dec. 6, 1918. It was a source of genuine regret to him that his crossing was delayed until his services were no longer needed.

Dr. Soffel is a member of the American Medical Association, and of the Pennsylvania State and Allegheny County Medical societies. He is a member of and medical examiner for the Independent Order of Foresters. He holds the thirty-second degree in the Masonic order, being a member of Pittsburgh Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and is also a member of Syria