

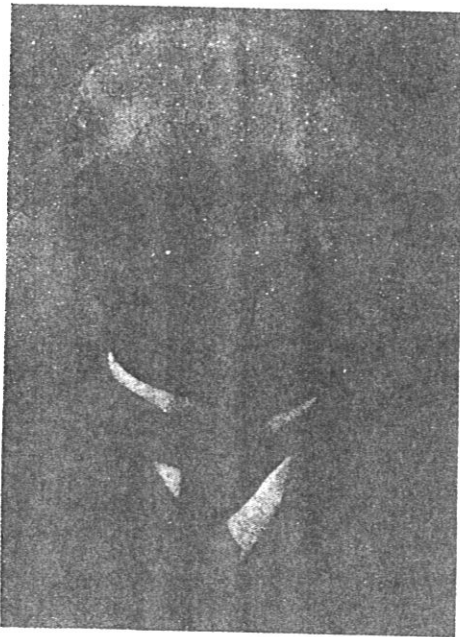
## NEWTON L. BATES—SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES NAVY, 1897

By CAPTAIN LOUIS H. RODDIS, *Medical Corps, U. S. Navy*

THE eleventh Surgeon General, United States Navy, and the fifteenth Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. This Surgeon General was born in New York and appointed from that State as an assistant surgeon in the Navy on July 30, 1861. He was first attached to the Naval Hospital, New York, and then did duty on the *U.S.S. Seneca* in the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Later he went to the *U.S.S. Benton* of the Mississippi Squadron. He thus saw much active service at sea during the Civil War. From 1864, he was attached to the United States Naval Laboratory at New York.

The future Surgeon General had been promoted to the grade of Surgeon on September 16, 1865. He saw much sea duty after the Civil War, serving on the *U.S.S. Portsmouth*, the *Swatare*, *Miantonomah*, *Pawnee*, *Brooklyn* (Fleet Surgeon), and *Minnesota*. He commanded the United States Naval Hospital, Yokohama, Japan, for two years. He was attending surgeon in Washington, D.C. for three years, 1884-87. He was promoted to Medical Inspector in June 1881, and Medical Director September 1888. He commanded the Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California, after which he returned to Washington in 1893 for duty, as a member of the Medical Examining Board. He was appointed

Surgeon General of the Navy by President McKinley on October 1, 1897. Mrs. Bates had been a school friend of Mrs. McKinley and Dr. Bates was a



Newton L. Bates  
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close personal friend and trusted medical advisor of the family. Dr. Bates was ill at the time of his appointment and, in fact, was sworn in at his home, not being able to go to his office in the Navy Department. He died 18 days later, on October 18, 1897. Thus, his term of office was the shortest of any Surgeon General of our Navy. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.