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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS.

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1893.



JOHN SHAW BILLINGS.

BILLINGS, John Shaw, Washington, D. C., son of James and Abbie (Shaw) Billings, grandson of Jesse Billings, was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, April 12, 1839. Degrees: A. B. 1857, A. M. 1860, Miami University; M. D. 1860, Medical College of Ohio; LL. D. Edinburgh 1884, and Harvard University 1886; M. D. Munich 1889; D. C. L. Oxon. 1889; R. C. P. I. and R. C. S. I. 1892; M. D. Dublin 1892. Resident physician, St. John's hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1858-'59; resident physician, Commercial Hospital, Cincinnati, 1859-'60; demonstrator of anatomy, Medical College of Ohio, 1860-'61; passed army examining board, September, 1861; appointed acting assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, November, 1861; commissioned assistant surgeon, April 16, 1862; March 13, 1865, brevet lieutenant-colonel, U. S. army; July 28, 1866, captain and assistant surgeon, U. S. army; December 2, 1876, major and surgeon; promoted, June 16, 1894, to lieutenant-colonel and deputy surgeon-general, U. S. army. Served from November, 1861, until 1863, in charge of hospitals in Washington, D. C., and West Philadelphia; then with the Army of the Potomac, being with the Fifth corps at the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. From October, 1863, to February, 1864, served on hospital duty at David's and Bedloe's islands in the vicinity of New York city; sent on special mission to West Indies; also acted on a board of enrollment, after which, became medical inspector to the Army of the Potomac, and in December, 1864, was ordered to the surgeon general's office, Washington, where he had charge of the organization of the Veteran Reserve Corps, of matters pertaining to contract physicians, and to all property and disbursing accounts until 1875; also of the library of the surgeon general's office until his appointment, December 28, 1883, as curator of the army medical museum and library. He is in charge of division of Vital Statistics, eleventh census, and medical adviser of the board of trustees, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Billings was engaged in the reorganization of the United States Marine Hospital Service, in 1870; was in 1879-'82 vice-president of the National Board of Health. He is professor of hygiene, University of Pennsylvania, director of

the Laboratory of Hygiene, University of Pennsylvania, and also of the University hospital, and is a member of a number of scientific societies, among which are—1882, Academy of National Sciences of Philadelphia; 1871, Philosophical Society of Washington, and ex-president; 1880, American Medical Association; 1880, American Public Health Association, and ex-president; 1882, American Social Science Association; 1883, American Academy of Medicine; 1883, American Association for the Advancement of Science; 1883, National Academy of Sciences, and treasurer; 1884, American Statistical Association, and vice-president, 1889; 1886, American Surgical Association; 1887, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia; 1888, Congress American Physicians and Surgeons, and ex-president; 1889-'91, American member of Council of the International Congress of Hygiene; 1890, American Academy of Political and Social Scientific, Philadelphia; 1893, International Statistical Institute. He is also an *honorary member* of the following societies: 1879, Medical Society of the County of New York; 1880, Medical Society of the State of New York; 1880, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland; 1881, Medical Society of London; 1881, Clinical Society of London; 1881, Society of Medical Officers of Health, London; 1882, Société Française d'Hygiène, Paris; 1882, Medical Society of Sweden; 1882, Medico-Chirurgical Society, St. Louis, Mo.; 1883, New Hampshire Medical Society; 1883, Statistical Society of London; 1883, Connecticut Medical Society; 1890, Sanitary Institute, London; 1891, Harvard Medical School Association; 1883, College of Physicians of Philadelphia; 1885, Physikalisch Medicinische Gesellschaft, Würzburg; 1885, Gynecological Society of Boston; 1886, British Medical Association; 1886, Sociedad Union Fernandina, Lima; 1887, Association of American Physicians; 1887, Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London; 1888, Epidermiological Society of London; 1888, Der Arztliche Verein in Munchen; 1890, Hunterian Society, London; 1890, Medical Society of Athens; 1891, Medical Society of the State of California; 1891, New York Academy of Medicine; 1893, Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

Publications: Reports in the Medical and Surgical History of the War; On cryptogamic growths in cattle diseases, 8vo, 1869; Report on barracks and hospitals, "Circular No. 4," War Department, A. G. O., 1870, p. 527. "Bibliography of cholera," 8vo, 1875. Report on the hygiene of the United States Army, "Circular No. 8," War Department, A. G. O., 4to, 1875. "Medical Education," being lectures before the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, 1877-'78. "Medical libraries in the United States," 8vo, 1876. Introduction to "A Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health," edited by Albert Buck, M. D. (Ziemssen's Handbook), 1879. "Address on State Medicine and Public Hygiene;" Trans. Am. Med. Asso., 1880, xxx, 275-291. "National Board of Health and National Quarantine;" Trans. Am. Med. Asso., 1880, xxxi. "Our medical literature;" the American address at the International Med. Cong., Lond., 1881. "Principles of Ventilation and Heating," 8vo, 1884; 2d ed. 1893. "Mortality and Vital Statistics of the United States," 2 vols., 4to, 1885. "Hygiene;" System Pract. Med. by Amer. Authors (Pepper's), Phila., i, 1885, p. 173-212. "Memoirs of Joseph Janvier Woodward;" read before the Nat. Acad. Sciences, April 22, 1885. "Medicine in the United States, and its relations to coöperative investigation;" read before the Brit. Med. Asso., August, 1886, p. 30. "Scientific men and their duties;" president's address before the Philosophical Society of Washington, 1886. "On Medical Museums, with special reference to the Army Medical Museum at Washington;" president's address before the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, 1888, p. 32. "Memoir of Spencer Fullerton Baird," 1823-1887; read before the Nat. Acad. of Sciences, 1889, pp. 17. "Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.," 1880-'94, Roy. 8vo., Vol. I-XIV. "The National Medical Dictionary," 2 vols., 8vo, 1889. "Description of the Johns Hopkins hospital," 4to, 1890. "Vital Statistics of the Jews in the United States," Census Bulletin No. 19, 1890. "Public Health and Municipal Government;" address before Am. Acad. Political and Social Science at the Art Club, Philadelphia, Jan. 14, 1891, published by the academy; 8vo, 23 pp. "American Inventions and Discoveries in Med-

icine, Surgery, and Practical Sanitation;" read at celebration of the beginning of the second century of the American patent system, held in Washington, D. C., April 8-10, 1891. "Social Statistics of Cities" (Census Bulletin No. 100, 1891). "Can the reports of the sick and the sanitary statements of the different armies be arranged according to a scheme essentially uniform, for the purpose of gaining statistics of scientific worth for comparison of diseases, wounds, and deaths in times of peace and war?" Trans. Internat. Med. Cong., Berlin, 1890.

"Ideals of Medical Education:" Address in Medicine, Yale University, 1871. "The Objects, Plans, and Needs of the Laboratory of Hygiene;" address at the opening of the laboratory of hygiene, University of Pennsylvania, 1892. "The Health of the Survivors of the War" [*Forum*, xii, 642-658, January, 1892.] "Medicine as a Career" [*Forum*, xiv, 725-734, February, 1893]. "Hygiene: Text-Book of the Theory and Practice of Medicine" (Pepper's), Philadelphia, 1893, I, pp. 1-45, Roy. 8vo.

And numerous papers in scientific and medical periodicals: "Municipal sanitation—defects in American cities" [*Forum*, 1893, xv, 304-310]. "Effects of his occupation upon the physician" [*Internat. Jour. Ethics*, Philadelphia, 1893, iv, 40-48]. "Reports on the Vital Statistics of the District of Columbia and Baltimore, and of New York city and Brooklyn, covering a period of six years ending May 31, 1890," Washington, D. C., 1893

Dr. Billings married, in September, 1862, Miss Kate M. Stevens. Their children are Mary Clure, Kate Sherman, Jessie Ingram, John Sedgwick, and Margaret Janeway.