

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley.

Our readers have already been informed through the medium of the daily papers of the death of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley at his winter home in Los Angeles, Cal. The Associated Press dispatch conveying the information stated that he died at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, February 21st, at Los Angeles, of heart disease. To quote from the Tribune, "Dr. Keeley had felt no real alarm over his illness, but during the night he was unconscious on the floor of his bath room in a comatose condition. He was removed to his bed and gradually sank. At five o'clock his pulse was feeble, that being the precursor of the end. When a regular practicing physician Dr. Westhughes, was summoned, the patient had passed away."

Dr. Keeley left Dwight for Los Angeles, the day after Christmas and his business associates have heard from him from time to time, but no intimation had been given to them that the Doctor was not in his usual condition. The first intimation of his death to reach Dwight was through a newspaper reporter calling at the Chicago office of the Company and asking for information. The long distance telephone gave this information, and hence the dispatch received later from Los Angeles was not altogether a surprise. Dr. Keeley is an old resident of Dwight, having come here immediately after the war and residing here constantly ever since, with the exception of such time as was spent at his winter home in California and in travel.

SKETCH OF HIS CAREER.

Leslie E. Keeley was born in Potsdam, N. Y., in 1832. His father was an old-fashioned country doctor, but a man of wide reading and full of eccentricities. Leslie was sent to school, and was regarded as an apt scholar, but it was his custom as a child, when school hours ended, to hurry to the village tavern, where the arrival of the stage coach was always awaited by a crowd of villagers. The driver would pull up his team, throw his reins to an obsequious hostler, and hurry into the bar-room. Young Keeley would follow, and with the crowd which attended, listened with open ears to the news which he oracularly doled out.

That stage driver was young Leslie Keeley's hero, but one night his numerous admirers invited him to the bar too frequently, and his steps were uncertain. The great stage driver sank down on the ground and went into a stertorous sleep. Keeley watched him until morning. From that night the boy had a sort of mania to watch all men who were addicted to drink and it is related of him that night after night he would follow and care for the villagers and visitors who drank too hard. He was laughed at, but he stored up the various characteristics of the drinking men and the apparent effects which liquor had on them.

YOUNG MAN COMES WEST.

When the boy grew to young manhood, having earned a little money, he came West, and added to his experience by a residence in New Orleans and several trips up the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. He came to Chicago and entered as a student in Rush Medical College in 1850, and was therefore in his second year when the civil war began. He volunteered and as a medical cadet was assigned to duty at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis. The medical officers in charge were glad to have an ardent young man to relieve them. But Cadet Keeley awakened them when he reported to them that the barracks and the whole camp were in such a condition that an epidemic of typhoid fever might be expected. Cadet Keeley did more. He sent a communication to headquarters, and the result was a sanitary overhauling. Then Cadet Keeley was made an Assistant Surgeon, U. S. V., and placed in command as medical officer of the barracks.

Surgeon Keeley was ordered into active service as a brig. de medical director. He arranged his staff, had incompetent men discharged, and organized a system of caring for the wounded which contained the essence of the plans now in use the world over.

HE SETTLES IN DWIGHT.

When the war was ended young Keeley returned to Rush Medical College. He was graduated in 1856, and looked for a place to locate. Finally he decided on Dwight, Livingston county, Illinois, and he settled down as an all-around country doctor. He was successful. For years he drove his team over the prairies and the farmers testify to his ability.

The Chicago & Alton railroad appointed him division surgeon, and when the terrible accident near the Summit occurred Dr. Keeley was first at hand. When the relief train from Chicago with a corps of physicians and surgeons appeared on the scene Dr. Keeley, without any real authority, save his own presence, organized them into definite action.

STUDYING EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

During all these years Dr. Keeley had been intensely interested in the investigation of the various phases of the effects of alcohol and other drugs. He had convinced himself that there was nothing

in the claim that heredity had anything to do with either. He believed that, while a neurosis might be entailed upon descendants, they were not upon necessity liquor or drug users. His position made a hue and cry among physicians.

Dr. Keeley's experience in the army and in his railroad connections had convinced him that alcoholism was a disease and could be cured. He began to experiment. He found that alcohol attacked certain nerve forces. The salts of gold years ago had been used, and he experimented with them.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

He wrote to several hundred well-known physicians to ascertain what they knew about the effects of salts of gold. A few responded, and their information was meagre. Dr. Keeley compounded a prescription and sent it out with a request to physicians to give it a trial. Many sent in a reply that it was a success.

About this time it came to the ears of the late Joseph Medill, of the Chicago Tribune, that a country doctor was curing men of drunkenness. The Tribune sent a reporter. He came home and wrote up what he had learned. Mr. Medill was not convinced and he sent another reporter. Dr. Keeley said to him:

"Please tell Mr. Medill to send me six of the worst drunkards he can find, and in three days I will sober them up and in four weeks I will send them back to Chicago sober men; and, unless of their own volition, they will never seek liquor. At any rate they will never have need or necessity therefor."

SUCCESS OF THE TEST.

The challenge was accepted and the six men were sent. The general success of the experiment was exploited in the Tribune, and Dr. Keeley regarded this as having much to do with the success of the Keeley movement. Other newspapers took up the movement also and exploited it.

In 1891 Dr. Keeley visited Europe. Luther Lullin Mills spoke at a meeting in London, at which Canon Farrar presided, and the result was the opening of The Keeley Institute of London with Dr. Oscar C. deWolf, for many years Health Commissioner of Chicago, as the president. It has since been increasing in its influence and prosperity.

Dr. Keeley held that his work was like Pasteur's and required an education of those who administered it—that in fact it was a new school of medicine. But he yielded to the arguments of his friends and allowed Keeley Institutes to be opened in various parts of the United States, it, however, being a sine qua non that the physician in charge must be a regular graduate of an accredited medical college and must prior to his appointment as a Keeley physician take a course of instruction at Dwight and pass an examination before receiving his credentials. Several states have passed laws recognizing the Keeley treatment and providing for state aid to those unable to secure it for themselves. There are local institutes in nearly every state and territory and several in some, where physicians educated at Dwight, are in charge.

The Chicago Times Herald of Feb. 22nd, has the following:

Dr. Keeley was of Irish extraction, a man not given to discussing his early life, nor in fact to making much reference to his past. He was genial of nature, robust, six feet in height, strong in his conviction, cordial with all whom he met, but always reticent as to his own affairs. His boyhood and early manhood were spent in St. Lawrence County, New York. He studied medicine, took a classical college course, and was ready for professional life when the civil war came.

Then he entered the army, became a surgeon of repute, quietly retired when hostilities were ended and located himself at Dwight, Ill. There for twenty years in painstaking work he experimented upon a cure for drunkenness. When he found what is now known as the "bi-chloride of gold" remedy, he believed that it was what the world had been looking for during the ages, and he so announced it. It was heralded as "the cure" of the century, if not all time, and the first experiments made with it in a public way bore out every claim the doctor made for it.

Old medical practitioners combatted his theories. His state certificate as a physician was revoked by the state board of health June 30, 1881, but Governor Fifer immediately restored it to him on the ground that it had been revoked "without such notice and trial as the law allows and without a proper finding upon the facts." From that time on Dr. Keeley experienced little further trouble with regular physicians.

By 1884 there were 125 Keeley cure branches—offshoots of the main institution at Dwight, seventy miles south of Chicago, on the Alton road—in Canada and the United States. Before the opening of these branches Dwight was literally swamped with patients. The hotels, the buildings of the institution, the private homes thrown open could not accommodate them. It seemed as if every man that ever carried a "jag" came there for the cure.

The method of treatment was simple, although the ingredients of the injections given were always kept secret. Patients arriving were received, allowed such liquor as they desired, and then treated four times a day. The manner of treatment was for them to bare the arm and receive a hypodermic injection of the bichloride. Besides this they took a tonic internally every two hours. Soon after the treatment commenced the craving for liquor began to cease. As a rule they were pronounced cured in about four weeks after their first arrival. So rapid was the work of cure that six years ago there were 150,000 Keeley graduates in the United States, and now there are over 300,000. Women were treated as well as men.

As to what Dr. Keeley himself thought of his cure his own language will best tell. He said long ago:

"I do not claim to have a magical remedy that will make it physically impossible for a man to ever drink again. That would be an absurd claim. All I do is to restore a man to his normal condition. My remedy restores the stomach to its normal functions and takes away the craving and the necessity for unnatural stimulation."

Dr. Keeley always maintained that not over 5 per cent of the patients ever lapsed into the drink habit again after leaving him. The general public be-

lieved in him with such faith that he carried his institutions to London, Liverpool, and other foreign cities. He also took in opium victims as well as inebriates, and was successful in their treatment. His clientele grew so large that annual Keeley conventions were held in different cities of the United States, Keeley institution stock was placed on the market and liberally bought. Keeley graduates formed alumni associations and for a great many years there was a strong Keeley wave flowing over a good portion of the country.



LESLIE E. KEELEY, LL. D.

lieved in him with such faith that he carried his institutions to London, Liverpool, and other foreign cities. He also took in opium victims as well as inebriates, and was successful in their treatment. His clientele grew so large that annual Keeley conventions were held in different cities of the United States, Keeley institution stock was placed on the market and liberally bought. Keeley graduates formed alumni associations and for a great many years there was a strong Keeley wave flowing over a good portion of the country.

What fortune the doctor has left no one knows. One estimate is a million dollars. He was wealthy, wealthier than many imagined, but his investments were in stocks, bonds and securities of like character, not easily traced by the inquisitive. Besides the home in Los Angeles he owned another fine place at Dwight. He leaves a widow, but no children. His nephew, Dr. Milton R. Keeley, has been connected with the Dwight Institute for several years past. Five brothers and two sisters survive him.

His first treatment of public patients began in 1880. His work was uphill at first, but by 1892 he was treating 1,000 patients at Dwight. His branch institutions at first very numerous finally condensed themselves into sixty, extending from Maine to California. The London Institute is still in existence. To handle his business properly Dr. Keeley organized The Leslie E. Keeley Company in 1886. He was the president of it, John R. Oughton vice-president and Curtis J. Judd secretary and treasurer.

The highest reputation Dr. Keeley had built for himself in Dwight was that of a man who always listened to tales of woe, always freely gave where aid was needed, and as far as possible kept secret the nature and amount of his charities. He was 68 years of age, and a graduate of Rush Medical College. His technical name for his cure was "The Double Chloride of Gold" or "Chloride of Gold and Sodium" remedy. He was the author of a book entitled "Non-Heredity of Inebriety."

At Los Angeles, California, he was apparently in excellent health, with the exception of a bronchial trouble from which he had suffered more or less for a number of years. Major Curtis J. Judd, the secretary and treasurer of The Leslie E. Keeley Company, was on the train between Dwight and Chicago on his way to Massachusetts when the news came, and was immediately telegraphed to return. Dr. Keeley began the treatment of drunkenness and addiction to the use of opium in 1880, and no particular attention was attracted to the work until about ten years afterward. In 1891 and 1892 there were in Dwight for treatment constantly from 800 to 1,000 patients, a much larger number than the village could conveniently accommodate. This necessitated the opening of branch institutes, which sprung up all over the country, and to-day there are sixty such institutes, one or more in nearly every state. There are also branch institutes in England and other foreign countries. Over 300,000 men and women in the United States alone have been treated at the various Keeley institutes.

MANY TELEGRAMS RECEIVED.

The community of Dwight was greatly shocked by the news of the doctor's death, as no one had any cause to expect it in the near future. Telegrams have been pouring in from the

cured have frequently said that they were saved as much by Dr. Keeley as by his cure. All of these men will now feel that they have lost not only a physician, but a warm and true friend."

Curtis J. Judd, Secretary and Treasurer of The Leslie E. Keeley Co., says:

My acquaintance with Dr. Keeley dates back to 1869; his better nature attracted my attention then, and as I learned to know his excellent qualities through all the years, found only surface conditions to criticize. In the early history of Dwight, society was limited, and mutual necessity existed, requiring all to contribute some special talent. Societies and amusements represented amateur art, and the pleasant memory of Dr. Keeley's successful efforts are an interesting chapter among his early associates. He was a thorough reader of the world's events, with a comprehensive memory for future reference; a natural student, with a mental storehouse, the admiration and envy of conversationalists. His early medical life at Dwight proved a boon of cherished recognition for many families. Through a great love of professional duty, he lost sight of financial results, in a greater effort to serve others. Dr. Keeley has just closed a grand life work of twenty years. In his death Dwight has lost its staunchest friend. Many will mourn his generous friendship and the world a great benefactor. His good deeds are the best living epitaph.

H. A. Kenyon, General Manager of The Leslie E. Keeley Co., says:

The Dwight friends of long ago will remember Dr. Keeley, the young practitioner, as a veritable conundrum to those who did not know him intimately. Never trifling or flippant in his social relations, he possessed a fund of good humor, which, though hidden beneath a calm exterior, was always "on tap" when opportunity offered. He never forgot a good clean story and one seldom suffered curtailment at his hands. Among the young ladies and the bachelor contingent he was much sought after as a leader or principal entertainer, roles which he filled with as much grace as if presiding over a class of medical students.

Members of the "Round Table" were always indebted to him, whether for a qual eating contest, a pumpkin pie championship or the bringing about by supposed personal invitation the meeting of a half dozen cavaliers, who in their best "tob and tucker" had called at Mademoiselle's home, each as the one guest favored above all others; somehow the Doctor would always be in the background to help we come and soothe the victims of the prank.

Of decided dramatic ability and an excellent organizer, some of our people will remember the great success that attached to his leadership in presenting "Pinafore" and at the time of the yellow fever scourge in the South about the year 1878 when he placed before them the two play entertainment of "The Miser," as high tragedy and "Doctor O'Calligan," as a rip roaring comedy. The proceeds were between two hundred and three hundred dollars for the fever stricken victims.

Dr. Keeley at one time had a professional riding circuit covering about four hundred square miles, extending from Sunbury on the west to Nortonville on the east, and from Gardner to Sullivan township. Just how to obtain company to relieve the monotony of the long and tedious drives was to him a matter of only secondary importance, and some are with us to day who survive ten and fifteen hour drives after eagerly accepting an invitation for an hour's recreation. The writer remembers one of these practical jokes that returned as a boomerang. An inch or two of snow had fallen during the night and early the next morning he drove up to his patient's door with a one horse pung and an invitation to accompany him for a short ride and listen to the jingle of the "Merry, merry bells."

The round trip proved to be a thirty mile affair; the 10 o'clock snow dispersed the snow and for more than twenty miles the good Doctor had to walk and help the poor horse pull the sleigh through the mud. In after years he often referred to that trip as an experience calculated to make men grow old. It is doubtful that Dr. Keeley ever collected any considerable portion of his extended earnings in the days of his medical practice. His charges were intended to conform with the ability of the poor to pay, and he never turned a deaf ear to friend or foe who asked of him medical or financial aid; his great heart went out in sympathy to all who had felt the excruciations of poverty.

His leisure hours were largely spent in his office and with his books; an omnivorous and studious reader, he profited by all he read, and it is safe to say that he not only read a greater number and diversity of books than others, but that he was undoubtedly better informed on the subjects of ancient and modern history than the average teacher of those studies; for this reason he was a most delightful traveling companion. He was not only a good storyteller, but one of the best of listeners and observers and it was the possession of these qualities that enabled him so well to grasp the characteristics of the inebriate and direct his thoughts to a

cure for their ailments. Dwight will miss Dr. Keeley and the influence for good that his contact inspired.

Keeley League Entertainment.

On Saturday night, February 17, the members of Keeley League No. 1, gave a musical and literary entertainment in the hall of the Institute. The affair was impromptu, but nevertheless the large audience present enjoyed the program and greeted each performer with generous applause.

The entertainment opened with an address from Mr. F. C. Montgomery, of Kansas City, President of the League. The President's speech was replete with witticisms and amused the large audience immensely. He assured the audience that this was not the show that they intended to give, but that all dissatisfied persons could have their money back; that the improvement society hoped they would not ask for it, etc., etc. The humor of this situation lay in the fact that it was an almost exact counterpart of a speech delivered by Mr. Barry from the stage of the Dwight opera house a few evenings before. The eloquent president paused in the midst of his remarks long enough to peremptorily order the Sergeant-at-Arms to attend to his duty—that at this point a bouquet was to be presented to him and he insisted that the program be carried out to the letter. The official duly presented the bouquet, but the less said about it the better. It was to be sure of the vegetable kingdom, but was decidedly less ornamental than useful.

This was followed by a piano solo from Prof. Ingham. Prof. Ingham is a musician of broad culture and most admirable technique, and each of his three appearances during the evening was heartily enjoyed. One of his most pleasing numbers was a gavotte entitled "The Dance of the Sylphs," written by himself, and next to this his rendition of a fantasia from Faust was perhaps the most pleasing.

The third number of the program was "My Honolulu Lady," sang by Miss Frances Trunnell, of Dwight, her accompanist being Miss Adams, organist of the Congregational church. This was followed by a recitation from Mr. Ed. N. Brown, of Peoria, who rendered "The Lay of a Mad Man," in a fashion surprising to those who might fancy that an active business career left no time for the cultivation of dramatic or other art.

Following a piano solo came Mr. J. S. Gibbs, of Michigan, with a brace of recitations. When it is remembered that Mr. Gibbs spent thirteen years as a member of several of Frohman's Companies, and played leading parts, it can easily be believed that his performance was as artistic as it was entertaining and that he was vociferously enjoyed.

Mr. T. E. Barry, Manager of The Keeley Institute, came next with a happy little address in which he amiably took a fall out of the President of the League and put the laugh on that gentleman. Mr. Barry is an inexhaustible mine of pleasing oratory. He can be jumped up at any moment and is able to say the right thing in the right way. Following his address came a song by Mr. Rowe, a traveling man who had been drafted into the service, and then Mr. A. E. Hyde, one of the best entertainers in the United States, was given the stage. He rendered a character sketch entitled "Christmas at the Quarters," and in response to a tumultuous encore, rendered Ben King's "If I Should Die To-night." Mr. Hyde is particularly happy in the negro dialect. He was reared in the South and has mastered the subtle essence of negro character as well as trained his tongue and voice to a wonderful imitation.

The evening's entertainment closed with a piano solo by Prof. Ingham, after an announcement from the President that another performance would be attempted in the coming week.

Obituary.

Mary Clark was born in Pleasant Valley, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1835, and died Feb. 15, 1900, in Postville, Ia., at the age of 64 yrs. 3 mo. and 12 days. December 12, 1859, she was married to Hiram Cornell, of Albany, N. Y., in that city and immediately came to Dwight where she has spent most of her life. Three children were born to her, Mrs. Gertrude Kaylor, E. A. Cornell and Harry Cornell, the last being deceased.

She was a member of the Congregational church here and previous to her sickness was identified with the church work. She has always been a sincere christian and has shown a most patient and trustful disposition during her long sickness.

Funeral services was in Postville, Ia., Feb. 15, at 2:30 p. m. and interment in Postville cemetery. The O. E. S. and Masons attending both services.

Fire in Lexington.

What might have been a very destructive fire but for its timely discovery, broke out at 12:30 Tuesday morning in Shade & Crothers lumber yard on the west side of town. The blaze was between a building and a pile of shingles, and had a good start when it was seen. The local fire department was called, and the fire put out in a short time. The damage was about \$200. There are evidences going to show that the blaze was of incendiary origin.