

bina, Missouri; Rebecca, who is the wife of John H. Hainline, of Bloomington, Illinois; Rufus E., who is a representative business man of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and John D., who is the immediate subject of this review.

John D. Dale is indebted to the public schools of the village of Clarence, this county, for his early educational discipline, which was supplemented by attendance in the Methodist Academy in Shelbyville, in which well conducted institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1878. Thereafter he took up the study of law, and was favored in securing as his preceptor Senator Cyrus S. Brown, of Clarence, one of the able members of the bar of the county and for several terms a member of the state senate. He continued his technical reading under the direction of his preceptor until 1883, when he was elected circuit clerk and county recorder, of which dual office he remained incumbent for two terms, giving an administration that met with popular approval and was marked by scrupulous care in the handling of the various details of the office work. In the meanwhile Mr. Dale had continued his legal studies, and on October 24, 1890, he was duly admitted to the bar of his native county and state. He retired from the office of county recorder in the following December, and since that time he has been engaged in active general practice as an attorney and counselor at law, with residence and professional headquarters in the thriving little city of Shelbyville. In 1896 he entered into a professional partnership with Hopkins B. Shain, with whom he was associated until 1898, when the alliance was dis-

solved by mutual consent, and since that time Mr. Dale has conducted an individual professional business, in connection with which he has appeared in much important litigation and retained a substantial and representative clientage. He is recognized as an able and versatile trial lawyer and as a counselor well informed in the minutiae of the science of jurisprudence. He was official reporter of the house of representatives in the forty-second general assembly of the Missouri legislature and in this connection formed the acquaintanceship of many of the representative men in public and professional life in the state. Mr. Dale is a staunch advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, and he has rendered yeoman service in behalf of the party cause. Both he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and are zealous in the work of the church in Shelbyville.

On May 15, 1883, Mr. Dale was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Priest, of Shelbyville, and of their five children two are living—Mildred and Celeste B., both of whom remain at the parental home.

DR. WILLIAM CARSON.

Representing the second generation of his family that has been energetic and serviceable in developing the resources of Missouri, which before their advent in the state, and that of those who came hither about the same time, had lain for ages almost in their state of primeval wildness untouched by the quickening hand of systematic industry, Dr. Wil-

liam Carson, of Shelbyville, is entitled to credit in his ancestry and himself as one of the fruitful sources of power and enterprise in the great commonwealth which he has seen born into the world of civilization and grow from infancy to its present standing in the political and civil, the mental and moral and the industrial and commercial forces of the country.

Dr. Carson was born in Marion county, Missouri, on May 5, 1846, and is a son of William and Elethea (Seeley) Carson, the former born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1798, and the latter a native of St. Charles county, Missouri. They were married on October 2, 1823, and they became the parents of ten children, four of whom are living—Martha, the wife of J. S. Green, of Palmyra, Missouri; Maria L., the wife of Rev. J. T. Williams, Baptist clergyman of the same city; Dr. William, the immediate subject of this memoir; and Samuella, the widow of the late J. W. Paul, of Nevada, Missouri.

The father, who was a son of Simon C. Carson, a Virginia planter, came to Missouri in 1819 alone. He lived for a time in St. Charles and Ralls counties, then settled in Marion county, where he followed general farming until 1860. In that year he was appointed assistant land agent of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad and moved to Palmyra. He was afterward assistant cashier of the old State Bank of Palmyra. He was a man of considerable ability, earnestly alive to the development of the region in which he lived and at all times ready to do all in his power to promote it. For a continuous period of fourteen years he

represented the county of his home in the state legislature, serving three consecutive terms in the house of representatives and two in the senate. He was very successful in business and prominent in public life, and as he was one of the fathers of this part of the state and proved himself a very intelligent, progressive and stimulating parent, so he is revered by the people as one of the most useful citizens of the earlier days of northeastern Missouri and one of its best in later years. He died in 1870. In politics he was first a Whig, during the Civil war a conservative and later a Democrat. His religious affiliation was with the Baptist sect and he took a very active part in church work.

Dr. William Carson began his scholastic training in the public schools of Marion county, continued it at Bethel and St. Paul colleges, in Palmyra, and completed it at the University of Virginia. In 1866 he matriculated at St. Louis Medical College, and from that institution he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in March, 1868. He began the practice of his profession at West Ely, in Marion county, where he remained three years. From there he moved to Shelbina, in this county, and there, also, he remained three years. His next location was at Oakdale, and there he lived and practiced thirteen years, coming to Shelbyville in 1887. Here he has lived ever since and carried on an extensive, very active and widespread and remunerative practice. He is, and long has been, one of the leading physicians of Shelby county, and also enjoys an excellent reputation for his ability, extensive and accurate knowledge of the medi-

cal science and skill in practice in many other portions of the state.

Dr. Carson keeps posted in all phases of progress in his profession and is abreast with its most advanced thought and discovery. He is still a diligent student of its literature and is also an active and valued member of the American Medical Association and the Missouri and Shelby county medical societies. He takes an active part in public affairs as a zealous working Democrat, and in the fraternal life of the community as a Freemason and an Odd Fellow. In religion he gives his allegiance to the Baptist creed and is a working member of the Mission church of that sect. Locally he has given the people excellent service as an alderman, a school director and the county coroner. He is now the road commissioner of Shelby county. In all these positions he has won commendation for his directness, attention to duty and knowledge of the requirements of the county and city.

Three times has the little god of sentiment made the doctor his target: and each time his arrow has found its mark. He was first married in 1868 to Miss Mary Caldwell, a daughter of W. D. Caldwell. They had one child, who died at the age of six months. The mother died in 1870. His second marriage occurred on June 29, 1872, and was with Miss Lucy M. Caldwell, a daughter of Larkin B. Caldwell, of Shelby county. They became the parents of six children, all of whom are living—William G., of Kansas City, Missouri; Claud W., of Sheridan, Wyoming; Harry B., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mary A., the wife of Dimmitt Wainwright, of Monett, Mis-

souri; Larkin E., of Shelbyville, and James I., also of Sheridan, Wyoming. Their mother died in 1904. The doctor's third marriage was with Miss Martha Wilson, of Shelbyville, and occurred in 1908.

VERNON L. DRAIN.

Successful as a practicing lawyer and prominent and influential as a citizen far beyond the measure his modesty would allow him to admit, Vernon L. Drain, of Shelbyville, is justly accounted one of the leading and most useful citizens of Shelby county, and he is also well and favorably known in all of the adjoining counties. Wherever he is known he is esteemed for his worth, held in high regard for his elevated character and admired for the qualities of head and heart which have won him success in his profession and prominence among the people of Missouri.

Mr. Drain was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on January 21, 1864. He is the only child of Stanford and Mary M. (Lyell) Drain, the former a native of Sussex county, Delaware, where he was born in 1811, and the latter a product of Westmoreland county, Virginia. The father passed the first quarter century of his life in his native county and obtained his education there. In 1836 he moved to Missouri and was employed for a time in Hannibal. He then located in Shelby county and during a short period followed farming with success. But he tired of this occupation and took up his residence in Shelbyville, where he worked for a number of years at the carpenter trade, which he had learned in his