

## **J. B. DUNCAN, M. D.**

No other profession has accomplished, during the last half century, the progress and development that have been made by the medical. The man of original thought and action, whose textbook forms but the basis of future work, has ever moved forward, taking advantage of and utilizing new discoveries in the science and looking always for better methods, surer means to the desired end. Such a man is he whose name forms the caption to this sketch. In considering the character and career of this eminent member of the medical fraternity, the impartial observer will not only be disposed to rank him among the leading members of his profession in his locality, but also as one of those men of broad culture and mental ken who have honored mankind in general. Through a long and busy life, replete with honor and success, he has been actuated by the highest motives, and to the practice of his profession he has brought rare skill and resource, his quick perception and almost intuitive judgment enabling him to make a correct diagnosis, always necessary that proper treatment may be used. He has always been a dose student of medical science, keeping in close touch with the latest advances along that line, and he has been uniformly successful in the practice. Be cause of his high attainments and his exalted personal character, he is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

J. B. Duncan was born on the paternal farmstead, about four miles northeast of Bedford, Indiana, on March 6, 1856 and he is a scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of this section of the state. His paternal grandfather, William Duncan, better known as Judge Duncan, was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, on March 8, 1802. On reaching manhood's years he married Mary H. Malott, who was born and reared in an adjoining county, and their wedding journey to their new home in Lawrence county, Indiana, was made on one horse. They settled on the John Younger farm, five miles from Bedford, where Mr. Duncan lived until about 1860, then he moved to Bedford, where he lived until his death, which occurred on March 15, 1875. His wife lived till April 29, 1887. William Duncan was a man of unusual ability and early became a man of influence and prominence in the community. He served as county judge several years and as county surveyor for thirty years. He was very successful in his business affairs, becoming the owner of over two thousand acres of land. Kind and charitable in disposition, he reared to manhood and womanhood seven orphan children besides his own family of five children, all of whom became honored and respected citizens of their respective communities. His five children were: Bolivar, father of the subject of this sketch; Lycurgus; Coleman; Judge H. C., of Bloomington; Mrs. Dr. J. W. Newland. All of these children are now deceased. Bolivar Duncan was born on the farm northeast of Bedford in 1825, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Ann Batman, was born at Bono, Lawrence county, Indiana, in 1829. Bolivar Duncan was a farmer by vocation and owned a fine tract of land. known as the Duncan farm, two miles south east of Bedford, where his death occurred on July 3, 1883. To him and his wife were born nine children, namely: Isis, the widow of Robert W. Day, of Bedford; William P., who lives on a part of the land which was entered by his grandfather in 1835, and which is located about five miles southeast of Bedford; Coleman, who is a retired farmer, is living at Louisville, Kentucky; Doctor James B., the immediate subject of this sketch; Salle E., the wife of Robert C. Duncan, of Bowling Green, Kentucky; Robert S., a farmer and large land owner, of

Bedford; Nannie, the widow of J. W. Newland, of Bedford; Clay W., proprietor of the Bedford Hardware Company, and Harry, who died in December, 1894.

Dr. James B. Duncan was reared on the home farm and his earliest educational training was received in the little brick school house of the neighborhood. Later he attended the Bedford high school and then for four years he was engaged in teaching school. In 1876 he entered the Kentucky School of Medicine, at Louisville, where he was graduated in 1879, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and he immediately entered upon the active practice of his profession at Petersburg, Indiana. After thirteen years of successful effort at Petersburg, Doctor Duncan, in 1894, came to Bedford and has since been active among the leading medical practitioners of this locality, commanding his full share of patronage and winning the confidence and high regard of all who know him. The Doctor has been successful in his material affairs and is the owner of considerable valuable real estate. He is a member of the Lawrence County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He possesses a large and well selected library of professional and general literature and is well informed on public questions, being a splendid conversationalist and agreeable companion.

Doctor Duncan has been married three times, first to Mollie Knight, the daughter of J. D. Knight, her death occurring in 1881, without issue. The Doctor then married Sallie Carson, of Petersburg, Indiana, who bore him a daughter, Georgia, now the wife of John C. Brumley, of Oakland, California. Mrs. Sallie Duncan died in 1898, and in 1902 Doctor Duncan married Ollie Batman, of Bloomington, Indiana, the daughter of Henry H. and Catherine Batman.

Politically, the Doctor is an enthusiastic supporter of the Republican party, in the past and present history of which he is proud, while religiously, he is a member of the Christian church, in which he holds the office of elder. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Owing to his probity of character, his genuine worth, his professional ability and his kindly and genial disposition, the Doctor has gained a position as one of the earnest men whose depth of character and strict adherence to principle have called forth the admiration of his contemporaries.

*(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 518-520)*