

## **ARTHUR J. McDONALD, M. D**

Success in what are popularly termed the learned professions is the legitimate result of merit and painstaking endeavor. In commercial life one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but professional advancement is gained only by critical study and consecutive research long continued. Proper intellectual discipline, thorough professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success have made Arthur J. McDonald eminent in his chosen calling and for a number of years he has stood among the scholarly and enterprising physicians and surgeons in a community long distinguished for the high order of its medical talent. His life has been characterized not only by high professional ability, but also by the most profound human sympathy which has overleaped mere sentiment to become an actuating motive, for he early realized that there is no honor not founded on genuine worth, that there is a vital purpose in life, and that the best and highest accomplishments must come from a well trained mind and an altruistic heart. Those who know Doctor McDonald well are unstinted in their praise of his superior ability and his genial disposition. Older men here in the profession have relied on his judgment and younger ones have frequently sought his counsel, and the large success which has crowned his life work has been honestly merited.

Arthur J. McDonald comes of a sterling line of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the paternal line being Scotch and the maternal Irish. The subject's great grandfather, James McDonald, was a native of Scotland and, on his emigration to this country, located in Virginia, from whence he went to Kentucky, where he spent the remainder of his days. His son, James McDonald, was born in Kentucky. During his early active years he was a farmer near Paoli, Indiana, but later retired and moved to Orleans, Orange county, this state, where his death occurred at the age of seventy years. He had married a Miss Newkirk and reared a family of eight children, an equal number of boys and girls, among whom was Logan, who became the father of the subject of this sketch Logan McDonald was born in Orange county, Indiana, was a successful contractor during his active years, and is now living at Mitchell, Indiana. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and who was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, died at Mitchell in 1909. To Logan and Elizabeth McDonald were born seven children, of which number only two are living, Arthur J., the subject, and Anna, the wife of Eck Gunn, of Bedford.

Arthur J. McDonald was born at Orleans, Indiana, on the 16th day of January 1860 and was only eighteen months old when the family moved to Mitchell, Indiana, from whose public schools he graduated in 1878. He was then engaged in teaching school for a year, after which he matriculated in the Louisville Medical College where he was graduated and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine on March 22, 1882. While pursuing his studies he won a gold medal for his researches in materia medica and therapeutics. During the following seven and a half years Doctor McDonald was engaged in the active practice of his profession at Mitchell, but in 1889 he went to New York city and took a post-graduate course in the Polyclinic Hospital. Upon the completion of these studies, the Doctor came to Bedford and has since been engaged in the practice here. That he has been successful in an eminent degree is a fact generally recognized throughout the community and today he stands undisputably in the front rank of the medical men of Lawrence county Doctor McDonald has been for a number of years local

surgeon for the Monon Railroad Company and is examiner for a number of life insurance companies. That he is progressive in disposition and keenly alive to the latest advances in the healing art is evidenced in the statement that Doctor McDonald received from New York the first diphtheria anti-toxin sent out from that city and he made the first use of the anti-toxin in southern Indiana. He is a close student of the best professional literature and among his fellow practitioners he is held in the highest regard because of his ability and attainments. He is a member of the Lawrence County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He has also for several years been a member of the board of United States pension examiners.

Politically, Doctor McDonald has for many years been an active supporter of the Democratic party, though never an aspirant for public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order, in which he has taken the chapter degrees of the York rite and the Scottish rite up to and including the thirty-second degree; he belongs also to Murat Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Indianapolis. He is an appreciative member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being a trustee of the Bedford lodge. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Christian church.

On June 26, 1886. Doctor McDonald was married to Hattie Overman, of Mitchell, Indiana, but who was born at Bryantsville, Lawrence county, the daughter of Levi and Sarah J. Overman. To Doctor and Mrs. McDonald have been born two children, Carl, who died when three and a half years old, and Harriet Jane. Doctor and Mrs. McDonald move in the best social circles of their community and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

*(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 493-495)*