

JOHN ROYER PEARSON, M. D.

Among those who stand as distinguished types of the world's workers is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph, who is one of the able and honored physicians and surgeons of southern Indiana. A man of fine intellectual and professional attainments, of most gracious personality, of strong and noble character, and one who has labored with zeal and devotion in the alleviation of human suffering, he is clearly entitled to representation among the progressive and enterprising citizens of Lawrence county. He is devoted to his chosen vocation and has lent honor and dignity to the medical profession, having due regard for the highest standard of professional ethics and exhibiting marked skill in the treatment of disease.

John R. Pearson was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, on May 8, 1876, and he is the son of Dr. James Watt and Elizabeth (Embree) Pearson, both also natives of the Hoosier state, the father having been born in Orange county and the mother in Lawrence county. The subject's great-great-grandparents, who were of English descent, came to Virginia in an early day. His great-grandfather was born in the Shenandoah valley, Virginia, in 1790, and the latter's wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Ann Trueblood, was born in 1797 at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Their marriage occurred in 1813. The subject's paternal grandfather, Charles Dewey Pearson, A. M., M. D., was born in Paoli, Orange county, Indiana, on April 12, 1820. After completing his common school education he studied medicine with Dr. H. E. Ewing, of Louisville, and then became a student in Transvania University, at Lexington, Kentucky. Later he entered the medical department of old Asbury College, at Greencastle, Indiana, where he graduated in 1851. In 1859 he took the *ad eundem* degree at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Cincinnati. Subsequently this college tendered him the professorship of obstetrical medicine and diseases of women and children, and the chair of eye surgery. In 1854 he was one of the organizers and the first president of the Orange County Medical Society. He was a veteran of the civil war, having served as a member of the Forty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He married Elizabeth Royer, the daughter of Hon. John Royer, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on November 30, 1843. She was born on April 5, 1815, and her death occurred on July 22, 1860. To them were born five children, one of whom was James W., father of the subject of this sketch. James W. Pearson was born at Levonias, Washington county, Indiana, and after completing the public school course he entered Hanover College, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, when he became a volunteer member of the navy. At the expiration of his period of enlistment he received an honorable discharge and then, at the earnest solicitation of his father, he took up the study of medicine, in which he became deeply versed and had splendid success in the practice. He located at Bryantsville, Lawrence county, Indiana, where he continued in the active practice until his death, which occurred on July 16, 1878. In 1864 he married Elizabeth Embree who bore to him two children, Charles Watt Pearson, of Lawrence county, Indiana, and John R., the subject.

John R. Pearson received his elementary education in the common schools of Lawrence county, after which he was student in DePauw University. In 1900 he entered the Indiana Medical College, graduating in 1904. with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. On May 20th of the same year he entered upon the practice of his profession at Bedford, where he has remained ever since, with the exception of about six months, when he had a

mining camp in Arizona. He is engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery and has met with most pronounced success in his calling. That he possesses a natural predilection and talent for the healing art may be inferred from the statement that he is the fourth out of five direct generations who have adopted the medical profession. He possesses a fine and well selected professional library and takes the best medical journals, so that he keeps in close and constant touch with the latest advances and researches in medicine and surgery. He is a member of the Lawrence County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, attending many of their meetings, in the proceedings of which he is deeply interested. On September 3, 1903, Doctor Pearson was married to Vera Pickens, a daughter of Holt Pickens, of Owen county, Indiana, and to them was born a daughter, who is deceased.

Politically, Doctor Pearson is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and has served efficiently as chairman of the city committee for his party. Religiously, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he is a liberal contributor. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Socially, he belongs to the Sigma C fraternity, of DePauw University, and was a charter member of the Phi Chi, of Indiana Medical College. Personally, he is a man of pleasing address and kindly manner, who, by his very presence, inspires hope in the sick room and who, because of his professional success, high character and genial disposition, has won a host of warm and loyal friends throughout this community.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 510-512)