

J. P. TURNER, M. D.

Notwithstanding the long strides that have been made in the practice of the healing art within the past half century, the discovery of medical properties in hundreds of vegetable and mineral substances that not many years ago were not included in materia medica as remedies, or barely mentioned in the pharmacopoeia, or laid dormant as far as the dispensary is concerned; notwithstanding the charlatancy practiced by adventurers in the legitimate practice of the art, and the quacks that claimed particular and special gifts in the treatment of human ills; and notwithstanding the fact that legislatures have found it necessary to regulate the general practice by the expulsion of diplomaless pretenders and the registration of and truly scientific physicians, there are some of the latter who have risen to eminence within the field of their actual labors, and among these is the subject of this sketch, whose career has been that of a true and conscientious worker in the sphere to which he has devoted his life and energy, and who possesses a profound knowledge of medicine and surgery.

The state of Kentucky has sent to Indiana many representatives of their best families, among which is the family of which the subject of this sketch is a representative. Dr. J. P. Turner, to whom belongs the distinction of having practiced his profession longer at Bloomington than any other physician now here, was born at Hopkinsville, Kentucky on March 25, 1854, and is the son of Dr. Henry P. and Frances (Morgan) Turner. His mother was a member of the noted Gen. Daniel Morgan family of Carolina. Henry P. Turner, who for a half century was, a prominent and successful physician, had practiced at Nashville, Tennessee; Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Bloomington, Indiana, his death occurring in the latter city in 1881. He was a native of Ireland, where he had received a splendid literary education, and after coming to this country procured his professional training in Lexington, Kentucky. The subject's mother died on March 17, 1908. To these parents were born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Henry P., a watchmaker and jeweler in Bloomington; J. P., the immediate subject of this sketch; Sarah, who died in 1911, was the wife of William Giles; C. J., a merchant tailor in Bloomington; Ella, the wife of Dr. S. E. Meek, of Chicago; Frank P., a physician at Bloomington; Howard M., who is a watch-maker and jeweler with his brother, Henry P., of Bloomington; Anna B., who has devoted her life to educational work, is a teacher in Korea, having charge of the Methodist Episcopal high school there. Dr. Henry P. Turner was a Whig in early life, but later his political views changed and he became aligned with the Democratic party. He was an active member of The Masonic order for fifty years, while in the Baptist church, of which he was also a member for many years, he took a deep interest and held the office of deacon.

The subject of this sketch received a good practical common school education in Bloomington, being a graduate of the high school, and then for a time attended a private school here. Having determined to follow in his father's footsteps and devote his life to the healing art, he attended medical lectures in the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati in 1876-7, after which he entered upon the active practice of his profession at Bloomington, in which he has been engaged for thirty-six years, being thus the dean of the profession in this locality. Through a long and busy life, replete with honor and success worthily attained, Doctor Turner has been actuated by only the highest motives and to the practice of his profession he has brought rare skill and resource, such qualities stamping

him as a man of unusual talent and entitling him to be classed with the benefactors of mankind. His quick perception and almost intuitive judgment have rendered him especially strong in diagnosis, though ever willing to lend any aid or suggestion. He makes a specialty of physical diagnosis and internal medicine, in both of which he has enjoyed phenomenal success. Throughout his busy life he has ever been a hard and enthusiastic student, thus keeping well abreast of the times, for he has realized that in the science of medicine, as in all other departments of modern research, there have been constant and steady advances and discoveries. The Doctor has been very successful in his large practice during the years and because of his ability and his high personal character he enjoys a high standing among his professional colleagues and the people generally. He has served as secretary of the county board of health, and has also been a member of the board of pension examiners, though not ambitious for any office.

In 1877 Doctor Tourner was married to Amanda Buskirk, the daughter of William H. Buskirk, of this county, a member of one of the locality's old families. Politically, the Doctor is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, while, fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Free and Accepted Masons, in the latter order having taken all the degrees of the York rite, including those of Knight Templar. Personally he is a man of kindly and genial impulses and has endeared himself to a large and constantly widening circle of friends and acquaintances.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 478-480)