

Pending nominations Nos. 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263 and 1264 were read, spoken to and balloted for.

Mr. Prime made some remarks on the classification of ore deposits and proposed a new system.

Dr. Cope made an oral communication on the forms of fossil sharks, family Cladodontidæ.

The President reported the appointment of Mr. William P. Tatham on the Committee of Finance in place of W. B. Rogers, deceased.

The business of the meeting being over, the Tellers examined the ballots cast and reported to the President the state of the poll.

The President thereupon declared that the following had been duly elected to membership in the Society :

2222. Dr. Samuel A. Green, Boston, Mass.

2223. Dr. John G. Morris, Baltimore, Md.

2224. Prof. J. M. Hoppin, New Haven, Conn.

2225. Chevalier Rousseau d'Hoppancourt, Vienna, Austria.

2226. Dr. Isaac Roberts, London, England.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.

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*A Notice of William Barton Rogers.*

*By W. S. W. Ruschenberger, M.D.*

*(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Oct. 6, 1893.)*

According to its long-existing practice on the death of a member, the Society, at the proper time, resolved that a notice of the late William B. Rogers should be recorded in its *Proceedings*, and that the President should appoint a member to prepare it. He has been pleased to kindly assign the duty to me. And now, with diffidence, I submit the following brief sketch.

Mr. Rogers was a son of Dr. James Blythe Rogers, who succeeded



the distinguished chemist, Dr. Robert Hare, in the Professorship of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania. His three uncles, as well as their father, Dr. P. K. Rogers, were widely known in the field of science. Dr. P. K. Rogers was appointed, in 1819, Professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics in the ancient college of William and Mary, at Williamsburg, Va. William B. Rogers, the uncle after whom our subject was named, was Professor of Natural Philosophy and Geology in the University of Virginia, and, from July, 1835, the Director of the Geological Survey of the State. Henry Darwin Rogers was Director of the First Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and, from 1858, Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Glasgow; and Dr. Robert E. Rogers was Professor of Chemistry during many years in the University of Pennsylvania, and subsequently in the Jefferson Medical College.

William B. Rogers, Jr., was born Dec. 17, 1833, in Baltimore, where his parents then resided. In 1840, they settled in Philadelphia. William was first at a Friends' School, taught by Miss Mary Tyson. On leaving it, he was, from 1843 to 1846, at the Public Grammar School, N.E. corner of Twelfth and Locust streets, of which Mr. Clevenger was Principal.

In 1846, he entered the Central High School of Philadelphia, then under the direction of Mr. John S. Hart, and graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1850. The same year he matriculated at the University of Virginia, but being called home in the spring of 1852 by the illness of his father, who died June 15, he did not resume his course in the University.

In the winter of 1852-53, he was appointed an assistant on the First Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and for three years did field or office duty, as occasion required, and in the fourth year, desultory work. This Geological Survey was ended by the failure of the Legislature of the State to appropriate money to continue it, and all who had assisted in the work were released from their connection with it.

Mr. Rogers was without regular occupation during many months. To him profitable and continued employment of some kind was very desirable. He was always an earnest student, and his acquirements were notable at that time. It seemed probable that the example of the lives of his father and uncles, as well as his own preference, would induce him to select for himself only some one of



the vocations associated with science. Possibly, however, observation may have satisfied him that toiling on any purely scientific path does not always lead to sufficient compensation, reckoned either in fortune or in fame. Whatever reason may have determined his course, he abandoned science as a career, but adhered to it as a proper diversion and amusement for leisure hours.\*

In December, 1859, The Western Saving Fund Society of Philadelphia appointed him a clerk in the institution. There his habitual exactness, devotion to duty, pleasant demeanor, and manifest integrity in every sense won for him unreserved confidence and esteem, and secured his advancement step by step in the institution. In July, 1862, he was promoted to be Secretary and assistant of the President.

He married, Nov. 12, 1862, a daughter of Mr. William Wynne Wister, of Germantown, and in December of that year was appointed Treasurer of the Saving Fund. He was chosen Vice-President of it in February, 1878, and elected one of the Board of Managers of the Society in October, 1882.

To obtain temporary relaxation from official duty after almost continuous attention to it during thirty-one years, and also for the benefit of his health, which was in some degree impaired, he went to Europe in June, 1890; and, having visited the British Islands, Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland, returned and resumed his official work, after an absence of about three months.

His educational training and impressions, received while in view of near relatives engaged in scientific work, possibly imparted the taste which led him to seek temporary diversion from cares incident to his vocational occupation in certain societies, devoted to the increase and diffusion of knowledge, as well as to the promotion of general interest in intellectual pursuits. He was interested in several such associations.

Mr. Rogers became a member of the Union League, May 13, 1863, and resigned from it Nov. 13, 1866.

He was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia from September, 1870, and was elected one of the Board of Trustees of the Building Fund of the Academy, and Secretary of the Board in January, 1893.

\* The writer of this notice learned since "reading" it, that Mr. Rogers, about three months before his death, told a friend that the reason why he abandoned science for finance was his inability to obtain any scientific appointment.



He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia from 1878 till 1887, when he resigned.

He was chosen a member of the American Philosophical Society April 16, 1880, and served on its Finance Committee from January, 1885.

He was elected a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, December 19, 1887; and was also a member of the Geographical and of the Photographical Societies.

The titles of the institutions in which Mr. Rogers was interested may suggest the various subjects that, at different times, occupied his attention. Intellectually liberal, generous in disposition, and naturally endowed with a well-balanced mind—good sense—his diversified and reliable knowledge greatly enhanced his qualifications to be an efficient officer and manager in a financial institution.

His general health had become impaired in the past year. After a few hours' illness at his home in Germantown, he died on the evening of March 15, 1893, in the sixtieth year of his age, leaving a widow, a son, and a daughter, bereaved of a considerate, loving husband and affectionate father.

The Western Saving Fund Society of Philadelphia, at a special meeting, March 20, recorded on its minutes an expression of its sense of loss in the death of its Vice-President, who with entire approbation had served the Society during thirty-three years. His extensive knowledge of finance enabled him to judiciously select securities suitable for the investment of funds entrusted to the care of the Society. He had the confidence and respect of depositors; and with those who desired to transact other business with the institution, his relations were always friendly and confidential.

The value of an officer so highly qualified cannot be easily estimated nor definitely expressed. William B. Rogers will long be kindly and respectfully remembered by his daily associates and numerous friends.

Philadelphia, in his death, lost a modest, intelligent, unpretentious citizen, whose conduct was exemplary in every respect—a man who never forgot to do his duty.



Ruschenberger, W S W. 1893. "A Notice of William Barton Rogers."  
*Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for  
promoting useful knowledge* 31(142), 254–257.

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