



HENRY P. THORN.

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Some twenty-five miles south of Trenton and about eighteen miles east of Camden, in Burlington County, New Jersey, there lies the pretty little town of Medford, a shopping center for a large farming territory which surrounds it on all sides. In this little town of about two thousand people, there is a single pharmacy, sufficiently old-fashioned to be recognizable as a place where drugs and medicines are dispensed, and sufficiently modern to provide the many services which our most modern apothecary shops are expected to render in this machine age.

Since 1870, Henry P. Thorn has been a daily, active participant in the life of this pharmacy, and since 1875 he has been its proud owner. More than sixty years in the "drug business" is a good enough record for anyone, but to have spent all these years in the same location speaks volumes for the man who can claim this record.

On January 27th of this year, Mr. Thorn celebrated his seventy-eighth birthday. We happened to "drop in" at the Thorn Pharmacy on the day after this anniversary and found "H. P." on duty alone because his clerk was out sick. "I've got a cold coming on, too," said Mr. Thorn, "but somebody has to be on the job here." Between customers, who, by the way, were waited on with a dispatch that would do credit to any man half the age of Henry P. Thorn, we talked of many things, but chiefly of changes in Pharmacy in the past half century. Only when we insisted that our chief object at this visit was to obtain biographical data, did the conversation turn to "H. P." himself.

He took us back in fancy to the day when he became apprenticed to Isaac W. Stokes, in this very store. Isaac Stokes was the uncle of former Governor E. C. Stokes of New Jersey. Henry Thorn began working for Mr. Stokes on February 7, 1870, and received the munificent salary of forty dollars for his first year's labors. The second year his stipend was raised to fifty dollars. Rapid increases in remuneration to seventy and ninety dollars, respectively, followed in the next

two years. Previous to his pharmaceutical apprenticeship, Mr. Thorn had received a good education in the Friends' School at Medford and in the private school of M. H. Allen. He had the satisfaction of working his way through college, and while he attended the lectures at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, he commuted daily from Medford to Philadelphia. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy with the class of 1875, having paid his tuition in part by tutoring some of the younger men of Medford in high school subjects.

Mr. Thorn has always been interested in young people. Undoubtedly this has had much to do with the fact that he retains a youthful spirit and a youthful outlook. He is a frequent guest speaker at the Y. M. C. A. and other gatherings of boys and young men. He is a Director of the Burlington County Y. M. C. A. and was an officer in the organization for many years.

His college days were spent under the tutelage of the old masters, among whom were Procter and Maisch, the former having passed away during young Thorn's Junior year at college. On the wall of the store office in which we were chatting, there hangs a picture of Procter's grave.

In 1876 Mr. Thorn joined the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, and became its president in 1889. For many years he was active in procuring legislation for pharmacists in New Jersey and fighting legislation inimical to their interests.

In 1879 he became a member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and for many years he attended its conventions regularly. He is a life member of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

It is not strange that one so active in his own profession should also be an acknowledged leader in his community. Mr. Thorn has been president of the Burlington County National Bank of Medford, New Jersey, for years, and a director of the Burlington County Trust Company of Moorestown, New Jersey.

Until recently, he was a cranberry grower and a director of the Growers' Cranberry Company of New Jersey. At one time he was secretary of the Burlington County Association for Insurance.

Anyone connected in any way with the Stokes family in New Jersey is quite apt to get a taste of politics, and here, too, Henry P. Thorn was an active worker for many years. He was at one time a member of the Burlington County Board of Taxation and a member of the Republican State Committee from Burlington County for nine years. He was a delegate to the Convention which nominated President Harrison. To this day, he is called upon for advice by the younger men in politics in his county, and if anyone thinks he can get the vote of a Senator from that county on matters pharmaceutical over the objections of Henry P. Thorn, let him try it.

Mr. Thorn is a member and trustee of the Medford M. E. Church, and a member of various benevolent and fraternal associations, including Mt. Holly Lodge, No. 14, F. & A. M. and Cyrene Commandery, No. 7, Camden, New Jersey.

In Henry P. Thorn we have a splendid example of the apothecary who typifies all that we so fervently desire the pharmacist to be—counselor and friend to his neighbors; honored and loved by the people in his community; respected by his professional brethren; guide, philosopher and friend to two generations of folk who think the more of all pharmacists because Henry P. Thorn was *their* pharmacist.

R. P. F.