

PAUL CASAMAJOR.

On the 12th of November the society lost in Mr. P. Casamajor, one of its most active members, and one to whom the society must feel deeply indebted, on account of the faithfulness which he showed in attention to his duties and the great interest which he felt in its welfare.

Mr. Paul Casamajor, for a number of years the corresponding secretary of the American Chemical Society, was born at Santiago de Cuba, in the year 1831. and was consequently in the 57th year of his age. Both his parents were of French descent, although his father had been born in the Island of Cuba and his mother in the city of New Orleans.

When 14 years of age he came to the United States and commenced his studies at Portsmouth, N. H. Later on he entered the Harvard Scientific School. He had been here but a short time, when, acting upon the advice of several persons who had taken an interest in him, he went to Paris, where he prepared for and subsequently entered the Ecole Centrale. It was from here that he was graduated in 1854 as *Engenieur Chimiste*.

Returning to the United States immediately, he established himself as a chemist in New York until 1864 when, interested in the discovery of oil in Western Pennsylvania, he formed and afterwards, in the oil regions, undertook the superintendence of "The Enterprise Mining & Boring Company."

An accidental explosion, which occurred in 1866, and which demolished the entire plant of the company, caused him to return to New York where, in the early part of 1867, he was engaged by Messrs. Havemeyer & Elder, in their sugar refinery, as chemist and scientific expert. He died while still in the employ of this firm.

Mr. Casamajor was one of those who signed the first call upon chemists, which resulted in the formation of the Chemical Society. He was also a frequent and industrious contributor to the Journal of the Society.

These papers show his good training as a mathematician and reflect in a great measure the practical pursuits in which he was engaged. The papers which the society received from him, espe-

cially within the last few years, record mainly his work as a chemical engineer, and are mostly directed to facilitating filtration.

The concentration of his thoughts in this direction was undertaken for the purpose of aiding the sugar industry in one of its least developed phases.

He had seen from the first that the easy filtration of the turbid sugar liquors was a most desirable problem to be solved. His thought and labor culminated in a method which, as regards ease of application and economy, surpassed all other methods hitherto used.

Its practicability is now established beyond a doubt, for his schemes are in operation in the sugar house of Messrs. Havemeyer & Elder, with which he has been so long connected, and he lived to see the time when about one-half of the liquors were cleansed by his method, in a sugar house with a producing capacity of 2,000,000 lbs. of refined sugar daily.

But although thus greatly occupied, Mr. Casamajor kept well informed and took great interest in many other branches of scientific and applied chemistry, as many who knew him intimately know.

It had been his intention, for some time, to take a thorough rest from labor, and now that success had crowned his efforts, he was busily employed in getting ready to depart with his family in the early Spring for Europe, where he intended to stay for some months.

But another reason prompted him also to do this. His health for some time past had not been of the best. He was frequently attacked by severe spasms in the region of the heart which he attributed to acute dyspepsia, and it was only less than a week before his death that his physician apprised him of the real nature of his attacks—heart disease. It did not discourage him, however, and he tried to laugh away the anxiety of his family and friends.

On the day of his death he had gone to New York with the view of attending to some private business, when towards night he was suddenly attacked with spasms of a severer nature than he had hitherto experienced, and, unable to move, he sent a messenger to some friends near by. A carriage was summoned to take him home. Growing worse while crossing the bridge to Brooklyn, he was

taken to the bridge police station, where he became unconscious and expired shortly after.

The autopsy proved that death was due to heart disease, aortic insufficiency and consequent valvular trouble in connection with fatty degeneration of the heart. (Signed) H. ENDEMANN.