

in a number of transactions pertaining to the rebuilding of the burned area. In more recent years he had a part in transferring the lots on which the Colonial Building, the Exchange Building, the Tremont Building, the Hotel Bellevue, and the Hotel Touraine were built. In the eighties Mr. Porter organized the Boston Real Estate Trust, with large capital, and he also organized the Boston Storage Warehouse Company. His business transactions included suburban property and even extended to real estate in various cities in the West. He was at one time vice-president of the Real Estate Exchange and Auction Board and trustee of the Winthrop Land Company. He was a member of the Union Club and a former member of the Essex Country Club and the Oakley Country Club.

He married first, in 1865, Mary Otis Cushing, who died in 1877, daughter of Luther Stearns and Mary Otis (Lincoln) Cushing. He married secondly, in 1879, Frances Wentworth Cushing, sister of his deceased wife, who survives him, together with two sons and four daughters: Alexander S. Porter, Jr., of Boston, James Otis Porter of Concord, Mrs. Richard Robbins of Beach Bluff, and Mary O., Elizabeth S., and Frances R. Porter.

DWIGHT TRACY, D.D.S., M.D., of Norwich, Conn., a resident member since 1905, was born at Scotland, Conn., 24 August 1831, the son of Thomas Chaplin and Maria (Safford) Tracy, and died at Norwich 3 October 1915. He was of Colonial ancestry, and on his father's side the line ran back to Lieut. Thomas Tracy, one of the original settlers of Norwich.

At twenty-two years of age he was graduated in dentistry, and one year later, in 1854, he obtained his degree in medicine. He practiced dentistry for six or seven years, and then devoted himself to various inventions, several patents being issued to him between 1860 and 1889.

The first of his inventions was a perfected domestic sewing machine, but owing to the cost of manufacture it was not a commercial success. The next invention was more successful, a machine which would take a bolt of linen and transform it into finished shirt bosoms, ready to be inserted in the garments. This was the first machine of the kind ever used; it revolutionized the shirt-making industry of those early days, and yielded a handsome return to the inventor. The next invention was a safety railroad switch, the first safety device of its kind ever used, and at one time it was installed in large numbers on very many railroads in this country. Many other useful inventions were the result of his patience and skill.

He was deeply interested in local history and in genealogical research. For twenty years he made genealogy his special study and thereby became well-known in New England and had correspondents throughout the country and abroad. In the last five years of his life he was attracted also to photography, that he might become proficient in obtaining pictures of old houses, monuments, and other objects of historic interest. He gained favorable mention for his portrait photographs which were shown at photographic ex-

competition conducted by a photographic magazine. The fact that a man eighty years of age should care to begin the study of this art casts an interesting sidelight on his personality. So persistent was his tendency to invent that as late as August last he applied for a patent on a certain photographic process which he had evolved. With the advent of the aëroplane he became greatly interested in its possibilities and began working on designs for a light and powerful motor and a stabilizer. He was still working on these designs when he died.

He was a member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the Connecticut Historical Society, the New London County (Conn.) Historical Society, the Founders of Norwich Society, the Connecticut Society of Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of Founders and Patriots of America, the Newport Historical Society, the Aëronautical Society of New York, the Twilight Club, and the Photographers' Association of New England.

He married, in 1857, Jane Vanderbilt Fry of Plainfield, Conn., who died in 1907. Four children survive him: Dwight Carlton Tracy of New York City, Laurence Ward Tracy of Chestnut Hill, Mass., William Dwight Tracy of New York City, and Mrs. Edgar E. Fay of Chestnut Hill, Mass.

FRANCIS CHARLES FOSTER, A.B., of Cambridge, Mass., a life member since 1911, was born in Boston 17 March 1829, the son of Leonard and Lydia (Gaubert) Foster, and died at his home in Cambridge 24 October 1915. He was sixth in descent from Edward¹ Foster of Scituate, Mass., through Timothy,² Thomas,³ Thomas,⁴ William,⁵ and Leonard,⁶ his father.

At seven years of age he was sent to Mr. Charles Green's school at Jamaica Plain, Mass., and subsequently attended the Derry (N. H.) Academy and Mr. David Leach's school at Roxbury, Mass., where he fitted for Harvard. He was graduated at Harvard in 1850, and had a part in the Commencement exercises. He also received a certificate recommending him as qualified to fill the position of instructor in Greek.

For three years after graduating Mr. Foster lived in Philadelphia, Pa., and from 1854 to 1856 travelled in Europe. In 1858 he entered the Harvard Law School, remaining a year, and in 1860 was admitted to the Suffolk bar. In 1879, 1885, and 1892 he again visited Europe.

Closely identified with the Protestant Episcopal Church in Massachusetts, Mr. Foster had held, among other offices, that of senior warden of Christ Church, Cambridge, during many years. He was at one time or another connected with the Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society, the Episcopal Charitable Association, the Trustees of Donations, the Society for Widows and Orphans, and for three years he was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. He had been a trustee and member of the executive committee of St. Luke's Home for Convalescents, vice-president and trustee of the Cambridge Hospital, trustee and life member of the Cambridge Home for Aged People, and director in several business organizations. At the time of his death he was the oldest trustee in age and