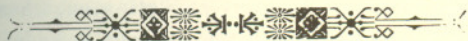


connection with his practice. It is fully stocked with all kinds of medicines, and such other articles as are usually found in a first-class establishment of the kind. He was born September 4, 1871, in East Mauch Chunk, and is the son of Frederick and Matilda Kasten, the former of whom is deceased, while his mother is at present residing in East Mauch Chunk.

The early years of Dr. Kasten's life were spent in his native county, and when a boy he began clerking in a drug store for J. M. Hess. He was given the advantage of a liberal education, and having a pronounced taste for the medical profession, began to prepare himself when quite young for his chosen calling. After reading medicine for a time under the tutelage of Dr. L. W. Moyer, he entered Jefferson Medical College, from which institution he graduated with honor in May, 1893. He then engaged in practice for a short time with his former instructor, but in July, 1893, located in this place, and is carrying on his practice alone. He occupies a well appointed office, and enjoys a very fair patronage.

Dr. Kasten is a member of the Lehigh Valley Medical Society, also of the Carbon County Society. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and is influential in the political life of the community. Religiously he is a Lutheran and a member of the church of that denomination.



**H**ON. JAMES S. BIERY, who gained distinction through his public services as a Member of Congress, is a prominent attorney-at-law of Allentown, and holds an enviable position in the legal circles of Lehigh County. He has the honor of being a native of the state which is still his home. He was born on the Alleghany River, in Venango County, March 2, 1839, and is a son of Henry and Esther (Slotrey) Biery, both of whom were natives of Lehigh County. The father was a farmer by occupation, and in 1837 removed with his family to Venango County,

where he and his wife spent their remaining days.

Upon the old homestead farm our subject was reared, and in the district schools of the neighborhood he began his education. He afterward attended a select school, and later pursued his studies in Emlenton Academy. On leaving that institution he began teaching, at the age of nineteen, and successfully followed that profession for several years. Three years of that time he was a teacher in Venango County, and for eight years followed teaching in Lehigh County. Subsequently he engaged in the study of theology for two years, but, changing his mind about entering the ministry, he instead entered the law office of Judge Edwin Albright, of Allentown, and after thorough preparation was admitted to the Bar, in September, 1868, in this city. Here he at once began practice, and his time and attention have since been devoted to his chosen profession. He was admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court in 1875, in Washington, D. C. He has ever been a close student of his profession, and his abilities, both natural and acquired, have placed him among the leading practitioners at the Lehigh County Bar and in eastern Pennsylvania.

In 1872 Mr. Biery was elected to Congress, representing the Sixth Congressional District, which comprised the counties of Lehigh and Montgomery. He is a Republican in politics, and on that ticket was elected. On the expiration of his term of office he returned to Allentown and resumed his law practice, which he has diligently prosecuted up to the present time. When in Congress he took an active part in the discussion favoring the resumption of specie payment. He has been a close student of the topics and issues of the day, and has made himself well informed concerning everything pertaining thereto. He has written many learned and able articles on different subjects, for various periodicals and papers. He was the author of a series of articles on the revision of the tariff, published in 1879 and 1880 in the *Allentown Chronicle and News*, and copied in the *Reading Times*. They were also copied and commented upon by many of the leading journals throughout the country. His latest literary effort is a satire on "King Grover," which has had a



wide circulation, and which received much favorable commendation from metropolitan journals throughout the land.

On the 1st of March, 1864, Mr. Biery was united in marriage with Miss Annie Mertz, of Allentown, daughter of Elias Mertz. They have one son, Arthur L., a practicing attorney of this place. The family is widely known in the community in which they have so long resided, and its members are prominent in social circles. Mr. Biery takes an active part in political affairs by advocating the principles of the Republican party. He is also a staunch supporter of those interests and enterprises which are calculated to benefit and improve the city and advance the general welfare. The community which has so long been his home finds in him one of its best citizens.



**B**ENJAMIN KERN has been a resident of Slatington throughout almost the entire period of his life, and was formerly one of its most extensive merchants. He acquired a fortune by his ably conducted business enterprises, and is now living in pleasant retirement in the city of his birth. When in active business he displayed marked energy, and his management of his interests was characterized by superior discrimination, unerring judgment, and a sound policy in money matters. Though practically retired, he still maintains a general oversight of his varied interests, both monetary and real-estate.

Mr. Kern was born in Slatington, August 26, 1834. His father, Jonas Kern, was one of the most prominent men of this section of country, and was a miller by occupation, though engaged in farming for several years. He was the founder of the town of Slatington, and at one time owned the land upon which stands the present city. To him also belongs the distinction of having developed the first slate quarry of Slatington. Even in old age he retained the activity and energy characteristic of him in youth, and was hale and robust up

to the time of his death, which occurred in 1892, at the age of eighty-seven years.

Benjamin Kern is the fifth lineal descendant in a direct line from Nicholas Kern, the original owner of a five-hundred-acre tract of land upon which the major portion of the town of Slatington now stands. Nicholas Kern held the land under patents (dated November 24, 1737, and March 15, 1738), from the proprietors, the heirs of William Penn. From Nicholas a portion of it descended to William, thence to John (the grandfather of our subject), afterward to Jonas, his father, and is now in the possession of Benjamin. The present handsome residence of Mr. Kern stands on that portion of the property which was the garden one hundred and fifty years ago.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, John Kern, was a native of Lehigh County and a man of prominence in his locality. The original representatives of the family in the United States emigrated hither from Switzerland, and in an early day settled in Lehigh County, where they purchased large tracts of land. Our subject's mother bore the maiden name of Maria Wehr, and was born in this county, where her entire life was passed. Benjamin spent the years of boyhood in the parental home, receiving such advantages as the public schools afforded, and supplementing the information there gained by six months' tuition in the old Allentown Academy.

At the age of sixteen years Mr. Kern secured a position as clerk in a store at Slatington, where he gained familiarity with the mercantile trade. In 1853, in partnership with Henry Kuntz, he embarked in merchandising, and for several years continued in that connection, but the partnership was finally dissolved by mutual consent. After that he conducted the business as sole proprietor, and met with the greatest success until his retirement, in August of 1893. He always kept a complete line of goods suited to the wants of his customers, and had a large trade among the people of Slatington and the surrounding country.

With all movements tending toward the advancement of the interests of the town Mr. Kern has always been in hearty sympathy. In 1877 he was elected Burgess of Slatington, and in that re-



sponsible position displayed the possession of energy, executive ability and good judgment. For several terms he served as a member of the Town Council. In politics he always supports the principles of the Republican party, and is prominent in local affairs. Socially he is identified with the Knights of Malta.

On the 6th of December, 1857, Mr. Kern was united in marriage with Miss Leanna Peters, a native of Lehigh County, and a daughter of Jonas Peters, of this county. They have had two daughters, of whom the elder, Agnes J., is deceased. The younger, Ella Victoria, is the wife of Joseph H. Fuller. In religious connections Mr. and Mrs. Kern hold membership in the Reformed Church of Slatington, to the good works of which they are liberal contributors, and in the social circles of the town none are held in higher esteem than they.



**D**ANIEL YODER, M. D., President of the Lehigh Valley Homeopathic Medical Society, and a successful physician of Catasauqua, was born in Maxatawney Township, Berks County, Pa., September 30, 1833. His paternal ancestors were Huguenots, who, emigrating from France to America, settled in Oley Township, Berks County, Pa., in 1717. Both his father, David Yoder, and his grandfather were natives of the Keystone State, and followed agricultural pursuits. The former removed in 1834 to Whitehall (now Mickleys) Township, Lehigh County, where he engaged in farming. In 1847 he went to Northampton County, and settled on a farm near Bath, where his death occurred four years later. In religious belief he was a member of the Reformed Church, while his political affiliations were with the Whigs.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Mary Levan, and was born in Maxatawney Township, Berks County. Her father, William, was a native of the same place, and was a farmer by occupation. The Levan family traces its an-

cestry to three brothers of that name who came to this country from France, having left their native land on account of the persecution of the Huguenots, to which class they belonged. Mrs. Mary Yoder died at Catasauqua in 1873, after having had eleven children. Five of the number are now living, and of these the Doctor is the eldest.

Brought to Lehigh County when an infant, the subject of this sketch passed the days of childhood in Mickleys Township. In 1847 he accompanied the family to Bath, and was educated in Bethlehem, and in the Vanderveer Academy at Easton. At the age of twenty he commenced to teach, and for a time had charge of the Levan school. In 1855 he began the study of medicine under Dr. Walter F. Martin, of Weaversville, and the following year entered the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, where he took a course of lectures. Later he conducted his studies in the Pennsylvania Medical College at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1858.

Opening an office at Catasauqua, Dr. Yoder has since engaged in practice here, and is, in point of time, the oldest homeopathic physician in the valley. In 1873 he built an elegant residence at the corner of Third and Bridge Streets, where he also has his office. He has been interested in the improvement of the city, and has laid out eight acres in town lots. Socially he is a Mason, and has been Treasurer of his lodge for thirty years. He has attained the Knight-Templar degree, and is also connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In political views he is a firm Republican, ever loyal to party principles. He is a member of the American Institute of Homeopathy, the Homeopathic Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Lehigh Valley Homeopathic Medical Society, having been President of the last-named organization for three years. Dr. Yoder is an enthusiastic and very successful collector of English pottery, including the historical blue plates of American designs.

March 19, 1861, in Catasauqua, occurred the marriage of Dr. Yoder and Miss Amanda E. Glace. Mrs. Yoder is the daughter of Samuel Glace, who was born in Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, Pa., October 12, 1805, and accompanied his father,