

victory. Kindness was the motive of his life. He had a well spring of affection and a quick and generous sympathy, which increases by giving, and became richer by being a very spend-thrift. Like all who walk through life on a higher plain than the great majority of his friends, his companionship was select rather than large but the many who looked up to and respected him realized as fully as did the few who were nearer him that a true man had fallen when death claimed him.

ADELBERT V. LERCH, M. D.

Among the citizens that Pennsylvania has furnished to Ohio is numbered Dr. Adelbert V. Lerch, who is now successfully practicing in Pleasantville. He is yet a young man but has already attained distinction that many an older physician might well envy. He was born in Walnut Grove, Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of September, 1869. His father, Amos B., became one of the leading, influential and active citizens of Morrow county, his labors contributing in large measure to progress along many lines. He was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1843, and in early life followed merchandising and farming, the latter pursuit, however, being a side issue and consisting principally in trying to raise the best and largest of any crop in his vicinity, paying the expenses of this enterprise from his other revenues. He early received business training in his father's store. He was a graduate of a high school and commercial college and for some years he was upon the road as a traveling salesman, representing a Pittsburg house. Subsequently he embarked in general merchandising on his own account at Ringgold, Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, but the field of labor there was not broad enough for one of his energetic and enterprising nature and after a few years he sold his store and came to Ohio, thinking to find greater opportunities in the new west. He located at Steam Corners, Morrow county, Ohio, where he purchased a steam sawmill and lumber yard, making the lumber into all kinds of building material required in the locality. But to a man of his resourceful ability this did not offer opportunities enough for his activity and he purchased a farm, devoting his attention to manufacturing lumber and to agricultural pursuits. He became more and more attached to agricultural interests as the years passed by, the occupation proving one very congenial. Accordingly, his first farm of eighty acres was too small and he sold his farm, mills and lumber yard, removing to the eastern part of Morrow county, where he purchased a large tract of land to which he devoted his

energies and business talents. In a few years he had won the reputation as one of the most progressive, enterprising and prosperous farmers in that portion of the state. His capability attracted the attention of the infirmity directors, who induced him to accept the superintendency of the Morrow County Infirmary. He was a good book-keeper, was the secretary of the board and made out their reports to the county commissioners, and it is but just to say that from no department of the county government has there ever come a neater and more accurate report than that made by the infirmity directors while Mr. Lerch was their secretary. A local paper in speaking of the services that Mr. Lerch rendered as superintendent said: "The improvements on the infirmity farm, with all the aggregation of appliances for convenience and comfort known to modern science and mechanical skill, whereby the unfortunate poor and the helpless maniac might be better cared for; with fine gravel walks and driveways like those on the lands of a lord; with a thrifty young vineyard ready soon to bear its luscious clusters; with sloping front lawn toward sunset similar to those described in works of dreamy fiction; with an iron fence apparently as permanent as granite, all were added by way of permanent improvements to our county farm without extra levy for the infirmity fund. Into each and every one of these Superintendent Lerch put his thoughts and his energy. If any future inquisitor of the expenditures of the infirmity fund during Lerch's administration desires

to exercise his call, in showing how much less any subsequent administration of the infirmity has cost the county, he must not forget to credit these permanent improvements with their fair annual rental value." Along other lines, too, Mr. Lerch proved his deep interest in his county by promoting public progress. He was an active factor in educational circles and his efforts in this direction were instrumental in improving the schools and raising the standard of teaching.

About 1865 Amos B. Lerch was united in marriage to Laura C. McFarland, a native of Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of three children: J. H. C.; R. W. C., who was a practicing physician; and Adelbert V., of this review, but the last named is now the only one living.

Dr. Lerch, whose name introduces this record, pursued his early education in the public schools of Ohio, to which state he was brought by his parents during his early boyhood. When his literary course was completed he entered upon the study of medicine, having determined to engage in the practice as a life work. He matriculated in the Starling Medical College, of Columbus, and in 1892 was graduated in that institution with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Immediately afterward he came to Pleasantville, Fairfield county, where he has since built up a large practice, for he soon demonstrated his skill and ability and showed an accurate knowledge concerning the use of remedial agents. He closely studies and ponders all articles and

works of value to the medical profession and is thus constantly broadening his knowledge and promoting his efficiency.

In 1893 the Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Eliza C. Chick, a daughter of William J. and Sarah P. Chick, her father having been a well known real estate dealer of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He belonged to an old time Virginia family of prominence and influence and was an only son and received excellent educational privileges, being a graduate of the University of Virginia and also of the Poughkeepsie Com-

mercial College, of New York. For many years he was actively and extensively engaged in real estate dealing and negotiated many important realty transactions, this department of business activity claiming his attention until his death, which occurred in 1894. The marriage of the Doctor and his wife has been blessed with one child, William Carlton, who is a bright boy and is the life and light of the household. The Doctor and his wife have many warm friends in the community and enjoy the esteem of all who know them.

REV. R. H. GRIFFITH, M. A.

The Rev. R. H. Griffith, who devoted many years of his life to the active work of the ministry and who is now well known as a representative of real estate and other business interests in Fairfield county, was born in Marshall, Highland county, Ohio, on the 17th of October, 1849, his parents being W. H. and Margaret D. Griffith, both of whom are now deceased. His collegiate education was obtained in the Ohio Wesleyan University and some years afterward the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the Taylor University. Determining to devote his life to the ministry, that he might aid in uplifting humanity, Mr. Griffith became identified with the Methodist Episcopal church in the Ohio annual conference in the year 1872. He was

then twenty-three years of age, and for a long period he was connected with the Ohio annual conference, but in January, 1895, he was transferred by Bishop J. M. Walden, D. D., LL. D., to the Des Moines annual conference, and stationed at Humeston, Iowa, serving as pastor of the church of that place for four years. He was then stationed by Bishop J. H. Vincent, D. D., LL. D., at Stuart, Iowa, but resigned his pastorate there about the middle of the second year because of his wife's health and also because financial interests in other sections of the country demanded his personal attention.

In the year 1873 Rev. Griffith was united in marriage to Miss Susan C. Southard, a daughter of Rev. J. W. and Mary J.