

did not last long, and that she found out only some short period in this manner, but it did not hold out very long. Thus this young woman hath merely by a natural sagacity found out a method of holding discourse that doth in a great measure lessen the misery of her deafness. I examined this matter critically, but only the sister was not present, so that I could not see how the conversation passed between them in the dark.

The bishop's language will be clearer if we replace his word 'period' by the word 'sentence.' This passage occurs in a volume entitled 'Some Letters Containing an Account [of travels] in Switzerland, Italy [and] Germany in 1685 and 1686,' by Gilbert Burnet, London, 1687 (another edition, 1724), 1 Vol., 8vo.

HENRY CARRINGTON BOLTON.

MARY LOUISE DUNCAN PUTNAM.

MRS. PUTNAM is dead. To those of us who saw her recently, active and happy, the news comes as a shock. But, for her, the end was beautiful; in the midst of her life interests, without shrinking or suffering, at the close of a day of work, she lay down to rest.

Mary Louise Duncan was born at Greencastle, Pa., September 23, 1832. Her father, Joseph Duncan, was, at the time, the only Congressman from Illinois, with his home at Jacksonville. Later he was Governor of Illinois and was influential in shaping the trend of affairs in what was then the Far West. On her mother's side also Miss Duncan was of distinguished ancestry, being the great-granddaughter of that brave woman, Hannah Caldwell, of Revolutionary fame. In her father's home and at Washington, Miss Duncan enjoyed every opportunity and came into contact with men and women who planned and carried out great enterprises. In 1854 she married Charles E. Putnam, of Saratoga Springs, New York, and the young couple at once removed to Davenport, Iowa, which was, from that time on, their home. Mr. Putnam was a man of brilliant mind and talent, who, as a lawyer, soon won name, fame and influence in the new home.

Through her life Mrs. Putnam was actively interested in every good work. Her connec-

tion with many public and private enterprises deserves mention. But for us her relation to the Davenport Academy of Sciences is of chief importance. Mrs. Putnam was the mother of eleven children; she was devoted to the interests of each and all; with keen sympathy she entered into every child plan of work or play—the garden, the printing press, the family newspaper, the home dramatic performances. In every device of her children she found some helpful stimulus. She was more than an ordinary mother; she was the companion and confidant of each of her flock. So when her oldest child, a boy of fourteen, longed to join the newly founded Academy of Sciences, he demanded that the sharer of his joys, his mother, should also join. She was the first woman member. Joseph Duncan Putnam was a remarkable boy. At fifteen he was the secretary of the academy; before he was a man in years he was known by all the leaders in entomology; at twenty-five he was a recognized authority on some of the least known groups of insects; at twenty-six he died. His ideals for the academy, to which he was absolutely devoted, were high. He urged permanence—a building, a publication, an exchange and contact with the outside world of science. He lived long enough to see the building and to know that the printed *Proceedings* of the academy were prized at home and abroad. In all his work and plans his mother stood ever near. When money was necessary she canvassed the city; when people would not give, she planned and carried out public meetings, lectures, entertainments; in some way, in spite of discouragement and rebuff, she won the day.

And when her son died she devoted herself to rearing his perpetual monument, in the academy. Through dark years, which would have daunted all but a mother's love, she has toiled, and she has succeeded. The academy lives and will live. Through her interest a publication fund, memorial to her son and her husband, was secured, and the *Proceedings* have been continuously published. The volumes contain important contributions in all fields, but prominent among them are those

in entomology, by masters who had known and loved young Putnam. Mrs. Putnam, convinced of future development, insisted on securing for the academy additional land and a church property, which, rechristened as *Science Hall*, now houses part of the museum collections and supplies an audience room for public gatherings and scientific lectures. Through her urgency a year ago, a curator was called that more and aggressive work might be undertaken. To-day the Davenport Academy of Sciences has its valuable land, two buildings, important collections, eight volumes of published *Proceedings*, endowed publication fund, small but growing general endowment, an active and competent curator, because *she* has rallied the little band of workers through dark days and has encouraged them when they might falter.

Within the last two years the academy has undertaken much new work. Its desire is to come into a close and helpful relation with the general work of education of the city. Before the new curator, Mr. Paarmann, was called, Miss Sheldon, the corresponding secretary, reestablished the long discontinued lectures to school children at the academy's museum. Since the arrival of the curator, Mr. Paarmann and Miss Sheldon have continued this important work, with gratifying success. In this work Mrs. Putnam was greatly interested and heartily sympathetic. She was enthusiastic also in establishing courses of scientific lectures. The first of these was given in the winter of 1901-02; the second was presented during the season just closing. They were well received and proved more than self-supporting. With delight, Mrs. Putnam, as president of the academy, watched the development of work, the growth of plans, the increasing interest of the community. In February, after the lecture course was closed, she turned her attention to an exhibition of Indian basketry, to be arranged at the academy, for its benefit. All preparations were completed, and on February 19 the doors were opened. The exhibition was to continue through three days and its success was ardently desired. Unex-

pected numbers came the first and second days and went away delighted. On the night of the 20th, after a busy and happy day at the exhibition, pleased and satisfied at the result and looking forward to an even better morrow, Mrs. Putnam went to her home. A little wearied, she lay down to rest; without a word, and probably without suffering, she passed away.

Mrs. Putnam made no pretensions to be a scientist. But she knew almost every prominent scientific worker in our country and many of the foreign students. She loved to attend the gatherings of the American Association and other organizations, that the academy might keep in touch with the world of science. In October last she was in attendance at the Congress of Americanists in New York. Though she was not present, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in its December meeting at Washington, elected her a fellow. This unsolicited mark of esteem greatly pleased her, though she felt herself undeserving of it. To whom, however, could it have been more worthily given than to her who had striven so loyally for the advancement of science?

In her death, the object of so much love and labor was not forgotten. The whole of her estate is left for the academy's benefit. Through the provisions of her will \$24,000 are available for the continuance of publication of its volumes of *Proceedings*. The academy will continue to touch the outside world of science. Thus, though dead, they speak—the mother and the son, once more united.

FREDERICK STARR.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

WE learn from the London *Times* that the society will this year make its awards as follows: The Founder's medal has been awarded to Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield for his explorations in the Caucasus and the Himalaya, and for his persistent efforts to further the spread and raise the standard of geographical education. In 1868 he made a journey to the central Caucasus which included the first ascents of Kasbek and the eastern summit of Elbruz and the discovery of new snow passes across