

JOHN SHAW BILLINGS

THE New York Library Club has adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That on the death of John Shaw Billings, The New York Library Club desires to record its grateful recognition of the great part which he played in the development of the library service of New York City and of the United States.

While Dr. Billings gained distinction in the profession of his first choice in medical service during the Civil War, in the organization of the U. S. Marine Hospital Service and of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, as director of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and professor of hygiene in that institution, as expert in charge of the division of vital statistics of the tenth and eleventh censuses, and as a writer upon medical subjects, it is as one of the most eminent members of our own profession that we honor his memory.

Called in 1895 to be director of the newly established New York Public Library, he gave an impetus to the growth of its collections almost without parallel in the history of libraries and ensured their permanent value by making the collections of government publications and periodicals his first object. He was instrumental in the establishment of a remarkable system of branch libraries and planned the unique library building which contains the library's reference collections and is the center of its circulation department. As members of this club we will honor Dr. Billings as the most distinguished of all those who have served the library interests of this community.

As librarians, however, we will remember also his remarkable achievements as librarian of the Surgeon General's Office, in the development of the largest medical library in the world, in the publication of the most important of medical bibliographies, the "Index Catalogue," as well as the most useful, the "Index medicus," and in the inauguration of a national library service.

And as bibliographers we will remember also his services as delegate of the United States to the congress held in London in 1896 which established the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature.

He was a member of this club and its president in the year 1900, a member of the American Library Association and its president in the year 1902, a member of many learned societies, honored by learned institutions and societies, both at home and in foreign lands.

He gave to his profession the service of a scientist interested in the most common problems, the labors of a specialist with the broadest sympathies.

*THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING*¹

THE seventh annual report of the president and treasurer of the Carnegie Foundation, which has just appeared, covers the year ended September 30, 1912.

The endowment in the hands of the trustees at that time amounted to approximately \$14,000,000, and the income for the year amounted to \$676,486, of which \$634,497 was expended. From its first pension payment in June, 1906, to the end of the fiscal year September 30, 1912, the foundation has distributed \$2,077,814 in retiring allowances to professors and \$238,590 in widows' pensions—a total of \$2,316,404. In all 429 retiring allowances and 90 widows' pensions have been granted, of which 98 have terminated through death and 23 at the expiration of temporary grants, leaving 315 retiring allowances and 83 widows' pensions in force at the end of the year.

The report of the president, like the former reports, is divided into two parts—the first referring to the current business of the year and dealing with questions more directly pertaining to the administration of the foundation; the second part being devoted to current educational problems of a larger and more general nature.

The first part of the report includes a careful statement of the whole question of pensions for teachers, for government employees and for industrial employees. This statement contains the results of the examination of practically all of the pension systems now in operation anywhere, and leads finally to a discussion of a feasible pension system for the public school teachers of a state. This discussion is particularly needful at this time, since the question of teachers' pensions is a matter under consideration by a number of state legislatures. As the report points out, the bills which have been introduced in the various legislatures almost without exception

¹ Official summary sent by the foundation.