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T. MITCHELL PRUDDEN, 1849-1924

DR. T. MITCHELL PRUDDEN was one of the group of advisers of Mr. Rockefeller and his associates consulted on the creation of an institution for the investigation of disease, and he became one of the original members of the scientific board to which was entrusted the conduct of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research when founded in 1901. Dr. Prudden was chosen first vice-president of the board and first chairman of its executive committee, offices which he continued to hold until his recent death. Although repeatedly pressed to accept the presidency of the board, he resolutely refused the election. The services rendered to the institute by Dr. Prudden far exceeded in scope and devotion the official positions which he held.

Dr. Prudden's professional life in New York covered more than forty years, and was spent in large measure in forwarding the public welfare. But so self-effacing was he that it was only to his family, intimate friends and a coterie of his professional associates that the nature, variety and extent of his public services became known. The aid he rendered to the departments of health of the city and state of New York is written large in their history; as a student and teacher of cellular pathology and bacteriology—two branches to which modern medicine owes very much of its recent advances—he ranks among the leaders; and many of his pupils now carry on the high standards and wholesome traditions which he helped to establish in the country. After his retirement from the professorship of pathology at Columbia University in 1909, Dr. Prudden continued to exercise his humanitarian impulses and his interest in medical research in connection with the public health council of the state department of health, of which body he was an original member, and with the Rockefeller Institute to which he came daily and participated in many of its activities. To his many other gifts, Dr. Prudden added an exceptional administrative capacity and executive acumen. Hence he served many important enterprises of philanthropic and scientific nature during their formative and stressful periods in a manner which contributed valuably to their ultimate successful issue.

Dr. Prudden possessed a natural habit remarkably straightforward and elevated. It is doubtful whether many persons casually penetrated an exterior superficially somewhat austere. But to the number, by no means small, of persons admitted into the inner circle of his personality, he exhibited a nature peculiarly sympathetic, sensitive and simple and a heart of rare