

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CORNPLANTER MEDAL FOR IROQUOIS RESEARCH.

BY FREDERICK STARR.

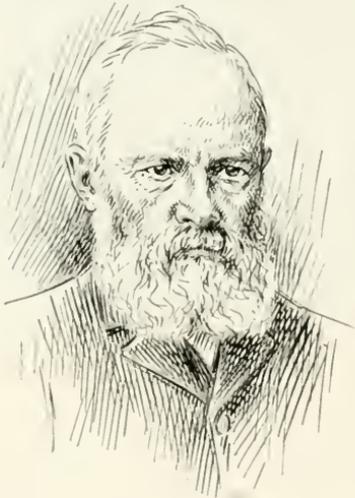
In previous issues of *The Open Court*, we have called attention to the founding of the Cornplanter Medal for Iroquois Research and its award in the years 1904 and 1906. It is the only permanently endowed medal for ethnological investigation in America. It is awarded once in two years and is administered by the Cayuga County Historical Society of Auburn, N. Y. Four classes of workers are eligible to receive the medal—ethnologists, historians, artists and philanthropists. The first strike of the medal was given to Gen. John S. Clark, one of the foremost students of the history of the Six Nations, or Iroquois Indians. The second was awarded to Rev. William M. Beauchamp, whose contributions to Iroquoian ethnology and archæology are

well known. At its meeting of February 18, the Cayuga County Historical Society awarded the third strike of the medal to Dr. David Boyle of Toronto, Canada. On that occasion the following biographical sketch of the recipient was read:

"In awarding the third strike of the Cornplanter Medal for Iroquois Research, we go outside of the group of students born in the United States. Its recipient was born in Europe and has done his life work in Canada.

"David Boyle was born in Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland, May 1, 1842. As a boy he attended the Mason's Hall School of his native town and St. Andrew's School, Birkenhead, England. When a fourteen year old boy, he came with his parents to Canada, where he has since lived. On arriving at his new

home he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, with whom he served four years. In his hours of leisure he made diligent use of the local library of the village in which he lived, and at the end of his apprenticeship took a teacher's examination and secured a certificate qualifying him to teach in public schools. As an educator he was pronouncedly successful. Teaching for twenty-five years, he was for more than half that period principal at Elora, where he made him-



DAVID BOYLE.

self felt as a power among the teachers of the county in which that town is located and throughout the province. During his years of teaching Mr. Boyle was much interested in the local geology, making extensive collections of fossils from the Silurian rocks of the locality and establishing a school museum, which still exists and is the most important of its kind in Ontario. In his collecting, he discovered a considerable number of species unknown to science, which were named in his honor. As frequently happens, the collection of fossils was associated, in his case, with the gathering of Indian relics. Of these he formed a good private collection which he took with him when he removed to Toronto. This collection formed the nucleus about which has gathered the great series of almost 30,000 specimens, forming the present Provincial Archæological Museum. It is one of the most important collections on the continent and the best from the Canadian field. It is of special interest to the Cayuga County Historical Society and in connection with the Cornplanter Medal because it represents the area occupied by the Huron-Iroquois. This collection, due so largely to Dr. Boyle's efforts, must ever be of great significance to students of those tribes. Pre-eminently then does Dr. Boyle deserve a medal founded for the encouragement of Iroquois Research.

"Dr. Boyle has also been interested in the living Iroquois, numbers of whom still live in Ontario. There, as in our own State of New York, the modern representatives of the great Confederacy retain much of the life and thought of the past. Dr. Boyle has investigated these survivals; he has studied the pagan thought, religious songs, dances and other ceremonial observances of the Canadian Iroquois and has printed interesting and important papers regarding them.

"The Provincial Museum at Toronto is organically related to the Department of Education, and its collections are displayed in the Department buildings. They are admirably arranged and their study has supplied material for a series of admirable annual reports, the first of which appeared in 1886. These are well illustrated and contain many important papers, made up of new and original matter by Dr. Boyle and his collaborators. They are highly prized and are sought by libraries and institutions as well as by private students. They are creditable alike to Dr. Boyle and the Ontario government."

"The government took advantage of the Chicago and Buffalo Expositions to show their work in archæology. Chicago was the first World's Fair to recognize a department of anthropology in its official classification and organization; the Pan-American was the first to devote one of its main buildings, a part of its architectural scheme, to ethnology. Dr. Boyle was at both expositions in charge of the archæological exhibit of the Ontario government. None of the many important exhibits in this field were more attractive and interesting in themselves or attracted more generally favorable comment than these from Canada.

"Dr. Boyle is, naturally, corresponding or honorary member of many historical and scientific societies, among them *The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* and *The Anthropological and Ethnological Society of Italy*, located at Florence. His literary activity, while admirably represented by the series of Annual Reports of the Museum, is not confined to them. Among his other writings his *Notes on the Life of Dr. Workman*, his *Notes on Primitive Man in Ontario* and his *History of Scarborough from 1796-1896*, deserve particular mention. He has been a frequent contributor to

The Scottish American, published in New York, under the *nom de plume* of 'Andrew McSpurtle.'

No tribe of American Indians is more typical, none more interesting, than these Iroquois of the famous Six Nations. For nearly three centuries they have been in contact with white men, and yet almost or quite ten thousand remain, speaking their old languages, thinking their ancient thought, living more or less of the old life. Some have asked whether it is likely that suitable candidates for future awards of the medal may be expected. There are already in the mind of those interested in the award more worthy claimants for recognition than can be supplied during twenty years.

MEDIUMS OUTDONE BY THE CITIZENS OF FORT WORTH.

Under glaring headlines "Ghosts and Spirits Routed by Athenians," the *Fort Worth* (Texas) *Record* of January 29, gives an account of an exposé of spiritualistic fraud given in that city by an energetic association called the Athenian Society. Using as a basis Mr. David P. Abbott's book, *Behind the Scenes with the Mediums*, the Athenians under the leadership of Rabbi Joseph Jasin gave a public exposition illustrating different varieties of famous spiritualistic frauds in which well-known citizens acted the part of mediums. The *Record* describes the event as follows:

"Attacking front and rear, as well as executing a scientific flank movement or two, the Athenians utterly routed all the assembled ghosts, hobgoblins and "psychic phenomena" artists at the city hall last night and provided one of the most interesting and instructive entertainments for the great crowd assembled that has been given in Fort Worth for ages. The hall was literally packed to overflowing with seekers after truth, standing room being at a premium in both hall and gallery.

"Rabbi Joseph Jasin acted as spokesman, lecturer and conjurer-in-chief and conducted the entire affair throughout with a quaint, humorous and entertaining style all his own. His opening address dwelt with the purposes of the meeting, stating that it was not all in ghosts and the like, but a serious subject; that his associates and himself had for years made a close study of psychic phenomena and had been greatly interested in the recent appearance here of Ruth Grey and Dr. Tyndall, as well as Anna Eva Fay. The apparent impossibilities performed by those remarkable people had whetted the desire of the Athenians to show the people what the apparent mystical performances really were and the meeting was the result of this desire. He stated that in the olden days people who pulled off such apparent miracles would have been burned for witches, but this age is skeptical. And contrawise, no other people in history were more completely gullible and superstitious than our own, as witness the manner in which they allowed themselves to be fooled only a short time ago."

The paper next proceeds to enumerate the different tests, and the explanation of each mystery as it was afterwards made clear to the audience: spirit-writing, vest-turning, rope-tying, table-moving, and readings of sealed writings, while the star exhibition was the billet test to which Rabbi Jasin thus refers in a personal letter:

"Just one week ago to-night the Athenian Society gave a public exposé of 'psychic phenomena,' illustrating about 10 or 12 different varieties of famous