

GRINNELL, IOWA, TUES

J. IRVING MANATT; AN APPRECIATION.

By Professor Jesse Macy.

2-23-1915

J. Irving Manatt of the College class of '69, whose death was noticed in the last issue of the Herald, was one of the most distinguished of the Grinnell graduates. He was a student at Yale from 1870-1873 where he received the Ph.D. degree in 1873. He was Professor of Greek in Dartmouth university, 1874-6, student at Leipzig, Germany, 1876-7; then Professor of Greek at Marietta College, Ohio, until 1884. Following this he was chancellor of the University of Nebraska for five years, was American consul at Athens for four years, and since 1892 he has been Professor of Greek literature and history at Brown university. He was a stimulating and inspiring teacher. As the head of a growing university he proved himself an efficient administrator. No public officer ever took to Athens a higher appreciation of Grecian life. He left a permanent mark wherever he lived and labored. He was gifted with unusual literary ability. In college he was the one chosen to say the fitting word on all occasions. I remember that on the occasion of a visit from a distinguished lecturer from England Manatt charmed us all by a decorous speech of appreciation. Brown university is among the oldest of our schools for higher learning and prides itself upon its long line of distinguished graduates. Yet when the Grinnell representative appeared on the faculty he was at once recognized as the proper spokesman for the university. On all sorts of occasions he was put forward for addresses formal and informal. His formal ad-

resses during the twenty-three years furnish material for a large volume, and are ready for publication under the title "Some Brown Studies". Along with other labors Dr. Manatt has all the time been writing, and all that he has written bears the stamp of literature. Two important books, "The Mycenaean Age" and "Aegean Days," are known to the scholarly. His published addresses and magazine articles are numerous and much manuscript remains for publication.

Plans were perfected for his retirement at the end of this year that he might devote himself entirely to literary work. Death came as the result of a cold which developed into pneumonia. He was always an invalid, never free from asthma. We used to think when in college that he would not live to graduate but, notwithstanding continued bodily weakness, he has ever been distinguished in the abundance and variety of his labors.

COUNTY NEWS.

Prof. I. J. Manatt was raised on a farm east of Brooklyn. Early in life he took a dislike to farming. He would tie his team to the fence, sit in the shade and work out difficult mathematical problems in the soft earth. At an early age he mastered every study at the old Hazel Green school house. The teachers gave him up. They could take him no farther. He was a sort of a dreamy young fellow and his parents feared that he was not just right. He could not hoe his own row in the field and was the laughing stock of the industrious boys of the neighborhood. They considered him a book-worm and an idle dreamer. One day the parents brought young Irving to the doctor's office. They confided in their old family physician, Dr. John Conaway, and told him of the boy's troubles. Irving was given a thorough examination both physical and mental, and at its conclusion the doctor told the anxious parents that the case was hopeless—that is that they could never make a farmer out of him. His tastes were not directed in that line, but that by