

1376

JOHN THOMAS PADGHAN.

1948

John Thomas Padghan, second child of George Walter and Magdalena Rager Padghan, was born Dec. 23, 1876, at the rural village of Inland, Cedar County, Iowa, on the old stage coach route from Davenport to Ripon, Iowa.

When five years old his family moved to Dixon, Iowa, where his father, a newly graduated physician, began the practice of medicine. The family belonged to the Christian Church of Dixon, Iowa.

John Thomas graduated from the public schools of Dixon in 1893 and from the Davenport high school in 1896, where he was first violinist in the Davenport Civic Orchestra. He then taught rural schools in the neighborhood of Dixon, served as principal of the grammar school at Orange City, Iowa, for two years, at the end of which time he was elected superintendent of the public schools at Princeton, Iowa, serving there two years, when he entered the State University of Iowa as a medical student in the fall of 1904, graduating therefrom as a physician and surgeon in June, 1909, the second highest in his class.

Immediately after graduation he entered the practice of medicine and surgery at Dayton, Iowa, which community he served until 1914. So long as he lived the people of Dayton were dear to his heart.

In 1910 John Thomas Padghan was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ann Schilder, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Schilder of the same town, Iowa, neighborhood. She preceded him in death, years ago, leaving one daughter who is now Mrs. D. A. Gehlke of Van Nuys, California.

The year 1914 was spent in post graduate work at Johns-Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., and at the University of Edinburgh at Edinburgh, Scotland. His plans to enter the University of Vienna were prevented by the First World War.

On January 1, 1915, Dr. Padghan located at Grinnell, Iowa, where he continued to practice medicine. He entered the army as a Captain in 1918 and was honorably discharged in 1919, when he returned to Grinnell for the rest of his life.

On Nov. 4, 1928, Dr. Padghan was married to Veronica Borop of Perry, Iowa, and to this union three children were born: Veronica Joan, in 1929, John Borop in 1931 and Patricia in 1934.

For many years he was a member of the Middlestonian Society at the University of Iowa; served as an interne in a large Cincinnati hospital; took special work at Municipal Hospital in Chicago in anesthesia and X-ray; served as X-ray technician at St. Francis Hospital for seven years. The work he liked best was giving good anesthetics and his records show over 5,000 without a fatality.

In 1930 he was elected treasurer of the Poweshiek County Medical Society which office he held until December, 1947. During the same time he was chairman of the Auditing Committee for the same society. He was president of the St. Francis Hospital staff for many years, maintaining harmony and good will. At one time he was examiner for twenty-two life insurance companies. He served several terms on the Grinnell school board and was City Physician for ten years. Had been a Mason, was Exalted Ruler of the Elks in 1928 and 1927, and a charter member of the Rotary.

Doctor loved the out-of-doors and for more than thirty years he vacationed in the North Woods and Oregon every year until his health began to fail. He was an expert fisherman and made most of his own tackle including many beautiful rods. Doctor was a plain man who understood and loved his association with nature and with his fellow men.