

he was at all times a steady and accomplished climber. Many guideless and first ascents grace his record. Particularly notable was that of the remote Mt. Sir Alexander, monarch of the northern Canadian Rockies, made with Newman D. Waffl and Helen I. Buck in the summer of 1929. The story is admirably told in the Canadian Alpine Journal for 1929, one of the few mountaineering articles from his pen.

A member of this society for a quarter of a century and serving one term on the Council, he worked continuously in its behalf. The library and club rooms owe much to his attention. Wide social contacts afforded opportunities for a host of gracious acts such as welcoming distinguished mountaineers from abroad at the pier or entertaining them at our rooms. An enthusiastic photographer of mountain scenery, he possessed a fine collection of colored lantern slides which were used to illustrate a series of one hundred lectures that he delivered at the instance of the Board of Education of the City of New York.

Apart from membership in several medical societies and social clubs, he belonged to the Canadian, Swiss and French Alpine Clubs, the Appalachian Mountain, Fresh Air and Explorers Clubs and was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

H. P.

#### **RICHARD M. HURD**

1865-1941

In the death of Richard M. Hurd, the American Alpine Club loses one of its original members (1902). In 1885, when he was barely 20, he ascended Matterhorn, Gross Glockner and Monte Cristallo, two of his guides on the Glockner being afterward killed in the Pallivicini accident on the Glocknerwand in 1886. Hurd, with his father and brother, spent five summers, between 1880 and 1885, in pedestrian tours and climbing, visiting Switzerland, Norway, the Pyrenees, England, Scotland, Wales and Swabia. They belonged to the old school of cross-country travellers, of whom John Ball and Francis Fox Tuckett were earlier exponents, in days before roads became infested by motors. Mr. Hurd described this in a letter published in *A. A. J.*, ii, 511.

Mr. Hurd was born in New York City on June 14th, 1865, son of Melancthon Montgomery and Clara Hatch Hurd, and died there in 1941 at the age of 75. He attended St. Paul's School, and

was graduated from Yale in 1888. After several years in business in Seattle Mr. Hurd returned to New York to become associated with the United States Mortgage and Trust Company. He became president of the Lawyers Mortgage Company in 1901, becoming chairman of the board of the reorganized corporation in 1903. He was the author of "Principles of City Land Values."

J. M. T.

**ASAHEL CURTIS**

**1874-1941**

Asahel Curtis was one of the small but devoted group of outdoor idealists who founded the Seattle Mountaineers. He led their first three summer outings, creating a climbing technique through which a few skilled climbers could lead 60 or more beginners safely to the summits of high and crevassed snow peaks.

Throughout a long and active life he remained an active and powerful leader in the developments of outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest, and gave permanency to outdoor scenes and events through genius in photographic art. He joined the American Alpine Club in 1913, his qualification including a number of first ascents in the Cascades and Olympics.

**BENJAMIN SAYRE COMSTOCK**

**1859-1941**

Benjamin Sayre Comstock, the son of Lydia Sayre and George Wells Comstock, was born in New York City in 1859, in a house which stood at Broadway and 34th Street, the present site of Macy's. Educated by tutors as a boy, he attended schools in Vevey, Switzerland, and Wiesbaden, Germany, before entering Princeton, from which he was graduated in 1880. He was for many years head of the Comstock Manufacturing Company and was a director of the 3-in-1 Oil Company. He was a man of quiet charm, and a lover of good music, being regularly in attendance at the Philadelphia Orchestra. He retired after the World War and in 1925 went to Princeton to live. He died in a hospital at Trenton, after a brief illness, in his 83rd year.

His interest in the Alps began early and he records an ascent of Piz Corvatsch in 1874. He joined the American Alpine Club in 1908. His climbing in Canada began at a time when much was