

of 1919 he returned to the old homestead upon which he had been reared and is now giving his time and efforts to the further development and improvement of this property of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 2, Alton township.

On the 6th of June, 1917, Mr. Irvin was married to Miss Verna Perry, a daughter of Orin and Lucy Perry, who were natives of Madison, Wisconsin. Mrs. Irvin, however, was born upon a farm west of Riceville, Iowa. Her father is still living, making his home in Minnesota, but her mother passed away about fourteen years ago.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Irvin are members of the Baptist church and guide their lives according to its teachings. In politics he is a republican but has never sought or desired office. He is, however, a progressive citizen whose cooperation can be counted upon to further any plan for the public welfare. He was a liberal supporter of the Liberty Loan, also contributed freely to the Red Cross and in fact did everything in his power to uphold American interests during the great World war.

GEORGE KESSEL, M. D.

Dr. George Kessel is a prominent representative of the medical profession in Howard county, specializing in the practice of surgery. He makes his home in Cresco and his birthplace was nine miles north of the city. The greater part of his life has been passed in this county and it is his spirit of progressiveness and enterprise which has been one of the factors in the rapid development of northeastern Iowa. After mastering the branches of learning taught by the district schools near his boyhood home, he entered Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1883, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts, thus acquiring a good literary education to serve as a foundation upon which to build the superstructure of his professional learning. Having decided upon the practice of medicine as a life work, he matriculated in Rush Medical College of Chicago and is numbered among its alumni of 1885. He returned to Cresco and entered upon the practice of medicine in that city. In 1889 he went abroad for further study, spending several months in the University of Vienna, coming under the instruction of some of the ablest representatives of the profession in the old world. He afterward, did hospital study in Berlin, Germany, where he also took up the study of surgery, and upon his return to the United States opened his office in Cresco, where he has since engaged in practice.

In 1908 he purchased the residence of Mrs. Augusta Beadle, which was one of the first and finest homes in Cresco. The property consisted of sixteen acres of land, in the center of which stood this beautiful home. He converted the residence into a hospital. In 1910 he gave the north half of the property to the Sisters of Mercy of the Catholic faith. Assisted by public subscription, they immediately built a forty-five thousand dollar modern brick addition to the hospital, which is now known as St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital. Dr. Kessel has since acted as surgeon in chief and supervising head of the new institution.

In 1912 Dr. Kessel gave the lower half of his property to the city for park purposes with the understanding that the city authorities should use the same to secure a location for a Carnegie library. In accordance with this condition, the city immediately took the necessary legal steps to secure a central location, and Mr. Carnegie was prevailed upon to give seventeen thousand five hundred dollars with which to erect the building. The Cresco public library is considered to be one of the finest libraries in the state of Iowa. Dr. Kessel was honored with the presidency of the library board, which position he is still filling.

The property given for park purposes is now being improved, and in the spring of 1920 will be put under the control of a park commission which will make further extensive improvements. Dr. Kessel has proposed to erect, at a cost of about ten thousand dollars, a war memorial to the soldiers, sailors and marines who went from this county, and who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives during the Great war. Work on this memorial will begin at the earliest opportunity.

At the beginning of the World war he entered the government service as a member