

of the local exemption board and continued in that position throughout the entire period of America's hostilities with Germany. His spare moments were spent in private work and in speaking at public meetings for the furthering of the work of the various organizations to promote the morale, physical welfare and comfort of the army and navy, and thus working for the speedy end of the war and the best interest of the United States and her citizens.

On the 26th of May, 1886, Dr. Kessel was married to Miss Lila Truitt of Grinnell, Iowa, who passed away in 1898 and was laid to rest in Cresco. They had four daughters, Martha, Julia, Helen and Gertrude. The first named is now Mrs. Raymond Haas of Eldora, Iowa. Julia became the wife of Allan D. Shackleton of Brooklyn, New York, who enlisted at the outbreak of the war in the aviation service and died of influenza and pneumonia in December, 1918, at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. Helen was in the Y. M. C. A. overseas service as entertainer and spent many months in France, entertaining the overseas troops. She and Gertrude are now at home with their father.

Dr. Kessel is a most public-spirited citizen and is constantly putting forth effective effort for the welfare and progress of Cresco and Howard county. It would be difficult to find anyone who has done more effective work for the city or whose public spirit is manifest in tangible results to a greater degree. He cooperates heartily in all plans and measures for the general good but gives the major part of his time and attention to his extensive and important professional duties. He is a warm friend of the Mayo brothers of Rochester, Minnesota. In fact they have worked together on a number of occasions and he is thoroughly in touch with the advanced and progressive measures which those eminent surgeons follow. His own work is conducted along the same lines and his high standing is recognized by the leading surgeons throughout the country. He has membership with several organizations and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. The general public attests the fact that he has no superior in surgical work in the state of Iowa.

His political faith is that of the republican party. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and is continually finding opportunity to exemplify in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon recognition of the brotherhood of mankind and the obligations thereby imposed. He belongs to the Congregational church and is continually extending a helping hand to fellow travelers on life's journey.

MATTHIAS KOBLISKA.

Matthias Kobliska, devoting his attention to general farming on section 23, Howard township, has made his home in northern Iowa since 1884, in which year he took up his abode in Chickasaw county. He was born in Bohemia, February 2, 1863, a son of John and Rosa (Lukas) Kobliska, both of whom remained residents of Bohemia until death called them. After acquiring a common school education Matthias Kobliska, then a youth of seventeen years, bade adieu to friends and native land and came to the United States in 1880, hoping to find better business opportunities in the new world. He first made his way to Chicago, where he was employed at day labor for four years, and in 1884 he came west to Iowa; settling in Chickasaw county, where he worked as a farm hand for five years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until the amount was sufficient to enable him to buy a team of horses and the necessary machinery with which to begin farming for himself. He also bought at this time forty acres of land, for which he paid three hundred and fifty dollars. This he began farming and cultivated the tract for two years. He also worked out for others in the meantime in order to gain ready money and after two years he sold his forty-acre tract and made investment in one hundred and thirty acres, for which he paid twelve hundred dollars. The place was at that time said to be the poorest farm in Chickasaw county and some of his friends told him that they would not have it as a gift; but with characteristic energy he began to cultivate and improve the place and converted it into an excellent farm property that is today worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. He disposed of that place in 1901 and bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present