

which urges him on toward the goal of success. He possesses in large measure the spirit of progress which dominates the middle west and by persistent and well directed effort he has already attained a degree of prosperity which augurs well for future achievement. He is a member of the Lutheran church. He is well known in the district in which he has spent his entire life and has won many friends by reason of his upright manhood and character.

FRED W. CONOVER, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be almost unique among occupations, as it is at once a profession, a trade and a business. Such being the case, it follows that in order to attain the highest success in it one must be thoroughly conversant with the theory of the art, must be expert with the many instruments and appliances incidental to the practice of modern dentistry and must possess business qualifications adequate to dealing with the financial side of the profession. In all of these particulars, Dr. Fred W. Conover is well qualified and therefore has attained prestige among the able representatives of dentistry in Decorah and throughout the state. His birth occurred in Allamakee county, Iowa, on the 16th of November, 1859, his parents being Firman and Mary (Bigelow) Conover, who are natives of New York and Connecticut respectively. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, came to this state in 1856, settling in Allamakee county, where he operated a rented farm and also taught school. Failing health caused him to return to New York, but he soon retraced his way back to Allamakee county, Iowa, and resumed farming. Again broken in health, he went back to his native state, disposing of his Iowa property, and embarked in the butchering business at Daynesville, Lewis county, New York, remaining there until the spring of 1871. He then came to Winneshiek county, where he bought a farm, which he operated until 1895, when he disposed of the same, removing to Frankville, where he lived until 1906. He then put aside the active work of the fields, taking up his abode in Decorah, where he lived retired until death claimed him, at the ripe old age of eighty-three years. His wife is still living at the age of seventy-two.

Fred W. Conover obtained his early education in the schools of Allamakee county, Iowa, Connecticut, New York, and Winneshiek county, Iowa, accompanying his parents on their various removals. Subsequently he entered the Upper Iowa University at Fayette and later attended Breckenridge Institute at Decorah. Afterwards he followed the profession of school teaching for nine years, spending the last two years of that time as principal of West Decorah schools. Determining to become a practitioner of dentistry, he entered the Philadelphia Dental College and was graduated from that institution in 1890. He first opened an office for practice in Decorah but at the end of six months disposed of his interests here and removed to Sioux City, where he remained for fourteen months. On selling out there he returned to Decorah and has here practiced his profession continuously since. He enjoys an extensive and lucrative patronage that is indeed well merited. While teaching school he also learned telegraphy and for one year worked as extra man. For the past fifteen years