

## PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 529

stockholder in the Burr Oak Creamery and his business interests are all carefully managed and therefore profitable, his labors having brought him a gratifying degree of success, placing him in the front ranks of progressive and representative agriculturists.

In 1881 Mr. Stead was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Odell, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, May 2, 1863, a daughter of Hiram and Eliza (Gates) Odell, the former a native of Quebec, Canada, and the latter of Albany, New York. In 1849 the father drove a herd of cattle from eastern Canada to California and spent two or three years in the gold fields of that state. Some time after his return he settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota, making his home near Spring Valley, a locality to which he went in pioneer times. Mr. and Mrs. Stead are the parents of a son, John Hiram, who is now aiding in the operation of the home farm. He married Miss Beulah Ward and they have a son, Robert Claude.

Mr. Stead is connected fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs and the Modern Woodmen of America. Of late years he and his wife have traveled extensively in the United States and they have spent the last three winters in California. In Winneshiek county, where his entire life has been spent, Mr. Stead commands and holds the confidence and high regard of his neighbors and friends and is known as a business man of unquestioned integrity as well as a public-spirited, loyal and progressive citizen.

### J. D. HEXOM, M. D.

Dr. J. D. Hexom, who since 1905, following his graduation from the State University of Iowa, has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession at Highlandville, was born near Waukon, Allamakee county, Iowa, January 17, 1879, a son of David and Augusta (Sivesend) Hexom, the former a native of Norway, while the mother was born either in Winneshiek or Allamakee county, Iowa. They now reside in Decorah, the father having retired from business life after long and active connection with farming interests. The family numbered ten children, all of whom are living, and the sons have all become farmers save Dr. Hexom and a brother who is engaged in merchandising.

Dr. Hexom is the third in order of birth, and upon the old homestead in Allamakee county he was reared until he left to pursue his education outside the district schools. Entering Luther College at Decorah, he there pursued his classical course until graduated in 1901. He prepared for his professional career as a student in the medical department of the State University of Iowa and won his M. D. degree in 1905. He at once located for practice in Highlandville, where he has since remained and as the years have passed his success has grown. His ability has enabled him to successfully cope with many complex and intricate professional problems. Dr. Hexom is also connected with agricultural interests, owning the farm upon which he was born, comprising three hundred acres six miles west of Waukon. The farm is situated on the county line, part being in Winneshiek and the remainder in