

Dr. Walter Mendelson

Dr. Walter Mendelson, one of the best beloved of the "old timers," died on January 20, in the city in which he was born, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Educated at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons (of which he was later to become Trustee) and in Leipzig, Germany, he practiced medicine in New York for forty years, retiring some eighteen years ago.

It was through his brother-in-law August Lewis, to whom "The Science of Political Economy" was later dedicated, that Walter Mendelson became the friend and follower of Henry George. When the philosopher broke down from overwork, in 1890, Dr. Mendelson was one of the physicians called in consultation. In 1897 he was one of the four physicians who told Henry George that he had not the strength to go through the mayoralty campaign.

When as a small girl I first saw Dr. Mendelson I was struck by his likeness to the pictures of Jesus. Something about the broad brow, the finely modeled features and the small, lightish beard recalled the paintings of mediaeval masters. Possibly this likeness, that I was ever conscious of, dimmed with the years, but certainly there was a spiritual growth in him that was marked—an inner light, steady and strong. A member of the Society of Friends, he had a Quaker's patience, and an understanding of weakness—albeit a husky hatred of the false.

He seemed not to age as time went on, but to allow me to assume the years and to grow old to him, that I might get to know him better. His heart remained young. He was a man of great wisdom and of wide and diversified culture, and his ability to converse on far-flung subjects, with a fine choice of words, was a delight to his friends.

A true physician, his entrance into the sick-room seemed to drive pain out. Small wonder that, with his understanding of the physical, mental and spiritual ills of his many patients, he turned to the study of the ills of the Body Politic and the search for their cure. And the diagnosis of Henry George and the treatment he had prescribed, Walter Mendelson found right.

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE.