

**Sager, Abram (1810-1877).**

Abram Sager was born at Bethlehem, Albany County, New York, December 22, 1810. His father, William Sager, was a farmer of German ancestry, who settled in New York at an early age. Abram studied medicine with Profs. Marsh and Ives at Albany and New Haven, Connecticut, but graduated M. D. from Castleton Medical College, at Castleton, Vermont, in April, 1835. For a time he practised in Detroit, Michigan, then at Jackson, but finally settled at Ann Arbor. In 1827 he was made chief of the botanical and zoological departments of the Michigan Geological Survey. The zoological specimens which formed the basis of his report laid the foundation for the present zoological collection of Michigan University Museum. The Sager Herbarium in the University Museum contains 1,200 species and 12,000 specimens. He also prepared and placed in the museum of the medical department a valuable collection illustrating comparative craniology, neurology and embryology of the vertebrata. From 1842 to 1855 he was professor of botany and zoology in Michigan University; in 1848 he was made professor of theory and practice of medicine; in 1850 professor of obstetrics and diseases of women and children—a place occupied till made emeritus professor in 1874. He resigned his chair because he disapproved of the actions of the regents in connecting homeopathy with the medical department. For several years before his resignation Dr. Sager was dean of the medical department. In 1852 the University gave him the honorary M. A. In 1874 Dr. Sager was elected president of the Michigan State Medical Society, and was a member of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia, and the New York State Medical Society. Dr. Sager's success as a teacher

was gained in spite of natural defects in the way of an inferior physical appearance, an unpleasant voice and a temperament shrinking from publicity, but the intrinsic merit of his subject matter and weight of character fixed the attention of his audience.

In 1838 he married Sarah E. Dwight, of Detroit, Michigan, and had eight children, five of whom survived him.

He died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 6, 1877, from phthisis pulmonalis.

Papers:

"Notes on the Anatomy of the *Gymnopus Spiniferus*." (*"Peninsular Medical Journal,"* vol. iii.)

"Observations on the *Hirunde* in Michigan." (*Ibid.*, vol. iv.)

"Observations on the Development of a New Species of *Helminth*." (*Ibid.*, vol. ii.)

"Case of Amaurosis of Pregnancy Connected with Albuminuria." (*Ibid.*, vol. x.)

"Report on Obstetrics." (Read before the Michigan State Medical Society, 1868, Ann Arbor, 1869.)

"Cases of Floating Kidney." (*"Peninsular Medical Journal,"* vol. ix.)

"Cases of Delivery by Cesarean Section." (*"Michigan University Medical Journal,"* vol. ii.)

"Experiments on the Respiration of Various Cases." (*Ibid.*, vol. i.)

"Case of Simultaneous Intra- and Extra-uterine Pregnancy." (*Ibid.*, vol. i.)

L. C.

History of the Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor, The Univ. Press.

Trans. Amer. Med. Ass., Phila., Pa., 1878, vol. xxiv.

Trans. Mich. State Med. Soc., Lansing, 1878.

Life, Huber, Michigan Alumnus, Feb., 1903.