

Thos P. Lesesne

1931

road merged with the Atlantic Coast Line, he continued as assistant Surgeon A. C. L. until 1913, when he was appointed Surgeon (Division), and continued to hold this position until the time of his death. His standing among his fellows of the Association of Surgeons of the A. C. L. was of the highest.

For many years he was prominent in the faculty of the Medical College of South Carolina, continuing his valued services after it became a state institution. Successively, he held the chairs of Materia Medica, Obstetrics, and General Surgery. Long a member of the Medical Society of South Carolina, he served as its president. He belonged also to the South Carolina and the American Medical Associations. He was also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Aimar found time in a busy life to serve the Charleston Museum on its board of trustees; he was foremost among ornithologists of the Southeast, his interest in birds having been a principal hobby. He was a member of the P. N. Lynch Council of the Knights of Columbus, and of the old French Benevolent Society. He was junior warden of St. Mary's, mother church of the Roman Catholics in what are now the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

He married Leonarda Jaques, of Charleston. Mrs. Aimar and their daughter, Agatha (Mrs. Thomas Ritchie Simmons), survive him.

#### ERNEST W. KING

Planting has been the vocation of ERNEST WALTER KING since his early manhood. For eighteen years he planted in St. Paul's Parish, coming to St. Andrew's Parish in 1915. He formerly leased the old Ashe plantation on the Toogoodoo river, later purchasing it from his mother, in 1913. He has been operating it ever since as a truck farm. He owns the Central Farm in St. Andrew's Parish and leases the Bridge Farm, devoting both of them to market produce. Mr. King originated the idea of a public scale for weighing vegetables, and this enterprise is successful. It is serving some of the leading planters of the country. The system of selling vegetables by weight has become general in this section.

Born December 8, 1878, on the Ashe plantation, near Adams Run, South Carolina, Mr. King is a son of Kinsey Burden and Cecile Westmore King. His ancestor, Dr. John King, came from Norwich, Norfolk County, England, in 1803; he married Mary Burden, of Little Britain. Her father, Kinsey Burden, originated the growing of sea island cotton on this coast. Dr. King had lived in Paris and was an accomplished linguist. It was said of him that he was "fifty years ahead of his time in medicine." Mr. King's father was a member of the "Rebel Troop" in the War for Southern Independence. His mother's family came from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. His grand-uncle, Dr. Samuel Preston Moore, was the Surgeon General of the Confederacy, a close friend of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Through his mother, he descended from the Penns. His ancestor, Thomas Holme, surveyor general for William Penn, laid out the City of Philadelphia. Another ancestor, Dr. Moore, came to this country as physician to Lord Baltimore. His grandmother was Sarah Ernestine Walter, whose father was one of the founders of Walterboro, South Carolina.

Mr. King was educated in Adams Run private schools and the Porter Military Academy. Leaving school, he turned at once to agriculture. He is a member of the old Agricultural Society of South Carolina and one of the charter members (and a director) of the South Carolina Produce Association.

In 1905, in Adams Run, he married Isabella Ritchie Simmons, of Adams Run, daughter of Morton Waring and Sarah Legaré Simmons. Mr. Simmons was for years a leading rice planter and in his later years a truck planter in St. Paul's Parish. Mrs. King is descended from Peter Timothy who published the *South Carolina Gazette* without intermission from 1745 to 1772, when, accepting official duties, he leased it to Powell, Hughes & Co. He resumed the proprietorship November 8, 1773. In 1775 he removed his plant to Broad street and Gadsden alley (at this site *The News and Courier* was published for more than fifty years). Mrs. King is also a descendant of Thomas Ritchie, of the *Richmond Inquirer*, who was called the "Napoleon of the Press."

Mr. and Mrs. King have one son: Ernest Walter, Jr.

#### MISS MARY VARDRINE McBEE

Ashley Hall, recognized as one of the leading schools for girls in the South, was founded in 1909 by MISS MARY VARDRINE McBEE, its principal. Its purpose is to provide a strong educational program while surrounding the girls with the refinement and culture that is Charleston's, and the results of its twenty-two years may be judged by the standing of the institution. Beginning with an enrollment of forty-three students, Ashley Hall has reached an enrollment of two hundred and seventy-five. The study body is comprised of girls in all classes from kindergarten through elementary and college preparatory courses to the Normal School. Upon completion of the college preparatory course, students may enter any college admitting on certificate, or they may take the examinations of the College Entrance Examination Board. In recent years graduates taking these examinations have entered Vassar, Wellesley, and Smith Colleges in the honor group of those colleges.

The Normal department has been inspected by a special committee of the State Board of Education in consequence of which graduates receive a first grade primary state license to teach kindergarten, and the first five grades of the elementary school. The equipment of the school has increased gradually since its beginning in 1909. There is now a resident department accommodating approximately seventy girls. The school buildings include study halls, and class rooms for high school and elementary school. The kindergarten has a separate building. The piano and violin teachers also have studios in small buildings in the garden and there are two science laboratories separate from the other buildings, and an indoor swimming pool.

The family of Ashley Hall is comprised of teachers meeting the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Ashley Hall enjoys the distinction of being the only private school for girls in South Carolina which is accredited by this association, and the only school for girls in Charleston so accredited. In addition to being on the list of accredited schools Ashley Hall is a member of the association.

Miss Mary Vardrine McBee, founder and principal of Ashley Hall, is a native of Lincolnton, North Carolina, a daughter of Silas and Mary Estelle McBee. She is directly descended from William Sumner who came from England in 1690. His son, Dempsey, was member of the House of Commons from Virginia in 1744, '45, '57, '59. Miss McBee's father, Silas McBee, was editor of *The Churchman*, 1896-1912; founder and editor of *The Constructive Quarterly*, 1913-21.

Miss McBee was educated in Fairmount School, Monteagle, Tennessee. She