

OBERHOLTZER, Vickers, 1871

Class of 1893.

Born in Chester county, Pa., 1871; graduated Norristown High School, 1889; practical chemist University of Pennsylvania, 1893; studied in Universities abroad; graduated A.M. and Ph.D. at University of Rostock in Germany, 1895; Instructor in Industrial Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania.

VICKERS OBERHOLTZER, A.M., Ph.D., was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, January 4, 1871. His father, John Oberholtzer, is a grain merchant of Philadelphia; and his mother, Sara Louisa (Vickers) Oberholtzer, is an author and philanthropist. His early education was acquired in private schools and through home tutors. He also enjoyed advantages of frequent travel with his parents as a boy, and some literary association, accompanying his mother on visits to the poets Longfellow and Whittier; Whittier especially being a close friend of the Vickers family. Dr. Oberholtzer graduated at the Norristown High School in 1889, and then took a three-years course in the College Department of the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a certificate of proficiency as a practical chemist in 1893, at the same time obtaining a prize in assaying and mining. He was at once offered an Instructorship in the University but declined the appointment to go to Germany to complete his education, spending one year in the Chemical Department of the University of Freiburg in Baden and the following one in the same department of the University of Rostock in Mecklenburg, graduating there with the double degree of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in March 1895. He was the second resident of the United States to graduate from that ancient institution. His major study was chemistry, but he was also as proficient in one of his minors, geology. Having spent some weeks one summer on the island of Oeland off the east coast of Sweden, he made a rather exhaustive study of its geological formation. He discovered some new varieties of fossils, and secured the fullest collection of this particular formation that had at that date been found, grouped and named. He made a geological chart of the island, and lectured on the subject before the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Dr. Vickers Oberholtzer was Instructor of Industrial Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania for two years after his return to this country, being at the same time a member of the Franklin Institute and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the Society of Chemical Industry of London, and the American Chemical Society. He has conducted a number of original researches in chemistry, and has published three or four dissertations embodying the results of his investigations. He has also worked out a number of new formulae in practical use in American chemical factories. He resides in Philadelphia.

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