

In Memoriam

Karl A. M. Scholtz

Silesia has given a host of her sons to the Western World, many of whom distinguished themselves in the land of their adoption. In the front ranks of these eminent citizens stands Karl Adolph Maximilian Scholtz.

The Scholtz family is an old one in Prussian Silesia, and its members had been farmers for centuries past. Karl Scholtz,—the grand-father of Karl A. M. Scholtz,—was Supervisor General of the estate of Count Henckel von Donnersmarck.

His son, Paul Emil Scholtz (father of Karl A. M. Scholtz) was born on the above mentioned estate on October 3rd, 1830. He was an adventurous man, of roving disposition, with a lust for battle in defense of causes he deemed just. While serving as a one-year volunteer in the Prussian Army, the American Civil War broke out, and he at once applied for and received a furlough, came to America, and enlisted in the 52nd New York Volunteer Infantry—an outfit composed entirely of Germans, and of Americans of German descent. He participated in many battles, and while serving in the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia, was taken ill and was hospitalized at Harrisburg, and later discharged, after which he returned to his home near Breslau.

Shortly afterward he married Hedwig Elizabeth Franziska von Manstein,—born September 80, 1842,—daughter of an East Prussian Army officer. After a year or so, he and his wife and a baby girl migrated to Russian Poland where they settled on a farm. It was there, near the town of

Czenstochow, that the subject of this sketch was born on July 3, 1869.

In 1871 the family came to America, arriving at Locust Point in Baltimore on October 3rd, on the Steamer "Berlin."

Young Karl went to school in Baltimore, but at the age of twelve he was compelled to seek employment in order to help augment an all too meager family income. This was in the days antedating compulsory education laws.

His first job was that of errand boy for an importing house. This did not last long, and he next sold newspapers on the streets of Baltimore. He established a well-paying route in the section running from Pennsylvania Avenue and Franklin Street, up to Dolphin Street, and over to Richmond Market.

Later he became errand boy and general utility man for the old Baltimore Type Foundry (founded by the son of Christopher Sauer, of Germantown, Philadelphia, the first type-founder in North America) on Bank Lane, in the rear of Barnum's Hotel. Here he served for four years, leaving to take up the "art preservative of all arts" with E. B. Read and Son, printers, located at 15 South Street on the fourth floor of the old Franklin Bank Building. He soon showed an aptitude for the art of printing, and learned to love it, a love which he retained throughout the rest of his life. He remained with the Read firm for eight years.

His thirst for knowledge promoted him early in his career to become a

patron of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore and he himself has said that he was greatly indebted to this library for the part it played in his education. He was an omnivorous reader, and became a brilliantly educated man. It was while he was working at the printing trade that he attended night classes at the Baltimore Law School, graduating in 1895.

He then began the practice of law, and gradually developed an excellent clientele, especially among the German element. By his forthright and ethical dealings he established an enviable reputation with Bench, Bar, and public. He was considered an authority on building and loan association matters, and was instrumental in helping many a friend in the purchase and ownership of a home.

Mr. Scholtz's active mind soon prompted him to enlarge the scope of his activities. He became interested in the Reform League, an organization dedicated to cleaning up political corruption, both in elections and in the expenditure of public funds. He served the League in various capacities and upon the resignation of Mr. Charles Morris Howard became its Secretary. Later he was Secretary of the Just Representation League, which worked to secure a larger representation for Baltimore City in the General Assembly of Maryland. He was also Secretary of the Municipal League of Baltimore City, which for a number of years made it a point to look up the ability of those seeking municipal office, and keeping a record of their official conduct.

Still having time on his hands, he, together with John H. Blacklock, a bachelor, and a friend of the youth of Baltimore, instigated propaganda for more liberal use of the public parks for playground purposes, athletics, sports, etc. He was an ardent advocate of abolition of the Sunday Blue Laws. It was in the furtherance of many such projects that he, as a representative of the Turnverein Vorwaerts, joined with a group of men for the purpose of getting the large

Germanic population of Baltimore to take a more active part in civic and political affairs. This led to the formation in 1900 of the Independent Citizens Union of Maryland, an organization which did much good work along various civic lines.

On June 30, 1903, Mr. Scholtz married Miss S. Louise Witthaus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erich Ludwig Witthaus.

His activity in so-called German-American circles was prodigious. He joined the Turnverein Vorwaerts at the age of eighteen, and was active in its affairs for the rest of his life. He served this Verein in nearly every capacity, from property custodian to President. In recognition of his services he was made an honorary member. It was through his activities in the Turnverein that he was recruited into the service of the Children's Playground Association, and served for many years as a Director, and for a time as Treasurer. After the Baltimore fire he was a member of various committees of the City Wide Congress. For many years he was President of the Venable Improvement Association.

In his later years he became tremendously interested in the work of the German Society of Maryland, a benevolent organization founded in 1783. He was for many years a Director and was its President from 1924 until his death. The Society benefited greatly by his wise counsel and management. The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland afforded another outlet for his energies. He was for thirty years Chairman of its Executive Committee, and he did much work in fostering the purposes of this Society. In 1922 he accepted the Chairmanship of a Committee formed to raise funds for the General German Orphan Home to help defray the cost of their new Home at Catonsville.

While Mr. Scholtz had no ear for music (he admitted that he was tone-deaf), yet he fully realized the importance of music in the cultural and

social life of the community; he therefore lent his support to many musical endeavors. He was for many years a supporting member of the Arion Singing Society; he was Secretary of the great Baltimore Saengerfest of 1903; he helped launch the German Opera Company on a successful American tour in 1922, and he rendered noteworthy service on the occasion of the visits of the Dresdener Kreuzchor to Baltimore. His membership, in addition to those already mentioned, included the Germania Club, the Masonic Fraternity, the Maryland Historical Society, Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, the American Academy of Political and Social Science (to which he was a delegate representing the City of Baltimore), the Steuben Society, and the American, Maryland State and Baltimore City Bar Associations. He had no hobbies but many activities.

In politics Mr. Scholtz was an independent, with leanings to the Republican Party. This independence he manifested characteristically when on March 31, 1933—the very day before the intense Jewish persecution in Germany was launched—he sent a telegram to Hitler—"I appeal to you to exercise toward the German Jews a spirit of justice, humanity and mercy. I speak for our German racials who have ever before and after the war held high the German standard and are sensitive to the honor of the Germans."

Mr. Scholtz had no religious affiliation. Though born a Roman Catholic, he early in life became a free-thinker.

He was not a man of robust physique, but generally speaking, he enjoyed good health. Several weeks before his death he was taken ill, but soon responded to treatment. He was well on the road to recovery when he died suddenly on Christmas morning, 1941. His funeral service,—non-religious,—was conducted by his close friend, Rev. Fritz O. Evers before an unusually large gathering of friends. His body was cremated, and his ashes were interred in the family burial plot in Loudon Park Cemetery. Surviving him are his widow, and their only son, Eric Paul Scholtz.

Karl A. M. Scholtz was a man of genial disposition, with a keen sense of humor. Save for his love for his family, nothing pleased him better than to be in the company of his friends and cronies, who enjoyed his sparkling wit as much as he enjoyed being with them. He was a prolific writer, as evidenced by a very extensive correspondence, and the authorship of a great number of monographs. His literary style was unique,—always readable and interesting and often seasoned with a subtle humor.

He will not be forgotten.

L. KURTZ.

Dr. Christian Deetjen

Georg Christian Adolf Deetjen was born August 29, 1863, at Buenos Aires, as the fourth son of Nikolas Deetjen (1831-1866) and his wife Johanne Hunckel (1836-1910). Nikolas Deetjen, a member of the well-known North German family of that name, had been living for some years in the Argentine Republic, where he

had an interest in a ranch, and was also active as an exporter. All of his children were born at Buenos Aires: Georg Justus (1860-1878); Karl Nikolas (1861-1928); Johannes August (1862-1935); Georg Christian Adolf (1863-1940); Amalia, born in 1865, is still living in Germany.

In the spring of 1866 Nikolas Deet-

jen decided to dispose of all his interests in the Argentine, in order to return permanently to Germany. He placed his family on a sailing vessel bound for Europe, at the same time putting a cow aboard, in order to provide milk for the children. The father took a steamer going up the west coast of South America, in order to arrange some business at Valparaiso. When the vessel arrived at this port on May 15, 1866, Nikolas Deetjen had disappeared, and nothing definite was ever learned of the manner of his death. The wife, with her five little children, was meanwhile continuing on her voyage which lasted 101 days. When the ship touched at Antwerp, one of her brothers came aboard to break the news of her husband's disappearance. The amount ultimately realized from the South American investments did not turn out to be as considerable as had been expected, and Mrs. Deetjen saw herself forced to economize in order to bring up her young family. She decided to settle at Rinteln on the Weser, where Christian grew up. Rinteln had been the seat of a university from 1621 to 1809, and still had some of the old atmosphere of learning. The Gymnasium, which Christian attended up to the age of twenty, was located in old buildings that had originally been used for a monastery. On one occasion particularly, Christian received quite a thrill when one of the teachers got him to assist in sorting out a large quantity of old, parchment-bound books that had remained there from the days of the monastery. Notable among the books to which his attention was at that period directed was Friedrich von Spee's *Cautio criminalis*, the first edition of which had been printed anonymously at Rinteln in 1636. All through his life Deetjen sought for this extremely rare witchcraft book, and only acquired it about fifteen years ago, when one of his friends surprised him with it as a Christmas gift.

In 1883 or 1884 Deetjen left Rinteln to take up the study of medicine

at Würzburg. The limited allowance that his mother was able to make him did not prevent him from enjoying to the utmost the student life at Würzburg. During the early semesters not much real work was accomplished. Whenever funds ran low, either Deetjen or some member of his intimate circle would pawn a microscope or other instrument in order to tide them over until the arrival of the next remittance. Later on, Deetjen buckled down to serious work receiving the degree of M. D. about the year 1889. He had devoted particular attention to the study of nervous diseases. About 1890 he spent some time in a little place in Thuringia as assistant to a country physician; later he obtained a position in a sanatorium at Reinbek in the *Sachsenwald*, very close to Friedrichsruh, the residence of Bismarck. The great chancellor was an indefatigable walker, and Deetjen loved to tell of their occasional meeting in the forest. The story that Deetjen saw Bismarck's body immediately after the chancellor's death must be apocryphal, however, for Bismarck died on July 30, 1898, three years after Deetjen left Reinbek. His stay there had been profitable from the professional point of view, but the financial emolument was not very enticing. Deetjen therefore decided to emigrate to the United States: in 1895 he took passage in the steerage of a Hamburg Liner. The quarters were not very comfortable, but the ship's doctor, whom he had met at a reception the day preceding the departure, made him welcome in the surgery, where Deetjen spent most of his time.

Deetjen decided not to stay in New York, but to settle in Baltimore. The passing of the State Board examination turned out to be a mere matter of form: the examiner, upon whom he called at his office, merely asked him a few questions as to where he had studied and practiced, and then forthwith gave him his certificate. His first office, and residence, was on Fayette Street near Paca. During his

first years in Baltimore patients were few and far between, so that he had a hard struggle to eke out an existence: a German butcher in Lexington Market used to sell him a generous portion of pork chops, which Deetjen broiled over the gas jet in his office; at other times he used his last nickel to buy a glass of beer, which entitled him to eat his fill at the free lunch counter. Ultimately, however, he built up a good practice among the German citizens of Baltimore. During these early years his brother Johannes stayed with him for some time, but finally returned to Germany.

In 1900 Deetjen married Alma Schmidt, a native of Germany, and sister of Charles R. Schmidt, a prominent German citizen of Baltimore. About this time Deetjen rented a house on Franklin Street near Charles, both for an office and a residence. Dr. Louis Hamman, then a young physician, took an office with Deetjen, and this was the beginning of a life-long friendship between the two. A few years later Deetjen bought the house at 1702 Eutaw Place, in which he lived as long as he continued to practice.

About the time of Deetjen's arrival in Baltimore Wilhelm Konrad Röntgen, Professor of Physics at Würzburg, announced his epoch-making discovery of X-rays, which were to be of momentous and indeed baleful importance in Deetjen's life. Röntgen had been Deetjen's teacher at Würzburg, where a certain course in physics was required of all medical students. The fact that a man personally known to him had made this important discovery impelled Deetjen to enter upon this new field as intensively as possible. At the suggestion of his brother-in-law he sent for all the X-ray apparatus that was to be had; he made experiments, and was soon called in by other physicians to make diagnoses and to give treatments. Unfortunately the destructive effects of the X-rays had not been realized at that early date: Deetjen, like other pioneers, saw first his fingers, and

then his hands burned and scarred. Skin grafting was tried, but did not help much, and ultimately first one, and then another finger had to be amputated. As the left hand was generally used in testing whether the rays were working properly, this hand was more severely affected than the right. Finally in 1930, the left forearm had to be amputated midway. Before the operation Deetjen, by letter, took leave of distant friends, telling them that he did not know whether he would survive the shock. The operation was successful, however, and three days later Deetjen insisted on going home unattended. For a long time the left arm continued to give him excruciating pain, and in the spring of 1931, accompanied by Mrs. Deetjen, he made a trip to Germany, chiefly to consult Dr. Lexer, chief surgeon at Munich. Lexer was unable to do anything for him, and the pain did not leave until long after. The high point of this trip, as Deetjen delighted to tell on occasion, was a visit to the old Abbey of Tepl, near Marienbad, where he was introduced by a friend. When the guests were met at the station by the abbot's own carriage, drawn by black horses with silver trappings, the country-folk whom they passed on the road did deep obeisance. After lunch, the abbot in person conducted them through the various buildings. The library contained some important German and Latin manuscripts, as well as hundreds of books printed before 1500. What impressed Deetjen most of all was a certain room whose cases were entirely filled with incunabula, of which the abbot remarked casually: "These are our duplicates." These duplicates Deetjen never forgot, as indeed he cherished a love for old and rare books to the end of his life. Books on witchcraft were a special delight to him, and his friends, who knew of this passion, took all possible pains to procure such books for him. During his last years, after he had given up practice, his chief pastime was to mend these books, some of

them having very defective bindings. These were never replaced by new ones, but were either mended or equipped with extra cases for their protection. At his death his collection of books on witchcraft comprised several hundred volumes, the rarest of them being an edition of the *Maleus maleficarum* printed in 1491.

Another of his hobbies was the making of beeswax candles at Christmas, which nearly became disastrous for him in 1935. The pot of wax, which he had set in the front of the furnace to bring it to melting, in some way upset, and in igniting sent forth an immense sheet of flame, which severely burned his face, hand, and arm. His eyes were fortunately protected by his glasses. As far as the hand was concerned, it appeared later as if the flame had improved instead of injuring its surface. During his last years he kept on hoping that the radium treatment administered by his friend Dr. Burnham might be able to arrest the progress of the disease, but finally he faced the almost certain necessity of having to amputate the remaining fingers of his right hand, an operation which would have left him entirely helpless, unable to do anything for himself.

Up until about eight or ten years before his death, Deetjen every week spent two nights and the intervening day at his Round House, situated in a secluded nook near Ten Hills. Here he stayed entirely alone, cooking his own meals, and on the second morning returned refreshed to his work. At the Round House, in which there was an old square piano, Deetjen sometimes entertained the Saturday Night Club, of which he was one of the founders. He was also a member of the Germania Club, the German Society of Maryland, and the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. Among his friends were Dr. William H. Welch, Dr. Howard Kelly, Dr. Harry Friedenwald, Dr. Louis Hamman, Dr. Max Broedel,

Senator O. H. Weller, and Henry Mencken. He prized most highly an autograph album dating back to his youth, in which were inscribed not only his intimate friends, but also the many strangers who were welcomed in his hospitable home: he always asked his guests to write their native language, and thus made his book a veritable polyglot.

Deetjen was fond of good food and drink, but, in conformity with a pledge made to his mother, never touched whiskey or any concoction of it. Particularly during prohibition days it was his hobby to distill all kinds of liqueur, the herbs for which he procured in Europe, but he had these more for his friends than for his own use. At Würzburg he had become acquainted with the famous Bocksbeutel wine that grows on the surrounding hills, and in later years it was the greatest treat for him if a friend returning from Germany brought him a bottle of this wine.

Deetjen had a keen sense of humor, and loved to mystify unsuspecting hearers by apparently paradoxical statements. As the years rolled on, he suffered more and more from the progress of his disease. He bore his sufferings without complaint; at times pain made him incapable of sustained conversation, but he would nevertheless admit an intimate friend, deriving comfort, as he said, from his mere presence. During his last few years the incurable illness of Mrs. Deetjen caused him more concern than did his own disease, and he remarked repeatedly that but for her he would long ago have welcomed the end.

Mrs. Deetjen died on December 24, 1940, and he followed her four days later. They had no children. In addition to his sister, Mrs. Amalia Poppe, and her daughter, in Germany, Deetjen is survived by a niece, Mrs. Elizabeth Deetjen Finley, of Baltimore, and a nephew, Ernest Christian Deetjen, of Hagerstown, Maryland.

W. KURRELMAYER.

John George Mohlhenrich

was born in South Baltimore on March 25, 1865. He was the youngest child of John George Mohlhenrich and Margaret, nee Schaberg. He had two brothers and one sister. His parents had come to Baltimore from Gellershausen in the Duchy of Waldeck in Germany. The father died when he was very young. He attended the public schools and educated himself further in a business training school. When about eighteen years old, he entered the employ of the Reliable Furniture Company and in some ten years advanced himself from his humble start as an apprentice to a point where he was able to buy out the firm and to establish it as "Mohlhenrich Furniture Company." His factory was located at the corner of President and Fawn Streets. For more than forty years this business ranked with the first furniture houses of the city. Taking an active part in the national organizations of the trade he was entrusted with a number of important offices.— One June 2, 1897, he was married to Miss Marie Griesheim. Two sons and two daughters graced his home. In about 1900 he moved from his first residence on Guilford Avenue north of Lafayette to the spacious beautiful house which he occupied to his death at 512 Harwood Avenue. A lingering illness lasting over two years confined him to the house. He entered into eternal rest on July 30, 1941, and was interred in Baltimore Cemetery on August first. He had been baptized and confirmed in Martini Lutheran Church at Sharp & Henrietta Streets, but in later life he affiliated with Zion Church at City Hall Plaza.

J. George Mohlhenrich all his life long held a deeply sincere and conscientious interest in cultural and charitable organisations, representing the activities of the German-Ameri-

cans of Baltimore. He was a member and a director of the German Society of Maryland and held the office of Vice-President at the time of his death. He was also Vice-President of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. When after the first world war the Steuben Society of America was founded, Mr. Mohlhenrich from the very outset became one of its most ardent promoters. In the local branch, Schley Unit No. 37, he occupied the chair of the magistrate, and served in several offices with the National Council of the organisation. Mr. Mohlhenrich was the father of the Julius Hofmann Memorial Fund and a trustee of the fund to his end. To commemorate the name of Pastor Hofmann he conceived of a living monument in the form of annual awards to students of German in each of the Baltimore High Schools, consisting of a bronze medal and a book prize.— Four times he crossed the ocean to visit the land of his forebears, the last time in 1924 in the company of his wife and his daughter Gretchen. Although born in America and by circumstances held to a limited education, he nevertheless acquired a knowledge of the German classics which was astounding. Every cultural endeavor found a friend in him. He was deeply fond of music in every form. He read extensively in literature and history both of American and European origin. His love of reading and the search for information stayed with him to the last, abated only by growing infirmity.

The niche of affection which he occupied in the hearts of all who knew the man was well earned by his kindly noble character and his gentlemanly attitude in all things. With him one more from the ranks of true idealists has gone into eternity.

F. O. EVERS.