

**CHARLES RICE, BORN
OCTOBER 4, 1841,
DIED MAY 13, 1901**

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Charles Rice, Born October 4, 1841, Died May 13, 1901 by J. B. Lippincott

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J. B. LIPPINCOTT

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Charles Rice



ERMANY was the birthplace of Charles Rice, but America gave him his opportunities. The early education of this noted scientist and scholar was thorough. Possessed of unusual talent as a linguist and extraordinary ability as a student, he attracted the attention, when a boy, of several noted scholars, and his valuable services to pharmacy would probably have never been recorded if he had not early in life suddenly determined to come to America and adopt this country as his home. As in so many cases of the lives of the great men of this republic, a realization of the possibilities of a wider field of usefulness led this ardent student to leave the Fatherland; he came with an inner consciousness that he would find a scope for his abilities which would be far greater than that which he could expect in the land of his birth.

Very little is known of the early life of Charles Rice. He was born in Munich, October 4, 1841, of Austrian parents. He was educated in public and private schools and seminaries in Munich, Passau, and Vienna. It was through one of his relatives, who was an accomplished classical scholar and master of several Oriental languages, that he developed a taste for linguistic studies, in which choice he was not only encouraged by several scholars of prominence, but special instruction was given him by Dr. Gaugengigl of Passau, Professor Marcus Joseph Mueller, and Abbot Hannaburg of Munich. The re-

CHARLES RICE

sources of his parents were unfortunately impaired by financial reverses, and an uncle residing in the United States urged the young man to come to America, with the view of preparing himself for a professional career. The death of his parents left him without home ties, and he was thrown entirely upon his own resources. He first travelled to England, and in 1862 he sailed for the United States. The war of the Rebellion was in progress at this time, and he entered the United States navy, having received an appointment as surgeon's steward on the sloop of war "Jamestown," commanded by Captain Cicero Price, lying at Philadelphia and bound for a cruise around the world. Up to this time, there is no evidence that Charles Rice showed any predilection for pharmacy, although there is no question that he had attended chemical lectures in the seminary and schools in which he was educated. He had special aptitude for languages and the bent of his mind was clearly in the direction of the classics.

The cruise of the "Jamestown" lasted for three years, for it was in the fall of 1865 that he landed in San Francisco. As surgeon's steward on the "Jamestown" he probably received his first experience in compounding medicines. Having received an honorable discharge from the United States navy, he proceeded to New York, where he was seized with malarial fever. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, which, from this time until the day of his death, became the scene of his remarkable achievements. Recovering from the attack of fever, and during his convalescence, he asked John Frey, the apothecary of the hospital and superintendent of the Drug Department, for employment of some kind—a request thoroughly consistent with his temperament, for idleness was not to be thought of under any circumstances. Mr. Frey, doubtless bearing in mind similar requests from other patients, and having no knowledge of this one's ability, started Mr. Rice



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