

OBITUARIES.

W. G. ROBINSON, F. A. I. A.

Mr. W. G. Robinson of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on February 19, 1907, at the age of seven-two years.

Mr. Robinson was elected a member of the Western Association of Architects in 1884 and by the consolidation of this Association with the American Institute of Architects he became a Fellow of the Institute in 1889.

JAMES ROWLAND WILLET, F. A. I. A.

James Rowland Willet, son of James F. and Anne Willett, was born in Dublin, Ireland, June 23, 1831, but came with his parents when quite young to America, and settled in Philadelphia. He died in Chicago, Illinois, May 9th, 1907.

Mr. Willett started in life as a stereotype moulder, afterwards matriculated in the Polytechnic College of the State of Pennsylvania and received his degree as Bachelor of Mine Engineering in 1854. He practiced this profession until the outbreak of the Civil War. Then he entered the U. S. Army and was appointed by General Fremont in 1861 as Lieutenant of Engineers. He performed duty as an Engineer of Fortifications and took active part in many battles. In 1863 he was made Post Engineer at Nashville and had charge of the construction of all fortifications in and about Nashville. In 1864 he was made Inspector of Fortifications of the District of Tennessee. During this year he was also made Major of Volunteer Engineers, at the same time being made Chief Inspector of Railroad Defences. He was discharged from the army September 26, 1865, with the rank of Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel. After the war Mr. Willett was appointed Inspector to report on the condition of the Government Buildings throughout the South which had been destroyed by the ravages of the war, after which he was appointed Superintendent of the erection of the new Government Building at Nashville, Tenn., and commenced the practice of Architecture. Just after the fire he moved to Chicago and opened an office, the first commission being the building for the "Chicago Times," one of the leading papers. In 1876 he built the first large apartment building in Chicago. In 1878 he was appointed Architect for the Eastern Hospital for the Insane at Kankakee, Ill., the first asylum to adopt the "Cottage System." During his practice in Chicago he was Architect for many public and private buildings throughout the west. In 1900 Mr. Willett retired from business and devoted the rest of his life to

books and study. He was a deep student and a vigorous worker as well as an authority on many branches of his profession, contributing many reviews on professional books to architectural journals. He lectured, wrote and did considerable research work in Graphics and in the Heating of Buildings.

Mr. Willett joined the American Institute of Architects in 1870, and was one of the organizers of the Chicago Chapter. He was always zealous in maintaining the high standing of his profession, honorable in his dealings with his brother architects, and never in any way compromising for the sake of a commission.

(Signed) ALFRED F. PASHLEY.

WILLIAM SCHICKEL, F. A. I. A.

Mr. Schickel was born in Hochheim, Germany, January 29, 1850, and when one year old his parents moved to Wiesbaden. When twenty years of age he immigrated to America where he found employment the day after his arrival with Mr. R. M. Hunt, in whose office he worked six months. He then went with Mr. Henry Fernbach, for whom he later became foreman, and with whom he formed a close friendship which lasted up to the time of Mr. Fernbach's death. He opened an office for himself in 1873. Mr. Schickel was at the time of his death, which occurred June 14, 1907, associated in the practice of architecture with Mr. Isaac E. Ditmars. Many churches, residences, and business buildings in New York City testify to his art, among which may be mentioned the following churches and institutions: St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Monica's and St. Joseph's Churches; Catholic Orphan Asylum; St. Andrews and St. Joseph Seminaries; Dunwoodie; Isabella Home; St. Joseph's, St. Francis, St. Vincent's and German Hospitals; the following business buildings: Staat's Zeitung, Constable, Knickerbocker, Johnson; also the following residences: Thomas F. Ryan, Adolph Kuttroff, John D. Crimmins, Isaac Stern and Benjamin Stern.

Mr. Schickel was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1894.