

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

William S. Ruch, M. D., Marysville, Perry County, Pa., was born in Northumberland County, Pa., September 2, 1862. He is the son of **Charles** and **Emma J. (Phillips) Ruch**; the former still surviving and residing in Northumberland, the latter having died at her home, March 13, 1865, while the Doctor, her only child, was almost an infant. On his father's side, **Dr. Ruch** is descended from the hardy German stock, while from his mother, he received the Irish blood of her ancestors. **Charles Ruch** has spent the greater part of his life in Northumberland County, and for over thirty years has been in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. In July, 1886, he was married again to **Susan Welker**, and by this marriage has one daughter, **Margaret**. Upon the early death of his mother, **Dr. Ruch** was sent to reside with his paternal grandmother. Until he was fifteen years of age, he continued to live upon the farm with his grandparents where the pure, invigorating influences of nature helped in a great degree to mould his character and form his boyish mind. The foundation of his education was laid in the public schools of Northumberland County. This was supplemented by a thorough course in the high school. During his whole school life, he was distinguished as a bright pupil, apt and diligent. After leaving the high school, he devoted his time for a few years to private study, as a preparatory course to his intended profession. He spent two years in the drug business, and finally began the study of his chosen profession with **Dr. William B. Stoner**, a well-known physician of Northumberland.

In 1885, **Dr. Ruch** entered the Jefferson Medical College, and devoted himself with so much of his characteristic application to his college course that his class standing was always high, and he graduated with honors, April 4, 1888. In May, 1888, one month after his graduation, he began practice in his native town, Northumberland. A few months later, much to the regret of his fellow-townsmen, he moved to Hickory Corner's, Northumberland County, where he continued in practice for two years. On July 3, 1890, **Dr. Ruch** moved to Marysville, and during his seven years of residence in that borough, has obtained a large and flourishing practice. The **Doctor** is an influential member and a past officer of Beulah Lodge, No. 269, K. P., of Marysville. He is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican Party. Recognizing the **Doctor's** ability, his fellow-citizens have elected him to the board of school directors, where he has so discharged the duties as to reflect great credit upon himself and to give the fullest satisfaction to his associates.

Dr. Ruch was married at Northumberland, November 29, 1888, to **Alice M.**, daughter of **John** and **Mary Connelly**, highly respected citizens of Northumberland. On September 4, 1889, **Edith A.**, the first child of **Dr. Ruch**, was born; she died January 3, 1894, at the tender age of four years and four months. One year after this afflicting event, **Robert E.**, their only surviving child, was born, January 7, 1895.

Dr. Ruch and his family worship at the Lutheran Church of Marysville. He is considered one of the most useful and prominent citizens of Marysville, taking an active part in all matters tending to advance the welfare of the borough. Cultivated, highly educated, a thorough gentleman in every respect, his fellow citizens feel that he is well worthy of their esteem and merits the confidence which they place in him.