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Rudolph Hering

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Rudolph Hering, born at Philadelphia, Pa., February 26, 1847, was a son of Dr. Constantine Hering, a prominent physician and one of the leaders among German-trained medical men who founded Homeopathy in this country. In 1860 he was sent to Dresden where he attended the public high school and later the Royal Saxon Polytechnic Institute, from which he graduated in 1867 as Civil Engineer. Returning to the United States, he found work at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and later assisted in the laying out of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

Numerous cities in this country suffered at intervals from severe epidemics of yellow fever. With few exceptions, sewerage arrangements in this country at that time were both meager and faulty and far below European practice. Mr. Hering was commissioned by the National Board of Health to make a thorough investigation of European sewerage practice. This engaged his attention on the ground in large representative cities of the principal European countries and led to the preparation in 1881 of what is doubtless the most important report ever appearing in this country as to the fundamental principles and arrangements of structures for the satisfactory removal of household wastes by water carriage.

Following his return from abroad, he began his consulting practice, although from 1882 to 1888 his time was very largely devoted to three important engagements. The first was the supervision in the field of an exhaustive study of new sources of water supply for the City of Philadelphia. In the second, from 1885 to 1887, he served as Chief Engineer of the Chicago Drainage and Water Supply Commission, which was created to recommend a method of keeping the sewage of the city out of Lake Michigan. These investigations were an important step in the creation of the Chicago Drainage Canal. His third large investigation was in New York City where he reported to General Newton as to betterments to the basic design used for the

local system of collecting sewers and also on arrangements of the outfall sewers, which on his advice were gradually extended from bulkhead to pierhead lines in the City of New York.

Although the structural aspects of engineering had been of principal interest to him perhaps during the first ten years of his active work, he had the vision to see that it was important to keep abreast of the times, not only with regard to the earlier recognized phases of engineering, but also in the allied subjects of biology and chemistry.

Although Dr. Hering was one of the first to recommend mechanical filters for pumping the water supplies at Atlanta, and elsewhere, and was connected with important water supply investigations at New York, Philadelphia, Washington, New Orleans, Columbus, Montreal, Minneapolis and numerous smaller places, his accomplishments were greatest in the field of sewerage and sewage disposal and led to his having been designated years ago as the "Dean of Sanitary Engineering" in this country. Recognition of such standing was perhaps first made by President Harrison, who, in 1889, appointed him Chairman of a Commission to prepare a program for sewerage improvements for Washington, D. C.

Dr. Hering was an active worker on the committees of various professional organizations as well as civic movements. His most important work was undoubtedly that for the American Public Health Association in the matter of the collection and disposal of refuse. He gathered statistics as to results of operation and otherwise elucidated practice in this country and Europe. Some twenty-five years ago he gave liberally of his own time and money for gathering information upon this subject, although his activities in the field of water supply and sewerage did not permit him to publish the results of his investigations in the disposal of solid wastes of the municipalities.

Dr. Hering was in partnership with George W. Fuller, M. Am. Soc. C. E., from 1901 to 1911 and with John H. Gregory, M. Am. Soc. C. E., from 1911 to 1915. After the latter date his activities were confined largely to work upon a book on "Collection and Disposal of Refuse" of which he was a joint author with Samuel A. Greeley, M. Am. Soc. C. E.

His kindly interest in helping young engineers was a lovable trait which he revealed to many, both in this country and abroad, and thereby he proved to have been a strong inspiration to many a struggling young engineer. He had an unusual gift of learning what

was new in European practice and in bringing the principles back to this country and stating them in a way that their usefulness might be available to his co-workers in America. By many he was considered the foremost of American engineers in teaching his associates to be wisely guided by developments abroad.

He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1907, and an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering from the Polytechnic Institute at Dresden in 1922. He was a member of a large number of engineering societies both in this country and in Europe. He was an honorary member of the New England Water Works Association and of the American Water Works Association and a Past President of the American Public Health Association. He became a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1876, was Director in 1891, 1897 to 1899, and Vice President in 1900 to 1901.

He is survived by his widow and five children.

GEORGE W. FULLER.