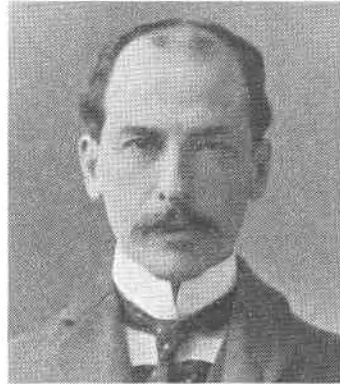


## MEMORIAL OF LEA McI. LUQUER

PAUL F. KERR, *Columbia University.*

In 1658 Jean L'Escuyer of Paris landed in America. He settled on Long Island, and, a few years later, married. He was a respected citizen, owned and operated a mill, and held a position as elder in the Dutch Church. His great-grandson, Abraham Luquer, was the first to adhere to the present spelling of the name in Dr. Luquer's branch of the family. Abraham Luquer owned a farm in Brooklyn, on Gowanus Bay, and there Dr. Luquer's father, Rev. Lea Luquer, was born; and lived, until his marriage, in 1860. The Reverend Lea Luquer graduated from Columbia College in 1852. He then studied law with the well-known firm of Kent and Eaton, was admitted to the bar, and practised for several years before he decided to enter the ministry. He was ordained in 1863, and took charge of the organization of the Church of the Atonement, in Brooklyn. It was in Brooklyn that Dr. Luquer was born, September 4, 1864. In



Lea McIlvaine Luquer  
1864-1930

1866 the Reverend Lea Luquer's health caused him to give up his city parish and accept a call to St. Matthew's Church, Bedford, New York, in which charge he continued until his death in 1919.

Dr. Luquer received his early education from his father. In 1879 he was sent to Trinity Military Institute, at Tivoli-on-the-Hudson, where he prepared for college. He made a splendid record at the school, and when he graduated received a special prize for outstanding excellence in all of his work. In 1885 he entered the School of Mines, Columbia University, where he made an enviable record and from which he graduated in 1887, with the degree of civil engineer. In 1896 he married Anne Low Pierrepont, daughter of Henry E. Pierrepont, of Brooklyn.

His first experience in teaching was in 1887, under Professor Munroe, as an assistant in surveying, at the Summer School near Litchfield, Connecticut. This postponed his attempts to look for

work, and when college opened in September he was in search of employment. He chanced to hear of a fellowship available in mineralogy, through Professor Moses, then a tutor in the department. After interviewing Professor Egleston he received the fellowship, and remained in mineralogical work throughout the remainder of his life.

Dr. Luquer was one of the early workers in optical mineralogy, in America. His thesis work at the School of Mines, from which he was granted the doctorate in 1894, was along the lines of optical mineralogy. In 1898 he published the first edition of his book *Minerals in Rock Sections*. The book has been one of the most successful in its field, being used not only in this country; but in many other parts of the English-speaking world. Dr. Luquer traveled extensively in Europe, gaining much of his experience in optical mineralogy from European study.

In addition to his book on minerals in thin sections, he published numerous technical articles on various phases of mineralogy. Not only was Dr. Luquer interested in the progress of mineralogy as a science, but he was even more devoted to his work with students. Few men have had such poise, and the ability to meet all situations, with apparent ease.

In addition to his university work Dr. Luquer was always engaged in outside activities. For many years he was active in the support of the New York Kindergarten Association. He also belonged to the City club of New York, and to the Century association.

In the field of mineralogy, aside from his professorship at Columbia, he was from 1926 until his death, research associate in the department of mineralogy of the American Museum of Natural History. He was a fellow of the New York Academy of Science, and of the Mineralogical Society of America; and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Luquer suffered a heart attack in the spring of 1924. He was granted a year's sick leave, and retired from Columbia in 1925. He went to Europe in an attempt to regain his health. After a few years of retirement, when he had apparently regained much of his former vigor, he died suddenly January 30, 1930. Beside Mrs. Luquer he is survived by four children, Lea Shippen Luquer, Thatcher Payne Luquer, Evelyn Pierrepont Luquer, and Ellen Pierrepont Luquer, now Mrs. Thomas L. Purdy.

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