

DR. BELLE (RINEHART) FERGUSON needs no introduction to the people of Wasco county or the surrounding country, for her professional services and her high standing as a lady of refinement and culture have won for her hosts of admirers from every quarter and she is rightly considered one of the leading physicians of central Oregon. Her birth occurred in Kansas and when still an infant she was brought by her parents, Daniel J. and Arvazena (Spillman) Cooper, who are mentioned in another portion of this work, to The Dalles. After completing a thorough public and high school education, Miss Cooper entered St. Helens Hall, in Portland and pursued literary studies farther. Then she matriculated at the state university medical department and graduated at Portland in 1897. For two years subsequent to that event, we find Dr. Rinehart practicing in The Dalles, and then seeing the vast fields of erudition to be had, and well knowing the need of especial skill and knowledge in the all important profession of medicine, we find the doctor in the famous Polyclinic institution in New York where she took a thorough post graduate course. Returning to The Dalles, she was married to Dr. Ferguson, of whom mention is made in another place of this work.

Formerly, Miss Cooper married Dr. Willard E. Rinehart, who was born near Albany, Oregon. He was a member of the well known Rinehart family of Oregon, representatives of which are in various portions of the state. The doctor was for some time professor of anatomy in the Willamette University, Oregon. He was a skilled and leading physician, having been graduated from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, and the Bellevue Medical College of New York city. The marriage of Dr. Rinehart and Miss Cooper occurred in The Dalles, in 1881, and to them four children were born, named as follows: Willard S., in the United States naval service; J. Carl and H. Earl, twins, the former a graduate of the Agricultural College at Corvallis, and the latter now studying; and Phillip C., at college in Corvallis.

Mrs. Rinehart commenced the study of medicine under the direction of her former husband and then completed as mentioned above. Dr. Rinehart died in 1893.

Mrs. Dr. Ferguson is connected with her husband and Dr. Reuter in the management of the fine hospital which they have erected in The Dalles, a cut of which appears elsewhere in this work.