I knew them both before they died, poor devils! They are both dead,' said the affrighted janitor, 'both of them.'

"Neither we two students nor the doctor had the heart to touch the body of the young woman after this, so we ordered the janitor to re-bury her, and bring us some other corpse the next night. There was no dissection that night."

When B had finished his story neither of us spoke for quite awhile. At last I said: "Allowing this to be true, which I cannot but acknowledge seems so, what does it prove?"

"I think it proves what I first said,—that ghosts do return sometimes to perform something worthy of their coming. That husband's ghost came there to prevent his wife's body from being cut up and thrown about—a thing for boys to look at, to jeer over, and make fun of. He obtained his object. He knew he had obtained it ere he left the hall, else he would have stood by our sides, and with his shrunk spirit-hand would have hurled the knife from their grasp, and saved the body of his poor helpmate, as he would have protected her when she was alive."

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Prof. William Ripley Nichols.

SINCE the last issue of this paper, the Institute has met with a loss which it cannot yet fully appreciate.

It is with great diffidence that one of his former pupils writes of an instructor in regard to whose acquisitions and abilities so much might be said.

I will not go into the details of the life of Prof. Wm. Ripley Nichols, as I am sure that they are familiar to nearly all. We all know that he was one of the earliest graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and that immediately upon graduation he became instructor, then assistant professor, and from the year 1872 until his death, professor in general chemistry in this institution.

Beyond the duties of his position, which he performed faithfully not only in health, but often in great weakness and pain, he found time for much scientific research.

Indeed, it is wonderful to contemplate the labors of this unwearied intellect. His printed reports and treatises number more than forty; and his literary work, in connection with his special and favorite science, chemical analysis, was exhaustive.

Many of his articles were republished in the technical periodicals of Germany and France, as soon as they appeared. He was a standard authority on water analysis in this country, and his opinion was sought by most of our large cities in reference to water supply, his accuracy and probity being sufficient guarantee of the worth of his statements.

His heroic and patient persistence in the scrupulous fulfillment of the duties of his position during the last four or five years of ill health, has challenged the admiration of all who knew him.

Prof. Nichols' versatility was a trait to be remarked. While he was pre-eminently a scientist, he was also a linguist. He acquired so great a proficiency in some of the modern languages as to be able to give instruction in them, and to write and read technical articles and books with ease.

All subjects of scientific or literary research were interesting and congenial. He fell into no narrow rut, as is the danger with the specialist; his active intellect and broad sympathies preserved him from that misfortune.

Another point that strikes one in the contemplation of Prof. Nichols' character, is, that all he accomplished was done, not by the fitful flashes of erratic genius, but by thorough, persevering work. He loved labor, and found in it its own reward.

Perhaps to his unwearied application, and to his hours of study protracted long into the night, may be traced the origin of the disease which shattered the once stout frame.

In 1882, Prof. Nichols published a catalogue of the writings of the graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The preface