

In Memoriam

IN October the Society suffered a very great loss in the death of three of its members: Roland W. Boyden, Charles F. D. Belden, and William O. Comstock.

Roland W. Boyden was not only a prominent Boston attorney but also a figure of international renown, receiving recognition from many European countries for his services in conferences upon European affairs. He was born in Beverley, Massachusetts, October 18, 1863, attended Salem High School, Phillips Exeter Academy, and Harvard University. Graduating from Harvard in 1885, he turned to law, receiving his LL.B. from the Harvard Law School in 1888. His first law experience was gained in association with the late Henry P. Moulton and Herman W. Chaplin, prominent attorneys of Salem and Boston respectively, and later he entered into partnership with Charles I. Giddings of Boston. After the death of the latter in 1893, he became a member of the firm of Ropes, Grey and Loring (now Ropes, Grey, Boyden and Perkins). In 1917 he was made a member of the legal staff of the U. S. Food Administration at Washington as director of prosecutions under the food laws, and was a member of Herbert Hoover's executive committee. At the close of the war, President Wilson appointed him representative of the United States on the Reparations Commission of the Paris Peace Conference, to which post he was subsequently reappointed by President Harding. Since then he has represented the United States at the World Finance Conference at Brussels, and for the past few years has been Chairman of the Mixed War Claims Commission, in which work he was deeply engrossed until the time of his death.

Charles F. D. Belden was recognized both here and in Europe as one of the foremost librarians of his day, and was in no small measure responsible for the present outstanding position of the Boston Public Library, of which he was librarian and director. He was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1871, spent his boyhood at Niagara Falls, attended the Buffalo High School and Harvard University, graduating from the latter in 1895. He then entered the Harvard Law School and while there earned his way by cataloging law books in its library. Soon after graduation he accepted the secretaryship of the Harvard Law Faculty and began at once the tremendous task

of cataloging the whole law library of over 100,000 volumes, which work he completed in 1902. For seven years he was assistant law librarian at Harvard and for a year was in charge of the Social Law Library at Suffolk County Courthouse. He was also State Librarian for Massachusetts for eight years, and served as chairman of the State Board of Free Public Library Commissioners. In 1917 he became Librarian of the Boston Public Library, and a few years later Director of the Library as well, which positions he held at the time of his death. In 1926 he was elected president of the American Library Association. Harvard University bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts; he was decorated for his achievements by Czechoslovakia, received the order of the Crown of Italy, and the Dante medal from the city of Ravenna.

William O. Comstock was an able engineer, an enthusiastic antiquarian, and a loyal friend of the Society. He was born in Boston, educated as a mining engineer at Washington University, St. Louis. Thirty years ago he retired and has since devoted himself almost entirely to historical study, particularly that of early America. He was a member of the Brookline Historical Society, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Boston chapter of the Sons of the Revolution and the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati. His engineering interests were continued through membership in the Boston Engineering Society, and the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. His home was in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Secretary's Column

ACQUISITIONS

Since the publication of the last *Bulletin* the Society has received and gratefully acknowledges the following acquisitions:

From Harold F. Aiken, Somerville, Mass., miscellaneous bills, pictures, and leases.

From Francis N. Balch, Department of Business Law, Harvard Business School, North River Insurance Company, policy against loss or damage by fire, July 26, 1834.

From Mrs. Cyrus Beard, State Historian, Cheyenne, Wyoming, miscellaneous checks, letters and statements of banks, post traders and general stores in Wyoming, 1880-1885.

From Ralph Budd, President, Great Northern Railway Company, St. Paul, Minn., Budd, Ralph, *The Pacific Northwest and the Engineer*, ad-