

MRS. A. P. STEVENS DEAD.

SOCIOLOGIST PASSES AWAY SUDDENLY AT HULL HOUSE.

Had Been Announced to Read a Paper at Meeting of Federation of Women's Clubs in Milwaukee Next Thursday and Intended Soon to Go to Paris—Formerly Assistant Factory Inspector, and First Probation Officer of Juvenile Court.

Mrs. Alzina Parsons Stevens, one of the best known women sociologists in Chicago, died suddenly yesterday at Hull House, where she had lived for the last three years. Mrs. Stevens had been announced to read a paper before the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Milwaukee next Thursday on "How Industrial Conditions Are Undermining the Race," and expected to start soon for Paris to join Miss Addams as chairman of a section of the Educational committee at the Paris exposition.

Mrs. Stevens had a close relation to public affairs of the city. She was appointed Assistant Factory Inspector by Governor Altgeld in 1893, and after leaving that office was instrumental, with others, in having the Juvenile Court established, and was made its first probation officer.

The funeral will be held at Hull House at 2 p. m. tomorrow. William Salter, lecturer before the Chicago Ethical society, will conduct the services. In accordance with the wishes of Mrs. Stevens her remains will be cremated at Graceland.

Sketch of Her Life.

Mrs. Stevens was born in Parsonfield, Me., on May 27, 1849. Her grandfather was Colonel Thomas Parsons, who commanded a Massachusetts regiment in the Continental army during the revolutionary war. Her father was Enoch Parsons, a soldier in the war of 1812, while her two brothers served in the war of the rebellion in the Seventh New Hampshire Infantry. The youngest of a large family of children, she began to work in a cotton mill at 12 years of age, sustaining during the first year of her work an injury to her right hand which served as a perpetual stimulus in her later endeavors to prevent the employment of children in factories and workshops and to obtain safeguards for dangerous machines for all employes.

At 18 years of age she had learned the printer's trade, at which she continued until she passed into other departments of newspaper work. She was compositor, proof-reader, correspondent, and editor, serving in the latter capacity for several years on the staff of the Toledo Bee.

Having learned her trade in Chicago, she organized here in 1877 Workingwomen's union No. 1, and was its first President. Removing to Toledo, she soon became one of the leading spirits of the Knights of Labor, helping to organize a woman's society called the Joan of Arc Assembly of Knights of Labor and serving as its first Master Workman and delegate to the District Assembly. In 1890 she was elected District Master Workman, becoming the chief officer of a district of twenty-two local assemblies of Knights.

At the close of a six years' editorial career on the Toledo Bee Mrs. Stevens returned to Chicago in 1891, continuing in journalistic work. Governor Altgeld in 1893, under the law that year creating a new department of inspection of factories and workshops, made her assistant factory inspector.

Hunts Out Smallpox Cases.

During the smallpox epidemic of 1894 Mrs. Stevens worked day and night searching out hidden cases in tenement houses. The special report on "Smallpox in the Tenements and Sweatshops of Chicago," published by the department in 1894, was largely her work.

On being removed from the position of Assistant Factory Inspector by Governor Tanner in August, 1897, Mrs. Stevens devoted herself to work for the boys who pass through the police courts of Chicago. During the session of 1899 she went repeatedly to Springfield in the interest of the bill drafted by Judge Harvey B. Hurd providing for the establishment of a separate court for juvenile offenders and dependent children. The bill was passed and took effect on July 1.

Works for Truant School.

Mrs. Stevens worked for the permissive law enacted by the Legislature of 1899, authorizing the Board of Education of Chicago to issue bonds for the erection of a truant school, and hoped that the building might be begun during the present year.

Since 1892 Mrs. Stevens' affiliations have been with the American Federation of Labor. At the time of her death she was Secretary of the Council of Women's Trade Unions of Chicago and of the Dorcas Federal Labor union, chairman of the Educational committee of the Cook County league, and an active worker in the Every Day club, the Hull House Women's club, and the Social Economics and Municipal Science clubs.

In November, 1898, on her way to the Maxwell Street Police Station, Mrs. Stevens fell on one of the defective sidewalks in the Nineteenth Ward and broke the cap of her left knee. It is thought the disease which ultimately caused her death was due to the shock sustained at that time.



MRS. A. P. STEVENS, WHO DIED AT HULL HOUSE.