

LORADO TAFT, SCULPTOR.

Lorado Taft, the sculptor who is to appear here, is a native of Illinois. He was graduated from the State university at Champaign at the age of nineteen. His taste for sculpture revealed itself when he was a boy of thirteen. A foreign sculptor had been called from Chicago to mend the statues of the newly acquired university collection, broken in transit, and young Taft watched him with growing interest and a desire to emulate him.

Throughout his school days and later college life he constantly pursued modeling in clay and thus laid the foundation for the fame which came to him after his studies in Paris, where he went in 1880. He studied three years in the Ecole des Beaux Arts and took honorable mention at the close of the first year and the first prize of the atelier at the end of the third year.



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After the close of his student life in Paris he returned to this country and became in 1886 instructor in the Art Institute of Chicago, which position he has held ever since.

He is a member of the municipal art commission of Chicago, a director of the Municipal Art League, a member of the National Sculpture society and was for two years president of the Western Society of Artists. He is one of the best-known sculptors of this country, and no one is more capable of bravely revealing art subjects.

During the Columbian exposition Mr. Taft frequently lectured in the Fine

Arts building and came to be recognized as an authority on all matters relating to works of art, as well as to his chosen profession. Two groups, "Sleep" and the "Awakening of the Flowers," by him adorned the entrance of Horticultural hall and excited much admiration.

Mr. Taft's sculpture includes the statue of Schuyler Colfax at Indianapolis, General Grant at Fort Leavenworth and figures on various military monuments throughout the country.

CHAPLAINS' BADGE OF HONOR

Medal to Be Given by Protestant Churches Which United in War Work.

A commemorative medal is to be given by the Protestant churches which united in war work through the general war-time commission of the churches to all their chaplains of the American army and navy who served in the war. The chaplains' medal is the work of Mrs. Laura Gardin Fraser of New York, one of the best known of American medalists, and the wife of the designer of the Victory button.

Mrs. Fraser has chosen, in the design for the chaplains' medal, to represent an army chaplain in the act of supreme service—ministering to a wounded man at the risk of his own life. In the center of the design the



The Chaplains' Medal.

gas mask is seen, ready for immediate adjustment. Indeed, the suggestion is that the chaplain has, perhaps, momentarily removed it, the better to succor the wounded man.

The fine record of the men who served as chaplains in the navy, many of them constantly passing back and forth through the submarine danger zone, ministering to the crews of the naval vessels and the soldiers on the transports, is recalled by the representation of the battleship on the reverse of the medal.

The striking of these medals is the realization of a suggestion made soon after the armistice in the executive committee of the general war-time commission of the churches. The committee approved the proposal and made it one of the tasks committed to the general committee on army and navy chaplains when the war-time commission dissolved. The medals are intended to convey in tangible form a message of grateful appreciation from the churches to their chaplains.

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