

DEATH OF DR. RUFUS H. GILBERT.

HE BREATHEES HIS LAST UNATTENDED BY
RELATIVES OR FRIENDS.

Dr. Rufus H. Gilbert, the projector of the elevated railroad system of this city, by whose name the Metropolitan Elevated Road was first known, died early yesterday morning in his residence, No. 464 West Seventy-third-street, unattended by any of his family or friends. Dr. Gilbert had been a confirmed invalid for several years, owing to incessant application to hard work during his earlier years and exposure during the war as an army surgeon. He lived alone in his house with a single colored servant for the last few weeks since his brother, W. H. Gilbert, of Lawrenceville, Penn., went back to his own home. On Thursday of last week his colored servant left him, and Dr. Gilbert was not seen until Saturday, the Fourth of July, when he hobbled down to the elevated railroad station at Seventy-second-street and Ninth-avenue on two sticks. He had intended to go down town, but he felt so weak that he asked a clerk in the drug store on the corner of Seventy-third-street to help him home.

On Monday morning William Batman, formerly a guard on the elevated railroad, who was acquainted with Dr. Gilbert, called at the house and rang the bell. There was no answer, and Batman went to the basement door, which he found open, and upon entering and going up stairs he found Dr. Gilbert unconscious in his bed, with his watch, money, and valuables lying about the room. Batman at once called in Dr. Jacob S. Freer, the physician of the elevated road, and Dr. George W. Leonard, both of whom have attended Dr. Gilbert previously during his illness, and everything possible was done for the sick man. Dr. Gilbert had been alone in his house suffering for two days, and he told Batman that he had eaten nothing since the previous Wednesday. Batman, by the advice of the physicians, called in his uncle, John O'Brien, who is a trained nurse, and the sick man was made as comfortable as possible. Batman telegraphed to W. H. Gilbert, at Lawrenceville, but had received no response up to this morning. The whereabouts of Dr. Gilbert's wife was not known and she could not be communicated with, and therefore he died attended only by Batman and O'Brien. His death was due to exhaustion, brought about by chronic inflammation of the bowels and chronic diarrhea—from which he had suffered for several years—superinduced by neglect.

Dr. Gilbert was born about 55 years ago in Guilford, Chenango County, this State, his father, William Dwight Gilbert, being one of the Associate Justices of Steuben County. He was a man of remarkable talents, and was known as a skillful and promising physician before he became prominent in connection with the elevated railroads, and also as a lecturer of some note. He served an apprenticeship with a manufacturing firm in Corning, and then studied medicine with Dr. Willard Parker in this city, and was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He returned to Corning and built up a large profession there, and married a daughter of Chief-Justice Maynard, of the Supreme Court of the State. At the breaking out of the war he joined the Duryee Zouaves as a surgeon, and went through the rebellion, performing at the battle of Big Bethel the first surgical operation under fire made during the war. He rose in the service, and was finally made Medical Director and Superintendent of the United States Army Hospitals, having under him many of the most distinguished surgeons in the service.

Upon the close of the war his health prevented his pursuing his profession, and he became Assistant Superintendent of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey. This led him to study the question of rapid transit, and his first project was a pneumatic tube arrangement which he afterward modified into the present elevated railroad system. The Sixth-avenue road was long known as the Gilbert Elevated Railroad, and he was at first a large holder of the stock of the road. The stock passed out of his possession, and he at one time threatened to bring a suit against his former associates in the management of the road, claiming that he had been defrauded.

Dr. Gilbert, after the death of his first wife, who was childless, married a daughter of J. W. Price, of this city, by whom he had two children, who, with their mother, have lived apart from him for two years. The body has been embalmed, as no arrangements can be made for the funeral until his relatives have been heard from.