

Dr. Felix P. Wierzbicki, a Polish physician and author, came to California in 1847 as hospital steward on board the Loo Cboo. He died December 26, 1860, and was buried at Lone Mountain Cemetery in the Chain Plot, Tier 3, Grave 55. His book, "California as It is and as It may be, or, A Guide to the Gold Region," has been recently reprinted by the Grabhorn Press, with a most interesting introduction by Dr. George Lyman. This was the first book in the English language to be printed in California. The first "criticism" of this book of sixty pages was written by Ferdinand Ewer for the Pacific News. When young Ferdinand Ewer arrived in San Francisco, September 16, 1849, it was difficult for him, a graduate of Harvard, to find employment. For a while he drafted maps for City Surveyor W. M. Eddy. But at the same time he was gathering news items for the press which led to his connection with the Pacific News, first as a reporter, then as editor. In his diary, Ferdinand Ewer describes San Francisco as "an odd little village of a few hundred shanties and tents around the plaza, very lively, much business, very dusty, very rough, with a couple of hundred ships in the harbor at anchor." Ewer Place, off Mason Street, was named for him. His father, Peter F. Ewer, had made a sketch of San Francisco as it seemed to him early in 1849, when there were thirty vessels and one steamer in the bay at anchor, and only one pier. This sketch was preserved by the son with his diary and scrapbook ("Life of Ferdinand C. Ewer" by Henry Raub Wagner); he probably did not sign the sketch until 1861, when he copied the diary from the original notes.

The preface to the first edition of Dr. Wierzbicki's book on California was dated September 30, 1849. The preface to the second edition, with some added pages, was dated December 30, of the same year. The printing was done by Washington Bartlett, No. 8 Clay Street. This was the Washington Bartlett who published the Journal of Commerce in 1850, and who did the state printing for the first California legislature. Years later he was elected mayor of San Francisco; but probably his most notable achievement was the publication of Dr. Wierzbicki's book in 1849, the first book in the English language to be printed in the State of California.

Lone Mountain The Most Revered of San Francisco's Hills

**ANNALS OF THE PIONEERS COPIED FROM
HEADSTONES AND OTHER OLD RECORDS**

**By
ANN CLARK HART**

**SAN FRANCISCO
THE PIONEER PRESS
MCMXXXVII**

**LAUREL HILL
MEMORIAL PARK
(Laurel Hill Cemetery Association, a Corporation)
Dedicated May 30, 1854**

**PRESIDIO AVENUE AND BUSH STREET
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SAN FRANCISCO**