

## **Memoir of John Collins Warren, M.D.**

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Dunlison, Robley, 1798-1869  
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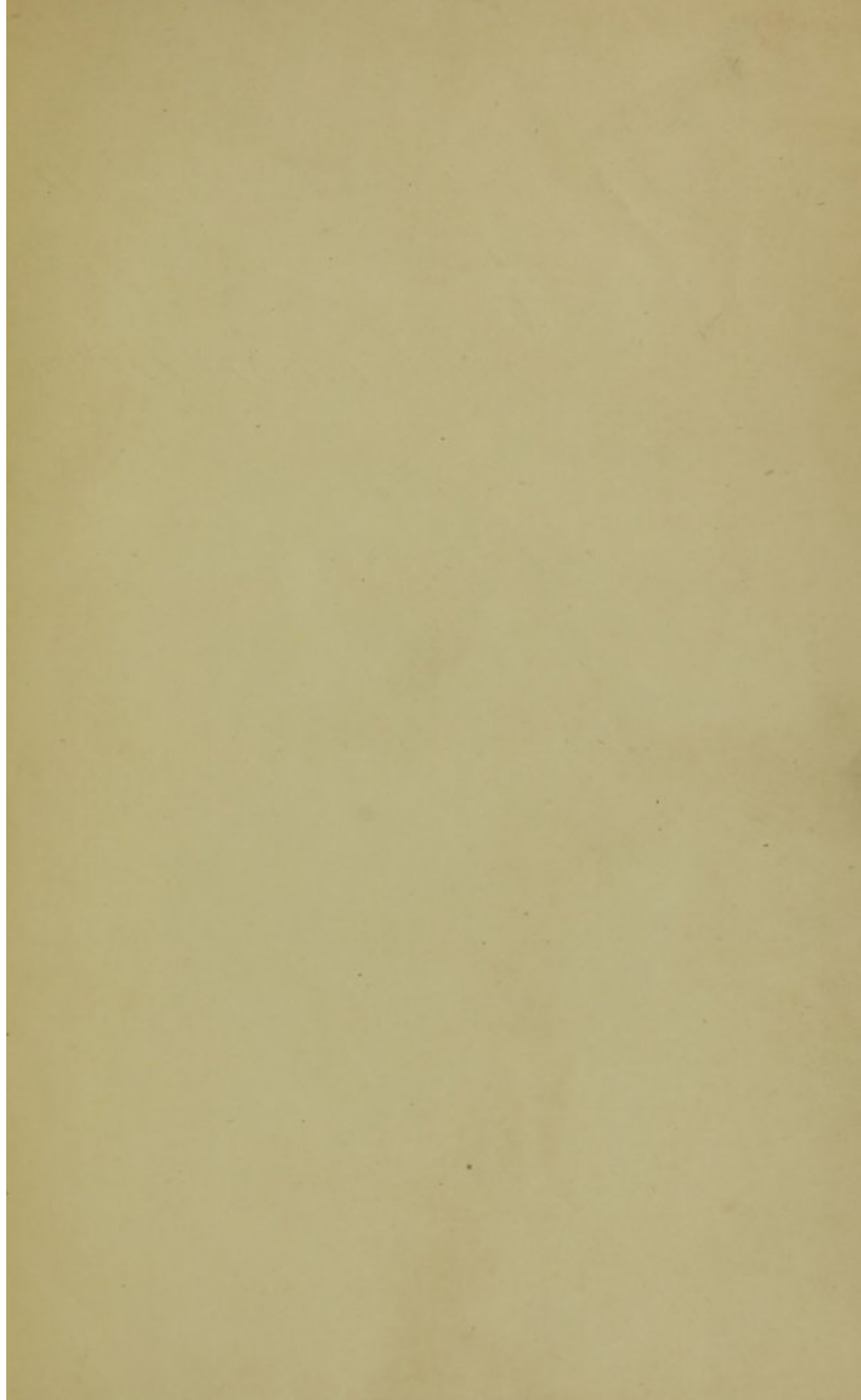


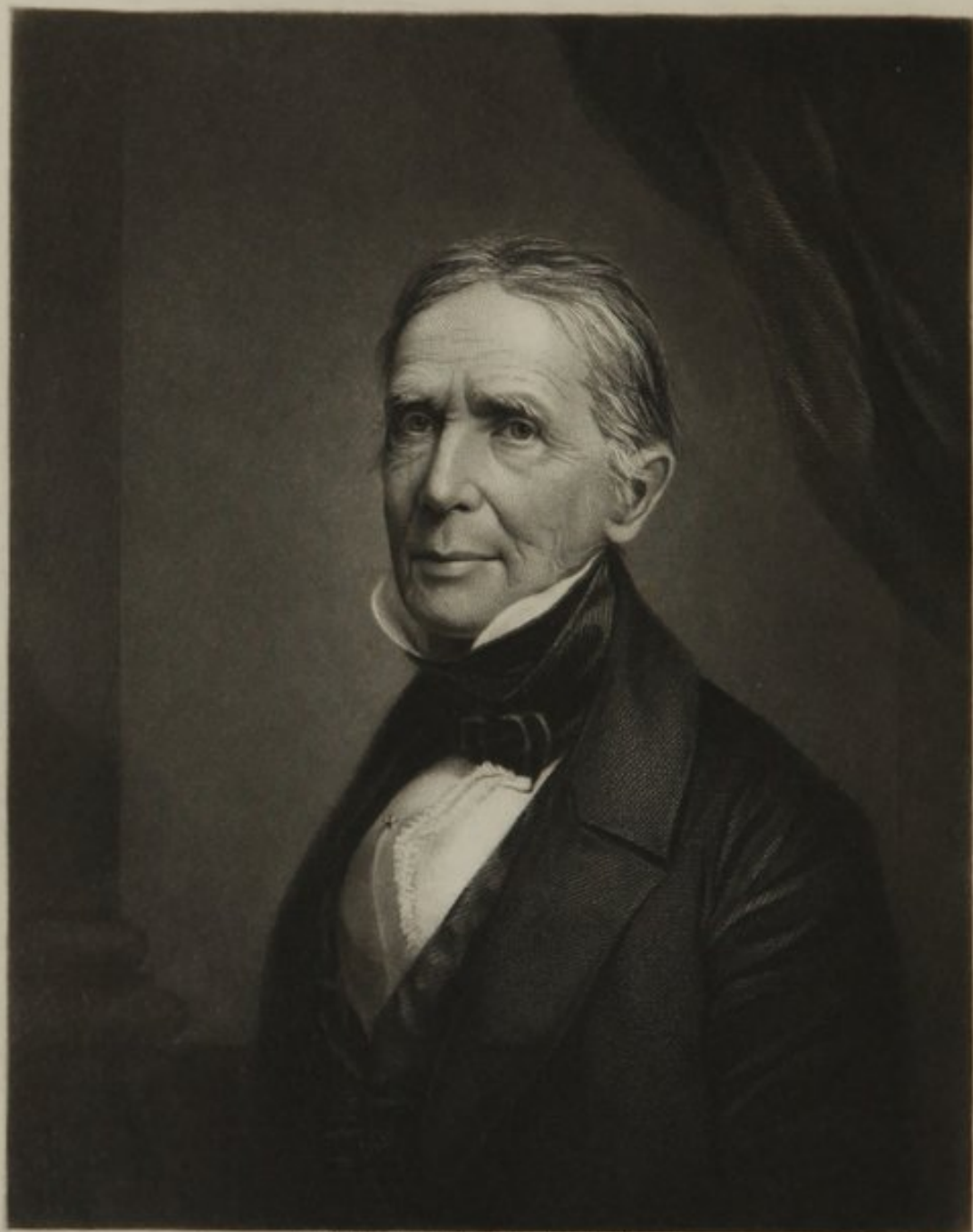
Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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MEMOIR  
OF  
JOHN C. WARREN, M. D.



Prof. Robley Dunglison, M.D.  
With respectful Compliments of  
J. Mason Mearns.





Eng<sup>d</sup> by H. W. Smith from a Dag<sup>u</sup> by Whipple.

*John C. Warren*

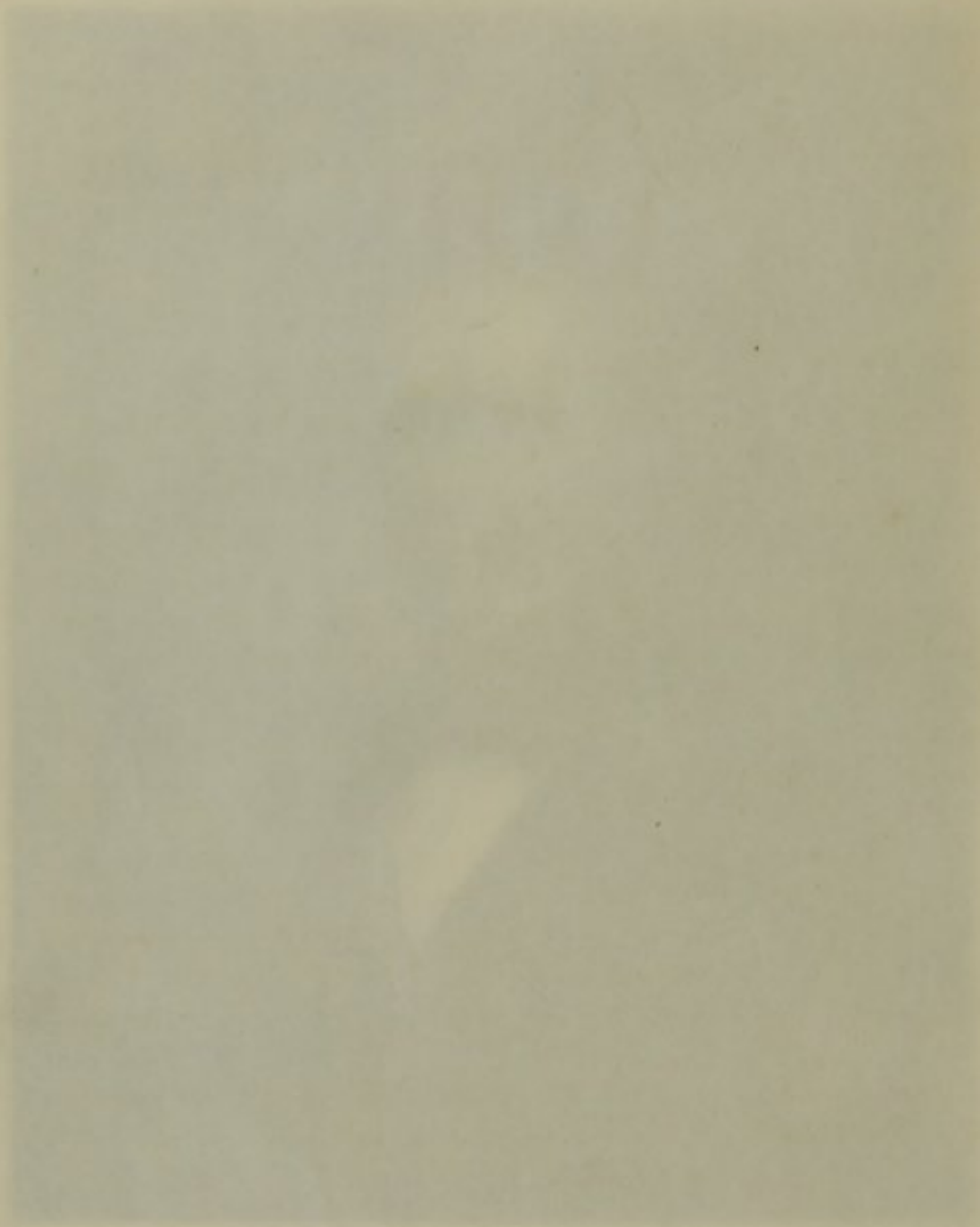
PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND SURGERY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY FROM 1806 TO 1846.

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John C. Winder



## MEMOIR OF JOHN COLLINS WARREN, M.D.

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JOHN COLLINS WARREN was born in Boston, Massachusetts, August 1st, 1778, in a house at the corner of Avon Place and Central Court, where his father, Dr. John Warren, then resided.

At the age of eight years he entered the public Latin School, under Master Hunt, for which he had been fitted in the Elementary School of Master Vinal, in West Street. During these years the family had removed, first to Washington Street, corner of Sheafe's Lane (now Avery Street), thence to Sudbury Street, and finally, in 1785, to School Street. For seven years he continued a pupil of the Latin School, during which time, with the single exception of a hard contest with a "North End" boy named Howard, he easily maintained the first rank in his class. The struggle with Howard was terminated by the latter leaving the school, but while it lasted it was a constant source of excitement and uneasiness to Warren, who even at this early age could ill endure the rivalry even of a friend. With this exception he used to refer to the years spent in the Latin School as the most agreeable portion of his life.

At the first distribution of the Franklin medals, in 1792, Warren's name stood at the head of the list; and on leaving school for college, in 1793, he delivered, as head scholar, a public valedictory address.

In his fifteenth year he entered the freshman class of Harvard College, and occupied a room on the lower floor of Massachusetts Hall. He received some prizes during his college course, and is known to have enjoyed an honorable standing with his class, as may also be inferred from the fact that on graduation he was made valedictorian, an honor which was at that time conferred by the votes of the graduating class. But little is known of his college life, farther than that he found it very pleasant, and acquired a useful knowledge of the ancient languages, which then formed the chief part of the established course of instruction.



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Graduated in 1797, he did not immediately enter upon the study of a profession, but devoted a year to the study of French with Mr. Sales, afterwards for many years instructor in modern languages in Harvard College. This delay arose from the reluctance of Dr. Warren to choose for his son a profession so laborious as that of medicine, especially as he appeared to have no decided inclination for such pursuits; but after waiting a year, and failing to secure a suitable position in a counting house, it was at length decided that he should commence with his father the study of that profession in which he afterwards attained such distinguished success.

The position of a medical student was at this time rather that of an apprentice than that of a student of the present day; and it is by no means surprising that disgust at the drudgery of compounding medicines, and the want of hospital advantages at home, soon led to the decision to visit Europe.

He accordingly embarked for England, June 16th, 1799, and landed at Deal after a voyage of twenty-four days. He proceeded at once to London, and after a few weeks spent in seeking information and forming plans for future study, he made a short journey in the south of England and along the coast as far as Southampton, visiting Margate (where he met with Gen. Benedict Arnold and family), Dover, Hastings, Brighton, the Isle of Wight, &c.

In the autumn of this year he entered Guy's Hospital as dresser to Mr. William Cooper, then senior surgeon, by the payment of a fee of fifty guineas. His duties included the general charge of about forty surgical patients, sleeping in the hospital for a week at a time in turn with the other dressers. Mr. Cooper, who was quite old and already contemplating an early retirement from active professional life, made only two regular visits weekly, leaving the patients in the mean time pretty much to the direction of his assistants. The next summer Mr. Cooper resigned his position in the hospital, and was succeeded as surgeon and lecturer by his nephew, Mr. Astley Cooper, to whom Warren became deeply attached on account of his constant and kind attentions. The daily routine of hospital life afforded few incidents that have been remembered, the time of the student being divided between the practical duties of the ward and the study of anatomy and surgery by lectures and dissections. Dining out on Saturday or Sunday, and an occasional visit to the theatre to witness the sublime personations of Siddons and Kemble, were the chief recreations admitted in the brief intervals of professional study.

An adventure which occurred at this time is related by Dr. Warren in his "Biographical Notes," and is perhaps worthy of repetition as illustrating the interest he always manifested in public affairs, and especially his lively sympathy for the oppressed or suffering masses of the people:—



"One evening" he says, "in going from my lodgings to the West End of the town, I fell in with a mob, which was raised on account of a scarcity of bread. Instead of keeping clear of it, as would have been wise, I entered into it, and talked with the people, to ascertain what their views and objects were. At this time, a charge was made upon the mob by a body of dragoons; and every one was obliged to save himself as he could. This attack irritated me among others; and we rallied, and made preparations for defence. Soon after, we were assailed by a body of police. Sympathizing with the people, who were in a state of starvation, and irritated by the attacks, I got on the edge of the sidewalk, and began to address the crowd on their unhappy condition. They were highly delighted to find a person, dressed like a gentleman, haranguing in their favor; and loudly cheered, and demanded a repetition of the harangue. At this moment, a gentleman spoke to me, drew me aside, and represented the dangerous position I was taking; and that, although the people were in a suffering state, they were not likely to get any remedy in this way. I readily understood this, of course; and, having no great desire to be apprehended as the leader of a mob, I walked off with him in the direction I had been going; and he, having ascertained what course I was taking, offered to show me the way; for it so happened, that, in following the mob, I had been drawn entirely away from the usual route from the east to west, into the complicated streets and lanes of the northern part of London. However, this gentleman went with me a good distance, told me he was an officer in the army, that he had no connection with the police, and that his speaking to me was accidental. I then as freely told him who I was, and made him understand I had no desire to overturn the British government. By a long and perilous route, I reached my destination, and walked back to the borough the same evening."

Among the friendships formed at this time, that of Dr. Wm. Roots, of Kingston on Thames, then a fellow student and dresser, was especially valued, and the very pleasant relations which subsisted between them are attested by many letters which are still preserved.

While in London he lived in the usual manner of medical students, at a cork-cutter's house in St. Thomas's street, Borough, close to the hospital, occupying two rooms in the third story, and taking his meals, which were provided by the landlady, in his own sitting-room—a style of living not materially different from that of a medical student in London at the present time.

In the autumn of 1800, having completed his year at Guy's Hospital, he left London for Edinburgh, travelling in a post-chaise and visit-



ing many places of interest on the route. Arrived in Edinburgh he took lodgings in the Old Town, occupying a large room on the sixth story and living much as in London.

The plan of study in Edinburgh at this time closely resembled that adopted in our own medical schools during the winter session:—viz., lectures and hospital visits from 9 A.M., to 2 P.M., with the afternoon free for private study and necessary recreation. Among the distinguished lecturers whom he followed were Dr. Gregory on medicine, Dr. Hope on chemistry, and John and Charles Bell and Munro on anatomy, physiology, and surgery.

After spending half a year in a very profitable course of study in Edinburgh, he sailed, on the 4th of June, 1801, for Rotterdam, and visited the principal cities of Holland and Belgium. From Brussels he travelled by Diligence to Paris, being compelled to take this somewhat circuitous route on account of the war between England and France.

In Paris he resided in the household of the celebrated Dubois, afterwards Baron, then sole surgeon to the Clinique de l'Ecole de Médecine. From the great influence of this distinguished man he derived many important advantages in the way of forming acquaintances and in increased facilities for study.

His chief pursuits in Paris were chemistry, under Vauquelin, and anatomy with Ribes, Chaussier, and Dupuytren, the latter not yet known to fame. These courses, together with scientific lectures at the Jardin des Plantes and the daily visits to the hospitals, occupied him somewhat more than a year; and at the end of the next summer he returned to London, where, after a short visit, he embarked for New York on the 17th of October, 1802.

Upon his return home a large practice almost immediately devolved upon him, owing in part to the ill health of his father, Dr. John Warren, who had been for many years the leading practitioner in Boston. He acted also, during the next winter, as prosecutor to his father for the anatomical lectures in Cambridge.

Nov. 17th, 1803, after an engagement of six months, he married Susan Powell Mason, daughter of Hon. Jonathan Mason, of Boston. For a time he resided on Tremont street, in a house belonging to Mr. Samuel Eliot, where the Pavilion now stands, and in 1805 removed to the house in Park street, which he occupied during the remainder of his life.

During this year he gave a course of public demonstrations in anatomy to a large class composed principally of the younger members of the medical profession in Boston and vicinity. He also took an active interest in the Massachusetts Medical Society, and superin-



tended, with Dr. James Jackson, the publication of its proceedings. During the next four years he contributed several important papers, and was also co-editor, with Dr. Jackson, of the *Pharmacopœia*, published by the Society in 1808.

In 1806, he was appointed adjunct professor of anatomy and surgery in Harvard University, and for several years lectured in Cambridge to the medical students. By the removal of the Medical School to Boston in 1810, the labors of the professors were materially lightened, and in 1815 the School was established upon a much enlarged scale by the acquisition of a new building and the accession of several additional professors. The death of Dr. John Warren in April, 1815, a few months before the completion of the new college, had left vacant the chair of anatomy and surgery, which was however promptly filled by the election of his son; Dr. James Jackson had been previously appointed professor of the theory and practice of medicine as successor to Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse; and the duties of the old professorship of chemistry and materia medica, which had been performed by Dr. Aaron Dexter, with Dr. John Gorham as adjunct, were divided between Dr. Gorham as professor of chemistry, and Dr. Jacob Bigelow as professor of materia medica: Dr. Walter Channing was also appointed to the new department of obstetrics.

Clinical instruction in medicine and surgery had been given for several years at the City Alms House in Leverett street, by Drs. James Jackson and J. C. Warren, who attended gratuitously for the privilege of exhibiting the cases to the medical class. The resources of the Alms House were, however, manifestly insufficient for the proper care of very sick persons, and the need of a liberally endowed hospital had become urgent. After the removal and reorganization of the Medical School, Drs. Warren and Jackson set themselves earnestly at work to interest the public in this important undertaking, with what success is shown from the fact that in 1818, when the building was commenced, more than \$150,000 had been collected for the purpose from various sources. On the 3d of September, 1821, the hospital was opened for the reception of patients, under the professional charge of Drs. Jackson and Warren, who had been appointed four years before to the responsible positions of physician and surgeon.

Dr. Warren's practice, which was very large almost from the beginning, gradually improved in quality, so that on the death of his father in 1815, he was already one of the leading practitioners of the town, and without a competitor as a surgeon. His accession therefore to the chair of anatomy and surgery, and his appointment as surgeon to the hospital, are to be viewed rather as a spontaneous recognition of his especial fitness than as the result of any choice between the claims of rival candidates.



Another event, which occurred in 1818, shows the enviable reputation to which he had already attained with his medical brethren in other parts of the country. Early in that year Dr. Caspar Wistar, of Philadelphia, died, leaving vacant the chair of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, then as now the most celebrated school of medicine in America. Dr. Warren was strongly urged to become a candidate for the place, but declined competing with his friend Dr. Dorsey. On the death of Dr. Dorsey, however, in the fall of the same year, he was again solicited in a manner even more urgent than before, and it was only after several months of negotiation which cost him, as he said, much thinking, much writing, and much anxiety, that he finally returned a decisive answer in the negative. A similar invitation was extended to him in 1838 to become professor of anatomy in the University of New York.

A Board of Consulting Physicians to the City of Boston was created in 1824, consisting of Drs. J. C. Warren, Aaron Dexter, James Jackson, Horace Bean, and John Gorham. To this Board many important questions relating to public health were from time to time referred, and some of their reports were drawn up with much care and exerted a deservedly great influence. One of the most important of these reports is that on the cholera, made in 1832, and preserved in the sixth volume of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*; another, on the smallpox, in 1837, led to the abandonment of the then prevailing practice of removing all cases of this disease to a distant hospital or pest-house.

Prior to 1812, there had been no Medical Journal published in Boston. This defect was supplied in January of that year by the appearance of the "*New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery*," a quarterly publication, issued under the auspices of the Medical College, and edited under the supervision of its professors. The earlier numbers, especially, contained important papers by Drs. Warren and Jackson, and the Journal soon acquired a high reputation throughout the country. The subscription list was, however, at no time very large, and in 1828 the Journal was merged in the weekly "*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*," of which Dr. Warren assumed the duties of editor, assisted by Dr. John Ware, who had been with Dr. Channing joint editor of the *New England Journal*. After a year or two, it was found that the expense of publishing this Journal exceeded the income from subscribers, and it was given up to the publisher, by whom it has since been conducted.

As illustrating the systematic division of his time, for which Dr. Warren was always distinguished, a brief account may be given of his daily routine of labor in the year 1828, when, in addition to the



varied duties of active practice, he filled the chair of anatomy and surgery in the College, was surgeon in chief to the Hospital, and performed the arduous labor of editing a weekly professional journal. At this period he rose in winter and breakfasted by candle-light, and went directly out to visit his patients until one; except during the lectures, when he passed usually two hours at the Medical College. From one to two he received patients at his house. He devoted about twenty minutes to his dinner; after which he retired to his room for an hour. In the latter part of the afternoon he visited such patients as required a second visit, and then took a cup of tea in his study at seven; after which he wrote and worked often, if not generally, until two in the morning. The greater part of this time he devoted to the "Medical Journal," preparing the Hospital Records, selecting extracts from foreign journals, and writing original articles.

Dr. Warren became early interested in the temperance movement and in physical education. In his lectures to the students in Cambridge he had been accustomed to dwell upon the great importance of physical exercise in developing the organic structure of the body, as well as its necessity for maintaining it in a normal state of vigor. This led to the establishment of a Gymnasium in connection with the University, which flourished for a time, and is now again, after a lapse of many years, in successful operation. About the year 1826, a society for establishing a Gymnasium was formed in Boston, and Dr. Warren was chosen president. A Gymnasium upon a large scale was opened in the "Washington Gardens," on the corner of Tremont and West streets, and was attended by a large number of gentlemen of the different professions. The contagion spread rapidly, and smaller establishments of a similar character were formed throughout many parts of the country, but the enthusiasm with which the new idea was at first hailed, gradually abated. In August, 1830, Dr. Warren delivered an address upon "Physical Education," before a convention of teachers and friends of education, which formed the basis of a little work "On the Preservation of Health," which he published in 1840, and which has had a very extensive circulation.

In 1827 he joined the Temperance Society, of which his father, Dr. John Warren, had been vice president in 1813. He was ever a zealous advocate of temperance, and, a few years after his return from his second visit to Europe, gave up entirely the use of even the lighter wines except as an article of medicine. In his "Biographical Notes" he observes, "On the whole, I can with confidence say, that, if I had never tasted wine, my life would have been more healthy, and longer, and more comfortable. The efforts which I have been called to make



in the temperance reformation, operating, as they have done, more extensively on the prosperity and happiness of the community, are a source of more satisfaction than any other labors. Probably my other occupations might have been as well or better performed by some one else ; but perhaps it would have been difficult to find another person who would have been willing to undergo the opposition, ridicule, labor and expense in the cause of temperance."

Dr. Warren was one of the first members, and for many years an active officer of St. Paul's Church, which he joined in 1820. As a child he had attended with his father's family at the church in Brattle street, then strictly Calvinistic in creed. For a few years after his marriage he attended the "Old Brick," or First Church, which then stood upon the present site of Joy's Building, nearly opposite the head of State street. On the death of the pastor, Rev. Wm. Emerson, he returned to Brattle street, then under the pastoral charge of Mr. Buckminster. After the death of this gentleman and the resignation of his successor, Mr. Edward Everett, who was called to the professorship of Greek in Harvard College, Dr. Warren was led to make a careful study of theology, and having decided in favor of the Trinitarian doctrine, was naturally led to attach himself to the new organization of St. Paul's. He took an active part in all the affairs of the church, and was for seventeen years one of the wardens ; he continued a member of the vestry until removed by death.

In 1823, Dr. Warren purchased three acres of land, including the top of Bunker Hill, where the action of June 17, 1775, was fought, with the view to the erection of a monument to commemorate that event. A large sum was raised by subscription, and advantage was taken of the visit of Lafayette to this country to lay the corner stone. As chairman of the building committee, Dr. Warren devoted much time and labor to the work, and at one time became, with Col. Perkins, Wm. Sullivan, and Amos Lawrence, jointly responsible for the sum of 32,000 dollars for the advancement of the building. The two brass field pieces, the "Hancock" and "Adams," now in the chamber near the summit of the Monument, were procured by Dr. Warren in 1825, from the Commonwealth, and were presented to the Bunker Hill Monument Association on the completion of the structure, in 1842.

In 1837, Dr. Warren published his "Surgical Observations on Tumors," an illustrated octavo volume of over six hundred pages, which was the first extensive work of the kind ever published, if we except the collection of cases by John Bell, published in his "Principles of Surgery." This work was favorably noticed by the principal medical journals in this country and in Great Britain. Of the cases which



form the subject of the "Observations," a notice in the "British and Foreign Medical Review," then under the editorial charge of Dr., now Sir John Forbes, contains the following remarks, which are alike commendatory of the work and complimentary to the author:—"Clear, simple, and graphic, they bear the unaffected impress of truth; and report, with manifest candor and honesty, as medical writings ought, the opinions that influenced the treatment, and the motives that guided the surgeon in performing or abstaining from operations. In fact, throughout the work, the author proves himself to be a worthy disciple of the school in which he received his early instructions; and which, connected as it is with the names and celebrity of Cooper, Bright, and others of hardly less eminence, he seems proud to acknowledge as his *alma mater*. And surely that school need be no less proud to claim him as a pupil. And we believe there are few members of our profession who are more entitled to the consideration of his brethren than Dr. Warren. Distinguished as a zealous and successful teacher for the last thirty years, foremost in every undertaking calculated to improve medical literature and science, and never weary in the cause of benevolence, he has earned for himself in his native country a reputation of the most enviable kind, and to which mere literary distinction, more especially in foreign countries, can add but little of value."

On the 12th of June, of this year, he sailed for Europe from New York, in company with about thirty passengers; among them Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, now Emperor of the French. This journey was undertaken mainly for relaxation and for the gratification of his family, several members of which accompanied him; but he also labored to improve every opportunity of procuring such information as could be made available on his return home. Of this tour, which was extended somewhat beyond a year, he has left a journal, of which extracts are published in the "Autobiography."

On his return from Europe, immediately upon his landing in New York, Dr. Warren was solicited to accept the office of professor of anatomy in the University of New York. Many important inducements were offered, but the same reasons which early in life had led him to decline a similar position in Philadelphia were now equally decisive against this new proposal to leave Boston.

At this time Dr. Warren commenced a domestic journal, which he continued, with but a few months interruption, throughout the remainder of his life. Soon after this he seems to have conceived the idea of collecting materials for a biography; he accordingly commenced two collections of memoirs, which he entitled "Biographical Notes" and "Surgical Notes," the former devoted to reminiscences of the



earlier years of his life prior to the date of his "European Journal," the "Surgical Notes" consisting chiefly of recollections of eminent professional men and comments on their contributions to surgery, together with some brief statements of conclusions drawn from his own experience. He also left a large number of records of cases which he appears to have kept originally with a view to publication, but which remain in too fragmentary a state to make it quite clear what particular use he intended to make of them.

In resuming the practice of his profession, Dr. Warren sought a partial relief from the labor of daily visits, but devoted himself with renewed energy to his duties as a teacher. He also engaged with increased zeal in scientific pursuits, and especially in plans for the promotion of the public welfare. At the very beginning of his professional career he had been a prominent member of a society for the study of natural philosophy. In this society he once lectured upon the water of Boston, showing its many impurities, and its unfitness for many of the ordinary purposes of life. He availed himself throughout life of every opportunity of urging on the public the importance of an abundant supply of pure water, and had at length the high satisfaction of seeing, in the inauguration of the Cochituate water works in 1848, the consummation of this cherished desire. As a member of the Monthly Anthology Club, in 1803, he was for several years co-editor of the "Monthly Anthology and Boston Review," a magazine of which President Quincy has justly remarked, it "may be considered as a true revival of polite learning in this country, after that decay and neglect which resulted from the distractions of the Revolutionary war, and as forming an epoch in the intellectual history of the United States." The labors of this Club embraced also the formation of a reading room, and subsequently a library for consultation in connection with it; a modest beginning from which the Boston Athenæum had its origin. A private society for professional improvement, and a Friday-evening Club for social intercourse, in both of which he was seconded by his constant friend Dr. Jackson, were also the theatre of frequent discussions of matters bearing on the general welfare.

On the 7th of November following his return from Europe, Dr. Warren delivered the introductory address to the medical class, giving a general view of the state of medical science abroad. On the 8th, a public dinner was given by the physicians of Boston in honor of Drs. Warren and Jackson, an event almost without precedent in Boston. A full account of the incidents of this interesting occasion is preserved in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. xix.

May 30th, 1841, he notes in his journal the severe illness of Mrs. Warren, who died on the third of June. He remarks, "the vacancy



caused by the rupture of associations of thirty-eight years is greater than can be described."

During the year 1842, he published a series of cases in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, one of which, "on the removal of the upper jaw-bone for malignant disease," also appeared in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. He also wrote, during the following three or four years, a number of important papers for the *Bost. Med. and Surg. Journal*, the *Am. Jour. of the Med. Sciences*, and for the *London Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

In November, 1846, the Medical College having outgrown its building, in Mason street, was removed to its present site in North Grove street; and in December of the next year, Dr. Warren presented to the University the magnificent museum of anatomy which he had collected for the illustration of his lectures, and which now bears his name.

On the 16th of October, 1846, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Warren performed the first surgical operation upon a patient previously rendered insensible to pain by the inhalation of ether.

In February, 1847, he resigned the chair of anatomy and surgery in the College, and on the 2d of March, delivered his farewell lecture to the medical class.

May 6th, 1847, Dr. Warren was elected president of the Boston Society of Natural History, a choice, as he says, quite unexpected. The year before, he had the good fortune to procure, by purchase, the finest and most perfect Mastodon skeleton yet discovered, an acquisition which afforded the opportunity, and in fact imposed the duty, of a careful anatomical description of that wonderful animal. The skeleton was set up in Boston and exhibited to the public for several days, after which it was removed to the Medical College in Mason street, and finally to the fire-proof building of the Warren Museum of Natural History in Chestnut street, where it is now preserved. He also purchased several other collections of mastodon bones, including one of the *Peale* skeletons which had belonged to the museum at Baltimore. With these materials before him, and with the additional means of comparison furnished by the Cambridge skeleton and crania, and by three fine elephant skeletons, one of which he obtained by purchase, he proceeded to prepare a methodical anatomical description of the whole osteology of the mastodon, admirably printed and elaborately illustrated by lithographs. Of this magnificent work, Professor Owen remarks, in a private letter to Dr. Warren, "The study of the rich series of facts contributed by your personal and original observations to the natural history of the *Mastodon Giganteus* has afforded me the highest satisfaction; and the profound learning on the subject which



the references to other writers manifest, places your monograph in the first rank of original treatises in pulcontological science." During the presidency of Dr. Warren he made many communications to the Society upon scientific subjects. The last of these, and indeed the last paper he ever wrote, was read before the Society after his death, having been completed but a few days before. Its subject was the anatomy of the argonaut, and was illustrated by the dissection of a beautiful and rare specimen preserved in spirit.

In 1849, the American Medical Association held its third annual meeting in Boston. Dr. Warren was chosen president for the year, and in accordance with the custom of the Association delivered the annual address at the next ensuing meeting, which was held at Cincinnati.

The next year he presided over a great union meeting of citizens at Faneuil Hall.

December 15th, 1851, his second wife, Mrs. Anne Warren, daughter of Lieutenant-Governor Thomas L. Winthrop, whom he had married in October, 1843, died. He felt her loss deeply, and his health was evidently much affected by it. He therefore undertook a short journey as far South as Richmond, from which he returned much better, but still subject to wakefulness and mental disturbance at night. He finally decided upon a short trip to Europe, and sailed June 18th. He met many old friends, and revisited many familiar scenes. After an absence of a little more than three months, he returned much improved in health, and almost immediately resumed his duties at the Hospital.

February 8th, 1853, Dr. Warren made his last official visit as attending surgeon to the Hospital, after thirty-one years of constant service. From this time his career as an active surgeon may be said to have terminated, although he still held the position of consulting surgeon, and frequently performed operations for private patients. After his retirement from active practice he devoted his leisure hours to scientific studies and to the enjoyment of the society of friends.

In March he received information of his election as associate member of the French Academy of Medicine.

During the year 1854, he published a small work of 52 pages, 8vo., on "Fossil Impressions;" completed and published the "Warren Genealogy," a fine quarto volume; reviewed the first edition of the "Mastodon," and made some additions to be incorporated in a second edition. He also published a stereotyped edition of his work "On the Preservation of Health."

In May, 1855, he published his last surgical paper in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*; it is an interesting and important case of "Section of the os Femoris."



The early part of 1856 was occupied principally with scientific studies and investigations, and it was in February of this year that he procured the fine argonaut which furnished the subject of his last scientific paper.

After February of this year he began to suffer severely from an inflammatory affection of the right eye, which confined him to the house during several weeks. In April, he had several attacks of dizziness, but was still able to ride out almost every day. On the 28th he rode to Brookline, when he probably took cold, and suffered from chills and severe pains. From that day he became gradually more feeble, but still refused to pass the whole day in bed. From day to day his strength declined, and on Saturday, the 3d of May, his mind began to wander. He died the next morning, May 4th, 1854, at 3, A.M.

The account of the last years of Dr. Warren's life would be incomplete without some notice of the "Thursday-evening Club," founded by him in 1846, and from whose meetings he scarcely ever absented himself. The following brief sketch of the origin and purposes of the club, is taken from the eloquent and feeling address delivered by the Hon. Edward Everett at the meeting next succeeding Dr. Warren's decease :—

"Dr. Warren, as you know, gentlemen, was the founder of the Thursday-evening club, and in this character alone his memory invites our grateful recollection at this time. From a paper written to his dictation about four years ago, it appears that he had, as long ago as the year 1844, been deeply impressed with the importance of bringing together persons of different professions and pursuits, to converse and communicate with each other on the scientific improvements of the day, and other topics connected with social culture and progress. Dr. Warren had been of opinion that there was a want of intercourse between the active and the professional, the scientific and business, classes of the community ; and that if they could be regularly brought together in a friendly circle, it would not only promote social enjoyment, but mutual improvement. He believed there was no city on the continent where ampler materials exist for an enlightened and intelligent society, and that they needed only to be brought statedly together. These views and feelings were communicated by Dr. Warren to his neighbor and friend, the late honored and lamented Mr. Abbott Lawrence, who fully concurred with him, and avowed his readiness to take part with him, in forming an association like that proposed. The plan was soon after mentioned to another neighbor and friend, Mr. Francis C. Gray, who cordially entered into it. \* \* \*



\* \* \* \* \* After two or three additional conversations with Messrs. Lawrence and Gray, a meeting was called in concert with these gentlemen, at Dr. Warren's house, on the 27th of October, 1846. \* \* \* \* From this time forward, for two or three years, the meetings were continued weekly. It was then judged advisable to have them once a fortnight, which has been the practice ever since. \* \* \* \* Dr. Warren's paper closes with the following remarks: 'During nearly six years the club has been in steady and harmonious operation. Much scientific matter has been communicated in a novel and agreeable way, and much pleasant intercourse has brightened the long evenings of autumn and winter, without any organization but the appointment of a secretary.' Such, gentlemen, are the material portions of a paper drawn up by Dr. Warren, and perhaps read to the club some four or five years ago. It gives an authentic account of the origin and progress of the association; and if, in the last paragraph, we substitute 'ten' years for 'six,' it relates our history to the close of the last season. It may be doubted whether there was ever an association, so large as ours, which has existed for so long a time, which has held so many meetings, and carried out the design of its formation so efficiently, with so little of the ordinary machinery of a society. This result is mainly to be ascribed to the vigilant and thoughtful attention of Dr. Warren, spontaneously bestowed upon the affairs of the club, and upon the simple arrangements necessary to secure a meeting once a fortnight, with some communication, more or less formal, of a scientific or practical nature, for the instruction and entertainment of the members."

Dr. Warren made provision in his will for the preparation of a biography, for which he had been for many years collecting and preserving the necessary materials. This work was entrusted to his brother, Dr. Edward Warren, and was published in 1860, in two elegant octavo volumes.\* To this biography, and to the extracts from the journals contained in it, the writer is indebted for most of the facts, and often for the very language embodied in the present sketch.

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\* The Life of John Collins Warren, M.D., compiled chiefly from his Autobiography and Journals. By Edward Warren, M.D. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1860.

