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ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania,

AT ITS FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION,

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE, 1864.

BY

WILSON JEWELL, M. D.,

PRESIDENT.

REPRINTED FROM THE

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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:—

THE return of another anniversary of the Medical Society of Pennsylvania brings with it a hearty greeting to old and familiar faces, and a cheerful salutation to those, who for the first time are present to mingle in this refreshing and invigorating intercourse with their medical compeers.

Our meeting is a subject for congratulation, notwithstanding the lack of professional energy and the tardy action in several sections of our commonwealth in behalf of medical association. Nor is it less worthy of remembrance that each succeeding anniversary initiates those whose aspirations and professional desires are, to render themselves useful in carrying out the great mission of our benevolent vocation by associated action, as one of the means for its approach to certainty and increased usefulness.

To all of you, more especially to those present for the first time as representatives of county organizations, I extend a genial welcome to our city, the emporium of the State, the great centre of medical science and learning, which has been so repeatedly honored by you for these annual gatherings.

With a feeling of genuine pride I welcome you at the present time, as affording me the opportunity and the privilege of introducing you to this new and beautiful medical hall of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, which has been appropriately chosen by the committee of arrangements and cheerfully granted by the College for our session.

Not alone because it is the hall of the College of Physicians that I thus welcome you. No, gentlemen, with a more exalted and unselfish ambition I hail the erection and the occupation of this edifice, as constituting a new epoch in American medical history. And it is fit that the Medical Society of the State should enjoy the distinguished privilege of dedicating this hall to one, at least, of the purposes contemplated

in its erection, by assembling within its walls and celebrating therein its fifteenth annual meeting.

As a member of the medical fraternity of Pennsylvania, I experience a glow of pleasure while standing to-day beneath the ample roof of a building, raised by our own professional efforts—a building that for all time to come will be sacredly devoted to the improvement of the science and art of medicine, and stand an abiding repository of all that is valuable and interesting illustrative of our dignified calling.

Nor is there less cause of pride in view of the fact, that while our State enjoys the honor of organizing the first school for medical instruction, and founding the first hospital in these United States, it has also presented another noble example, by taking the initiative in the erection and completion of a hall dedicated exclusively to Esculapius.

While I bestow the credit of these three significant enterprises—these medical monuments—upon our time honored State, I must not fail to do ample justice to my own native Philadelphia, by proclaiming that with the aid of favoring circumstances, these results have been obtained almost exclusively through the enlightened action of her own medical men.

In contemplating the past, we find that the full meed of praise has been but scantily awarded to those modest yet laborious students, whose brilliant conceptions, followed by perseverance, brought into life from the deep recesses of the mind, where genius, strengthened by education, could alone penetrate—those noble institutions dedicated to benevolence, science, and literature—the Pennsylvania Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania, and the College of Physicians.

The first of these institutions originated in 1750, with Dr. Thomas Bond, one of the most distinguished physicians of this city at that early day. Whether or not he brought it forward publicly in utterance of a general sentiment, it will be conceded that he prepared the ground and scattered the seed. His labors resulted in the erection of that venerable pile of buildings, the Pennsylvania Hospital, through the liberality of the citizens of Philadelphia and the friends of humanity in the mother country.

In the language of the historian of this noble charity, in his centennial address, it "has long been a fountain from which streams of sanitary influence have poured forth through all parts of this far extending land,"[1] and we may add, without undervaluing liberal aid from others, that the pious memory of Bond finds its noblest monument in that temple of benevolence, within whose doors have entered thousands who are prepared to "rise up and call him blessed."

[1] Wood's Centennial Address, p. 22.

The College of Philadelphia, the precursor and parent of the University of Pennsylvania, gave us the first medical school in North America. It was a new and bold undertaking in the infancy of the colony. The foundation was laid through the united influence of Drs. William Shippen and John Morgan, two young Americans, natives of Philadelphia, while pursuing their studies abroad. This event occurred in 1764.[1] "The names of these gentlemen occupy an enviable position. The future historian may sweep multitudes of great names as rubbish from his path; but the fame of Shippen and Morgan will continue to be cherished in this country, so long as its inhabitants shall be subject to physical infirmities, and the healing art be deemed worthy of cultivation."[2]

It is, however, more particularly to the venerable College of Physicians, its origin and its early history, that I desire to ask your attention for a few minutes of the time allowed me on the present occasion.

Let us pause then on the threshold as it were of this chaste hall, in which we are assembled for the first time, and in retrospection three-quarters of a century examine the footprints of time—

> "And summon from the shadowy past,
> The forms that once have been."

As every hour lessens the recollections of bygone days, and dims the vision of the choice and master spirits of our profession in the era in which they lived, it may not be unprofitable to allude briefly to a few of those noble men among the founders and patrons of the College of Physicians—guardians of the public health—who have passed away full of years and honors.

While the "still damp vault" holds their mortal remains, their names are imperishably enrolled on the bright page of medical history, and their memories and virtues embalmed in the hearts of those who have followed in the same benevolent sphere of action, in which they toiled with a life-long devotion.

The erection of this edifice, with its well-ordered and convenient arrangements, its ample lecture-room, its extensive and serviceable accommodations for the library, as well as for the surgical, pathological, and anatomical museums, and the careful provision that has been made for business and other meetings connected with our profession, fills a void in this city that for many years has been seriously felt and deplored. At the same time it introduces a new and improved era in the medical

[1] The University of Pennsylvania was chartered in 1779. The College of Philadelphia was merged in it in 1789.

[2] Wood's Introductory Addresses, p. 335.

character of our city and State—one, that the future historian will not fail to record in merited terms.

Nor is the construction of this hall the less valuable for its exhibition of a practical illustration of one, at least, of the peculiar advantages derived from medical association.

Dr. Rush, who delivered the first lecture before the College of Physicians, February 6, 1787, on the objects of the institution, remarked that "the advantages of our conference will not end in the acquisition of knowledge. The heart will naturally interest itself in the pursuit of the head. Here friendships will be contracted and cemented. By these means we shall become, not only the guardians of the honor of the profession, but likewise of each other's character." It is this cultivation of friendship, the reciprocal good-will and confidence, this desire for mutual protection while exchanging the results of scientific inquiries and investigations, backed by experience and observation, that has led to this crowning effort by a large number of the members of our profession, banded together for the advancement of the science of medicine and the sacred protection of the brotherhood.

In no other way could this building have been raised. Without such an union, we could neither sustain the respectability to which our profession entitles us, nor advance its paramount interests and objects.

When I contemplate the present bright morn that ushers in this temple of medicine, and follow with a prophetic eye its future greatness, when it will be illuminated by the meridian splendor of advancing science, I stand amazed that the professional pride and the ambitious aspirations of our brethren should have been restrained through so many weary years, without having felt the necessity of an improvement that will augment the sphere of our importance as members of an enlightened profession, and furnish us with increased facilities for literary and scientific pursuits; while it cannot fail to inspire a greater enthusiasm in our body, and confer on it a more extended reputation and respect in the eyes of the community at large.

During a dinner given at Washington a few months since, to celebrate the introduction of the Potomac water into that city of magnificent distances, Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, said, in a letter of apology for his absence on the occasion, that "Washington is just now entering upon its appointed career; certainly strangers are just now beginning to know that our country has a capital." Applying this figure of speech, I may with like enthusiasm exclaim, in view of the occupation of this edifice, that our profession is just now entering upon its appointed career; certainly strangers are just now beginning to know that we have a local habitation as well as a name in Philadelphia.

If, however, the charge of procrastination against the profession in

this city and State be well founded, and that it is slow to appreciate the advantages of progress in any new measure, through an apathy—by the way in no manner peculiar to "young America"—it is well to remember, as a writer has elsewhere remarked of Philadelphians, that they are "often backward in the suggestion and slow in carrying out improvements of various kinds, yet, when the thing is done, it is well done," as in the present instance.

It has been already intimated that we are indebted to the liberality of our profession in this city, with but few exceptions, for this commodious structure. More especially would we advert to the generosity of one, who, holding the highest office in the College, has been the largest subscriber to the building fund; whose annual contributions, together with the terms on which an eminent Fellow of the College, the late Dr. Mütter, made to it the gift of his valuable museum and the accompanying munificent endowment, hastened not a little the completion of the edifice.

It would be alike interesting and instructive, could we lift the curtain of the past and have a glimpse of some of the hidden events which transpired in a former century; among others, a chronicle of the early doings of those who founded the College of Physicians. In imagination to look upon the face, and listen to the words of that favored physician, when he communicated his thoughts and offered his suggestions for the organization of a medical association to his admiring friends, and then watch the countenances of his audience and learn their response.

But those fugitive memorials of unrecorded observations, that gave life to the institution, have long since been ingulfed in the waters of oblivion, and are among the lost items of history, buried with the "mighty dead" of our profession.

The earliest meeting of the College of Physicians, of which we have any authentic record, was held January 2, 1787, in the Philadelphia College building, then located in Fourth below Arch Street. At that meeting, composed of senior and junior members, there were fourteen present, viz., John Redman, John Jones, William Shippen, Adam Kuhn, Benjamin Rush, Thomas Parke, Gerardus Clarkson, and Samuel Duffield, seniors; James Hutchinson, William W. Smith, Andrew Ross, William Clarkson, James Hall, and William Currie, juniors; all of whom signed the constitution.[1]

Dr. John Redman was elected the first president, Dr. John Jones the first vice-president, and Dr. James Hutchinson the first secretary.

[1] Dr. John Morgan, whose name is recorded among the first signers of the constitution, was not present at this meeting. The first meeting he attended was in the following May.

Dr. Redman continued to fill the chair until his death, which took place on the 19th of March, 1806, in his eighty-sixth year. The time when he was elected is not upon record; but the inference is conclusive that there had been one, if not more preliminary meetings to the one named, because at that meeting the President read quite a lengthy address, in which he alluded to the proceedings of a former meeting.

This address, in which Dr. Redman returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him, and expressed "the high sense he had of the importance of the institution and its future eminence if rightly conducted," is distinguished for its marked simplicity, sincerity, and singular modesty, as well as for the humility with which he regarded his election, "more owing," as he says, "to the generous benevolence of their own minds, as a mark of respect to his age and longer standing in the profession, and of their approval of his general conduct in life, and regularity in the practice of his art, than to any peculiar merit."

There is, however, a specialty in this opening address that forbids my passing it by without a particular notice; sentiments evincing the Christian physician; characterizing the boldness of the faith of its author, and furnishing conclusive evidence, even in his public ministrations, that, like Hoffman and Stahl of a former century, he was not ashamed of the Gospel he professed; while it casts a severe and well merited rebuke upon the reproach of infidelity in our profession, vindicates the "truth as it is in Jesus," and is worthy of a far more public notoriety than it has ever received.

At the conclusion of his address, Dr. Redman observed, that after he had written it, "his mind run into a more serious turn of thought, relating to the substantial good of the institution," and while he feared the manner in which his remarks would be expressed might not bear every kind of criticism, yet," he continued, "I trust the matter of them will give offence to none, but be approved by all, especially as the principles inculcated are those of one of the wisest of men, king Solomon, who says, 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.'"

He then proceeds to remind them of their obligations to the Almighty "for every good they have or do enjoy, as well as their dependence upon him for any good they still hope for or expect in the prosecution of affairs, public or private, and for his protection, direction, and success therein;" not forgetting to impress upon their minds that the "Scriptures of truth declare, that by the God of Heaven kings reign and princes decree justice;" and that, "except the Lord build the

house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

"Hence it is," he continues, "that I feel it both my duty and inclination, as your oldest member, and especially as your President, and as becoming us at the very commencement of this our institution, in your name and in your behalf to acknowledge the Supreme Being to be our sovereign Lord and ruler; and also our obligations to him for every mercy and blessing we have been the subjects of, and especially for giving us capacities for such an undertaking, and influencing our wills to engage in so good a design at this time. And furthermore, I do also, in your name and behalf, invoke His aid, and implore Him to grant unto us, in this, and all our lawful enterprises, all that wisdom, prudence, discretion, and judgment which are necessary to conduct them in a proper manner; and also, all that grace which may enable us to act herein from right principles, with just motives, to good ends, and according to the best rules and regulations; so that, in this, and all our works and ways, we may glorify God and do good in our day.

"Finally, after we have publicly or privately served our generation faithfully, according to the will of God, we may be fitted for, and admitted into his kingdom and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour."

Such, gentlemen, was the pious and wholesome advice administered by the first President of the College of Physicians, seventy-seven years ago, when he entered upon the duties of the chair; and these the sentiments of a man who was not ashamed, and who, in imitation of Sir Thomas Browne, dared, "without usurpation, to assume the honorable style of a Christian" before his associates.

His words are words of wisdom fitly spoken. They are "apples of gold in pictures of silver." They do honor to the head and to the heart from whence they proceeded; furnish a bright example of Christian character for the emulation of our profession in this latter day; while they present an eloquent defence in favor of revelation.

How appropriately may his venerable name be inscribed on an entablature, in commemoration of his piety and virtue, along with those of Sydenham, Stahl, Hoffman, Boerhaave, Lobb, Cheselden, Fothergill and Good of another hemisphere, together with those illustrious Christian physicians of our own country, Rush, Fuller, Bard, Miller, Fisk, Williams, Warren, Thatcher, Tilton, James, Godman, Horner, Otto, Dorsey, Shippen, and a host of others, "the weight of whose names alone in favor of revelation, is sufficient to turn the scale against all the infidelity that has ever dishonored the science of medicine."

At the second meeting of the College, held February 6, 1787, Dr. Rush, by appointment, delivered an address, to which I have already

referred, on the means of promoting medical knowledge, and the advantages arising from associations organized for that purpose; in which he congratulated the College, that the revolutionary war, which had terminated within a few years, had not only given a spring to the mind of the people, in objects of philosophical and moral inquiry, but had extended itself to medicine, as presented in the founding of the College of Physicians, in what was then the capital of the United States, "upon principles accommodated to the present state of society and government in America."

The discourse suggested various means for the improvement of the science of medicine, and for the promotion of the health and happiness of their fellow citizens.

In the language of Dr. S. Jackson, the biographer of Rush, this address "was a performance of striking merit, showing great comprehension and foresight for that early period. It was a manifestation of such a mind as no other man in the house possessed."[1] In concluding his address, the Doctor gave utterance to his well known patriotism, with the belief that "the influence of republican forms of government on science, and the vigor which the American mind had acquired by the events of the revolution," would contribute greatly to the advancement of medicine.

It is not too much to say that the College of Physicians is an organization embracing three generations of medical men, and recording among its members the names of many of the most distinguished and enlightened physicians of the past and present age that this country has ever produced; and although it has not enjoyed wide spread celebrity, nor cultivated and disseminated scientific truths to the same unlimited extent that many other societies of a similar character have done, its Fellows have the satisfaction of knowing that their labors have not been in vain, abounding, as they do, in valuable practical suggestions for the health and welfare of mankind, and in original contributions to practical medicine. A careful array of facts, gleaned in the tried paths of observation, furnished the materials for their experience and subsequent induction, by which they aimed to elevate the standard of medicine.

The early labors of this body of physicians are not by any means remarkable in a scientific point of view. They were "not often overfed with fuel, nor at all times watched with vestal vigilance." Be it remembered, however, that the fire by which this Society existed was never suffered to become extinct. If its progress was slow, it never retrograded in the pathway of improvement, nor was it ever stationary. Its

[1] Gross' Medical Biography.

existence gave a new impulse to the medical element of Philadelphia, and the fruits of many intellects were by this associated action "brought into a common storehouse and made the common property of all."

Among the first scientific and reformatory objects that enlisted the attention of its members, were the meteorological changes of the year, with a record of the epidemic and prevailing diseases; the formation of an American pharmacopœia; the collection and publication of medical observations and inquiries; the registration of deaths; the establishment of a medical library; the formation of a public botanical garden; the erection of public warm and cold baths, and the application to Congress for the passage of a law to lessen the consumption of distilled spirituous liquors and its fatal consequences.

In the presentation and prosecution of these scientific, sanitary, and moral measures for strengthening the profession, and for the happiness of the community, there was no doubt displayed a zeal and perseverance in the highest degree creditable to those who participated in it at that early day.

Although they may have failed to insure a complete triumph for all the plans, scientific and benevolent, which they projected, we have the gratifying assurance that some at least, and they the most valuable of the original suggestions, especially those of a scientific bearing, undertaken in the first year of its existence, have been successful.

Should any one be inclined to disparage the labors of our predecessors, on account of their honest and earnest, though sometimes misguided inquiries, he will find parallel examples in the history of nearly every learned body in Europe.

Two years after its organization the College applied for a charter, and on the 26th day of March, 1789, it became a corporate body, under an act of the Legislature, signed by the Hon. Richard Peters, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

At a very early period in its history active measures were adopted to encourage the reading of original papers, and to have them printed under the supervision of a select committee. The first volume of its *Transactions* appeared about the 1st of August, 1793, and was published by Thomas Dobson, a popular bookseller of that day.

Soon after the appearance of this volume, the city of Philadelphia was visited and suffered to an almost unparalleled extent from the dreadful devastations of yellow fever. At this calamitous period the whole city was thrown into wild disorder, business for a time was entirely suspended, while many of the inhabitants fled from the scourge. The Fellows of the College of Physicians, not wanting in the faithful discharge of their humane duties, were engaged night and day in their attentions to the sick. It is not strange, therefore, that the affairs of

their new organization should have met with a temporary check. The consequence proved that the further publication of its transactions was for a long time suspended.

During the long interval, however, which elapsed between the suspension and final resumption of its transactions, the College was not entirely idle. It did service by its example in preserving both moral and professional dignity. It enjoyed a large share of public confidence. At various times, "through the governor of the commonwealth and other civil authorities, including the board of health, on the occurrence of alarming epidemics, and upon important questions of medical jurisprudence," it was referred to as authority. Besides, it published, towards the close of the last and the beginning of the present century, a number of fugitive articles. Of these, the three papers, two, on yellow fever, its nature and origin; and the third, the proceedings of the College relative to the prevention, introduction, and spread of contagious diseases, deserve special notice. They involve subjects of great interest and importance, not only as relates to the profession, but to the community at large, when we remember to what an appalling degree Philadelphia has suffered from fatal epidemics in times past.

The last of these publications made its appearance in 1806. From that period onward until 1841 the literary wheels of the College of Physicians were almost at a stand still, while the vitality of the body itself enjoyed but little animation. In June of that year the subject of publishing a bulletin of its transactions was renewed, with the hope of reviving "that spirit by which it was actuated in its earliest years; to encourage the number and value of the communications of its Fellows; to prompt to a more punctual attendance, and to insure to the institution, by more fully deserving it, that prominent place in the public respect and confidence to which it has heretofore been deemed entitled."[1]

The committee to whom the matter was referred reported in favor of issuing a quarterly periodical. Since which time its printed transactions have regularly appeared, containing many papers that are highly esteemed, both in a practical and historical light.

If these contributions are not beacon lights in science, nor of a character to be judged by the nicest standard of the rhetorician, they are offerings of men of acknowledged talents, industry, observation, and experience in the practice of medicine. As such they must ever meet with approval by the profession.

As early as the year 1794, a proposition was laid before the Assembly of Pennsylvania to regulate the practice of medicine in the State.

[1] Trans. College of Physicians, vol. i. p. 2.

Whether this movement originated among the Fellows of the College or not, we have no reliable information. The record furnishes the fact, that at the stated meeting in March of the same year, the subject was introduced and discussed, resulting in the following recommendation :—

"That all persons, except graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, who are to be licensed as practitioners of medicine in this State, should be examined in the city of Philadelphia, by persons appointed by the College of Physicians, out of their body, and that the penalty of non-compliance with the law should be considerable."

A committee was also appointed to meet a committee of the Assembly, and convey to them the sentiments of the College.

At that early period, however, as in all subsequent years, appeals to awaken legislative attention to the necessity of enacting laws for protecting the health of citizens from the evils of rank empiricism, have invariably proved unsuccessful. At the same time it must be confessed, that in those States in which legal restrictions, by express statute laws, were placed upon charlatanism, the results have not been entirely satisfactory; indeed, in many of them, where laws once prevailed regulating the practice of medicine, they have been repealed, either through the unceasing expostulations of empirical practitioners, and those who have unwittingly surrendered themselves to the unscrupulous claims of every boasted system of quackery, whose vaunted rights and privileges are set forth as being interfered with, or, as in Massachusetts, in accordance with the wishes of the greater number of the members of the State Medical Society.

The secret of all this imperfection in the halls of legislation lies in the fact, that "the honorable character of a liberal profession is appreciated only by the truly educated and enlightened portion of the community. The masses look upon the practice of medicine and the routine of ordinary trade with equal eye, and the all-powerful dollar is regulated by them as almost the chief object of the physician."[1]

Hence the numerical strength of the unenlightened masses is in the ascendant in the halls of legislation, the popular or political voice carrying the law, so that the dignity of the science of medicine is prostrated to the credulity of the uneducated and prejudiced legislator, and given over to the derision of those who are carried away with every silly hypothesis, with a conceited love for the marvellous and the cunning imposture of the empiric.

If we would effectually overcome the evils from which our profession suffers, arising from the ever increasing assumptions of charlatanism, and the detraction and calumny of its unstable, novelty-seeking accom-

[1] Taylor's Address N. J. State Society, p. 4.

plices, we must not hope to secure the remedy through legislative action, but rather in being true to ourselves. This can be obtained by a thorough culture of medicine, of cognate literature and science, and by a strict adherence to the code of ethics, as promulgated by the American Medical Association. Then, and not until then, shall we rise above the disadvantages, resulting from the absence of legal restraints against the inroads that are continually being made to retard the progress of medicine.

By pursuing steadily this course of action our profession will take its place above the reach of detraction, be secure from the great injustice done it through the popular errors of the day, and the time will arrive when we shall fully realize the declaration of the Son of Sirach, that "the skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration."

Among the founders of the College of Physicians were those who have been deservedly represented as "a class of men, combining in a rare degree the science and learning of the medical philosopher with the virtue and benevolence of the Christian."

They who have been at all familiar with the names of Redman, Shippen, Morgan, Jones, Rush, Hutchinson, and others, twenty-seven in number, who constituted the body corporate of this venerable institution, will cheerfully concur in the above beautiful eulogistic sentiment, offered on the occasion of the death of one of the original Fellows. This galaxy of names may be always looked on with charmed eyes by our profession, as worthy both of our admiration and our gratitude. Devoted throughout their lives to the advancement of medical science, many of them were also distinguished for their prominent activity, not only in the organization, but for their zealous support "of various public charities now flourishing, of which our city may justly be proud."

In admiring the character of the founders of the College, we have no hesitation in believing that a brief encomium upon a few of them will not be unacceptable on the present occasion. It will serve to revive the memory of some, and inform others of the rare deeds and virtues of these benefactors of mankind. Men whose public and private example have given a proud character to the profession of our State, and occupy an enviable position in the memories of the past. Their names will be cherished and revered through all time, by those who shall follow us on the stage of professional activity, and by future historians of medical science in Pennsylvania.

Dr. John Redman, the first President of the College, was born in this city in the year 1722, and received his education at what was then popularly known as the "Log College," located near the Forks of the

Neshaming, Warminster Township, Bucks County, near Hartsville, Pa., under the instruction of that celebrated divine, Rev. William Tennent, whose school was the *alma mater* of the chief scholars of that early day in this State, and where no doubt he imbibed those religious principles for which he was ever after distinguished. On the completion of his elementary education, and according to the custom of the day, he was bound an apprentice to Dr. John Kearsley, a distinguished English surgeon and a man of austere manners, who came to this country in 1711, with whom he served seven years to learn the science and art of medicine.

At the end of his apprenticeship he emigrated to the Island of Bermuda, practised medicine there for several years, then went to Europe and completed his studies, graduating at Leyden on the 15th of July, 1748, under the celebrated Albinus, Gaubius, and Musschenbrock. His thesis was "Abortion," a subject which he is said to have handled with great learning and ingenuity.

The concluding passage of this essay indicated the religious tendency of his mind, and was couched in these devotional words: "God grant that my studies and labors may be directed to the glory of His name, and to the welfare of my neighbors."

Receiving the highest honors abroad he returned to Philadelphia, and soon became celebrated as a practitioner. He was one of the six physicians elected to the Pennsylvania Hospital, upon its establishment in 1751, serving it for a period of twenty-eight years and six months. In 1778 he was chosen the first President of the College of Physicians, and continued to fill that honorable office until his death.

The character of Dr. Redman as a physician was said to have been without reproach. "To the sick," says his biographer,[1] "he was faithful, and in the sick room exhibited virtues and talents peculiarly adapted to the occasion; while his professional fame received increased lustre from his domestic and religious habits. His soothing manner would often suspend pain, or chase it away by his pleasant and agreeable conversation." He was often facetious; Watson, in his *Annals of Philadelphia*, relates the following anecdote of him: "He was so well known that in his rambles about town, he would step in without ceremony at the first public office which presented itself to his view, and seating himself at a writing desk or table, nodding pleasantly to some one present, commence writing. One day, while thus engaged, he was suddenly addressed by a forward intruder, who evidently wanted medical advice gratis. Finding himself thus unceremoniously interrupted, the Doctor lifted the corner of his wig, and desired the person to repeat his

[1] John R. Coxe, M. D.

question, which he did as follows: 'What would you advise for a pain in the breast?' The wig was as suddenly dropped to its proper place, and appearing to study a moment, he replied: 'Oh! ay—I will tell you, my good friend—the very best thing you can do, is to consult your physician!' and went on writing."

The same author describes the appearance of this truly "old school" physician in the following quaint language: "Dr. Redman lived next door to Dr. Ustick's Baptist meeting-house, in Second below Arch Street. He was known as an antiquated looking gentleman, wearing a buttoned up broad skirted dark coat, with long pocket flaps; and in strict conformity with the cut of the coat, having on a pair of Baron Steuben's military shaped boots, reaching above the knees, for riding; his three cornered hat (covering a full bottomed powdered wig), in the front of which might be seen an eagle-pointed nose, separating a pair of piercing black eyes. As thus described he was to be seen almost daily in fair weather, mounted on a short, fat, black, switched-tail horse, riding for his amusement and exercise in a brisk canter through the streets and suburbs."[1]

His attachment to his family was remarkable, as the following circumstance evinces, furnishing also an additional evidence of his piety. At the funeral of his brother, just before the coffin lid concealed his remains forever from their sight, he rose, and grasping the cold and lifeless hand, turned to the children and other friends, saying: "I declare, in the presence of God and this company, that in the whole course of our lives no angry word or look has ever passed between this dear brother and myself;" then kneeling by the side of the coffin, offered up a fervent prayer.

The evening of the Doctor's life was said to have been the meridian of his piety. The infirmities of age wearing upon him, he retired from practice and devoted the remainder of his days to religious pursuits. He was an elder of the Second Presbyterian Church, a humble and devoted Christian, his conversation was pleasant, and always seasoned with the grace of the gospel. He was accustomed to speak in familiar terms of his own death with much composure, as if going on a journey, and always lamented his slender attainments in religion.

A few months after the death of his wife, with whom he had lived happily nearly sixty-three years, his health failed him, and on the 18th of March, 1806, while on a visit to his grandson, he was suddenly attacked with apoplexy, and expired the following day.

Dr. Redman's principles in medicine were derived from the writings of Boerhaave, but he practised by the rules of Sydenham. He was a

[1] Watson's Annals, vol. ii. p. 382.

decided friend to depletion by the lancet, in all violent diseases of this country. He bled freely in yellow fever. In the diseases of old age he advised small and frequent bleedings. In chronic diseases he was an advocate for mercury, and administered it in smallpox. In 1759 he published a defence of inoculation. In 1764 he introduced the use of Turpeth mineral as an emetic in gangrenous sore throat, and with great success.

In his fortieth year Dr. Redman had an attack of inflammation of the liver, terminating in an abscess, the contents of which were discharged by expectoration through his lungs. He was frequently laid by from acute diseases, and suffered from rheumatism as he advanced in life.

The first Vice-President of the College of Physicians was Dr. John Jones, the son of a physician, Evan Jones, who practised medicine in Lower Merion, near Philadelphia, and subsequently removed to Jamaica, Long Island, where the subject of this narrative was born in 1729.

Dr. Jones received his education chiefly at a private school, in New York. Inclining to the study of medicine, he was placed under the instruction of Dr. Thomas Cadwallader, an eminent physician of this city. Having finished his preparatory studies, he visited Europe to complete his medical education, and graduated at Rheims in 1751. Returning home he settled in New York, became eminent as an anatomist and surgeon, and was the first to perform the operation of lithotomy in that city.

In 1755, during the war between France and the Colonies, Dr. Jones entered the service as a volunteer surgeon, and served throughout the campaign with great reputation. At the close of this war he returned to New York, and upon the organization of a medical school was appointed professor of surgery. In 1776 he published a work, "Plain Remarks upon Wounds and Fractures," which proved of great service during the revolutionary war.

In the cultivation of the science of medicine Dr. Jones exhibited an honorable ambition, soaring far above that selfish course pursued by those only who study their profession, just in proportion to its pecuniary emoluments. He was also as independent in mind as he was distinguished for zeal in the acquisition of useful knowledge. As an instance of his independent spirit and total disregard for fame or the opinion of others, when honorable principles and true dignity of character were the sacrifice, it is related, that soon after he commenced practice in New York, the medical fraternity resolved to wear their hair in a particular kind of bob, to distinguish them from other citizens. This weak artifice the Doctor strongly opposed as unworthy the members of a liberal

profession, and positively declined the badge of distinction. Refusing to conform to this silly project excluded him from professional intercourse with his weak-minded brethren, who declined consultation with him. This spirit of revenge, however, failed of its purpose. Instead of injuring him in the esteem of his fellow citizens, it commanded their highest respect for his good judgment; while it heaped ridicule and contempt upon his adversaries, who strutted for a while in their new exclusive bobs, but were ultimately compelled to abandon so degrading an effort to win attention and respect.

Dr. Jones gave up an extensive and lucrative business at the commencement of the revolutionary troubles, and espoused the cause of freedom. He left the city when the British took possession of it, and entered the medical department of the American army; but the delicacy of his health from asthma soon obliged him to retire from the service.

He settled in this city in 1779. Here also his success in practice was equal to that he had enjoyed in New York. In the following year he was elected one of the physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital, in the place of Dr. Redman, who resigned on account of the infirmities of age. The same year he was chosen President of the Humane Society. In 1786, upon the establishment of the Philadelphia Dispensary, he was appointed a consulting physician.

He was the intimate friend and physician of Dr. Franklin, and attended him in his last illness. He wrote an account of the last hours of this great philosopher and American statesman, refuting the charge that he disbelieved in a future state of existence. He was also the family physician of General Washington, during the residence of the "father of his country" in Philadelphia.

While in the enjoyment of an extensive practice and the fullest confidence of his fellow citizens, he was suddenly arrested by the hand of death. On the 17th of June, 1791, he visited General Washington. It was late in the evening when he returned home, and, not being prepared for a sudden change in the weather, he took cold. His indisposition prostrated him, and on the 23d of the same month he calmly passed away, as if in a quiet sleep, in the sixty-third year of his age.

It is no small proof of the intellectual powers of mind and the unbending integrity of character possessed by Dr. Jones, when it is said of him that "he owed his fame and reputation neither to powerful friends, nor to any of those lucky circumstances, which, exclusive of abilities, so frequently determine the fortune of physicians, but solely to merit;" and on this alone he depended for a continuance of the esteem and support in his profession. In manners he was dignified but polite, and at all times easy of access; in conversation he was interesting, with an easy flow of unstudied language, often enlivened by a

sprightliness and vein of wit that attracted attention. As a surgeon he stood at the head of the profession in this country, and it is recorded of him that "he may be deservedly considered as the chief instrument in effecting the remarkable revolution in that branch of the healing art which is now so apparent, by substituting plain and simple rules for former complicated modes of practice."

Another of the original officers of the College of Physicians, and who took an active part in its organization, was Dr. James Hutchinson, its first Recording Secretary.

He was born in Bucks County, January 29, 1752, and was the son of a respectable farmer, belonging to the Society of Friends. He completed a collegiate course in the Philadelphia College, and received the first honor upon taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts. He commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Cadwallader Evans, an esteemed physician of Philadelphia, and in 1774 the Trustees of the Medical College presented him with a gold medal as a testimonial of his attainments, more especially in chemistry. He soon after went to London, and finished his studies under the kind and instructive guidance of Dr. John Fothergill.

The political events of 1775, which resulted in a contest between England and the American Colonies, fired him with the spirit of patriotism, and he hastened home to espouse the American cause.

Returning by the way of France, he became the bearer of dispatches from the American minister, Dr. Franklin, to the United States Congress. Nearing the American coast, the ship in which he sailed was chased by a British armed cruiser, and anxious to secure the papers intrusted to him he left the vessel in an open boat, under a heavy fire from the enemy, reached the shore in safety, and succeeded in saving his dispatches. The ship was captured, and he lost a valuable medical library, collected abroad, together with all he had on board.

Immediately after his arrival he joined the American army as surgeon, took an active part in the struggle for freedom, was appointed surgeon-general, and became an intimate and confidential friend of the leading men of the revolution, and was often called to the head-quarters of Washington, on subjects relative to the medical department of the army.

This position in the army had almost caused him the loss of his birthright in the Friends' Society; but a letter from Dr. Fothergill, who had advised his course, saved him that mortification.

At the close of the revolutionary war Dr. Hutchinson held numerous important trusts of a scientific, social, and medical character. He was a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania; was subsequently elected

the Professor of Materia Medica and Chemistry in that Institution, and upon the union of the Philadelphia College with the University, and the inauguration of a new faculty, he was elected Professor of Chemistry. He was one of the Committee of Safety after the evacuation of the city by the British; a member of the Philosophical Society; surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and Port Physician, which places he held at the time of his death.

During the yellow fever of 1793 his professional exertions were untiring. Day and night found him in the discharge of his active duties. But in the midst of his philanthropic labors, while on the high road to eminence, his strength gave way, and he suddenly fell a victim to the pestilence, on the 5th of September, 1793, in the forty-first year of his age. He was deservedly esteemed for his professional worth and his unquestioned talents, added to his winning address and popular manners.

There are other names familiar to some now present, clustering around the origin and early history of the College of Physicians, beside the three original officers whose career I have sketched. Their labors and unselfish devotion were eminently designed to enrich its history, and to shed lustre upon the profession of our State. It would be a pleasant task, did time allow, to place their pictures before you. I must not, however, omit the introduction of two of these venerable names—Morgan and Shippen—intimately connected as they are, not only with the history of the College of Physicians, but with the origin of the first medical school on this side the Atlantic. To both of them is equally appropriate the following sentiment of their distinguished contemporary, Dr. Benjamin Rush, in reference to the former:—

"The historian who shall hereafter relate the progress of medical science in America, will be deficient in candor and justice if he does not connect the name of Dr. John Morgan with that auspicious era, in which medicine was first taught and studied as a science in this country."[1]

Drs. William Shippen and John Morgan, American medical patriarchs and public benefactors, were members of the College of Physicians at its origin. It is, however, as the founders and fosterers of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, that their great and venerable names come before us in boldest relief, and invoke a train of thoughts and reflections in the minds of many now present, who were educated in that school, and which to this day continues to give out its stores of medical learning for the benefit of successive generations.

[1] Rush's Eulogium, p. 411, Chap. Journ., vol. i.

These two illustrious sons of worthy sires were born in the same year, 1736, in this city, and received the rudiments of their classical education at the private seminary of the Rev. Dr. Finley, in Nottingham, Chester County, Pa. Dr. Shippen spent three years in this city, as a student of medicine in the office of his father, and when in his twenty-first year, in 1757, embarked for Europe to perfect his medical education, residing, while in London, in the family of John Hunter, under whose instructions, and that of his brother, Dr. Wm. Hunter, young Shippen enjoyed rare advantages in the study of anatomy and midwifery. He graduated at Edinburgh.

Dr. Morgan entered upon the study of medicine in 1757, with Dr. John Redman. Completing his studies, he joined the provincial army in the French war. Here he distinguished himself as a surgeon and humanitarian, so that it was said of him, "if it were possible for any man to merit heaven by his good works, Dr. Morgan would deserve it for his faithful attendance upon his patients." In 1760 he left the army, and sailed for Europe to prosecute his medical studies. Following the example of his friend Shippen, he attended the anatomical lectures of Dr. Hunter, and then graduated at Edinburgh.

It was during the residence of these two young American students abroad, that they conceived the idea and formed the plan of establishing a medical school in this city. In this enterprise they were no doubt encouraged by their friend and councillor, Dr. John Fothergill, of London, who, in a letter dated April, 1762, to James Pemberton, on the occasion of sending his anatomical paintings to the Pennsylvania Hospital, said that he expected Shippen would explain the drawings and give lectures; "that he is well qualified; that he will soon be followed by an able assistant, Dr. John Morgan, and that if countenanced by the Legislature they will be very useful and erect a school of medicine." In the autumn of that year, 1762, Dr. Shippen gave his first course of lectures on anatomy to a class of twelve students. The introductory was delivered in one of the large rooms of the State House, now the Independence Hall. In this lecture, he announced his belief that a medical school should be founded, and that it was practicable. The advertisement of his lectures appeared in the public papers, and read as follows:—

"Dr. William Shippen's anatomical lectures will begin to-morrow evening, at his father's house, in Fourth Street above Market. Tickets for the course at five pistoles each. Gentlemen who incline to see the subject prepared for the lectures, and to learn the art of dissecting, injecting, etc., are to pay five pistoles additional."

In 1765 Dr. John Morgan returned to his native city loaded with literary and professional honors, and was received with open arms, as

one who had worthily represented and advanced the American character in Europe. He was regarded as somewhat original among the citizens, and as possessing many of the "eccentricities of genius." He was the first man that offered to carry a silk umbrella, and was the first physician to introduce the practice of sending prescriptions to the druggists.

Soon after his arrival, he laid before the Trustees of the Philadelphia College a plan for the appointment of medical professorships in that institution. The Trustees saw the importance of the suggestion, and, approving the plan, immediately appointed him to the chair of the theory and practice of medicine, and Dr. Shippen professor of anatomy and surgery.

Such was the beginning of the first medical school on this side of the Atlantic, and one "which has been so long scattering its fruit," and these the men who were its illustrious founders, and whose names will ever be cherished and will enrich the pages of medical history in this country, "so long as its inhabitants shall be subject to physical infirmities, and the healing art be deemed worthy of cultivation."[1]

Thus, gentlemen, I have occupied the time allowed me, by offering a few reminiscences of the past, that seemed to be appropriate for the place we occupy for the first time, and the circumstances by which we are surrounded.

But while speaking as I have done in terms of fitting eulogy of the worthy dead of a former century, I am reminded that there is sorrow mingled with the greetings that open our present session. Death has been among us, and the grave has very recently closed over two of our delegates, both of whom were honored Fellows of the College of Physicians, and both of whom we anticipated meeting on this occasion.

The one, Professor Franklin Bache, descended to the tomb full of years and honors, but still laboring to the last in the harness of his profession. You all knew his eminence in the field of science, for which his peculiar talent eminently qualified him. It is for us, his associates and friends in his native city, to speak of his rare social qualities and domestic virtues; his nice sense of justice, tempered by amenity and kindness. He has left behind him a literary monument that will outlast marble or bronze.

The other, Professor Robert P. Thomas, fell in the prime and vigor of his days. With an enthusiastic love for his profession, and a mind richly stored with learning, he still thirsted for improvement. He had

[1] Dr. Wood's Address, March 26, 1836.

already distinguished himself in scientific pursuits; and as an able and devoted lecturer, as well as practitioner, he gave much promise for the future.

Gentlemen, our departed brethren have bequeathed to us a noble example. In all the relations of life they were exemplary. In their professional pursuits, and as teachers of medicine, they have earned for themselves an enviable reputation.

As we deposit their earthly remains in the consecrated vault, and drop a tear to their memory, let us endeavor to catch the spirit which inspired them in their profession, remembering that—

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We may make our own sublime;
And departing, leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time."