

Our lecture room : a lecture introductory to the thirteenth annual course of lectures and evening entertainments at the Pennyslvania Hospital for the Insane, at Philadelphia / by Edward A. Smith.

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Smith (E. A.)

OUR LECTURE ROOM.

A

LECTURE INTRODUCTORY

TO THE

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL COURSE

OF

Lectures and Evening Entertainments

AT THE

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

AT PHILADELPHIA.

BY

EDWARD A. SMITH, M. D.,

ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN.

Published by Request of the Class.

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1857.

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OUR LECTURE ROOM.

The winter campaign has opened.—SALMAGUNDI.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—

THE Thirteenth Annual Course of Lectures and Evening Entertainments in this Institution begins with this evening. During the past three months, our good mother Nature has opened her bounteous stores, and has invited us freely to enjoy them. She commanded the sun to return from his annual labors, and to melt the icy fetters which retained the birds, the trees, and the flowers. First, the tiny crocus raised its jewelled head; then the blue bird and the robin peered into our windows; and as the foliage expanded, other birds and flowers came to ask a welcome: until, last June, when we bid adieu to "Our Lecture Room," the whole air was redolent with the perfume of beauty, and all space was reverberating with joyous melody.

But a change has come. The season has grown old and withered. The flowers have shed their wondrous beauty. The feathered tribes have hushed their song, and are preparing their departure. The sun, having performed his duty, is taking his farewell. And all things show the "sere and yellow leaf."

Yet no complaints, for truly Nature is a good mother, and we do well if we follow her precepts and example. Does she not give us all in succession—each in its turn—so

that we never tire? Does not the "calm, still night" follow the busy day? Does not the spring come, the summer, the autumn, and then the winter? And has not each its peculiar charms? When her "repertoire" has all been gone over, she transfers it to another clime, and there gladdens other hearts, as ours have been, leaving us to prepare for still greater enjoyments upon her return.

Thus is the great miracle of nature annually performed for us, so silently and quietly, that the operation has been termed the "music of the spheres," an idea so beautifully expressed by Shakspeare—

There's not the smallest orb which thou beholdest,
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim.
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close us in, we cannot hear it.

Nature, then, has shown us her treasures; has ordered the sun, her agent, to unfold them to another portion of our globe; and gently admonishes us to wrap our mantles around, for the winter is coming. Can we do better than to recall the principles of her operations, or to enjoy what other minds, by their study of them have developed? Would we appreciate a fine painting, a piece of sculpture, or a splendid piece of workmanship of any kind, do we not first of all learn or at least understand the art which formed them? For then we see for ourselves the mind and work of the great artist; not taking up with the thoughts of others. Therefore, during the coming season, we shall call your attention to what, in the fields of science and its results shall, within our power, afford interest, amusement, and instruction. The entertainments in "Our Lecture Room" will be

on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings of each week, during a period of nine months. On Monday and Thursday evenings there will be an exhibition of dissolving views, with descriptive lectures and music, each picture being from fifteen to twenty feet in diameter, and thrown upon the opposite wall by the hydro-oxygen apparatus; and on Saturday evening, an experimental lecture. These, of course, will be varied by concerts and other lectures, as our numerous friends come to our aid.

Perhaps, upon this evening, it may not be without interest, that we trace the origin of "Our Lecture Room," its progress, and how we came to be here. Indeed, it is a duty we owe, not only to ourselves, but to that society which gave its zeal and funds to a "great social want," to know from whence our benefits are derived.

We all have, no doubt, read many times the answer of Christ to the lawyer, who asked him, "And who is my neighbor?" How a certain man fell among thieves, who robbed him, and then left him lying half dead, by the roadside; how various persons passed by without rendering the slightest assistance; how a Samaritan had compassion, went and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, brought him to an inn, took care of him; and how on the morrow, when he departed, he took out two pence, gave them to the host, saying, "Take care of him, and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again I will repay thee." This definition of "And who is my neighbor," is the motto of an institution founded in the year 1751, by "the benevolent citizens of Philadelphia," and called the Pennsylvania Hospital, being intended for the relief of the sick and insane.

In reading over the records of the origin and progress of

this Hospital, no feature is more pleasing and ennobling than the zeal and practical interest manifested. We find that "tradesmen and mechanics, and even common workmen, deducted something from their prices or wages for the common cause;" that at one of the sermons of the celebrated Whitfield, £170 were collected; and that a subscription set on foot among the "rich widows and single women," supplied medicines for a time. Franklin, too, who so quietly enticed the thunderbolts of Jupiter to wreath a halo around his name, in the same unsuspecting manner appropriated the vagrant pennies to this noble purpose. He caused twelve tin boxes to be made, one of which was kept at the house of each manager. "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves," said Poor Richard; and these boxes, small as they were, added something to the funds.

At first, a small house, in Market Street, was made use of as a temporary Hospital. Here, the long cherished plans were put in operation and matured. In 1755, the cornerstone of the building, now occupied and surrounded by 8th and 9th and Spruce and Pine Streets, was laid; and in 1756, the first patients were admitted. But they were not permitted to go on without some trials, for we read that during those times when every man's patriotism was put to the test; when the British army were in Philadelphia, they took possession of its wards, appropriated the bedding, medicines, and all to their own uses. Soon, however, peace dawned upon this country, and good-will came to its people. The Hospital was restored, and then it was that Rush, and other enlightened minds, inaugurated some of those views which

have since been so fully carried out in our day by one who this evening sits with us.

At that time, Philadelphia contained only 30,000 inhabitants. The city and its wants grew apace. The Hospital building was enlarged. Still more room was demanded. And it was finally determined that the department devoted to the Insane should be removed to a more suitable locality.

In January, 1841, the house we now occupy was opened, and Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride welcomed the first patient.

The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane was ushered into being with a building of a construction the best in the country, and nature honored it with many of her beauties. Upon this solid foundation, whatever accomplishes good, and whatever has been and is conducive to comfort and happiness, amelioration or restoration, in this, the seventeenth year of its existence, has gradually been laid. Means of diversion and amusement have ever been a prominent object here, and year by year has been developed a plan, no where so fully carried into effect as in this institution. We have our grounds with their many appointments, our museums, and "Our Lecture Room." True, we have become accustomed to all this, and look upon it as a matter of course. Nay, perhaps unthinkingly drop a word of indifference; but could we look back to the beginning, or imagine our condition without them, our hearts would bless the instruments of so much benefit, and also those, who so freely have given to and cherished their foundation and development. Those who have seen and read of other things—the days of the cell, the prison, and the lash—"when the eye was offended by rags and filth, the ear wounded by yells, screams, and imprecations, and the heart pained by

images of despair," will always "thank Heaven that they have been permitted to live in these times." Surely, this contrast ought to increase our ideas of the reverence due to the dignity of human nature, and of what we owe to our neighbor.

In the Physician's Report to the Board of Managers of this Hospital for 1844, may be found the following:—

"Throughout the past and previous winter, we have frequently used during the evening for the same purpose, a very fine magic lantern." Again, "I have recently made arrangements for a short series of valuable and interesting lectures by an enthusiastic naturalist, upon subjects partly demonstrative and otherwise likely to engage the attention and excite the interest of the patients."

Here then we find the origin of our dissolving views, and during this year, 1844, was planted the germ of a course of lectures, which expanded and matured a beautiful flower, the following season, 1845-6. One of the large rooms on the first floor of the centre building, 36 × 20 feet, with a ceiling near nineteen feet high, was fitted up with a stage, seats, and other fixtures for a lecture room, a beginning was made towards a collection of apparatus and illustrations, and on two evenings of every week an audience of about one hundred persons of both sexes was assembled. These lectures were received with unqualified approbation, and were looked forward to with pleasure. Dr. John Curwen, who now so successfully administers the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, at Harrisburg, was at that time the assistant physician, and delivered this regular course. He it was, that, by devoting his time and persevering energy, made the experiment successful. Dr. Curwen gave thirty

lectures; Dr. Reynell Coates, before alluded to as "an enthusiastic naturalist," ten; Frederick A. Packard, Esq., one; Dr. Isaac Parrish, one; and Prof. J. S. Hart, one; making in all forty-three lectures.

It will not, I am sure, be misplaced to notice, during this year, 1846, the advent of one now absent at her home in Scotland. All, I am safe in saying, who have heard her broad and cheering Scotch, "Gude morning—'tis no good to be sitting there with your own thoughts for company—come awa'," but will be glad to give her a welcome back.

Each year saw "Our Lecture Room" and the various amusements become more and more firmly established. In 1846-7, the course of lectures was extended. Dr. Curwen gave fifty, Frederick A. Packard, Esq., Prof. John C. Cresson, and Prof. Henry Reed, one each.

In 1847-8, Dr. Curwen delivered forty-seven lectures; F. A. Packard, Esq., two; Prof. James Rhoads, two; Prof. Henry S. Patterson and Townsend Sharpless, each one, and Dr. James J. Levick, four. During this and the previous years, the exhibitions with the magic lantern were regularly continued and with increasing interest.

The year 1848 was an important one for all. For a long time a museum and reading room had been hoped for. Many curiosities had been contributed, from time to time, and these, together with books, periodicals, papers, and engravings, seemed to require a suitable place for properly arranging them. But the state of the finances would not allow of any such expenditure. "However, several of the patients, aided by individuals otherwise connected with the institution, were not disposed to let the subject rest, and of their own accord commenced soliciting subscriptions in

small amounts, for the purpose of putting up the building without any cost to the hospital." Success resulted from their exertions, and what is now known as the Ladies' Museum, or South Reading Room, began in August, 1848, finished and opened for use on the 23d of December, was presented, on behalf of the contributors, December 25th, "as a Christmas offering" to the hospital, "as an indication of their good feelings towards the institution, and as some evidence of their appreciation of its benevolent character and great usefulness." The opening of the room was duly celebrated by a general holiday, and in the evening Dr. James J. Levick delivered an address upon the "History and use of Museums."

Upon looking over the list of contributors, many of the names I find are known to me and some are seated in this "Our Lecture Room" upon the present occasion. As they look upon what they have accomplished, it would not be in humanity were they not conscious of no small degree of pride.

A suitable place was now completed, and liberal contributions soon made the Ladies' Museum a most attractive place. The fine collection of birds, since purchased by the hospital, was originally deposited by Dr. John Curwen; Samuel Breck, Esq., gave us the beautiful casts of Trilobites; Jacob G. Morris, Dr. C. W. Pennock, Wm. S. Vaux, and others, shells and minerals; Ferdinand Dreer and George Earp, minerals and birds; C. C. Biddle, Dr. Wm. Darlington, and William Chapin, books; and many others, who will never be forgotten, gave to the "New Museum and Reading Room."

The last course of lectures given by Dr. John Curwen was in 1848 and '9, when he resigned, having filled the post of

assistant physician for more than five years. This course consisted of

17 Lectures on American Ornithology.

9	"	"	Astronomy.
3	"	"	Electricity.
8	"	"	Vegetable Physiology.
2	"	"	Heat.
2	"	"	The Atmosphere.
3	"	"	The Eye and Vision.
2	"	"	The Ear and Acoustics.

46 Lectures.

At this time another feature was introduced into the lecture room. A piano was obtained, and "a portion of the attendants, aided by patients possessing musical skill," formed an association, and taking another evening of each week, gave concerts. So that in this year, 1848-9, three evenings in each week for eight months were devoted to this purpose.

The successor of Dr. Curwen was Dr. Thomas J. Mendenhall, who clung to his station but one year. He delivered no lectures, and left in order to move in a different sphere of medical duty, with the good wishes of all, and is remembered by at least one lady, who does not allow, as Holmes writes—

Silence like a poultice come(s)
To heal the blows of sound.

At the end of the Report of this institution for 1850, a foot-note is seen, informing the reader that "since writing this report, Dr. J. Edwards Lee has been appointed assistant physician." Dr. Lee at once entered upon the duties of the lecture room, and in this year, 1850-51, the course was extended to nine months.

This season was another important era. The ward libraries were established. One person, a restored patient, gave \$100. John Farnum, Joseph D. Brown, and Thomas P. Cope, each \$50; Wharton Chancellor, \$25; and many others contributed money and books, and various curiosities. They all at the time were assured, that "in no other way could the same means have been more useful or more highly appreciated."

The reading-room, erected in 1848, was in daily use until the close of 1851. In the morning the ladies occupied it to the exclusion of the gentlemen, and in the afternoon the gentlemen occupied it to the exclusion of the ladies. This did not completely fill the void, and it was suggested that another be erected for the sole use of the gentlemen. By some magic influence, funds were raised, and on the first centennial anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Hospital the building known as the Gentlemen's Museum or North Reading-room was opened.

In the contribution of funds for this reading-room, do we see another instance of the practical interest manifested in this Hospital, throughout its whole career. This last subscription was started by Solomon W. Roberts, who, with Thomas P. Cope, Joseph D. Brown, H. Pratt McKean, Samuel and William Welsh, James Dundas, George B. Wood, M. D., Jno. A. Brown, J. Pemberton Hutchinson, John Farnum, and Rev. Benjamin Douglass, gave \$100 each, and the heating apparatus, worth \$500, was presented by Morris, Tasker & Morris, all of whom, with those contributing smaller amounts, are ever held in grateful remembrance. The funds contributed amounted to \$2082 49, which was appropriated as follows:—

Building and furniture	\$1,525 71
Library	285 79
Pictures, &c.	70 74
Dioptric lantern and microscope	105 25

In this last expenditure was another advance made towards the improvement of "Our Lecture Room."

This year saw the birth and discontinuance of a weekly illustrated literary newspaper, called "The Entertainer," which, like its predecessor, "The Illuminator," was entirely original, and exclusively from the pens of patients. Much pleasure was diffused by it for several weeks, and much of merit does it contain. It is still preserved.

Richard Coe gave a series of "Readings from the Poets," Signor Blitz brought out Bobby and the Canary birds, and Dr. Lee continued the regular entertainments. Jacob G. Morris deposited ten oil paintings upon the walls, as a nucleus for a collection of pictures. Frederick Brown, besides other important aid to the reading-room, gave a bust of Prof. Wood. Lawrence Lewis, Clement C. Biddle, Mordecai D. Lewis, Wm. McIlhenney, Wm. G. Malin, Thomas Sinclair, John M. Butler, Samuel Sloan, and others, gave books, &c., while several individuals employed in the institution purchased and presented an American panther, finely prepared.

The year 1852 saw no material change or addition to the lecture-room. Dr. Lee had the general charge. Frederick Fraley gave a lecture on the history, manufacture and uses of illuminating gas; Wm. Chapin gave several upon European scenes; and the pupils of the Institution for the Blind cheered by a number of musical performances.

Both Museums and Reading-Rooms received large addi-

tions this year, 1852. Jacob G. Morris deposited the collection of Peruvian and North American Indian Antiquities, and others, whom even to enumerate would hardly be possible on this occasion, gave freely.

The Circular Railway was one of the first of the amusements, and originally was located on the lawn in front. The Gentlemen's Bowling Alley bears the same age. But, for the benefit of the female patients, "a neat structure, 60 x 9 feet in size," was put up in the ladies' pleasure grounds, and, containing an alley for bowling, with other means of exercise, was termed a Calistheneum. Summer houses were built. Mordecai L. Dawson presented a fine collection of pigeons, and a house was erected for them. The fountains were placed upon the lawns, and very much which serves to render our grounds so agreeable was added during this year, 1852.

Another season arrives, and we find that Dr. Lee, in 1853, continues to have the general charge of the entertainments. Frederick A. Packard delivered a lecture on New England; Judge Wm. D. Kelley, one upon Ireland; Wm. Chapin, three upon Europe; and the pupils and officers of the Institution for the Blind, gave "most excellent music." The ward libraries increased in value, as did the museums and reading-rooms.

A carriage road of one mile and three-quarters in length having been made around the grounds, "a well-trained and safe horse was presented to the Hospital, on the condition that, during his natural life, he should be kept solely for the use and amusement of the patients." A neat, light wagon was also purchased. This horse and carriage were used principally by the ladies. The "gentle donkey," presented

by Mr. Borie, now so superannuated and residing in the deer park, performed her daily duty in a miniature omnibus. The proceeds of the Greenhouse, \$265 22, resulting from the sale of black Hamburg grapes, purchased a wagon, sleigh, and a donkey omnibus for the grounds.

The celebrated painting of "Christ Healing the Sick" was also removed to this Institution. This picture was painted expressly as a donation, from and by Sir Benjamin West, to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and no doubt is there, that, through its instrumentality, many have been prompted to liberal deeds, which have aided "in the blessed work of 'healing the sick,' and relieving the unfortunate."

Many of us have gazed long and admiringly upon a painting in the ladies' second ward parlor. For this true counterfeit of nature we are indebted to James B. Ord, the artist, and his father, George Ord, the distinguished naturalist, now President of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. John Farnum, George Ord, Mordecai D. Lewis, Miss D. L. Dix, Clement C. Biddle, and others, too numerous to mention, gave us books, &c. Lawrence Lewis presented an "invoice of Chinese lanterns," and William Welsh, known to us all as the excellent Chairman of that excellent and very useful body, 'the Collecting Committee for the New Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane'—all of whom deserve the gratitude of our entire community for their noble and disinterested labors—loaned us his valuable collection of paintings for the dissolving views. This he continues to do, and to few is our Lecture Room more indebted than to him. These pictures are the very best miniature painting, and of course involving an expenditure which only one whose highest source of happiness is in answering

to his own heart the question, "And who is my neighbor," would indulge.

The year 1854 comes round, and "Our Lecture Room" was rich in additions. The money arising from the Greenhouse, amounting to \$300 20, was appropriated to the purchase of philosophical apparatus for the illustration of the lectures on science. New games were introduced into the wards, and many excellent views for the magic lantern were taken by gentlemen resident with us, and who since have gone on their way rejoicing. Prof. James Rhoads gave two lectures on Civilization; Frederick A. Packard, one on the Common School System of New England; and Wm. Chapin, and his pupils from the Institution for the Blind, again favored the audience. The "practical interest" seemed steadily to increase. Friends came, saw, and were convinced that hardly any amount of money, books, or curiosities could be better contributed. We need not name them all, for "they have their reward." For a piano for the ladies' 5th ward, the ladies thank Mrs. Caroline Pennock. W. F. Langenheim and Jas. W. Queen contributed many of their original views of American and European Scenery for the lantern and stereoscope, and pictures for the museum.

This year, 1854, saw, among many things of good or evil, the loss of the Ocean Steamer Arctic, with all its precious freight. Among the loved and lost was Jacob G. Morris, one of the most active Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital. This Institution will never lose his memory, and those who received his visits personally, and drank in his kind words of comfort, will remember him until all records are wiped from the table of their memories. In the words of one, who devoted a few pages of his report to an interest-

ing notice of him, "the slightest wish made by a patient, especially of the gentler sex, he rarely failed to esteem it a duty to gratify; and it was surprising what an amount of labor he would undergo to enable him to effect it. It differed little with him whether it was to procure a toy for a child, patterns or materials for ladies' fancy work, a piano for a ward, a collection of books for the library, curiosities for the museums, or funds for some greater undertaking, he entered on the task with an equal zeal, and with an earnestness and hearty good-will, which never left a doubt of success. Rarely did he fail in anything he undertook; and his own gratification at such a result quite equalled that of those who were immediately benefited."

"He placed on our walls several valuable oil paintings, and purchased expressly for the Museum a large collection of curiosities; besides making numerous presents of a useful or ornamental character."

The eleventh regular course of lectures and evening entertainments began in 1855, and the whole number of evenings was 132. Dr. J. Edwards Lee gave forty lectures. They were upon the following subjects:—

Construction and Use of the Magic Lantern	. 1
Canada and the Fur Trade 4
Arctic Regions 2
Properties of Matter 1
Motion 1
Gravity 1
Mechanical Powers 1
Levers 1
Electricity 4
Polar Regions and North-West passage	. . 2

Hydrostatics and Hydraulics	2
Electro-Magnetism and Telegraph	4
Pneumatics, 2; Optics, 1; Eye, 1	4
Steam Engine	4
Astronomy, 4; Tides, 1; Aurora Borealis, 1	6
Sir John Franklin, 1; Ornithology, 2	3

Some material improvements were made. The hydro-oxygen light was introduced, which gave a greater degree of brilliancy to the dissolving apparatus. Pictures from 18 to 20 feet in diameter were shown at a focal distance of 34 feet, on a wall at the end of the lecture room.

This was the last course delivered by Dr. J. Edwards Lee, as in April of 1856 his resignation took effect. Under his supervision and skill, all the machinery appertaining to the "winter campaign" arrived at good working order, so that, upon his departure, everything went almost of itself. For which his successor will ever be full of gratitude.

Possessed of a most excellent memory and an intense love for scientific pursuits, Dr. Lee never failed to command the attention and interest of his auditors. By his plain unvarnished mode of communicating his lectures, facts were remembered, and no one ever left the lecture room without feeling the mind enriched; the curiosity awakened to find out more; or receiving some one of those benefits they were intended to convey. At his departure he carried with him the sincere regrets of all. He went to Connecticut, the land of reliable customs and the "land of his fathers," where, in early colonial times, those high-colored "Blue Laws" were in operation.

We know idolatry to be one of the most enormous of Puritanic sins, and therefore a law was enacted with a severe

penalty attached, for the purpose of preventing a man, were he disposed to kiss his wife on Sunday. But the law has now become obsolete. The Dr. had no fear. He seized upon and carried off a "fair daughter" to Wisconsin, where we are informed they now reside, caring for no law save that of mutual harmony.

The course of entertainments went on to its completion, and July of 1856 came, causing us all to desert the lecture room for what makes the

—— "summer gay,
With her green chaplet and ambrosial flowers."

There we found, first of all, "Tom," "the fat and safe," who, for his long and gallant services, in the ladies' grounds, deserves an "honorable mention;" then that "respectable medical gentleman," who now is travelling in Europe, waiting with no little impatience for those intending to ride on horseback the "Jolly Jack," or the "amiable Rolla," deposited by John Welsh; or the "venerable Bucephalus," deposited by S. Morris Waln; and last, but no less important, the Shetland ponies, imported expressly for us, by Samuel Welsh, and for which the benevolent ladies of Philadelphia are duly and daily thanked.

Again, Signor Blitz and the renowned Bobby visited us, and Wm. Welsh loaned us his rare collection of pictures for our dissolving apparatus. A gentleman, who with his family is now on the continent of Europe, Samuel Welsh, laid us under obligations for a never failing source of amusement, an excellent piano, for the ladies' first ward. Of course we fully realize the value of the contributions of the last named gentleman and his excellent colleagues, in our board of management. Yet many that are now here and

many that have gone to their homes and friends, will long remember their various other kind services—their words of hope and cheer, which they know so well how to bestow. Wm. Loyd presented some Stereoscopes for the wards, and F. Langenheim several pictures of American and European scenery on glass and paper. But it would take too much time even to enumerate the indebtedness for the amusements of 1855-6. For the details of all which, in this as in previous years, I would refer to the annual reports of the Institution.

In the concluding remarks of Dr. Kirkbride's Report for 1855, we find that "two valued friends, and most useful managers of this Institution, Clement C. Biddle and Lawrence Lewis, have died and left deep regrets for the loss which the community has sustained in the removal of two of its prominent and best citizens." These men were ever active in procuring additions to the amusements, both for the museums and wards and lecture room.

In 1856 another era dawned upon the history of the Pennsylvania Hospital. On the morning of the 7th of July, our young friend, Joseph John Kirkbride—who might fairly claim the privilege, from being the only one among us who was "to the manor born," and who had all his life lived on the premises—placed in its proper position the first stone of a building which, in our daily rounds, we see rising west of us "like a thing of life;" and on the 1st of October, 1856, the corner-stone was formally laid, by Richard Vaux, Mayor of Philadelphia, by whom, and Mordecai L. Dawson, George B. Wood, M.D., and Morton M'Michael, addresses were delivered, on this interesting occasion, one no doubt well remembered by many now present. This structure is designed

for the male department of this Institution, and is one of those schemes peculiar to Philadelphia. All cities have their shades of difference. One shall have its palatial buildings, another its parks, but in none coming to memory has the motto, "And who is my neighbor," so fully been answered as in this. No ill that has ever been entailed upon mankind, no condition in which the members of the human family may be placed, is there that is not by benevolence provided for.

On the morning of the 12th of August, 1856, William J. Bailly, one who was beloved by many, and respected by all; one who was always an helper in "Our Lecture Room;" and who was instrumental in much enjoyment, followed the hand that always beckons us away. He died with the unnatural hue upon his cheeks,

"Which Autumn plants upon the perished leaf."

The month of October, 1856, inaugurated the Twelfth Annual Course in the Lecture Room. It was continued without interruption, until July of the present year, 1857, when we all sought for our amusement in the grounds. Still, the room we had met in for nine months, was not allowed entirely to pass from our memories. On the evening of the 5th of July, we all assembled to hear an ode—written for the day previous, but owing to the "press of other matter" postponed—by one who has again resumed his professional duties, in Racine, Wisconsin. And very frequently, when the birds had ceased their notes, and were resting for the morrow, would their songs be echoed, either in the room in which we are now assembled, on the lawn, or in the various corners of our house. Thus have our lives passed on in their daily rounds until this evening.

Receive my thanks. You have been good enough to listen to this imperfect sketch, and rest assured, that as we go on, we hope to go on right merrily; that no "money panic" shall disturb our equanimity; that we shall seldom moralize; that we are laughing philosophers; and sincerely believe, with Irving, "Wisdom, true wisdom, to be a jolly old dame and plump, who sits in her arm chair, laughing at life, and takes the world as it goes."



