

Fiftieth anniversary of the Hartford Medical Society, founded September 15, 1846. : proceedings at the celebration, October 26, 1896, at Hartford, Connecticut.

Contributors

Hartford Medical Society.

Publication/Creation

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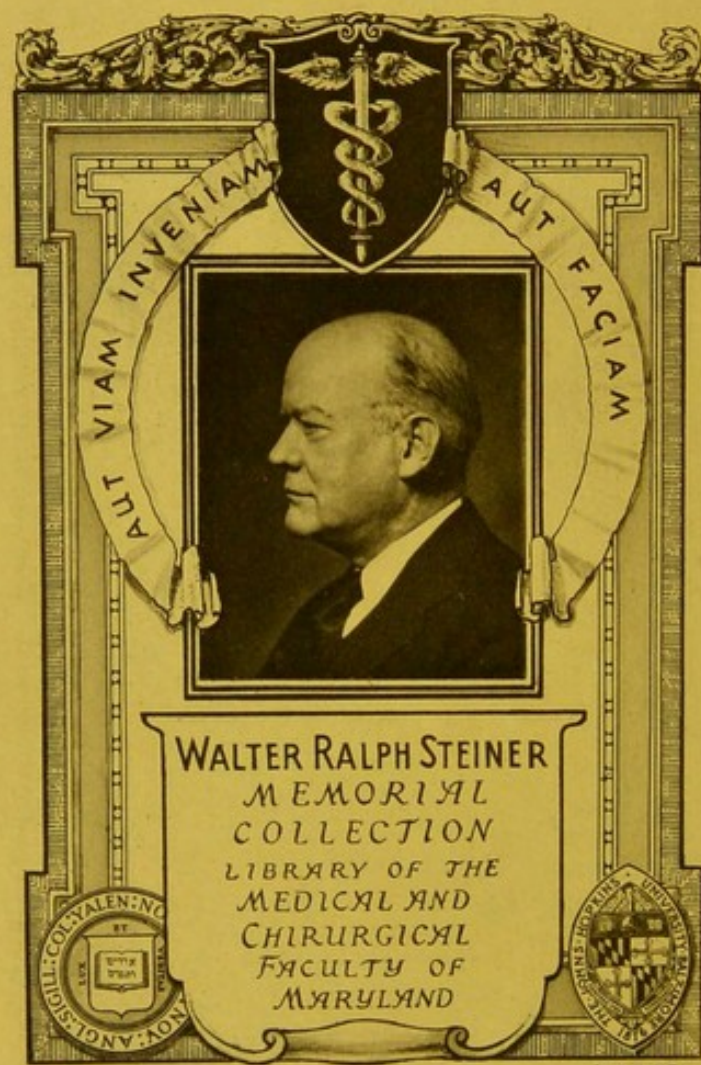
Proceedings
of the
Fiftieth Anniversary
of
The Hartford Medical Society

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E. B. BIRD.



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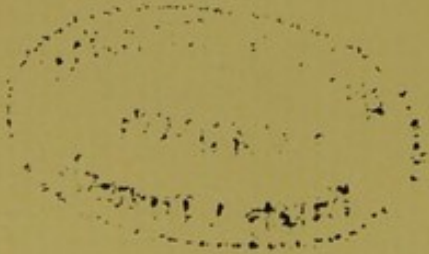




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FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

—OF—

The Hartford Medical Society

Founded September 15, 1846

PROCEEDINGS

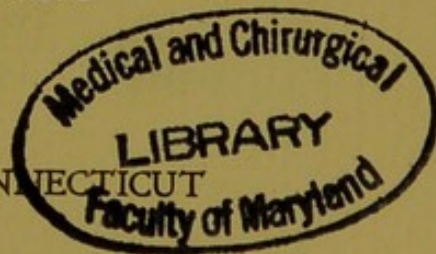
—AT—

❁ THE CELEBRATION ❁

October 26, 1896

—AT—

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



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TRANSCRIPTS FROM MINUTES

—OF—

THE HARTFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

October 7, 1895.

"Upon motion of Dr. Shepherd, it was

"*Voted*, That the president be requested to appoint a committee at the next meeting, to devise a scheme for the proper observation of the fiftieth anniversary of the society."

October 21, 1895.

"President Stearns announced the appointment of Drs. Shepherd, Davis and St. John upon the committee for the semi-centennial of the society."

January 6, 1896.

"The report of the committee on semi-centennial, presented by Dr. Davis, recommending an afternoon meeting with addresses, followed by a banquet in the evening.

"*Voted*, To continue the committee, with power to arrange for the celebration on September 15, 1896."

September 7, 1896.

"It was voted to reconsider the vote of the annual meeting appointing the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary upon September 15th.

"*Voted*, To postpone the celebration to the third Monday in October, the committee being authorized to make the date a week earlier or later."

October 5, 1896.

"*Voted*, To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary upon October 26th, as recommended by the committee of arrangements.

"*Voted*, To leave in the hands of the committee all arrangements respecting the details of the fiftieth anniversary celebration."

PREFACE.

November 16, 1896.

"Voted, That the anniversary committee and the secretary be requested to recommend some means of preserving the proceedings of the fiftieth anniversary."

May 3, 1897.

"The committee on publication reported, recommending the publication of the fiftieth anniversary proceedings in form similar to those of 'The Presentation of the Loving Cup.'"

May 17, 1897.

"Voted, That the committee on publication of the proceedings of the fiftieth anniversary be, and are hereby, authorized to contract for 125 copies of the same, at an expense of not more than \$150.00, and to receive and distribute them."

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| GEORGE R. SHEPHERD, | } Committee on Publication. |
| SAMUEL B. ST. JOHN, | |
| G. PIERREPONT DAVIS, | |
| GIDEON C. SEGUR, | |



Fiftieth Anniversary
of
The Hartford Medical Society



Fraternity Hall, Y. M. C. A. Building

October 26, 1896

"Oh, call back yesterday, bid time return."—King Richard II.

Order of Exercises

At 4 o'clock





- Introductory Remarks by the President . . . M. Storrs
- Historical Address Gurdon W. Russell
- Our Deceased Members and Incidents connected with
the later years of the Society . . . Horace S. Fuller
- "Esprit de corps" Henry P. Stearns
- The Present and Future of The Hartford Medical
Society as suggested by a study of its Funda-
mental Enactments Melancthon Storrs



At 7 o'clock

The Members of the Society, past and present, are requested to assemble
at Hotel Hartford for

DINNER

Officers, 1896



President, MELANCTHON STORRS

Vice-President, G. PIERREPONT DAVIS

Secretary, GIDEON C. SEGUR

Treasurer, CHARLES D. ALTON

Librarian, EDWARD K. ROOT

Censors—GEORGE R. SHEPHERD

WILLIAM T. BACON

PHINEAS H. INGALLS



Anniversary Committee



GEORGE R. SHEPHERD

SAMUEL B. St. JOHN

G. PIERREPONT DAVIS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

BY M. STORRS, PRESIDENT.

Gentlemen, Members of The Hartford Medical Society:

THE suggestion that this society should appropriately commemorate its fiftieth anniversary was met with a hearty response, yet it was decided that this commemoration should be simple and without ceremony. A society having such a long period of prosperity and a bright outlook should quickly respond to honor the men who made such a prosperity possible; therefore, it is the first impulse of our hearts to rise and salute the living founder, to cherish the memory of the dead, and to congratulate and greet one another.

The long period covered by this anniversary will naturally lead our minds along historic lines. We want to know the habits and the lives of the founders; how they looked and what they did for this society and for the public welfare. If we are looking for startling or brilliant history, we shall be disappointed. This society was born in a time of profound peace. It was not the offspring of contending forces, and we have never made ourselves immortal by any brilliant deed or by any great discovery. We were very near, but a little too late, for the grandest discovery of modern times—anæsthesia.

But we need not despair, in so far as we have sought to do our duty and to honor the profession. Such honest endeavors may be worth more to the world and to humanity than those which blind by their dazzling brightness. At any rate, it is along the common pathway of duty and effort that brilliant deeds and epochs of history are evolved. No one can say but that some humble word that he has spoken or some deed done, now slumbering in forgetfulness, may yet appear under conditions in the bright

annals of history. It was a common and insignificant event that happened in the little garden of Woolsthorpe 230 years ago this autumn. But the falling of the apple carried a suggestion to the young philosopher Newton, and, prophet as he was, he caught a glimpse of that principle or law which years after he demonstrated was in the reach of its outgoings as wide as the universe itself. And when to the suggestion was added the certainty of a demonstration, it became immortal, and shone out as a star of the first magnitude in the galaxy of history.

But whatever our history may have been, in the study of it we are confronted with two conditions. It is too near and too remote. Too near for the professional historian. He cares for no living witnesses; he must not be biased either by living friends or foes; his subject may be veiled in oblivion, clouded by conjecture and speculation, but it is his prerogative to tear off the veil, discover and differentiate the facts, weigh the probabilities, and so reveal to the world what seems to be a new creation. On the other hand, too remote, for that which does not belong to the historic period must be considered as belonging to current times and events, and its treatment is reportorial. But no reporter can go very far into the past. His dealings are with the present, nay, he reaches out towards the future. The facts of the past are quickly forgotten. Ask our historians if they could get many facts from living witnesses twenty-five and fifty years ago. So there is a dark belt between current events and history which the historian avoids and the reporter can not explore. But we are not without resources. Some of us have known many or a majority of the founders; we can call them up in memory in all the freshness and fulness of life. Those that we have never seen are known to us by the testimony of others who have known them well, so that we have something of tradition. And all of us in these many years, going up and down these streets and entering the homes that they visited, have often seen their footprints and heard the echo of their voices.

But, better than all, a kind Providence has spared one of the founders to tell us the story. I say a kind Providence, for he is here in sufficient strength of body and in full possession of his mental powers. He seems to me, in '96, much the same as when I joined this society, in '65. He is an historian by nature, perfected by art and practice. He can write history, near or remote; he can penetrate the dark zone without groping his way. No living friend or foe can bias his judgment. I care not what history he writes, whether of the church, state, medicine or biography, he holds a true and inimitable pen. The story that he might tell us to-day, as he looks back over the stadium of fifty years and sees his companions fallen by the way and he alone has reached the goal, might be a plaintive one. It would be so if he had outlived himself. But when a companion has fallen, he has pushed on, finding other companions, and living as a living man with living men, busy every day with his professional, literary and business pursuits, private or public. Many a year may he live, if so be that he does not outlive himself. He has done so much for us historically on former occasions, notably in the centennial year of the state society, contributing 156 pages in our transactions of the colonial period, and of later times has written so often and so fully, that we can not ask him to retrace his steps. It is enough for us, it is enough for history, if he gives us the additional facts and impressions as they come to his memory.

A single thought: Some of you may be thinking that we are having many anniversaries—state and county centennials, and now the semi-centennial of this society. Emerson would, if living, say of us what he said of the American people in regard to their habit of travel. "The American," says he, "has the tapeworm of travel"; so he would say of us Connecticut and Hartford physicians that we have the tapeworm of medical anniversaries. But it is time that the methods or processes of history should be revised. There should be less of exhuming and

excavating, but more of embalming. We must photograph not only the form and the color, but catch the tones of the voice, register every motion and expression, and throw them all upon the canvas for the future. That is what these anniversaries are doing, ascertaining and registering the facts for future use. The historian fifty years from now will have an easier time. Then we trust that history will be true, and sacred because it is true, and the dying statesman will not have occasion again to say, "read not to me of history, for I know that it is wrong."

Now, as the procession of the earlier and later dead will pass in review, not as weird specters, but, touched by the historic wand, living forms, as aforesaid, I ask you to give your earnest and reverent attention, that you may the more worthily honor the founders and be better prepared to take, sooner or later, your place in the line of succession.



HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

BY GURDON W. RUSSELL, M. D.

THERE was no strictly local medical society in Hartford until 1846. The Connecticut Medical Society held annual meetings alternately here and at New Haven, and The Hartford County Medical Association met annually, also. Occasionally a paper was read, subjects were briefly discussed and cases in practice were related. The great interest of the meeting, however, was as much centered in the election of delegates to the state society and in partaking of a social dinner, as in subjects pertaining specially to our profession. It was all very well, and satisfactory as far as it went, but fell short of what many conceived to be dutiful and proper. So there had been, at various times, a desire expressed for the formation of a society which should be composed of the physicians of the city, in which medical subjects should be more thoroughly and frequently discussed, and where we should be more closely brought into social co-operation. Nothing, however, resulted from this, except one or two far apart gatherings, where there was only a general conversation and a very small entertainment.

There had, however, been formed, somewhere about 1826, The Hopkins Medical Society, consisting of certain physicians residing mostly in this county, but not confined to it. This was considered rather exclusive in its character, as the membership was elective and not very numerous. It did comprise, certainly, some of the most learned and skillful members of the profession, and for a term of years was a source of great profit and pleasure to all of them. But, through causes not necessary to be here specified, the association came to an end about 1844, leaving behind it a pleasant recollection of its benefits. So, a few years afterwards, we began to talk about another society; the older physicians very favorably en-

tertained the project, but nothing was done. Finally, Dr. Hawley and I agreed that we would call a meeting for organization, if one of them did not do it himself. When informed of the general feeling, Dr. Sumner complied at once, and a meeting was held at his house on August 27, 1846. There was a general desire for an organization; a committee, consisting of Drs. Sumner, Russell and Hunt, was appointed to prepare a plan and report to a subsequent meeting. This was done, and the plan was accepted on the fifteenth of September, 1846, which, therefore, becomes our natal day, the beginning of our semi-centennial year, in honor of which we have met here to-night.

It is well to mention the statement made as to the object of the society:

“The object of this society is to maintain the practice of medicine and surgery in this city upon a respectable footing; to expose the ignorance and resist the arts of quackery, and to adopt measures for the mutual improvement, pleasant intercourse and common good of its members.”

The meetings were to be held twice in each month, at the residences or offices of the members. As very few kept an office distinct or separate from his house, we assembled there in a very pleasant and social manner. Regular office hours were not held of much account in the evening, and so we met at 7 and usually adjourned by 10 o'clock. The order of business was essentially the same as at present; cases were related, generally very clearly, but occasionally with painful minuteness. As our numbers were small, we could bear with patience whatever every one considered of importance. Then came the discussion of a subject, usually participated in by all, unless there was some miscellaneous business. The refreshment followed, closing with cigars, which good Dr. Beresford always furnished, but never used himself; he was willing to favor the wishes of his guests, and, after the departure of the brethren, opened his doors and windows for a free ventilation of the house.

These meetings were exceedingly pleasant and agreeable. Our numbers at the beginning were only fifteen, so there was no difficulty in the matter of accommodation. While the entertainments were in no sense extravagant, yet they were ample and satisfactory. The good wives and daughters entered into the spirit of the occasion and left nothing to be desired or complained of. The social element was especially cultivated, and all felt bound to do their part in upholding the society. As I look back upon those scenes of fifty years ago, I am filled with the most pleasant recollections of our meetings, and of the men who composed them, and I am sensible also of the benefit which we gained in them. Dr. Hunt was accustomed to say that he never attended one without learning something of importance. There was also brought about by this organization a more friendly feeling and respect for one another; friendships were formed, suspicions were removed, jealousies were nullified, and we were led to know how much better it was to live in unity and brotherly love.

It was at this time that the visiting fee was increased from seventy-five cents to one dollar. It had been at the former sum for many years, when, as the preface of the new Fee Table said, "the town contained but about one-third of its present population; when the fees of lawyers, the salaries of clergymen, and wages generally, were less than at present." Our increase of charges, however, while it was generally approved, met with some complaint, and several communications in the public press were indications that every one was not satisfied. But time brought an acceptance of the increase as just and reasonable, as it has in those which we were subsequently compelled to make.

Along with these pleasant recollections there comes also a loving remembrance of the many we have lost by death. In the course of these fifty years, it has fallen to me to write a biographical sketch of many of them, or it has been written by others, so that it can not be

expected that this ground should be covered again; but I may say that as fair a share of them have been as intelligent, kind and respectable men as can be found in any community. They had a just conception of their duties and obligations, went about their work with industry, and contributed cordially to the benevolent objects of the city. Our citizens realize how much they are indebted to our profession for the establishment of the Retreat for the Insane and for the Hartford Hospital.

It is no part of my plan to pass in review a history of our half century. This will be done more fully by the gentleman who will succeed me this evening. But I can not refrain from alluding to the treatment of some forms of disease, more especially of pneumonia. When this subject was under discussion, January the eighteenth, 1847, the clerk records, "the practice appeared to be very general to begin with bleeding, to be followed with antimony and calomel, both combined with opium, if necessary. After the action of the heart was moderated, large blisters were applied with good effect, and when the inflammatory symptoms began to abate, several gentlemen had used infusions of *asclepias* or *sanguinaria* and *serpentaria* with benefit." Dr. Sumner referred to the extremes of practice formerly prevailing in this city. Dr. Bacon, he said, "bled freely, and about the sixth day his patients were apt to be affected with diarrhœa. Dr. Todd gave opium, and his patients had coma. When the breathing was much obstructed he gave *ipecac* and zinc, and if vomiting was produced they revived wonderfully; but the coma frequently returned, if the opium was continued." He would be a bold man who would revive the custom of venesection in this disease, but there lingers in my mind the impression that the symptoms were more relieved and that convalescence was more rapid than it is at this day.

One more reference to the record and I have done. The subject for discussion being hemorrhages, "Dr. Beresford said that in passive hemorrhage he had used the compound tincture of vitriol with much success." Dr.

Dodge said that after the excitement had abated in some hemorrhages "he gave the compound tincture of vitriol, and that this preparation was much used by Dr. Munson, of New Haven," and then added the formula, as follows:

℞.—Sulph. Cupri Calc., ζ iv.

Kino, ζ i.

Alcohol, oj.

M.

Of this he usually gave about forty drops. It certainly is a valuable preparation, and formerly was much used.

It seems to me that I might with propriety refer to one more disease, and that somewhat at length, both on account of its prevalence and importance and because, also, there has been such a diversity in its treatment. I refer to *typhoid fever*. And in this matter I shall not go over the whole list of theories and practice of the last one hundred years, but endeavor to give fair examples of the *treatment* at different periods. The pathology of typhoid fever was not well understood until Louis presented to the world his brilliant discoveries, locating in the intestinal canal its specific and important points, and led to a better understanding of the fever, and possibly to a better course of treatment.

I can not do better than to turn to the report of Dr. James Jackson on typhoid fever, communicated to The Massachusetts Medical Society, June, 1838, derived from cases observed in the Massachusetts General Hospital, from 1821 to 1836, amounting in the whole to more than 300 cases. He says that "it has long been the custom in New England to evacuate the alimentary canal freely at the commencement of the disease, and this was generally by calomel." Some employed emeto-cathartics. This was followed by ipecac, or more generally by antimony, opium, or opium and calomel. Two or three dejections a day were not objected to, unless there was weakness or exhaustion; and here he notes an important historical fact, that "the mercurial practice in acute disease began in New England, at least, quite as early as the middle of

the last century," and "that he was surprised, in attending the hospitals in London, in 1799 and 1800, to find this practice, so familiar here, in typhus, pleurisy, pneumony, etc., as well as in hepatitis and cephalitis, to be unknown there." It was one of the discoveries made by our own physicians, close observers of symptoms, and as critical observers of the effect of remedies as any who have followed them.

In speaking of venesection, he says that "bloodletting at the commencement of continued fever has been a more rare practice in New England than in many other parts of the world," and in this I think he is historically correct.

In his early practice, he used the before-mentioned remedies with, he modestly says, "a fair success." About 1812, he "began to use antimony more freely, and the more grave symptoms seemed to me to subside and the disease to go on quietly, without secondary affections, and a favorable result to be produced oftener than when antimony was not employed." Later he was led to doubt whether he had not attributed too much to this medicine, but it appears that he resumed its use again, endeavoring to avoid some of its occasional effects, as the nausea which it produced in some persons, and an eruption which it caused in the fauces and throat, when not much diluted.

In 1833, he says, "we began to doubt the benefit of active treatment, or, at least, the benefit of any continued active treatment," but in 1835 still employed antimonials in the first week of the disease, but "did not so often employ cathartics after the first days, as I had previously done."

Of the 303 cases, there were forty-two deaths, or a little over one in seven. It is worth noting that the percentage of death was larger in those who entered the hospital in the later stages of the disease, viz.: a little more than one in four, admitted in the fourth week.

If the treatment of a certain number by antimonials was more favorable, the period of convalescence was somewhat lengthened.

As to the use of alcoholic stimulants, he says, that "when a patient is induced to take cordials reluctantly, they seldom benefit him, and are often followed by injury."

I have thus given a brief statement of the practice in the Massachusetts General Hospital for a term of years, and do not touch upon other points, as to the etiology, anatomical characteristics, causes or special complications. What has been presented is pertinent enough for the considerations which I have in view, viz.: treatment and mortality.

In a communication to The Massachusetts Medical Society in 1839, Dr. Enoch Hale, writing on the pathology of typhoid fever, gives the statistics of the mortality of this fever in the Massachusetts General Hospital, for the years 1836, 1837 and 1838, as follows:

1836—59 cases, 6 deaths, 1 in 10 nearly;

1837—29 cases, no deaths;

1838—20 cases, 1 death, 1 in 20,

and follows it with this statement: "In the two years from November, 1836, to November, 1838, there was a succession of fifty-five cases of the typhoid fever, without a single death," and that "the greater mortality in the years 1832-1835, must have been produced by some other cause than the difference of practice. The true cause of the difference is doubtless the difference in severity of the same disease in different periods." This corresponds to what is well known of this fever as well as some other diseases; and not a few practitioners have had cause to regret a foolish boast, that they had never lost a case of measles, or scarlatina, or whooping cough. A severe epidemic undoubtedly caught them at last.

He thinks that "the rose spots on the abdomen and the affection of Peyer's glands in the intestines are diagnostic signs of the highest value," and inquires "what degree of importance shall be attached to them in a pathological point of view, that the affection is something more than an accidental occurrence, and that it is

not easy to believe that an inflammation in the ileum, of so small an extent, as is often observed, should be capable of giving rise to all the variety of symptoms that are frequently seen in that fever?" I wonder if he had a suspicion that there was an introduced germ or bacillus that was the actual exciting cause of this fever, and that this specific poisoning of Peyer's glands was the cause of an inflammation and ulceration, different in character, and productive of more serious results, than an ordinary acute inflammation of the same parts.

I acknowledge that I have gone in these quotations a little beyond the plan which was promised, but they were so patent to the whole subject that I may be excused, and excused also for one more quotation which ought to be considered in the methods of treatment. "The question remains, of what avail is the knowledge of the disease of Peyer's glands, in the treatment of typhoid fever? It certainly does not bring in information of any sure method of cure. The local inflammation and ulceration are no more under our control than are the other symptoms. This knowledge, however, does serve to explain many phenomena of the disease and many effects of remedies, which could not be so well understood before. It serves to guard us especially against inappropriate, irritating medicines, such as were formerly in use, in the expectation of arresting the progress of the fever." These are true words, and show us the great value of close pathological investigation, and the logical deductions which we may fairly draw. I trust that Dr. Hale will not be called an "old fogy," because he wrote over fifty years ago.

Let me refer to a physician near home, Dr. Elijah F. Reed, of East Windsor. I don't suppose that any of you ever knew him, or perhaps ever saw his pamphlet, being a history of febrile diseases, occurring between the years 1789 and 1837; and this is done for the purpose of showing the different methods of treatment in vogue at that time. It was read before The Hopkins Medical Society in

1837, and was published in 1848. I remember him as he appeared at the meetings of the society, and at our county meetings, a talkative and positive member, rather fond, I think, of exploiting his own ideas on fever, whenever there was an opportunity. He was an honest thinker, a good practitioner, I believe, and useful in the town where he lived. He investigated his cases thoroughly, and relied much upon his "experience," and any of you young fellows who attempt to combat the "experience" of an old man will find him a tough disputant. He was, perhaps, a fair representative of a large class of practitioners at that time, who were disposed to treat febrile diseases with efficient and supporting remedies and plenty of them. As some years before his death there had begun a change in medical opinion as to the use of stimulants and tonics in certain diseases, he easily found opportunity for controversy. Perhaps anyone who holds firmly to his own views, even at this day, may find the same opportunity.

In the early period of this history, he was accustomed to use emetics and purgatives in the first stage, and occasionally venesection, followed by antimonials, but later changed to moderate doses of ipecac early, did not purge much, and if in any case he used antimonials, found them harmful. His reliance was more upon stimulants, alcoholic and acrid, bark and quinine. I believe he was a very careful observer of symptoms. One suggestion which he made, I think to be of value; that is, that in the depressed state of the patient, when large doses of spirits, bark and opium were given, and failed to produce any appreciable effect, the stomach began to respond, the pulse to rise and the heat abate, upon the administration of capsicum, either in hot infusion or alcoholic tincture.

Like his fellow believers, he was opposed to much disturbance of the bowels; he did not favor cathartics, unless very early; six or eight grains of opium, daily, were not uncommon; the delirium was abated; the unbelievers said it was not, and that profound coma was frequently produced. It was a time of much discussion among the

doctors, and the lay element took full part in it also. Dr. Sumner, in a valuable paper read before this society, has given us a graphic and doubtless true sketch of the times. In all probability the community suffered from too much medication, and may have suffered from too little when afterwards the pendulum swung in the opposite direction. For in matters of state, or religion, or medicine, or in most of the affairs of life, the very questions which agitate communities and separate men into almost armed factions, are in aftertimes almost lost sight of and regarded as of minor importance. The fever rages for a time, runs its natural course, like the one we are considering, and soon ceases to excite much interest or consideration. Perhaps this is nowhere better illustrated than in our own profession, when the so positively asserted facts of to-day may in the next generation be claimed to be no facts at all.

If the diarrhœa was checked, he thought the patient usually recovered. This and the possible hemorrhage were unfavorable symptoms, and so opium was prescribed, and oil of turpentine if there was hemorrhage. It is impossible to say how many of these cases were typhus or typhoid. Perhaps he was aware of the difference, but, as no post mortems were made, we are ignorant of the anatomical conditions, or lesions. Neither he, nor most of his co-laborers, knew but little of the precision which has been given to our art, by examinations after death. However, from the diarrhœa and tumefaction of the bowels, it is fair to suppose that most of the cases were similar to the typhoid, or continued, or enteric fever of our time. He thought that the diathesis changed several times during the period of which he writes, and that they were more fatal in some years than in others. This is a point which I wish to emphasize, as showing that the mortality is not greatly influenced by different forms of treatment as much as many suppose. This is shown by the reports of Drs. Jackson and Hale, and will be confirmed further on by the testimony of Dr. Nathan Smith,

and also by a report from the Hartford Hospital, showing the practice of the present season.

Let me refer to Dr. Reed once more. If there was one point upon which he and the practitioners of a like belief were united and regarded as of the utmost importance, it was this, that purgatives should generally be avoided in the course of the disease. And I must confess that in the latter days of my practice my sympathy was in a good measure with them. Dr. Tully strongly advised to let the bowels alone, and many very able practitioners strove to keep them quiet. A week, or ten days, or a fortnight, even, was a not unusual period, and their statement was, that by this time there would be a spontaneous movement without disturbing or weakening the patient, and that if this natural movement did not occur, an enema, or very mild laxative, would be amply sufficient. A story is told of him, that being called in consultation, where the usual supporting and restraining agents had been employed, and the bowels had not been moved for a fortnight, he was asked what further should be done. Even he was satisfied with this long confinement, and replied: "that it might *now* be well to draw the cork."

Dr. Benjamin Rogers, an original member of this society, who had been an extensive practitioner in the hill towns of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, came to this city in 1838. In his opinion, the diathesis of the febrile diseases were more sthenic in that region than in this valley, and that patients here did not bear venesection and the reducing agents well. He spoke of the great heat existing in some cases, in former years, so great that after feeling the pulse of the patient, the heat could be transferred to the palm of the hand, producing a marked stinging, or burning sensation. This probably was the *calor mordax* of the old doctors. They suffered from not having a clinical thermometer; but then their instrument was always on hand.

Dr. Nathan Smith, in his "Essay on Typhous Fever,"

which possibly included some cases of genuine typhus, but probably more of what we now recognize as typhoid fever, doubts the advisability of using very active remedies, especially in the early stage of the disease, as it is not to be cut short in its course, but that our agents should be mild ones. Consequently he does not recommend venesection, or active, or continued purging, nor stimulants, nor large doses of opium. If the latter relieves certain symptoms for a time, the effect is not permanent, nor is the patient benefited, nor is the disease arrested. He was a very close observer, and possessed a most excellent judgment. Probably few of our New England physicians were his superiors, either in medicine or surgery. Hear what he says about antimony. "I have seen many cases where persons, in the early stages of this disease, were moping about, not very sick, but far from being well, who, upon taking a dose of tartrate of antimony, with the intention of breaking up the disease, have been immediately confined to their beds."

The old practitioners knew nothing about the close pathological examinations, or of the special lesions in this disease, developed by Louis. It was a new revelation destined to be productive of changes in theory and practice. Whether these changes lessened the mortality greatly in general practice may be a matter of some doubt, for we have observed that the cases treated in the Massachusetts General Hospital by various methods had about the same result. There was not, in former times, such a complete analysis of cases, nor careful pathological examination, nor a numerical reckoning of results, as we have at this day. We have now more positive knowledge of the effects produced by this disease upon different tissues, and ought, therefore, to have more favorable results in the treatment. Singularly enough, the lines followed by the hard headed, common sense, careful men of the beginning of the century seem to lie in pretty much the same plane with most of those of a later day, and the above statistics also show it, and this is one of the chief

points which I wish to have borne in mind—that the mortality varied greatly in different years, being, in one instance, fifty-five consecutive cases, without a single death.

The revelations of the microscope in disease have been wonderful and have led many to believe that we have at last discovered the true cause of this fever. I do not propose to discuss this theory at any length and shall only refer to the bacillus which is said by some to be its chief cause. If this is true, and the bacillus is the prime factor, the *fons et origo*, it is a wonderful discovery, and may well be ranked among the wonderful and important discoveries of the last half century. But please remember that theories, in medicine as well as elsewhere, follow one another in rapid succession, and that all theories do not become established facts. About the time that I commenced the study of medicine, there was a general prescribing of the iodide of potassium in consumption, so much so that it was regarded by many as the last and most promising curative agent. But this idea was dispelled, and we, we of the regular profession, have been promised many and other sure cures for this disease, and have run through the list from iodide of potassium down to enemata of sulphuretted hydrogen. Now, is it not possible that this bacillus, and other germs and bacilli, may be accidents or natural accompaniments of this fever, and find their natural habitat in the small intestines, just as certain plants and animals are found in certain locations, and in no other, which is termed their habitat? Possibly the true cause may never be found by anatomical examinations, only the lesions which are the resultant. So that we may enquire whether the bacillus is the prime factor in the disease, and is the cause of the ulcerations, or that he only seeks a domicile in the small intestines, and finds there a location comfortable and pleasing to himself; made ready for him, as a special boarder, by some other factor, more potent and smaller, not yet discovered, but may be in the future. The Hindoo philosopher was positive that the

earth was a flat surface, and that it rested upon the back of an elephant, and that the elephant stood upon a tortoise. When asked what supported the tortoise, he was puzzled and would talk no further. A lady of my acquaintance, and she was a lady and had danced in a set with the Prince of Wales, spoke of a certain woman who was as pertinacious an enquirer as a Chinese ambassador, constantly asking very pointed and impertinent questions about her friends, which she did not wish to answer. "These devilish questions" she called them, very naturally, when provoked, and so I will press the matter no further now, merely saying that all honest men should examine theories with a sincere desire of ascertaining the truth, and close this paragraph with an answer which Lieutenant-Governor Pond, of Milford, was accustomed to make to a persistent controversialist, "There is something in what you say, sir."

Dr. Nathan Smith was too goodly a man to be passed by carelessly; his common sense view of disease and its treatment was remarkable. In general, in this fever, it did not indicate excessive medication; as it could not be cut short, it should not be violently interrupted; bleeding was not generally necessary and did not very much influence it either; laxatives, rather than purges, were preferable. "I have never known a patient die of typhus," says he, "whose bowels were slow and required laxatives to move them, during the course of the disease; and the milder they are, if they have the effect to excite the bowels to throw off their contents, the better, and even these should not be used too freely. If the bowels are shut up too long"—and hear this for your comfort, who believe in poisonous germs—"their contents become offensive to the intestines, stimulating them violently, and a diarrhœa is more likely to follow than if the bowels had been excited by a gentle laxative." Opium may be used with advantage in some cases, and if combined with ipecac and camphor, when diarrhœa occurs, is generally useful. No great advantage is derived from blisters, except in special cases,

nor does very free diaphoresis always relieve the fever; he supposes that the commonly received value of it arises more from its accompanying other symptoms of amendment than from any specific or general virtue, in itself; mercury may occasionally be useful, but he clearly does not believe in a prevalent opinion of its necessity.

We may learn his opinion of some other remedies when he says that those "who treat this disease with tonics and stimulants have not been remarkable for their success." "All things considered," he thinks, "we can place no dependence on internal refrigerants, and if we wish to produce this effect, if we wish to diminish the temperature of the body when above the ordinary standard, we must have recourse to cold water or cold air." Patients may be allowed the use of it internally *ad libitum*, "but the heat abstracted from the body by the water which they will drink, however, is but small."

His great resource was in the use of cold water externally, which is commended highly and with no fanatical tendency. He first used it in the summer of 1798, and, though he is speaking of typhus fever, the case was probably typhoid. The patient "had been first bled and put into a warm bed before he saw him, which apparently did not much improve him. So the next day, as he lay upon a straw mattress, he poured a gallon of cold water upon him, from head to foot, and directed that this should be repeated as often as he grew dry and warm. The affusion was renewed the next day, and the heat was kept down, as during the preceding one. Before night the patient had recovered so as to speak, called for more water, and wished to be put into the river; convalescence was soon established without any other remedy."

His method was to place the patient upon a straw bed, turn down the bed clothes and dash from a pint to a gallon of cold water on the patient's head, face and body, so as to wet both the bed and body linen thoroughly. This would be considered as rather robust practice in our time, when the patient must be placated with the gentlest

of treatment, the minutest of doses, and the most saccharated of pills. As an assurance of his confidence in this agent, he often relied upon it alone, and says: "In no instance where I have used it, or seen it used by others, has it done harm. There are cases, however, where it is not called for; at the same time, there are but few in which, in some stage of the disease, it will not do good."

It is just to him to say that he acknowledges that the external use of cold water in fever "was from a hint which he took from Dr. Robert Jackson's work on the fevers of warm climates."

Some of his brethren were content with simply sponging the surface with cold water, and this he did sometimes himself, "but considered the shock given by its first contact of some importance where there was much stupor or coma." He thought it not material "about the temperature of the water, if it was below blood heat." The water used was taken directly from the well, and probably ranged from 50° to 56° of Fahrenheit. Last season I took at several times the temperature of the water in a well on Cedar Mountain, about fourteen feet in depth, and found that it varied from 50° in June to 54° in August; and the temperature of two springs, one on the east and one on the west side of the mountain, from 50° to 56°. From these figures we may presume upon the probable temperature of the water used by him.

Further than this, Dr. Smith advocated the most thorough hygienic treatment of our day; the diet should be bland and unirritating, "as farinaceous and mucilaginous substances, with the exception of milk largely diluted with water, or whey prepared from it." Other requisites, as a spacious room, uncarpeted, the bed placed not in a corner, but brought out into the room, so that a current of air may pass over it; thorough ventilation, windows open night and day; all unnecessary furniture removed and the floor often washed. Cleanliness is absolutely essential; no dirty dishes or useless medicines allowed to remain in the room; all excrementitious mat-

ters immediately removed, the bed and body linen changed and the body sponged every day. What a revelation is this from a man who probably had never read a special volume on hygiene, but studied the matter out by the exercise of common sense and close observation, without which no one can ever be a judicious, though he may become, for a time, a popular practitioner.

I have referred to the opinions of some of the older writers on typhoid fever, for the purpose of noting a few particulars of its treatment and of its mortality. It does not come within the lines laid out to speak much of the characteristic symptoms or cause of the disease. As has been seen, the treatment has been stimulating and supporting, mildly stimulating, antiphlogistic, and expectant. And further, that while the characteristic symptoms have been always present, yet the mortality has varied greatly, from one in four to one in fifty, varying possibly according to the treatment pursued, but more probably from the peculiar diathesis prevailing. The value of remedies has been variously estimated, but, aside from relieving special complications, there stands the opinion of judicious men, that the disease should not be violently interfered with, for it will usually run a specified time and course.

Nor can there be a discussion on the germ theory of disease, or whether this fever is due to a certain bacillus. You may be sure that its true value will be established in time by thorough investigation and candid consideration of results. At present, although a specific bacillus has been discovered in typhoid fever, and his fellows have been cultivated in certain menstrua, I do not know that these bacilli of another generation have ever been proved to have produced the fever itself. When this happens, the opinion will be more logically conclusive than it is at present.

Pray do not become tired with me because so much has been said about some of the older practitioners. There are enough who will praise that which is new, and

think that little can be learned from that which is old. I came across a paragraph a few years since, relating to a reported statement of the young Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh. It was to this effect, that if all the books, theories and suggestions of medical men, down to the previous seven years, should be lost to the world, the world would be no great loser. If this is true, his enthusiasm caused him to lose his head. Young Dr. Simpson is the son of a wise father.

I have received from the house physician of the Hartford Hospital, Dr. J. H. Naylor, an account of the cases of typhoid fever treated in the hospital the past season. A part of this I beg to introduce to you, viz.: that relating to the treatment and the mortality. The number of cases treated was seventy and the deaths two, showing a very favorable record of one death in thirty-five cases. Though the symptoms detailed by him were severe, with diarrhea and hemorrhages, yet it is fair to suppose that the disease was well treated, as also that the type of fever was milder than usual.

But these cases are referred to more especially because of the treatment of them by the application of cold water. In fact, it is going back to the like treatment by Dr. Nathan Smith upon which he greatly relied, and which, as has been shown, was highly efficacious. That part of Dr. Naylor's report will, I think, interest you all, and receive the approval of all who desire a safe and effectual remedy.

"At the time of entering the hospital, the patients were generally in the latter part of the first week, or in the second week of the fever. The temperature ranged from 100° to 105° . The only antipyretic used was water, whenever the temperature reached $102\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. The patient was rolled into a rubber sheet, the four corners of which were then attached to the corresponding posts of the bed, forming a large rubber dish, or tub. He was sponged from head to foot with water at 90° ; this was reduced to 80° with ice, and retained at that temperature

from ten to fifteen minutes; the amount of water used was from three to four pailfuls. The patient was then removed from the bath, rubbed dry, and rolled in a woolen blanket. Twenty minutes later the temperature was taken, and generally showed a drop of from 1° to 6° —average 2° . Before the bath we found the patient restless, with headache and rapid pulse; after the bath the headache disappeared, pulse approached normal, respirations more natural and the patient generally received the benefit of several turns of natural sleep.

“The diet was mostly confined to liquids, until the temperature had been normal for about a week, when a soft diet, viz.: soft toast, eggs, chops, steak, etc., was substituted. The average duration of time in the hospital was about four weeks.”

It is evident that we have, in the external use of cold water, a powerful agent in the reduction of the fever; respirations more natural, pulse reduced, heat lowered, headache relieved, nervous irritation quieted, and sleep induced, factors of importance in any disease, and especially in typhoid fever. I should extremely like to know how the bacilli in the ulcerated Peyer's glands regard this new attack upon them in the bowels of their host, and whether, by the use of the water, a new action is generated in the system, neutralizing the specific poison of the bacilli and rendering all results of his action nugatory and void. And just here it might with propriety be asked if it is necessary that the bowels should be moved twice or thrice daily, in order to sweep out the poisonous bacilli, what becomes of the poison when the contents of the bowels are retained for a week, ten days or more. It does not become me to give an answer, but possibly the bacilli are narcotized by the opium which has been given, put into a coma or state of hypnotism, and so are rendered helpless; and when the gates are unlocked they are washed out into unknown places and ultimately perish. The subject is a broad one, but frightful to contemplate. These problems are only propounded for the purpose of getting at the truth, which, I take it, is what we all are striving for.

The successful treatment of this fever is very creditable to the physicians of our hospital, and is as successful as it was in the hands of Dr. Smith, up in New Hampshire, nearly a century ago.

While the principles of medicine are generally well established, as well as the true value of remedial agents, it is yet found that their action is not always so uniform as to form in completeness the basis of a precise science or to procure the exact results which were desired. For this there are various reasons; among them we may especially notice that the stomach is part of a living body, subject to the varying conditions of a living man, and these are sometimes beyond finding out, except by omniscience. It is well, therefore, to recall what Abernethy said to his students, "the stomach is not a *bag*, gentlemen; it is a *stomach*."

But enough of this. I am not here to teach you; rather, I should be a learner, for the discoveries of recent years have added so much to our art, that he must have been a faithful student indeed who has been able to keep pace with them. When one has passed his four-score years, it must be expected that he has lost something of the energy and enterprise of youth. These years, however, have brought no loss of love for our profession, no less a belief of its usefulness and its worthiness of general support. I hold in admiration the success which has attended the efforts of the members of this society in the various departments of medicine and surgery, and truly believe that they would do honor to any medical men in any part of the country. I count myself happy that I can enjoy whatever of honor or prosperity that comes to you. My esteem is weakened by no trace of envy or jealousy, for I claim to share with you a part of that honor which truly belongs to us all.

I sometimes regret that the opportunities which are afforded to you were not enjoyed by those of us who were students sixty years ago. So much better are you now instructed in all departments of medicine, that our

knowledge upon entering our profession seems now extremely meagre, and so it was left to the man himself to find out, in the course of his life, those things which he ought to know. I recall, with great satisfaction, the words which my instructor, Dr. Amariah Brigham, spoke to me upon my entrance as a pupil in his office: "Now you must remember that it depends upon yourself what you will be in the future." It led me to think more seriously of my duty, and to apply myself with more energy for the coming life.

Begging your pardon for these personalities, I return to subjects more particularly proper at this time.

When The Hartford Medical Society was formed, it consisted of fifteen members, and these composed all of what was termed the regular faculty of the city. There were here other practitioners, principally bonesetters, and botanics, who were termed Thompsonians, but there was no such a multitudinous body as may be found to-day. The homeopathists came soon after, and for a time prevailed with their infinitesimal doses, but, I believe, in a few years followed not far behind us in their prescriptions. If you expect to live long enough to see all these and others like them pass out of existence, you will, in all probability, be obliged to reach a greater number of years than is now recorded of anyone. There are privileges in this world of ours, besides that of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which some men consider as properly belonging to them, and among them may be named the privilege of choosing their own doctors.

The discovery of the practical application of an anæsthetic agent by our townsman, Dr. Horace Wells, and the remedial power of aseptic agents in later days, has enabled our surgeons to perform new and most wonderful operations, with less suffering and danger to the patient, and with better results, than ever before known. The severe pains on the one hand, and the poisonous germs on the other, have yielded to the researches of the human intellect. It now remains to make more effectual the pre-

vention, as well as the cure of disease. Never before were the laws which relate to hygiene and public sanitation so well understood by our profession, or so highly appreciated by the public.

It would not be proper that the names of the founders of this society should be passed in silence, and so they are here given, and deserve your grateful remembrance. Dr. Fuller stands first, though he was not the oldest resident in the city. It was considered as due to him from his age and position, and was recommended by Dr. Sumner:

Silas Fuller, George Sumner, David S. Dodge, Henry Holmes, Samuel B. Beresford, George B. Hawley, Gurdon W. Russell, David Crary, Pinckney W. Ellsworth, Benjamin Rogers, Ebenezer K. Hunt, Seth Saltmarsh, H. Allen Grant, S. I. Allen, William James Barry.

Of these fifteen, Dr. Allen removed from the city in 1847, and Dr. Barry died in September of the same year. Dr. Dodge removed to New York, and Dr. Grant to Enfield in 1854. Dr. Saltmarsh remained here but a few years. All in the original list are dead with the exception of Dr. Ellsworth, who resigned his membership some years since,* and myself. By the great mercy of God, I am spared to this day, the last one of the original number who has retained a constant connection with the society, and remain still a loyal member of it. If the enthusiasm, the hopefulness and the energy of youth have been moderated by the half century of years, it has not been lost by a more extensive acquaintance with the world, with men, and especially with you, my brethren. I have never allowed myself to indulge in regrets for the profession which I have chosen, or to join in idle talk against the value of it. On all occasions I have stood firmly for it, vindicating it, its honor, its dignity, its usefulness. Of all persons whose good will I have desired, none have been more valued than those of the medical profession. At their hands I have received more commendations than I have desired or deserved. I count as a great honor your

* Since this was written Dr. Ellsworth has died.

testimonial of a few years since, and, when it passes into the hands of another as it soon must, trust that it will be more merited, but know that it can not be more esteemed than by myself.

The secretary writes me that our society now consists of seventy members, and that one hundred and seventy have been connected with it. The fifteen of 1846 have increased to seventy in 1896; a goodly number, and probably sufficient for the needs of the city, but there is always room for one more.

While our society has increased in numbers, it has also increased in the material possessions of life. I only enumerate that one which is most conspicuous. The memorial which the friends of Dr. Hunt have generously furnished us, and the addition which has been furnished by ourselves and our friends for the purchase of land, will stand a noble monument to the memory of an intelligent physician and honest man.

These reminiscences and discussions must come to an end: the past has had its day and now comes the future, with its aspirations, its hopes, its successes, and its inevitable disappointments. The completion of our centennial year may furnish a solution of problems we have not even guessed at, and render our profession more noble and useful. We, who have long been laborers in the field, must be content with our record and seek the needed rest. But this work is not for us, for there comes a time when memory begins to fail, and the wearied body requires relief from labor. A self-examination should bring us peace and content. Let us hope that there shall be recorded of us no such selfish and degrading legend as this, "he lived for himself alone," but rather that other more noble, truthful and Christian one, "he lived that he might do good to others."

MEN AND EVENTS OF THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

BY H. S. FULLER, M. D.

A quarter of a century is but a point in the cycle of time, yet when we consider that it embraces so large a part of the average professional life, and that so many of our members of twenty-five years ago, memorable for their good deeds, are no longer with us, this period in relation to the individual expands into vast proportions.

This is further manifest when we think of the great advances that have been made in the art and science of medicine during these years; its enrichment by new discoveries; its facts confirmed by more careful observation, and its deductions more rationally made. We can only allude to a few of these. Our *materia medica* has been enlarged by the addition of chloral-hydrate, that rare hypnotic; cocaine, second only in importance to ether and chloroform; the coal-tar preparations of most diversified and valuable application; sulphonal, peroxide of hydrogen, the salicylates which have entirely changed the treatment of rheumatism; the scientific use of cold water and the antithermic drugs in the treatment of fevers, and the subcutaneous use of large quantities of saline solutions in hemorrhages. Through the advance in chemistry many of the remedies which were obtained from natural products can now be produced by synthesis. Physiology has not been behind in its discoveries and neurology has made more progress than in any previous half century. Brain and abdominal surgery have been revolutionized by the application of the antiseptic and aseptic methods. In this period laboratories, with the improved microscope, have been added to our hospitals, and bacteriology in relation to the human subject has had its most wonderful development, for you will readily recall the fact that the discovery of the specific germs which are the cause or the accompaniment of so many of our zymotic diseases, an-

thrax excepted, belongs to the quarter century just passed. Here also belongs antitoxine, which was first produced in this state in our hospital and by one of our members, who was also the first to use in this state the Roentgen rays to locate and remove a foreign body. Such rapid progress is made in every department of medicine that he who would keep pace with it must be on the alert. Even the briefest description of the many valuable discoveries which have so greatly advanced every department of medicine would fill volumes. The words of Dr. Gross are more applicable as the years pass by—that “medicine has become a great and complex study, and he who would excel in it, whether considered merely as an art or as a science, must be wide-awake and give himself up, soul and body, to its interest. No half measure will suffice.”

We are fortunate in having with us to-day one who was present at the organization of this society, who has related to us the condition of the medical profession at that time, the difficulties in the way of forming it, its early growth and trials, and who also could tell us from personal remembrance of the characteristics, qualifications and peculiarities of his early colaborers, he himself being the most conspicuous figure in all its history, even down to the present day. The lives of many of these men have extended well into our time, and some of us were personally acquainted with them.

It remains for me to go back somewhat into that earlier period to speak of those who have taken up the work of one and another as he has passed from these earthly scenes of labor.

A number of our surgeons having joined the army, our membership was somewhat reduced; those who remained at home had their time fully taken up with their professional duties. The meetings of the society were not largely attended, and the records give little information in regard to them; but at the close of the war our numbers were largely increased, both by the return of former members and by the accession of new ones who located

here. It was in 1865 that I came to this city and joined The Hartford Medical Society. At that time there were twenty-three members, the city containing 33,000 inhabitants, so that the proportion of doctors to the population has since largely increased. Our meetings were then held at the residences of members, and were conducted on the same general plan as at present: the relation of cases, discussions, an occasional paper and a half hour given to social intercourse, which has always been an important feature of our society. Monday has always been the day, and nine o'clock, after repeated changes, has become the established hour.

While our numbers were few, notifications of meetings were often given to members by the clerk personally in order to insure a full attendance. By way of comparison with the present time, it may be of interest to observe that, in a discussion on diseases of the cæcum and its appendix in 1868, one of our leading surgeons remarked that nature would generally find an outlet better than we could, and on the question, is it proper to make an exploratory incision into the abdomen, the conclusion was that there were cases in which it might be done with propriety and life saved.

In 1870 there was renewed discussion throughout the country as to whom belonged the honor of the discovery of anæsthesia. Our society, believing that Dr. Horace Wells was the actual discoverer and the first man to bring anæsthesia into practical use in surgery, instituted a movement to erect a memorial to his memory. Chloroform, instead of ether, was in general use here at that time.

We sometimes had exciting discussions upon the prevailing diseases; one such occurred in 1877 over the cause of the death of Prof. Alvergnat, who died of hydrophobia. Although a bare majority of those present voted that he suffered from some other disease, the subsequent occurrence of several other cases of hydrophobia in the city changed this opinion, and most, if not all, were con-

vinced that Prof. Alvergnat's had been a genuine one of that malady. The infectious nature of pneumonia was insisted upon by Dr. Wilcox in 1879. During this year the medical examiner system was advocated.

Our numbers had now so increased that the custom of holding our meetings at private houses was discontinued in 1880, Dr. Jackson being the last to entertain us. Rooms were then secured at the State Savings Bank Building. Dr. Russell, who had often entertained us at our annual meetings, still continued to extend his hospitality, and since that time this has been regarded as the most important and interesting gathering of the whole year. The rooms which we had secured were occupied by the Library and Journal Association, which had existed for some years, and though actively supported by our younger members, liberal contributions were made by some of the older ones. Home and foreign journals were on its tables and files of the most important medical publications and reports were obtained. A number of costly books and atlases were secured and thus a creditable library was founded. The objects and membership of the two societies being practically the same, the association disbanded and afterward conveyed its books to our society. These form the chief part of our present library. Dr. Chamberlain did the greater part of the work of collecting and arranging the books, reports and journals which we now have.

In January, 1884, a committee was appointed to consider and devise a plan by which a building for infectious diseases could be secured. The same year our committee presented a plan for the reorganization of the Board of Health and also one for plumbing and ventilating houses, to be submitted to the Common Council. Dr. Chamberlain, in some remarks upon germs, considered those of scarlet fever and diphtheria identical, and thought the day not far distant when we should have to accept the theory that a germ innocent may become so changed that in some it will produce one disease and in others another.

~~The statue of Dr. Horace Wells was given by Joseph Allyn, Esq., and placed in Bushnell Park upon a temporary wooden support.~~ The society, desiring to take part in erecting this memorial to the discoverer of anæsthesia, in 1886 subscribed \$500 towards procuring an appropriate pedestal of granite.

The most important and memorable meeting of our society was the one which occurred on November 21, 1887, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Russell's practice in Hartford. On the 16th of May, the same year, a committee had been chosen to consider the character of a memorial to be presented to Dr. Russell. After much discussion it was decided to procure a loving cup, to be forever owned by the society, but to be in possession of the man during his lifetime whom it most delighted to honor. The committee was further empowered to obtain proper designs and inscriptions for the cup, as well as a seal and motto for the society. The work was completed and the cup and seal accepted by the society, our motto being "*Salutari levat arte fessos.*" The dinner was a most noted and enjoyable one, having as its guests only representative physicians from different parts of the state. We are reminded to-day that eight of our number, three of whom were speakers on that occasion, are no more with us.

Our society had enjoyed great harmony during these past years, but this celebration did much to solidify it. With the prospect of future possessions, we obtained a charter from the state under the name of The Hartford Medical Society, which now has a legal standing.

In 1890, finding that the treasury had a surplus of \$100, it was voted that it be laid aside as a nucleus for a building fund. Rumors were abroad that a bequest was in store for us, and it was deemed necessary that we do something for ourselves. In January, 1893, a subscription paper was started and over a thousand dollars were raised. Before the year closed, it was announced that the will of Mrs. Dr. Hunt contained a conditional bequest of

Erratum et Addendum.

In January, 1870, a few citizens of Hartford, after consultation, decided that an effort should be made toward securing the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of Dr. Horace Wells, as the discoverer of modern Anæsthesia.

As a preliminary step, Dr. H. P. Stearns, a member of this Society, presented the evidence relating to the claim of Dr. Wells before the Gynæcological Society of Boston, Mass., the home of the other claimant, Dr. Morton. It was also sent to Sir James Y. Simpson, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who had, in 1847, discovered the anæsthetic properties of chloroform. Both these authorities pronounced unqualifiedly in favor of the claim of Dr. Wells. A resolution of like import was also passed unanimously by the American Medical Association at the meeting in Washington in the same year.

At the annual meetings of the Connecticut Medical and Dental Societies of this year, committees were appointed to further the object of securing the monument, and Drs. Stearns and McManus, as chairmen of those committees, appeared before the State Legislature and the Hartford City Council, and secured an appropriation by each of these bodies of \$5,000. With these sums the statue of Dr. Wells, which is now on the Bushnell Park, was procured.

Statement of Assets

1974 - 1975

The following is a statement of assets for the year 1974-1975. The assets are listed in the following order: Cash, Accounts Receivable, Inventory, Prepaid Expenses, Property, Plant, and Equipment, and Other Assets.

Cash: \$10,000

Accounts Receivable: \$5,000

Inventory: \$3,000

Prepaid Expenses: \$2,000

Property, Plant, and Equipment: \$15,000

Other Assets: \$1,000

Total Assets: \$46,000

twenty thousand dollars for a memorial building to her late husband, Dr. E. K. Hunt, the condition being that this society should procure a suitable location. Our members, assisted by the generosity of a few friends, soon contributed enough to purchase a site and secured the legacy. Now we have the prospect of a home for ourselves and our possessions.

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Pleasant memories come to us to-day of some of those who have left us for homes in other parts of the country. Dr. M. W. Easton was here but a short time. Though a scholar in medicine, he had no love for its practice. He received a call to the chair of philology in the University of Pennsylvania, which he accepted because he loved words better than deeds.

Dr. R. B. Talbot was a physician of superior attainments, but the metropolis had greater attractions for him, and he has done us honor there.

Dr. M. D. Mann, who removed to Buffalo, has become a leader in the profession and an author of note.

Dr. C. W. Page, called to the superintendency of the Insane Hospital at Danvers, Mass., is a recognized authority in his specialty.

Dr. S. B. Childs was doing a good practice here, but was compelled to go to the silver state for health.

Dr. G. B. Packard, loved by the profession and his patients, left us for the same reason, and has gained reputation and practice in his new home in Denver.

Dr. Charles Dennison, a pale, slender, young man, with bright, sparkling eyes and as bright a mind, who suffered in the extreme from hemorrhages and was so loath to leave us for the mountain regions of the west, has regained his health and earned an enviable reputation, not only in this country, but in Europe.

* * * * *

With mingled feelings of sorrow and pleasure, we recall the familiar forms and faces of those who can nevermore meet with us here on earth. We sorrow at the loss of

their companionship; we take pleasure in the memory of their friendly greetings, their kind sympathies, their generous assistance, and of that brotherhood between us, so real and yet so indefinable.

Our profession has its failings and its bad men, but, in reviewing the lives of those who have gone from us, we believe that in the main they were high-toned, conscientious and honorable. Let us remember the remark of Dr. Holmes, "That those men who see into their neighbors are very apt to be contemptuous; but men who see through them, find something lying behind every human soul which it is not for them to sit in judgment on or to attempt to sneer out of God's manifold universe."

Samuel B. Hall.

1837-1866.

Dr. Hall was born in South Windsor, in 1837. He was graduated at the Jefferson Medical College, and commenced practice in Hartford, in 1862. He held the position of clerk of our society for two years.

Dr. Hall was a tall, well built, fine-looking man, with genial face, courteous manners, and a warm welcome for every newcomer. He was frank, generous, of a liberal spirit and exceedingly social; had tact, good judgment and a certain pleasing way of meeting one which drew people to him. He was gaining in practice when he was taken ill with diphtheria and very quickly succumbed to the disease. It is a sad thing to think that this young physician died from a preventable disease, and that with proper sanitary precautions his life might have been saved.

Louis Gaynor.

1835-1867.

Dr. Gaynor was born in Ireland. His father removed with his family to this country and settled in New Jersey. He was graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York city, and practiced for a short time in New Britain, from whence he came to Hartford, in 1863.

He was of medium height, slim, with dark, bushy hair and full beard. He is said to have obtained a good practice here and in the adjoining towns; was pleasant, kind hearted and enjoyed a joke with his friends. He was a member of The City Medical Society, and occasionally took part in its proceedings. Consumption soon made its inroads upon his health, and he died at the age of thirty-two.

John Freme Wells.

1810-1871.

William Wells, the grandfather of Dr. Wells, was a dissenting clergyman who came to this country in 1793. After looking about, he purchased a farm near Brattleboro, Vermont, and preached there for twenty years. James Wells, son of William and father of John, came to Hartford in 1796, where his son John was born, October 11, 1810.

In his early years, he was in business, and with an elder brother manufactured paper at Windsor Locks. He was married in 1834; afterward studied medicine at Yale, and received his degree in 1844. He practiced medicine in Bloomfield from this time until 1852, when he came to Hartford, where he remained in practice until his death, May 4, 1871.

Dr. Wells was a large man, of good proportions, with light complexion and blue eyes. He was unassuming in his manners, an agreeable companion, fond of books and speculative philosophy. He never attained a large practice, but gave satisfaction to those who employed him. He attended our meetings, and was also a member of the county and state societies. He was a good citizen, a kind physician, and I suppose he would be called a liberal in medicine and religion.

Adam Clark Corson.

1838-1873.

Dr. Corson obtained his degree of medicine at Victoria College, Cobury, Canada, in 1864, and from that time till 1867 he was surgeon on the American line steamship Ful-

ton. During this year, he was married to Henrietta H., daughter of William R. Cone, of this city, and commenced practice in the city of New York. In 1869 he was made a member of the medical society of the city and county of New York, and was appointed surgeon of the First Infantry, N. G., State of New York. In 1870 he visited Europe, and upon his return in 1872 came to Hartford and resumed the practice of medicine. He was a refined gentleman, warm hearted, true, and gave promise of a prosperous career. He was with us but a short time when he was stricken with spinal meningitis, and died October 6, 1873, after several months of suffering.

Thomas Miner.

1800-1873.

Dr. Miner was born in Colerain, Vt., in 1800, to which place his father removed from Stonington, Conn., about the year 1794. In 1804 his father returned with his family to Stonington, where the subject of the present sketch remained till he was about twenty-two years of age. The doctor states that the rock bound and sea girt shores are among his earliest and fondest recollections, and refers to the legend of the phantom fireship which some of the earlier inhabitants claim to have seen previous to the war of 1812. He was an eye witness to the bombardment of Stonington by the British squadron, August 9th, 1814. He rendered service on that occasion by making wadding, and executed the more important commission of delivering, early on a Sunday morning, eleven barrels of flour at Fort Griswold, where he was received by Commodore Decatur in person.

Dr. Miner obtained his early education in the academy of Stonington, where he was under a rigorous master who used the ferule freely.

The sealing business began to be prosecuted with great energy at the South Shetland Islands and in the vicinity of Cape Horn. He confessed that his studies at this time were more nautical than classical. He taught school one year at Groton and read some medical books.

In 1822 he studied medicine with Dr. Vincent Holcomb of West Granville, Mass., attended one course of lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institute, of Pittsfield, Mass., and took his second course at the Medical Department of Brown University, where he received the degree of M. D. in 1825. He commenced practice in the town of Alford, Mass., whence he removed to West Stockbridge, Mass., and afterwards in 1833 to Middletown, Conn., where he obtained a fair share of business. He came to Hartford in 1848, and died October 29, 1873.

As far as I can learn, Dr. Miner had a moderate practice in Hartford, but in the early years of his residence here was a regular attendant at the meetings of our society. In 1832, when the epidemic of cholera reached this country by way of Canada, he went to Albany to learn what he could of its nature and treatment. At the time of another epidemic in 1848, he gave to our society a long and interesting account of his former visit, his experiences and what he had learned, which I found in our records. He was a tall, portly man, of agreeable manners, was a good story teller and took delight in relating the following one: One day he went to assist one of our best practitioners in adjusting a broken leg. It was his part to attend to the pulse and administer restoratives to the patient, while the surgeon, who was exceedingly particular in his work, applied the bandages with great care and nicety. When he had finished to his satisfaction, he turned to Dr. Miner, and said, "Is not that well done?" "Yes," said the doctor, "I did not wish to interrupt your good work, but the patient has been dead for fifteen minutes." The chief actor in this anecdote says that it's a good story, but the only trouble with it is, it is not true. Yet the doctor persisted in telling it.

William Richmond Brownell.

1828-1873.

Dr. Brownell, a nephew of Bishop Brownell, was born in Providence, R. I., March 30, 1828. He was graduated

at Brown University in 1849, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1851. He came to Hartford the same year. In figure he was tall, erect, with a good head and an intellectual face. His social qualities were marked and he was popular among his associates and in society. So far as I can learn, he did not take a very active or prominent part at our meetings. He was of a liberal spirit, and the position he took on some questions was not approved by the majority of the members. At the breaking out of the war, in 1861, he entered the army as surgeon of the Twelfth Connecticut Regiment. He was detached from his regiment December 3, 1862, by order of the commanding general for special service. It is said that he organized St. James Hospital, of which he was medical director until August, 1863.

On the arrival of General Banks, his regiment was ordered to the front as a part of the Weitzel Brigade, when, at his own request, he was relieved from hospital service to accompany the expedition down the LaFouche and was medical director on the staff of General Emory, Nineteenth Army Corps, with whom he remained until the war ended. During all his service it was characteristic of him never to be left behind when any work was to be done in the field. It is said that he won the respect and affection of all who knew him for his faithful performance of duty, his bravery and his genial, generous nature. At the close of the war, he returned to Hartford, and was engaged in general practice. He was a member of the Board of United States Pension Examiners at the time of his death, which occurred December 1, 1873.

Edward M. Dunbar.

1843-1876.

Dr. Dunbar came to Hartford in 1868; was qualified both by natural ability and education to be eminently successful in the practice of medicine. He had a love for the study, zeal in its prosecution and sympathy with the suffering. A student of an analytic mind, he devoted

much time to his books, which were well selected and whose contents he could reproduce with unusual facility. Dr. Dunbar was a man who thought and decided for himself, but with so broad and liberal views that he could receive the opinions of others with the highest courtesy. He was an interesting and instructive talker, and his companions were those kindred spirits who could appreciate the finer qualities of his mind and heart. During the earlier years of his residence here, he took an active part in the meetings of the society and was its clerk for 1869 and 1870. When he spoke, it was to the point. His few papers were able and always received marked attention. Although a constant sufferer from tuberculosis of the spine, which was the cause of his death, he maintained, except at rare intervals, a cheerful disposition, and few that knew him were aware of his physical suffering or the mental anguish which he endured from the consciousness which he had that he would never be relieved from pain nor ever be able to realize his highest aspirations for success in his professional life.

Daniel Poll.

1831-1877.

Dr. Poll was born in Dresden, Saxony, in the year 1831. Studied at the University of Leipsic. Became implicated in the revolutionary movements in Germany in the year 1848, in consequence of which he came to New York, then to Brooklyn, and afterward to Meriden, and in 1865 settled in Hartford. He had not received his degree of Doctor of Medicine when he left Europe, but when he came here brought a letter from a distinguished German physician of New York, on account of which, or because we supposed he was a graduate, he was admitted into our society and attended our meetings quite regularly, and sometimes took part in our proceedings. After being here several years, his standing was attacked by a German physician who had lately arrived. Some of his medical brethren advised him to take a course at The Yale Medical School, which he did, and took his degree in 1870.

Dr. Poll was a stout man, with a good head, pleasing manners, naturally kind and social. He was for a time town physician, had a good practice among the Germans, and was attentive to his patients. The last years of his life were saddened by the loss of his wife, by pecuniary embarrassments and by ill health. He died suddenly, April 3, 1877, having suffered some time from Bright's disease.

Lucian Sumner Wilcox.

1826-1881.

Dr. Wilcox, the son of a well-known physician in this county, came to us under favorable circumstances, having taken a high rank in both the literary and medical departments of Yale College. His aim was to be known and recognized as a faithful and well-qualified physician, and to merit the confidence of the people. His ideal was realized.

Dr. Wilcox was above medium height, well poised, rather slender, with a fine head, light hair and gray eyes. He had a thoughtful face, was neat in person, and always well dressed; quiet in his movements, courteous in his manners, though somewhat reserved on first acquaintance, and always gentlemanly in deportment. He possessed such marked dignity of character that many who did not know him well failed to realize the depth of his sympathies. He loved his profession, was devoted to his patients, who in turn thoroughly trusted and adhered to him. He believed in the efficacy of medicines, prescribed them with boldness, though cautious in adopting unproved remedies and conservative in using new ones.

Dr. Wilcox was an independent force in our society; he thought and decided for himself, was rarely absent from our meetings, took an active part in its proceedings, and was interested in everything that pertained to its welfare. He was fond of medical discussions—had something to say upon almost every question. When interest lagged and the majority were inclined one way, it was not unusual for the doctor to take the other side in so trench-

ant a manner and with such earnestness that they were put upon their mettle to meet his arguments. He and Dr. Chamberlain crossed lances with each other, and occasionally with such intensity that it seemed almost a personal quarrel. He was often a representative of the society in both county and state, and was placed upon committees where much work was required. I think few have prepared so concise and as thorough county sanitary reports to the state as he. In his report of 1861, he says: "The first notice of diphtheria by the mortuary bills was in 1859. Its stealthy approach had already fatally surprised many unfortunate victims, and to-day many of our households are feeling the desolation of its early covert ravages."

Dr. Wilcox was one of the committee who had the laborious task of revising the charter and by-laws of The Connecticut Medical Society, which were so changed and improved that they were in effect new, and were adopted in 1870.

His medical books were well chosen and carefully read.

Probably there were few men better equipped for the practice of his profession than he. Recognizing his ability and his qualifications as a teacher, he was invited to the professorship of the theory and practice of medicine in the medical department of Yale College, which he accepted with misgivings from conscientious fear that he could not give sufficient time to the preparation of his lectures, in addition to his now arduous duties, but, having undertaken it, he pursued it with all the tenacity which was characteristic of him. How well he filled this position is shown by the reluctance with which his resignation was accepted by his collaborators. He had endeared himself to all for his personal worth, his amiable character and lovable disposition. The faculty begged of him not to resign, but on account of failing health he was obliged to. Undoubtedly he gave that time to this work which he should have taken in rest and recreation, for, like too many of our profession, he rarely left his post for either of these.

Dr. Wilcox accepted few public positions, but faithfully and ably served The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company as their medical examiner for several years.

His reading was not confined to medical books, but extended over many departments of literature. Much of his leisure time was spent in his library, where were found the choicest standard works and best periodicals of the day. He was not a voluble talker, though at times he spoke with ease and fluency. His talks and writings were characterized by strength, thought and weight, but with a certain obscureness which defied careless perusal.

As a practitioner he commanded the utmost confidence. His social qualifications, his intellectual attainments and natural dignity gave him access to the best society and his patients were chiefly among that class. His native refinement, gentlemanly instincts and thorough devotion to his work so impressed those who were brought under his care that their trust in him was complete. Having culture and experience, he was a good diagnostician; having caution and skill, he was a good counsellor, and his advice was often sought by his brethren. Few have been taken from our number who have been more missed in our society and in the state.

Dr. Wilcox had arrived at that point of intellectual development and mature manhood when we expect the best results. His attainments were recognized. His position was that of a leader in his profession. He could well have anticipated many years of happiness and honorable service.

James Corbin Jackson.

1818-1882.

In less than three months after the death of Dr. Wilcox, another of our most active members, Dr. James C. Jackson, who, for a longer time and perhaps with greater zeal, had devoted himself to the renovation of the state society, was taken from our midst.

He was a most enjoyable man, always in good spirits, with an undercurrent of humor, quaintness and brusque-

ness of speech which at once attracted the attention of his listeners. Whoever came in contact with him was put at ease by his cordial manner and his readiness to engage in conversation upon any subject, either of special or general interest. Apparently he was never in a hurry, always ready to stop on the street to talk with a friend, often at the expense of punctuality, the risk of a late dinner and work to be continued well into the night.

Dr. Jackson came to this city soon after the formation of our society and after the fees had been raised from seventy-five cents to a dollar a visit. This act, although just on account of the increased expense of living, was unpopular, and many endeavored to prevent newcomers from joining the society and adopting its fees. But he, in accordance with his usual good sense and judgment, cast his lot with his fellows, who were endeavoring to elevate the standard of the profession.

We always expected to see him at our society gatherings, and he often took part in its literary exercises and was among the foremost in promoting its social side. As a speaker, he was deliberate, his methods were logical, and his conclusions forcible. In him we had a good representative to the state society. He was treasurer from 1863 to 1876, having taken the position when the accounts were in a most disorderly state and the publications were of very little value. The desirability of the continuance of the society was by some a question. Dr. Jackson recognized the condition of affairs and entered upon the task of improving this state of things with all the earnestness he possessed. He insisted upon the collection of taxes; labored to obtain more papers to be read at the annual meetings; he inspired new interest among its members, and by his efforts brought a balance to the treasury and helped to make the publications worthy of the society.

The most important paper which he published had for its subject, "Logic Applied to Medical Science." It was prepared with great care, was full of thought and suggestions. He urged that the reasoning faculties should be

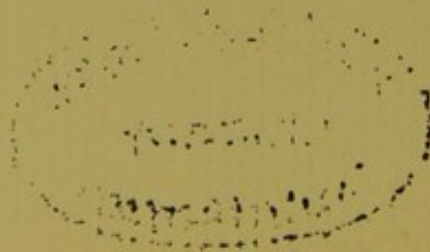
used in all the departments of medicine and that sufficient data should be obtained before the drawing of conclusions.

Dr. Jackson had a very large practice and at one time did more obstetrical work than any other physician in the city. It has been said that his active interest in politics during the war caused dissatisfaction among some of his patients which led them to leave him. However that may be, he always retained a good practice.

Pleasant in his manners and intelligent in his work, he received the patronage of the public which he merited. His medical associates always found him ready to lend a hand and give good advice after a deliberate consideration of the facts. He was one of the early and earnest workers in the Hartford Hospital. He was shrewd in detecting those who entered its walls at public expense without sufficient reason, as many did after the war for the sake of obtaining a home.

It is related of him that while making the rounds of the wards one day he found a man who often came in for the simplest ailment and would stay as long as possible. This time his trouble was a cold in the head. The doctor thought he had little reason for being there, and said to the interne, "I would put an all consummate big blister on his stomach." Upon making his visit upon a subsequent day, he noticed the man and asked him how he was getting along. "All right," said the man, "but this is the first time that I ever heard of blistering the belly for a cold in the head."

Dr. Jackson was a public spirited man, and many important trusts were confided to him in which he served with fidelity and to the great satisfaction of all interested. He was not a mere office holder, but gave his time and best efforts to every position which he accepted. He was useful all his life, steadily and constantly occupied, trusted, respected and honored by his fellow citizens.



William Henry Tremaine.

1815-1883.

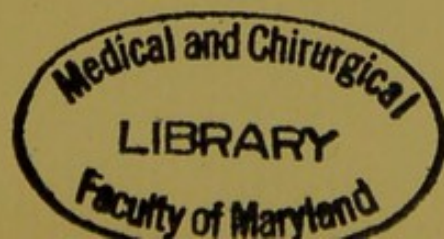
It was not till after his fortieth year that Dr. Tremaine came to this city from Higganum, where he had resided for a dozen years. His practice there was quite extensive on both sides of the river. The inhabitants of the place remember him as a very genial and agreeable gentleman, one who took an active interest in everything that tended to improve the place and advance the morals of the people. He was interested in the cause of temperance and instrumental in forming a society called the Sons of Temperance. He displayed a great deal of taste in ornamenting the places where he resided with shrubs and flowers, which were so improved that they were soon sold, and he often had to seek a new home. He had so won the affections of the people and was considered so good a physician and useful citizen that his departure was a great loss to the community.

Dr. Tremaine came to Hartford in 1856 and obtained but a moderate practice, much to his disappointment. He was for some years town physician and coroner. He quite regularly attended the meetings of our society, often related and remarked on cases and was wont to have some peculiar method of treatment of his own. At one of the meetings in 1875, in a discussion upon hypodermic injections, he claimed that he had adopted this method of treatment in 1860, the first to use it here. He was a good man, kindly remembered by those to whom he had administered and faithfully filled the position which he occupied.

Eli Tarnex.

1843-1884.

Just a quarter of a century ago this autumn, there came to this city a slender young man, of fair complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes and pleasant face, which so lighted up upon meeting you that it was a positive pleasure and delight to look at him. He had the keenest sense of humor, the ludicrous side of things striking him so



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quickly that his responsive outbursts of laughter were immediate. So modest, so gentle, so refined was Dr. Warner, that one would scarcely expect to find beneath it all so much of sarcasm, which, however, was never used to wound.

Dr. Warner was well educated, had the advantage of some years of experience in the practice of mental diseases, and anticipated greater enjoyment in the practice of general medicine. Men were readily attracted and attached to him. He never acquired a large practice, his health beginning to fail before this was attained, and for the same reason he did not take a prominent part in our meetings. He was assistant coroner and town physician, in which place he gave great satisfaction. The poor were so strongly attached to him in his failing health that they would bring their children to him in their arms rather than call him out in the night. Bishop Tierney, then Father Tierney, was his near neighbor and fast friend, and showed him much kindness in his last sickness, though he was not of his flock. Going with him one night on a sick visit, Father Tierney said to the patient, who showed no disposition to pay the doctor, "Now go down into the stocking and bring out the dollar."

Dr. Warner bore his last illness with great fortitude, determined to keep upon his feet, which he did by taking a large amount of cod liver oil and no little whiskey, although he had no love for it. He was a skillful physician, an upright man and a true friend, and always loyal to the profession.

Charles Walter Chamberlain.

1844-1884.

No physician has come to this city within my remembrance who in so few years gained so great a reputation, both local and general, as Dr. Chamberlain. He did almost the work of a lifetime when he had only reached its meridian. His ancestry and physique gave promise of long life. He was little below medium height, with a good head, keen eye and thoughtful face, which lighted up

with pleasurable emotion or could express the greatest indignation. He was careless in his dress, sluggish in his movements on the street, often with his head bowed as if wholly absorbed in some of the questions he was studying, but, when his ideas were matured and put into words, he could deliver them with the greatest animation. His manner was easy and genial, and his companionship was most delightful to those who were admitted to terms of intimacy and friendship. But, as his biographer says, "His personal reserve was absolute—very thin, but very impenetrable was the screen which surrounded his inner-self—but the respect which his mind and character compelled was such that none durst intrude unasked, even to his own advantage."

He was an active member of this society and its clerk for two years. His papers were always instructive and he entered into discussions with ardor; what was latest and best in the profession he knew and would maintain, though to some he would seem dogmatic. If the gauntlet was thrown at his feet, he was sure to pick it up, and when once he entered the lists it was to fight the battle for all it was worth. Yet in matters of opinion he granted others the same rights which he claimed for himself. He stimulated us to better work, for we well knew that no crude and careless statement concerning the facts of medical science would go unchallenged.

Dr. Chamberlain does not seem to have taken an active part in the state medical society until 1876, when he became the leading spirit, and was appointed its secretary and one of the committee for considering the subject of a state board of health. In the same year he showed his interest in the study of throat diseases by presenting a paper on diphtheria, maintaining its local origin, and a more scholarly one on laryngeal phthisis, minus the bacillus, which had then not been discovered. As secretary of the society, he became its most prominent actor, presenting its business clearly and forcibly, and the value of the Proceedings was greatly improved. In 1877 he was

appointed one of the committee on the state board of health, to act in concert with a similar committee from The American Medical Association, of which Dr. Jarvis was a member. In the legislature of 1878, after repeated failures, Dr. Chamberlain rallied all his friends and secured the passage of an act establishing a state board of health, and the same year he was made its first permanent secretary. It was during the convention this year that an amendment was proposed to allow county societies to expel a member, accused of irregular practice, without trial. In remarking upon this, the doctor said he thought the provision which allowed expulsion without trial a disgrace to the society and such star chamber proceedings a relic of barbarism. In 1880 he was appointed on a committee to examine the Massachusetts medical examiner system, in which he took great interest, and with others secured the passage of a similar bill for this state three years later. The impression of his mind was felt in every convention, and its annual proceedings were enlivened by his pen for the seven years during which he was secretary. On his retirement, Drs. Wile and Porter, a committee on behalf of the society, presented him with an engrossed testimonial, handsomely framed, consisting of resolutions expressing the appreciation of the society for the faithful and efficient manner in which he had performed its duties.

We have seen how the Health Board was secured, and now comes the time to show the doctor's devotion and tenacity in his work. With opposition from all sides, with a parsimonious appropriation, fearing to ask for more, lest his Board should be destroyed before its benefits were realized, he established rules, disseminated knowledge among the people, lectured to and advised on sanitary subjects, and thus, single-handed, made the Board a necessity in the eyes of the state. The reports for the seven years that he was in office displayed rare intellect and gave him a national reputation among sanitarians, and he was called to preside over one of the sections of The National Health Association.

Dr. Chamberlain had acquired a remunerative practice in his early years, but later, on account of his devotion to his special sanitary studies and his peculiar methods of work, it was difficult for his patients to obtain his services and his general practice fell off. For his acknowledged skill and good judgment, he was often called in consultation, both here and elsewhere. He had wonderful concentration of mind, and when once he entered upon a subject he pursued it, day and night, with little interruption for sleep, never leaving his room until he had obtained all the information at his command. He noted everything upon paper which he thought important for future use and afterward properly indexed the facts, and such was his memory that he could use his knowledge at will. His library, where he slept, at these times was in the utmost state of confusion—books and loose papers were on the desk, on the bed, on the floor and in chairs—and near at hand would be the remnants of fruit and crackers which had been his only food during these times of retirement. When not pressed with other business, he sought recreation in light literature, musical entertainments and the play. He enjoyed a good joke, and took pleasure in a game of ball or a hand at whist.

His abilities were known and appreciated by the legal profession. His services were often sought in the courts, and opposing lawyers were always shy in their cross-examinations of him, because of the completeness of his knowledge, his self-possession and the brilliancy of his answers. His reputation in this line was not confined to his own state, as we find him the principal expert in a notable case in Massachusetts. I remember an amusing incident in the Superior Court, in which Dr. Chamberlain appeared in an important case of personal injury. The plaintiff claimed that she suffered from hemiplegia, due to an injury which affected the central nervous system, and was organic. The claim of the defense was hysterical paralysis. At the close of the doctor's examination, he gave the results of his electrical tests. Governor Hubbard, one

of the counsel for the defense, turned to his associate, Judge Eggleston, and said, "You must cross-examine that witness." In consequence of this, the young lawyer spent most of the night in studying the subject and preparing for the cross-examination. On the following morning, at the opening of court, the junior counsel said to Governor Hubbard as he entered the court room in his stately manner, "How far shall I go with the doctor?" The governor, evidently having forgotten his commands of the night before, replied, "Don't ask him a question; he is a bad man to touch." As the lawyers took their positions at the table and the doctor the witness stand, the governor, thinking quickly to dispose of him, turned to his associate and said, "I will ask him a few questions," which gave the doctor just the opportunity he desired to enter learnedly into the subject, using professional terms and abstruse knowledge, not to be understood by the layman. Before the doctor had finished, Governor Hubbard cried out, "Oh, doctor, doctor, why do you go so far out to sea? Come and walk with me upon the shore and let us have a simple talk together." The doctor laughed, as did the judge and lawyers, and he began to simplify his language, but not to his injury as a witness. After Governor Hubbard saw that he was not drowned in the sea of professional knowledge, he put another question, and again the doctor plunged into the mysteries of his subject, and again the governor called out, "Doctor, doctor, if you are not too far out to sea to hear my voice, come ashore, come ashore, and walk with me among the sands and pebbles, where we may understand each other and hold sweet converse undisturbed and uninterrupted by the big sea waves." Again a laugh in the court room, and the doctor, with a twinkle in his eye, adapted himself to the understanding of the listeners, and so the examination continued a while longer, not to the discomfiture of the subtle and learned witness, but to the confirmation of Governor Hubbard's statement that Chamberlain was a bad man to touch.

Dr. Chamberlain had the highest sense of honor, in both social and professional relations. He did great service to the city, to the state, and to the country.

John Alexander Steven.

1841-1887.

Dr. Steven was born July 12, 1841, in Bonnyrig, near Edinburgh, Scotland. His paternal grandfather and great-grandfather were builders, as were many other of his relatives on both sides. His father was merchant and general storekeeper for the village of Bonnyrig, which was largely made up of operatives in a linen mill, both village and mill being upon land leased from the estate of Lord Dalhousie. Some of the villagers having trespassed upon the grounds of my lord, he purchased the mill and all the buildings connected with it and leveled them to the ground. He planted trees and laid out the land so as to be in harmony with the surrounding estate. His father was so annoyed by this arbitrary act that he came to America and settled in Illinois when John was twelve years old. After receiving a common school education, he learned the trade of a carpenter. He himself built a two-story house, with an ell, for which he was to receive seventy-five dollars. The work was so well done that the owner gave him an additional five dollars. At the opening of the war, he enlisted as a private in an Illinois regiment, and afterward was made a lieutenant. At Vicksburg, a stack of guns fell and wounded him in the arm; he was sent to the hospital, and while recovering was appointed hospital steward, in which position he dealt out medicines and often assisted the surgeons in amputations. He became so interested in this work that he determined to study medicine. At the close of the war, he went to Oberlin two years, and continued his education for two years more at Ann Arbor, and was graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at New York city. He afterward took a post-graduate course on the eye and ear. While at his trade he had saved seven hundred dollars, with

which he purchased a piece of land; from this he realized nine hundred dollars. While in the army he laid aside three thousand dollars, and all this he expended in his education. In order to obtain a little money with which to commence practice, he traveled a while with Dr. Warner, of Bridgeport, who was making a lecture tour through the country, and in that way became acquainted with Hartford, where he decided to settle. At first he opened an office on Main street, and it is said he never received a patient there. While moving his scanty furniture to the Hurlbut Block, on Asylum street, an accident occurred to some men who were working in a trench near by. A neighboring druggist suggested that they send for the new doctor, and thus he obtained his first patient. His practice continued rapidly to increase until he took \$12,000 in cash in a single year.

Dr. Steven was confident of his own powers and inspired his patients with hope. Many of his prescriptions were complicated, and remedies were given with freedom and boldness.

He was the organizer and first president of the Chautauqua circle in this city and was its master spirit. He devoted considerable time to this work and stimulated many to the study of the best authors. He preferred to retain his announcement as a specialist, and therefore was a member of our society only during the last seven years of his life. He was too busy in his profession to do much writing, but usually took part in the discussions when present.

He was a typical representative of physical force and a most indefatigable worker. If he had but a moment unoccupied, he would devote it to the reading of his books and journals which he did rapidly, noting on the margin many passages so that he might at any time readily refer to them. It is said that in his busiest times he would come in and hurriedly take his meal without even removing his overcoat.

He kept his accounts in the most systematic manner

and was a good collector, though he did much work for which he received no remuneration. He was sharp at a bargain, but just to every man. He was generous, giving a considerable sum to Oberlin College and smaller ones elsewhere. I can not do better than repeat what has been said of him by his brethren: "He was a conscientious, Christian physician, who by his constant and untiring activity, both in his profession and as a public spirited citizen, accomplished in the few years of his course the work of a lifetime." "The life is long which answers life's great end."

Henry Sparwood Otis.

1854-1889.

Dr. Otis was the youngest son of the Rev. Israel T. Otis, formerly of Lebanon, Conn. A graduate of the Harvard Medical College in 1883, he came directly here and entered the Hartford Hospital as an interne, where he did excellent service and gave entire satisfaction.

He was tall, slender in form, had a thoughtful face, winsome manners, and was an accomplished gentleman. He opened an office for general practice in this city, was well qualified for his work, but was diffident and over sensitive.

He was appointed Assistant Surgeon of the First Regiment, C. N. G., in 1884, which position he held until a short time before his death. He read a paper before our state society in 1887 on "Hip Joint Disease," which showed much study, clear and concise statement and a well trained mind.

Few physicians who have come to this city gave better promise of success, but an untimely death brought to a close the fond anticipations of his friends.

John Simpkins Butler.

1803-1890.

Steven Butler, a nonconformist English clergyman, was the father of Richard Butler, whose name appears on the records of the Puritan colony of Cambridge, Mass., in

1632. He was one of the company who came through the wilderness in 1636 and formed the settlement in Hartford, and several of the family were buried in the Center Church burying grounds.

One hundred and fifty years later, Daniel Butler removed from Hartford to Northampton, Mass., and became a merchant, and it was here that the subject of this sketch was born in 1803. On the maternal side, his great-great-grandfather was John Kneeland, of Boston, supposed to have been of Scotch origin, and who was a man of wealth and mark. Beginning as a stone mason, he built the old Hancock House and the old South Church, of which he was one of the original members. He acquired much real estate, and Kneeland street was named for him. His son Samuel printed the first Bible in Boston in 1749. His second son William was a physician of note and president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He was the father of Mehitable Kneeland, who was married to John Simpkins, a deacon in the old North Church of Boston, who was the grandfather of John Simpkins Butler.

Dr. Butler graduated at Yale College in 1825, and received his diploma in medicine in 1828 at the Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia. He commenced general practice the next year in Worcester, Mass.; while there he frequently visited the lunatic asylum and became acquainted with Dr. Samuel Woodward, from whom he caught his inspiration and his interest in the study of mental diseases. In 1839, upon the opening of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, Dr. Butler was appointed superintendent upon the recommendation of Dr. Woodward, who commended him as the best man to reform the horrible abuses of their almshouse custody of the insane. Here he showed his self-sacrifice and devotion to his work and also the rare skill which he possessed in gaining the confidence of the poor creatures whom he removed from shocking cells and treated with the utmost tenderness. His work was important in connection with the development of the hospital care of the insane in this country.

After three years' service, upon resigning his position, leading citizens and prominent physicians testified to his success and special aptitude in caring for the insane. In 1843, he was chosen superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane in Hartford. His biographer says: "For thirty years of continuous service he kept the institution in the front rank of contemporary progress." He believed that his patients should have beautiful and homelike surroundings, and it was largely through his efforts that the lawns of the Retreat were graded, the trees there grouped and new ones added, resulting in most attractive and picturesque grounds. The fourth hall was also added under his administration.

Dr. Butler's large sympathies, insight into human nature and rare tact with his patients led them to consider him as their personal friend; he thus gained their confidence and brought sunshine into their hearts. His charming personality, courtesy and enthusiasm for his work so impressed the friends of his patients that they were anxious to leave them under his charge. It is stated in our records that he was well adapted for his specialty from his natural powers of kindness, good nature and self-command; he was so judicious that he could give a fitting answer to a complaining patient; he was so considerate that he was anxious to serve others rather than himself.

The doctor did not write extensively, but in 1886 published a book on "The Curability of Insanity," in which he set forth his ideas on the individual treatment of the insane.

I leave it to his associates, who have the proper data for that purpose, to determine his rank as a specialist. His honors were not a few. He was one of the thirteen who organized the Association of Medical Superintendents in 1844; was eight years its vice-president and president for three years. He was an honorary member of the Medico-Psychological Society of Great Britain. He was influential in establishing the Hospital for the Insane in Middletown, which relieved his own crowded institution.

In the early years of The Hartford Medical Society, he frequently attended its meetings. He was so broad in his views, so free from prejudice, so considerate of others, so earnest in his search for truth that whatever he said commanded the utmost attention, and when the subjects of discussion were in his special realm his words were received as authority. His sympathies were with us to the last, and it was always a delight to him to meet a medical brother and talk over the great progress that was taking place in medicine and surgery. The last time he called upon me, in the course of a most interesting talk, he remarked that he envied the younger physicians, and that he would like to live for the next twenty-five years, in order to see the wonderful discoveries which he confidently believed would be made. After his retirement from active duties, he still showed his interest in his special work by keeping up a correspondence with his old associates. He was an enthusiastic advocate of the State Board of Health, and was most influential in securing it; he was appointed by the governor a member of the first Board, and was chosen its first president, which office he resigned after ten years, but remained a member until the time of his death. At their first meeting he delivered an address on "State Preventive Medicine," a paper of great scope, research and learning. He referred to the sanitary regulations among the Jews, the Greeks, and especially among the Romans, the ruins of whose aqueducts, sewers, baths and street pavements, as well as traces in private houses of appliances for ventilation, testified to the care they gave to this subject. He spoke of the entire neglect of all sanitary provisions during the Middle Ages and the great attention given to them in Great Britain. He considered the governmental report of 1842 of the sanitary condition of the laboring population the true starting point of modern sanitary legislation; he traced its rise and progress in Great Britain and this country, freely using reports, foreign and domestic, and other valuable documentary evidence not generally accessible; his object was to show

to the people what state preventive medicine had done, what it could do, and what the highest public good demands.

On account of his extensive experience, Dr. Butler was often called in council and as an expert in court. His fine presence, his knowledge of the subject and clear statement in court commanded the attention of both judge and jury, and, what was more to the point, he could match the case in hand by similar ones, and his own experience was the authority for his testimony; and well it might be, for thousands of cases had been under his care.

Dr. Butler was nearly six feet in height, stout, with light complexion, pleasant bluish-gray eyes and a benevolent face. He possessed native refinement, winning manners, frankness and a gentlemanly bearing. He was generally beloved for his many amiable qualities; he was fond of society, with a mind well stored with interesting and instructive information. One of his pupils said of him: "His interests were always enthusiasms." He was genial and courteous, earnest and sincere. He had a pleasant humor, and was always ready with a merry conceit, a quaint saying or an apt anecdote.

He was in his happiest mood when surrounded by his family and his intimate friends, and the last years of his life were brightened and cheered by his grandchildren, and his correspondence with those who were residing for a time in London was most entertaining and instructive. I know that I have done but meagre justice to the character of this noble man, whose life was one of self-sacrifice for those suffering from one of the most direful of all calamities.

James Hughes McNamara.

1863-1892.

Of the many who have been taken from us in the last quarter of a century by death, Dr. McNamara was the youngest. He was short in stature, youthful in appearance and quick in movement, with dark brown hair, gray

eyes and a pleasant face. By nature he had refined tastes and was a great lover of music. His attachments were strong, his sympathies were warm, and he had the rare gift of anticipating one's wants and was thoroughly unselfish. He was a fair scholar, intensely in love with the practice of his profession—and this was so manifest that his patients became greatly attached to him.

He was town physician, and in his devotion to the poor was so forgetful of himself as to risk his own health and life.

Sometimes he was impulsive, though he never cherished ill will toward anyone. His work was so soon ended that the society knew but little of him. Frank, manly and zealous, we could have wished him a long and useful life.

Russell Hosford Tiffany.

1812-1892.

Dr. T. Gaillard Thomas once remarked that a physician who came to the city near the meridian of life never acquired so good a practice as those who came in early life. This has proved still more true of old men.

Dr. Tiffany came to Hartford in 1878. He had only a small practice here. His best years were spent and most successful work done in Collinsville. He was a man of remarkable physical endurance, even tempered, social and agreeable. He was generally present at our meetings, and often supplemented cases by recalling from his long experience similar ones and the methods of treatment in his earlier practice. His remedies were few, but his biographer remarks that his patients recovered promptly. He was a good representative of the oldtime physician. He reminds us of Maclaren's description of the old doctor of Drumtochty: "He's a skilly man an' a kind-hearted. . . . He aye can tell what's wrang wi' a body, an' maistly he can put ye richt, and there's no new fangled wys wi' him; a blister for the ootside, an' epsom salts for the inside, dis his wark, an' they say there's no an herb on the hills he disna ken."

George Whitfield Avery.
1836-1893.

Few physicians have come to this city under more auspicious circumstances than Dr. Avery or have sooner obtained a good and profitable practice. To have such a man as Dr. Bushnell as patient and friend would be sufficient introduction to any community, and, besides this, he had those marked characteristics, physical and mental, which would attract the attention of those who came in contact with him. Like Saul of old, "From his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people." He had so much strength, so much vitality, was so earnest and responsive that it was easy to become interested in him. It is said that Dr. Avery's grandfather, (who was a chaplain in the revolutionary army), had a voice that could be heard all over the encampment, and some one has remarked that the doctor's puritanic pedigree was written all over him.

Dr. Avery had quick powers of observation, was keenly alive to the beauties of nature and possessed a humor which was so spontaneous as to be a part of himself. One of his prominent characteristics was his attachment and loyalty to his friends. Several friendships formed during the war continued unimpaired through life. In his last sickness, when speech had almost failed him, he dictated a letter to a colonel who was a patient of his in New Orleans, whom he regarded almost in the light of a brother.

Dr. Avery continued to prescribe and give directions to his patients until entirely prostrated by his disease. His sympathy with patients and friends was so intense that it seriously affected his spirits—he literally suffered with those in sickness and affliction.

The story of his ten years' life in New Orleans, his charge of hospitals, the confidence reposed in him by his superior officers, the important positions which he filled during and after the war have been recorded elsewhere. I must not, however, forget to recall to your minds his

courageous and self-denying conduct during the epidemic of cholera and yellow fever, where he was busy night and day for weeks, while other physicians from the north deserted their posts. His work among the Creoles and colored people, with whom he had a large practice, was a novel and interesting experience. He had a remarkable memory for the events of the war, and would recur again and again to interesting cases which had come under his care. His delight in surgery was doubtless largely due to his experience in the army.

Dr. Avery was self-reliant and positive in his opinions, and impressed upon his patients the importance of following his orders. Upon one occasion when called in counsel with other physicians who thought the patient would not recover, he dissented from that view and was afterwards called to take charge of the case. Upon learning that the patient had taken very little nourishment and much physic, he said, "Give him a good Christian dinner." The patient, not wishing to take medicine, the doctor, with his usual fertility of resources, ordered electricity and inunction of sweet oil, of which he used a gallon in three months. The patient gained forty pounds.

He never was at a loss for remedies and would remark, "If this does not succeed, I have plenty more arrows in my quiver." He took an active part in our society and often related cases and commented upon those of others. His emphatic and decided opinions always gave him ready listeners. He sometimes seemed so full of his subject that he struggled to find words to express his thoughts and would hesitate with a peculiar drawl and an expression of countenance which were very amusing. He had the utmost faith in the power of remedies, was heroic in his use of them and often tried new ones. He was outspoken in his condemnation of quackery.

Dr. Avery read a well-considered paper before the state society on "The Value of Remedies in Disease." When our society was seeking a proper testimonial to present to Dr. Russell, in honor of his fifty years of actual

service in the profession, *he* suggested "The Loving Cup." At the dinner given on its presentation, the doctor responded to the toast, "Our Sacred Art." His effort on this occasion was in his best vein, his language well chosen, his thoughts of a high order and he spoke with great force.

Dr. Avery was for several years physician to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and was untiring in his devotion to the sick of that institution. Unyielding, angular, without much outward adornment, the external of his life was above reproach. His interior life was calm, well furnished and hopeful. Next to the time spent with his family, his happiest hours were spent with his books and in his garden. He read very little light literature, was exceedingly fond of history and especially military history. His books were of the most substantial character. He hated meanness and insincerity and could express scorn as has been said with that toss of the head, flash of the eye and that stroke of gesture which are well remembered in him. The doctor had great reverence, was full of questionings concerning the mysteries of the future, but had simple childlike faith.

William Augustus Muhlenberg Wainwright.

1844-1894.

Among those who have entered our society during the last quarter of a century, no one has been more conspicuous, either by distinguished personal appearance or by marked mental characteristics than Dr. Wainwright. In person, he was tall, stout, well proportioned, with a fine countenance, well formed head, large dark eyes and a military bearing. Of a famous ancestry, with well disciplined mind and with superior advantages in his profession, he was so well equipped as to justify the prediction of his future success.

His courtly manners, good conversational powers and fund of anecdote made him a favorite in society, and, as there were added to these tact and good judgment, his

services were often demanded as a presiding officer and director upon many public occasions. He possessed generous instincts and the finest sense of personal and professional honor; was outspoken in his indignation for anything that was base or cowardly. If, on any occasion of criticism or discipline, he thought a member had been too severely dealt with, he rose promptly and effectively to his defense, and with so much force as often to turn the tide of feeling in his favor. If his impulsive nature led him to speak with too much severity, his warm heart and sense of justice led him to make proper amends.

He took a prominent part in the city, county and state societies. He had a decided business capacity and no one of late years was more often called upon to serve the society on important committees or to make arrangements for and preside over our annual gatherings. He presented numerous cases at our meetings; what he had to say was tersely expressed and in so forcible a manner as to leave no uncertainty in regard to its meaning.

"His brain well furnished and his tongue well taught,
To press with energy his ardent thought."

This was well illustrated at the annual meeting of 1893, when, after a long continued talk about the need of a society building, he spoke in his characteristic way of the desirability of *doing* something at once, and from this point the subscriptions began.

Dr. Wainwright was president of The Hartford County Medical Society at its centennial celebration. We all remember what interest he took in it and the able review which he presented of the medical progress of the last century.

In 1891 he read a paper before the state medical society on "The Proper Care of Seriously Injured Persons," referring particularly to railroad accidents and advocating attendance on the spot rather than removing such patients to the hospital, by which act time was lost and lives endangered.

He was one of the committee for the state centennial, and read a paper entitled, "The Medico-Legal Aspects of Chloroform."

At one time the doctor was much opposed to the use of chloroform in general surgery, and used to say to Dr. Hastings, who gave chloroform at the hospital in all cases, "I don't wish a death to occur here, but if it does happen, I hope it will be in your hands." Yet in hundreds of administrations no life was lost.

We can well say with Dr. Braman, that our meetings lack something because of his absence, of his earnestness, his vivacity and his hearty cheer.

Dr. Wainwright handled the scalpel with dexterity and always did his operations well. In the sick room he was gentle and sympathetic, and, no matter what the condition of the patient, he left nothing undone which would bring relief to the sufferer.

Dr. Wainwright's services were heartily appreciated at Trinity College, of which he was an alumnus and trustee. For twenty-three years he was lecturer at the college on anatomy and physiology, part of the time with the title of professor. Dr. Wainwright was chosen president of the New England Association of the alumni of the college at its organization in 1882. After six years he declined a re-election, and was chosen its secretary, which position he held until his death. He was also president of the (general) association of the alumni of the college from 1883 to 1886. Dr. Hart says of him, "He never begrudged the time that he could give for any service, however petty or troublesome, that he could render to his *alma mater*; and this was especially seen in the attention which he willingly gave to details of arrangements for the public exercises connected with commencement. He gladly gave the advantage of his professional services to the students in time of sickness or accident; and many a young man in humble circumstances was attended by him, not only with no expectation of remuneration, but with special pains that it should not be thought that any

obligation was incurred. All his actions of this kind were marked by the most generous courtesy."

He was an active worker in the church and filled the highest offices that a layman could attain.

Dr. Wainwright was often called upon to take part in private theatricals, as he possessed many requisites for the stage, having remarkable powers of mimicry and great enthusiasm. He was so in sympathy with the characters which he personated that for the time he seemed to lose his own identity. His manner and countenance were so changed that he could be recognized only by his intimate friends. As one sat looking at his massive figure, listening to his powerful voice and observed his bearing, he would from time to time be reminded of Edwin Forrest, and indeed his friends were pleased to speak of the resemblance between him and that great tragedian.

When called upon for an after-dinner speech, he would sometimes give a recitation with so much spirit and feeling as to make a deep impression upon his auditors.

He was an admirable talker, a most delightful entertainer, and many of us have shared his hospitality. He was strongly attached to his friends and they were to him. No one will easily forget his animated conversation at our social gatherings, enlivened by anecdotes, of which he would have the latest and the best.

Ashbel Ward Barrows.

1816-1896.

Although Dr. Barrows was not one of the founders of the society, yet, coming here the next year, he deserves to be classed with them, for in all its early years he participated in its struggles, took an active part in its meetings, and labored in every way to promote its interests.

He was tall, delicate in form, with light complexion, blue eyes, and an unassuming but dignified manner. In a mixed assembly, he might readily be taken for a clergyman. He was refined, intelligent, and met you with a cordial greeting and a pleasant smile. His sterling in-

tegrity and spiritual life were so marked that all acknowledged their power, even though they did not accept his creed nor share his faith. He was well versed in the arts and science of his profession, remaining in practice and keeping in touch with whatever was new for a much longer period than most physicians. As a counselor he was considerate, judicious and helpful; he was a very constant attendant of our society, as well as that of the county and state, as long as his health would allow, and he was a working member in all of them. The cases which he related were interesting; his papers were the result of study and experience, and his remarks were pertinent.

As early as 1858 and 1859, he presented sanitary reports to The Connecticut Medical Society so thoroughly prepared as to be models to those who succeeded him. In one of these reports, the doctor speaks of the constant and persevering efforts of Dr. Holmes, the health officer, in combating an epidemic of small-pox in 1857, during which year there were 100 cases in this city, thirty of whom died. When we contrast our present freedom from this dreaded disease with its prevalence at that time, what stronger argument can we have for vaccination?

The doctor furnished several papers, but the one which gave him the most reputation was his address before The Connecticut Medical Society when its president, in 1877, entitled "Malarial Fevers in New England." In this paper he treated of its history, origin and causes, and his name became so associated with the subject that he was called as an expert in a famous case in Pittsfield, Mass.

As a writer, he used good English; his facts were well stated, and his suggestions and conclusions were judicious. Dr. Barrows did not gain his practice with a flourish, but when once obtained he easily kept it as long as his health would permit. I think his ability in his profession was rather under than overestimated. He was so modest that he never displayed his learning, but when you asked for it you would find something worthy of consideration. "Observant, studious, thoughtful and refreshed by knowledge gathered up from day to day."

An incident occurred during his last sickness which well illustrates his modesty. His servant, in looking over the daily papers, failed to find any reference to the doctor's illness, and spoke to the nurse with considerable feeling that he had been so neglected. The nurse mentioned it to the doctor, who replied: "The papers have been very good to me and have treated me better than I deserve."

The confidence reposed in him by business men was shown when The Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company changed all its leading officers, but still retained Dr. Barrows as its medical director.

The church always claimed his services, which were freely given through a long life. Dr. Barrows continued his practice for more than fifty years, to near the close of his life; but, as some one has said, "When the cog wheels of our machinery are worn roughly by the ravages of time, a slight blow is sufficient to knock it into pieces." And so at last he passed away, the personification of a Christian man, in whom was no guile. He was an honor to the medical profession; we all revere his memory and would vie with each other in cherishing it.

"For all his manhood's labor past,
For love and faith long tried,
His age is honored to the last,
Though strength and will have died."

Irving Whitall Lyon.

1840-1896.

During our late civil war, a young man fresh from the hospital entered the service of his country in a Tennessee campaign. Being in the fever district, his health soon failed, and he returned to New York, where he met a medical friend who was coming to Hartford on a visit and invited Dr. Lyon to accompany him, and introduced him to his friends here. This was at a time when several of the younger physicians were in the army. The doctor, thinking that there was a good opening, decided to remain here, and was cordially welcomed by the older physicians.

He was of more than medium stature, erect, with black hair and eyes, expressive face, quick step and agreeable manners, and was always neatly dressed. He had a good education, was recently an interne in Bellevue Hospital, and had great enthusiasm in his profession. His salient traits were industry, versatility, probity, intelligence and sympathy for those in distress. With these qualifications, he rapidly came into favor and soon acquired a remunerative practice. His patients were devotedly attached to him, and he was especially attractive to children; as Dickens says: "He is so cheery, so fresh, so sensible, so earnest that the place brightens whenever he comes and darkens whenever he goes again."

Dr. Lyon early joined our society and became its secretary, and by his earnestness added much interest to its proceedings.

He kept a daily record of his cases, and often made autopsies which he presented to the society with great minuteness and with the differential diagnosis added. He had decided powers of imitation and occasionally narrated his cases with dramatic effect. He had confidence in himself, and sometimes took exception to methods of older men, for which in turn he received criticism not altogether agreeable to him.

Dr. Lyon took an active part in the county society and was its president at the time of his death. He took a leading part in The Connecticut Medical Society, serving on committees of publication, matters of professional interest, registration, etc. He reported very many interesting cases, including one on pneumonia, complicated with pericarditis, in which he performed paracentesis pericardii with benefit to the patient, and eight days after repeated the operation; he also read several important papers before the society, a large number relating to diseases of the chest. His papers were accurate, thorough and comprehensive. His spare time during his later years was occupied in antiquarian studies, which to him were of absorbing interest and a recreation. I do not remember how his attention was directed to pottery and porce-

lain. He first proposed to write a book on that subject, but upon further consideration this idea was abandoned.

He had now become interested in collecting colonial furniture, and found that there was no authoritative book on the subject; he decided to write one; examined the museums, visited private houses, and searched the old records and inventories of New England and the Middle states for his material. He further visited collections in England and on the Continent to learn the origin of the earliest forms from which our forefathers took their models. The result of his studies was a book which at once brought him into notice, and is now the authority on this subject, and which, as an antiquarian remarked to me, was a monumental work. While collecting material for the above work, his attention was directed to colonial houses. He had obtained his facts and had commenced writing this book when his work suddenly came to an end by his death. His delight was like that of a child with a new toy when he discovered a new fact or could subvert a previous statement in relation to his subject.

He possessed superior literary tastes and was satisfied with only the best results he could possibly obtain. His methods were to outline the principal divisions of his book, and then to secure and to properly arrange all the material for it. When composing, he would consider every word until he felt sure that it expressed in the most forcible manner the exact shade of meaning which he desired to convey. When a chapter was finished, he would reconsult his authorities and go over the whole again with the greatest care.

He was so occupied in medical and literary studies that he gave very little time to society; yet, if his friends or associates called upon him, he would readily lay aside his work and enter sympathetically into conversation with them, often in the most delightful manner. He was kind and considerate, and spared no pains when he could render assistance or show the appreciation that was due to others. Simple in life, pure in thought, of earnest purpose, his memory will long remain in the hearts of the people and of his brethren.

ESPRIT DE CORPS.

BY HENRY P. STEARNS, M. D.

Individuality of character is important in many respects. It adds to the resources of enjoyment and capacity for improvement. It lifts society from the dead level of sameness, and colors its civic, industrial and national life with variety; but its resources are limited. The individual alone or isolated, however great his inheritance may be, shrinks both in character and capacity. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." It is only when those having similar characteristics and purposes unite and form families and communities that they become strong.

Passing beyond these elementary aggregations of individuals, we come to the evolution of different societies and associations in industrial, religious, social and professional life. As such associations increase in membership and their ultimate purpose widens, they divide and subdivide. Special societies with more limited purposes are formed. The members have more or less definite and specific purposes and methods of study and investigation. They are also inspired by some peculiar or characteristic animating spirit, which serves to bind the members together in the pursuit of such ideals as may have led to the formation and life of the association. This spirit it is when confined to the individual, and the *esprit de corps*, when it pervades a society, a community or a nation, which determines and stamps their character.

It may be bad, or it may be good, political or religious. It may be weak or strong. It may lead to the pursuit of merely social pleasures, or to the search for truth and the advancement of science. But of whatever nature it may be, it constitutes the determining character of the body it pervades, and in proportion to the degree of its pervasive power in any association we may look for success.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable instances of its powerful influence, when connected with a great religious awakening, was exhibited in the wars of the Crusades.

The enthusiasm born of the promises and future rewards then made by preachers became boundless, and the first great armies which moved toward Constantinople contained hundreds of thousands of soldiers, besides multitudes of camp followers, the most of whom perished in the ensuing sieges and battles, only to be followed by other armies inspired by a like heroic spirit.

But, Mr. President, I need not go back so far for an illustration of the mighty influence of the *esprit de corps* when it inspires the hearts of those engaged in a great cause. You very well remember, indeed you can never forget, the electric thrill which went from heart to heart through all New England and the whole North, as the call for an army came from Lincoln to save the capital of our common country. The people of the states of the North had been taunted as being "mudsills," "abolitionists," "shopkeepers," and craven cowards, and ready to seek peace on any terms when confronted by the stern realities of war. Our brethren in the South had long been assured that no matter how great the provocation and indignity, there would be no war—we should never fight. But when the supreme moment came and the bugle call sounded, loyal legions sprang to arms by the thousands. No man then and now living can ever forget those early days of the war, nor the spirit which led to the vast sacrifices then made to save our country. Neither you nor I, though our locks have since been whitened by service and the frosts of many winters, can ever fail in the memories of our experiences with the brave boys in blue during those long four years and more of our service. Though the mighty animating spirit of sacrifice and patriotism seemed at times during those weary days of battle and blood, suffering and death, to weaken; though the cry of many widows and orphans, "How long, Oh Lord, how long," was heard in many a darkened home in every part

of our country; though the armies were decimated again and again, yet their wonderful courage never failed. Their *esprit de corps* rose triumphant over the close of every dark day and in every great emergency, until at last the joyous day of peace dawned and we returned to our homes.

Perhaps these illustrations have made clear enough my purpose, which has been to call attention to the importance to any society of the character of its *esprit de corps*. The questions naturally arise at this epoch of The Hartford Medical Society: What has been and now is, and what should be its *esprit de corps*, that it may attain its highest efficiency as a medical society?

The first of these questions, Mr. President, I assume will be at least partially answered in the remarks you will soon favor us with. But having been a member of the society longer than any other of its present members, I believe, except Dr. Russell, I beg your indulgence while I recall some of the impressions received by me during the early months of my acquaintance with it, which are germane to the subject of these remarks.

The first and the most pronounced of these related to the good fellowship which was conspicuous, especially at our meetings. My previous experience in general practice had been mostly in a large country town where there were three other practitioners. Of fellowship among them, there was none. "Each one for himself, and the devil take the hindmost," would hardly be too strong an expression with which to characterize our professional relations. There was little of professional and no social association among them, and scant courtesy was extended to me after my advent. If a consultation was required, some one out of town was sent for, and no attempt toward securing good fellowship and a common interest was ever thought of. No scheme of professional study or improvement of any kind existed. I need not add that the practice of medicine in that place and under such professional relations soon became unsatisfactory, and, after three years'

experience, intolerable to me. I can hardly explain how great the contrast was here, after I became a member of this society. Friendly and professional interest was manifest from the first. Our meetings then, as now, were twice a month, and the members always received their fellows at their homes. Bread was broken at each other's tables, thereby testifying to and acknowledging the bond, not only of professional fellowship, but also that of friendship. Antagonism of individual interests, if it existed, did not become prominent. It is not intended to intimate that there was unanimity of opinion relating to the theory or practice of medicine, or other matters in which the society was interested. Far from it. This was regarded as neither essential nor desirable. On the other hand, the views of each and all members, which were not incompatible with good fellowship and the primal objects of the society, were welcomed. Criticism and dissent were expressed with respect and deference to the feelings of opponents, while dissensions, which are so detrimental to success, were never welcome. Indeed, the memories of the pleasing impressions I received during my early connection with this society, and of the professional associations then formed, are among the pleasantest of my now rather long professional life. The manly and benevolent faces of Beresford, Hunt, Hawley, Russell, Butler, Jackson, Grant, Barrows, Hastings, Miner, Wilcox and others are vividly recalled as we come to the celebration of this fiftieth anniversary of good fellowship. For their influence in establishing and keeping alive an *esprit de corps* so saturated with this characteristic, they are entitled to high honor and to our warmest gratitude. Without the inspiration of such a spirit, our society would have been deprived of half its public influence and its capacity for improvement. The founding of the Hospital and the Old People's Home would have been delayed for the fourth of a century. The loving cup, which I trust will ever serve to bind us in still closer professional relations, would have never been presented to our senior and well-beloved member, Dr. Russell.

Our society would still be without the prospect of a laboratory and an abiding home, and all that is implied in the promised grand memorial of our honored and lamented brother Hunt, except for the good fellowship which has always been so prominent in our *esprit de corps*.

With such a spirit so long pervading our society, we have a right, on this fiftieth anniversary, to use the words of Burns:

"And here's a hand, my trusty friend,
And give us a hand of thine,
We'll take a draught of right good will
For auld lang-syne.

Refrain.

"For days of auld lang-syne, my friend,
For days of auld lang-syne,
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang-syne."

But while the characteristic of good fellowship in all our relations was especially prominent during the early years of our history, and has continued to be so to the present time, another in some respects of even greater importance has not been wanting. I refer to that of *loyalty to the higher ideals of our profession*. In this respect I am confident that our *esprit de corps* has never in the past been, and is not now, inferior to that of any similar society in our country.

It is doubtless true that there exists at present to a greater degree than formerly a tendency to appreciate the value of the service we render to others, and to expect some corresponding response from them; but while this is true, the calls of the poor were never more cheerfully responded to than now. Indeed, we do vastly more for this class of people by means of hospitals and dispensaries established and conducted by our efforts than we were ever able to do in our earlier history. Furthermore, as the various departments of science have widened and the true scientific spirit has increased, our profession has fully

sympathized and in some measure kept pace with its progress. We are, therefore, prepared to render service of a higher order, and promote the public welfare more fully, than ever before. The improvements in surgical appliances and instruments and in the methods of conducting surgical operations, and the antiseptic treatment of wounds; the discovery of new and more efficient remedies for some forms of disease by means of carefully conducted experiments by experts; a wider knowledge of the causes of disease and the remedies therefor; a better understanding of the nature and causes of epidemics; improved hospitals, dispensaries, laboratories and sanitary appliances, and the means of making more accurate diagnoses and prognoses in some forms of disease; and, above all, the discovery of modern anæsthesia, which occurred in our own city, and which alone has rendered possible the great advances which have pertained to surgery since that great event—all these, and many other advances of which I need not now remind you, have placed our profession in the front rank of public benefactors, and enabled us to render public and private services of a far higher order than ever before.

They have also served to widen the scope and sphere of the practice of medicine. This relates no longer to recognizing and trying to remedy evils which already exist. It has passed beyond this method of service, or rather anticipating it, it has sought to study the causes and nature of disease with a view to its prevention. To this end, it has summoned to its aid and formed a closer alliance with the resources of chemistry and microscopy, biology, bacteriology, neurology and psychology.

The brain, which in man reaches the most complex and highly organized state known to exist, and through which he becomes conscious of a universe about him, and also self-conscious, has been explored and its mysterious activities examined. This marvelous combination of blood vessels, nerves, tissues and cells of different forms and functions, the nature of which has so long defied the

scrutiny of the anatomist, has been ransacked, and its secret processes have become better understood. The interdependence of its movements and the great thought-process, has been demonstrated as upon a blackboard.

This brings it to pass that the study of psychology is no longer confined to observations and definitions of normal or abnormal mental activities merely, but also embraces the relation between brain and mental action and reaction. It is true that molecular motion and mental activities, such as constitute purpose, plan, joy, grief, love and hatred, have no resemblance, and we can not conceive how the one can become the other; the span between the two, however narrow it may be, is never likely to be bridged; and yet we are confident that the time is not far distant when the relation they bear to each other will be made clear.

The education of children, too, from the physician's standpoint, is likely to be approached from a different direction and be put primarily upon a physiological basis. Former methods of placing the children of schools in classes according to age or a degree of attainment through the proficiency of memory are seen to result in the discipline only of certain limited areas of the brain, while other and more extended areas which preside over the processes of observation, analysis and synthesis, are left comparatively dormant. In the future, inasmuch as the general system is but the servant of the brain, education will thus indirectly become prophylactic of disease in adult life.

But medicine has not confined its researches to the brain and the nervous system; it has pushed its analysis to the elements of the whole organization, not only in its normal state, but also in its diseased conditions. Its methods of study have been in the same spirit and with a like zeal in securing accurate knowledge as have characterized students in other fields of science. It recognizes the fact that the problem which confronts the physician when he is called to relieve a case of disease is one of sci-

ence in its first aspect, and that every clinical inquiry is, or should be, one relating to a fact, a true state of body or mind, which bears as perfect a relation to some antecedent fact or cause as do sequence and cause in any other domain of scientific inquiry; and, therefore, that the educational equipment which comes from mental training and clinical observation more surely enables the physician to penetrate directly to the secret places of disease.

That such investigations may become successful, it recognizes the necessity of extended preliminary training in lines of study of a scientific character. It recognizes the importance and necessity of establishing and endowing colleges and laboratories in which qualified experts and their students may move on further into the realms of disordered functions and diseased structures of the different organs; also extend our knowledge of the vastly complicated chemical changes which are forever succeeding each other in the conversion of solids and liquids into blood and the various organic structures of the body, both in health and disease; and especially in which experiments relating to the properties and effects of remedial substances upon living organisms may be tested and extended.

How fully, Mr. President, these methods of work and splendid achievements have been sympathized with and reflected in the *esprit de corps* of our society, the records of our papers and discussions and our many united professional activities during the past fifty years partly testify. I think it may be fairly claimed that, as a society, we have been in sympathy and full accord with all intelligent efforts made in any direction for the advancement of medicine. While we have had little sympathy with those who have sought to prostitute their knowledge, be it little or much, to private gain by quackish methods, and are on record as hating sham and humbug, yet we have ever cherished a broad and catholic spirit, and have been ready to test by experiment such rational hypotheses as seemed to promise good results.

We have been in full accord with efforts made to raise the standard of education, not only in the medical college established by The Connecticut Medical Society as a department of Yale University, but also with similar ones in other colleges. We have been alive to the truth that the physician can not be too thoroughly educated in medicine and in other allied branches of science, because medicine embraces so many other sciences. Indeed, it has been called "the mother of most other sciences;" so that our art reaches out to the circumference of the needs of civilization, and through its mighty influence civilization itself will in the future move forward more surely and rapidly than has ever been possible in the past.

Recognizing the fact, other things being equal, that the best service is rendered to the commonwealth by those in sound mental and physical health, and that the largest measures of well-being and happiness come to those who are in possession of these blessings, we have sought to safeguard the public in securing them by the enactment of necessary legislation.

We have been active, earnest and persistent in helping forward all public efforts in sanitary matters and in urging measures for the prevention of disease. The public has been more than welcome, in every danger from disease, to the benefit of our knowledge and experience in measures to promote its health. While we have aimed to be conservative, we have earnestly sought to be progressive.

We can not claim that we have done all that we might have done, or that we, at all times, have followed our highest ideals, but as we enter on the threshold of another fifty years, with its broad fields for improvement and discoveries, may our *esprit de corps* reflect the watchword of the immortal youth of Longfellow's poem, EXCELSIOR!

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Hartford Medical Society, from the Standpoint of its Written Enactments.

BY M. STORRS, M. D.

It is assigned to me to speak of some of the prominent points of our history as related to the present and future of the society. I shall do this in a measure from the study of its written enactments.

When this society was first organized, there was a simple declaration of its purposes and objects, followed by certain regulations for their accomplishment. These, in 1891, gave place to our present charter and by-laws. During the entire fifty years, very few changes were made; even the charter and by-laws recently adopted are more a change of form than of purpose or spirit. It is timely and profitable to review these enactments at the end of this long period. Doing this, we shall measure more accurately and prize more appropriately whatever the founders may have done for our present and future prosperity. The following is the declaration to which we have referred and to which the names of the fifteen original members are appended:

"The object of this society is to maintain the practice of medicine and surgery in this city upon a respectable footing, to expose the ignorance and resist the arts of quackery, and to adopt measures for the mutual improvement, pleasant intercourse and common good of its members."

This statement was to all intents and purposes their constitution. There is in it nothing hidden or involved. It requires no commentary of any distinguished jurists to interpret it. The first thing expressed and probably uppermost in the minds of the founders was "to maintain the practice of medicine upon a respectable footing." But these words have somewhat of a strange sound at the close of this century, at a time when we pride ourselves

upon the reputation and standing of the profession, and when we personally feel honored by being enrolled in membership. We look to-day in vain to find any other profession excelling medicine in its rapid development, in the favor it holds with the people, or in the amount of good that it accomplishes. But to feel the meaning and the force of the expressed purpose, "to maintain the practice of medicine upon a respectable footing," we must keep in mind the early history of medicine in this state. It is in part disclosed in 1763 when the physicians of New London county memorialized the General Court for a state charter, saying in their petition:

"And whereas more than one hundred years have already passed away since the planting of this colony and nothing has been publickly done to distinguish between the honest and ingenious physician and the quack or emperical pretender, by reason of which imposture and imposition has been and is still but too commonly practiced among us, to the great injury of the people as well as the disparagement of the profession."

This state of things had been going on down through the colonial period and continued many years after the state society was organized. In looking over the earlier proceedings of the state society, we find that a large item of business was in appointing committees to examine for licenses. Men in early times were licensed without any special preparation; some natural taste, some experience in care of the sick, were sufficient for a license from the General Court. And after the state society was organized and Yale Medical College was established, a single course of lectures was enough for a license from the state society. The last license was in 1877.

The effect of such limited medical culture was bad; not wholly so, for in the very early times there was an exigency. But such men were likely to fall into a wrangling contention concerning their views and opinions; jealousies and unkind feelings were awakened, and the lines of separation were easily drawn. In all these ways medicine was dishonored in public estimation. But the activity

and general awakening of the people after the great stress and depression of the revolutionary struggle brought about changes for the better to all classes and conditions of the people, and there was a corresponding improvement in medicine, as shown in the voluntary organization of local societies, the state society, in 1792, and Yale Medical College, in 1810. All these contributed to the growth and progress of medicine. The profession began to have some influence, and was, in fact, a force in some ways, as in the establishment of humane institutions. It was at such a time that this society was formed. The dawn of a better day had come. But old conditions had an influence, traces of which are still felt. The founders saw much that was necessary to do to put the profession upon a "respectable footing." This was the watchword—the rallying cry. Medicine made such a gain in character and influence that at the time of the last revision these inspiring words, seeming to have accomplished their purpose, were omitted. We regret that they could not have been saved from oblivion and have been made a kind of legendary motto, reminding us of the work already done, and that a long step in the ascending series had been successfully taken.

The history of medical legislation furnishes a good illustration of what we are now stating. More than one hundred years ago the physicians of the state asked for a charter. It was refused, as claimed by the petitioners, on the ground that a monopoly might be established. The petition called for a state organization, which alone might have been granted, but they also asked for a medical practice bill to be exclusively under the control of the organization. It could not be entrusted to any state society. This was the real reason for refusing; but there was a lack of confidence in the profession, due largely to divided opinions among themselves, and it was thirty years before the state charter was obtained. But a few years ago this society petitioned for a charter and it was readily granted, and later still, when the physicians of the state suggested to the Legislature that the practice of medicine should be

regulated by law, there was little intelligent legislative opposition—the only obstruction came from without—from one school of medicine, and from the various isms that the proposed law would limit or remove. Any fair medical measure wanted by the profession, and beneficial to the community, would now be granted at once; for medicine has become respectable, not by any new departure from the ways and the spirit of the founders, but by our own inherited determination to move upward to a higher plane of respectability and influence.

Another object in view by the founders, in their own words, was “to expose the ignorance and to resist the acts of quackery.” Quackery, as old as the healing art, is based upon ignorance, credulity and fraud. It was rife half a century ago, somewhat different in type, but the same in essence. It was natural that the founders, in their desire for progress and reform, should give it their serious attention. We can but honor them for their detestation of quackery and for their willingness to give their services to the community in the warfare of exposing and resisting it. They regarded it as a work belonging to the profession to do. In this they were evidently mistaken, which fact they soon recognized; for in the first revision, made in 1865, this pledged obligation was stricken out. It was a matter that belonged to the state and to the public, and if this idea had been recognized earlier—seventy years before—there would have been less delay in getting a state charter. Quackery is ever a fraud and a false pretense, and should be detected, adjudged and punished as any other fraud. The state holds physicians responsible for faithfulness and care, and punishes them severely for carelessness or dishonesty. And now the state, in the recent medical-practice act, has gone so far as to declare against incompetency, enacting that no one, from this time on, without a degree from a reputable college, or a license, after a satisfactory examination by a duly constituted board, can practice medicine in the state. We believe that soon the state will demand an examination from all grad-

uates and physicians, unless they have been examined and licensed in another state where the law is as rigid as in this state. Quackery will then meet its merited doom—legislated out of existence. It has taken fifty or more years to reach this point. Medical men have done all that was consistent for them to do. Business and professional men have come to feel the need of strong and effectual legislation. We are proud to bear testimony to the position of this society from its early days down to the recent struggle for the medical-practice act. There were in the state society various opinions and some jarring interests between the different state societies, all of which had to be adjusted. But The Hartford Medical Society was always a unit in this struggle, and, therefore, had a potential influence in the settlement of that conflict which fifty years before it had initiated, and which at last was triumphantly consummated before this our fiftieth medical anniversary.

The state is now shoulder to shoulder with other states, helping on and sustaining medical legislation. Public sentiment is with legitimate medicine, and, if we are as discreet in the future as the founders were in the past, there will be no reversal of law, and the state will be rid of the evil of quackery, we trust, forever.

Also the founders had in mind "mutual improvement, pleasant intercourse and common good of the members." An examination from time to time of the published lists of membership of the society shows that nearly all of the respectable physicians of the city have been enrolled. Frequent meetings have been held for the relation and discussion of cases, and for the reading and criticism of papers. The good attendance is an indication of the prevailing interest. The cases related have been instructive, and many of the papers read have been equal to those heard in any medical society. The amount of literary and scientific work has increased from year to year. Thirty years ago the reading of a paper was quite rare. Now we believe that there is as much literary matter presented

to the society in some years as is printed in our annual state society proceedings. The influence of this society has been felt in this direction in other local societies, and as a result much of their literary work finds its way into the state society proceedings. The reprint of the proceedings for the first thirty-seven years of the state society gives only 362 pages, and most of this is a record of the business transacted. In the proceedings for this year there are 383 pages, twenty-one more than in the reprint of thirty-seven years. In an extra year, as the Centennial, 1892, there were 1,062 pages. These figures of the state transactions are somewhat of an index of the local interest and activity, and indicates clearly the improvement that has been going on in local societies, and we believe stimulated largely by our own example.

The members of this society have worked under certain disadvantages, having limited facilities for original work compared with larger cities, and missing the inspiration that comes to the investigator or to the writer of a medical paper when he knows that his paper will be printed as well as heard. He is then stimulated to a painstaking effort, and his work will be more frequent and thorough. We look forward to the time when these disadvantages will cease to exist, when the benefactions that have been and will be received shall enable the members to do more scientific work and to give to the world the results of their investigations, thus standing more on an equality with the more favored metropolitan practitioners.

Once more this society was organized in the words already quoted, "for pleasant intercourse and common good of the members." This was the social formula until the chartered revision, which reads: "For the promotion of social and professional intercourse among its members by such means as shall be deemed expedient and proper for that purpose." With all the enthusiasm shown for medical study and for medical practice, it is claimed by some that it would be impossible for a society like this to

prosper without some special recognition of the social element. It was undoubtedly a delicate question fifty years ago to decide, how, in the existing condition of things, the social necessity should be met, what method should be devised to remove all repellent influences and give to men of the same calling, but in jealous competition, a feeling of regard and esteem for one another. We have great confidence in good resulting from meeting together and from literary exercises, both promotive of good fellowship and harmony. But the strictly social feature adopted was simple and successful. Each member in turn became fortnightly the host. The entertainments were of the most bountiful character, and somehow each member was made to feel that not only the host but the household extended to him a welcome. Under the warmth of such generous hospitality, cold and bitter feelings were dissipated. These meetings are memorable. No one could slight the host by his absence. Thus good attendance was secured, good fellowship was promoted, men came to know and to esteem one another. But the welcome to the family fireside could not always continue. The enlarged membership could not all gather around the domestic hearthstone. The social charm of the home life was thus broken. A few became less frequent in attendance, and a feeling of loss came to every one, and something of uncertainty as to the future social intercourse, as can be seen in the very language of the charter itself. The only certain thing stated was that this social intercourse must be in a way "deemed expedient and proper for that purpose." A word of criticism at this point; we believe that this item in regard to social intercourse, while well enough to be mentioned in the original constitution, might as well have been omitted in the charter. Every social feature would naturally and certainly have followed. But now emphasized by being incorporated in the charter, some of our liberal friends and some future legislature will or may conceive the idea that our social privileges are not subordinated to, but outweigh higher professional

interests; in a word, that we are a social club and not a society for medical improvement. But every one will admit that hitherto our social features have ministered to a higher medical progress. There will be no different policy in time to come. Our new medical home will be so adjusted that medical investigation and social intercourse will be in harmonious relationship. Such are some of the thoughts that come from the study of the purposes expressed, and we get some idea of the progress made toward their realization.

Following the declaration, there were originally seventeen rules or regulations as they were called, really by-laws. They were concise and clearly stated and well adapted to the needs of the society, and all in all as good as any that we have ever known. In the original instrument, the oldest member present was to preside at the meetings. In the revision of 1865, the presiding officer was to be nominated, and later, under the charter, the president is to be annually elected. There is no special significance in these changes. The first method showed a deference to age. The latter indicates in a measure a more stable form of organization, and one better adapted to a chartered organization with a growing membership.

Again, originally, the clerk could enroll any regular educated physician if there was no objection. In all the subsequent revisions, a two-thirds vote of members present was required to elect after a favorable report of the censors. This has been found to be for the best interests of the society.

Again the fee table has always been regarded as a by-law, though the manner of observing it would not indicate the fact. Many of the items are arranged on a sliding scale, to meet the ability of the patient and the importance of the case. This, with the necessary concessions to the indigent, has tended to unsettle rates, and thus to introduce competition undignified and unworthy of the profession. The only remedy against this evil is a greater regard for mutual fairness and a higher sense of profes-

sional honor. The fee table has been from time to time revised; originally having fifty-one items, now 118. Specialties and new operations furnish the additions.

In the original regulations, there was no special code of ethics. But in the revision of 1865 there was added another regulation, making the violation of the by-laws of the state medical society and of the code of ethics of The American Medical Association sufficient cause for discipline and expulsion. In the last revision, this regulation was omitted, so that as a society we are to-day without a code of ethics and hardly a line as to personal conduct—less to-day than in the original enactment.

The society relies, however, upon the intelligence and high character of its members, rather than upon the fixed lines of rigid duty, which can not be fully given and are ever subject to changing conditions. After having tested the American code, the society has laid it aside. Those of us who are members of the state society and of The American Medical Association are under the code and bound to respect it. But whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the judiciousness of abandoning the code, there ought to be none as to the necessity of its revision. It has remained the same for nearly fifty years, with the exception of one section relating to patented articles, which was early stricken out. The code is made up of special directions, and some of them have become, in this long period of time, absurd or obsolete. New conditions have arisen, which require, for the same reason, specific rules or a new code. The present code does not indicate the relations or the duties between the surgeon and physician, each having become a specialist, as seen to a greater extent in the large cities; or between specialists of any kind and the general profession; between the male and the female physician and surgeon; between the rank and file and the Hospital staff; between physicians in charge of institutions and those sending them patients; between medical students and medical colleges and the profession; between regular medicine and other schools of medicine; between

regular medicine and those historically wedded to an exclusive dogma now relinquished, or the important relations of the profession to state medicine in its various departments. If it requires twelve pages closely printed in our State Transactions for the American code of ethics, how many more for all the specific duties which these new conditions impose? And, moreover, does an intelligent and conscientious profession, old as civilization, need specific rules for right conduct? Some ethical rules are needed for the training of the young and for the guidance of the uncivilized, but as few as possible. Whatever in the code pertains to etiquette might better be learned in the schools. Rules of ethics in medical life are no more needed than in social, political or religious life. Take the latter for example—the most important department of ethics—very few specific rules are laid down. The greatest teachers in this department, whose works will be cherished and living for all time, have sought rather to inspire in the mind a right disposition—the broadest and highest conception of truth and duty, than to lay down particular rules of conduct. If the ethics of a society or profession are of a high grade, the rules formulated for individual conduct will be few and comprehensive; if of a lower grade, many and specific. Has not medicine reached, in its progress of fifty years in this society, a development in attainments and character that makes the rules, suitable and necessary in a rude and formative period, no longer essential? So it is with interest that we read of a movement in England and Belgium to have an international medical congress convene to decide upon a medical code of honor for all nations. And in the recent session of The British Medical Association the matter of a code was referred to a committee, which, in the end, will probably be carried to an international medical congress, when the subject will have more interest for American physicians. As near as we can understand, this movement abroad is in the line of our written enactments and of our unwritten code, recognizing the ability of the physician to determine

what is right and leaving his action to his own sense of honor. It is thus in this society in the matter of legal enactments or rules. We have the power, but no rules. The charter gives the power to make rules and regulations for the government, "withdrawal, dismissal, suspension and expulsion" of its members. And section I., article 5, of By-Laws, makes it the duty of the board of censors to examine all charges against a member and report to the society at the next regular meeting. Also, they shall report any tendency towards questionable practices that may be brought to their notice. Yet no rules have been enacted nor are any in force, unless it be the fee table and the assessment of dues. This is not a mere inadvertency, but it is in line with the policy that dropped the American code of ethics. But it must not be interpreted that the society is indifferent to the conduct of its members, for any violation of decency and honor would incur censure, discipline or expulsion. But it is a matter of congratulation for this society, while having such a reserve of power in its charter and by-laws, it has also such confidence in the intelligence and right-mindedness of its members—such trust in their professional honor—that it can lay aside specific rules and an ethical code. And, as a matter of fact, we ask what medical society with rules and code can show greater harmony, prosperity and popularity than our own? Has not the presence of the code caused contentions and divisions in The American Medical Association?

We may add that it was reserved for the political Hartford, in its early years, to solve the problem of popular government for the state and nation. It may be reserved for the medical Hartford to demonstrate to the medical republic that a code of honor—an appeal to all that is best in an enlightened and conscientious society—will achieve greater and better results than a code of specific legal or ethical rules.

The third section of our charter gives the society the right to hold property of any kind to the amount of

one hundred thousand dollars, placed in the hands of three trustees, annually elected. The property now held amounts, in real estate and in money, to about one-third of the prescribed sum. When we exceed the one hundred thousand dollars, which our full development will require, the charter must be amended. The ownership of property is a new experience for this society. It adds new responsibilities, and will give greater facilities, as before mentioned, for work and culture, and, without doubt, will impose upon us increased burdens.

To meet the responsibility, the charter, calling this society a corporation, confers upon it all the powers belonging to any corporation under the laws of the state. We begin at once to feel this responsibility, for, in accepting the Hunt memorial legacy, we are obliged to proceed, without delay, to the erection of a building suitable as a memorial and adapted to the needs of the society. But the committee feel the importance of moving cautiously, that no harm or embarrassment may arise in this important matter. Plans to our full satisfaction have not as yet been perfected, but probably the work of erection will begin in the coming spring. As we study the plans presented, and forecast in some degree the benefits that will come to us in future years, the desirability of this new enterprise grows upon us. We do not underestimate the burdens to be borne. All institutional enterprises for progress and culture are expensive. They call for time, effort and money. One or the other we must needs give. This building—a faultless structure, we trust—will be the local center of our professional activity and fraternal fellowship. And from hence in response to liberal gifts received, good must flow out in some way to the community. With a sense of burden upon us, we shall not forget to ask the legislature to free us from taxation. We feel that if the expressed purpose of the charter had ended with these words, “to establish and maintain a library, reading-room, medical museum and laboratory—all for educa-

tional purposes," we could have demanded this exemption from taxation under the law.

We have now imperfectly surveyed a few of the leading features suggested by the study of our enactments. The pathway of fifty years has been bright with the life, genius, growth and success of this organization. But, with this development in mind, it would be presumption to forecast, from this time on, the future of this society. Yet we can see in clearer vision what the founders could only dimly apprehend. They probably had no conception that the membership of this society would be seventy in the lifetime of any founder. They probably had no thought that in the same period any member, or his family, would have the mind or the ability to bestow any such munificent gift as the Hunt memorial legacy, or that this gift would be handed over to a fellow founder, an intimate friend, for safe keeping until it should be expended in accordance with the provisions of the bequest.

Let us add in conclusion that, in all this history, is seen the portrait of one around whom much of the interest of this anniversary centers. He was the prime mover in the work of organization, always active and still serving the society by his wisdom, experience and counsel, and so he is the first and the last in our thoughts. Again we give to Dr. G. W. Russell our warmest greetings.



DINNER

Semi-Centennial Celebration

OF

The Hartford Medical Society



Hotel Hartford

October 26, 1896

"And men sit down to that nourishment which is called supper."

Love's Labor's Lost.

Menu



Blue Points on the Half Shell

Brown Bread and Butter

Radishes

Celery

Potage

Clear Green Turtle

French Olives

Poisson

Fried Smelts

Tartar Sauce

Hothouse Cucumbers

Potatoes Hollandaise

Relevés

Fillet of Beef, larded, with Fresh Mushrooms

Roast Young Chicken, Brown Gravy

Spinach in Cream

French Peas

Potatoes Parisienne

Entrées

Bouchées of Chicken Livers Bearnaise

Braised Sweetbreads and String Beans

Pâté de foie gras

Roman Punch

Cigarettes

Game

Fillet of Venison, Port Wine Sauce

Roast Partridge, Bread Sauce and Gravy

Celery and Lettuce Mayonnaise

Currant Jelly

Saratoga Potatoes

Café Parfait

Frozen Pudding

Assorted Cakes

Almonds

Crackers and Cheese

Fruits

Café Noir

Arrangement of Seats at Dinner.

| | O | | O | | O |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| | O | O | O | O | O |
| E. K. Root. | O O | W. D. Morgan. | O O | A. E. Abrams. | O O |
| G. L. Parmelee. | O O | R. B. Talbot. | O O | H. G. Howe. | O O |
| J. B. Lewis. | O O | C. C. Beach. | O O | J. O'Flaherty. | O O |
| N. Mayer. | O O | G. K. Welch. | O O | F. S. Smith. | O O |
| J. F. Axtelle. | O O | A. J. Wolff. | O O | W. W. Knight. | O O |
| D. Crary. | O O | F. S. Crossfield. | O O | Wm. Porter. | O O |
| T. D. Crothers. | O O | J. Dwyer. | O O | C. E. Taft. | O O |
| N. Cressy. | O O | G. C. Bailey. | O O | W. T. Bacon. | O O |
| J. Howard. | O O | W. G. Murphy. | O O | F. L. Waite. | O O |
| L. A. Davison. | O O | C. S. Stern. | O O | M. M. Johnson. | O O |
| M. A. Bailey. | O O | T. H. Weldon. | O O | Geo. Clary. | O O |
| J. H. Cahill. | O | | O O | Jos. B. Hall. | O O |
| J. B. Boucher. | O | | O O | W. E. Dickerman. | O O |
| | | | O O | O. K. Isham. | O O |
| | | | O O | J. B. Waters. | O O |
| | | | | G. R. Shepherd. | |
| | | | | E. J. McKnight. | |
| | | | | G. N. Bell. | |
| | | | | G. C. Segur. | |
| | | | | J. E. Root. | |
| | | | | H. S. Fuller. | |
| | | | | J. H. Rose. | |
| | | | | C. D. Alton. | |
| | | | | F. T. Simpson. | |
| | | | | E. A. Down. | |
| | | | | O. C. Smith. | |
| | | | | F. L. Lawton. | |
| | | | | G. R. Miller. | |
| | | | | B. S. Barrows. | |
| | | | | P. D. Bunce. | |

GLEE CLUB.

POSTPRANDIAL EXERCISES.

PHINEAS H. INGALLS, Toastmaster.

While the cigarettes were being enjoyed, the Toastmaster made an announcement.

When a playwright has developed a new play, and has gotten his company together, and has the thing well rehearsed, then he comes up from the metropolis to one of the country towns and tries it on a country audience. If it goes, he thinks it will do for a city production. In the same way, when a chemist has developed a new drug, he tries it on a dog. If the dog survives, then he lets the patient have it.

The other night, I was asked to drop in at the office of one of our members in the Batterson building, and there I found that there had been a singing school running on the quiet for some time, and that the choristers were all members of this society. They had gotten me down there to see if I could stand it. I still live. I don't know how tough you all are, but I thought it would be safer to try the Glee Club on you at this stage of the game, and if "it goes," we will have more of it later in the evening.

The Glee Club responded. "We Meet Again To-night."

When cigars were lighted, the Glee Club sang

JUBILEE SONG.

NATHAN MAYER, M. D.

AIR: *Watch on the Rhine.*

I.

Around our festal concourse weaves
A garland of memorial leaves
Remembrance, whose warm currents flow
Back to the days of long ago.
With gentle greeting to the dead,
And gentler to each living head
We would our founders' glory spread,
Our founders' glory we would spread.

II.

Full fifty years have passed away
Since, strong and earnest in their day,
Those good physicians formed a band
T' uphold their art with skillful hand.
All would another bravely aid,
All would another bravely aid,
By what experience each had made,
By what experience each had made.

III.

And through long eras, true and good,
 Their labor stemmed the deadly flood
 Of quackery and ignorance,
 And raised aloft, in bold advance,
 Research and study of each cause,
 Research and study of each cause,
 And saving power of Nature's laws,
 And saving power of Nature's laws.

IV.

Thus high we celebrate the morn
 When this society was born,
 For it has kept the faith, nor swept
 Away the trusts the fathers kept.
 And signs and records loudly tell,
 And signs and records loudly tell,
 That Hartford's health is guarded well,
 That Hartford's health is guarded well.

V.

Then, lift your voice in joyous song,
 For Hartford rousing cheers prolong,
 Its Medical Society,
 May it round out the century!
 And in its new home find increase,
 And in its new home find increase,
 And honors great and studious peace,
 And honors great and studious peace.

Toastmaster rapped for order, and read the following letters:

103 STATE STREET, ROOM 907,

MY DEAR DOCTOR SHEPHERD: CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 20, 1896.

Your kind invitation to be present at the celebration of the semi-centennial reunion of The Hartford Medical Society has been received, for which please accept my thanks.

Much to my regret, it will be impossible for me to be present.

Again thanking you for your kind remembrance,

I am yours fraternally,

GEO. F. HAWLEY.

BUFFALO, Oct. 12, 1896.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HARTFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY:

Gentlemen—When your very cordial invitation to be present at your semi-centennial was received, it filled me with a great desire to visit Hartford again. I count the three years spent there as among the pleasantest of my life, and not the least enjoyable part of them was the pleasant association which I had with the members of your society. I well remember the meetings, how full of interest and enthusiasm they were; and I know that I received a great amount of profit from them. I shall never forget the active, and perhaps rather personal, discussions

which the various papers elicited. It was a case of "give-and-take," the best man winning. It was a mental stimulus which did us all good.

As memories are revived, I can not help thinking of those who are gone. Our dear friend Wainwright, whom I was proud to count as one of my very good friends, I met in Boston only a short time before his death. He was just the same pleasant, jolly, affable fellow as ever. It was a great shock to me, as it must have been to you all, to hear of his untimely end. Taking him all in all, we must admit that he was a splendid man. His untiring energy in everything that he undertook, his genial, pleasant ways, his good sense and good judgment made him a very valuable member of the society. Our friend Lyon, too, although not so universally popular as Wainwright, certainly had many strong friends, among whom I am glad to count myself. Although many of his interests were outside of the profession, still his interest in medicine was very great, and his influence in the society meetings was always on the right side.

If I should say anything about the present active members, I might get myself into trouble. I have been very intimately associated with one of your members this summer, and, as he is an old and very dear friend, I am not going to give him away; but if you could have seen him marching through the Canadian wilderness with a big pack on his back, you would not have recognized him as the accomplished oculist of Pratt street.

Through occasional meetings with St. John, Campbell and Ingalls, I have kept myself pretty well posted about the older men. I am glad to know that so many of those whom I knew are still left. Of course, there are many younger men whom I have never met, but I know that the older men must still exert their influence for good to keep the society up to the high standard which it has attained. I sincerely trust that some at least of the members now living may live to see another semi-centennial, and that then they will find the society equipped with a fine building, a fine library, and everything which the principal medical society of a live and enterprising town should have.

Although I regret having been obliged to give up so delightful a place of residence, I can not say that I find my present abode less profitable or uncongenial. I have managed to make a success of it here, but the experience and the training which I got in Hartford have been of very great value to me.

I regret exceedingly that circumstances are such that I shall be unable to leave home at present, and, therefore, can be with you only in spirit upon the auspicious occasion.

With kindest regards to all my old friends, and congratulations to the society, I remain,

Very sincerely yours, MATTHEW D. MANN.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:

WETHERSFIELD, Oct. 26.

Your note, inviting me to The Hartford Medical Society's celebration this evening, was received Saturday evening.

I am older than I used to be, which fact, and the infirmities pertaining thereto, make it seem rather the part of wisdom to deny myself the pleasure of accepting your very kind invitation.

Please accept my sincere thanks for it, and allow me to say I am deeply gratified by being remembered as a former member of your society.

Believe me, very sincerely, etc.,

Dr. SHEPHERD.

A. S. WARNER.

NEW YORK, October 23, 1896.

GEO. R. SHEPHERD, M.D., Hartford, Conn.:

My Dear Doctor—I am in receipt of your invitation to attend the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of The Hartford Medical Society, to be held on the 26th inst., and I greatly regret that professional engagements will prevent my being present at what, from past experience, I fully appreciate will be a most enjoyable affair.

Thanking both you and the committee for your courtesy, I am,
Yours very truly, WM. J. LEWIS.

[By Telegraph.]

PITTSBURG, PA., Oct. 26, 1896.

Dr. GEO. R. SHEPHERD, Hartford, Conn.:

Extend my best wishes to The Hartford Medical Society. Sorry I can not be with you to-night.
THOMAS TURNBULL, JR.

DEAR DR. SHEPHERD:

HARTFORD, October 23, 1896.

Your kind note and programme of the celebration of The Hartford Medical Society was duly received, and I am sorry that circumstances will prevent an acceptance.

I have been confined to the house, for the most part, for two weeks past, and have made arrangements for a short trip, and will be absent from the city on the date fixed for the dinner. I was unable to attend the meeting on account of illness, and should hardly be able to enjoy the exercises in my present condition.

I am very grateful for the invitation and your kind remembrance.

Yours truly, P. M. HASTINGS.

MY DEAR DR. SHEPHERD:

68 COLLINS STREET.

Will you present to the members of The Medical Society of Hartford my sincere regrets that the state of my health forbids the acceptance of their kind invitation to be present at their reunion to-day.

It would be a great pleasure to meet my professional friends again, and though not with them in person, be assured that I shall be so in spirit.

I send them a most cordial greeting and congratulate them on the prosperous condition of the society in which, though no longer able to take an active part, I still feel a deep interest.

With kindest regards, yours,

Monday, October 26, 1896. PINCKNEY W. ELLSWORTH.

MY DEAR DR. SHEPHERD:

HARTFORD, CONN., Oct. 24, 1896.

I feel compelled to send "my regrets" in reply to the cordial invitation extended to me, through you, by The Hartford Medical Society, to be present at their semi-centennial celebration on Monday next.

As I told you, yesterday, I had already made an engagement for that evening, one which, I find, can not well be postponed.

It would certainly give me great pleasure to meet the members of the society on so interesting an occasion.

Semi-centennials come to but very few persons, more than once, and, in the case of a society, furnish good opportunities for measuring progress.

I am satisfied that The Hartford Medical Society, however tested, as to its personnel, its achievements, its purposes, will have every reason to be proud on this its fiftieth birthday.

Thanking you, Doctor, for your friendship and courtesy,

I am, very truly yours, CHARLES E. GROSS.

DR. GEO. R. SHEPHERD:

DENVER, COLO., Oct. 23, 1896.

My Dear Doctor—Your note, asking me to be present at the fiftieth anniversary of The Hartford Medical Society, has been received. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to reply in person and help in celebrating that event, for my associations with the society I cherish as among the pleasantest of my life. While I shall be unable to enjoy this anniversary with you, I want to thank you for the invitation and to congratulate you upon the grand work this society has accomplished in the past and anticipate with you the greater work it shall do in the future, with its increased facilities and more advanced state of scientific knowledge. Your representative in Colorado, therefore, sends hearty greetings from the land of sunshine, and the warm assurance that the old medical friends in Hartford will ever receive as warm a welcome to his new home as they offer him if he return.

Yours very truly, GEO. B. PACKARD.

The following were received after the celebration:

GEORGE R. SHEPHERD, M. D.:

CORONADO, CAL., Nov. 7, 1896.

My Dear Doctor—Please pardon my not having acknowledged the invitation to the semi-centennial celebration of The Hartford Medical Society sooner; but I have been out of town for a month and consequently only received it a few days since.

Regretting that I was not able to be present at an occasion which I know would have been most enjoyable, and wishing the society all success,

I am, very cordially,

GEORGE E. ABBOTT.

GEO. R. SHEPHERD, M. D.:

JACKSON, MICH., Nov. 10, 1896.

Dear Doctor—Thanks for your kind invitation to be present at the fiftieth anniversary of The Hartford Medical Society, Oct. 26, 1896.

I left Hartford on Monday, Oct. 19, '96, for Jackson, Mich., where your letter followed me. I have been down with pneumonia since, and am now just able to be up and about.

Yours truly,

HENRY K. OLMSTED.

[This letter was followed a few days later by the news of the doctor's death.]

TOASTMASTER:

This is the first time that The Hartford Medical Society has met on a social occasion since its reorganization, and it is the first time in its whole history where it has met as a distinct family party, where every man now seated at this board has had his name signed to its constitution. Would it be out of place to congratulate the society to-night on completing its half century? Would it be out of place to congratulate the able committee for the success of the day's programme? and would it be out of place to congratulate ourselves that we are members of this

society, and that we can meet to-night with the proud consciousness that the best of harmony and good fellowship prevail among us and that no internal strife exists within our ranks?

I feel greatly honored that I have been asked to assume charge of this part of our day's programme, and as the proper function of a good toastmaster is not to talk himself, but to give you an opportunity to listen to those who are far better able to entertain you, we will proceed at once with the exercises of the evening, and first of all it is meet and proper that we should pay a tribute of respect to those who have closed their accounts and gone over to the silent majority. Nine years ago this society with many invited guests participated in an occasion of much joy and pleasure, and we are reminded of the changes time can make as we look around this board and call to mind those who sat with us on that occasion. I recall the names of Avery, Barrows, Butler, Crary, Hunt, Lyon, Otis, Tiffany, Wainwright, all of whom were present with us at that dinner in November, 1887, and all of whom have been called to the other shore, and before announcing any of the toasts of the evening I shall ask Dr. Hudson to speak "In Memoriam."

Dr. Hudson responded briefly, but as no notes were taken of his remarks, we are unable to reproduce them.

TOASTMASTER:

On the 15th of September, 1846, fifteen good and trusty men met together and formed a society to maintain the practice of medicine and surgery in this city upon a respectable footing, to expose the ignorance and resist the arts of quackery and to adopt measures for the mutual improvement, pleasant intercourse and common good of its members. Of that little band but one remains to us, and so kindly has the hand of Time dealt with him that he sits at this board with us to-night. He has watched over this society with fidelity and interest. He has been the wise counsellor in all disputes. He has always aided by sound advice and in more material ways every project for the advancement of The Hartford Medical Society. Dr. Russell, to you, sir, I extend the greetings of every member of this society. Long may you be spared to us. Long may we have the benefit of your noble example and may the day be far distant when that beautiful emblem of love and good fellowship which annually serves to bind closer and closer this society to its founder shall be started around the circle by other hands.

Loving cup passed, while the Glee Club sang original song,

WHO DID?

I.

Who did, who did, who did, who did,
 Who did get the lov, lov, lov, lov,
 Who did get the loving,
 Who did get the loving cup?

II.

Gurdon W. Russell.

III.

What is in the silver tig?

IV.

Lemonade with a stick in.

V.

Who will drink the mixture down?

VI.

All will drink the nectar up.

VII.

AIR: *America.*

Token of our esteem,

Friendship, respect and love,

We drink to thee,

To the success of this our loved society,

And to him who holds thee now in sacred trust.

Remarks by Gurdon W. Russell, M. D.

SIR: I am very thankful for the kind words which you have spoken and for the regard which has been shown me at various times by the members of this society. If there has been anything which has been comforting to me, it has been the good feeling which has been manifested by my medical brethren during a long and busy life. If I have not always been of a like opinion with all of the one hundred and seventy of our members, it has been from no jealous or carping spirit, but from honest convictions which have been held, and with a willingness and belief that others were equally honest with myself. Looking back over these fifty past years, I have often wondered, and do wonder now, that so few matters have arisen to disturb our peace. It is doubtful if any corporate existence in town can show a better record, and this arises in the main, I think, from the good feeling and kindly fellowship which the founders of this society entertained in the very beginning of its existence and regarded as absolutely necessary for its continuance. I charge you, as you value the usefulness and future life of this society, to let no element of discord arise among you. Very likely there may be differences of opinion in the coming years, but remember that it is better to suffer somewhat than to strive with evils of no great consequence, which may die of themselves if left alone, but may rend you in pieces, if a quarrel is persisted in.

It is not easy to see in the future what may occur to disturb your peace; but if danger threaten you and perils are around you, stand firmly for the right, be honest in your opinion, charitable to one another, and be loyal to this society. It is your duty to sustain it, to show

your love for it by your attendance at its meetings, and your contributions in various ways for its support. There is not a member who can not in some way contribute to its interests, in speaking or in writing, and whose opinions may be of value, if he says but little; it is often the thinker who is most regarded.

The fifty years of our associate life seem to me, as I look back upon them, as a not very long period; but what changes have occurred, what discoveries have been made, all tending to the increase of the happiness and usefulness of man. Our own art has not been behind in the race; it might claim its full share of honor since the principle of anæsthesia was demonstrated here by our own townsman.

It is desirable that we should be careful of our expenditures, and that we should not extend them beyond our ability to meet readily and cheerfully. It may become a burden to some of the younger and recent members of the society, and be a deterrent to other applicants for membership. Our memorial building will bring relief in one direction, but new ones will be found, which will require close consideration. As time goes on, our organization may be the recipient of favors from benefactors outside of our profession. The grateful heart of some former patient may find its natural expression in a kind remembrance.

Lest I should abuse the privilege of an old man in becoming prosy, of which he occasionally becomes conscious, but generally is not, I will now bid you a good night, wishing you all a hearty success, which I am sure you all deserve.

TOASTMASTER:

"The pen is mightier than the sword." As medical men we might paraphrase and say, the pen is mightier than the lance. Nature in her gifts is very kind and to one of our members has she been more than kind. With what ease and grace has he in classic verse recalled to his comrades in arms the memories of those dark days at Antietam, and with what a happy command of his adopted tongue has he made the rugged simplicity of our Connecticut hills and valleys to appear clothed with more beauties than the famous, cenary of foreign lands. On more than one occasion has it been our pleasure to have had the benefit of his communion with the muses and to-night I know he will prove to us the truth of that familiar line, "Poeta nascitur, non fit."

Response by Nathan Mayer, M. D.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL POEM.

Amid the pageants of the dying year,
Amid the splendors of the closing age,
We meet and set our fiftieth milestone here—
Affix our seal upon the fiftieth page.

No mighty span in History's eye is this—
 A moment in the ceaseless stream of Time!
 One man can compass fifty years of bliss,
 Or fifty years of virtue or of crime.

One life can hold what fifty years will bring,
 One work may show what fifty years will do,
 While Evolution into each may fling
 Results it takes a thousand years to grow.

And thus our span has fallen on a time
 Ingathering the fruition of old days.
 Naught is to-day too high for mind to climb,
 Naught lies too deep for human works and ways.

To-day the forces that have bred in man
 For centuries are focused into acts,
 And aspiration finds no further span
 Beyond the line of science and of facts.

These fifty years have marked on human scale
 Five centuries of painful, laboring thought,
 Which, shedding slow its armored coat of mail,
 The freedoms of the present era wrought.

We stand on shoulders of the past. Because
 They raised us up, we reach so far and high;
 They theorized—we search and test the laws,
 Their minds projected where we grasp and try.

And, marching with the world, our Healing Art
 Has grown a marvel of these latter days,
 Its mystic shroudings shed, its hand and heart
 Translucent in the flash of modern rays.

No speculative thought now leads, but cold
 Experiment and observation close,
 That penetrate to Nature's secret hold
 With lens on lens to find and seize our foes.

And we have kept the step. In rank and file
 For fifty years we've marched with couchant lance,
 No stragglers and no cowards, mile on mile,
 On to the music of the great Advance—

And those that fell, with honor did they lie,
 And those that came took up their arms. And still
 Our Hartford's health the watch and battle-cry,
 The striving of our labor and our will.

It is enough that we have kept in place
 With all earth's forces sweeping grandly on,
 All pressing forward in triumphant pace
 That for our race a perfect life be won.

Then let the praise with which the Past we crown
 With praises of the Present gladly mix,
 And send to those our joyous greetings down
 That celebrate in nineteen forty-six.

They'll come into the promised land and round
 The century that we but entered in;
 What we have sown, if good it be and sound,
 As golden harvest they will garner in.

The toastmaster then called upon the Glee Club, which
 sang

FIN DE SIÈCLE.

NATHAN MAYER, M. D.

AIR: *Lauriger Horatius.*

I.

We celebrate the happy day
 With honor and propriety,
 When started fifty years away,
 Our Medical Society.
 It has high purposes pursued,
 With spirit of research imbued,
 And yet in scientific mood
 With calmness and sobriety.

II.

We've come into the modern time
 Along with the profession.
 We feed to babies peptenzyme,
 And have discussed in session
 How hard the poor appendix fares,
 And how the naughty ovary bears
 And with a guilty cervix shares
 The womb-man's fierce aggression.

III.

Our surgeons dip and wallop 'round
 In man's capacious belly,
 And tell with glee what they have found
 In the cerebral jelly.

POSTPRANDIAL EXERCISES.

Our joint-men rub the plaster in,
 Our nose-men scrape and burn within,
 And sickness runs through blood and skin
 Like bits of vermicelli.

IV.

For now the bug is hunted out,
 Plasmodium and bacteria,
 And driv'n along from stern to snout,
 Horse-serum always near you.
 And when some pain at nerve ends tugs,
 It is a colony of bugs,
 And then the doctor quickly chucks
 His *antis* in to cheer you.

V.

The gospel of cold baths is rung
 Above the typhoid rumpus,
 And hosp(i)tal men have loudly sung
 What privates can not compass.
 And o'er the grand profession all,
 Is spreading, like a blight and pall,
 A doubt of medicine at all,
 And fear that it will dump us.

VI.

But, brethren, be of happy cheer,
 Our Mater lives, and pleases
 To make from day to day appear
 Entirely new diseases.
 For, all the sanitarian takes
 With drains and strains and other fakes
 His scare our restitution makes,
 And practice still increases.

VII.

And now we end-of-century men,
 Wise in the generation,
 We push ahead to best of ken,
 To work out our salvation.
 And that was aye the fathers' feat,
 And ye, in fifty years that meet,
 Will do it just as prompt and neat,
 Without the least variation.

VIII.

And may ye think of us as well
As we do of our founders.
Our youngest now, and our most swell
By that day will be grounders.
Time sponges off whate'er is shy,
And then they'll praise us to the sky
While we in glory throned on high
Shall smile at earthly rounders.

TOASTMASTER :

Every country watches its emigrants and the character developed in the mother country is bound to show out in the emigrant in the land of his adoption, and will reflect on the parent with credit or discredit just as the character has developed before the migration.

We have had our emigrants, and we have watched their course after leaving us with great interest. It is our good fortune to have one of our sons come back to join with us in the celebration of our anniversary, and I know you will all be pleased to hear from Dr. Charles W. Page, of the Danvers Hospital for the Insane.

Response by Charles W. Page, M. D.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HARTFORD CITY MEDICAL SOCIETY :

I am exceedingly gratified that I can be present and join with you in a fitting celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this society. It is a great pleasure to meet socially so many highly prized friends as I do here to-night. Personal and professional associations with past and present members of this society flood my recollection.

The historical facts embodied in the paper read to-day have, in my case, as they must in the case of every member, increased former pride in this honorable association. The memoirs of deceased members as read to-day have awakened tender emotions, and I am pleased with this opportunity to pay a tribute to the ability and noble qualities of many former members of this society.

My relations with the late Dr. John S. Butler were most intimate, both professionally and socially. His abundant sympathy and enthusiasm have helped me over many trials, and encouraged me to strive after higher ideals in attainments and character. His interest in my welfare was so fatherly, and his suggestions so helpful, he has had a greater influence than any other man, I believe, in stimulating my ambition and directing my course in life. I shall never omit a favorable opportunity to pay his memory a fitting tribute of affection and respect.

I can also claim a long and intimate acquaintance with the late Dr. Hunt. Our pleasant relations dated from the time we were associ-

ated in the management of the Hartford Retreat. He was, for a time, acting superintendent, and it became my duty to discuss all matters of business with him, and to rewrite his letters in regard to the patients, because, as he used to say, "No one else can decipher my handwriting, and you will have to write this letter over." The acquaintance thus established continued during my residence in Hartford. I ever found him a ready, genial counsellor, a sympathetic friend, and in all matters—professional and otherwise—"the soul of honor."

I also treasure my friendly, although less intimate, relations with Dr. Wilcox. He was the first medical man of my acquaintance who became thoroughly enthusiastic in regard to the germ theory of disease.

Then my personal relations with the brilliant Dr. Chamberlain were quite intimate, and extended over a period of many years. We made several long excursions together, a trip to Georgia among others.

But I must not continue this strain. Recalling such personal associations, causes one to regret his inability to command language that adequately expresses the sentiments he feels.

I have been introduced by your Chairman as an emigrant. That term raises the question of nativity and citizenship. Now what are the facts? In 1630, my paternal ancestor left England and landed upon these shores at Salem, Mass., a spot within sight of my present residence. Without a break in the record, subsequent to that time, my ancestors resided in Massachusetts, where I was born. Consequently, now that I am in the service of that state, my early interests are revived, and my loyalty is pledged to Massachusetts. At the same time, having spent so many of my mature years in Hartford; having contracted so many life-long and important associations here; having had such intimate, personal relations with professional men of this city, and having contracted relationship as well as social ties with so many worthy Connecticut people, I have felt for a long time thoroughly identified with Connecticut. In fact, I should regret having to decide the question of attachment between Connecticut and Massachusetts, and therefore thank you, Mr. Chairman, for assuming that I did belong to Connecticut. I am only too proud and well pleased to enjoy all the rights and privileges in both Massachusetts and Connecticut that legal and social laws will permit.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I congratulate you not only upon the success and brilliant record of this society in the past, but upon its auspicious future. I especially congratulate you that you are to have a society laboratory. The benefit which each member of this society will receive through the work of that laboratory can not be overestimated. Be assured, your good fortune in the acquisition of such facilities for work and investigation is the envy of other societies where the facts are known; and this, I say as a matter of personal observation, having in a spirit of pride, through my past connection with you, mentioned the fact that you are to be thus favored, to two medical societies in Massa-

chusetts. Having established, at the hospital with which I am connected, a physiological and pathological laboratory, under the charge of a special pathologist, I can predict, from experience, how great will be your gain.

Further, my personal relation with this society, as well as with several others in Massachusetts, enables me to say that you attend medical meetings with greater regularity, and take a greater personal interest in the discussions than do the members of any other local society with which I am acquainted. Such being the fact, I am sure with the increased laboratory facilities for studying your cases, which you are sure to enjoy, you will in the future not only reflect credit upon yourself, but upon your many eminent predecessors whose names are enrolled upon the records of this society; and I assure you that it will ever be a matter of great pride to me that I have been a member, and still am, even as an emigrant, associated more or less intimately with The Hartford City Medical Society.

Glee Club, "Matin Bells."

TOASTMASTER:

The other night I came across this little sketch in one of our papers, and it was so good I cut it out.

AN IMPOSTER.

The train was about to leave the station and a young man leaned over the seat, shook hands with the middle-aged gentleman, and said:

"Good-bye, professor."

A man with wide stripes in his shirt bosom looked at him narrowly, and after the train started said:

"Kin you do any tricks with cards?"

"No; I never touched a card."

"Mebbe ye play the pianny?"

"I know nothing of music excepting as a mathematical science."

"Well, ye ain't no boxer, I kin see by yer build. Mebbe ye play pool?"

"No."

"Er shuffleboard?"

"I never heard of the game before."

"Well, say, I've guessed ye this time. It's funny I didn't think of it before. You're a mesmerist."

"I'm nothing of the kind."

"Well, I'll give up. What is yer line? I know ye're in the biz, 'cause I heard that young feller call ye 'perfesser.'"

"I am an instructor in Greek, rhetoric and ancient history."

"An' yer can't do no tricks ner play music ner hypnotize?"

"Of course not."

The man turned and gazed out of the window on the opposite side of the car.

"An' he calls hisself perfesser," he said to himself. "Don't know how ter do anything but talk Greek an' things, an' call hisself a perfesser. Talk about nerve!"

I was going to have Professor Campbell tell us all about the glories of being a Professor, but just as we were about to sit down for dinner I was handed this letter:

34 CONGRESS STREET,
HARTFORD, CONN.

MY DEAR DR. SHEPHERD:

It causes me much regret that I can not meet the members of the society this evening and respond to the sentiment, "The Professor at Yale," but circumstances beyond my control render it impossible.

With best wishes for a most enjoyable occasion,

I remain, my dear sir, very respectfully yours,

October the twenty-sixth.

JAMES CAMPBELL.

And while he is not just exactly a Professor, perhaps he sometimes "calls hisself" one, and perhaps Dr. St. John will speak for the Professor.

Response by Samuel B. St. John, M. D.

As a member of the committee of arrangements, I took precious good care not to be placed on the list of speakers, but as I entered this room I was informed that I was to fill the place of Professor Campbell, and respond to the toast of "Yale University as represented in the Society." It is not an easy task to fill Dr. Campbell's place—in one direction at least—but I will do my best. Your sarcastic introduction, Mr. Toastmaster, loses its point entirely in the absence of Dr. Campbell, since the other faculty members, Dr. Stearns and I, although we have been giving instruction a dozen years or more, still appear in the catalogue only as "lecturers."

The letter of Dr. Mann, which was read to us a few moments ago, reminded me of a speech of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes at one of his class reunions in which, referring to his celebrated classmate who wrote "America," he said: "Fate tried to conceal him by calling him Smith," for it seemed as if Dr. Mann had tried to conceal the identity of his camp comrade by calling him the oculist of Pratt street, which, you see, gives you the choice among *three*.

But of the medical department of Yale, which is my theme, I have great hopes for the future. While the classes have been growing but slowly in numbers—though they have already reached a very respectable figure—they have advanced rapidly in quality and in earnestness of study, and evidently appreciate the improved opportunities and facilities placed at their command. I have always attached a high importance to the advantages afforded to a medical class small enough to be *personally* known to their instructors and to feel free to approach them with their difficulties and receive personal aid from them, as is the case at Yale. In the immense classes of the metropolis, the student is simply a part of a mass; he loses his individuality and regards the instructor as a personification of knowledge and not as a man to be appealed to to get him out of his difficulties. In these smaller classes, also, indi-

vidual instruction with the microscope and in the laboratory is obtainable in the college curriculum, while in the larger colleges such instruction has to be obtained outside at extra expense. The hospital facilities of New Haven, too, are as yet ample to give clinical instruction to the advanced classes, and, from remarks made to me by the students, I am convinced that the limitation in this direction, which is often alluded to as a drawback to medical education in a small city, is rather an advantage than otherwise, as it serves to concentrate attention upon a few cases well considered and studied and followed out from week to week, and not seen once and quickly forgotten, as is too often the case in the rush and whirl of a multitude of rare cases succeeding each other so rapidly as to produce a kaleidoscopic impression rather than a clear cut and *abiding* picture. If "one case well studied is worth twenty glanced at," then the students at Yale are as yet amply provided for in the matter of clinical material.

The extension of the course of study to four years adopted by Yale among the first of medical institutions shows that she will not be classed among those who seek patronage by making the course easy. I predict a brilliant future for the medical department of Yale University, and I trust that The Hartford Medical Society may always be represented on its faculty.

TOASTMASTER:

Thirty-five years ago some of us were still unborn and some of us barely remember the troublesome period through which our country was then passing. Among the thousands who left home and fireside for their country's good were numbered many good and noble members of our profession. The work done by those men has made the most marvelous surgical history ever given to the world, and when we consider the condition of surgery at that time and know how badly handicapped those men were in their means for accomplishing good work, I feel that all the more honor and praise are due them for their wonderful achievements.

I call upon Dr. Jarvis to speak for "The Army Surgeon."

Response by George C. Jarvis, M. D.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE HARTFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY:

Your toastmaster has called upon me to speak for the army physicians and surgeons. Inasmuch as my connection with the army was during the war of the rebellion from 1861 to September, 1865, it is reasonable to suppose that he expects me to talk of them from my acquaintance with them during the active service in the field of the late war.

In the early autumn of 1861, I received a courteous note from his Honor, Governor William A. Buckingham, inviting me to an interview with three gentlemen at the Tontine Hotel in New Haven. I accepted the invitation, and if my memory serves me right I went to that city

one Wednesday afternoon and was introduced to the three gentlemen in one of the parlors of the Tontine Hotel. I also recollect the first two questions asked me by one of those gentlemen, the first being: "Doctor, will you please give me the names of the arteries and their divisions, beginning at the heart?" which I accordingly tried to do; the next: "What is the chief cause of death in active field service?" to which I replied that I had not had any experience in that line, but from what I had read was led to believe that the number of deaths from diseases far exceeded those from battle. Gentlemen, I speak of this incident because, if I am not mistaken, the honored recipient and holder of the loving cup, Dr. Russell, is the one who asked me these questions now fully thirty-five years ago.

After the meeting was over, I returned to my home in Stamford, and in a few days received a commission which ordered me to report to the commander of the First Connecticut Cavalry, stationed at Camp Tyler in Meriden, and here is where my military life began.

Where all the different departments of the army were called upon to do such heroic deeds and brave service, and where there were so many brave and noble men to do such valuable service, I can not justly make any comparison or make any claim to bravery or ability in one department over another. When I went into the field the idea of a three months' picnic, or that it was to be a play spell, had been pretty thoroughly disposed of. One thing is certain, we all went into the service thoroughly green, as I might say to make use of a common expression, "as green as the greenest of green pumpkins," but before Lee surrendered we had all learned the trade, realized the value of experience and education in active military field service, and the education was that of practical hard work and loyalty to the cause.

I can tell you of some sad experiences and heroic deeds of some of the medical officers who remained at their posts through some of the most trying times after the fall of Fort Fisher. When the Union prisoners were returned to our care, they were brought through the lines just outside the city of Wilmington, at which time I was surgeon and chief at that post. There were 20,000 officers and soldiers returned to the Union lines from the different Confederate prisons, and as a consequence we had an epidemic of the most malignant and contagious form of typhus fever. The 20,000 men were under the care of thirteen medical officers. Of these thirteen officers eleven contracted the disease, and of these eleven seven died and the four that finally recovered were seriously impaired in health for physical labor for over five years after the end of the war. I speak of this for the reason that I have never seen or been able to find any account of it from the many articles published concerning some of the heroic deeds of the war. And I want to say that those eleven men were a most magnificent and noble set of fellows. I was exceedingly fond of them and I enjoyed very much their intimate acquaintance and friendship.

I could give you many other incidents which would perhaps be interesting, but as you have already heard considerable after dinner talk I will not tire you further.

Glee Club—"Serenade."

TOASTMASTER:

The sister arm of the service has called to its use many of the best men of our profession, and the high standing of the medical profession in America has been exemplified in every quarter of the globe by men of culture and intelligence sailing under the flag of the United States, and I am going to call on one of our latest acquisitions, Dr. Law, of the United States Navy, to give us some Reminiscences of a Naval Surgeon.

Response by Homer L. Law, M. D.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HARTFORD MEDICAL SOCIETY:

The navy is one of the defensive arms of the government. It consists of ships, their armament and personnel. The vessels visit all known ports of the world and show Old Glory. The officers call on the heads of nations and officials in the ports; they accept and receive courtesies and support the dignity of the government.

Vessels used to be built four times as long as their breadth—four to one—called "water bruisers;" then eleven to one, like the White Star Line; and now eight to one, like our modern armed cruisers and battleships.

In visiting ports sometimes queer people come on board. I recall one, an American, while in the port of Southampton, England. As he came over the side he was received in due form by the officer of the deck and the subordinates. After the usual greeting he puffed with pride (?), stated that he had a right on board, owned part of the vessel, paid taxes in the United States, etc. Finally, he became so obnoxious that the officer of the deck took out his knife, cut a small sliver of wood from the rail and handed it to the man, with the remark: "There is your portion, take it and go on shore."

At another time in the United States a gentleman from New Jersey came on board. He was shown the upper deck guns, etc. On being taken down into the engine room he became puzzled, and exclaimed: "Gosh! the durned thing is holler."

In constructing vessels of war sometimes we have queer results, as in houses. The "Pawnee," a ship of light draught, carrying a very heavy battery, had a bottom designed, it is said, after that of a beautiful woman. She was one of the greatest rollers in the navy. The "Santee" and "Sabine" had gun ports over each other, so that guns fired on the lower deck disabled those on the upper. Report says the naval constructor suicided in a stateroom on one of these vessels, chagrined at his mistake.

Surgeons are examined in the "altogether" first, and then given a

written one of six days' duration, in which is presented all he then knows and the probabilities of what he will obtain in the future. On being accepted, he is notified, given a commission, which, being accepted by him, he is ordered to a duty in New York, where he is prepared for the peculiar duties in the navy.

His pay for the first five years is: Waiting orders, \$1,000; shore duty, \$1,400; sea duty, \$1,700, plus thirty cents each day for a ration. After twenty years as a surgeon, \$3,000, waiting orders; \$4,000, shore duty, and \$4,200 at sea, with thirty cents daily, or \$109.20 yearly, for rations. The highest possible pay is as fleet surgeon, \$4,400, and thirty cents daily. He is obliged to join the ward-room mess, paying \$100 to \$120 as entrance fee, and a mess bill of \$30 or \$45 monthly, according to ship and style maintained.

His duties, beside attending to the sick, are, on entering a port, to be the first one on shore to obtain pratique; after being granted, free communication with the shore is allowed to all hands. He also visits hospitals, charitable institutions, medical colleges, public buildings, water works, etc.; and a report is made yearly of his observations and deductions, which is sent to the Surgeon General and by him to the National Board of Health.

The water is tested at each distillation, distilled water only being allowed on board, which prevents cholera and all bowel complaints arising among officers and crew.

The air on the berth deck is tested and examined weekly or oftener, and then at night when all are in hammocks.

Recruits are examined by the surgeon. They are stripped, given a bath, if necessary, and then weighed, measured for height, chest, etc.; lungs and all organs duly scrutinized, and for the least deviation from health or normal are rejected, and would say, at the present time, in the ratio of "16 to 1;" and I might say this is not far out with officers. At present there are many vacancies in the surgeons' corps.

The surgeons in the navy are liberally supplied with everything that is necessary in the way of instruments, medicines or hospital furniture; everything of the latest is supplied, used and reported upon. Every vessel has its microscope, dispensary, and, if large enough, a sick bay in the bow, or, as in later vessels, on the port or starboard side of the berth deck, amidships. In this apartment is a bath, bowl and closet, with operating and writing tables, cots, mattresses and bedding.

An apothecary at \$60 a month and ration, two baymen or nurses at \$18 per month and ration are supplied. In the old-time frigates, the operating room in time of battle was in the hold of the vessel, below the water line, where freight is stowed in merchant steamers, and called a "cock pit." It was dark and disagreeable, lighted by lard or sperm oil lamps. In the modern vessels, they have better quarters in the ward room or other place, ventilated by power and lit by electrics. Everything connected with the medical corps of the navy is "up to date."

A few remarks on a trip to Greenland and I am finished. In 1871, I had the pleasure of visiting Godhavn, Disco Island, Greenland. We had a full crew, large ship, "Congress," and a visitor, reverend, now Bishop J. P. Newman, and another clergyman from Pennsylvania. The sail of thirteen days from New York was uneventful and pleasant. We found a town of about eighty-five people, women all virtuous and a governor full of hospitality. He used up much of his powder in saluting and made it pleasant for us all. Many of us visited the town and wandered about the country, climbed mountains, etc. The top of one mountain was level and its surface covered with lichens and mosses. The pussy willow and whortleberry bush grow to the height of six or eight inches, and the latter had a quantity of ripe berries, which we gathered. The dandelion was in full blossom on the sunny slopes and seemed homelike. The sight was a grand one; the brilliant colors in this verdure carpet rivaled that of the most beautiful Persian, and in walking upon it the foot sank enough to cover the instep.

In 1883, I went further north to Littleton Island, near Cape Sabine, where the "Proteus" was wrecked.

We found game and fish very plentiful—just the place for a hunter. On firing a shot gun at a cliff 1,000 feet high, the eggs came rattling down as a storm, caused by the shot scaring the birds, jumping off their nests in a hurry, kicking the eggs overboard.

In the towns of Greenland each has a church and school, Lutheran religion, and is governed by Denmark—a minister, governor and cooper. A ship comes from Denmark once each year; brings them cottons and woollens and necessary articles, barrels in the knock down, which are put together by the cooper, filled with oil during the winter and sent to Denmark the next year. All skins and products of Greenland are sent to Denmark and sold at auction in Copenhagen. The doctor visits each town once yearly.

With a fine, fast steamer, it is an agreeable trip in the summer, and one can go and come without getting afoul of ice, unless desired.

TOASTMASTER:

"The race is not always to the swift." Many of us remember a most interesting and exciting murder trial which took place here a few years ago in which many of our members were placed on the witness stand. One day, during the most exciting part of the trial, one of the attorneys, wishing to impress the jury with the horrors of a surgical operation, put the following question to one of our members: "Now, when you bored that hole down into that poor man's brain, what happened?" After mature thought, and with great deliberation, came the answer: "We didn't bore any hole down into the man's brain; we performed the operation of trephining." The effect on the jury was apparent. The doctor had the "best end of the rope." All things come to him who waits. Now, if you have lots of time and will wait long enough,

Dr. Cook will tell you whether he always has gotten the "best end of the rope" in the matter of "Gratuitous Service."

Dr. Cook said that there were two kinds of "Gratuitous Service," the voluntary and the involuntary. He illustrated his points by some witty anecdotes, told in his inimitable manner.

Selection by Glee Club.

AIR: *Scotchman.*

I.

Show me the doctor who doesn't love his pill box,
 Show me the surgeon who doesn't love his knife,
 But show me the kind-hearted son of old Jenner
 Who doesn't love the spot where the vaccine grows.

II.

Show me the accoucheur who doesn't love his forceps,
 Show me the microscopist who doesn't love his lens,
 But show me the man named Marcus or Melancthon
 Who doesn't love the spot where the appendix grows.

III.

Show me the scientist who doesn't love his microbe,
 Show me the cobbler who doesn't love his last,
 But show me that Thing called a Christian Science Healer
 Who ever cares a — where anything grows.

TOASTMASTER:

You know at a certain marriage feast mentioned in the Bible, it was claimed that the good wine had been kept till the last. Perhaps we have done the same thing to-night. We have heard, to-night, about all kinds of doctors, but that noblest character of them all, the Country Doctor, has not received any share of our attention. We all know him as Dr. Watson knew him when he gave us that beautiful character picture, "A Doctor of the Old School." But the country doctor sometimes ceases to hide his light under a bushel and makes his way to the busy city, where the energy and self reliance obtained by his hard training soon put him in the front rank of his confreres.

A little history—In 1853, Yale Medical School sent out a beardless youth to a little town in New London county, to see if the hardy Connecticut people in that region could stand his dosing. The outbreak of the civil war took him to the field, and there the numerous daily operations so filled his soul with longing, that when he returned, no country town could furnish sufficient material to satisfy his surgical cravings, and Hartford was selected as a fertile hunting ground. Here I found

him, when, fourteen years ago, I determined to cast my lot among you, snapping his fingers in derision at the streptococcus, the staphylococcus, and even the gonococcus. But, in '91, he decided to give his patients a chance. So he took a vacation, and went to Berlin. What happened there the Lord only knows, but, from what he says himself, he must have posed as a very sporty sport. But he did get his operation established in the congress, and he must have heard somebody say something about germs, for he came back ready to make war on germs everywhere. "What a change was there, my countrymen." No more do we see the well-worn lead pencil pulled out of the linty pocket and thrust down into the sinus for a probe; no more do we see the germ-laden finger, fresh from the tilling of the soil, thrust into the absorbing wound; no more do we hear about the foot square blister aborting a perityphlitic abscess. The lead pencil has given way to the carefully-boiled probe; the finger always gets its scrubbing and sterilization, and any pain anywhere from the ensiform to the pubis means another search for an appendix. Such is the metamorphosis of one country doctor. Perhaps Dr. Storrs can tell us something more about them.

Response by M. Storrs, M. D.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:

I am much embarrassed, because one member reminds me of what I said concerning germs, a long time ago, and another of what I said on a more recent occasion, quite contradictory. I feel that I had better follow the suggestion given by the *New York Sun* to Mr. Bryan in the following incident:

The head of a respectable and well-to-do family was missing; search was made everywhere in vain; finally, the mother and daughter went to the morgue. They were sure that they had found the lost friend, and, after making quite sure, they gave explicit directions where to send the body, street and number. But later, accidentally discovering that the body in question had no teeth, they were certain of their mistake, countermanded the order, and went away. The keeper of the morgue gives the body a slap, saying: "You fool, if you had kept your mouth shut, you would have had a respectable burial." Mr. Bryan and myself can make the application.

I find, however, that my words have fallen on good ground and that I must be careful how I speak. Perhaps the lighting of this cigarette, the first in my life, done in honor of our Chairman, and which makes a ripple of laughter here to-night, will appear against me at the next semi-centennial of our society, so I will speak the words of truth and soberness.

You ask me to speak of the country doctor. I shall not deery the city or the city doctor, but I have a great respect for the country doctors and great respect for the country. I was born in the country and

there lived half my life, and why should I not love the country? It was by the help of its refreshing showers and sunlight that I got my bones and sinews from the rugged earth. I lived very near to its soil; no wilted bananas from the tropics, no poisonous food, such as our County President stated the other day was in common use, destroying the stomach and vitiating the blood, entered into my young and vigorous childhood. Now, when enervated by city indulgence or overwork, I go to my native hills, I am greeted by all nature; and the pure air, whether the zephyrs of spring or the gales of autumn, invigorate and refresh me—yes, the very shining of the sun seems different to me there, basking in its joyous rays, the undulating beams meet me so as to vibrate in harmony with every vital current of my life. It is the only place where the sun rises and sets in exactly the right place. In all other places the glorious old luminary is twisted a little out of its orbit. There I am refreshed and strengthened, and feel that if I had never left the paternal acres I might, like many of my ancestors, remained here till I had reached hard upon my centennial year.

But what would this medical society do without the country? Since I have been the president of this society, it seems as though we were proposing or voting in two or three new members at almost every meeting, and most of them are from the country. There are not enough city-born physicians to fill the offices of the society; left to the city supply, there would be no rank and file. Yes, I might say if it were not for my old Windham county and my old town of Ashford we should hardly have any Hartford Medical Society to-day. When you want to complete your medical education, you go to some European center; you may make only a tourist visit, yet it counts for your medical education; but when the living founder of this society wanted to complete his education he went to the grand old rural university of Ashford, to our old family physician, and there he got the common sense and practical wisdom that perfected the routine instruction of the schools. His way was not exactly easy or agreeable perhaps. The doctor was a large man and rode in a single-seated sulky, and he went often at a breakneck speed. I asked Dr. Russell how he saw the patients. "I walked," said he; "but the doctor wanted me to buy a horse, but I would not." He learned to say no in early manhood, and we believe that when Dr. Russell said he "wouldn't," he meant it. But it would have been an amusing sight to have seen young Russell keeping up with that one-seated sulky.

Now the country doctor has a better chance to see diseases come to a complete pathological development than the city doctor. We occasionally see one of these country specimens straying to the city. I will give an illustration. I was called during my first year of country practice to go into a neighboring town to make a post-mortem and remove a large tumor which the attending physician wanted to send to the museum of the New Haven Medical College. I found, as I expected, a large ovarian cyst—a monstrous affair—ribs on a level with the clavicle,

woman emaciated fearfully. I removed 135 pounds of fluid; sac weighed five pounds; woman weighed, after this subtraction, seventy pounds—just half of the tumor. I never saw such a growth in the city; for we have men stationed in the city as sentinels to watch the ovary. I believe that every ovary in the city has been inspected and registered. If an ovary shows any errancy, it has no time to make a history; it disappears from the scene. The difference is that in the country the ovary is too large, in the city none at all. Which is the better the Lord only knows; but we know that the ovary of the country goes its appointed time.

Dr. Russell, in his colonial history, has shown us how in olden time a physician was also a minister and lawyer, as in the case of Gershom Bulkeley, first settled in New London, then in Wethersfield, and in all his professions gained a great reputation. It was much the same in the times of my early practice in the country. We had on occasions to be legal advisers and perform clerical duties, with little regard to any fees or emoluments. I was once called in a rainy night some few miles to see one of two sisters who lived on a small farm which they carried on, which, with knitting, gave them a living. The older one had taken a large dose of laudanum and was near death. I could do nothing to save her life, so I began to say comforting things to the sister. I enlarged on the mysteriousness of such providences, the beauty of resignation, and of meeting such trials heroically. I did the best I could. I talked as any spiritual adviser would, fully up to the level of my experience. I thought I had gained my purpose; but after a little she said: "Doctor, this is hard; what can I do without my sister? I had rather than to have had this happen given fifty cents and knit it out." I could make no charge for my medical services; in fact, I had done nothing for her sister, so I retired to meditate on the value of human life. We are taught that all that a man hath will he give for his life; but now the value of a life, as appraised by sisterly affection—its coinage value—was only half a dollar. I have never met any similar case in my city practice.

The physicians of the country have a large stock of common sense; this is a necessary accompaniment to learning. Learning without common sense is of little account. Physicians in the country are good men, stand well in the community, quite apt to hold some office, often sent to the legislature, and when they die have a large funeral. If you want a large funeral, practice in the country; the church will be filled and the highway lined with carriages as far as you can see. In the city, I have seen the funerals of old, respectable physicians very select in the attendance.

I do not think that the country doctors attend church as much as they might. Sunday is taken as a rounding-up day—visiting patients at a distance, or the poorer or gratuitous ones nearer home. In the city, there is something of this, but on the whole the city doctors are pretty regular in their church-going—some of our number quite so—and if there is no church open of a Sabbath evening they may go to the theatre to

learn of the occult and supernatural; and some have reported that there was much truth in what they saw and heard. Probably if they had made more thorough and searching investigation they would have reached a greater certainty of belief. It suggests to me a story by Lincoln, which, with some expurgation, I will relate:

An old man out West was dead opposed to spiritualism, but he had many friends who importuned him to give the matter attention. After much urging, he consented to attend one of their meetings. He became at last somewhat interested, and said that if they would call up his dog he would believe. That was easily done, they said, and immediately the table began to tip and skip about the room, and soon there was a bark. The old man said, that is the bark of my dog; that is my dog, I almost believe; but I want a little more evidence, and then I will believe. You shall have it, they said, and the table again began to tip and jump about the room, and went three times around the stove, and, raising one leg, did the business on the stove. The old man said, I believe; that is my dog, for he does just as he used to do.

So our friends, if they had demanded more evidence, they might not only have heard the bark of their dog, but found him doing just as he used to do.

Exercises closed by singing Auld Lang Syne.

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