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4
ADDRESS

OF

SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

EXTRACTED FROM THE
TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



C
PHILADELPHIA:
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1868.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY
NATHANIEL BENTLEY

VOLUME I.

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A D D R E S S .

IN taking the chair which, one year ago, your impartiality assigned to me, I should be false to every emotion of my heart if I failed to express my profound gratitude for the distinguished honor which was thus, unsolicited and totally unexpected, conferred upon me. I cordially thank you for this mark of your respect and confidence. To be the presiding officer of an association which includes among its members many of the oldest and most illustrious physicians of the country, as well as many of the younger, more active, and promising, cannot be esteemed a light honor. The gratification of my election was the more keenly appreciated by me because it occurred in a city in which repose the ashes of some of my earliest and most cherished friends, and in which, under Providence, I laid the foundation of what little reputation I may possess.

It will be my endeavor, by an impartial discharge of the duties of this high office, to merit the confidence you have reposed in me, and to do all I can to expedite the transaction of the business that may be brought before us. You will, I doubt not, conduct your deliberations with that calmness and dignity, that amenity and courtesy, that spirit of forbearance, so characteristic of men who bear towards each other the noble title of professional brethren, linked together by the most sacred ties, a divine origin, the cultivation of medical science, and the deepest interests of our common nature. I shall have attained my highest ambition, if, on retiring from this chair, it shall be said of me that I worthily wore the mantle of the many distinguished men who preceded me in office.

In addressing you in my official capacity, I shall consider you as a national congress, representing the interests and wishes of the great American republic of medicine, and myself as a chief magis-

trate, called to preside over your deliberations, and empowered to offer such suggestions as shall tend, if wise in themselves, and judiciously carried out, to advance the honor and glory of the profession, the good of our race, and the dignity and importance of this Association.

One of the great objects of the Association, as set forth in the preamble of its Constitution, is to facilitate and foster friendly intercourse among its members. It is hardly probable, however, that its founders intended to restrict the cultivation of this friendly feeling to its own body. It was, doubtless, designed to be catholic in its application. Its doors are open to all, provided they are of the orthodox faith, and in honorable standing in the profession. As was eloquently remarked at the meeting at Cincinnati, a year ago, by a distinguished associate, now one of our vice-presidents, "In the great republic of science all geographical lines should be obliterated." American physicians have a common heritage, and a common interest in each other's welfare and reputation. Medicine is cosmopolitan in its aims and objects; it recognizes no nationalities; it knows no East or West, no North or South. It extends its friendly hand to every honest, true-hearted son of *Æsculapius*. It seeks one common brotherhood; one common altar where we may annually meet for the interchange of kindly feeling and for the renewal of our vows of fidelity and devotion to our great and venerated profession. I cannot suppose that there is in this house one soul so selfish, so narrow-minded, so sectional in its feelings and its purposes, that it would not, if called upon, pray with all the fervor of a Christian saint that this Association might be cemented with an adamant chain reaching from one extreme of this vast continent to the other, and binding us all in one common whole, indivisible, now and forever, for the honor and glory, not only of the medical profession, but of America, of that America which the world hails as the land of Columbus and of Washington, the land of great men and noble women, the asylum of the oppressed and the friendless, the home of the arts and sciences, and of all that can adorn and beautify and ennoble human nature. "Stars," as a distinguished writer has felicitously expressed it, "need no birth-right, no nationality; they belong to all lands and to all nations."

It has been alleged, as a kind of reproach to the Association, that it does not exercise sufficient vigilance in regard to the admission of its members. I am sure that it is only necessary to allude to this subject in order to secure it proper attention. While

I should myself be in favor of the most liberal interpretation of this part of the Constitution, I should be opposed to the reception of any delegates whose claims are not based upon the most reliable and trustworthy vouchers. There is no doubt that the dignity of the Association would be greatly promoted by the exercise of greater stringency. I do not know that it has actually suffered from the alleged laxity, but there is no question that it has afforded occasion for much criticism and ill-natured remark, and that it has prevented some of the older and more influential members from taking that active interest in its prosperity and permanency which they would otherwise have done.

Much complaint has been made, from time to time, respecting the character of our Transactions, on account of their bulk, the nature of their contents, and the expense of their publication. It seems to me that the Committee of Publication should be invested with plenary powers in regard to all papers not read before the Association or in the sections; for, unless this be done, how are we to judge of their fitness for insertion? Many of the articles that have appeared in the Transactions are far better adapted to the pages of a medical journal than a publication designed to serve as the exponent of the views and opinions of so learned and dignified a body as this is, or ought to be. Above all, care should be taken that no prize essays be admitted if they are not founded upon elaborate experiments, original observation, or accurate clinical experience. Such a procedure, while it would greatly reduce the bulk of the volumes, and proportionately diminish the expense of publication, would impart a more literary and scientific tone to our labors, meet the approbation of enlightened physicians, and tend to exalt the character of the Association as a great national institution.

The subject of medical education continues to be one of deep and absorbing interest with this Association. Although it was one of the principal objects for which the Association was established, it was never brought under its notice in so clear and tangible a form as at our last meeting, in consequence of the action of the Teachers' Convention, which digested a plan of college requirement and instruction which, it was gratifying to see, met with the unanimous approval of this body, and which only awaits, as far as its practical application is concerned, the sanction of the principal schools of the country for its general adoption. It will be a happy day both for medical science and humanity when this important point shall be attained. No men are more conscious of the present imperfect

system of education than the teachers themselves, and none more anxious for the introduction and general adoption of the contemplated reform. The suggestions offered by the Teachers' Convention, and which are now the property of the Association, are, perhaps, as unexceptionable as it is possible to render them in the existing state of the science. The plan should receive the cordial support of every enlightened physician in the country. It is a subject of the deepest humiliation that, except in a few honorable instances, no material changes have taken place in the curriculum of instruction in our schools within the last half century. For this neglect the schools are not alone responsible. The profession at large must come in for not a little share of the blame. Without its aid and co-operation the colleges are powerless. Reform, to be worth anything, must begin at home, in the office of the private preceptor, who should unhesitatingly reject every applicant that has not a sound preliminary education, competent talents, and the habits of a thorough student. If such a course were adopted, the ranks of the profession would soon be elevated far above their present standard, medical science and humanity would be vastly the gainers, and much less would be heard than is now the case of irregular outside practice—of homœopathy, hydropathy, eclecticism, and other so-called systems—outgrowths, for the most part, of the want of proper education, science, and philosophy in our own profession. The cause of our own woe lies at our own doors, in the imperfect appreciation and discharge of our duties.

The schools are afraid to elevate the standard of requirements without the general co-operation of the colleges, lest they should suffer in the number of their pupils and the amount of their emoluments. Nor is it worth while for a few members of a faculty to raise their voices in favor of reform when all the rest are opposed to it. It is confessedly difficult, if not impossible, for seven or eight men to see any one subject in the same light. "*Quot homines, tot sententiæ*" is as true of medical faculties as of any other associations; and it is therefore simply absurd for the profession to hurl its wrath at this or that institution because it will not step out of its way to sacrifice itself to reform, of the importance of which it may be perfectly sensible. Practitioner and professor, private preceptor and college teacher, are, in the existing state of this grave and important question, equally at fault and equally censurable. Every one may justly exclaim, in the language of the devout publican, "God have mercy upon me, a sinner."

I am not aware that the education of nurses has received any attention from this body; a circumstance the more surprising when we consider the great importance of the subject. It seems to me to be just as necessary to have well-trained, well-instructed nurses as to have intelligent and skilful physicians. I have long been of the opinion that there ought to be, in all the principal towns and cities of the Union, institutions for the education of men and women whose duty it is to take care of the sick, and to carry out the injunctions of the medical attendant. There is hardly one nurse, of either sex, in twenty who has a perfect appreciation of the requirements of the sick-room, or who is capable of affording the aid and comfort so necessary to a patient when oppressed by disease or injury. It does not matter what may be the skill of the medical practitioner, how assiduous or faithful he may be in the discharge of his functions, as a guardian of health and life, his efforts can be of comparatively little avail unless they are seconded by an intelligent and devoted nurse. We need in this country a million of Florence Nightingales, and at least half that number of John Howards, to aid our physicians in their strife with disease and death. Myriads of human beings perish annually, in the so-called civilized world, for the want of good nursing.

Medical men, in the exercise of their functions, are often called upon to act as witnesses in cases involving property, reputation, and even life itself. The real object, as contemplated by the law, of every trial in which scientific testimony is required is to ascertain "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," both as it respects the interests of the State and of the accused. The procedure, as generally conducted, partakes much more of the character of a combat, in which the opposing parties are pitted against each other, often with a degree of fierceness and acrimony that only shows too clearly the partisan feelings of the belligerents, instead of the dignified inquiry into the real merits of the case. The result is that, instead of enlightening the court and jury by their testimony, the medical witnesses only embarrass their minds, and this especially defeats the ends of justice. There is not a physician of any experience who has not been shocked at the manner in which public trials are conducted, and who has not felt how inadequately the ministers of the law discharge their duties in cases involving the deepest interests, not only of individuals but of society at large. Many of these trials are the merest farces, calculated to excite the risible faculties of the bystanders, if it were not for the serious con-

sequences to which they lead. My experience is that there are few lawyers, however intelligent, or skilled in the examination of witnesses, who are fully competent to elicit even the more prominent facts of a case. Often, indeed, from an anxious desire to do all they can for the defence of their clients, they do not hesitate to browbeat and bully the medical witness, especially if he is young and timid, in order to distort his testimony, and to confuse the minds of the judge and jury. Sometimes, again, even when influenced by the best and most laudable intentions, the lawyer, from sheer ignorance, propounds his interrogations in so awkward and unscientific a manner as effectually to defeat the very end he has in view.

There are, as is well known, two kinds of medical witnesses, those who, like ordinary witnesses, testify as to what they have seen, and those who have no personal knowledge whatever of the case. The latter are known as experts, and there are few trials, of any moment, in which they do not play a more or less conspicuous part. Generally speaking, experts are physicians of reputation and experience, or men who have acquired distinction in some particular branch of the profession, and who are, consequently, supposed to possess a peculiar fitness for expressing an opinion upon the questions at issue.

When testimony fails to enlighten the judge and jury it signally fails of its objects, and is therefore calculated to bring discredit upon all concerned; nay, more, its effect may be to cause the innocent to be punished, and the guilty to escape.

In order to meet these contingencies, as disgraceful as they are inconsistent with the designs and operations of civilization, there should be in every judicial district a commissioner whose duty it should be to aid in the examination of witnesses in every trial involving scientific testimony. Such an officer, if chosen merely with reference to qualification, might confer inestimable benefit upon the community, since, laying aside all partisan feeling and personal bias, his sole business would be to elicit the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth on both sides of the case, and there place the matter, fully, fairly, and tangibly, before the court and jury. It should be made a part of his duty to prevent the bar from embarrassing the medical witness—a practice at the present day disgracefully common among lawyers—and to assist them in explaining themselves fully upon every interrogatory that may be propounded; to prompt the advocates in regard to any

questions of omission, tending to supply additional information; in a word, to act as a medium between the opposing counsel, and as a light to the judge and jury, in clearing up points of an obscure or doubtful nature.

The commissioner should receive his appointment from the judges of the Supreme Court of the State; a fixed salary should be attached to the office; and he should have at least two assistants, to make all post-mortem examinations, as well as to inspect the living, in all cases of suspected or alleged crime, as abortion, infanticide, rape, and similar offences. He should have the privilege of summing up the medical testimony, not orally but in writing, for the benefit of the judge and jury, the latter of whom are always ignorant of the meaning of technical terms, and therefore incapable of drawing a proper distinction between the points of difference on the part of the scientific witness.

Time will not permit me to dwell any further upon this subject; a subject which addresses itself to the judgment and good sense of every enlightened legislator, physician, and Christian. I am fully sensible of the many difficulties which environ it; but I am satisfied that, as civilization advances, it will receive the attention which its great importance so fully merits. I will only add that what I have written here was substantially embodied in an inaugural discourse which I delivered, twenty years ago, as President of the Kentucky State Medical Society.

An able and elaborate report was presented at the meeting a year ago on the subject of the grade and pay of the medical corps of the Navy. The matter is one of deep interest to the profession generally; for whatever affects the honor and dignity of the naval surgeon affects us as a body, and is therefore worthy of our serious consideration. These complaints have been so often reiterated that it is impossible any longer to disregard them, or pass them by in silence. Congress has been appealed to again and again upon the subject, but has always failed to take any active steps towards granting the reasonable demands—perhaps it would be more proper to say absolute necessities—of the medical staff. Instead of this, as if to add insult to injury, it has omitted to raise the rank and pay of the medical staff, while it has created four additional grades to reward the line. There are, at this moment, as I am informed by the distinguished and efficient chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, fifty vacancies in the medical corps, and it is not at all likely, judging from the present state of affairs, that this num-

ber will be materially diminished so long as the existing obstacles remain in force. There can be no inducement for a young physician to connect himself with a service in which he is constantly exposed to impertinence and insolence, if not to positive indignity. Whatever may be the character of the officers of the line, there can be no doubt that, as respects their education, refinement, and social position, the medical officers are fully equal to them, not to say anything of their onerous and responsible duties, which, as a general rule, demand a high degree of science and intellect for their successful discharge. It does not admit of question that the character of the naval service of the country, at foreign as well as at domestic stations, depends essentially as much upon its medical officers as upon the officers of the line in their intercourse with the world at large. The medical officers of the navy must necessarily be regarded as types of the professional men of the nation which they represent, and the character of the latter, as gentlemen and men of science and intelligence, will therefore be judged according to the conduct of their naval brethren.

That the complaints of the medical officers of our navy may be placed in a proper light, I have been at some pains to obtain a list of the rank and pay of the medical staffs of the different governments of Europe. From this statement, kindly furnished me by a highly respectable member of the service, Dr. Philip S. Wales, it appears that in the French navy, medical officers may attain the rank of admiral; in the English, Russian, and Spanish, that of vice-admiral; and in the Austrian, that of rear-admiral. In the French service the surgeon-in-chief of a squadron is allowed table-money, and messes with the commander-in-chief. In the Austrian navy the medical men wear the same uniform, enjoy the same privileges, and receive the same retired pay as the line; in the Russian, they are allowed an increase of pay every five years, and enjoy the same honors and pensions as the other officers. In the Spanish navy the same regulations essentially exist. The highest grade in the navy of this country, on the contrary, is that of commodore, enjoyed only by the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; the assistant surgeon ranks with the ensign, and the passed-assistant surgeon with the lieutenant. The medical officers do not receive the rewards, honors, and pay of those grades of the line with which they are assimilated. The full pay of a captain, for instance, of any number of years' standing, is \$3500 per annum; a surgeon, on the contrary, has to be in the service in that grade fifteen years to

obtain this rank, and is then entitled only to \$2600. All his time as assistant and passed-assistant is lost to him. The highest pay that the oldest surgeon on the active list can receive, after having been in the service for nearly forty-two years, is \$3300. The youngest captain in the navy, on the contrary, is entitled to an income of \$3500, with a service only of twenty-nine years.

Another great disadvantage is that, while the captain, however young he may be, has a large, airy apartment to himself, the aged surgeon is stowed away in a small room, and is, much to his chagrin and annoyance, thrown among a crowd of noisy young men altogether his inferiors in education and social position.

These statements show how unequal is the estimation in which the most republican government in the world holds the services of its medical officers in comparison with those of the navies of the principal monarchies of Europe. There is no service abroad in which medical men may not hope, eventually, to reach the rank of admiral, while in ours, as at present constituted, they can only attain that of captain. The French nation, always foremost, both in civil and military life, in recognizing the claims of our profession, honors her naval medical officers with the distinguished rank of admiral, and assigns them apartments similar to those occupied by the commander-in-chief of the squadron.

The claims urged by our naval brethren are, 1st, an assimilated rank with rear-admirals, as in other countries; 2dly, equality of pay and rewards; 3dly, quarters on board ship suitable to the dignity and importance of the men occupying these grades. When these claims shall be recognized and enforced, then, and not until then, can the government fill the corps of medical officers with honorable, intelligent, and scientific men, meet for the service of a nation whose flag floats in triumph over every sea in the known world.

We need in this country a naval medical school, conducted upon the same general principles as those in such successful operation at Toulon, Rochefort, and Cherbourg in France, where medical men may be prepared for the duties of naval surgeons, by suitable lectures and other exercises given by an able corps of professors. Some of the most brilliant naval and military surgeons of France, as Broussais and Larrey, not to mention others, received their education in these institutions. Such a seminary, surrounded with proper safeguards, could not, in the slightest degree, interfere with the interests of the regular medical colleges of the country, while its

beneficial effects in supplying the service with a more thoroughly trained corps of surgeons would be incalculable. There is just as much need of such a school as there is of a school for the education of sailors and officers of the line.

The necessity of having an annual register of the members of the regular profession of the United States has long been felt and generally acknowledged. The sanction by the Association of such a publication, or an expression of its belief in its necessity and usefulness, would go far in securing its early appearance, and its steady reissue afterwards. The London and Provincial Medical Directory, inclusive of the Medical Directory for Scotland and the Medical Directory for Ireland, has been in existence for upwards of twenty years, and the volume for the present year is a portly octavo of nearly one thousand pages. It embraces not only the names, residences, titles, and the date of the graduation of the physicians in the British kingdom, but the names and localities of its hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, and medical schools, an almanac, an obituary list, biographical sketches of eminent medical men, and a vast amount of other useful and interesting information. A work constructed upon this principle would be of incalculable benefit to our profession, in preventing mistakes in regard to consultations with irregular practitioners, at the same time that it would serve to bind its members into a firmer and closer union.

The establishment of societies for the relief of widows and orphans of indigent medical men is an object which commends itself to every member of this Association who has a heart to feel for others' woes, or the power to give from the abundance of his treasures. The number of such persons must necessarily be considerable. No man, however prudent, industrious, or provident, is exempt from misfortune; accident, disease, or domestic affliction may overwhelm him at any time, and thus a career, commenced under the most favorable auspices, with every prospect of great and rapid success, may eventually, in consequence of unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, end in utter misery and penury. A man's property may be swept away in a single hour by flood or fire, and thus suddenly reduce him from a position of competency, if not of affluence, to one of actual want. Such cases appeal in the strongest terms to our sympathies and to the kindest feelings of our nature. God has enjoined it upon every Christian to protect the widow and the orphan; and shall it be said of the physician, who spends his days and nights in preventing and mitigating suf-

fering, that he is less than a Christian; that he shrinks a duty so solemnly imposed upon him by every obligation of humanity and the common brotherhood of a great and noble profession? I pause for an answer, and everywhere, from the most remote recess of this hall, the words, No! No! resound in my ears. So be it. Thanks be to God, the Giver of all good, the protector of the poor and oppressed, the widows and orphans of medical men, trodden down by destitution and distress, shall hereafter have an advocate, warm, energetic, and indomitable, in every member of this great national congress.

I do not know with whom the idea of forming such societies originated; but it is an interesting historical fact that attention was prominently called to the subject by Dr. Benjamin Rush in an introductory lecture which he delivered in November, 1808, "On the Duties of Patients to their Physicians." "Our newspapers," he remarks, "often contain advertisements of the household furniture, books, and medicines of physicians for sale who have died in early or middle life. The widows and orphans of such physicians are often met with in reduced and humble situations; and of the small number of them who are wealthy and independent, how great a proportion have become so by fortunate marriages, successful speculation, or by extravagant exactions from their patients, and a sordid economy, alike disgraceful to humanity and the profession of medicine. From a view, such as has been given, of the sad reverse of situation to which the death of physicians often exposes their families, I applied many years ago to a gentleman in this city, eminent for his talent in calculating, for a plan of a fund for the support of the widows and children of physicians, to be created by a liberal subscription in the first instance, and small contributions to it afterwards during their lives." The object, however, thus so zealously advocated, failed, because the small number of physicians in Pennsylvania at that time rendered such an institution premature and impracticable. Dr. Rush expressed a hope, however, that as the profession increased, a fund for the purpose would be established in every State in the Union.

A society of this kind, the first, if I mistake not, ever established in this country, was instituted, through the active and benevolent exertion of Dr. Edward Delafield, in 1842, and incorporated the following year, under the name of "The New York Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men." It has at present one hundred and thirty-four members, with a fund of \$74,327,

invested in bonds, mortgages, and United States securities, and extends its aid to eight widows and three children of its deceased members. From a communication recently received from its venerable and distinguished founder, it appears that the interest in the success of the Society is steadily increasing, and the conviction is expressed that it will eventually embrace all the more respectable and influential members of the medical profession of the city of New York, as well as of Kings, Richmond, and Westchester Counties, which are included in the circle of its exertion.

I have long been of the opinion that there should be an association of this kind in every one of our States, with auxiliary branches in the principal towns and cities, the supervision of the entire matter being intrusted to the State and county societies. A small annual contribution from each member would soon furnish a large fund, which, properly applied, would dry the tears of many a widow, and afford her substantial solace in her declining years.

Considering the enlightened character of this Association, I do not deem it necessary to apologize for calling your attention to another topic, one which, although not directly connected with our profession, has, nevertheless, a most intimate relationship with its humane and benevolent practices. I allude to the establishment of veterinary colleges for the education of physicians and surgeons in order to qualify them for investigating and treating, upon correct, scientific principles, the diseases and accidents incident to domestic animals, especially the horse, cow, sheep, and dog, those creatures which minister so much to our comfort and happiness, and whose labor and products exert such a powerful influence upon the wealth and resources of a nation. It is a fact, as indisputable as it is honorable to us, that almost every enterprise, truly good and charitable, or in any wise calculated to ameliorate distress and suffering, has its origin, either directly or indirectly, in the medical profession. It is only necessary, in proof of this assertion, to refer to the numerous asylums, hospitals, infirmaries, almshouses, and dispensaries which everywhere greet the eye of the observer in all civilized countries, and which, in a vast majority of instances, not only owe their foundation, but also their perpetuity, to the energy, zeal, and benevolence of medical men. Our profession is eminently a profession of humanity, a profession which seeks to relieve distress and suffering in whatever form they may present themselves, whether in man, created in the likeness of his Maker, or in the dumb beasts that supply us with sustenance, plough our fields, furnish us with

the means of warming our bodies, and are our companions and friends; indeed, often our protectors. We owe the cow an everlasting debt of gratitude for having furnished us with the vaccine scab, by which millions of human lives are annually saved, to say nothing of the milk which she supplies to the starving infant, when the natural fountain of the mother is dried up. We institute—what is most just and praiseworthy—societies for the prevention of cruelties to animals; but we shamefully neglect, with now and then an honorable exception, to extend to them the care and sympathy due them when they are sick and injured, or threatened with the visitation of an epidemic malady, a plague or pestilence. Thousands and tens of thousands of animals, many of them of the most valuable character, annually perish for the want of proper hygienic knowledge on the part of their owners. An all-wise God has intrusted these dumb creatures to our care for the supply of our wants and comforts, and the least that a civilized people can do is to see that they are properly cared for when assailed by disease, too often induced by the restraints and annoyances of their dependent situation and the tyranny to which they are subjected by their keepers. Mankind, by universal consent, treat the horse and the dog with special kindness and regard, and often provide for their necessities long after they have ceased to be useful on account of infirmity and advanced age. "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."

Our country has, thus far, made little progress in the education and proper training of veterinary physicians and surgeons. Most of the persons known as such, at the present day, are wholly ignorant even of the first principles of the art and science of veterinary medicine; they are the merest pretenders and charlatans, utterly unfit for the exercise of their important duties; in a word, they are simply a disgrace to their profession. Of the few veterinary colleges to be found in this country there is hardly one that is organized upon a proper basis. Europe, in this respect, is far in advance of us. While we have kept pace in medical science and practice with the most civilized and refined nations of the Old World, we have done literally nothing for veterinary medicine and surgery. France has not less than three or four of such establishments, one of which—that at Alfort, near Paris—has long been celebrated for the talents and scientific attainments of its professors. Great Britain, Prussia, Belgium, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Italy,

Switzerland, Sweden, and Denmark can all boast of great veterinary schools, with learned and effective courses of instruction, reflecting the greatest credit upon those engaged in them. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of London, founded in 1719, and incorporated by royal charter in 1844, had, as appears by its recently published Register, up to 1866, sent out 2537 students, of whom 1696, scattered throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world, were still living at the date here referred to. To show the respectable character of this institution, I may say that the Board of Examiners consists of such men as Alfred Taylor, William Sharpey, George Viner Ellis, James Syme, J. W. Bigbie, and John Struthers, with a number of others whose names are less familiar in this country. The college is well endowed, and has six professors of great learning and ability. On the continent of Europe there are upwards of thirty veterinary schools in active operation, furnished with all the means and appliances for carrying on the most thorough and elaborate courses of instruction. The alumni of these institutions are perfect masters of their art, and treat the injuries and diseases of the inferior animals, especially those of the horse, ox, and dog, with as much skill and success as we treat the injuries and diseases of the human subject. In France the veterinary art is under the special patronage of the Académie des Sciences, one of the eleven sections of which holds frequent meetings for the enlargement and protection of its interests.

Up to 1863, over 3000 works had appeared on veterinary medicine and surgery. Of these Germany has supplied 809, France 433, Italy 183, Spain 103, England 164, and America about one dozen! Some of these productions are well known and highly appreciated. The treatises of the late Mr. Youatt, of England, enjoy a world-wide reputation; and the Dictionary of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery of Hurtrel D'Arboval, of which a new edition only recently appeared at Paris in six large octavo volumes, is a monument of industry, research, and erudition precious alike to veterinary and human medicine.

Among the latest and most esteemed German works upon the subject are those of Hertwig, Falker, Röhl, and Spinola. The treatise of Mr. Gamgee on the rinderpest as it recently prevailed in England is a production of great labor and merit, affording the most complete history of that terrible and destructive malady that has ever appeared.

An extensive periodical veterinary medical literature exists. I

have time here only to allude to the *Veterinarian*, a journal published in Great Britain, and distinguished for the variety and excellence of its contributions, now in its fortieth volume; and to the *Repertorium der Thiersheilkunde*, commenced at Stuttgart in 1840, and of which, up to 1866, twenty-seven volumes had appeared.

Several treatises have been published upon medico-legal veterinary science, chiefly, if not exclusively, in the German language. Among the latest works of this kind is that of A. C. Gerlach, Professor in the Royal Veterinary School at Hanover. Homœopathic veterinary medicine and surgery appear to have thus far made little progress, either in this country, in England, or on the continent of Europe. In 1863, Dr. G. W. Schrader, of Hamburg, and Dr. Edward Hering, of Stuttgart, published a *Universal Biographico-Literary Lexicon of Veterinary Surgeons*, comprising upwards of two thousand names, and forming a closely printed octavo volume of nearly five hundred pages, illustrated with forty-three portraits and ninety-five autographs; a work in striking and painful contrast with our own want of concern about the honored dead of the medical profession.

Numerous veterinary medical associations exist both in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe; and the former country recently inaugurated a medical congress, embracing many of the most able and distinguished veterinary surgeons of the land. The subject of education and of reform is everywhere, as among us, engaging earnest attention.

The present period, so distinguished for all kinds of benevolent and charitable enterprises, is, it seems to me, particularly propitious for the establishment of veterinary schools, and I therefore recommend the subject most earnestly to your consideration. It is believed that the aid of the legislatures of the different States might readily be invoked through their respective governors by a committee of this Association whose views could not fail to carry great weight with them. Great attention is everywhere bestowed upon the rearing of stock and the improvement of the various breeds of horses and cattle; the agricultural resources of the country are becoming daily more and more developed; and agricultural societies are annually multiplying and extending the sphere of their usefulness. The benefits that would result from the labors of a body of thoroughly educated veterinary surgeons cannot be estimated. The saving of life and property would be incalculable. Professor Gamgee, of the Albert Medical College, of London, stated, only a short time ago,

in the Agricultural Committee of the House of Representatives, that the annual loss of domestic animals by disease was over \$100,000,000, of which, he was satisfied, one-half might be saved by proper precautions and the services of well-educated veterinary surgeons.

The relations between human and veterinary medicine are probably much more close and intimate than can be determined in the existing state of our knowledge. We cannot tell what influence, if any, the diseases of the human race exert upon the inferior animals, or those of the latter upon the former. All that is positively ascertained is that their maladies, both benign and malignant, congenital and acquired, have much in common with each other. Some of the best and most instructive lessons in pathological anatomy that I have ever learned were derived from the study of the diseases of the inferior animals; especially those of the horse, dog, and hog. The various kinds of worms and hydatids which infest the human subject are all, probably, derived from the lower animals; no one can tell what damage trichinæ, lately the objects of so much patient labor and research, may have done to the human race; and it is not unlikely that future inquiry may determine the identity of glanders and syphilis. The fact, at all events, seems to be fully established that the former of these maladies was unknown in Europe until it broke out among the horses of the Spanish army in Italy, which has for centuries enjoyed the unenviable reputation of having imported venereal diseases into that country. Chairs of comparative pathology have long existed in some of the French and German schools. It is related of the illustrious Rayer, who died only a few months ago, and who has left behind him an unrivalled work on renal diseases, that he exercised at the Academy of Sciences of Paris, of which he was a most active and zealous member, the part rather of a veterinary investigator than that of a physician; and cases of a similar character, in which medical men derived free advantage from the study of the maladies of the lower animals, might be mentioned, if time permitted.

It has always appeared to me that there was a defect in our constitution in regard to the election of officers. The election, as now conducted, is virtually effected by the Committee on Nominations. Their report, so far as I know, has never, in a solitary instance, been dishonored. It has always been considered as final. My opinion is that the election should be by ballot, after open nomination, and that whoever shall receive the largest number of votes

should be declared to be the choice of the meeting. A similar course is pursued in other deliberative assemblies, clerical, legal, and political, and it hardly admits of doubt that the change would be attended with the most salutary effects, from its tendency to incite a spirit of emulation among the members of the Association that, under the present system, does not exist. Besides, it would effectually break up the custom, formerly so common, and attended with so much heartburning, of selecting the presiding officer from the physicians of the place of meeting.

By a resolution adopted a year ago restrictions of a stringent nature were placed upon the social intercourse of the Association during its annual meetings. It is questionable whether such exclusive legislation is calculated to further the object of these meetings—that of facilitating and fostering friendly intercourse among the members. All extremes are dangerous, and are sure soon to be followed by salutary reaction. Men are brought into closer relations at the social board than in a deliberative assembly; they see each other face to face, interchange friendly feeling, and look at each other in a kindlier spirit. The asperities of our nature, if any exist, are worn off by the social friction, and men forget that they have any interest except a common one. Too much indulgence of this kind is of course prejudicial to the interests both of the Association and to the great cause of medical science, and cannot be too pointedly condemned.

It must strike every one that the time of our meetings is too short: at least one entire week should be devoted to the object. As it is, we do little more than organize, shake hands, and separate. To discuss any question fully, or elaborately, is simply an impossibility. Our published Transactions afford a humiliating evidence of this haste and want of dignity.

I have introduced these topics, not a little varied in their character, in the hope that they may excite in you a deep and permanent interest. If some of them should be regarded as irrelevant, let it be borne in mind that they are all of a humanitarian nature, and therefore worthy of the serious consideration of such a grave and enlightened body, intrusted with the guardianship of the American medical profession.

Since the close of our last meeting death has been busy among our ranks. It has struck from our rolls the names of Henry H. Childs, James Jackson, and J. Mason Warren, of Massachusetts; William Gibson and Wilson Jewell, of Pennsylvania; Worthing-

ton Hooker, of Connecticut; Robert Watts, Howard Townsend, John P. Batchelder, and Isaac Wood, of New York; Jesse P. Judkins and Joseph Fitch Potter, of Ohio; together with a number of others, of less note, but of great usefulness, and of equally honorable character as practitioners and citizens. America never before had occasion to deplore, within so short a time, the death of so many distinguished physicians. In recalling the names of these good men, co-workers with us in the great interests of medical science and of medical reform, let us mingle our tears with those of their relatives and friends, "breathe a benison o'er their sleeping dust," and entwine the lily with the evergreen in commemoration of the purity of their lives and their undying fame as distinguished members of a great and noble profession. "*Vita enim mortuorum in memoriâ vivorum est posita.*"

While we thus drop the tear of affection and esteem at the tombs of our own countrymen, endeared to us by a thousand agreeable personal recollections, let us not forget to pay a similar tribute to our foreign brethren, among the most conspicuous of whom are Civiale, Jobert, Velpeau, Trousseau, Chomel, Follin, Rayer, Flourens, Jarjavay, and Roger, of France; Szegmanowsky, of Russia; Turck, of Austria; and Lawrence, Brinton, Teale, Arnot, Faraday, Davy, and Elliotson, of England; men who, after having borne the heat and burden of many summers, and added lustre to the nations which they respectively represent, during the last twelve months departed this life, full of honor and renown. Their names, many of which are associated with our earliest memories by their labors and their writings, are inscribed upon the scroll of fame, and are destined to live forever in the esteem and gratitude of mankind. The same God's acre, broad as earth itself, enshrouds their mortal remains as those of their American brethren, the same flowers grow upon their tombs, and the same halo of glory encircles their brows.