

**Seventh, eighth, and ninth reports made to the Boston Medical Library Association, October VII., MDCCCLXXXIV. / by James Read Chadwick. Report of the special meeting held on November XXV., MDCCCLXXXIV., for the presentation of a bust of Dr. J. Marion Sims.**

### **Contributors**

Chadwick, James R. 1844-1905.  
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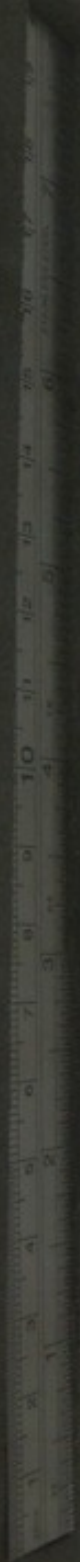
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**wellcome  
collection**

Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





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**S**EVERN, Eighth, and Ninth Reports made to the Boston Medical Library Association, October VII., MDCCC LXXXIV by James Read Chadwick, M.D., Librarian. [Report of the Special Meeting held on November XXV., MDCCC LXXXIV for the presentation of a bust of Dr. J. Marion Sims.]

SEVERN, EIGHTH, AND NINTH REPORTS MADE TO THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, OCTOBER VII., MDCCC LXXXIV BY JAMES READ CHADWICK, M.D., LIBRARIAN.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the confidence reposed in me and the building committed to my charge.

In the three years which have elapsed since my first report, the total number of volumes has increased from 10,000 to 13,155 volumes, being at the rate of 1050 volumes a year. The number of pamphlets has increased from 6578 to 12,287.

I would call your attention to the amount and value of the work that has been done to render your collection more accessible and more useful. The task of collating and classifying the books and pamphlets which has been most thoroughly done by Mrs. Collins, was completed in 1884. The progress of this great undertaking was delayed by the illness of Mrs. Collins, which was the occasion of the great loss of the collection of books and pamphlets. The arrangements for the exchange have been made by Dr. J. W. Farlow, E. H. Bradford, A. Post, E. G. Oliver, J. B. French, J. C. Jackson, A. D. Budgett, and myself. During the past year Mrs. Collins has been directed by the Executive Committee, collated and classified the pamphlets in the library, so that the whole collection is now available for consultation. Dr. E. H. Brown has voluntarily undertaken to arrange and classify the large collection of catalogues of medical schools, annual reports of hospitals, dispensaries, etc., which have hitherto been in a chaotic state. The work done by the contributors mentioned are deserving well of recognition.

A special department of the library in regard to the collection of books of interest of late is the collection of autographs. The progress of the work



SEVENTH, EIGHTH, AND NINTH ANNUAL REPORTS MADE TO THE  
BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ON OCTOBER 7, 1884.

BY JAMES R. CHADWICK, M. D., LIBRARIAN.

It gives me pleasure to announce the uninterrupted prosperity of the library and building committed to my charge.

In the three years which have elapsed since my last printed report (sixth) the total number of volumes has increased from 10,123 to 14,799 volumes, being at the rate of 1559 volumes a year. The number of pamphlets has increased from 5678 to 12,289.

I would call your attention to the amount and value of the work that has been done to render your collection more serviceable to those who consult it. The task of collating and classifying the books and pamphlets, which has been most thoroughly done by Mrs. Collins, was completed in 1883. The expense of this great undertaking was defrayed by the late Dr. Calvin Ellis, whose total donation on this account amounted to more than a thousand dollars. The cross-references in the catalogue have been revised by Drs. J. W. Farlow, E. H. Bradford, A. Post, E. G. Cutler, J. B. Ayer, G. B. Shattuck, A. N. Blodgett, and myself. During the past year Mrs. Collins has, by direction of the Executive Committee, collated and catalogued the accessions to the library, so that the whole collection is now available for consultation. Dr. F. H. Brown has voluntarily undertaken to arrange and classify the large collection of catalogues of medical schools, annual reports of hospitals, dispensaries, etc., etc., which have hitherto been in a chaotic state. To him and to the other coadjutors mentioned are due the warm recognition of the Association.

A special department of the library in which your librarian has taken much interest of late, is the collection of autographs. This originated in the very

choice lot of medical letters addressed to Gov. John Winthrop, Jr.; it has since been enlarged by several hundred letters from the correspondence of your librarian; by nearly two thousand autograph letters given by Dr. Edward Jarvis, which had been received by him during the sixty years of his professional activity; by some very interesting letters relating to the discovery of surgical anæsthesia from Dr. Benjamin Cushing; and, finally, by one hundred and twenty-eight letters from many distinguished physicians presented by the Hon. Nahum Capen, LL. D. Further contributions of documents, letters, etc., of medical interest are earnestly solicited.

Many hundreds of these papers have been cleaned, pressed, and mounted, free of expense to us, by Dr. and Mrs. J. H. S. Fogg, of South Boston. The remainder are being mounted gratuitously by patients of your librarian, an occupation which has proved of great therapeutic value to the persons thus engaged.

Without attempting to specify the source from which has been derived all our accessions, several donations call for mention. In the three years covered by my report we have received by bequest of the late Dr. Thomas B. Curtis his library of over 500 volumes and a large number of pamphlets, a collection specially rich in standard works and monographs, chiefly French, relating to surgery and genito-urinary diseases; from his widow, Mrs. H. Regina Gray, the library of the late Dr. F. H. Gray, consisting of 85 volumes; from his widow, the library of 194 volumes which belonged to the late Dr. James Morrison, of Quincy; from the publishers, William Wood & Co., of New York, their Standard Medical Library for four years, amounting to 48 volumes; from Miss L. Prince, 129 volumes from the library of her brother, the late Dr. W. H. Prince, of Newton; from his widow, the library of the late Dr. A. B. Bancroft, of Boston, numbering 279 volumes; finally, from his sister, Miss Lucy Ellis, carrying out his often-expressed intention, the library of the late Prof. Calvin Ellis, of Boston, consisting of 698 volumes, and constituting one of the most valuable lots of books that our library has received.

The expense of binding all the unbound books in the library of Dr. T. B. Curtis was defrayed by his brother, Mr. Lewis Curtis; and of those in the library of Dr. Calvin Ellis by his sister, Miss Lucy Ellis.

By an arrangement recently made by your librarian with the Faculty of the Harvard Medical School we have received all its collection of periodicals and a great portion of its general library, with the understanding that the Faculty of the School has the privilege of taking in exchange from our present accumulation of duplicates such books as the School wants to fill up its special libraries to be maintained for the use of its several laboratories. By this exchange we have been able to complete many files of the older periodicals, and add several hundred volumes of old standard works to our shelves.

By frequent visits to the medical libraries of other cities your librarian has been able to effect many exchanges, by which our files of periodicals have been largely augmented and in many sets completed. We are especially indebted to Dr. J. S. Billings, of the Surgeon-General's Library in Washington, for liberality in sending very many numbers of journals, all wanted in our files, upon exchange account, and to Dr. F. H. Shepherd, librarian of the Medical Department of McGill University in Montreal, for a like liberality in giving us nearly a thousand numbers of journals without immediate return. This wise and generous spirit is in marked contrast with the narrow policy of a few of the medical libraries who hoard their stores of duplicate periodicals on the mistaken idea that they have, or will come to have, a market value. My plan has been to practice the utmost liberality in the matter of exchanges, which has, I believe, inured to the ultimate benefit of our library.

The collection of medical portraits in our Hall has received several notable additions. A fine portrait by Vinton of the late Dr. T. B. Curtis has been intrusted to our safe-keeping by its owner, the Society for Medical Improvement. A bust, in plaster, of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, by Jackson, has been presented to us by Dr. H. P. Bowditch. A bust, in bronze, of the late Dr. J. Marion Sims, by Dubois, has been offered us through your librarian by an anonymous



patient and friend, which will be received within a week. From his widow we have been the recipients of a large, handsomely-framed photograph of the late Dr. Samuel L. Bigelow, late of Paris, France, formerly of Boston.

The increase in the income of the Association during the past year has enabled the Executive Committee to authorize the expenditure of a larger sum of money than heretofore for its varied purposes. Seven hundred and twenty-two volumes have been bound. The drains of the house have been put in thorough repair at a cost of about \$400. The system of heating and ventilation, which had proved defective in the past, has been overhauled and modified during the past summer under the direction of Prof. S. H. Woodbridge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose system for heating and ventilating the new building of the Institute has proved such a marked success. To Mr. Thomas Windsor, formerly librarian of the Medical Library of Manchester, England, we are under many obligations for purchasing for us, at very low cost, the volumes which were needed to complete our sets of the Reports of the London Hospitals, full sets of the Transactions of the Pathological Society and of the Clinical Society of London. These accessions fill a gap that was often felt. The same increase in available funds has made possible the purchase of many recent publications, which have been assigned to a newly created department of our library, the Circulating Department, which has been organized by Dr. W. L. Richardson, as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, to whom the Association is indebted for the gift of a revolving book-case for its accommodation.

By the plan adopted, all new books, bought for the library, may be taken out for home reading by members of the Association at the rate of five cents a day. Fifty-one volumes have been added to this Department between January 24, 1883, and October 1, 1884. Ninety-six volumes have been loaned to forty-two readers. By this scheme the convenience of readers has been met, and a portion of the cost of purchasing the books has been returned to the library.

The subjoined report of Dr. F. C. Shattuck, chairman of the Committee on

the Directory for Nurses, displays most strikingly the admirable features and efficient management of that department of our institution.

Finally I have to assure you of the efficient coöperation of all your officers to promote the usefulness of your library to its members, to the profession, and to the public.

Subjoined will be found a statistical report of the present condition of your library prepared in conformity with the previous reports by Dr. E. H. Brigham, assistant librarian.

Periodicals.	Sixth Annual Report, 1880-81. Volumes.	Ninth Annual Report, 1883-84. Volumes.	Increase, Volumes.
American.....	1,992	3,677	1,685
English.....	1,344	1,681	337
French.....	532	1,065	503
German.....	532	1,038	506
Canadian.....	69	88	19
Other foreign.....	102	197	95
Periodicals.....	4,571	7,716	3,145
Encyclopedias.....	532	371 <sup>1</sup>	
Books.....	4,391	6,012	1,621
Vital Statistics of Library of the Statistical Society.....	9,494	14,099	
	629	700	
Total in Reference Library.....	10,123	14,799	4,676
Pamphlets.....	5,678	12,289	6,611

<sup>1</sup> Duplicates have been recently excluded.

The duplicate library of books and periodicals for home reading has been reduced by greater discrimination from 2266 volumes in 1880-1881 to 430 volumes in 1883-1884.

*Boston Medical Library Association.*

Journals and Transactions received regularly.	Sixth Annual Report, 1880-81.	Ninth Annual Report, 1883-84.	Increase.
American.....	173	192	19
Canadian.....	5	4	-
Australian.....	1	2	1
English.....	23	31	8
French.....	28	34	6
German.....	36	45	9
Other foreign.....	20	20	-
	286	328	42

## BINDING.

	Volumes.
Library, 1882.....	5
Library, 1883.....	174
Library, 1884.....	651
	830
Observation Society, 1882.....	47
Observation Society, 1883.....	44
Observation Society, 1884.....	41
	132
Curtis Library, 1882.....	215
Ellis Library, 1884.....	30
Total number of volumes bound in three years.....	1207

REPORT ON THE DIRECTORY FOR NURSES, 1883-1884.

The work of the Directory has gone on smoothly during the year, and it is gratifying to note that the number of calls from beyond the limits of Boston is increasing as the merits of the Directory become more widely known. Physicians find that it is much easier to telegraph to us for a nurse than to hunt one up at home.

The whole number of nurses registered since the Directory was opened is	621
Died or dropped	14
Now registered	607

They are classified as follows:—

Female nurses, non-graduates of training schools	380
Female nurses, graduates of training schools	155
Masseuses	9
Male nurses	60
Masseurs	3
	<hr/>
	607
Number of nurses furnished during the year	1143

FREDK. C. SHATTUCK, M. D.  
*Chairman of Sub-Committee on Directory for Nurses.*

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A BUST OF THE LATE DR. J. MARION SIMS.

NOVEMBER 25, 1884. DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, President, in the Chair.

A special meeting of the Boston Medical Library Association was held Tuesday evening, November 25th, to accept the gift of a bronze bust of the late Dr. J. Marion Sims from an anonymous donor. About one hundred members of the Association, as well as some distinguished strangers, were present when the meeting was called to order by the presiding officer, Dr. Holmes.

The presentation of the bust, which was regarded by those present as an admirable likeness of Dr. Sims, — especially in profile and three-quarters view, — was made by the Librarian, Dr. JAMES R. CHADWICK, in the following words: —

*Mr. President and Members of the Boston Medical Library Association,* — Few of you who were present at the exercises held in this city a year ago, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Medical School of Harvard University and the dedication of its new building, will have failed to observe upon the platform the close-shaven features and the erect form of the world-renowned gynecologist, Dr. J. Marion Sims. He looked the personification of health, so that the news of his sudden death within a month must have filled you all with sorrow. On the day after those ceremonies I had intrusted to my professional care by Dr. Sims a lady whose affection and gratitude he had richly earned by saving her life by a surgical operation and by subsequent assiduous attentions.

A month after his death I was invited to act upon the committee charged with raising a memorial fund with which to erect in Central Park, New York, a statue of Dr. Sims. On asking his former patient to give practical evidence of her oft-expressed sense of gratitude to Dr. Sims, I was met by a refusal, on the ground that the form the memorial was to take was ill suited to keep alive his memory among that class of the community — the medical profession — which in future ages would alone be qualified to appreciate his life work at its true value. To meet this not unnatural sentiment I then suggested her placing in this hall, which is likely long to be the place of reunion of all the medical societies of this city, a bust of Dr. Sims. To this she at once assented and authorized me to order the bronze bust which I now have the honor of presenting to this Association, with the single condition that the donor's name should not be revealed. The bust was taken about seven years ago, as a personal favor, by Dubois, the greatest living French sculptor. It represents Dr. Sims in his prime, and both as a likeness and as a work of art cannot be surpassed by any piece of modern sculpture.

Dr. J. Marion Sims was born in Lancaster District, South Carolina, January 25, 1813. Having received his medical degree from Jefferson College, Philadelphia, in 1834, he practiced his profession in and about Montgomery, Ala., until 1852, when, reduced almost to a skeleton by a persistent chronic diarrhœa, he moved to New York and there established himself. For the remainder of his life he divided his time between New York and Europe, finding a host of patients of the highest social position on both continents ever claiming his professional services. The highest honors were bestowed upon him by the profession of his native country, and the sovereigns of Europe vied with each other in covering him with their coveted decorations. He died suddenly of heart disease in New York on November 13, 1883.

The life work of Dr. Sims is too recent and the merits of his individual achievements too indeterminate to make it proper for me to estimate them now and here. The one salient fact of his career dominates all other considera-

tions, that by his ingenuity, pertinacity, and enthusiasm he did more than any other man in the history of the world to foster the study of the diseases peculiar to the female sex and to lead up to their present successful treatment. This is enough to entitle him to the gratitude of our own and of all future generations.

The President, DR. HOLMES, on accepting the gift in behalf of the Association, said: In accepting the gift of the bust of Dr. J. Marion Sims to the Boston Medical Library Association, it is my pleasant duty, as President of that Association, to express our gratitude to the donor for this most acceptable present. Unfortunately, we do not know whom we are to thank. *Stat nominis umbra.* The name of the giver is not to be found on the pedestal but in the shadow of the bronze effigy. We can only draw our bow at a venture and discharge our thanks, trusting that they will find the object of which they are in search.

This bust is well entitled to a place of honor in our library. Dr. Sims stands upon record as one of those benefactors of the race whose contributions to human welfare are found all along the pages of the history of medicine. They are not emblazoned like the exploits of the conqueror, but they are no less victories. Nor do I know any forms of human suffering which it gladdens us more to relieve than the agonies and the injuries which a mysterious arrangement of nature has made inseparable from the lot of woman, the mother of mankind. It was in this sphere of medical art that Dr. Sims chiefly labored, and to this that he made his invaluable contributions. It is not for me to remind you of his ingenious inventions and operations. They are well known to all who are engaged in treating the diseases of women; that is, not merely specialists, but all family physicians, and they will carry his name to posterity on the list of those who have deserved the grateful remembrance of all mankind.

Let us hope that this bust will not stand alone, but that our profession will send forth many a master of his calling, who shall deserve to have his features

reproduced in imperishable shape, and that future benefactors, known or unknown, will emulate the donor whom we thank this evening, and preserve their lineaments in bronze or marble.

DR. GEORGE H. LYMAN, being called upon by the President, made the following remarks:—

I respond very cheerfully, Mr. President, to the invitation to say something of Dr. Sims and his work, though all that can be said in a few words has, perhaps, been already uttered by yourself and Dr. Chadwick.

When I reflect upon the complete revolution which has taken place in that particular department of our calling with which Dr. Sims's name is so closely associated, and see so many representative men assembled to do honor to this occasion, it brings back to me very forcibly the beginning of my professional life some forty years ago. Returning from Paris full of zeal and enthusiasm, I brought with me the teachings of Jobert and others who were then beginning to feel their way in gynecology. Of course I had a speculum or two as a part of my armamentarium. I soon learned, however, that my older friends by no means partook of my enthusiasm, and that unless I wished the reputation of an "irregular," I must be cautious how I encouraged such new-fangled notions. Still later, when ovariectomy was beginning to force its way against all manner of vituperation, a paper was called for as to the circumstances under which such an operation was justifiable! The result, among other things, was a collection of statistics which showed that up to that period only 300 well-authenticated operations had been performed throughout the world, with a mortality of some forty per cent. Now, on the other hand, there are numbers of individual operators who have done more than that, the experience of a few reaching to four or five times that number, and with a mortality varying from five to twenty per cent. Nowadays the use of the speculum, then so much derided, has become as common as the use of the stethoscope, and every well-informed practitioner employs it in suitable cases. The various chronic affections of the uterus and appendages, then so little understood, are now



subject to a rational and very successful treatment. All this has gradually led to the recent wonderful advances in peritoneal surgery which fairly constitute a distinct era in the history of medicine, surpassed by nothing, perhaps, unless it be the discovery of ether.

These remarks, Mr. President, will not seem irrelevant when we remember the large contribution to this progress which we owe to the distinguished man in whose honor we meet here to-night. None have done more, few as much, in this special department, and it is well for our own sakes and as a stimulus to those who are to come after, that this admirable memorial of him should be in constant view.

It was my good fortune to have known Dr. Sims for many years, and always as the most charming and genial of men. He was an enthusiast, as all progressive men must be, but he was earnest and honest with it all. His place in the medical history of this century will be, if not that of the originator of modern gynecology, at least that of one who did the most for its advancement.

The evidences of this high appreciation of him are not confined to his native country. Frequent visits to Europe made his name and fame widespread in England and on the Continent, and honors were showered upon him with a liberal hand. His numerous operations there did much for the honor of American gynecology, and already its students are so looking to this country for the latest and best information that we may expect them to come to us to find their best facilities among our American teachers.

The meeting adjourned soon after nine o'clock, and an agreeable hour was spent in the examination of autographs recently presented, and the discussion of an informal collation.



