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REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE  
AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

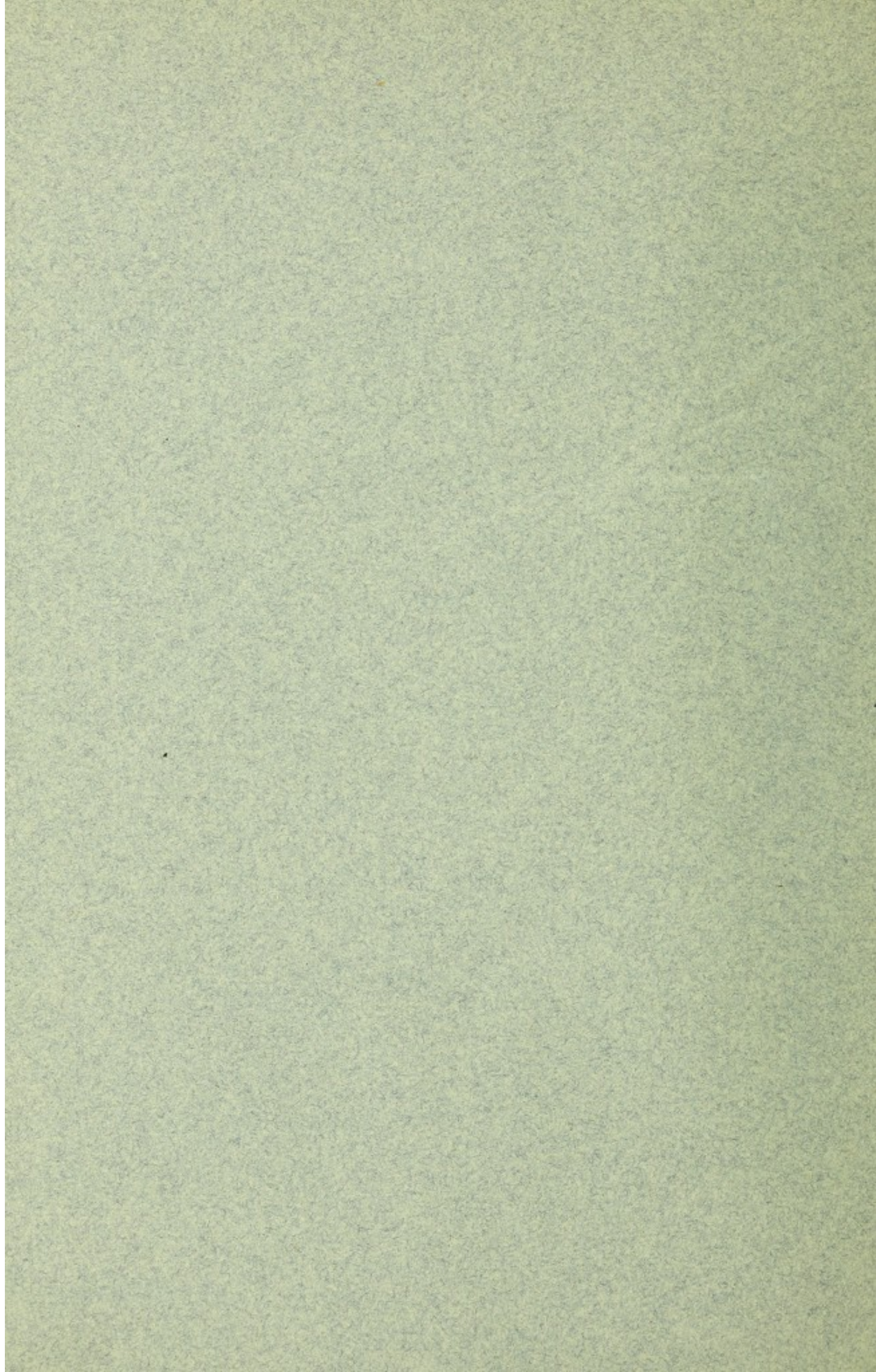
BY J. EWING MEARS, M.D., LL.D.,  
OF PHILADELPHIA.

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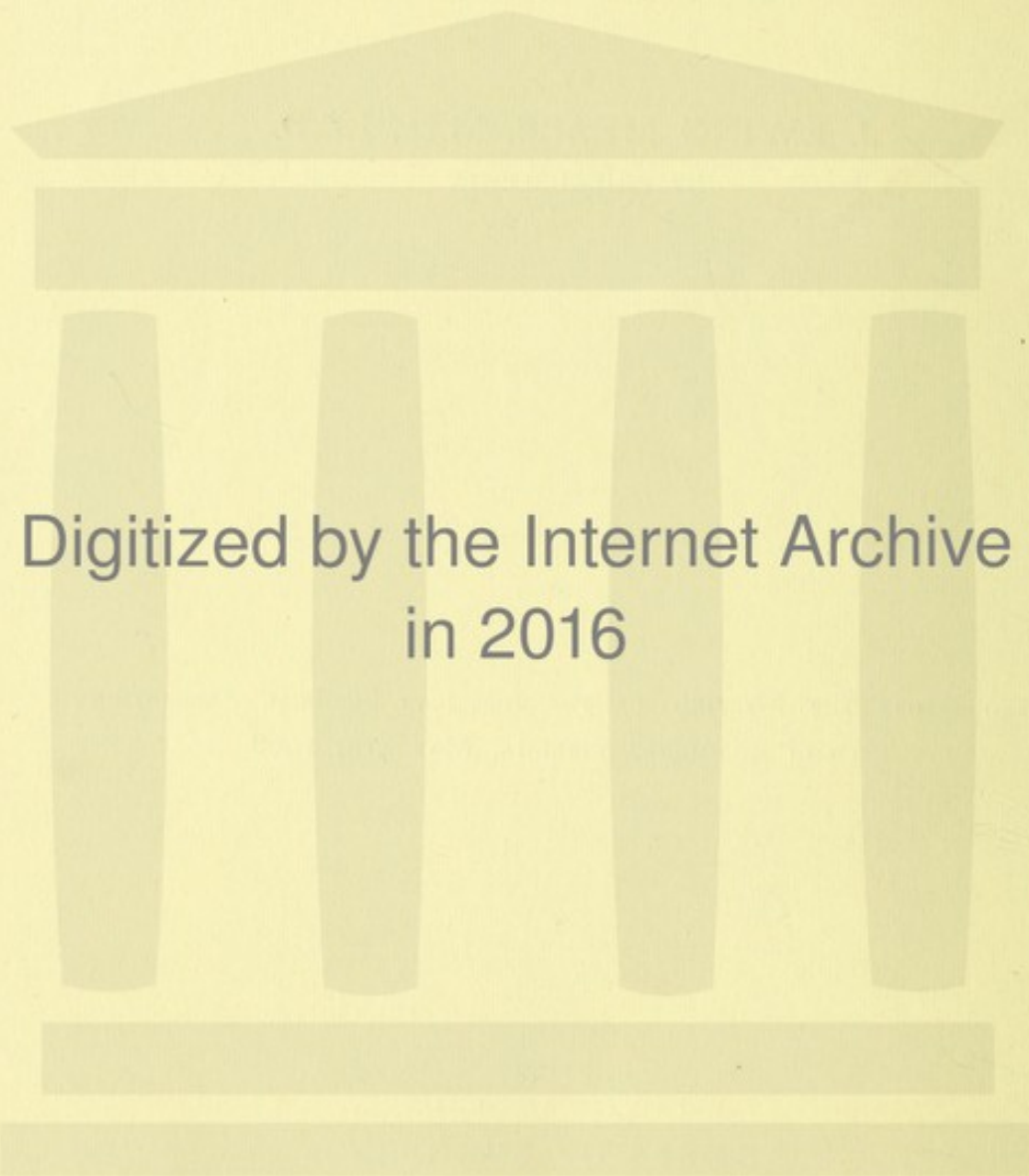
J. EWING MEARS, M.D., LL.D.



READ BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION  
HELD IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, MAY 4TH, 1908

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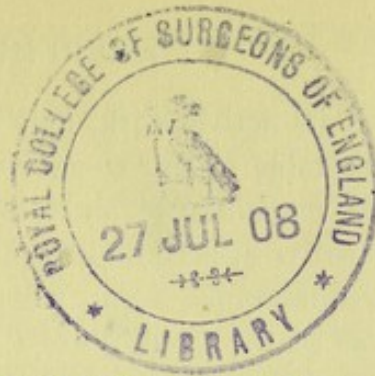
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REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE  
AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.\*

BY J. EWING MEARS, M.D.,

OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE title of my paper presents an opportunity of speaking, in a reminiscent way, of the beginning days of the Association, of placing on record some of the notable events which have occurred in the first quarter of a century of its existence, and of indulging in some reflections on the influence it has exerted upon surgical science in this country, and on its development and growth in the future. It is impossible to speak of the foundation and early days of the Association without paying deserved tribute to the great Surgeon, its Founder, Samuel D. Gross, who in such marked manner has impressed his character upon it.

In undertaking the task which is thus imposed, I am moved to express some hesitation, since, without formal consent, I have assumed to speak for those who, with me, constitute the survivors of the number, forty-four in all, who, in the year 1880, signed the Constitution, and became the original Fellows of the Association: P. S. Conner, W. W. Keen, and Solon Marks.

An intimate association with the Founder, and the enjoyment of official position in the Association for quite twenty-

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\* Read before the American Surgical Association, May 4, 1908.



five years of its active work, may enable me to perform, in a manner acceptable to my co-survivors, the duty imposed.

Of my acquaintance and association with the Founder I may, I trust, with becoming propriety, speak first.

This acquaintance began when I brought to him, during the struggles of the Civil War, a letter of introduction from my father, a physician, who had been a college mate with him in Jefferson Medical College, and who had received his degree in medicine as a member of the first class which graduated from that institution, in the year 1827, after a full two years' course of instruction of three months each, reinforced by the fiction of a year's study and apprenticeship in the office of the preceptor; mayhap, in those early days the honored and beloved family physician in the city, or the autocratic Solon of the small community, the country practitioner, the deft wielder of the venesecting lancet; the unrelenting dispenser of drachm doses of the mild chloride of mercury and pint draughts of nauseous decoctions of barks and herbs; withal, the true friend, the wise counsellor, the bearer of cheer and sunshine into the cheerless room of the log cabin, the sagacious medical adviser, with knowledge founded upon years of carefully observed experience, the faithful physician, to whom the night was not given for rest, nor the day for recreation, whom storm did not stay, nor balmy breezes lure from duty.

At the same time with me, making likewise his acquaintance, there came a Fellow of our Association, whose name, through the achievement of his distinguished ancestor, enriched by his own endeavors, will live forever in the history of surgery—John Collins Warren.

The acquaintance with the Founder of our Association thus begun, ripened in the succeeding years into an enduring friendship, which ended only with his life, and controlled in marked manner my professional career. Honored by his confiding friendship, I learned to know him as a man, and as his assistant in his private and public surgical practice, I learned to know and appreciate him as the great surgeon, the eloquent and forceful expounder of the principles and practice of sur-



gery in the lecture hall, the erudite author of monographs and text-books on the science and the art of surgery, and the pioneer worker and author in pathological research in this country. He was not only the fearless surgeon, but, as well, the wise physician. With him, in many cases, the knife was the "dernier ressort," brought into action only after most careful study and discriminating judgment had made sure the need for its use, and his mind's eye had looked upon the hidden morbid condition, and had given to him a true picture of its nature. Diagnosis by exploratory operation was little, if, indeed, ever, cultivated by him, and Hogarth's artistic curves did not limit his operative procedures.

Of stalwart form, with a commanding presence and the front of Jove, he stood in the clinical arena the type of the great teacher. When inspired by the exposition of some important subject which was of paramount interest to him, and with which his mind and heart were filled, he rose to a majestic height, and the words of instruction which flowed from his lips, as the stream from the overflowing fountain, held his audience in close and charmed attention. His superiors, on such occasions, he had not—his equals, if such existed, were, indeed, few. "*Hier stehe ich, ich kann nicht anders.*" Words which, with him, as with the great Reformer who gave them birth, gave expression to the resolute convictions which inspired his opinions and guided his teachings. A tireless worker, his day from early morn was given to ceaseless work, and in his office library he burned to the dregs the midnight oil. "Nulla dies sine linea," was the legend of his life, and it guided him to the last days of his years. With becoming deference the writer feels he can place on record words spoken on the day before death came to him. "I have yet work to do. Why should I die?" Overwhelmingly absorbed as he was in work, he yet gave time to much needed relaxation in social amenities. The doors of his hospitable home were ever open to members of his profession from all parts of the country, and to distinguished men of learning from all parts of the world. He appreciated, to the fullest extent, the value of this social inter-



mingling of members of the profession, as a means of promoting interchange of thought and the study of individual character, and he desired to make it a prominent feature of the Association he founded.

Such is, in brief, a portraiture of our Founder. Filling the eminent position he did in our country, known as he was in the countries of the Old World, and crowned, as he had been, with the highest honors of their great institutions of learning, he, of all others, was best qualified to bring into existence an Association which would gather together, for the cultivation of surgery, the surgeons of the country, prominent as authors, teachers, and skilled practitioners. He designed it to be a school for mutual instruction and improvement, a court of supreme authority into which the great questions of Surgery should be brought for discussion and judgment, a gathering in social intercourse of the individual workers in surgical science. Medical politics was to be forever debarred, was to have no place in the deliberations of the organization. The great representative association of the medical profession of the country afforded a large field into which all questions affecting the "body politic," could be brought for adjudication—and were there to be left. Personal friendship was not to be the test of the qualifications of the candidate seeking admission into the Association, nor personal animosities or local factional contests the bars which would shut out the eligible candidate.

Our Founder, cherishing the desire he did with regard to the formation of the Association, called about him, at the time of the meeting of the American Medical Association, at Atlanta, Georgia, in the year 1879, a few of the prominent surgeons there assembled in attendance, and disclosed to them the object which was very close to his heart. Although this meeting has taken the place in the minutes of the Association as the first, in chronological order, it was simply a meeting for conference. Its purpose was to obtain an expression of the feeling which might exist as to the desirability of forming an organization such as he contemplated, and in order that formal discussion of the subject should take place, it was duly organ-



ized by the election of a chairman and secretary. The discussion which ensued developed the fact that the sentiment was markedly unfavorable, if not positively hostile. By some, the opinion was expressed that the movement had the character of an attack upon the American Medical Association, intended to destroy its influence as a representative body of the medical profession; it would originate, they contended, a condition which, if extended to other specialities of medicine, would result in its disintegration. It was claimed that all of the objects sought to be accomplished by such an Association could be accomplished through the Surgical Section of the American Medical Association.

Without taking any action whatever, the conference adjourned, and later, at a consultation held with friends of the project, it was decided to issue the following circular letter: "The undersigned respectfully solicit your coöperation in founding a National Surgical Society, to consist, exclusively, of distinguished surgical practitioners, writers, and teachers, and request you to attend a meeting to be held at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, on Monday, May 31, 1880, on the adjournment of the meeting of the American Medical Association. Signed by, W. W. Dawson, Moses Gunn, L. A. Dugas, W. T. Briggs, and S. D. Gross."

At the place, and on the date, given in the circular letter, surgeons who had been invited assembled, and a temporary organization was effected by the election of Dr. L. A. Sayre as Chairman. In some well-chosen remarks Dr. Gross presented the object of the meeting, and then moved that an Association, such as contemplated in the circular letter, be formed. This motion was unanimously approved, and he then offered a draft of a Constitution and By-laws, to constitute the organic law of the Association, which, on motion, was adopted, and those present forty-four in number, signed it, paid the initiation fee, and thus became the original members of the American Surgical Society, as it was designated in the draft of the Constitution and By-Laws proposed and submitted for adoption by the Founder. The formal and perfected organization



of the Association was then effected by the election of Dr. Samuel D. Gross as the first President and Dr. J. R. Weist as the first Secretary, with other officers to conduct the business affairs of the Association. It was deemed desirable to submit the Constitution and By-Laws to examination and to revision, if found necessary, and to this end a committee, consisting of Drs. John H. Packard, John Ashhurst, Jr., John H. Brinton, W. W. Keen, and J. Ewing Mears, was appointed, and instructed to report at the next meeting, which, on motion for adjournment, was ordered to be held in Richmond, Virginia, on May 5, 1881.

With these ceremonies, simple in character, the American Surgical Association was brought into existence, charged with most important responsibilities as to the development and growth of surgical science in our country. By its organic law it imposed upon its members and their successors most responsible duties for the maintenance of the high standard of qualification of those who should be admitted to its Fellowship, as therein provided.

A national character was given to the Association in the list of surgeons whose names were affixed to the Constitution at this time of its organization. Among them was James R. Wood and L. A. Sayre, New York; J. C. Hutchison, Brooklyn; E. M. Moore, Rochester; Moses Gunn, Chicago; John T. Hodggen, St. Louis; T. G. Richardson, New Orleans; Claudius H. Mastin, Mobile; L. A. Dugas and Henry F. Campbell, Augusta, Ga.; R. A. Kinloch, Charleston; Hunter McGuire and James L. Cabell, Richmond; Christopher Johnston, Baltimore; W. W. Dawson and P. S. Conner, Cincinnati; David Yandell, Louisville; Samuel D. Gross, S. W. Gross, John Ashhurst, Jr., W. W. Keen, and T. G. Morton, Philadelphia; Solon Marks, Milwaukee; R. Beverly Cole, San Francisco, and J. R. Weist, Richmond, Indiana, all distinguished as surgical practitioners, writers, or teachers. Of these surgeons of our country at that period, of the work accomplished by them, and of the influence exerted by the Association since its organization, Dr. P. S. Conner, one time President, and one of the survivors of the



original Fellows, thus writes: "I join you most heartily in appreciation of our early associates and recognition of the value of the work done and influence exerted by them. American surgery to-day owes much to the American Surgical Association, and our literature has been much enriched by the contributions of those who are now but a memory."

As ordered, the next meeting was held in the city of Richmond, on May 5, 1881, at which nineteen Fellows were present and no scientific business was transacted. The Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws reported several amendments, which were adopted, the most important of these consisting in the change of the name from the American Surgical "Society" to that of the American Surgical "Association," and those constituting the membership being designated as "Fellows" instead of "Members." The initiation fee was reduced from twenty-five dollars to ten dollars, and it was ordered by vote that the difference, fifteen dollars, should be returned to those who had paid the larger sum. A subsequent alteration in the By-Laws fixed the sum at fifty dollars, where it now stands.

Two surgeons who had been invited by the circular letter to participate in the organization of the Association, but who could not be present at the meeting held for that purpose in New York, were permitted to sign the Constitution as original members, this act making the total number forty-six. Some feeling of discouragement was manifested at the absence of any scientific business, but this was soon dissipated by the encouraging words of the President, who called attention to the fact that all scientific bodies required time to perfect an organization, and he expressed the hope that a number of papers would be presented at the next meeting. It is most interesting, as well as gratifying in the highest degree, to compare the programme of the present meeting, held in the same place and within a day, on the same date in the year, with that held twenty-seven years ago. A grand total of forty papers, on the most important subjects, engaging at the present time the attention and study of the surgeon, five of which are to be



read by title, find place upon the programme. Moreover, the presence and active participation in the scientific proceedings of the Association of a number of distinguished surgeons from abroad give a distinction to the meeting, alike honorable and gratifying. Truly, indeed, has the prophetic vision of our Founder been verified, and fortunate are those of us who are present to witness its full accomplishment.

The meeting at Richmond adjourned to meet at Coney Island, Long Island, New York, on September 13, 1882, at which time the meeting was held, and eleven Fellows were present. Several papers were read and discussed. It became evident at this meeting that there should be provided, in order to give the character to the Association it was intended to have, a definite system with regard to the scientific business, and that a reporter should be chosen, who should be an officer of the Association, whose duty it should be to take full and accurate reports of the scientific proceedings, to be published annually in a volume of *Transactions*. In order to accomplish these important objects, amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were submitted by the writer, which provided that the President should, in addition to the other duties of his office, appoint at each meeting six Fellows, to prepare papers for the next meeting, on subjects chosen, after consultation with the appointees, and from four to six Fellows who should discuss the propositions submitted in these papers, which were to be sent to them by the writers in ample time for consideration. The reporter was to be designated as the Recorder, and was to be a member of the Publication Committee and the editor of the volume of *Transactions*. In the twenty-five years of the life of the Association this important matter has undergone several changes and re-arrangements, the object sought for being always to provide the best method for the conduct of the scientific business of the Association,—one which would invite carefully prepared papers on important subjects, not in too great number, which should receive careful discussion, in order that, through this discussion, the judgment of the Association should be rendered and published to the world. Later



revisions of the Constitution relieved the President of the duty of selecting readers of papers, and placed the duty in the hands of a Business Committee. Still later revisions of the Constitution confided the subject to the Committee on Annual Meeting, which consists of two Fellows elected by the Association, with the President, Secretary, Recorder, and Chairman of the local committee of arrangements, members *ex-officio*. This matter is regarded of so much importance as to justify its record in detail.

While there were several papers, five in number, read at this meeting, and some discussion of them, there appeared to be but little enthusiasm manifested, and discouragement as to the future success of the Association was in evidence. The committee appointed to select a place for the next annual meeting was requested by Dr. S. W. Gross and the writer to name the city of Philadelphia, they feeling that in this city it would be possible to arouse interest in the purposes of the Association, and place it upon a stable foundation. The city of Philadelphia was chosen as the place of the next meeting, and Drs. S. W. Gross, R. J. Levis, and the writer were appointed the Committee of Arrangements. At the time appointed, May 31, 1882, the Association met. There were twenty-five Fellows present, and the six Fellows appointed by the President at the last meeting read papers upon interesting subjects, which were fully discussed; in addition, two volunteer papers were read.

On taking the chair, the President delivered a short address, in which he pointed out the necessity for the founding of the Association, and denied, in earnest terms, that its organization was intended in any way to be a blow struck at the American Medical Association. He claimed that body would be strengthened by this organization, and have new life infused into it. He said: "We can hurt no association now in existence, or likely to come into existence. We can only hurt ourselves if we fail to do our duty. We hope to make the American Surgical Association an altar upon which we may annually lay our contributions to surgical science, and to show to the world that we are earnest and zealous laborers in the interest



of human progress and human suffering." He called attention to the fact that the previous meetings, with the exception of that held at Coney Island, were held to perfect the organization of the Association. The programme presented for the meeting promised important scientific work. He referred to the importance of the social features of the annual reunions. In this direction, the Committee of Arrangements in charge of this meeting had made ample provision. In the executive session, on the concluding day of the meeting, the Secretary was, on motion, instructed to cast an affirmative vote for fifty candidates for election as Active Fellows, and six as Honorary Fellows, whose names had been selected, after informal consultation, on the part of the Council and Committee of Arrangement. This action, which, at one stroke of the pen, as it were, extended the list of fellowship to ninety-six, within four of the constitutional limit, was an unusual procedure on the part of a scientific body. It was largely the result of the enthusiasm engendered by the pronounced success of the meeting, scientifically and socially. The feeling was unanimous that the Association had been successfully launched, and had taken its place as a recognized body in the surgical world. Inspired, possibly, by the same feeling, an amendment to the Constitution was offered increasing the limit of Fellowship to one hundred and fifty. This amendment was very wisely laid on the table; subsequently, on motion, it was taken from the table and ordered to lie over until the next meeting for action. The effort which manifested itself on this occasion to increase the fellowship of the Association was finally successful, a few years since, in increasing the number to one hundred and twenty-five, a happy compromise. The provision made by amendment to the Constitution for a class of Senior Fellows, in addition to the two already provided for, Active and Honorary, has given a very elastic limit to the Active Fellowship, and one which, while it will not limit the number of those eligible for active work, will keep it near to the original limit of one hundred Fellows. The intention of the Founder of the Association, with respect to the character of the organization



he desired to found, was expressed wisely in the limitation of membership incorporated in the original draft of the Constitution. He sought to secure in the fellowship of the Association qualifications in the individual, not length in the roll-call. The limitation in fellowship fixed for the Association, gave it at once a standard of excellence and of honorable distinction, which stimulated worthy ambition and made admission into it an honor to be sought after.

An election for officers was held, and Dr. Gross was chosen for the fifth time to fill the high office of President. The city of Cincinnati was named as the next place of meeting, which was to be held on May 31, 1883. At this meeting sixteen papers, six regular and ten volunteer, were read and discussed. The amendment to the Constitution, in order for action at this meeting, fixing the limit of Active Fellowship at one hundred and fifty, was defeated. A resolution was adopted providing for a dinner at the future meetings of the Association, to be arranged by the Committee of Arrangements and to be paid for by Fellows participating therein. This dinner was given at a number of meetings, but was finally abandoned. The desire entertained by the Founder of the Association to include in the programme of the meetings a function of this character would seem to be worthy of consideration. A formal dinner is the climax of entertainment, and is, the world over, the accompaniment of the assemblages of the eminent men composing learned bodies in art, in science, in statecraft, in commerce, and in every and all associations of men engaged in carrying on the work of the world. The function might assume, in our Association, the form of a reception, to be held by the presiding officer, which would afford an opportunity for social intercourse among the Fellows, and would not only be enjoyable, but of service in promoting good fellowship and harmony in its work.

When the time for the election of officers arrived, Dr. Gross, in a few feeling remarks, declined to be again a candidate for the office of President. He thought it very desirable, and for the best interests of the Association, that there should



exist a system of rotation in the office. Such a plan would result in giving to the Association the benefit of new methods of administration, the infusion of fresh spirit into its work, the avoidance of control by routine and tradition. It was a source of great pride and gratification to him to see the Association in such a prosperous condition. He felt that the ambition he had cherished with regard to its foundation and successful beginning had been fully realized, and he wished to place into other hands the honors of office and the responsibilities of its further development and growth. That in coming years it would continue to maintain the high standard which had been fixed for it, and that it would exert always a most beneficial influence on surgical science in this country, he did not doubt. In a voice choked with emotion, he bade the Association an affectionate farewell.

In response to the words of parting spoken by the President, Dr. David Yandell, in most eloquent terms, expressed the feelings of regret entertained by the Fellows of the Association on learning of his decision to lay down the honors of office. His master mind, he said, had brought the Association into existence, and his master hand had guided its progress to this period of its life. With sentiments of high esteem and affection, to which words fail to give adequate expression, he bade him, on behalf of his associates, farewell.

Dr. E. M. Moore was elected President, a few candidates for Fellowship were elected, and the Association adjourned to assemble in Washington, on April 3, 1884. It would seem appropriate to limit the chronicles of the early meetings of the Association to those over which our Founder, as the first President, presided. Some interesting events, however, transpired at the meeting which succeeded his retirement, which was held in the city of Washington on April 3, 1884, which are worthy of record. There were forty-three Fellows present, and thirty papers were presented, eighteen of which were read and discussed, and six were read by title. The number of Fellows present, and the number of papers presented, were the largest of any of the meetings yet held. At this meeting the



resignations of three Fellows, two Active and one Honorary, were presented and accepted, this action being in response to the request of the Association, by reason of alleged violations of the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association, which had been adopted and incorporated in the Constitution of the Surgical Association. Since then this clause of the Constitution has been, very wisely, expunged. An event which caused a feeling of much sadness was the illness of Dr. Gross, which unhappily proved to be his last. Desiring to give evidence of his continued interest in the scientific work of the Association, he had sent a paper, prepared in the beginning days of his illness, on "Wounds of the Intestines," which was read by Dr. T. G. Richardson, of New Orleans, one-time his student. Telegrams expressive of the great regret felt by the Fellows of the Association, and of the hope of his speedy recovery, were sent to him by the President. On account of the illness of Dr. Gross, the annual banquet was omitted.

A most noteworthy event of this meeting was the presentation by the Recorder, Dr. J. Ewing Mears, of the report of the Committee of Publication, giving an account of the publication and issue of the first volume of the *Transactions of the Association*, the edition numbering five hundred copies. This volume contained five hundred and sixty-eight pages, and included all of the papers read at the meetings held at Coney Island, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, thirty-two in number, with the discussions, and seventeen illustrations. The cost of the volume was \$1393.63. It had been distributed to the Fellows of the Association, Active and Honorary, to medical libraries in this country and abroad, complimentary copies were sent to distinguished members of the profession at home and abroad, and one hundred copies were deposited for sale. Before the binding of the volume was completed, the Recorder sent to Dr. Gross a copy of the unbound leaves, and received from him a note commending it as a volume worthy of the Association, and concluding his note with this injunction: "Don't cut the leaves," which was obeyed; and the first volume was issued with uncut leaves.



On retiring from the office of President, Dr. Moore called attention to the work the Association had accomplished during the session just completed, and pronounced it good. He felt called upon, however, to state that the provisions of the Constitution had been violated, inasmuch as thirty papers had been presented, twenty-four of which had been read in full and discussed, and six read by title; instead of only six, or two each day, as therein provided for. He earnestly recommended that in the future this clause of the Constitution be strictly complied with, since it would lead to the presentation of more carefully prepared papers and afford more time for their reading and discussion. "This," he said, "is a most important matter, and should claim the earnest attention of the Association. We desire quality not quantity."

A feeling having been expressed that the interests of the Association would be promoted in having a permanent place of meeting, it was ordered by vote that in the future the meetings should be held each year in the city of Washington, at the time fixed on the adjournment of this session. This was done for a period covering eight years, until the year 1892, when it was decided to return to the peripatetic or itinerant method, assembling every third year in Washington, at the time of the meeting of the Congress of Physicians and Surgeons. While much that is interesting and instructive is to be seen and enjoyed at the various places of meeting of the Association, crowned on the present occasion by social events of most gracious courtesy, it is an open question whether a fixed place of meeting would not contribute to a more serious execution of its business, its real business, its scientific work. One of the constituent societies of the Congress, that of the American Physicians, has adopted this plan, and, I believe, it is the custom observed generally by scientific bodies abroad.

The selection of a permanent meeting place for the Association might result in the future years of its existence in the erection in the city of Washington of a building suitable for its purposes, provided with an assembly hall, a banquet-room, and other rooms for the meeting of the Council and committees



intrusted with its business affairs. As years increase, the surplus volumes of our *Transactions* and the archives of the Association will accumulate, and should have quarters in which they may receive careful preservation. A movement begun at this time, the termination of the first quarter of a century of the existence of the Association, may secure sufficient funds to make a beginning. Contributions and endowments in years to come may assure the realization of the project. The advantages which will come to the Association in carrying out a plan of this character may not be fully foreseen, but that they will come would seem to be undoubted. It will give solidity and dignity to our Association to be an incorporated body quartered in a permanent abode in the capital city of our great and growing country. Should not American surgery have an imposing temple upon whose walls shall be emblazoned the names of those who in the past have been its pioneers, and who have, by their achievements, made its history, honorable above reproach, and enduring in its character?

With this account of the early meetings of our Association, and of the more important events which transpired in the early days of its life, we may rest in our detailed report. In the meetings which have followed, in each year, important work has been done. Upon the subjects of surgery which have claimed the attention of the surgical world papers have been written, discussions held, conclusions determined, and published to the world.

It will be interesting to place on record the titles of some of the papers read and discussed at the early meetings of the Association.

Among them, by Dr. S. W. Gross, "The Influence of Operations upon the Prolongation of Life and Permanent Recovery in Carcinoma of the Breast."

By Dr. E. M. Moore, "Report of Cases Illustrating the Conditions of Luxation of the Ulna in Connection with Colles' Fractures."

By Dr. John H. Packard, "Esophagotomy without a Guide."



By Dr. Moses Gunn, "Treatment of Fractures of the Skull, Recent and Chronic, with Depression."

By Dr. R. J. Levis, "Treatment of Transverse Fracture of the Patella, with the Object of Producing Bony Union."

By Dr. J. R. Weist, "Foreign Bodies in the Air-passages—A Study of 1000 Cases to Determine the Propriety of Bronchotomy in such Accidents."

By Dr. W. T. Briggs, "The Antiseptic Treatment of Wounds after Operations and Injuries." Read at the meeting in 1882.

By Dr. J. C. Hutchison, "A Résumé of the Etiology, Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Morbus Coxarius."

By Dr. Nicholas Senn, "Intracapsular Fracture of the Neck of the Femur with Bony Union."

By Dr. J. Ewing Mears, "The Intraperitoneal Method of Treating the Pedicle in Ovariectomy."

By Dr. C. B. G. Nancrede, "Have we Any Therapeutic Means as Proven by Experiment, which Directly Affect the Local Processes of Inflammation?"

By Dr. B. A. Watson, "Lister's System of Antiseptic Wound Treatment versus its Modifications."

By Dr. T. G. Richardson, "The Use of the Trephine in Traumatic Empyema Associated with Thoracic Fistula."

By Dr. Samuel D. Gross, "The Value of Early Operations in Morbid Growths."

By Dr. Basil Norris, Surgeon, U. S. A., "Dislocations of the Astragalus."

By Dr. P. S. Conner, "Excisions of the Tarsus, with a Report of Two Successful Removals of the Entire Tarsus."

By Dr. Solon Marks, "Trephining the Sternum for the Removal of a Foreign Body from the Anterior Mediastinum, with a Report of a Case."

By Dr. S. W. Gross, "A Case of Nephrectomy for Medullary Carcinoma, and Partial Cholecystectomy for Calculus in Same Subject."

By Dr. J. Ewing Mears, "Closure of the Jaws and its Treatment by a New Method of Operation."



By Dr. Henry F. Campbell, "Strictures of the Esophagus, Their Nature and Treatment, with Cases."

By Dr. Samuel D. Gross, "Wounds of the Intestines."

By Dr. L. McLane Tiffany, "A Contribution to the History of Ligation of the Common Femoral Artery."

By Dr. B. A. Watson, "An Experimental Study of Anesthetics."

By Dr. C. B. G. Nancrede, "Surgical Interference in Cerebral Abscesses."

By Dr. S. W. Gross, "Gastrostomy, Esophagectomy, Internal Esophagotomy, Combined Esophagostomy, Esophagectomy, and Retrograde Divulsion in the Treatment of Strictures of the Esophagus."

By Dr. Nicholas Senn, "Experimental Researches on Cicatrization in Blood-vessels after Ligature."

By Dr. J. Ewing Mears, "A Contribution to our Knowledge of the Pathology of Trifacial Neuralgia, with the Report of a Case in which Three Inches of the Inferior Dental Nerve was Excised," with the suggestion, for the first time made, as stated by Krause, of the removal of the Gasserian ganglion for permanent relief in such cases.

By Dr. John B. Roberts, "The Localization of Perinephric Inflammation, by Means of Clinico-Anatomical Study."

By Dr. J. Collins Warren, "The Healing of Arteries after Ligature."

By Dr. Nicholas Senn, "An Experimental and Clinical Study of Air Embolism."

By Dr. Christopher Johnston, "Diagnostical Laparotomy."

By Dr. Harold C. Ernst, by invitation, "A Consideration of the Bacteria of Surgical Diseases."

By Dr. Roswell Park, "A Case of Lipoma of the Testes, Weighing Four Pounds, a Successful Nephrectomy for Fibrocystic Disease of the Kidney in a Boy, aged Twenty-three Months."

The limit in time, for the reading of papers and for discussions, has been from time to time a subject for decision.



At the meeting in 1885 it was moved to limit the time for the reading of a paper to thirty minutes. A motion to amend was made to limit the time to forty-five minutes, and, finally, it was moved to limit the time to one hour, which was adopted. At present the time limit is fifteen minutes; a significant change, and one open to discussion as to whether it is quite just to the writer of a paper, who has given time and work to its preparation, to be compelled, by the time limit, to stop the reading at, possibly, the most important part, and thus fail to bring the subject before the Association in proper form for intelligent and full discussion. Better, fewer papers with ample time for their reading and discussion, than a mass not fully read nor discussed in a proper way.

A most notable event, reference to which should not be omitted, occurred in the movement which had its origin in the Association, and which resulted in the foundation of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons. To the zealous efforts of Dr. Claudius H. Mastin, Fellow of the Association and one time its President, the Congress owes its existence. At the meeting of the Association held in Washington, April 28, 1886, Dr. Mastin presented a communication in which it was suggested that action be taken by the Association to secure the formation of a Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons by the union of the nine special societies then existing. After the reading of the communication and some discussion of the project, a motion to lay it on the table was made, and defeated. On motion then made by the writer, the Memorial was referred to a special committee consisting of Drs. Christopher Johnston, W. T. Briggs, and the writer, with instructions to report during the session. The Committee reported as follows: "That it views with great satisfaction the perfection of a plan through which the meeting of the special associations named in the Memorial, in the city of Washington at the same time of the year, may be accomplished, and the meeting of all of these associations in general assembly on such days as may be determined for the purpose of addresses upon the general subjects in medicine. Such meetings to be held without any



formal organization, through which the associations meeting will sacrifice their autonomy." The Committee presented a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee of five Fellows, authorized to confer with committees of other associations interested in the adoption of a plan of a convention, and report at the next meeting. The resolution was adopted, and Drs. Claudius H. Mastin, Charles T. Parks, J. Ford Thompson, Nicholas Senn, and the writer were appointed members of the committee.

In due time the Congress was organized, and it holds now its meetings every third year in the city of Washington. Of the great influence exerted by it upon the progress of medicine in our country there can be no question; in one organization it unites the workers in all of the special branches of medicine.

Dr. Reginald H. Fitz, President of the Congress at the last meeting, writes: "I believe in the Congress as a means of promoting acquaintance between representative men in the various parts of the country. Progress in medicine depends upon the individual worker, and encouragement comes from the Association."

Another event of special interest to the Fellows of the Association should be noted—the erection of a bronze statue of the Founder of our Association in the city of Washington. The funds necessary to accomplish this object were contributed, in part, by the Government, which not only gave the site, but appropriated \$1500 for the pedestal, by the Fellows of the Association, by the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College, by members of the medical profession throughout the country, and by friends outside of the profession. The site of the monument, near to the Smithsonian Institution and to the Library of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, is well chosen, and affords an opportunity to those who visit these depositories of scientific lore to look upon the features of one who filled an eminent position in his Profession and achieved, through his labors, enduring honors.

Our Association returns to this city, the capital of the



historic commonwealth, which was the birthplace and the home of George Washington, who will ever live in the hearts of the people as the Father of his Country, to celebrate its silver anniversary. In commemoration of this happy event, its loyal sons, bearing tokens of devotion, come to pay homage at its Court, to testify in terms of congratulation to the great work it has accomplished, to honor the name it has given to American surgery, to speak for the future the words of hope, and to renew their pledges of loyalty to the promotion of its high aims.

We, the few survivors of those who began the work of the Association, bring wreaths of victory to lay upon its altar, the emblems of faith which has been well kept, of work which has been well done. For them, and in their name, we ask that the high ideals cherished by our illustrious Founder may ever control the endeavors of our Association, and be the guiding star of its destiny.