

The early physicians of Philadelphia and its vicinity : an address at the First Annual Meeting of the Association of Resident Physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital, December 17th, 1885 / by James J. Levick.

Contributors

Levick, James Jones, 1824-1893.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

Philadelphia : Printed by Thomas William Stuckey, 1886.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nejgp4h6>

Provider

Royal College of Surgeons

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

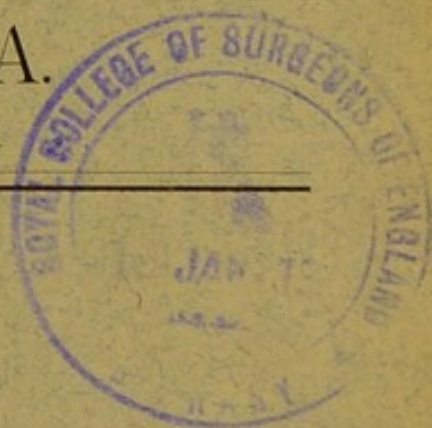


Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

From Dr. J. J. Levick.

15.

EARLY PHYSICIANS
OF
PHILADELPHIA.



1886

197

11

I

1802

1

11

11

11

11

11

THE
EARLY PHYSICIANS
OF
PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY.
AN ADDRESS

AT
THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL,
DECEMBER 17TH, 1885,

BY
JAMES J. LEVICK, M. D.



PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY THOMAS WILLIAM STUCKEY,
S. E. Cor. Seventh and Arch Streets.

1886.

THE
LIBRARY OF THE
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
AND
ZOOLOGY
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
IN THE
MUSEUM BUILDINGS
LONDON
W.C.2

TO WILLIAM BIDDLE,
WHO, FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS, HAS BEEN A MEMBER
AND FOR THE LAST THIRTEEN YEARS
PRESIDENT
OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL,
WHOSE LIFE
OF FOUR SCORE YEARS HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED
BY AN ACTIVE INTEREST
IN ALL THAT PROMOTES THE WELFARE OF HIS FELLOW MEN,
THIS LITTLE ESSAY IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
BY HIS GRATEFUL FRIEND,
THE AUTHOR.

THE address which follows is one of three discourses delivered by members of the Association of Resident Physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital, at its first annual meeting. The occasion was one which did not permit any very extended remarks, and a brief sketch only was given by the writer, of the physicians of Philadelphia who practised medicine here in its first two decades. It was a pleasing surprise to him to find how closely these men were linked, by their descendants, with the Pennsylvania Hospital from its inception to the present time.

As it is passing through the press, another pleasing surprise presents itself in the fact, which had escaped his notice, that all of the Philadelphia physicians of that time were natives of Wales; a very significant fact, inasmuch as the Welsh immigrants constituted but a part of the population of the new city.

Two of the writer's friends have recently shown how large has been the influence of the German life and thought in the United States.¹ The writer, himself of Welsh descent, hopes that some one having more leisure, and more ability than he has, will ere long give the subject the consideration it deserves, and show how much as Philadelphians we owe in medicine, in law, and in religion to our Cymric ancestors.

A few foot-notes have been added, but in other respects the address is as it was delivered at the hospital.

J. J. L.

PHILADELPHIA, 1200 ARCH STREET.

¹ Some practical influences of German Thought upon the United States. An address delivered at the Centennial Celebration of the German Society of New York, October 4th, 1884, by Andrew D. White, Ithaca, N. Y.

The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States.—An Address before the Pionier-Verein, at the Hall of the German Society, by J. G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia, 1886.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION:—

IN accordance with a request made of me a few days since, I shall speak to you to-night of "*The Old Physicians of Philadelphia*;" and lest you may think that I have undertaken to do too much for an occasion like this, I wish at once to say that I propose to speak only of those who were in practice in Philadelphia prior to the year 1700.

The early colonists of America were necessarily subjected to great exposures, to many privations, and to unusual fatigues. Very soon in their history great epidemics of influenza and of spotted fever swept over the colonies. Pneumonia and pleurisy in winter, and sunstroke in summer, proved fatal to many of the new comers. Then, as now, the lowlands along the rivers were unhealthy, and malarious fevers prevailed to such an extent as, at times, to break up an entire settlement, as was notably the case so early as 1641, near what is now Salem, N. J. That fearful scourge of the seventeenth century, the small pox, which every year claimed in Europe its annual tribute of 400,000 victims, while it mutilated or disfigured for life as many more, very early showed itself in the new world.¹ Fortunate was it for these immigrants that, almost from the start, they had as their physicians men of liberal education, of great moral worth, and of undoubted skill in their profession.

¹ In Smith's History of New Jersey, page 100, occurs the following statement of Thomas Budd, one of the very earliest settlers of that colony, A. D., 1678:—"The Indians told us that they were advised to make war on us, and cut us off while we were but few, and said they were told that we sold them the small pox with the match coat they had bought of us, which caused our people to be in fears and jealousies concerning them. To this

There were doubtless clever men among the Swedes who settled on the shores of the South River, as the Delaware was then called, nearly fifty years before the coming of Penn; but only two of these, so far as I know, made any claim to be medical men. One of these is described as "the barber, Mr. Hans Janche from Koningsberg, who settled in New Sweden in the service of the Crown, March 31st, 1644," and who, it is believed, practiced surgery, if not medicine. The other was one "Timon Stiddem" who, born at Hammell, came to the new world, May, 1654. He lived for some years at Upland, but settled permanently at Christina, and practised both surgery and physic. He died about the year 1686, and left descendants, one of whom still owns the metal box in which he carried his surgical instruments on his visits to his patients of the early Swedish colony.¹

One of the earliest surgical cases in this vicinity, which we have on record, was cared for by no less a man than George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends. About the year

the old Chief replied, that the small pox was here in my grandfather's time, and it could not be the English that could send it to us then; and it was here in my father's time, and it could not be the English that could send it to us then; and now it was here in my time, I do not believe that they have sent it to us now. I do believe that the Man above hath sent it us."

Professor Seidensticker has called my attention to the fact that, in the early advertisements of "Redemptioners" who have run away from their masters, nearly every one is described as marked by small pox.

¹ See *Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, Vol. III., pages 337, 338. Descendants of Joran Kyn, by Professor Gregory B. Keen.

Since this address was delivered, I have, for the first time, carefully read a paper by the late Dr. Caspar Morris, one of the earliest resident physicians of this hospital, entitled, "*Contributions to the Medical History of Pennsylvania*," Printed in the *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, Vol. I., page 350, A. D., 1826. I find that I have unconsciously pursued much the same line of thought that Dr. Morris has done, which is not surprising as we were brought up in the same faith, and both came of Welsh ancestry. Dr. Morris does not write of the Swedish surgeons I have named, but mentions two surgeons among the early Dutch on the Delaware, viz., Jan Oosten in 1657, and William Van Rasenberg in 1658. The essay was written by Dr. Morris while he was yet resident physician in this hospital, and is the earnest of that useful and excellent life which marked his subsequent career.

1671 George Fox sailed to Barbadoes, thence to Maryland, traveling northward through what are now the Middle and New England States. In these travels he kept faithfully a journal, which, read at this time, reminds one of Livingstone's travels through the dark Continent.

In 1672 he was passing through New Jersey, then but sparsely settled. He had spent the day with Richard Hartshorne, at Middletown Harbor, (the ancestor, if I mistake not, of one of our present Board of Managers, and of three physicians of that name who have so well served this hospital), and next morning went on to Shrewsbury. "While at Shrewsbury," writes Fox,¹ "an accident befell which for the time was a great exercise to us. One John Jay, a Friend of Barbadoes, who came with us from Road Island, being to trie a horse got upon his back, and the horse fell a running and cast him down upon his head, and brake his neck as the people said. They that were near him took him up dead, and carried him a good way and laid him on a tree. I got to him as soon as I could, and feeling on him, concluded he was dead. As I stood by him pitying him and his family, I took hold of his hair, and his head turned any way it was so limber. Whereupon throwing away my stick and my gloves, I took his head in both my hands, and setting my knees against the tree I raised his head and perceived there was nothing out or broken that way. Then I put one hand under his chin and the other behind his head, and raised his head two or three times with all my strength and brought it in. I soon perceived his neck began to grow stiff again, and then he began to rattle in his throat, and quickly after to breath. The people were amazed, but I bid them have a good heart and be of good faith; to carry him in the house, give him something warm to drink; and put him to bed. After he had been in the house a while he began to speak, but did not know where he had been. The next day he was pretty well, and many hundreds of miles did he travel with us after this."

If any of you are incredulous about this narrative, as if to

¹ *Journal of George Fox, London, A. D., 1694, page 370.*

confirm it, a case is reported in a late number of *The London Lancet*, of a dislocation of the atlas from the axis, quite as remarkable as this is.¹

Burlington was founded some years before Philadelphia, and Smith, Jennings, Coxe, Wetherill, Stacy, Collins, and other pioneers were, many of them, men of literary culture. Two Dutch Labadists, by name Dankers and Sluytter, travelled here in 1679. Their journal, which has lately, for the first time been published,² is a very interesting one. They seem to have been chronic grumblers, finding fault with the planters of Maryland for their luxury, and with the Quakers for their simplicity. "We went to breakfast," say they, "at the village (Burlington), with the Quakers, and saw there lying on a window, just as if it had been a common book, a copy of Virgil, and Van Helmont on Medicine!" One of the earliest practitioners of medicine in Burlington, was Dr. Daniel Wills; if I mistake not, we have one of his descendants with us this evening, an ex-resident physician of our hospital, Dr. Joseph Wills.

Among other good things which Doctor Wills did, was to write a letter bearing date, Eleventh month 6th, 1679-80, to his friends, William and Sarah Biddle, of Bishopsgate Street, London, in which he says:—

¹ The case is reported in *The London Lancet*, September 5th, 1885, by Walter Gibson, M.D., M. Ch. The man while following a sheep path, in the mountainous part of Wales, fell down a bank, one hundred yards high, a part of which was almost perpendicular. He lay there much of the night in a state of unconsciousness. At day-break, realizing his condition, he essayed to get up and go home, but found himself "too unsteady." He was assisted to his house, and Dr. Gibson found him with a dislocation of the atlas from the axis. The patient was laid across the bed, and, says Dr. Gibson, "placing a hand lengthwise along each side of the head, I made slight, steady traction in the direction of the spinal axis, and, to my surprise, and to the patient's great delight, the dislocation was reduced, with a short snap accompanied with a distinct crepitus, showing there was fracture also." The patient expressed himself as quite well, and fit to go about. He was put to bed and did well for twenty-three days, but died suddenly from jumping from his bed in an attack of cramp. The autopsy showed there had been a dislocation of the atlas with fracture of the odontoid process.

² *Transactions of the Long Island Historical Society, Volume 1.*

"My near and ancient acquaintance, William and Sarah Biddle, my love you may feel beyond expression, and if you have a clearness to come to New Jersey, let nothing hinder; but if you have a stop within yourselves, do not come until the way clears to your satisfaction. Herein I deny myself; if I could I would forward you to the utmost;" and then the writer adds, as if he could not help it, "if a man cannot live here in New Jersey, I believe he cannot live anywhere in the world!" William and Sarah Biddle had a clearness to come, and they came, and as a result of their coming we have at this time in the Board of Managers three of their descendants,—the President, William Biddle, Alexander Biddle, and John Biddle Garrett. Another descendant, George W. Biddle, in the foremost rank at the Bar, has, for more than twenty years, given to the hospital, without claiming fee or reward, the benefit of his wise counsel and great legal knowledge, and a similar service has now been generously assumed by his sons. Nor is this all,—Doctor (now Professor), Penrose, another descendant, faithfully served this house for two years as resident physician, and at this time his son, Dr. Charles B. Penrose, worthily fills the same position.

My kinsman, Dr. Edward Jones, arrived at Upland the 13th of the "Sixth month, called August," 1682. I have in my possession an original letter written by him, giving an account of their voyage, which lasted eleven weeks. They were forty in number, varying in age from young babes to an old man of eighty, all of whom, he writes, "are well, save one child, that died of a surfeit." Just what is meant by the diagnosis of "a surfeit," I must leave for you to determine.

Dr. Edward Jones practised surgery, he is styled "Edward Jones, Chirurgeon," and soon after his arrival took up a large tract of land, extending from near the falls of the Schuylkill, back to what is now known as Merion. Here, exercising a generous hospitality, and occasionally serving in the Assembly, he became a very successful agriculturist, so much so, indeed, as to receive especial notice from Penn in one of his official papers.¹

¹ See Penn's letter to The Committee of the Free Society of Traders, A. D., 1683.

August 30th, 1682, the *Welcome* set sail from Deal, England, having on board William Penn and his friend and physician, Dr. Thomas Wynne, of *Caer-Wys*, Flintshire, North Wales.

"Six weeks from the time we last saw land in England," writes Penn, "we saw it again in America." But in those six weeks the terrible scourge of small pox had raged with such violence, that, it is said, thirty-one of the passengers died.¹

An appalling mortality, and one can scarcely conceive of a more trying position for a medical man to be placed in than was Doctor Wynne with the loathsome pestilence in the crowded cabin of the *Welcome*. Other professional duties devolved on him, two cases of labor occurring on ship board, a daughter born to Evan and Jean Oliver, and a son to Richard and Ann Townsend, relatives if I mistake not, of a member of this Board of Managers.

Dr. Wynne lived ten years in his new home; was President of the first Provincial Assembly held in Philadelphia, of which he was long a member, was a prominent preacher among the Friends, wrote one or more controversial tracts, and was altogether a man of mark. Penn was warmly attached to him and gave the name of Wynne Street to one of the principal thoroughfares of his new city, which it retained until the other parallel streets had been called for the forest trees, when, for the sake of uniformity, it took the name of Chestnut Street.²

¹ I have long doubted the correctness of this statement, or at least have believed that of the thirty, comparatively few were heads of families. It seems incredible that Penn should not have said more than he appears to have done, had such an appalling mortality occurred. In one of his letters he writes, "God be praised, that of the twenty-two ships which came here, but two had the small pox, and not one miscarried." So, too, if *one-third* of the little company had perished, Townsend could hardly have written, as he did, of the voyage, that it was "in the main a prosperous one."

² In an article written by Wharton Dickinson, Esq., one of Dr. Wynne's descendants, (*Magazine of American History*, Vol. VIII, page 662), it is stated that "Thomas Wynne was born in the town of *Caer-Wys*, Flintshire, North Wales, and was the son of Peter Wynne, who was fifth son of Sir John Wynne of Gwydir, and Sydney, daughter of Sir William Gerard, Chancellor of Ireland. He was sent to London in 1650, and entered the Royal College of Surgeons, and was subsequently licensed as a surgeon and physician, and practised on the Surrey side of the Thames. He married Mary Bultall,

Two of Doctor Wynne's descendants are members of this Association,—Dr. Caspar Wister, whom we miss from his place this evening, and one of our youngest members, who lately has so faithfully served the hospital as resident physician, Dr. Spencer Trotter.

Before leaving Wales, Dr. Edward Jones had married the daughter of Dr. Thomas Wynne, and their son, Dr. Evan Jones, an eminent physician, practised medicine in Philadelphia, but later in life moved to Long Island. His son, Dr. John Jones, served this hospital as one of its surgeons for eleven years.¹

The daughter of Dr. Edward and Mary Wynne Jones, married John Cadwalader, the ancestor of the family of that name so well-known here, and their son, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, was one of the first four of the medical staff of this house.²

about 1656. He held various offices of trust and honor in the new government. Purchasing five thousand acres in Sussex county, Delaware, he removed there, but subsequently returned to Philadelphia, where he died, 16th of 1st month, 1692, in the Sixty-second year of his age."

¹ Elected, A. D., 1780. For an interesting account of Dr. John Jones, who was the physician of General Washington and of Doctor Franklin, see Memoir by James Mease, M.D., Philadelphia, 1795.

² Though not strictly coming within the limit I have prescribed for myself—"before 1700."—Dr. Thomas Cadwalader is so closely identified with the early medical and civil history of Philadelphia, that I cannot refrain from giving a brief notice of his life and character. The father, John Cadwalader, with one brother and two sisters was left an orphan at an early age. Coming to Pennsylvania in 1699, he soon after married the daughter of Dr. Edward Jones, and removing to Philadelphia, became one of her best and most useful citizens. He died A. D., 1733. The son Thomas was born in Philadelphia, A. D., 1707, and after receiving his literary education was placed in the office of Dr. Evan Jones, his uncle, a noted physician and chemist. In 1727 he went to England, and was a student in the Royal College of Surgeons, remaining abroad for five years. An essay by him on *The Iliac Passion* in 1740, and another in 1745 on *The West India Dry Gripes*, attracted much attention. To this last, printed by Benjamin Franklin, is appended an interesting history of a case of *Mollities Ossium*, in an adult, with the post mortem appearances. Another paper by him was on *Inoculation in Variola*. In 1752 he gave the first lecture on Anatomy with dissections, given in Philadelphia. The political offices held by him were many and important, but cannot be noticed here. He was lecturer in the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, of which he

In the main, Philadelphia was a healthful city. William Penn writing to Margaret Fox, after two years residence here, says: "In all this time I have not missed a meal or a night's rest since I came here." Before coming, Penn had written to his deputy, Markham, "let there be ground on each side, the house in the centre of the plot, so that it may be a green country town which may never be burned and may always be wholesome."¹

Old Gabriel Thomas, in his *History of Philadelphia*, printed 1698, writes:—"Of lawyers and doctors I say nothing, because this country is very peaceable and healthy."

But while this may have been the rule, there were some sad exceptions to it. On Seventh month 10th, 1694, there died of a malignant fever, at the age of fifty-five years, Governor Thomas Lloyd, a man whose great prominence as a preacher among the early Friends, and his distinguished services as a statesman, seem to have overshadowed his position and attainments as a physician, so that these last are rarely spoken of in connection with his name. And yet, both in his native and adopted country, Thomas Lloyd was a practitioner of medicine. In "a testimony" respecting him by his friends in Wales, which does honor both to his memory, and to the head and the heart of its writer, it is said of Dr. Lloyd,—“he had a great practice in physic, with great knowledge and experience

was a trustee. He was a generous contributor to the Pennsylvania Hospital at its origin, and was one of its medical staff from 1751 to 1777. He was one of the original incorporators of the Philadelphia Library, was President of the Philosophical Society, and a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. In 1777-78 he was Medical Director of the United States Army, with the rank on the staff, of Lieutenant Colonel. He died November 14th, 1779. His picture shows a countenance of great intelligence and dignity, as well as "a generous, just, and benevolent temper of mind," words used concerning him by Dr. John Redman, in the opening address of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, A. D., 1787.

¹ In the very earliest days of Philadelphia, George Fox desired that a lot of ground, owned by him here, should be used to build a meeting house and school on, and that another part should "be enclosed for a garden to be planted with all sorts of physical plants for lads and lassies to learn simples there, and their uses, to convert them to distilled water, oils, and ointments." We see here the proposal for a medical botanic garden, in which Philadelphia is yet sadly deficient.

therein, and generally good success, whereby it was often his lot to be amongst many of account in the world, and he was much loved and respected by them; yet being a man of tender spirit, he was conscientiously careful over his patients, whether poor or rich." Besides being a Deputy Governor under Penn, a post which he accepted with great reluctance, and only in compliance with Penn's earnest solicitation, he was President of the Provincial Council, of which he was long a member, and held a commission as Keeper of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, was Commissioner of Property, and held other minor trusts.

In the early history of our Commonwealth there is no name, after that of the Proprietor, which should be held in higher esteem than that of Dr. Thomas Lloyd. Born of an old and noble Welsh house, educated in the best schools the principality could afford, completing his education at Oxford, Thomas Lloyd and his brother Charles, were among the first in Wales to accept the doctrines of the Quakers. What sacrifices such a step involved can scarcely be understood at this time. Social position, preferment in Church and State, all that men think of value in life seemed lost to them. For nearly ten years Charles Lloyd was a prisoner, for conscience sake, in Welshpool jail, almost in sight of his ancestral home of Dolobran, and yet neither he nor his brother for a moment faltered in their convictions of duty.¹

Doctor Lloyd left several children, and they in their turn, many descendants. Among these we may name with pride Doctor Lloyd Zachary,² grandson of Governor Lloyd, one of its earliest friends,

¹ Thomas Lloyd came to Pennsylvania in the ship *America*, A. D., 1683. He had as his fellow voyager, Francis Pastorius, the founder of Germantown. Among other means resorted to by these scholars to relieve the tedium of a voyage of eight weeks, they wrote and repeated to each other Latin verses. Lloyd was educated at Oxford, and Pastorius in Germany; but they had the same pronunciation, and readily understood each other. Thomas Ellwood, who was reader to Milton, says, that the poet, educated at Cambridge, had learned the Continental pronunciation. It would thus appear, that this was what was taught in the two great English universities two centuries ago.

² Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Thomas Lloyd, married Daniel Zachary, an Englishman, who had emigrated to Boston, Mass. Lloyd Zachary was their

and the first physician elected to this hospital. Mary, third daughter of Thomas Lloyd, married Isaac Norris, and their descendant, Dr. George W. Norris, served this house as resident physician for three years, a longer term than any other physician, and for twenty-seven years was the faithful surgeon of the hospital. His son, the distinguished ophthalmic surgeon, Dr. William F. Norris, was also a resident physician of this hospital, and we have, in the obliging and efficient chairman of our executive committee, Dr. Orville Horwitz, now a resident here, another descendant of Thomas Lloyd.

In the summer of 1699, there appeared a terrible epidemic in Philadelphia, known as Barbadoes fever, so called from the belief that it had been imported in a cargo of cotton bagging, (from that island), which had been landed and stored on the wharf, between Market Street and the drawbridge. From the very earliest days of the colony, there had been an active commerce between Philadelphia and Barbadoes, an English island, where there were many Friends then resident. This fever broke out Eighth month, 15th, during a very hot summer, and raged with such violence, that, in a town of less than four thousand people, its victims were numbered by hundreds. It is a remarkable fact that for a history of this epidemic we are indebted not to the medical men of the day, but to a distinguished preacher among the Friends,—Thomas Story,—a name so honorably borne by the late medical superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride, and worthily continued in that of our youngest resident physician, Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride Morton.

Thomas Story was a gentleman by birth and education, an eminent preacher among the Friends, and appointed by Wm. Penn himself as first Recorder of the City. His journal is a deeply interesting one, and records many facts concerning the prevalence of the fever at that date, and the conduct of the citizens, which, did time permit, might be instructively quoted. I shall content myself with one paragraph which describes the condition of the city

only child. He studied medicine with Doctor Kearsely, and continued his studies abroad. He died, November 25th, 1756, without children.

when the pestilence was at its height: "Great," says he, "was the majesty of the Lord, great the fear which fell on all flesh. I saw no lofty, airy countenance, nor heard any vain jesting to move men to laughter; nor witty repartee to raise mirth, nor extravagant feasting to excite the lusts of the flesh above measure; but every face gathered paleness, and many hearts were humbled and countenances fallen and sunk, as such that waited every moment to be summoned to the bar or to be numbered to the grave."¹

This was in the autumn of 1699, a little later William Penn arrived at Chester, on his second visit to Pennsylvania. There is an incident related of his arrival, which is of interest to us as medical men. Contrary to the expressed desire of the magistrates, the young men of the place thought that the arrival of the proprietor should be celebrated by a military salute. Two old cannon were brought out and successfully discharged. Wishing to continue the salute, one of the cannon was charged a second time before it had been sponged, and, prematurely going off, dreadfully wounded one of the young men. Dr. Griffith Owen, a man of great prominence in political life, and an excellent physician, was present with Penn at Chester, and, it is stated by all medical historians, who refer to it, promptly amputated the sufferer's arm. Such, however, I am convinced, is an error. Thomas Story, who also was at Chester, thus relates this incident, proving clearly to my mind that the amputation was performed, not by Dr. Owen, but by the surgeon of the fleet then in the harbor. Story says,—“a surgeon being sent for from on board a ship which was there riding, an amputation was quickly resolved upon by Dr. Griffith Owen, (a Friend), the surgeon and some other skilful persons, which accordingly was done without delay. But as the arm was cut off, some spirits in a bason happened to take fire, and being spilt on the surgeon's apron, set his cloaths on fire, and there being a great crowd of spectators, some of them were in the way, and in danger of being scalded, as the surgeon himself was upon his hands and face, but running

¹ *Journal of Thomas Story, page 224. New Castle-on-Tyne, 1747.*

In the year 1700, an Act of the Assembly was passed forbidding the landing of cargoes from an infected port.

into the street the fire was quenched, and so quick was he that the patient lost not very much blood, though left in that open condition."

Dr. Griffith Owen, here spoken of, is said to have had the largest practice of any of the physicians of that day, and yet he found time to take part in the affairs of the new colony to an extent which seems almost impossible. He was a member of the Provincial Council, of the Assembly, a Commissioner of Property, Deputy Master of the Rolls, one of the managers of the Friends' Corporation Schools, a prominent preacher among the Friends, clerk of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and took a most conspicuous part against what was considered as the dangerous heresy of George Keith.¹ He died, A. D., 1717. What descendants he left I cannot tell. Dr. Griffith Owen, Jr., a young physician of great promise, died, A. D., 1731, at the early age of twenty-five years.

In addition to those I have named Drs. Goodson, Sober, Witt, Colden, More, Kearsley, Graeme² and others of whom you have already heard this evening, might be classed among the early physicians of Philadelphia. But as the labors of these distinguished men were chiefly in the eighteenth century, and I have promised to limit myself to those born before that time, I shall say nothing further respecting them, to-night.

With these matters of local medical history I have long been familiar, as doubtless are many who hear me; but I confess to a feeling of pleasurable surprise, as I viewed them from the hospital stand-point, to find how closely the physicians of that early day are linked with the physicians of this day, and with this hospital. There is scarcely one I have named, from old Dr. Daniel Wills down, who, either directly by his posterity, or indirectly by some act of his life, has not influenced for good the welfare of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

¹ Dr. Griffith Owen is said also to have been Mayor of Philadelphia, but I do not know that the statement is a correct one.

² An interesting sketch of Dr. Thomas Graeme, by a descendant, Dr. W. A. Smith, has recently been printed.

For these men were not only the first physicians, but they were also the first preachers, the first statesmen, the first law-givers of Pennsylvania. By them and their associates were laid the deep and broad foundations on which the superstructure of this Commonwealth has been built. As Pennsylvanians we should never forget that the founders of our State were not dissolute younger sons, such as found their way to some of the colonies, or banished convicts, such as at times, were sent to others. They were men of liberal education and of social refinement, who, fearing God, with filial fear, had little fear of man. They digged deep and they builded well, but they builded far better than they knew. Penn's green, grassy, country town which was never to be burned and always to be wholesome, is now a great city, with miles and miles of closely built houses, with a population larger than that of the London from which many of its people came, and with manufactures, such as, in their most hopeful dreams, they never could have imagined.

But through all the years that have passed, the influence of their lives, and the impress of their character, have marked the history of the Commonwealth. And so long 'as peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety,' shall be deemed of value in a State, so long shall their memory be cherished, and their influence be felt.

"Time but the impression deeper makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear!"

