

[Notice of the sale of the collection of pathological drawings belonging to the late Dr. William Thomson].

Contributors

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THE COLLECTION OF PATHOLOGICAL DRAWINGS belonging to the late Dr. William Thomson, Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow, is about to be sold.

This Collection consists in all of about 2,400 delineations. Of these more than a half, or about 1,250, are original unpublished coloured representations of the morbid appearances and structures observed in various diseases. Many of these are from rare and remarkable cases, and the most of them are accompanied by detailed histories of the symptoms during life, and of the dissection.

Of these 1,250 original Drawings, about 800 were executed by Mr., now Sir Robert Carswell, M.D., previous to the year 1826, some in this country, from cases coming under the notice of Dr. John Thomson of Edinburgh, and of his son, Dr. William Thomson, but the majority in the great hospitals of Paris, Lyons, Rome, and other continental cities, to which Mr. Carswell was sent for several years by Dr. Thomson, accompanied by Dr. William Thomson. Of the remainder, about 350 are by various experienced artists, such as Patrick Syme, Schetkey, M'Artney, (the latter of whom acquired great experience and ability in the delineations of diseases,) &c., and are, like those of Carswell, finished water colour drawings of original cases of disease. The remaining 100 are slight sketches in a less finished style.

The other part of the Collection, (consisting of 1,150 Drawings,) may be described under two divisions, viz. :—

1st. Water Coloured Drawings and Paintings, amounting in all to about 375, are either representations of Pathological preparations in various museums of London, Paris, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, or have been copied from published plates.

2d. Published plates, Engravings or Lithographic representations of disease, (coloured and plain,) comprehending a complete set of the plates of Cruveilhier's and Carswell's works on pathological anatomy, together with those of various other works, such as Willan and Bateman on the Skin, Hooper on the Brain, Sir Astley Cooper on Hernia, Cullerier's Syphilis, and many rare miscellaneous plates: all these having been carefully pasted on board to facilitate their use for class illustration.

The original paintings of this Collection are almost all in water colours, and on Bristol board. More than a third are full-sized sheets, and many of them contain several figures on one sheet; the remainder are half sheets or smaller. There are also about 24 oil paintings.

The subjoined table gives a summary of the subjects illustrated, with the number of drawings under each head.

	Whole No. of Drawings.	No. of Original Drawings.		Whole No. of Drawings.	No. of Original Drawings.
Brain, &c., - -	153	69	Male Reprod. Organs,	54	29
Spine and Nerves, -	59	14	Cutaneous Diseases,	58	45
Heart, - - -	121	55	Ditto, Small Pox, &c.,	148	74
Blood Vessels, -	101	52	Bones and Joints, -	98	41
Respiratory Organs,	96	61	Inflammation, -	74	61
Ditto, Phthisis,	61	50	Morbid Structures and {		
Stomach, - - -	122	67	Entozoa, - - - }	53	21
Intestines, - - -	141	102	Scrofula, Cancer, &c.,	111	90
Ditto, Hernia, &c.,	58	18	Primary Syphilis, -	152	51
Liver, Pancreas, &c ,	135	103	Secondary ditto, -	107	49
Urinary Organs, -	111	35	Diseases of the Eye,	35	22
Female Reprod. Organs,	142	61	Malformations, -	34	6
Mamma, - - -	65	49	Miscellaneous, -	118	39

Each of the above sets is contained in a separate portfolio, and the Drawings in general have been carefully preserved, and are in a good state.

This Collection of Pathological Illustrations, one of the most extensive in existence, and which is well known to many members of the profession in this country, was commenced by Dr. John

Thomson of Edinburgh, previous to the year 1820. It was subsequently very greatly extended by him when he obtained the assistance of Sir Robert Carswell, between the years 1822 and 1826; and it was afterwards farther added to by Dr. Thomson's sons, especially under the superintendence of Dr. William Thomson. The Collection served to illustrate Dr. John Thomson's and Dr. William Thomson's Courses of Lectures on the Practice of Physic and on General Pathology. It is peculiarly valuable, not only as containing a large series of graphic and exact representations of the more usual pathological appearances in the different systems and organs of the body, but also as a rich collection of more rare cases of diseases, described and illustrated under the superintendence of most learned pathologists, so as to constitute materials for a large and interesting work on Practical Medicine and Pathological Anatomy.

Besides several volumes of histories of the various Cases and Dissections, the whole Collection is described in a MS. Catalogue of six volumes, 4to, in which all the Drawings, arranged under the respective heads mentioned above, are referred to and described in the order of a running number.

It is now proposed to sell the whole Collection together, at a price of £ , which is below one fourth of what it has cost. Farther information will be given by Dr. ALLEN THOMSON, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow.

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