Memoir of William Pepper, M.D. / by James Tyson.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE WILLIAM PEPPER, M.D., LL.D.

PROVOST, AND PROFESSOR OF THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE,
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

BY

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From a life so crowded with events and so fruitful of important and wide reaching results as that of Dr. Pepper, it is difficult to decide what is suitable for a memoir intended for preservation in the archives of the "College," as well as to be read to its Fellows. For the former, fulness of detail can scarcely be excessive; for the latter, the axe of condensation must prune out much that would add to the interest of a memoir to be read in the closet. Abbreviation may, however, be excused when it is known that there will shortly be published by Prof. Francis N. Thorpe an extended biography which will deal exhaustively with Dr. Pepper's life.

Dr. Pepper's ancestors on his father's side were German. His great-grandfather, Henry Pepper, emigrated from Strassburg to this country so lately as 1739, and settled in Schaefferstown, in what is now Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, removing to Philadelphia in 1774. His father, Dr. William Pepper, was the leading physician and consultant in Philadelphia at the time of his death at the comparatively early age of fifty-four. He was four years Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, resigning in consequence of ill health. He was especially skilled in diagnosis based on exhaustive and accurate investigation of each case. Dr. Pepper's mother, Sarah Platt, represented the fifth generation in descent from Thomas Platt, whose exact place and date of birth are unknown, though he was born somewhere between 1685 and 1690. His son, Thomas Platt, was born in Burlington County, N. J., in 1715. Dr. Pepper's great-grandfather,

John Platt, was born in the same county in 1749, but moved to the vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, about 1795, having previously served as Captain in the Delaware Regiment of Foot throughout the Revolutionary War. His son William, Dr. Pepper's grandfather, was also born in Burlington County, but was taken to Delaware when very young. Later he resided in Camden, N. J., and still later in Philadelphia, where his children, including Sarah Platt, were born.

Provost Pepper was born at 1304 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, August 21, 1843. His youth was spent in Philadelphia and at his father's country-seat in Chestnut Hill. He was educated altogether in Philadelphia, first at St. Mark's School attached to the Parish of St. Mark's P. E. Church, the Head-master of which was Rev. Ormes B. Keith, who still lives in New York City; and later at the well-known Classical Academy of the late Rev. John W. Faries, where he was prepared for the College Department of the University of Pennsylvania. He entered the University in September, 1858, and was graduated Bachelor of Arts, July 3, 1862, receiving the degree of A.M. in Course in 1865.

His career in college was suggestive of the brilliancy of his later life. He was president of his class, was always an honor man, being valedictorian, or second honor man, at graduation, Charles C. Harrison, the present Provost of the University, being the first honor man and salutatorian. He was awarded the Senior English Prize, and equally with the late Prof. John G. R. McElroy the "Philosophy Prize." He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the members of which, it is well known, are selected from those of highest standing in each class. He was also a prominent member of the Zeta Psi, University of Pennsylvania Chapter.

The following are among the more prominent members of his class at graduation:

Rev. Jesse Y. Burk, the present Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

John Cadwalader, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, 1885–89, etc.

Rev. George Stuart Chambers, D.D., a prominent Presbyterian Clergyman of Harrisburg, Penna.

Thomas Mutter Cleemann, a civil engineer of prominence in this country and in South America.

Dr. Persifor Frazer (D. Sci. Nat. of France), Professor of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 1870–74; same at Franklin Institute, 1881–93; and same of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 1889 to date; Geologist, etc.

Charles Custis Harrison, the present Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. (See *Alumni Register*, July, 1900.)

Rev. John Sparhawk Jones, D.D., one of the Chaplains to the University of Pennsylvania. A prominent Presbyterian clergyman in this city.

Captain Robert Patton Lisle, Pay Director United States Navy.

The late Prof. John George Repplier McElroy, Professor in the University of Pennsylvania, 1869–90.

The late Thomas McKean, Trustee; munificent donor to the University of Pennsylvania.

The late Dr. George Pepper, Dr. Pepper's dearly beloved brother.

Rev. Robert Ritche, of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Skipwith Wilmer, a distinguished lawyer of Baltimore.

Immediately after his graduation in "Arts," he began the study of medicine with his father, then residing at 1215 Walnut Street. He entered the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 1862. The Professors were Samuel Jackson, Hugh L. Hodge, Joseph Carson, Joseph Leidy, Robert E. Rogers, Henry H. Smith, and his father, Dr. William Pepper. He received his diploma March 12, 1864, by which time Drs. Jackson and Hodge had been succeeded by Drs. Francis Gurney Smith and R. A. F. Penrose. The subject of his thesis was: "Movements of the Iris and Some of Their Relations." Although we attended lectures together for one term, 1862–63, I saw little of him at that time, and we first met at the Pennsylvania Hospital in July of the latter year, when I became resident physician at the hospital. Dr. Pepper, then a student of medicine, substituted Dr. John Conrad, the hospital apothecary, who was taking his annual vacation. We were room-mates. Here began an acquaintance later ripening into a friendship which continued until his death. Our colleagues at the hospital were Dr. Thomas Hollingsworth Andrews, who was substituting Dr. William Savery, and Dr. Horatio C. Wood, the medical resident. I had myself been elected to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Joseph C. Richardson, resigned. The characteristics I recall of Dr. Pepper during this month or more of our residence at the hospital were his cheerful, hopeful disposition, his enthusiasm and his alertness. He never loitered, and whether it was in the despatch of his duties as

apothecary, or off to the river in the afternoon for a row, he always moved quickly and gaily. He read rapidly and omnivorously, and among the books he read I remember George Johnson's then comparatively new work on *Diseases of the Kidney*. During the succeeding winter of 1863–64 he was a regular attendant on the clinics at the hospital, and I recall him vividly, bounding up and down stairs, two and three steps at a time, to and from the clinics.

In consequence of the precarious state of his father's health, Dr. Pepper did not enter a hospital as resident physician immediately after graduating, but as soon as practicable after the elder Pepper's death, which occurred October 15, 1864, he became resident at the Pennsylvania Hospital, and served from April, 1865, until October, 1866. It was during this time that he formed his friendship with Dr. Edward Rhoads, whose lofty character and great ability were lost to the profession after a brief but promising career. Dr. Rhoads was my class-mate in the medical school and succeeded me at the Pennsylvania Hospital. During this association Dr. Pepper and Dr. Rhoads studied together the minute changes in the blood in malarial fever, and later published a paper on "The Fluorescence of Tissues," in the *Pennsylvania Hospital Reports* for 1868, and in the same volume another on "The Morphological Changes in the Blood in Malarial Fever," in connection with Dr. John Forsyth Meigs. These papers were based upon the study of 123 cases of a severe form of bilious fever which occurred in the service of Dr. Meigs in the summer and autumn of 1865, and involved much physical and chemical research and a large amount of microscopical investigation. The object of the paper on "The Fluorescence of Tissues" was to show that a substance found in the normal tissues by Bence Jones which possessed a property of fluorescence like quinine and called by him "animal quiniodine," disappeared under the influence of the malarial poison.

Immediately after leaving the Pennsylvania Hospital, Dr. Pepper began practice at 1215 Walnut Street, having been elected Curator and Pathologist, March 26, 1866, some months before the expiration of his term as resident. On January 28, 1867, the Managers granted him the use of a room in the Picture House on Spruce Street in which to give a course of lectures on pathological anatomy. In 1867 he

was elected Pathologist to the Philadelphia Hospital, and in the same year one of its visiting physicians. In 1868 he was made Lecturer on Morbid Anatomy in the University.[1] He prepared while Curator a descriptive catalogue of the pathological specimens in the Museum of the Pennsylvania Hospital, covering 138 closely printed octavo pages, based on one previously made by Dr. Thomas G. Morton. As Pathologist to the Philadelphia Hospital he was the first to arrange the making of autopsies with a fixed hour for each day, and gathered materials and drawings for his lectures at the University. He devoted himself with his usual enthusiasm to his wards and to teaching in the Philadelphia Hospital until his extensive practice and absorbing public duties forced him to resign November 24, 1884, having resigned the position of Pathologist to the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1871.

In 1870 he became Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1876 professor of that branch,

[1] In consequence of this appointment he gave only one or at most two courses on pathology. The lectures on morbid anatomy at the University were given in the autumn course preliminary to the winter course by a corps of lecturers, consisting of Drs. Hayes Agnew, on Regional Anatomy; James J. Levick, on Physical Diagnosis; H. Lenox Hodge, on Diseases of the Skin, in addition to Dr. Pepper on Morbid Anatomy and myself on Microscopy. Before the course began (September 7, 1868) Dr. Levick was replaced by Dr. Edward Rhoads. Dr. Pepper was made Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in 1870. Dr. Rhoads died in January, 1871, when Dr. Pepper was assigned to Physical Diagnosis and Clinical Medicine, and Dr. Joseph G. Richardson to Morbid Anatomy. Dr. Hodge, who had succeeded Dr. William Hunt as Demonstrator of Anatomy, replaced Dr. Agnew, who had become Professor of Clinical and Demonstrative Surgery, and Dr. Harrison Allen replaced Dr. Hodge as Lecturer on Diseases of the Skin. These constituted the lecturers in 1871. Dr. Allen gave the lectures on skin diseases for one year only, and was succeeded in 1872 by Dr. Louis A. Duhring. In 1873 this Spring Course was further enlarged by the addition of lectures in Practical Chemistry by the then Prof. R. E. Rogers, on Diseases of Women and Children by Dr. William Goodell, on the Eye and Ear by Drs. William F. Norris and Strawbridge, and on Surgical Diseases of the Mouth by Dr. James E. Garretson. The lectures were the last given in the old University buildings in Ninth Street above Chestnut. The next regular Winter Session of 1873–4 was given in the building of the Pennsylvania College, 250 Ninth Street; that of 1874–5 was the first delivered in the New Medical Hall in West Philadelphia. In the spring of 1874 the lectures were given in the same building, beginning March 30th, and extending through April, May, June and September by the same men, Dr. Agnew having become Professor of Surgery in the Medical School. On the completion of the Hospital in West Philadelphia in 1874, a Hospital Staff was appointed, which included these men, in addition to the Professors of Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics, a Clinical Professor of Nervous Diseases, who was Dr. H. C. Wood, and a Professor of Clinical Surgery, Dr. John Neill. Dr. Tyson's title was changed to Clinical Lecturer on Pathological Anatomy and Histology. In point of fact, Drs. Stillé and Penrose, who were *ex-officio* members of the staff, never gave lectures in the Hospital. Drs. Garretson and Richardson were not included in the staff. April 4, 1876, Drs. Neill, Goodell, Pepper, and Tyson were made members of the Faculty, the title of Dr. Tyson's chair being changed again to General Pathology and Morbid Anatomy.

holding this position until 1884, when he was chosen Professor of Theory and Practice, to succeed the late Dr. Alfred Stillé. In the meantime, in 1881, he had become Provost of the University, retaining this office until 1894.

Dr. Pepper took an active interest in many of the medical societies of his city, state, and country. Naturally the Pathological Society was his first field, as it was that of Gross, of Stillé, of Da Costa, and of Ashhurst. He became a member in 1865, and at once its leading member. He was chosen Vice-President in 1870, and was its President from 1873 to 1876. He was made a Fellow of the "College" in 1867, and immediately took an active part in its proceedings. His most important papers were "Trephining in Cerebral Disease," read May 18, 1870; "The Internal Use of Nitrate of Silver," read May 7, 1877, and "Addison's Disease," read January 7, 1886. In addition to these papers, his remarks on the communications of other Fellows were always full of valuable information, gained largely from his own experience. Thus succeeding a paper read by J. Ewing Mears on "Encysted Dropsy of the Peritoneum," although Dr. Pepper had only been eleven years in practice, he cited three cases of the comparatively rare condition which had occurred in his own experience. Thus it was with every subject which came up when he happened to be present. In consequence of the exacting demands on his time by the numerous and important interests in which he was concerned in recent years, he was compelled, much to his own regret, to neglect the meetings of the "College," but he always took a warm interest, and I know from personal knowledge, looked forward to the time when, freed of some of his responsibilities, he might again contribute to its proceedings and take a hand in its management. It was through his instrumentality chiefly that in 1870, three years after his election to Fellowship, the "College" for a time increased its meetings to two a month, with the idea that one meeting should be devoted to scientific matters only and the other to business. At that day, however, the number of Fellows was much smaller and there was much less activity among them, so that the semi-monthly meetings could not be kept up. Quite recently, when it appeared to some of us that the time had come for the formation of a Section on Medicine for the purpose of

stimulating this department, Dr. Pepper attended the meeting for organization in January, 1897, though he was at the time overwhelmed with work and broken in health, and had not for a long time attended a similar meeting. This was the last meeting of a medical society he ever attended.

He was one of the founders of the Obstetrical Society in Philadelphia, in 1869, but was never active in its work, as he never practised midwifery. He became a member of the Philadelphia County Medical Society in 1871, of the American Medical Association in 1872, and of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania in 1875, and in the early part of his career was a frequent contributor to their *Proceedings*. He delivered the address in "Medicine" before the State Medical Society at its meeting in Pottsville in 1875, which at once charmed and astonished the older members, for he was then but thirty years of age. He was chairman of the Committee of Arrangements of the American Medical Association at its meeting in Philadelphia in 1876. He was one of the founders of the Climatological Society in 1884, and its President in 1886; also one of the founders of the Association of American Physicians in 1886, and its President in 1891. He was the first President of the Pan-American Medical Congress, at its organization in Washington in 1893, and delivered an able and most impressive address, which was listened to with rapt attention by a large audience made up of delegates and their friends, from Mexico, South America, the West Indies, Canada, and the United States. Its subject was "The State of this Continent and its Original Inhabitants at the Time of its Discovery by Columbus, and the Obstacles which Opposed Him and the Great Men who Completed His Work," together with "The State of Medical Science in Europe at the Time of the Discovery and the Spirit which Controlled its Subsequent Course." It abounds in valuable information, involving laborious historical research, gathered and collated at a time when he was excessively busy. It excited the enthusiastic admiration of the representatives from British and Spanish America, which was reflected in the reception given him in the City of Mexico at the second triennial meeting of this Congress in 1896. The Pan-American Congress itself owes its existence to Dr. Charles A. L.

Reed, of Cincinnati, who introduced a resolution creating it at the meeting of the American Medical Association at Washington, May 5, 1891. Dr. Reed was made chairman of the preliminary organization. In the fall of 1891 Dr. Pepper was unanimously elected President, and Dr. Reed was chosen Secretary-General of the first Congress, which it was decided to hold in Washington, D. C. Dr. Pepper threw himself energetically into the work and was instrumental in securing an appropriation from Congress toward the expenses of the meeting. At its inception he had few sympathizers, but, like all else he undertook, he made the Washington meeting a magnificent success, as the two splendid volumes of nearly 1200 pages each, which contain the *Transactions* published in English and Spanish, abundantly attest. They include a vast amount of information bearing on medicine from all parts of North and South America which could in no other way have been accumulated. Dr. Pepper remained Chairman of the International Executive Commission, which is the permanent body of the Congress, until his death. As Chairman of this Commission he attended the second Congress, held in the City of Mexico, November 15–19, 1896, delivering an address in the National Theatre on the evening of November 16th. He received much attention while in Mexico, and was especially honored by President Diaz. A fitting termination of the relation established with Mexico was a memorial meeting, held September 12, 1898, in the City of Mexico, in the National Chamber of Deputies. President Diaz presided, while about him were gathered cabinet officers and other government officials, the principal citizens, scientists, and physicians of the republic. The first address was by Hon. Matias Romero, the Mexican Minister to the United States, who eulogized Dr. Pepper as an altruist who had sacrificed himself for the good of his fellow-men. Dr. Porfirio Parra spoke, in behalf of the National Medical School, of Dr. Pepper's medical life; Dr. Arellano, in behalf of the Board of Health, of his social and humane qualities, and Dr. Mendizabal concluded by a glowing eulogy, in which he summed up Dr. Pepper's life work. The occasion was rendered more impressive by appropriate music.

Among the first of Dr. Pepper's important objects was the founding, in 1870, of the *Philadelphia Medical Times*. He secured a

guarantee fund, chiefly from members of the profession, from which was made up for three years any loss sustained by its publishers. The first number was issued October 1, 1870. First a semi-monthly, it became later a weekly, and although it has been discontinued for some years, the journal contained the best literary productions of such men as S. D. Gross, Alfred Stillé, D. Hayes Agnew, John Forsyth Meigs, J. M. Da Costa, R. J. Levis, William Goodell, Addinell Hewson, James H. Hutchinson, John Ashhurst, Jr., Harrison Allen, S. W. Gross, Frank Maury, John S. Parry, George Pepper, William Pepper, and others who have passed over into the unknown country. An examination of the early volumes shows that its publication marks an era in the medical activity of Philadelphia, whence we may date the extraordinary development of medical education which has characterized the last thirty years of the century just closed. Dr. Edward Rhoads was to have been the editor, but his failing health permitted only the preparation of the first number. I have elsewhere said that Dr. Pepper edited the journal for two years, and am sure he edited it for several months, but was surprised on taking down the first volume to find that the editor was James H. Hutchinson and associate editor James Tyson. I had forgotten how close was my own relation to the journal.

The removal of the *Medical News* to New York, in 1896, left Philadelphia without a first-class medical weekly journal. Dr. Pepper felt this was a serious deficiency in a city which had always taken such a prominent position in matters medical, and was restless under this feeling. Early in the fall of 1897 he began to organize a company for the purpose of establishing a journal which would fill this gap. With his usual broad and liberal views, he sought to interest not one, but all the medical schools of Philadelphia, and not only succeeded in this, but secured also the interest of prominent business men other than publishers of medical books, including those of large experience in the management of successful newspapers. By October 1, 1897, the arrangements were completed, a Board of Trustees appointed, and George M. Gould appointed editor, with an Executive Committee representing all interests to co-operate with him. On Saturday, January 1, 1898, appeared the first number of the *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, which promptly established itself

in the front ranks of the medical journals of the world, and by its example has elevated medical journalism in America to a plane it would not have reached for many years, if at all.

The first of the enduring works of Dr. Pepper, characterized by its magnitude and importance, was the founding and completion of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Initiated by a committee from the Society of the Alumni of the Medical Department, March 14, 1871, on the motion of Dr. William F. Norris, it involved securing from the city at a nominal cost a tract of land worth at least $200,000, an appropriation of $100,000, and again $100,000 from the State, in addition to the raising by subscription of $350,000 for endowment, and was completed in its first stage by appropriate ceremonies of inauguration held at the Hospital, June 4, 1874.

Subsequent stages included the addition of the Gibson Wing, rendered possible by the generosity of the late Henry C. Gibson, stimulated by the persuasion of Dr. Pepper, whose efforts also secured a liberal endowment for the same; the Maternity Hospital and Agnew Pavilion, in behalf of the latter of which he again successfully invoked the aid of the State, while his own purse completed the conditions that made it possible.

The Hospital had barely reached the first stage of its completion before another permanent institution of great and growing importance received his attention—the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art—and I well remember the bright afternoon in June, 1875, when we parted at the railway station in Pottsville, he to return to Philadelphia to take part in the first meeting for the organization of the Museum, and I to the sessions of the State Medical Society, which were not yet concluded. He did not, however, continue long associated with it, and went on the Board of Trustees for only one year, finding himself deeply involved in work, much at this time growing out of his appointment as Medical Director of the International Exposition, commonly known as the "Centennial," which was to be opened in Philadelphia the next year. He supervised the sanitary arrangements of the Fair and organized a medical corps for the treatment of emergencies. For his distinguished services in this connection he was decorated by the King of Sweden Knight

Commander of the Order of St. Olaf, and received recognition also from the English Government.

At this time (1876) the Medical Faculty of the University was enlarged by the addition of Professorships of Clinical Surgery, Clinical Medicine, Clinical Diseases of Women and Children, and General Pathology and Morbid Anatomy, to which Drs. John Neill, William Pepper, William Goodell, and James Tyson were respectively appointed. Simultaneously the important step of prolonging the Medical Course from two to three years was also under consideration, and in it Dr. Pepper was naturally most active. The plan was consummated early in 1877, and inaugurated by his notable address, delivered October 1, 1877, entitled "Higher Medical Education the True Interest of the Public and the Profession." Closely followed the foundation of the Dental Department of the University, in 1879, and the construction and furnishing, at a cost of $90,000, of the Laboratory Building, in which were accommodated the Laboratories of Chemistry and Dentistry and the Dissecting-room. The Veterinary Department of the University was established through his efforts in 1884, and in the same year the Biological School and the Course Preparatory to Medicine in the College Department.

The Laboratory of Hygiene was conceived by him, and though rendered possible by the munificence of Mr. Henry C. Lea, his influence with Mr. Lea went far to secure it, while the conditions of the latter's gift involved the raising of $200,000 for endowment, also collected through the efforts of Dr. Pepper. It was completed in 1891. Close on this followed the prolongation of the Course in Medicine from three years to four, and the magnificent gift of $50,000 to secure its consummation. The Wistar Institute of Anatomy, the gift of General Isaac Wistar, General Wistar himself tells us, was the result of conviction through Dr. Pepper's efforts that it would serve a useful purpose in the teaching of anatomy and the development of anatomical knowledge, as well as a storehouse for the famous museum inaugurated by his distinguished ancestor, Dr. Caspar Wistar. It was commenced June 10, 1892, and finished May 3, 1893. These acts, more particularly associated with the medical department, culminated in 1895 with the erection and partial endowment of the William Pepper Labora-

tory of Clinical Medicine as a memorial to his father, Dr. William Pepper, and his brother, Dr. George Pepper.

The handsome and commodious Library of the University of Pennsylvania was built under the inspiration of Dr. Pepper from plans by Frank Furness, with a capacity of 275,000 volumes within its fire-proof walls. It is equalled by few college libraries of the world, and compares well with many municipal and national library buildings. The corner-stone was laid October 15, 1888, and it was completed during the summer of 1890 at a cost of $200,000, largely aided by Dr. Pepper's efforts. It was formerly opened to the public Saturday, February 7, 1891.

Some allusion should be made to Dr. Pepper as an author and a teacher. Reference has already been made to many of the papers and addresses which he prepared. Among others should be mentioned papers on "Phosphorus Poisoning" and "Variola," published in 1869; "Tracheotomy in Chronic Laryngitis," "Abdominal Tumors," "Trephining in Cerebral Disease," and "Progressive Muscular Sclerosis," in 1871; "Local Treatment of Tuberculous Cavities" and "Operative Treatment of Pleural Effusions," in 1874; "Sanitary Relations of Hospitals" and "Progressive Pernicious Anæmia," in addition to the address before the State Medical Society, already mentioned, in 1875; "Cheyne-Stokes Breathing in Tubercular Meningitis," in 1876. In 1883 he read one of his most noteworthy papers before the State Medical Society at its meeting in Norristown. It was entitled "A Contribution to the Clinical Study of Typhlitis and Perityphlitis." In it he first called attention to the *relapsing feature* of appendicitis, and reported several cases. Although the importance of early surgical treatment was not appreciated at that day, and although prolonged medical treatment was recommended where at the present day surgical interference would be promptly made, the present practice was foreshadowed in the following paragraph: "The operation is so simple, and, if properly performed, so free from danger and complications, that it is to be hoped that hereafter the indications for its performance will be more clearly recognized and more constantly borne in mind, not by surgeons only, but by the general practitioners under whose care such cases come, and by whom the necessity for the operation must

be recognized, even if they prefer to call in a consulting surgeon for its performance." The following paragraph points in the same direction: "It is not too much to say that the unjustifiable delay permitted in many cases of typhlitis, while hoping day after day for the more definite detection of suppuration, is the direct cause of many avoidable deaths."

In 1870 was published his revision of John Forsyth Meigs' work on *Diseases of Children*, long familiarly known as Meigs and Pepper on *Children*. In 1886 he published, in connection with Guy Hinsdale, *A Climatological Study of Phthisis in Pennsylvania*. He is widest known as an author from his editing *A System of Medicine by American Authors*, better known as Pepper's *System of Medicine*, published in 1885, one of the most successful publications ever issued from the American medical press. He wrote the articles on "Catarrhal Pneumonia" and "Relapsing Fever," for the study of which in Philadelphia he had peculiar facilities in 1866. Pepper's *Text-Book of Medicine by American Teachers* was published in 1893–94, and was immediately successful.

As a teacher, Dr. Pepper's greatest power lay in the clinical lecture. He was rapid in his examination of a case, quickly recognized distinctive features, and promptly drew conclusions; was at times almost intuitive in his diagnosis, a great contrast in this respect to his father, who was a laborious and exhaustive investigator who seldom erred. In addressing students he was impressive and authoritative, and they as well as patients remembered what he enjoined. His prescriptions were simple, but his directions were explicit and emphatic. As a practising physician he was hopeful and encouraging, according to the views of some too much so; but his encouraging opinions were the natural result of his hopeful nature and not assumed. He could not take a discouraging view of anything. They served to make the last hours of many a poor sufferer comfortable and tranquil, although they sometimes sorely disappointed afflicted friends.

On the 22d of April, 1894, I received the following short note from Dr. Pepper:

"Dear T.: The winter's work has been so hard that I cannot bring myself to face another like it. Everything is in good shape, and I pro-

pose, therefore, to cut the Gordian knot to-morrow, and want you to have early information of it. Yours sincerely,

"W. P."

On the next day he sent to the Board of Trustees his resignation of the Provost's office, from which I extract these paragraphs:

"With deep thankfulness I recognize that the University has reached a stage of development and prosperity which justifies me in laying down the high office you entrusted to me more than thirteen years ago, and which I held so long as it was possible to combine the administrative labors of Provost with the demands of medical teaching and practice. This time has now passed, and I beg therefore to tender my resignation, to take effect after the coming Commencement.

"The close of the coming session will witness the completion of the formative period of the University. From a group of disconnected schools there has been gradually organized a great academic body, complete in its unity and instinct with varied yet harmonious activities. Mutual confidence and co-operation have developed a system strong enough for effective central control, yet so flexible as to admit affiliation with many separate organizations.

"To our University is due the credit of establishing university extension in America, yet the important and successful society which controls this movement has no organic relations with the University, save that the Provost is *ex-officio* the Honorary President."

Some idea of what was accomplished during the period of his provostship may be gathered from the following:

In 1881, when Dr. Pepper became Provost, its property was fifteen acres; at his resignation there were owned or controlled by it, in a continuous tract and solely for educational purposes, not less than fifty-two acres. The value of the lands, buildings, and endowment in 1881 was estimated at $1,600,000; in April, 1894 it was over $5,000,000. Prior to the date of the late Henry J. Towne's bequest the University had never received a single large gift or legacy. During the year ending September 1, 1894, there were acquired in lands, buildings, money, and subscriptions not less than $1,000,000. The members of the teaching force in 1881 numbered 88, and the students in all departments 981; at the date of his resignation the former were 268 and the attendance had reached 2180, representing every State in the Union and no less than thirty-eight foreign countries. The College Department had attained a national distinction.

The Medical School had been advanced to pre-eminence in equipment and prosperity, while plans were maturing destined to place it abreast of the great schools of Europe. The Law School had effected a prolongation and elevation of its curriculum, and had acquired a national reputation, while progress had been made toward providing a magnificent building, which has since been completed. The Dental and Veterinary Departments were in successful operation and plans for their further development were matured. The Department of Philosophy had been organized in 1884, and had 154 students, extending the privileges of the University to women on equal terms with men. The necessity of dormitories to the highest development of the University had been recognized, and their ultimate erection was assured.

Dr. Pepper had resigned the provostship, but not to rest. His restless energy knew no bounds, and is well expressed by his own motto—*Repos ailleurs*—rest elsewhere. No sooner had one undertaking been accomplished than another was launched, another, and another. Four of these needed his developing guidance a while longer, and were fortunate to receive it as long as required. They were the Department of Archæology and Paleontology of the University of Pennsylvania, which he had created in 1891, and of which he became President in 1894; the Museum of Science and Art; the Commercial Museums of Philadelphia, and the Free Library. It is impossible in a memoir like this to give an adequate idea of the labor involved in maturing these projects. I saw much of him and thought myself familiar with his work, but had no conception of its extent until after his death.

The picturesque and imposing Museum of Science and Art was his conception, and was rendered necessary to house the rapidly-growing collections of the Department of Archæology and Paleontology. Originally a complete museum building was projected to cost only $150,000, but at Dr. Pepper's suggestion a plan for a more extensive and more imposing structure was adopted. The completed scheme involves a building to cost from $2,000,000 to $2,500,000, including an imposing dome, which forms a natural completion to the present wing. The cost estimated of the dome alone is $125,000. The building, so far as constructed, was built

at a cost of $385,000, and Dr. Pepper himself was the largest subscriber after the State of Pennsylvania, which appropriated $150,000. It was not finished until after his death, and was formally opened with appropriate ceremonies December 20, 1899, at which time also the monument of Dr. Pepper was presented to the University. It was cast in bronze from designs by Karl Bitter, and stands on a pedestal designed by Leigh Hunt, on an elevated portion of the grounds adjoining the Free Museum, overlooking many of the buildings which his energy and generosity created. On the same occasion his widow, Frances Sergeant Pepper, presented $50,000 as an endowment for the William Pepper Hall of the Museum. In behalf of the precious collections themselves, his efforts were untiring and extended. As President of the Department of Archæology and Paleontology, he established relations with other institutions—with Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution and Bureau of American Ethnology at Washington, the Egypt Exploration Fund and the Egypt Research Society in England. The Presidency of the Pennsylvania Branch of the Archæological Institute of America and the founding of the American Exploration Society, the influencing of legislation of the city and State and national legislatures, the securing of land and the raising of lavish sums of money for the furthering of exploration were all conditions of success in the great movement. All these he undertook and accomplished.

The idea of the Commercial Museums of Philadelphia originated with Prof. William P. Wilson, who was sent by the City of Philadelphia to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, commissioned to lay the plans of the institution before the ambassadors, ministers, and representatives of the foreign countries there exhibiting. Dr. Pepper was, however, early conferred with and promptly threw his whole soul into the work, giving several hours daily for many weeks. The result was not only a museum of the kind described, but "an organization most complete and systematic for the distribution of commercial information and the methodical study of universal commerce." It involved extensive relations with government officials and the representatives of foreign nations, including the organization and guidance of an International Congress. To the success of these

measures the fascination of manner and energy of purpose which always characterized him contributed greatly.

It is not impossible that, measured by its far-reaching influence and the breadth and depth of the intellectual development it fosters, the Free Library of Philadelphia may become the greatest of all the monuments to his zeal, his energy, his inspiring example. "A library in which every man, woman, or child of proper age can have as ready access to its books as they can have to the few volumes stored upon the shelves in their own homes," he said, "is a necessity." For this he secured legislation from city and State providing for its growth and support. For this he not only secured priceless gifts of books and money, but also convinced the rich that it was their privilege to devote their wealth, and even costly residences, to the service of this magnificent purpose. For this on Sunday afternoons and evenings, as well as on weekdays amid his multifarious engagements, he addressed in different parts of the city interested gatherings of men and women. For this and like objects also he sacrificed his life on the altar of his splendid purposes.

It was Dr. Pepper's habit to cast about him for the public work which most needed stimulating, devoting his attention to it until it was thoroughly on its feet and then passing on to another. Had he lived, the Philosophical Society, to which he was elected in 1870, would certainly have profited by his touch, he having been chosen Vice-President in January, 1896. The historic College of Physicians, under the lead of Stillé, Agnew, Weir Mitchell, and Da Costa, did not require his efforts, and he wisely directed them elsewhere.

Evidences of failing health presented themselves even prior to the winter of 1896–7, when he had one or two attacks of grippe, which always affected him severely, and he was compelled to go South for a time to secure needed rest. In the summer of 1897 he went to California and was absent for two months, during which he greatly improved and returned refreshed and invigorated He plunged actively into work, the Loan Bill and legislation in behalf of the Free Library claiming much attention, in addition to the work of the Museums and the demands of his large consulting and office practice. Early in January, 1898, he had an attack of influenza associated

with serious bronchitis and troublesome cough. This prostrated him greatly, and although he improved enough to go to work for a little while, he soon broke down again, and after he had improved sufficiently to do so, went South for several weeks. He returned benefited, but with health still shattered. During the month of June, 1898, he was far from well, but kept more or less at work in spite of several anginoid attacks. His family were at Bay Head, N. J., but he could not remain there. His præcordial oppression seemed worse there. There was sometimes œdema. Once he went to New York City, hoping that at the top of one of the many-storied buildings he would be more comfortable. I saw him last in July, 1898. I was coming out of my house when he drove up and sprang lightly from his carriage, just as he did when in perfect health. We walked together up Spruce Street, chatting and joking, until we arrived at the corner of Eighteenth, when he left me, gaily running across the street to his house. He could never go slowly. This was our last meeting. On the 7th of July he left for California, and was very ill on the day of his leaving. He had an obstinate spell of vomiting in his office and reached the train with difficulty. In Chicago he was desperately ill. Dr. Alonzo Taylor, who was with him, told me he thought he would die at his hotel. By the free hypodermic use of strychnine and digitalis, however, he was tided over this danger and crossed the mountains safely to the home of his friend, Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, where he died suddenly in an attack of angina July 28th. He had been reading Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and died with a copy of the book in his hand. He would have been fifty-five years old on August 21st.

An autopsy was made, for the record of which I am indebted to Dr. Alfred Stengel. "The valves of the heart were healthy, but the coronary arteries were in an advanced state of sclerosis with consequent disease of the myocardium. The right coronary was almost completely occluded at one point by an area of especially intense disease and by a partially organized thrombosis within. There was some atheroma of the aorta and of the general arterial system throughout the body. The liver was highly sclerotic and the kidneys showed the effects of the cardiac failure, being swollen and highly degenerated. The apex of the left lung was greatly puck-

ered and retracted, and embedded in the fibrous tissue which caused the contraction were found several small cheesy foci. These were undoubtedly remains of the tuberculous infection from which he had suffered many years before, and which was thus evidently wholly cured. The arteries of the circle of Willis were sclerosed and calcified in a most remarkable manner. Several of the branches were almost completely occluded and none of them was seemingly of more than half its previous or normal calibre. There was no gross change in appearance in the cerebral substance. The brain was considerably above the average in size."

More useful than to relate the events of a life, however important these, is it to picture the qualities which lie at the foundation of its success and constitute the spring of its actions. What was it in Dr. Pepper that made him what he was, that secured his success in organization, in financing, and in originating and completing great and useful undertakings? First of all, his undying hopefulness and his unwearying energy, which, as I have said, knew no bounds, scarcely knew fatigue, and were never discouraged by defeat. Defeat he met, but never discouragement, while the bitterness of heart which so often follows it found no place in him.

Of undoubted influence also was his refined and inspiring manner, which attracted all who fell within his influence. About five feet ten inches in stature, of late years he had a slight stoop, which was not ungraceful; his prominent nose did not detract from his handsome face and winning smile. His habit was, especially at the first meeting, to look at one with raised eyes, continuing his gaze intently for a short time. His ability to enlist the interest of others lay largely in these qualities, which were increased by an earnest persuasive speech and a gentle voice. He has been well characterized as "delicately aggressive."

His power of rapid thought and prompt conclusion greatly facilitated his conduct of affairs and enabled him to consider two or three matters at one time, though he sometimes gave offence in this way to individuals who considered they should have his undivided attention. Some of his most important plans were evolved under such circumstances.

Another factor which contributed to his success was his own personal liberality in fostering the projects he started. He himself had simple tastes, and, although he provided himself with all that was necessary to enable him to take care of his health while travelling, he was simple and unostentatious in his habits. But he gave liberally of his means to public undertakings, and by his example stimulated others to a like liberality. He sought profitable investments and worked hard in his profession to make money, but it was not for himself that he did it. It was in order that he might lay it out for the advantage of others. He is said to have given nearly half a million dollars of his own earning to the various institutions in which he was interested, and to have raised ten millions more. He secured from the City of Philadelphia, at one time or another, a hundred acres of land in what will probably ultimately be the heart of the city.

It was impossible for a man of Dr. Pepper's far-reaching activity and success to be without enemies and detractors. Causeless hostility and detraction arise variously in accordance with individual traits, the sum of which constitute the opposite of magnanimity. Such persons may be haunted by imagined wrongs or aggrieved by disappointed expectations and baffled efforts. Some are more or less the critics of all who succeed, others of those whose methods do not concur with their own. The deportment of Dr. Pepper to his enemies was one of the most distinctive features of his character. An eminent writer said of him: "No characteristic of this extraordinary man is more prominent than his genius for treating enemies like friends. Seldom has a man been born into the world so free from the capacity for jealousy, envy, hatred or malice."[1] This is strictly true. I never knew him to speak an unkind word of one of his enemies. He acted as though unconscious of their efforts, while fully aware of them. The importance of such qualities to one who is constantly originating great undertakings which require the influencing of legislation and the reconciliation of opposite factions is evident. It is so natural to feel aggrieved and resentful, for a time at least, under disappointment and unfair dealing, that extenuation

[1] Francis Newton Thorpe, in "A Remarkable American," Century Magazine for February, 1901.

may be allowed. Extenuation was not, however, necessary in his case; he was so entirely free from resentment.

It is difficult at so early a date after death to place a correct estimate upon the importance and usefulness of any life, and it is perhaps better always to defer the effort at such an estimate until time has eliminated all personal relations by the death of friends and critics alike. If we look around us, however, at the institutions which originated through his efforts, or developed through his touch from their original beginnings, the most conservative judgment must admit that his name should be linked with that of Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Robert Morris, and Stephen Girard as eminent benefactors of his native city.