

**Transactions for the year 1808. Together with the bye-laws of the Society.**

**Contributors**

Medical Society of the State of New York (1807- )

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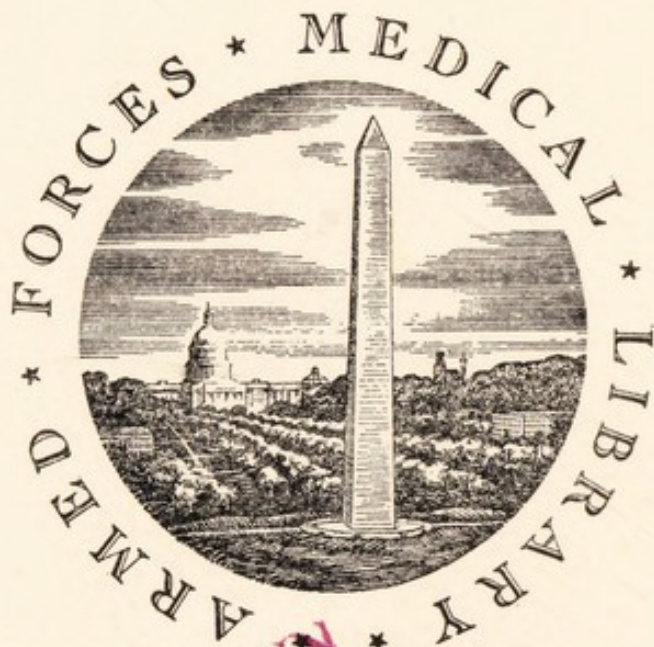
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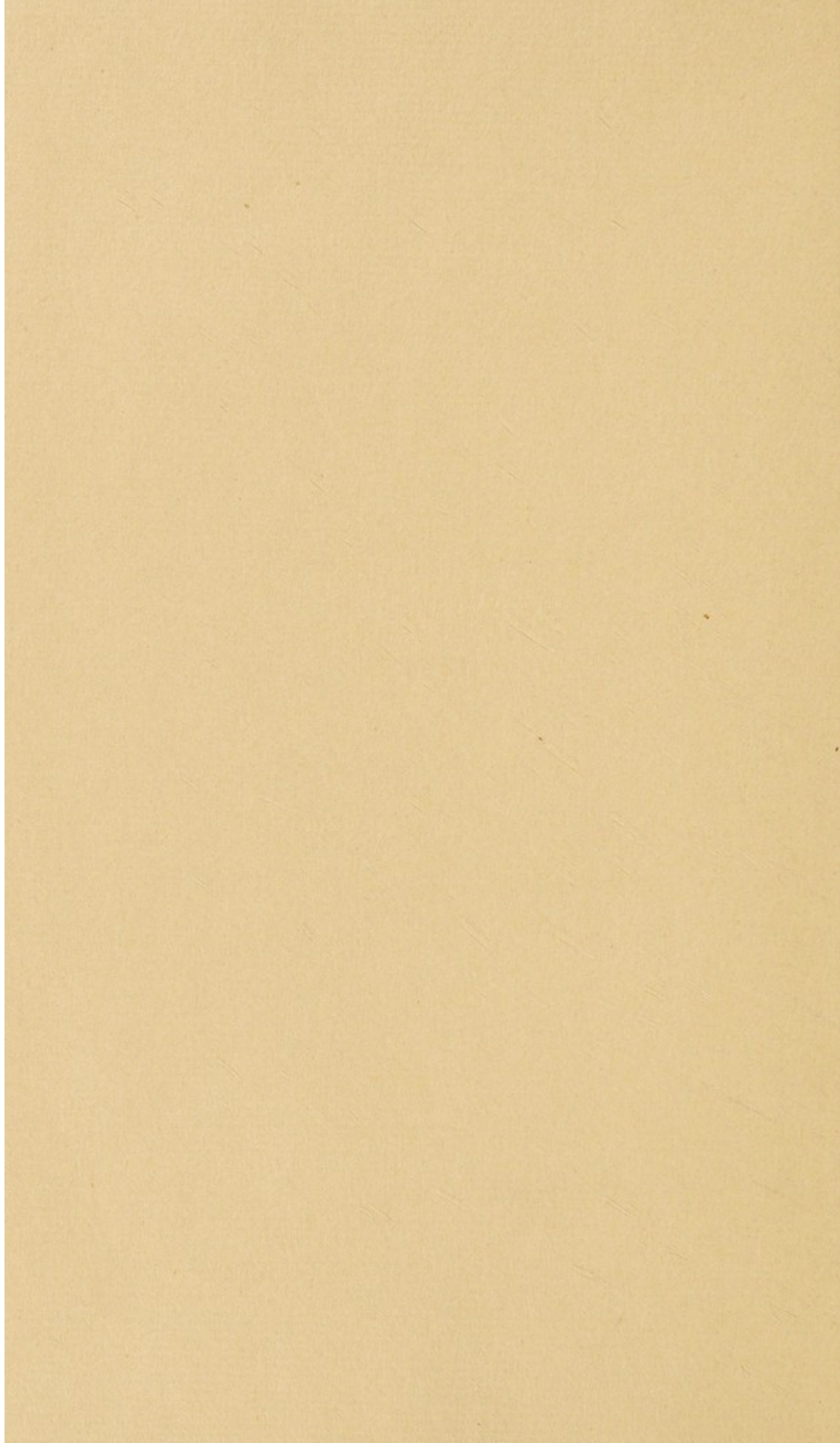
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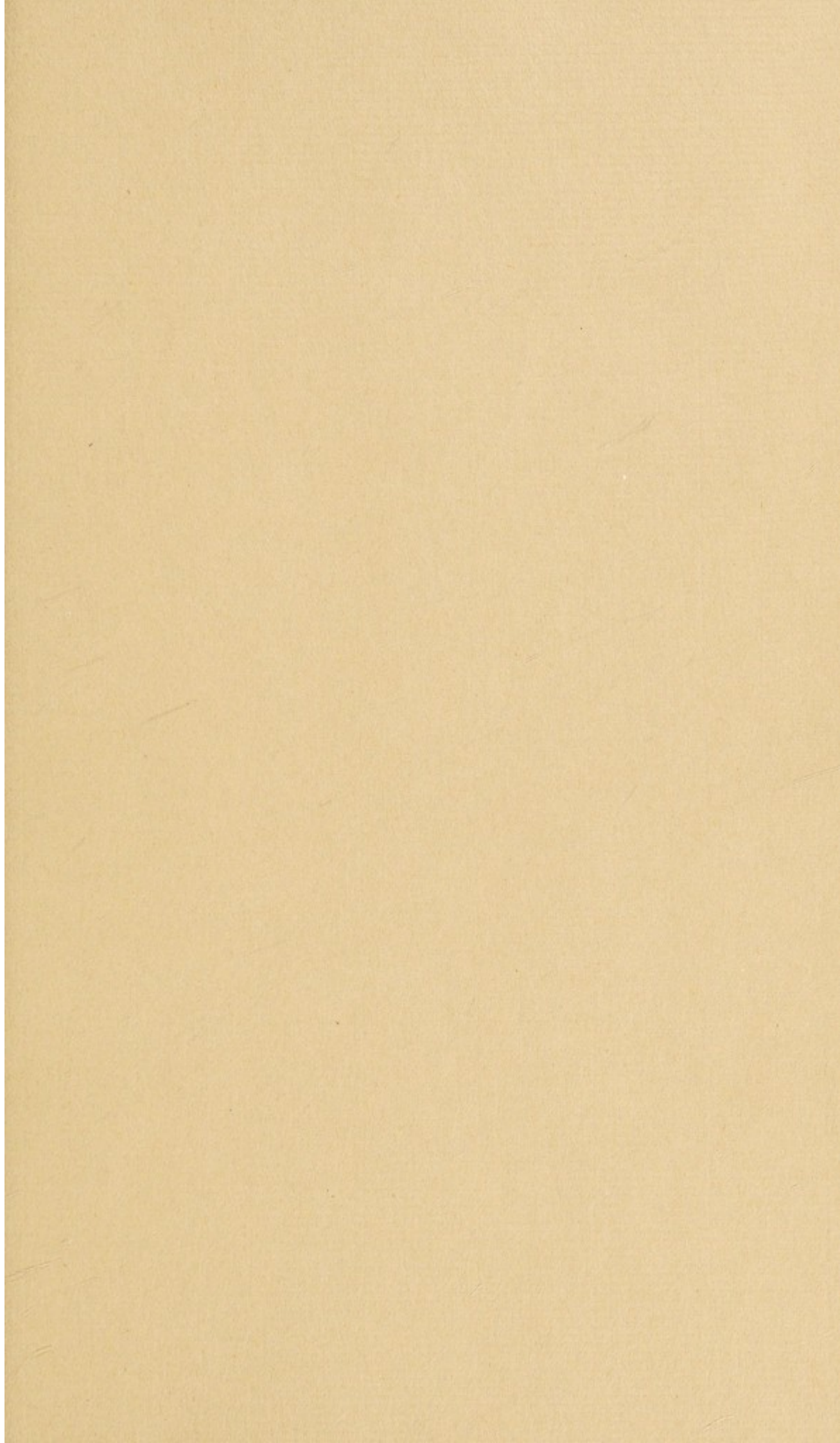
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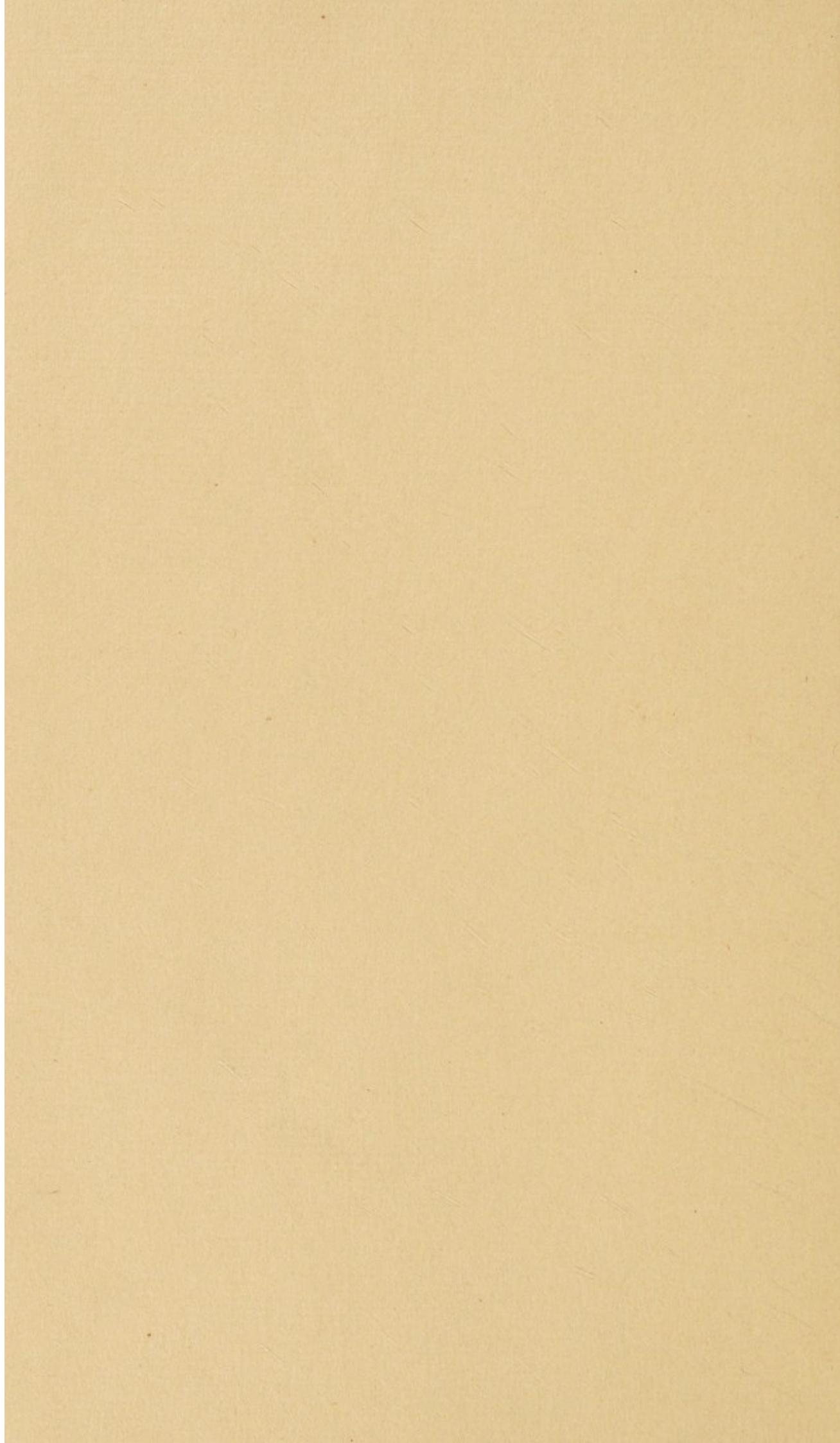











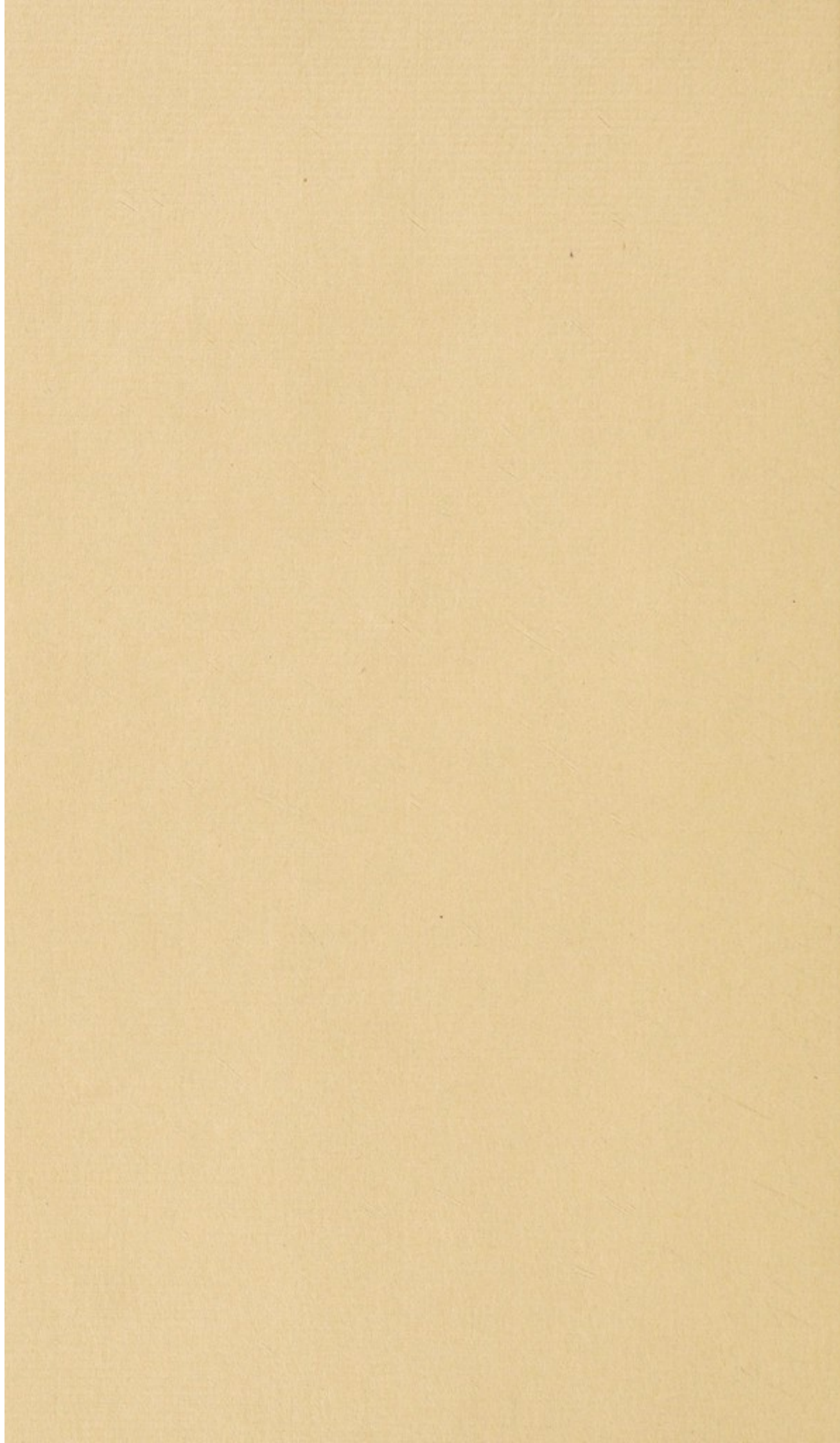


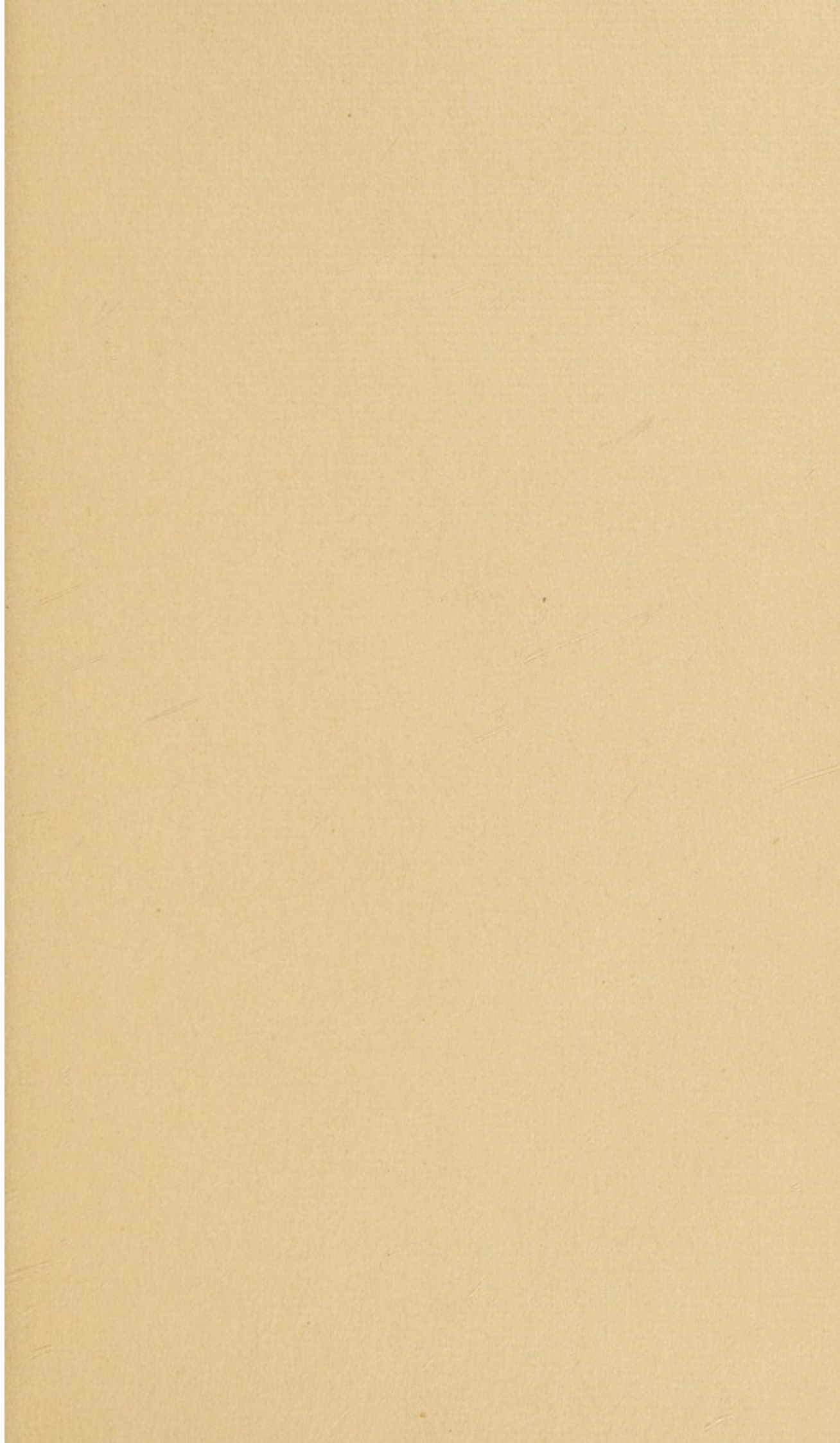


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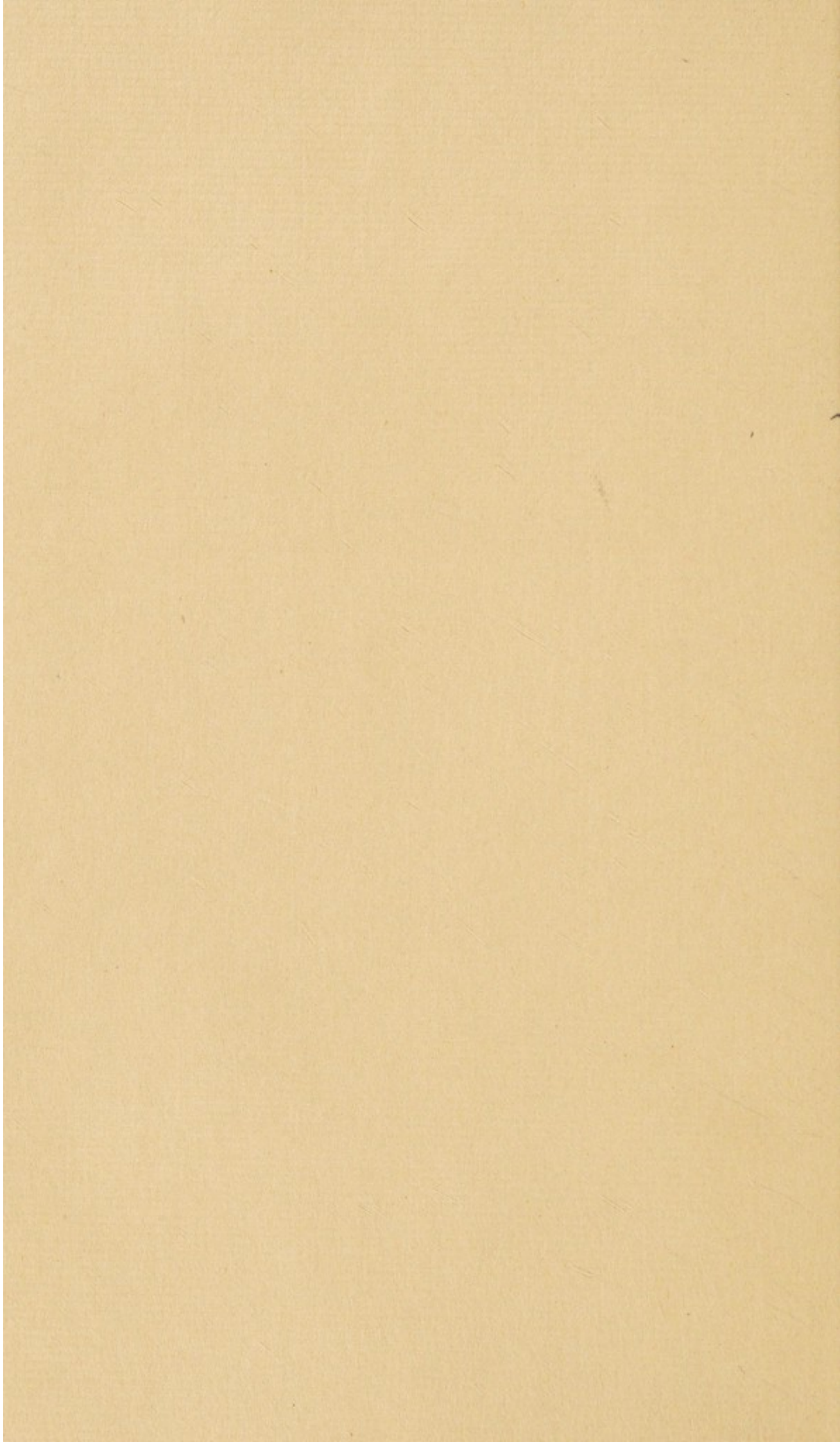
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TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE  
*STATE OF NEW-YORK,*

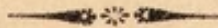
FOR THE YEAR 1808.

TOGETHER WITH THE

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

SOCIETY



NEW-YORK:

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PRINTED BY COLLINS AND PERKINS.

1809.



PREFACE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

The names of the members of the Society are given in the list on the opposite page. It is the duty of the Society to maintain the highest standard of medical education and to promote the interests of the public. The Society is composed of the following members: [The following names are listed in the original document, but they are illegible due to the quality of the scan.]

313576

The Society is organized for the purpose of promoting the interests of the public and of maintaining the highest standard of medical education. The Society is composed of the following members: [The following names are listed in the original document, but they are illegible due to the quality of the scan.]



## PREFACE.



THE statute enacted on the 4th of April 1806, by the honourable the Legislature of this state, to incorporate Medical Societies, for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery, may be considered as among the first efforts made in this country, to give to the Medical Profession an honourable station in the community.

By investing the privileges of medical men, in corporate communities formed of the members of that profession, the public may be freed from many impositions, and the usefulness and importance of the healing art will be extended. The history of all the learned professions, imperiously proves this fact, that no one of those professions has ever become respectable or extensively useful to mankind, that was not under the restraint of the great body of its own members. Mankind have in all ages and in all communities been too often deceived by men, who pretended to professional merit,



and who by mean practices on the ignorance, follies, and caprices of individuals, have gained an artificial importance in society.

This is more especially the case in the medical profession. Hence the importance of the law, placing the regulation thereof under incorporated Medical Societies. The advantages to the community in placing the regulation of the medical profession, under the direction of its own members, is already sufficiently manifested, by the promotion of medical education, the encouragements given to physical enquiries and observation, and the diminished influence of pretenders to the healing art, throughout the state.

The Medical Society of the state was duly organized on the first Tuesday in February 1807, when the following members were chosen officers.

William M'Clelland, President.

Alexander Sheldon, Vice-President.

Moses Willard, Treasurer.

John Stearns, Secretary.

*Censors.*

John M. Mann, Columbia.



William Wheeler, Dutchess.

Lyman Cook, Westchester.

Moses Willard, Rensselaer.

Caleb Samson, Oneida.

*Committee of Correspondence.*

David R. Arnell, Orange.

John Ely, Greene.

Westell Willoughby, jun. Herkimer.

Alexander Sheldon, Montgomery.

John M. Mann, Columbia.

The society enacted certain bye-laws, and agreed to apply to the Legislature to divide the members of the society into classes, and to make some provision for the support of the society. They examined and licensed some candidates for the practice of physic and surgery.

At this early period of the establishment of the society, it was considered proper to extend its usefulness in promoting medical enquiries in the different counties in the state. Accordingly each member of the society was directed to present a geological and topographical description of the county in which he might practise, and also a history of such diseases as might prevail in his particular place of residence: and that

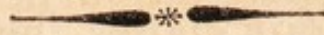


each member should give an account of any remarkable case that might occur in his practice, together with its treatment, at the anniversary meetings of the society.

The society then adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in February 1808.



## TRANSACTIONS, &c.



THE Medical Society of the state of New-York, convened at the City-Hall of the City of Albany, on the first Tuesday of February, 1808, agreeably to the Bye-Laws of the Society.

### PRESENT.

Drs. Wm. M'Clelland	from the county of Albany, President.
Alexander Sheldon,	Montgomery, V. P.
John Stearns,	Saratoga, Sec'ry.
Lyman Cook,	Westchester.
Jesse Shepherd,	Schoharie.
David R. Arnell,	Orange.
James G. Graham,	Ulster.
John Ely,	Green.
Westell Willoughby,	Herkimer.
Reuben Hart,	Ontario.
John H. Frisbee,	Onondago.
Nicholas Romaine,	New-York.
Andrew Proudfit,	Renfelaer.
Horatio Powell,	Clinton.



Tracy Robinfon,	Chenango.
Jonathan Bufh,	Lewis.
Alexander Morfe,	Effex.

The Society then proceeded to arrange its members into four claffes, according to the four great fenatorial diftricts of the ftate, purfuant to law, whereupon it appeared that in the Southern diftrict, the county of New-York, was drawn into the third clafs, Nicholas Romaine, member.

Westchefter, 2d clafs, Lyman Cook, member.

*Middle Diftrict.*

Green, 4th,	John Ely, member.
Columbia, 2d	John M. Mann.
Dutchefs, 4th	William Wheeler.
Ulfter, 2d	James G. Graham.
Delaware, 3d	Thomas B. Whitmarfh.
Orange, 3d	David R. Arnell.

*Western Diftrict.*

Oneida, 1ft	Caleb Samfon.
Madifon, 2d	James Morfe.
Herkimer, 2d	Westell Willoughby.
Orange, 3d	John H. Frifbee.
Cayuga, 1ft	Barnabas Smith.
Jefferson, 4th	Hugh Henderfon.
Chenango, 2d	Tracy Robinfon.



Ontario,	4th	Reuben Hart.
Lewis,	4th	Jonathan Bush.
Otsego,	1st	Gurdon Huntington.

*Eastern District.*

Effex,	4th	Alexander Morfe.
Schoharie,	4th	Jesse Shepherd.
Saratoga,	1st	John Stearns.
Clinton,	2d	Horatio Powell.
Albany,	1st	William M'Clelland.
Montgomery,	3d	Alexander Sheldon.
Washington,	2d	
Renfelaer,	3d	Andrew Proudfit.

The Society proceeded to the anniversary election agreeably to law, when it appeared, That,

Dr. Nicholas Romaine was elected President.

Dr. Alexander Sheldon, Vice-President.

Dr. John Stearns, Secretary.

Dr. James G. Graham, Treasurer.

*Censors.*

Dr. Lyman Cook.

Dr. John M. Mann.

Dr. William Wheeler.

Dr. David R. Arnell.

Dr. Westell Willoughby.

*Committee of Correspondence.*

Dr. John Ely.



Dr. Alexander Sheldon.

Dr. Jaffe Shepherd.

Dr. Reuben Hart.

Dr. Barnabas Smith.

The Society taking into consideration the importance of promoting Philosophical and Medical enquiries, which might be interesting to the public, deemed it expedient for that purpose to adopt prize questions, when the following were agreed to, and directed to be published.

1st. A Medal value fifty dollars for the best dissertation on the topography, geology, and mineralogy of any county in the state, together with an account of the prevalent diseases in such county.

2d. A Medal, value twenty-five dollars for the second best dissertation on the same subject.

3d. A Medal, value twenty-five dollars for the best dissertation on the causes and best method of preventing and of curing the typhus mitior, or low nervous fever, which prevails in the different counties of the state.

Drs. Sheldon, Graham and Wheeler who were appointed a committee to determine the most eligible mode of adjudging the



preceding prize questions, reported—That it be the duty of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Censors to select from the communications, six of the best dissertations on each question, which shall be presented to the society for final adjudication.

Thereupon the said report was approved.

The following members in pursuance of the bye-laws reported a topographical and geological description of their respective counties, together with the diseases prevalent in the same, viz. Dr. Alexander Sheldon, Montgomery, Dr. David R. Arnell, Orange, Dr. William Wheeler, Dutchess, Dr. John Stearns, Saratoga, Dr. Hugh Henderson, Jefferson, Dr. Horatio Powell, Clinton, and Dr. Lyman Cook of Westchester. Dr. Westell Willoughby communicated a case of hydrophobia and Dr. Moses Willard a case of ascites successfully treated.

The following ordinance was reported to the society by Dr. Arnell, Dr. Willoughby and Dr. Hart, as an amendment to the existing bye-laws.

Be it ordained by the Medical Society of the State of New-York, that seven members of the society be competent to form a



quorum, and to transact the business of the society until the first Tuesday in Feb. next.

Whereupon the said ordinance was adopted.

Resolved, That two copies of the by-laws of this society, be transmitted to each county Medical Society, and that each county Medical Society be requested to transmit to the President or Secretary of this society, two copies of their bye-laws or publications, and that the secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of this society, that the same may be laid before the societies of their respective counties.

The Society having considered, that the population of the county of New-York was more than the average population of two other counties in the state. And that it might be interesting to the furthering the views of this society, in promoting Medical education, that the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, should be represented in this society, and have the privileges of a county Medical Society. Whereupon it was ordained, that this society consent to receive a representative from the College of Physicians and Sur-



geons in the city of New-York. And that the said College should have all the other rights and privileges of a county Medical Society, if the honourable the Legislature deem the same expedient.

Drs. John Stearns, Andrew Proudfit, and William M'Clelland were appointed a committee to report, at the next anniversary meeting of the society, the general state of medicine, and of the medical profession in the several counties of this state.

The following gentlemen were elected honorary members of this Society.

Benjamin Rush, M. D. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Nathan Smith, M. D. Dartmouth College, New-Hampshire.

Dr. John Pomeroy, Burlington, Vermont.

Dr. John Miller, Onondago, New-York.

Dr. Moses Willard, Albany, New-York.

And it was further ordained that all members of the first class who may not be re-elected by their respective county societies, shall be honorary members of this society.

And it was also further ordained that all the Presidents of the different county societies, and also those members of the Le-

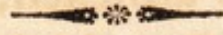


gislature who are members of any county society in the state, shall be ex-officio honorary members.

The Society having enacted their by-laws as hereunto annexed, and disposed of the various subjects which demanded their attention as members of the State Society, adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in February, 1809.



## BYE-LAWS, &c.



**W**HEREAS the Medical Society of the State of New-York has been duly incorporated, pursuant to the Statute of the 4th of April, 1806. And whereas among other grants and privileges, the said Medical Society are invested with powers to make such bye-laws and regulations as they or a majority of the members at their annual meeting shall deem fit and proper. And whereas by the said Statute, the bye-laws and regulations of the respective county Medical Societies are directed not to be repugnant to the bye-laws and regulations of the Medical Society of the state.

Therefore, be it ordained by the Medical Society of the State of New-York, that the anniversary meeting of the Society shall be held on the 1st Tuesday in February, in every year, and all other meetings may be held at such time and place as may be determined by a majority of the Society con-



vened at any legal meeting, and that seven members shall constitute a board, to transact the business of the Society, except that of electing Presidents and other officers at the anniversary meeting, when it shall be necessary for eleven members to be present to form a board for such purposes.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid that the order of transacting business at the meetings of the Society shall be in manner and form as follows, viz.

1st. The President or Presiding officer of the said Society may declare the same to be constituted whenever a quorum is formed, according to the preceding ordinance.

2d. The minutes of the last meeting shall be read by the Secretary, and if no member object to the same the minutes shall be considered approved.

3d. The President or presiding officer, or any member may introduce any proposition relative to the duties or concerns of the said Society, and the same shall be disposed of according to the pleasure of a majority of the members present at any such meeting.

4th. Every motion made or resolution offered by any member of the Society, shall



be committed to writing by such member and delivered to the President or presiding officer, after it has been read by the member proposing the same.

5th. A majority of the members of the Society present at any meeting may direct an adjournment whenever it shall be deemed proper.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that every member shall observe order and decorum at all the meetings of the Society, and shall pay proper respect to their fellow members, and to the President and other officers. And all the members shall take their places whenever the President or presiding officer shall declare the Society constituted, and whenever a member shall speak, he shall stand up, and address the chair, and whenever any two or more members offer to speak at the same time, the President or presiding officer shall determine the priority in speaking.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the President of the said Society shall preside at the meetings and shall preserve order and decorum in the same : He shall perform the duties of



his office as now is, or hereafter may be directed by the laws of the State, or the ordinances, bye-laws and regulations of the Society; he shall nominate and appoint all committees to transact the business of the said Society, unless otherwise directed by a special resolution of a majority of the members present; he shall take the sense of the Society on any motion made and seconded; he shall have a casting vote in all transactions where the votes of the members are equally divided, and shall deliver the decisions of the Society.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the President of the said Society shall at the annual meeting, and at the end of each year after his election to office, deliver to the Society a dissertation on some appropriate subject; and in case of default in delivering the same, he shall forfeit and pay to the Society the sum of 25 dollars; provided always, that if such President shall duly cause to be presented to the Society a copy of his anniversary dissertation, he may if the Society deem proper, be excused from delivering the same; but he cannot be exonerated from the fine of 25 dollars for not composing and presenting



fuch differtation, and a copy of fuch differtation, fo prefented, fhall be read to the Society by the vice-president or president pro tempore.

And it is alfo further ordained by the authority aforefaid, that the treafurer fhall keep and be accountable for all monies placed in his hands belonging to the faid Society, and fhall thereout pay fuch warrants as may be drawn by the President or Vice-President for the ufe of the Society ; and the treafurer fhall moreover perform all the duties prefcribed by law, and the ordinances, bye-laws, and refolutions of the Society.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforefaid, that a majority of the cenfors fhall have power to perform the duties of the whole number, and they are hereby authorized to examine ftudents feparately, if they deem the fame expedient ; and the faid cenfors fhall perform all fuch duties as may be directed by law, and the ordinances, bye-laws, and refolutions of the Society.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforefaid, that all ftudents of medicine who fhall have prefented, to a majority of the cenfors of this faid Society, fatisfactory testimony that they have ftudied phy-



fic and furgery, as is directed by the statute for incorporating this Society, and who shall upon due examination by the censors be found qualified to practise phyfic or furgery, or both ; and have their said qualifications certified in such manner as is directed by law, shall, before they receive the requisite diploma from the President, sign a declaration in the words following, viz :

I, A. B. do solemnly declare, that I will honestly, virtuously, and chaftefy conduct myself in the practice of phyfic and furgery, with the privileges of exercising which profession I am now to be invested ; and that I will, with fidelity and honor, do every thing in my power for the benefit of the sick committed to my charge, which said declaration so signed by every candidate to practise phyfic and furgery, shall be filed by the secretary in the archives of the Society.

And be it further directed, that the President and Secretary is hereby authorized to grant to every such candidate qualified to practise phyfic and furgery, agreeably to law, in the name and under the seal of this said Society a diploma, in the words following, viz.



Omnibus ad quos hæc literæ pervenerint.

S

Nos, Societatis Medicæ Reipublicæ Novi Eboraci Præses, Cæterique Socii, hoc scripto testatum volumus, (*inserting the name and country of the candidate*) Artem medicam et chirurgicam sub viris in medicina peritis, tempore præstituto, studio incubuisse, et in hisce studiis progressus, loculento testimonio nobis probasse et commendasse ; Quocirca ex autoritate nobis commissa, medicinæ et Artis chirurgiæ, in hac civitate, exercendæ ei potestatem cum omnibus privilegiis, ad has artes pertinentibus concedimus. In quorum testimonium hocce diploma, sigillo nostro munitum, donavimus. Datum (*the place, day and year to be inserted.*)

And be it further ordained, that if any candidate should request a diploma in English, it shall be in the following form, viz.

To all to whom these presents shall come, or may in any wise concern.—The President and members of the medical Society of the State of New-York, send greeting.—Whereas (*name and country of the candidate*) hath exhibited unto us satisfactory testimony that he hath studied physic and surgery for the term and in the manner di-



rected by law ; and hath also, upon examination by our censors, given sufficient proofs of his proficiency in the healing art, and of his moral character. Wherefore, by virtue of the powers vested in us by law, we do grant unto the said (*name of the candidate*) the privilege of practising phyfic and surgery in this State, together with all the rights and immunities which usually appertain to Physicians and Surgeons. In witness whereof we have granted this diploma, sealed with our seal and testified by our President and Secretary, at (*place, day and year.*)

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that all students who may hereafter be licensed by any County Medical Society in this State, shall be required to sign a declaration corresponding to that set forth in the preceding ordinance ; and it shall be the duty of each President of the Medical Society of every county to exact and demand the same, and to file such declaration in the archives of the Society granting such diploma.

And it is also further ordained, that the diploma to be hereafter granted, to every person to practise phyfic and surgery, by any County Medical Society in this State shall



correspond with the diploma in the preceding ordinance, adapting the same to the name of every such county.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of every member of this said Society, to present at every anniversary meeting a copy of the bye-laws of the county Society, for which he is delegate, and to furnish this Society with an abridged historical account of the proceedings of every such county Society.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that each and every member shall present to this said Society all proper information respecting the Geology and Topography of the county in which he resides, together with an historical account of the diseases which prevail at any season of the year; and shall communicate all such information in his power which may contribute to the public good or advance the knowledge of the healing art.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the said Society shall appoint a committee of five members, as a corresponding committee, whose duty it shall be, in their joint or individual capaci-



ty to correspond with the literary societies, and men eminent for knowledge, and they shall present such communications as they may deem proper to the society.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the president or vice-president of the said society, shall, together with the Secretary and three Censors form a Comitia Minora to carry into execution the laws and ordinances of the society during its adjournment.

And whereas it is inconsistent with the dignity of the medical profession, for physicians and surgeons, in their corporate capacities to arrange and fix professional charges.

Be it therefore further ordained, that any member of this society who shall hereafter be guilty of promoting, favoring or encouraging the members of any medical society in their corporate capacity, to form, support and fix medical charges, and who shall be convicted thereof before the said medical society at an anniversary meeting, to the satisfaction of a majority of the members present shall be expelled the society, and shall forever after be debarred from being received as a member thereof.



And it is hereby further ordained, that no incorporate county medical society shall fix any medical charges, and such proceedings are hereby declared to be discountenanced by this said society, and to be null and void and of no effect.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that any member of the said society who may have been convicted of any serious offence against the laws of this State or of the United States, or who may be guilty of gross immorality, or who shall have improper pretensions to any specifick or nostrum, or who shall be repeatedly guilty of improper conduct in the duties of his profession, or his behaviour in this society, may be expelled at an anniversary meeting upon a vote of two thirds of the members present.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that when any accusation is lodged with the President, Vice-President or Secretary, of a nature which may subject a member of this said Society to expulsion, according to the two last ordinances, such accusation or accusations shall be transmitted to the member accused, and a day shall be fixed at the anniversary meeting for his



trial, which shall be fair and impartial ; and the verdict of the members on such trial shall be delivered at the first meeting of the society after the trial.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State, the Chancellor and Judges of the Supreme Court for the time being shall be ex officio honorary members of this said Society ; and all persons of distinguished literary talents who may be proposed as honorary members of this society must be nominated at an anniversary meeting, and shall not be elected before the next succeeding anniversary meeting, which shall be done by ballot ; but there shall not be more than two honorary members elected in any one year.

And it is further ordained that all honorary members shall have all the power of ordinary members, except they shall not vote on any question, nor be eligible to any office in the said society, and a majority of votes shall admit an honorary member.

And be it further ordained, that this Society may elect as extraordinary members of the said Society such physicians and surgeons as they may deem worthy of respect



and attention ; and every physician and surgeon who shall be proposed as an extraordinary member at any one meeting, may be voted for by ballot at the next succeeding meeting, and may be admitted a member, if a majority of the votes of the members of the Society present shall signify the same. And every extraordinary member shall be authorized to deliver his sentiments before the said society, and may propose any resolutions, and shall have all the rights and privileges of ordinary members, except that of voting or being eligible to office.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that any county medical society who shall neglect to perform all such acts as may be required to be done by them, by the law for incorporating medical societies, or any other laws of the State, or who shall do any acts which may be considered derogatory to the honor of the medical profession, or the public good, or who shall oppose or neglect to comply with the bye-laws of this said society, every such county medical society shall be admonished touching any such proceedings ; and if it be deemed necessary for the public good that, from the improper conduct of any such



county medical society, their corporate rights should be for a time suspended, then and in such case it should be lawful and just for this said society to make application to the honorable the Legislature for such purposes.

is a majority of the members of the society present shall signify the  
The Medical Society of the State of New-York convened at the City Hall in the City of Albany, on the first Tuesday of February, 1800, at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of adjourning and providing of orders, members, &c.

PRESIDENT.

FINIS.

- Dr. Nicholas K. New-York, Presi-
- dent.
- Dr. Alexander Sheldon, Montgomery, Vice-
- President.
- Dr. John Stearns, Saratoga, Secretary.
- Dr. William Wheeler, Dutchess.
- Dr. Lyman Cook, Westchester.
- Dr. John M. Mann, Columbia.
- Dr. David R. Arnold, Orange.
- Dr. John Ely, Greene.
- Dr. Andrew Proudie, Rensselaer, V. Secy.
- Dr. Walter Wilcox, Fulton.
- Dr. James Shepard, Schoharie.
- Dr. Henry H. Sherwood, Jefferson, Secy.
- Hugh Livingston, deceased.



## TRANSACTIONS, &c.

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THE Medical Society of the State of New-York convened at the City Hall in the City of Albany, on the first Tuesday of February, 1809, agreeably to adjournment.

### PRESENT.

- Dr. Nicholas Romaine, New-York, President.  
Dr. Alexander Sheldon, Montgomery, Vice-President.  
Dr. John Stearns, Saratoga, Secretary.  
Dr. William Wheeler, Dutchess.  
Dr. Lyman Cook, Westchester.  
Dr. John M. Mann, Columbia.  
Dr. David R. Arnell, Orange.  
Dr. John Ely, Greene.  
Dr. Andrew Proudfit, Rensselaer.  
Dr. Westell Willoughby, Herkimer.  
Dr. Jesse Shepherd, Schoharie.  
Dr. Henry H. Sherwood, Jefferson, *vice*  
Hugh Henderson, deceased.



Dr. Walter Colter, Onondago, *vice* John H. Frisbie, resigned.

Dr. Abraham Allen, Washington, *vice* Philip Smith, deceased.

Dr. Amos G. Hall, Oneida, *vice* Caleb Samson, whose time had expired.

Dr. Alexander Morse, Essex.

Two Prize Dissertations on the Typhus Mitior, and one on the Topography, Geology, Mineralogy and Natural History of New-York, were presented to the Society and committed to Drs. Wheeler, Proudfit and Stearns.

Communications from the Counties of New-York and Dutchess were laid before the Society, representing certain Ordinances of the State Society, as oppressive, and requesting a revision and amendment of the same. They were committed to Drs. Wheeler, Willoughby and Cook, who were directed to report such amendments to the Bye-Laws, as they may deem expedient.

Drs. Sheldon, Arnell, Mann, and Shepherd were appointed a committee to consider and prepare an application to the Legislature for



aid to promote the science and practice of  
Medicine in this State.

Drs. Romaine, Mann and Colter, were ap-  
pointed a committee to petition the Legisla-  
ture for a law to prohibit the inoculation of  
the small pox in this State.

The Society being informed of the death  
of Dr. Hugh Henderson, of Jefferson Coun-  
ty, *Resolved*, to wear the customary mourn-  
ing for a month, as testimony of respect to  
his memory.

Pursuant to the bye-laws, and by permis-  
sion obtained of the Legislature, the Pre-  
sident delivered his Anniversary Address  
in the Assembly Chamber.

The Society proceeded to elect their of-  
ficers for the year ensuing, when,

Nicholas Romaine, M. D. was chosen Presi-  
dent.

Alexander Sheldon, Vice-President.

Andrew Proudfit, Treasurer,

John Stearns, Secretary.



Lyman Cook,  
John M. Mann,  
Wm. Wheeler,  
David R. Arnell,  
Westell Willoughby, } Censors.

Nicholas Romaine,  
John Ely,  
Amos G. Hull,  
Jesse Shepherd,  
Abraham Allen,  
Reuben Hart,  
Henry H. Sherwood, } Committee of Correspondence.

Drs. Shepherd, Proudfit, and Arnell, were appointed a Committee to present the thanks of the Society to the President, for his Anniversary Address, and to request a copy for publication.

Dr. Abraham Allen nominated the Rev. Alexander Proudfit, A. M. of Salem, in the county of Washington; and the President nominated John Warren, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Cambridge, to become honorary members of this Society.

Dr. Wheeler, from the committee to re-



wise the Bye-Laws, reported that the last ordinance in the Bye-Laws ought to be repealed or amended. A motion to repeal said ordinance was negatived.

It was then amended by expunging the words, "or any other laws of the State," in the sixth line, and the words "or the public good" in the ninth line.

The ordinance in the last of the 22d and first of the 23d page, was amended by expunging "shall" between the words "state," and "corresponded;" in the fourth line, and inserting the words, "be recommended to," in the same place.

Dr. Joseph White, presented his credentials, as delegate, from the County of Otsego, *vice* Dr. Gurdon Huntington, whose time had expired—They were approved by the Society.

Drs. Wheeler, Hull, and Stearns, pursuant to appointment, reported a Circular Letter to all the different County Medical Societies; and also an answer to the communication from the Society of New-York—which were approved by the Society.



Dr. Sheldon, from the Committee to apply to the Legislature for aid, &c. reported that it would be inexpedient to make such application at present, but recommended that a committee be appointed to report at the next anniversary meeting of the Society, whether any, and what legislative aid the interests of the Society may require; and whether the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the city of New-York, and the Faculty of Physic, of Columbia College, ought not to be represented in this Society.

Dr. Wheeler, from the committee to examine the prize Dissertations, reported,

That they have examined the Dissertations; which they find to possess some merit, but as they are not prepared for a final decision, they recommended that the further consideration of these dissertations be postponed until the next anniversary meeting, and that the same prize questions be continued, for other dissertations, until that time.

Dr. Morse read a dissertation on the topography, mineralogy, and diseases of the county of Essex.



The thanks of the Society were presented to Dr. Morse for his dissertation.

VOTED,

That one hundred copies of the circular communications to the county Societies be printed.

The Society adjourned to the first Tuesday of February next, to meet at the City-Hall, in the city of Albany.







# Anniversary Address

TO THE

## MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE STATE.

BY THE PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN,

IN obedience to the ordinances of this Society, it is made my duty at this time to address you.

The statute “enacted on the 4th of April, 1806, *to incorporate Medical Societies for the purpose of regulating the Practice of Physic and Surgery,*” marks a new æra in the progress of science in the State. The Legislature has evinced a confidence in the Medical Profession, that the powers with



which it is invested will be exercised with moderation and justice, and that new efforts will be made to promote the knowledge of the healing art, and to extend its usefulness.

The history of all the learned professions proves, that none of them becomes extensively useful or respectable, except under the immediate restraint of its own members. It is the well-informed Physician or Surgeon who must be the proper judge of the nature and extent of the Medical Profession, and of the qualifications and fitness of those who can be entrusted to exercise the same with safety and advantage to the public. It is such characters alone who are capable of guarding the community against that propensity of the human mind to credulity and the marvellous, which subjects a portion of mankind to the empire of ignorant and enthusiastic Pretenders.

People in general must always be imperfectly informed in that special body of useful knowledge which distinguishes any one of the learned professions. If men are most liable to error and deception in their opinions on medical subjects, it must be consi-



dered that the Healing Art embraces an extensive range of objects, and that to comprehend its principles requires a more sound appeal to the understanding and judgment than is commonly possessed.

Every community does honour to itself which treats with liberality men conspicuous in the learned professions, for their genius and talents. It is only among an illiterate people that they become the objects of jealousy and persecution. Where ignorance and prejudice abound, there Empiricism is maintained; and as the genial influence of science and human improvement prevail, quackery and every kind of imposition diminish.

The successful practice of rational medicine is so much connected with an improved state of society, that Physicians are interested in becoming the patrons of the Arts and Sciences, and all the various branches of Education. The success which has attended the exertions of medical men in these particulars, especially in France, England, and Germany, is conspicuous, and has been honourably acknowledged by those nations.

You, gentlemen, in the early establish-



ment of this Society, have manifested a laudable disposition to favour the progress of Science. The Members of this Institution have been directed by the Bye Laws to scientific researches. Literary premiums have been offered for the last year to invite investigations on the Topography, Geology, and Mineralogy, of the different counties of this Commonwealth, and on the nature and cure of those malignant fevers, which have often had such fatal effects on our people; nor have the good effects of these exertions of this Society been unpromising or unworthy of notice. Some communications have already been made, which, when the circumstances of this Society will permit them to be presented to the public, may not be found uninteresting to the legislator, the patriot, or the friend of science.

The Society will no doubt continue to encourage such extensive researches and investigations, as by their happy result may add to the growing importance of the State. In a new and interesting country, the resources and riches of which are not yet unfolded, and the effects of its varied climate on the human constitution, as yet



but imperfectly examined, ample rewards must attend the labours of ingenious men, if judiciously directed.

The Science of Medicine embraces the study and knowledge of nature, and of those arts which are conducive to the subsistence, comfort, and convenience of man. To fulfil our duties to the public, the Society will consider it useful to examine the various vegetable productions of the State, to ascertain their medicinal powers, or useful qualities, and to examine the fitness of the soil and climate for the reception of exotic plants. The territories of the United States, extending from the borders of Canada to the northern boundaries of Mexico, contain such variety of soil and climate, as seem calculated for the cultivation of all the medicinal plants, and for the support of the different species of animals which inhabit the globe. It is not many years since indigo, rice, and cotton plants, were introduced into the Southern States, and the merino sheep, lately brought from Spain, promise to furnish clothing and afford wealth to our people: Nor will you be inattentive to encourage an examination of the mineral productions of the country, as



a source from which many active medicines may be obtained, and as furnishing important requisites for public defence and national independence.

The waters of the ocean, which wash the Southern District of the State, are as strongly impregnated with Sea Salt as those in the Bay of Biscay, from which such quantities of salt are made in France. By establishing Salt-works on Long-Island, sufficient quantities of salt might be made to supply the United States.

The late worthy Mr. Solomon Simpson, of the city of New-York, possessed valuable specimens of Silver Ores from the mines in the county of West Chester. *In the Middle District* of the State there are several valuable mines. Besides those of iron, there are mines of manganese, and from the specimens which have been obtained, probably also of antimony.

The Eastern District not only furnishes great quantities of Iron Ore, but the Mineral Springs with which it abounds, prove the existence of subterraneous bodies, which are constantly subject to Chemical changes.



In the Western District, the valuable Saline Springs evince the probable existence of large bodies of solid Salt at no great distance from the surface of the earth, as the waters seem equally impregnated with Salt in dry or rainy seasons. Valuable Iron Ores, and large bodies of Plaster of Paris, or Sulphate of Lime, are found in this district. The Sulphur Springs, near the Seneca Lake, show the probable existence of masses of that mineral substance in the bowels of the earth. In these waters, the sulphur is kept in solution by a portion of compound salt, and an extra portion of sulphuric acid which abounds in the depositions of the sulphur.

The Coal Mines, which exist at Louisburgh, and Rhode-Island, in Pennsylvania, and Virginia, render it probable that there are connecting strata of coal through this Commonwealth, and which may be the subject of future discovery.

The ingenious and observing in the Medical Profession will not be inattentive to those facts, which may contribute to elucidate the origin, nature and cure of those malignant fevers which have raged as pes-



tilence in many parts of the state, and for which, experience has yet afforded no settled mode of cure.

While the subjects for Medical and Scientific research, are thus extensive: it must afford you, Gentlemen, much satisfaction to reflect on the progress of professional knowledge in the public Seminaries of the United States. In the Colleges and Academies of the University of this state, the number of students of medicine exceed one hundred. In the University of Cambridge, in Massachusetts, the students pursuing medical studies are sixty. At Dartmouth College, in New-Hampshire, the medical students are upwards of seventy, and in the University of Pennsylvania, there are upwards of three hundred; besides the students in the Medical College of Maryland. Professor Silliman, of Yale College, has now a class of one hundred students attending his instructions on Chemistry.

Though the nations of Europe are engaged in sanguinary wars, yet at no period have her philosophers been more successful in brilliant discoveries. During the last year



Mr. Davy, the Professor of Chemistry, in the Royal Institution at London, pursuing a train of ingenious investigations, has made some of the most important discoveries of which modern times can boast, or which have been presented to the world since the days of Sir Isaac Newton.

This indefatigable inquirer found, by a series of experiments on the alkalies, potash and soda, that they were convertible by certain processes into metallic substances and which he called Potassium and Sodaium, and of which these alkalies are the bases.

In examining the properties of these new metals, Mr. Davy experienced difficulties from their violent attraction, for the constituent parts of almost all substances. If, however, covered with a thin transparent film of newly distilled naphtha, by which they are defended from the air, their physical qualities can be accurately examined. The metal of potash resembles mercury in its appearance. At the temperature of sixty degrees, it is less fluid than mercury; at one hundred degrees its fluidity is perfect; at fifty degrees it is malleable, and at thirty-two degrees it is crystallized.



The experiments of Mr. Davy have been repeated by the French Philosophers with perfect success. Struck with the wonderful discoveries of this gentleman, the Emperor of France has awarded him a munificent present.

The discoveries of Mr. Davy have invited with success, the attention of the Swedish chemists. The French and English chemists have also discovered metals of lime, barytes and of magnesia. They have also succeeded in proving the metallic nature of ammonia, and rendered it probable that the very air we breathe contains metal in a gaseous form.

Though these brilliant discoveries have been made by the philosophers of Europe, yet the lovers of science and the arts in the United States have not been inattentive to a variety of useful improvements and interesting discoveries. Such, indeed, is the progress of our people in agriculture, manufactures, and the useful arts, as to invite the respect of the civilized world.







