

Transactions ... for the year 1829. With the annual address / by T. Romeyn Beck.

Contributors

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TRANSACTIONS
OF
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE
STATE OF NEW-YORK,

FOR
THE YEAR 1829.

WITH
THE ANNUAL ADDRESS,
BY T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D.
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

ALBANY:
PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS.
1829.

320285



TRANSACTIONS.

THE Medical Society of the State of New-York,
met at the Capitol in the city of Albany, pursuant to
statute, on Tuesday the 3d of February, 1829.

PRESENT,

*DR. T. ROMEYN BECK, *Permanent Member, President.*
JONATHAN EIGHTS, *Permanent Member, Treas.*
PLATT WILLIAMS, *Permanent Member, Sec'ry.*
JAMES STEVENSON, *Delegate, Washington.*
THOMAS G. EVANS, *Delegate, Orange.*
HARVEY W. DOOLITTLE, *Delegate, Herkimer.*
HENRY MITCHELL, *Permanent Member.*
JOHN M'CLELLAND, *Delegate, Columbia.*
MOSES HALE, *Delegate, Rensselaer.*
RICHARD PENNELL, *Permanent Member.*
ELIJAH BAKER, *Delegate, St. Lawrence.*
CHARLES D. TOWNSEND, *Permanent Member.*
PETER WENDELL, *Permanent Member.*
WILLIAM BAY, *Permanent Member.*
ALPHEUS S. GREENE, *Delegate, Jefferson.*
*FREDERICK F. BACKUS, *Delegate, Munroe.*
DANIEL AYRES, *Delegate, Montgomery, and*
Permanent Member.

The following gentlemen presented their certificates, as Delegates from their respective County Societies, and took their seats accordingly.

DR. ALEXANDER COVENTRY, *Permanent Member,*
Oneida.
LEVI FARR, *Chenango.*
RICHARD PENNELL, *Permanent Member, Kings.*
JOEL A. WING, *Albany.*
JOEL FOSTER, *Schoharie.*
GAIUS HALSEY, *Delaware.*
*JOHN G. MORGAN, *Cayuga.*
*RICHARD WELLS, *Ontario.*
*ASA C. BARNEY, *Saratoga.*
*SAMUEL FREEMAN, *Oswego.*
JAMES M'NAUGHTON—from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District.

* Attended on the second day of the session.

The following gentlemen were invited to take seats as *ex officio* Honorary Members.

- *DR. WILLIAM TIBBITS, *Pres. Saratoga Med. Society.*
- *DR. ELIJAH PORTER, *late President do.*
- *DR. PETER VAN BEUREN, *Member of the Legislature.*
- *DR. JOHN LINDSLEY, *do. do.*

The President and Vice President being absent, Dr. ALEXANDER COVENTRY was appointed President *pro tempore*.

The following sums of money were paid to the Secretary, as donations to the Medical Fund.

By Dr. Stevenson, for Washington Co. M. S.	\$5 00
Coventry, for Oneida	do. 5 00
Hale, for Rensselaer	do. 5 00
M'Clelland, for Columbia	do. 5 00
Evans, for Orange	do. 3 00
Greene, for Jefferson	do. 5 00
Foster, for Schoharie	do. 3 00
Doolittle, for Herkimer	do. 5 00
Ayres, for Montgomery	do. 3 00
M'Naughton, for College of P. & S. } Western District,	5 00
Halsey, for Delaware Co. Med. Soc.	5 00
Baker, for St. Lawrence	do. 5 00
Pennell, for Kings	do. 3 00
Morgan, for Cayuga	do. 5 00
Barney, for Saratoga	do. 5 00
Wing, for Albany	do. 5 00
Spencer, for Madison	do. 2 00

The following sums of money were received by the Secretary, under cover of letters.

From Cabot Loring, Secretary of Seneca M. S.	2 00
Richard P. Williams do. Wayne Co. } Med. Society.	2 00
<i>Total,</i>	<u>\$78 00</u>

A writ for the Medical Convention of 1830, for revising the National Pharmacopœia was read, and on motion was ordered to lie on the table.

The Treasurer's report was received as follows, and on motion, was referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Evans, Bay and Wendell.

* Attended on the second day of the session.

The Treasurer of the Medical Society of the State of New-York, reports the following as the state of the funds, this 3d day of February, 1829.

Cash in hands of the Treasurer, the 7th day of Feb. 1828, as per report of committee,	\$119 54
Cash received from Secretary, being the amount of donations from Co. Med. Soc.	57 00
Cash from Censors of the Southern Dis.	30 00
May 28, Cash from Secretary, for James Kennedy's diploma,	10 00
June 7, do. do. do. for Edward L. Crane's diploma.	10 00
	<hr/>
	\$226 54

From which sum there has been paid—

To Samuel Maverick, for blank diplomas, as per voucher No. 1,	\$12 50
To D. W. H. Shieffer, as per voucher No. 2,	8 69 $\frac{1}{2}$
To Doctor Williams, for postage, as per voucher No. 3,	2 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
To Websters and Skinners, for printing Transactions of the Society for 1828, &c.	77 00
	<hr/>
	\$100 84

Leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer this day, of	\$125 70
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All which is respectfully submitted,

JON. EIGHTS, *Treasurer.*

Albany, 3d February, 1829.

On motion of Dr. Hale,

Resolved, That the Censors of this Society proceed to examine Mr. M. Beckwith, who appeals from the decision of the Censors of Rensselaer County Medical Society, as a candidate for licence to practice physic and surgery.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Society, all appeals of candidates for examination for licence made from the Censors of any County Medical So-

ciety, be made to the President of this Society, in writing, who shall order the Censors of this Society to proceed to the examination upon the appeal.

A communication was received from Dr. Osborn, delegate from New York—which was ordered to lie on the table.

A communication from the Medical Society of New-York, was received in the following words :

“ Among the different subjects, the successful prosecution of which by this and the State Society, would contribute much to the amelioration of human suffering and the advancement of medical science, no one appears to be of greater importance than that of *Vaccination*.

Since the discovery of cow pox inoculation, the most loathsome, terrible and destructive disease which ever pervaded the earth, had at one time apparently been disarmed of its terrors. Within a few years however, a renewed interest has been excited upon this subject. The repeated occurrences of an epidemic small pox, in both its pure and modified forms, in this city and in other parts of this country, as well as in Europe, have emphatically reminded us that we have not as yet derived all those high advantages from vaccination, which the subject under proper management is capable of imparting to society.

The failures of vaccination affording protection against small pox, may be readily accounted for from the following circumstances :

1st. From the operation being performed at an improper time, as, when the child is teething or laboring under cutaneous or other diseases.

2dly. From the use of impure virus.

3dly. From peculiarity of temperament, which is not susceptible of full impression from a single insertion, but requires a second or third inoculation.

The omissions of a resort to this mild prophylactic among the poor more especially, arise from pride and prejudice. The former passion prevents them from resorting to the gratuitous means hitherto proffered

to them—the latter feeling has excited distrust in the efficacy of vaccination as a preventive of the small pox. The recent epidemics have given currency to, and extended, this distrust.

The use of bad matter, has been attributed to careless and unskilful vaccinators, more particularly to those out of the profession ; as this operation is practised by some females as well as by men. But is it not indisputable, that impure virus is too frequently used among the respectable and experienced of the profession ? No physician, perhaps, has a sufficient number of cases to enable him always to depend upon his own resources ; and consequently, has recourse to his friends in practice, or at a dispensary, for a supply ; and no doubt matter is often used which the physician at the time would not employ could he obtain better. And it often requires more time and labor to obtain a sufficiency of virus to vaccinate a few cases than what would be necessary for its insertion and the subsequent attendance of the cases. We conceive then, that the remedy to these defects in vaccination and to all the errors attending the practice—and the ability to derive all the advantages which it is capable of affording to community, can only be obtained from the establishment of a *National or State Vaccine Institution*.

With regard to the protection and encouragement afforded to vaccination, the governments in this country have perhaps been behind the most of them in Europe. Congress a few years ago established a vaccine institution in the city of Baltimore ; but from defect in the plan and the injudicious location, it has as yet been productive of little or no good. We are therefore of opinion, that with a little pecuniary aid from our legislature, a *State Vaccine Institution* might be established in the city of New-York, under such regulations, that while it should secure vaccination to the poor of the city, it would be able at all times to supply private practitioners with genuine virus, and also be competent to supply *gratuitously* the wants of all the counties and towns in the state ;

so that the inhabitants of the country might as *readily* and as *fully* participate in its advantages as those of the city. The wants in the country of the benefits of such an institution, are rendered fully manifest, from the many who come to the city from the country unprotected against the *small pox*.

With these views of the importance of the subject of vaccination, it is therefore

Resolved, That the Delegate be requested to endeavour to obtain the co-operation of the State Society in an attempt to establish a *State Vaccine Institution* ; to be located in the city of New-York.

In addition to the foregoing, there are other subjects of importance to the dignity and prosperity of our profession—to which we would beg to invite the attention of the *State Medical Society* ;—such are—the condition of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in this city—the growing evil of Intemperance—the statute regulating the Practice of Medicine, &c. in this state—the alarming evils arising from the want of some regulation to govern the vending and preparing Medicines by ignorant and careless apothecaries, &c.

Resolved, therefore, as the sense of the Society, that the improvement of medical science in this state and country, is retarded by the pecuniary embarrassments of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in this city, and as the prosperity of this College is so much dependent upon the fostering care of our State Legislature, under the guardianship of the Regents of the University, that, the State Society be requested to use their efforts and influence for such a grant from the Legislature as the present wants of the College seem to require.

Resolved, That as the recent modified laws, regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, have not been in operation a sufficient length of time to enable us to judge of their true value, that we deem it inexpedient to make any alteration in them at the present time.

Resolved, That the State Society be respectfully

solicited to oppose its influence to the success in our Legislature of the application of ——— Thompson, for the passage of a law providing for the licensing of *Steam Doctors*—the danger of whose practice has been manifested in many fatal instances. Hence our opposition to the enactment of such a law is required not only from principles of humanity—but the honor and dignity of the profession strenuously call for it.

Resolved, as the sense of this Society, that at this time, when the feelings and efforts of so many highly respectable citizens, in different parts of the country, are aroused against the growing evil of intemperance, it becomes the profession of medicine, whose members are so much better able to judge of the numerous instances of impaired health and premature dissolution, from the free use of ardent spirits, to proffer their efforts in discouraging so alarming and destructive an evil; therefore, that our Delegate be requested to solicit resolutions from the State Society, expressive of the danger to health and life, of the imprudent use of ardent spirits.

Resolved, That from the increasing number of vendors of medicines, called apothecaries, in the cities and most populous towns in this state—the numerous and even fatal errors that have arisen from the ignorance of very many of them, and the necessity that demands some regulation in this adjunct department of the profession—that the Delegate of this Society be instructed, to use his influence with the State Society, for the procural of their active exertions in any measures which in their wisdom may be thought proper, to remedy the evils arising from the present unlicensed preparing and dispensing of medical remedies.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be adopted as the instructions of the Delegate to the State Medical Society.

Signed, STEPHEN BROWN, *Chm.* }
 JOHN STEARNS, } *Com.*
 JOHN JAS. GRAVES, }

A copy from the minutes of a meeting of the "*Medical Society of the City and County of New-York*," held by adjournment on the 26th January, 1829. **JOHN JAS. GRAVES**, *Secretary*.

New-York, Jan. 28, 1829."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the above communication be referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Hale, Ayres and Mitchell.

Resolved, That the members of the medical profession in the Legislature, be requested to take seats in this Society as honorary members, and that the Secretary be directed to invite them.

Adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock, A. M. to-morrow.

February 4, 1829.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—the President, and a quorum of the members.

On motion of Dr. M'Naughton,

Resolved, That Drs. Mitchell, Greene and Wendell, be a committee to wait upon the Speaker of the House of Assembly, now in session, and ask permission of that honorable body to occupy the Assembly Chamber this afternoon at 4 o'clock, for the purpose of hearing the President's Address.

The Censors of the Middle District reported, that since the last meeting of the Society, they had examined and licensed the following gentlemen :

1828, June 6. Edward L. Crane, Coeymans, Albany Co.

.. James Kennedy.

The Censors of the Southern District respectfully report, that they have examined in the past year three candidates for licence :

1828, March 6. Frederick W. Ostrander, Queens Co.

April 28. Alexander H. Burrit, Rensselaer Co.

Sept. 26. Edgar Olcott, New-York.

And having found them qualified, did recommend them to receive diplomas. **J. R. MANLEY**, *Chm.*

The fees, amounting to \$30, are held subject to the Treasurer's order.

The committee appointed to report—Is a diploma

of membership granted by the Royal College of Surgeons of London or of Edinburgh, a licence to practice physic according to the laws of this state? respectfully report:

That a question essentially the same has been discussed and decided, in the Medical Society of the county of New-York, and the opinion of eminent legal counsel had thereon; the result of which is, "that such diplomas, although they entitled to membership in the various Medical Societies of this state, gave no right to *practice physic*, but *surgery only*. In this opinion your committee fully accord. Respectfully submitted. J. R. MANLEY, M. D. *Chm.*

On motion, *Resolved*, That the report lie on the table.

The By-Laws of the Medical Societies of the counties of Wayne, Munroe and Delaware were presented, and on motion referred to the standing committee on that subject.

The committee appointed on the communication from the Medical Society of New-York, reported:

That they had examined separately the several subjects contained therein, and are of opinion as follows:

1st. With respect to a State Vaccine Institution, your committee are fully sensible that much benefit might result from such an establishment properly located, and would recommend the appointment of a committee, to co-operate with one from the New York County Society, to ascertain the best method to procure the means necessary for such an establishment.

2d. With regard to the state or condition of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the state of New-York, we would express the fullest confidence in the talents and integrity of its teachers, and would recommend that this Society, either by committee or otherwise, co-operate with the Regents of the University in procuring such aid from the Legislature as shall enable them to sustain the high standing amongst the Medical Institutions of the union, which the honor of the profession in the state of New-York demands.

3d. Upon the subject of Retailing Medicines in doses, we fully agree with the memorialists, that a licence obtained by examination in Chemistry and Pharmacy, before some competent board, should be made necessary, and a penalty attached to selling such articles without licence.

4th. Upon the subject of what are denominated Steam Doctors, your committee would recommend that the comitia minora, residing in the city of Albany, be appointed to confer and co-operate with the medical gentlemen of the Legislature, and such committee of that body as shall have cognizance of the case, to use all laudible endeavors to prevent the alteration of the present law. And your committee would earnestly recommend, that each member of this Society, as soon as may be, furnish (by mail or otherwise) a statement of all the well authenticated cases, within their knowledge, of the fatal effects of the steam practice, to the said comitia minora, who shall draw upon the Treasurer of this Society for the expenses of postage, &c.

5th. Upon the subject of Intemperance, your committee cannot more fully express their opinion of its pernicious effects upon society and individuals, than is conveyed in the report and resolutions of the committee, of whom Dr. Heermance was chairman, and which may be found upon pages 11 and 12 of the printed Transactions of this Society, for Feb. 1828.

6th. Your committee most anxiously recommend, for obvious reasons, that no application be made to the Legislature for any alteration of the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, at their present session. Your committee are well aware at this time, of the necessity of a cordial co-operation of the medical men throughout the state, in all measures which have a tendency to elevate the medical profession and benefit mankind. All which is respectfully submitted.

MOSES HALE, *Chairman.*

Albany, February 4, 1829.

Resolved, That the above report be accepted.

Resolved, That Drs. Hale, Doolittle and Stevenson, be a committee on the subject of a Vaccine Institution.

Resolved, That Drs. Wendell, Wing and Williams, be a committee on the subject of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Resolved, That Drs. Pennel, Osborn and Cheeseman, be a committee on the subject of licensing retailers of medicines, and that they report a plan at the next meeting of the Society.

Resolved, That the several County Medical Societies be requested to furnish the Secretary of this Society, with such well authenticated cases of the injurious effects of what is called the Thompsonian system of practice, as have come within their knowledge; and that the comitia minora make such use of the information as they may deem most useful.

The Secretary reported that the Regents of the University, had during their last session conferred the degree of Doctors of Medicine on the following gentlemen, recommended by the State Medical Society:

Dr. THOMAS BRODHEAD, of Columbia county.

JOHN D. HENRY, of Munroe county.

ELEAZOR GEDNEY, of Orange county.

A communication from the Orange county Medical Society was read, and referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Evans, M'Naughton and Baker.

Dr. Mitchell, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported, that leave had been obtained to occupy the Assembly Chamber this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's account, respectfully report,

That they find them correct and satisfactory, and that there is now in the hands of the Treasurer, one hundred and twenty-five and $\frac{7}{100}$ dollars.

All which is respectfully submitted,

THOS. G. EVANS, *Ch'n.*

Resolved, That the Censors of the State Medical Society be hereby instructed, and the Censors of the respective County Medical Societies be hereby advised, that in case a certificate of the commencement of a student's term of study has not been filed agreeable to the provisions of the revised laws, they receive such satisfactory testimony on that point as is attainable.*

Resolved, That this Society will proceed to the election of officers, immediately after the address of the President, this afternoon.

Resolved, That after this session, no person be elected a permanent member of this Society, unless he has served as a delegate, and been nominated at a preceding anniversary meeting.

Adjourned to meet this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

* On the 16th of January 1828, Mr. Stebbins from the committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the engrossed bill from the Assembly for the relief of Allen M. Wheeler, made the following report to the Senate of this state, to wit :

"That from the papers accompanying the bill, it appears that the petitioner is a student of medicine, who has neglected to file a certificate of the commencement of his studies, which took place in May 1826, and it seems to be thought that for that reason, the County Medical Society cannot admit him to an examination.

By the act of April 20, 1818, revised in chapter fourteenth of the first part, four years is presented as the term of study to entitle a candidate to an examination.

It is also required, that the person with whom the candidate commences his study, shall file a certificate of the fact, and that the day of filing such certificate shall be the commencement of the term of study.

The committee regard this latter provision, as prescribing a proper mode of ascertaining the term of study, but as by no means excluding other means of ascertaining the same fact. The duty is imposed, not upon the person who is to be benefitted by the performance of it, but upon the physician with whom the study is commenced ; and whatever might be the conclusiveness of such certificate when filed, the neglect of a third person to file it, ought not, and the committee suppose would not, deprive the candidate of a right to an examination, which he acquired by the four years' study, and that the only effect of such neglect, is to impose upon the candidates, the necessity of shewing the fact by other and satisfactory proof.

If such were not the true construction of the law, the committee would prefer at once to abrogate the provision rather than legislate upon individual cases of this description, but believing that it is within the power of the county societies to receive other evidence than certificates where none have been filed, they think the provision a useful one to retain as a direction to persons having the superintendence of students, a compliance with which will, in most cases, furnish the easiest and best mode of proving the regular term of study."

This report, with the engrossed bill, was referred to the committee of the whole, and on a subsequent day, the bill was rejected, thus evidently sanctioning the opinions expressed in the report. (COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.)

The Society met, pursuant to adjournment.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The ANNUAL ADDRESS was delivered by the President in the Assembly Chamber.

On returning to the room of the Society,

On motion,

Resolved, That Dr. Eights take the chair.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the President, for his able and eloquent address, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication.

The Society then proceeded to the election of its officers for the ensuing year—Drs. Hale and Wendell were appointed tellers.

The following gentlemen were duly elected officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. T. ROMEYN BECK, *President*.

HENRY MITCHELL, *Vice-President*.

JOEL A. WING, *Secretary*.

JONATHAN EIGHTS, *Treasurer*.

PERMANENT MEMBERS.

Drs. JOHN B. BECK, New-York,

HARVEY W. DOOLITTLE, Herkimer.

CENSORS.

Drs. JAMES R. MANLEY,
JOHN C. CHEESEMAN, } *Southern District.*
JOHN WATTS, JUN.

Drs. PETER WENDELL,
CHARLES D. TOWNSEND, } *Middle District.*
WILLIAM BAY,

Drs. JOHN H. STEELE,
DANIEL AYRES, } *Eastern District.*
JAMES STEVENSON,

Drs. ALEXANDER COVENTRY,
THOMAS SPENCER, } *Western District.*
FREDERICK F. BACKUS,

Committee of Correspondence.

Dr. JOHN M ^C LELLAN,	Dr. ALPHEUS S. GREENE,
THOMAS G. EVANS,	PLATT WILLIAMS,
LAURENS HULL,	JOHN G. MORGAN.
LEVI FARR,	

Committee on Prize Questions and Dissertations.

Dr. JAMES M ^C NAUGHTON,	JOHN WATTS, Jun.
T. ROMEYN BECK,	JAMES R. MANLEY.
JONATHAN EIGHTS,	

The following gentlemen were elected *Honorary Members* :

SAMUEL WHITE, *Columbia County.*
JOHN AUGUSTINE SMITH, *New-York.*

The following gentlemen were nominated to the Regents of the University, for the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. [The names are omitted until the pleasure of the Regents be known.]

The following gentlemen were nominated as *Permanent Members* :

Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck,	Columbia.
Moses Hale,	Rensselaer.
James M ^C Naughton,	Albany.
Samuel Osborn,	New-York.
James Stevenson,	Washington.
Alpheus S. Greene,	Jefferson.
Elijah Porter,	Saratoga.
Truman B. Hicks,	Warren.

The following gentlemen were nominated as *Honorary Members* :

Charles B. Coventry,	Utica, N. Y.
John B. Mish,	Lebanon, Pennsylvania.
George Reidenaur,	do. do.

The Society then adjourned, to meet at the Society's Rooms to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Thursday, February 5, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The committee on Prize Questions and Dissertations reported—

That they have received four dissertations on Typhus Fever—but from the late period of their arrival and their voluminous contents, the whole of the committee have not had sufficient time for their examination. Your committee will be able to decide on their merits by the 1st day of May next.*

For the ensuing year, they would propose the following questions—viz.

1. The history of *Prussic Acid*; including the best mode of preparing it, its *modus operandi*—the diseases in which it is most useful, and the best manner of exhibiting it.

2. The history, preparation and medical uses of *Iodine*.

3. The symptoms, causes, and treatment of *Delirium Tremens*, illustrated by cases.

4. The nature, causes and cure of *Psoriasis*.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the following be the prize questions for the year 1830.

1. *The history, preparation and medical uses of Iodine.*

2. *The nature, symptoms, causes and treatment of Delirium Tremens, illustrated by cases.*

On motion, *Resolved*, That the sum of Fifty Dollars be offered as a premium on each of the above subjects.

The committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the Orange County Medical Society, relative to an application to the Legislature, to appoint a certain number of physicians in each county “to attend the call of the coroners, of their respective counties, to examine and render all such assistance as may be required of them in ascertaining the cause of death, for which services they shall receive an adequate compensation”—respectfully report :

* The Mottoes of the above Dissertations are as follows :

1. “In Medicina, sine qua non observatio.”
2. “Ex principiis nascitur probabilitas, ex factis vero veritas.”
3. “Beatum est causas cognoscere rerum.”
4. “Studium sine calamo, somnium.”

That they are fully impressed with a sense of the importance, to the community, of having competent persons to examine bodies before coroners, and are convinced that the duty, under the existing law, frequently devolves upon individuals little qualified to perform it, and that those, who do it properly, are not adequately remunerated. Yet, from the difficulty of suggesting a plan that would be less objectionable, and at the same time likely to meet the approbation of the Legislature, your committee are of opinion, that it is inexpedient, at present, to attempt to procure any legislative enactment on the subject.

ELIJAH BAKER, *Chn.*

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

The "Writ" for a Medical Convention at Washington in 1830, having again been read, it was resolved to proceed to a nomination of delegates, and on canvassing the ballots, Drs. John B. Beck and James M'Naughton were duly nominated.

Resolved, That the Secretary notify Dr. Mitchill, the President of the last National Medical Convention, of said nomination.

Resolved, That the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, be a committee of publication.

The Treasurer was ordered to pay the accounts of Messrs. Johnson and Sheiffer, amounting to 9 dollars.

Adjourned. JOEL A. WING, *Secretary*.

✂ The seats of the Delegates from the following Counties will become vacant on the first Tuesday of February, 1830 : Westchester, Columbia, Ulster, Madison, Herkimer, Chenango, Washington, Clinton, Suffolk, St. Lawrence, Cortland, Erie, Hamilton, Kings, Wayne.

APPENDIX.

CONTAINING,

1. Classification of Counties.
2. Standing Committee on the Bye-Laws of County Medical Societies.
3. Regulations concerning Prize Dissertations.
4. Schedule of Donations to the Medical Prize Fund.
5. List of Honorary and Permanent Members.
6. List of Officers of County Medical Societies.
7. List of Members of County Medical Societies, as far as received.

1. Classification of Counties.

The seats of Delegates from the respective Counties will become vacant, as follows :

VACANT. <i>Feb. 1, 1830.</i>	VACANT. <i>Feb. 1, 1831.</i>	VACANT. <i>Feb. 1, 1832.</i>	VACANT. <i>Feb. 1, 1833.</i>
Westchester,	New-York,	Greene,	Albany,
Columbia,	Orange,	Dutchess,	Oneida,
Ulster,	Delaware,	Jefferson,	Cayuga,
Madison,	Onondaga,	Ontario,	Otsego,
Herkimer,	Montgomery,	Essex,	Saratoga,
Chenango,	Rensselaer,	Lewis,	Schenectady,
Washington,	Genesee,	Schoharie,	Tioga,
Clinton,	Seneca,	Niagara,	Cattaraugus,
Suffolk,	Allegany,	Warren,	Richmond,
St. Lawrence,	Broome,	College of P. and S. New-York,	Rockland,
Cortland,	Franklin,	Chatauque,	Steuben,
Erie,	Livingston,	Orleans,	Sullivan,
Hamilton,	Monroe,	Putnam,	Tompkins,
Kings,	Oswego,	Queens, 14.	College of P. and S. Fairfield, 14.
Wayne, 15.	Yates, 15.		

2. Standing Committee on the Bye-Laws of County Medical Societies.

DRS. T. ROMEYN BECK, PETER WENDELL,
CHS. D. TOWNSEND, WILLIAM BAY.

3. Regulations as to Prize Dissertations.

1. A committee of five shall be appointed at each annual meeting, to report prize questions to be laid before the Society at the next annual meeting.

2. Public notice of the subjects offered, shall be given by the Secretary, immediately after the close of the annual session of the Society,

3. The dissertations offered for the prizes to be forwarded to Albany, on or before the 1st of December. They shall be accompanied with a sealed paper, containing the name of the author, and this sealed paper, as well as the dissertation, shall be endorsed with the same motto, in order that the name of the successful author alone may be ascertained.

4. A standing committee shall be appointed annually, to examine and report on the dissertations that may be presented ; the committee to report as early as possible during the session.

5. In reporting the dissertations to the Society which may be deemed worthy of prizes, the committee are to be governed not by the number of dissertations sent in, but by their intrinsic merits. A prize may, therefore, very properly be adjudged to a dissertation, although it be the only one on the subject. The only safe principle by which the committee can be regulated is, that the publication of the dissertation would do credit to the Society.

6. The author may publish it in a pamphlet form, he furnishing sixty copies ; or, the Society will direct its publication in some medical journal of this state, the editors of said journal agreeing to furnish the said sixty copies.

Transactions of 1826.

7. The Treasurer shall make no payment to the successful candidates for premiums, unless they have fully complied with the regulations of the Society, adopted in 1826.

8. Those counties that shall pay annually the sum of two dollars into the State Medical Society, shall be entitled to a copy of the prize dissertations, and those that pay five dollars, shall be entitled to two copies.

Transactions of 1827.

4. Schedule of Donations to the Medical Prize Fund.

The following Schedule will exhibit the Receipts from County Medical Societies, to the Fund for the Promotion of Medical Science, with the Expenditures from it.

COUNTIES.	1823.	1824	1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	TOTAL.
Albany, - - - - -	\$3 00	5 00	5 00				5 00	18 00
Oneida, - - - - -	5 00	5 00	5 00		5 00	5 00	5 00	30 00
Schoharie, - - - - -	3 00		3 00	3 00	3 00		3 00	15 00
Ulster, - - - - -	2 00	2 00						4 00
Washington, - - -	5 00	5 00			5 00		5 00	20 00
New-York, - - - -		5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00		25 00
Saratoga, - - - - -		5 00		5 00		5 00	5 00	20 00
Cayuga, - - - - -		3 00		3 00			5 00	11 00
Columbia, - - - - -		5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00	30 00
Warren, - - - - -		2 00			2 00			4 00
Montgomery, - - -		3 00				3 00	3 00	9 00
Greene, - - - - -		5 00						5 00
Westchester, - - -		3 00	3 00		3 00	3 00		12 00
Herkimer, - - - - -		3 00		3 00	3 00	5 00	5 00	19 00
Steuben, - - - - -		2 00				3 00		5 00
College of Physicians & Surgeons, N. Y. }		5 00						5 00
Chenango, - - - - -								3 00
Rensselaer, - - - -			3 00			5 00	5 00	15 00
Chataauque, - - - -			5 00					3 00
Otsego, - - - - -			3 00					6 00
Kings, - - - - -				3 00	3 00			6 00
Madison, - - - - -					2 00	2 00	3 00	7 00
Clinton, - - - - -					2 00	2 00	2 00	6 00
Orange, - - - - -					2 00			2 00
Allegany, - - - - -					3 00	3 00	3 00	9 00
Oswego, - - - - -					3 00			3 00
Tompkins, - - - - -						2 00		2 00
St. Lawrence, - - -						2 00		2 00
College of P. and S. Western District, }						2 00	5 00	7 00
Delaware, - - - - -						5 00	5 00	10 00
Jefferson, - - - - -							5 00	5 00
Seneca, - - - - -							2 00	2 00
Wayne, - - - - -							2 00	2 00
	18 00	58 00	37 00	27 00	46 00	57 00	78 00	321 00

EXPENDITURES.

To Dr. Andrew Hammersley, for his <i>Prize Dissertation on Consumption</i> ,	\$50 00
To Dr. L. M. Peixotto, for his <i>Prize Dissertation on Hooping-Cough</i> ,	50 00
	\$100 00

5. List of Honorary and Permanent Members of the State Medical Society.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

- * Benjamin Rush, *Philadelphia*, elected February 6, 1808.
 * Nathan Smith, *New-Haven*, do.
 John Pomeroy, *Burlington, Vt.* do.
 John Miller, *Onondaga, N. Y.* do.
 * Moses Willard, *New-York*, do.
 * John Warren, *Boston*, February 7, 1810.
 Rev. Alexander Proudfit, *Salem, N. Y.* do.
 * Deceased.

Samuel L. Mitchill, <i>New-York,</i>	February 3, 1811.
David Hosack, do.	do.
*Nicholas Romaine, do.	February 4, 1812.
John Stearns, do.	do.
*Lyman Spalding, do.	February 3, 1813.
George C. Shattuck, <i>Boston,</i>	do.
James Hadley, <i>Fairfield, N. Y.</i>	February 4, 1817.
*John Murray, <i>Edinburgh,</i>	do.
*Wright Post, <i>New York,</i>	February 3, 1819.
John C. Warren, <i>Boston,</i>	do.
Valentine Mott, <i>New-York,</i>	February 3, 1820.
Josiah Noyes, do.	February 5, 1823.
Nathaniel Chapman, <i>Philadelphia,</i>	do.
Daniel Drake, <i>Cincinnati,</i>	February 4, 1824.
John D. Henry, <i>Rochester, N. Y.</i>	do.
Philip S. Physick, <i>Philadelphia,</i>	February 2, 1825.
Joseph Gallup, <i>Burlington, Vt.</i>	do.
Joseph Lovell, <i>Washington, Dist. of Col.</i>	February 5, 1827.
John Onderdonk, <i>New York,</i>	do.
John Lizars, <i>Edinburgh,</i>	February 6, 1828.
William Hamersley, <i>New-York,</i>	do.
Samuel White, <i>Hudson, N. Y.</i>	February 5, 1829.
J. Augustine Smith, <i>New-York,</i>	do.

PERMANENT MEMBERS.

*Nicholas Romaine,	February 3, 1813.
*Samuel Bard,	do.
*William Wilson,	February, 2, 1814.
John Stearns,	do.
Charles D. Townsend,	February 7, 1815.
John Ely,	do.
Westel Willoughby,	February 6, 1826.
David Hosack,	do.
Samuel L. Mitchill,	February 4, 1817.
T. Romeyn Beck,	do.
Joseph White,	February 4, 1818.
*Cornelius E. Depew,	do.
William Bay,	February 3, 1819.
*Lyman Spalding,	do.
Felix Pascalis,	February 3, 1820.
Amos G. Hull,	do.
Charles Drake,	February 7, 1821.
Peter Wendell,	do.
James R. Manley,	February 5, 1822.
Alexander Coventry,	do.
Luther Guiteau,	February 5, 1823.
Thomas Broadhead,	do.

* Deceased.

John H. Steele,	February 4, 1824.
Laurens Hull,	do.
Jonathan Eights,	February 2, 1825.
Henry Mitchell,	do.
John Watts,	February 9, 1826.
Daniel Ayres,	do.
Elial T. Foote,	February 5, 1827.
John C. Cheeseman,	do.
Platt Williams,	February 6, 1828.
Richard Pennel,	do.
John B. Beck,	February 5, 1829.
Harvey W. Doolittle,	do.

6. List of Officers of County Medical Societies.

COUNTY OF ALBANY.

Annual Meeting 2d Tuesday in January.

Dr. Platt Williams, President.	Censors. Dr. Peter Van Olinda,
Barent P. Staats, V. President.	William Tully,
James P. Boyd, Secretary.	Lewis C. Beck,
Edward A. Leonard, Treas'r.	Alden Marsh,
T. Romeyn Beck, Librarian.	Henry Green.

Dr. Joel A. Wing, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF ALLEGANY.

(As reported in 1827.)

Annual Meeting 1st day of the Winter Term of the Court of Common Pleas.

Dr. Asa Lee Davidson, President.
Dr. Richard Charles, Secretary.

COUNTY OF CAYUGA.

Annual Meeting on the 1st Thursday in August.

Dr. Phineas Hurd, President.	Censors. Dr. Herman Van Vechten,
Campbell Weld, V. President.	John Gridley,
Joseph T. Pitney, Secretary.	J. G. Morgan,
Joseph Clary, Treasurer.	Stephen Moshier.
Harley Hooker, Librarian.	

Dr. John G. Morgan, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF CHATAUQUE.

(As reported in 1827.)

Annual Meeting in January.

Dr. Orris Crosby, President.	Censors. Dr. Carlton Jones,
E. P. Upham, V. President.	R. W. Stockton,
W. Elsworth, Secretary.	T. J. Wheeler,
Samuel Snow, Treasurer.	B. Walworth,
	Hiram Alden.

Dr. Elial T. Foote, Delegate.

COUNTY OF CHENANGO.

Annual Meeting 2d Tuesday in October.

Dr. Nathan Boynton, President.	Censors. Dr. Perez Packer,
N. B. Mead, V. President.	D. White,
Austin Rouse, Secretary.	Henry Mitchell,
	Augustus Willard,
	Edward Cornwell.

Dr. Levi Farr, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF CLINTON.

(As reported in 1827.)

Dr. Benj. S. Mooers, President.	Censors. Dr. Miles Stevenson,
E. B. Jones, V. President.	R. P. Allen,
Edward Kane, Secretary.	E. B. Jones,
Jonathan Taylor, Treasurer.	Jonathan Taylor,
R. P. Allen, Librarian.	——Patchen.

Dr. Miles Stevenson, Delegate.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in October.

Dr. John P. Beckman, President.	Censors. Dr. Edward B. Pugsly,
Samuel White, V. President.	Horatio Root.
Robert G. Frary, Secretary.	Robert G. Frary,
David Mellen, Treasurer.	Peter Van Beuren,
Samuel White, Librarian.	Samuel P. White.

Dr. John McClellan, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF DELAWARE.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in June.

Dr. Ebenezer Steele, President.	Censors. Dr. Ebenezer Steele,
Jonath. B. Cowles, V. President.	Cornelius R. Fitch,
William Ogden, Secretary.	William C. Peak,
Calvin Howard, Treasurer.	Richard M. Goodrich,
	Jonathan B. Cowles.

Dr. Gaius Halsey, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS.

Annual Meeting 2d Tuesday in November.

Dr. John Barnes, President.	Censors. Dr. John Cooper,
Richard A. Varick, Secretary.	Calvert Canfield,
Elias De Witt, Treasurer.	Peter D. Schenck.

Dr. Hunting Sherrill, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF GENESEE.

(As reported in 1828.)

Dr. J. A. Billings, President.	Censors. Dr. Frederick Fitch,
John Cotes, V. President.	Charles C. Ford,
Richard Dible, Secretary.	Wm. H. Webster,
C. P. Smith, Treasurer.	Levant B. Cotes,
	James K. Barlow.

COUNTY OF GREENE.

(As reported in 1826.)

Annual Meeting in May.

Dr. Luther W. Hart, President.	Censors. Dr. Erastus Hamilton,
Henry Adams, V. President.	Wm. P. Shepherd,
Joseph Blanchard, Secretary.	John T. Gifford.
Abel Brace, Treasurer.	

COUNTY OF HERKIMER.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in January.

Dr. Westel Willoughby, President.	Censors. Dr. Calvin H. Smith,
John Holmes, V. President.	John S. Spaulding,
Moses Johnson, Secretary.	Lester Green,
Jacob Sherwood, Treasurer.	John R. Brown,
	H. W. Doolittle.

Dr. Harvey W. Doolittle, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in July.

Dr. Amasa Trowbridge, President.	Censors. Dr. Henry R. Sherwood,
Ithuman B. Crane, V. President.	Amasa Trowbridge,
Hiram Mills, Secretary.	Reuben Goodall,
Ira Smith, Treasurer.	Alpheus S. Greene.

Dr. Alpheus S. Greene, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF KINGS.

Annual Meeting 2d Monday in April.

Dr. Joseph G. T. Hunt, President.	Censors. Dr. Thomas W. Henry,
Thom. W. Henry, V. President.	George Cox,
Nelson L. Hurd, Secretary.	John Cole, jun.
Nelson A. Garrison, Treasurer.	

Dr. Richard Pennell, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF MADISON.

(As reported in 1828.)

Annual Meeting the last Tuesday in July.

Dr. Sylvanus Guernsey, President.	Censors. Dr. Thomas Spencer,
Eli S. Baily, V. President.	J. Silsby,
J. Hovey, Secretary.	O. Mead,
O. Mead, Treasurer.	J. Heffron,
	Wm. Abel.

Dr. Thomas Spencer, Delegate.

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY.

(As reported in 1828.)

Annual Meeting 1st Wednesday after 2d Tuesday in October.

Dr. Oran Johnson, President.	Censors. Dr. Wm. Chambers,
Zabeus Doty, V. President.	Lewis Carlisle,
James W. Miller, Secretary.	James W. Miller,
Elijah Chedal, Treasurer.	Lebbeus Doty,
	Abraham Pulling.

Dr. Daniel Ayres, Delegate.

COUNTY OF MONROE.

(As reported in 1828.)

Dr. John D. Henry, President.	Censors. Dr. George Marvin,
George Marvin, V. President.	John B. Ellwood,
O. E. Gibbs, Secretary.	Anson Colman,
Anson Colman, Treasurer.	A. G. Smith,
	Daniel Durfee.

Dr. Frederick F. Backus, Delegate.

COUNTY OF NEW-YORK.

Annual Meeting in July.

Dr. Thomas Cock, President.	Censors. Dr. D. L. M. Peixotto,
Sam. W. Moore, V. President.	E. G. Ludlow,
J. Van Rensselaer, Corr. Sec'y.	Chandler R. Gilman,
John. Jas. Graves, Rec. Sec'ry.	Richard K. Hoffman,
Abr. Van Gelder, Treasurer.	A. V. Williams.

Dr. Samuel Osborn, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF ONEIDA.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in July.

Dr. Seth Hastings, jun. President.	Censors. Dr. John M'Call,
John M'Call, V. President.	Welcome A. Clarke,
Seth S. Peck, Secretary.	Theodore Pomeroy,
Charles B. Coventry, Treasurer	Charles B. Coventry,
and Librarian.	Charles Babcock.

Dr. Alexander Coventry, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA.

(As reported in 1826.)

Annual Meeting in June.

Dr. Wm. Taylor, President.	Censors. Dr. A. Hull,
Jehial Stearns, V. President.	F. Hooper,
J. H. Parker, Secretary.	T. Day.
Samuel Healy, Treasurer.	T. B. Moore,
	T. Maggoon.

COUNTY OF ONTARIO.

Annual Meeting 2d Tuesday in July.

(In part as reported in 1820.)

Dr. Richard Wells, President.	Censors. Dr. Ralph Wilcox,
Nathaniel Jacob, V. President.	Archilaus G. Smith,
Edson Carr, Secretary.	E. B. Woodworth,
Jeremiah Atwater, Treasurer.	James Carter,
	Pliny Hayes.

Dr. Richard Wells, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF ORANGE.

Annual Meeting 1st Tuesday in July.

Dr. Eleazer Gedney, President.	Censors. Dr. James M. Gardner,
Thomas G. Evans, V. President.	George Eager,
Egbert Jansen, Secretary.	Charles Winfield.
Joseph R. Andrews, Treasurer.	John G. Jansen,
Wm. Horton, jun. Librarian.	Robert C. Hunter.

Dr. Thomas G. Evans, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

[*COUNTY OF OSWEGO,*

(As reported in 1828.)

Dr. Anson Fay, President.	Censors. Dr. Allen Andrews,
—— V. President.	William G. Adkins,
Wm. G. Adkins, Secretary.	B. B. Cary.
—— Smith, Treasurer.	

Dr. B. B. Cary, Delegate.

COUNTY OF OTSEGO.

(As reported in 1827.)

Dr. Caleb Richardson, President.	Censors. Dr. Z. W. Lay,
Anson Tuttle, V. President.	Sumner Ely,
Sumner Ely, Secretary.	Delos White,
Thomas Fuller, Treasurer & Li-	Horace Manley,
brarian.	Ariel Spafford.

Dr. Delos White, Delegate.

COUNTY OF RENSSELAER.

Annual Meeting 2d Tuesday in June.

Dr. Asaph Clarke, President.	Censors. Dr. John Wheeler,
Robert Collins, V. President.	Amatus Robbins,
E. S. Kimberly, Rec. Secretary.	Moses Hale,
Samuel M'Clellan, Corr. Sec'y.	John Squire,
Obadiah E. Lansing, Treasurer.	John Van Namee.
Joseph Keon, Librarian.	

COUNTY OF SARATOGA.

Annual Meeting, 3d Wednesday in May.

Dr. William Tibbitts, President.	Censors. Dr. John H. Steel,
Booth Northrup, V. President.	Samuel Freeman,
Eliphalet St. John, Secretary	Eliphalet St. John,
and Treasurer.	Findley McMartin.

Dr. Asa C. Barney, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF SCHOHARIE.

Annual Meeting, 1st Tuesday in October.

Dr. Samuel B. Wells, President.	Censors. Dr. Cornelius H. Van Dyck,
John Cornell, V. President.	Peter S. Swart,
Cornelius H. Van Dyck, Treas.	John Cornell,
Peter S. Swart, Secretary.	David Budd,
Joel Foster, Librarian.	Joel Foster.

Dr. Joel Foster, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF STEUBEN.

(As reported in 1828.)

Annual Meeting, 1st Thursday in October.

Dr. Isaac Kidder, President.	Dr. John D. Higgins, Secretary.
—— Pulling, V. President.	Gustavus A. Rodgers, Treasurer.

Dr. Ten Eyck Gansevoort, Delegate.

COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Annual Meeting, 3d Tuesday in January.

Dr. Joseph W. Smith, President.	Censors. Dr. Francis Parker,
John H. McChesney, V. Pres.	Socrates N. Sherman,
William Noble, Treasurer.	Henry D. Loughlin,
Darius Clark, Secretary.	Elijah Baker,
	John Parmelee.

Dr. Elijah Baker, Delegate to the State Medical Society.

COUNTY OF SENECA.

Dr. Caleb Loring, Secretary.

COUNTY OF TOMPKINS.

(As reported in 1828.)

Dr. Joseph Speed, President.	Dr. Ashbel Patterson, Secretary.
John C. Hoyt, V. President.	

Dr. Cornelius P. Heermans, Delegate.

COUNTY OF ULSTER.

(As reported in 1827.)

Dr. Peter Crispell, jr. President.	Dr. Edward Arnold, Secretary.
James Mairs, V. President.	N. Van Hovenbergh, Treasurer.

Dr. Garretson, Delegate.

COUNTY OF WARREN.

(As reported in 1826.)

Annual Meeting, 3d Tuesday in January.

Dr. Truman B. Hicks, President.	Censors. Dr. Asa Stone,
Thomas Patterson, V. President	J. M'Allister,
and Treasurer.	J. Patterson,
Benjamin Dean, Secretary.	Nathan Tubbs.

COUNTY OF WAYNE.

Annual Meeting, 1st Tuesday in June.

Dr. J. B. Pierce, President.	Censors. Dr. Gain Robinson,
Alex'r M'Intyre, V. President.	L. Gaylord,
Richard P. Williams, Secretary.	A. Doane,
Seth Tucker, Treasurer.	J. S. Eggleston,
	W. H. Peckham.

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON.

Annual Meeting, last Tuesday in June.

Dr. Asa Fitch, President.	Censors. Dr. George Gillis,
Cornelius Holmes, V. President.	James Savage,
Abraham Allen, Treasurer.	John Bostwick.
Alfred Freeman, Secretary.	

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER.

(As reported in 1828.)

Dr. Matson Smith, President.	Censors. Dr. Guy C. Bailey,
Wm. Hoffman, V. President.	Peter Moulton,
David Palmer, Secretary.	David Palmer.
Epenetus Wallace, Treasurer.	

Dr. Joshua W. Bowron, Delegate.

COUNTY OF YATES.

(As reported in 1823.)

Dr. Enos Barnes, President.	Censors. Dr. John Hatmaker,
Wm W. Tyler, V. President.	A. F. Oliver,
John Hatmaker, Secretary.	Uri Judd,
Uri Judd, Treasurer.	Lewis A. Birdsall,
	Henry Spencer.
Dr. Enos Barnes, Delegate.	

☞ The Secretary regrets that there are some twenty counties from which he has not been able to obtain a list of the names of the officers of the Medical Societies, and from several others but a very imperfect list. Five counties only have furnished lists of the names of the members of their Medical Societies.

7. List of Members of County Medical Societies.

[Returns incomplete.]

ALBANY COUNTY.

Dr. William Bay,	Dr. Rensselaer Gansevoort,
John W. Bay,	Erastus Williams,
Jonathan Eights,	Guy Spalding,
Charles D. Townsend,	Jonathan Johnson,
Peter Wendell,	Moses Clement,
Joel A. Wing,	Vredenburg,
Platt Williams,	Isaac Hyde,
Peter Van Olinda,	Valentine Dennick,
Henry Van Olinda,	Michael Freleigh,
Barent P. Staats,	D. D. W. Houghtaling,
Peter P. Staats,	Asa Burbank,
T. Romeyn Beck,	Michael Malone,
James M. Naughton,	William Tully,
Peter M. Naughton,	E. S. Burton,
James P. Boyd,	William Noble,
John James,	Peter B. Noxon,
Samuel Humphries,	Edward A. Leonard,
Roger Veits,	Luke Wellington,
Alden Marsh,	Henry Van Antwerp,
John W. Hinkley,	Lewis C. Beck,
Hazael Kane,	James M. Brown.
Henry Green,	

HERKIMER COUNTY.

Dr. Westel Willoughby,	Dr. Ellis,	Dr. Budlong,
Jacob Sherwood,	Holmes,	Marshall,
Van Zandt,	Cahoon,	Palmer,
Bingham,	Sears,	Philleo,
Johnson,	Lockwood,	Day,
Brown,	Crane,	Corder,
Spalding,	Hannah,	Allen,
Hanchett,	Phelon,	Ethridge,
Belknap,	Clarke,	Wood,
Smith,	Bingham,	Doolittle,
Green,	Bowen,	Hadley.
Hamilton,		

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Dr. Henry L. Van Dyck,	Dr. Robert Hicks,
Samuel White,	Samuel P. White,
John Talman,	Wessel T. Van Orden,
Thomas Brodhead,	Peter Van Beuren,
John M'Clellan,	John Sutherland,
Edward B. Pugsley,	Henry Foote,
John P. Beekman,	Thomas Sears,
Abraham Jordan,	Henry A. Heermance,
David Mellen,	John Lusk,
Squire Jones,	Levi B. Skinner,
Robert G. Frary,	Stephen H. Platner,
Horatio Root,	John Hunt,
John Merriman,	William M. Jones,
Henry D. Wright,	Samuel R. M'Clellan,
Eleazer Root,	Peter P. Rossman,
John Vanderpoel,	Eseck King,
Isaac Everest,	Jesse Ferris,
Hosea Beebe,	Dayton.
Edward Dorr, jun.	

COUNTY OF NEW-YORK.

Dr. George Akerly,	Dr. John Baxter,
Andrew Anderson,	Stephen D. Beekman,
Anthony L. Anderson,	F. E. Berger,
John A. Anderson,	Lewis Belden,
Samuel Akerly,	Gerard Bancker,
John Anderson,	George Birch,
Joseph C. Arnold,	C. C. Blatchley,
W. Barrow,	J. C. Bliss,
Benjamin Bailey,	S. Blois,
Hersey Baylies,	Thomas Boyd,
Joseph Bayley,	J. S. Bowron,
Luke Barker,	W. H. Boyd,
John B. Beck,	

Dr. G. W. Boyd,
 John Brinckerhoff,
 Isaac Brinckerhoff,
 David B. Brooks,
 Stephen Brown,
 Nehemiah Brush, jun.
 James Cameron,
 Galen Carter,
 John C. Cheeseman,
 Zenas Chandler,
 Charles Cleeve,
 John S. Conger,
 James Cockroft,
 G. A. Cooper,
 Fayette Cooper,
 George Cumming,
 A. S. Condit,
 J. C. Cornell,
 Abraham L. Cox,
 B. B. Coit,
 Smith Cutter,
 John Davis,
 Daniel Dayton,
 James Dekay,
 Edward Delafield,
 N. H. Dering,
 Michael De Gray,
 G. De Lanuza,
 Francis G. Doucett,
 James Downs,
 Joseph W. Duvall,
 Hampton Dunham,
 Charles Drake,
 John H. Douglass,
 Floyd T. Ferris,
 Joshua Fisher,
 Peter Forrester,
 John W. Francis,
 Benjamin B. Edwards,
 John Glover,
 Ralph Glover,
 John Graham,
 W. Grayson,
 Hans. B. Gram,
 George Griswold,
 Zani H. Harris,
 Andrew Hammersly,
 W. H. Hammersly,
 Joel Hart,
 George Harriot,
 J. H. Hearsey,

Dr. John K. Hardenbrook,
 William Hibbard,
 John Hills,
 W. C. Hickock,
 Daniel M. Hitchcock,
 Moore Hoit,
 David Hosack,
 A. E. Hosack,
 John J. Howe,
 Amos G. Hull,
 Andrew Hunt,
 A. T. Hunter,
 Thomas W. Hunter,
 Lewis Hallock,
 John J. Ingersoll,
 W. M. Ireland,
 Ansel W. Ives,
 John D. Jacques,
 Robert Johnson,
 F. U. Johnston,
 H. T. Judson,
 Frederick G. King,
 Hudson Kinsley,
 Benjamin Kissam,
 Benjamin R. Kissam,
 Daniel W. Kissam, jun.
 Samuel S. Kuypers,
 J. Leveridge,
 J. Leo. Wolfe,
 Daniel Lord,
 John B. Loring,
 David Marvin,
 James R. Manley,
 Samuel M'Auley,
 William M'Intosh,
 J. M. Scott M'Knight,
 Hugh M'Lean,
 W. Jas. M'Neven,
 Benjamin M'Vickar,
 W. M'Cafray,
 Matthew M'llvain,
 Elijah Mead,
 Lemuel Merritt,
 W. W. Miner,
 Samuel L. Mitchill,
 Otho Monroy,
 Valentine Mott,
 John Neilson,
 John Onderdonk,
 Felix Pascalis,
 Gilbert Weston,

Dr. James M Pendleton,
 Richard Pennell,
 Martin Payne,
 J. S. Perry,
 Cyrus Perkins,
 Joseph S. Perry,
 James L. Phelps,
 Charles E. Pierson,
 W. W. Powers,
 J. C. Quackenboss,
 H. A. Riley,
 John R. Rhinelanders,
 B. R. Robson,
 John J. Routon,
 W. Rockwell,
 A. J. Rouse,
 John R. B. Rodgers,
 John K. Rodgers,
 David Rogers,
 David L. Rogers,
 James H. Rogers,
 James S. Rumsey,
 Ludowyck Saynisch,
 Z. W. Seaman,
 John See,
 W. S. Scott,
 A. B. Simpson,
 Albert Smith,
 James O. Smith,
 Gilbert Smith,
 J. Augustine Smith,

Dr. Joseph M. Smith,
 Thomas L. Smith,
 John Stearns,
 John W. Sterling,
 A. H. Stevens,
 W. Stilwell,
 Hugh Sweeny,
 W. Swift,
 Samuel Throckmorton,
 David Tomlinson,
 P. S. Townsend,
 John Trenor,
 Richard Tuite,
 J. Slocum,
 Hiram Upson,
 Richard T. Underhill,
 Thomas Van Beuren,
 Samuel Van Doren,
 Peter Van Arsdale,
 Philip Van Arsdale,
 Richard Vermule,
 Henry M. Van Solingen,
 John Watts, jun.
 John W. Weed,
 Abraham D. Wilson,
 Marinus Willett, jun.
 Elias Wolfe,
 Amaziah Wright,
 Clark Wright,
 Isaac Woods,
 Christopher C. Yates.

COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Dr. William S. Paddock,
 Joseph H. Ripley,
 William A. Campfield,
 Jason Winslow,
 William Atwater,
 William Hatch,
 Lewis Stowers,
 George W. Barker,
 John S. Morgan,
 Wolcott Griffin,
 Hiram Murdock,
 Lorenzo Sheldon,
 Solomon P. Sherwood,
 Lewis Samburn,
 Sylvester Ford,
 Collins R. Pierce,
 Albert Tyler,
 Ira Gibson,

Dr. James S. Munson,
 Joseph Boynton,
 Gideon Sprague,
 Elisha Gillis,
 James A. Mott,
 Caleb Pierce,
 William Floyd,
 Alanson Ray,
 John Sedly,
 Reuben Ashley,
 Roswell Trask,
 Seymour Thatcher,
 Onicy Rice, jr.
 Oliver Brewster,
 John Marsh,
 Wooster Carpenter,
 Rufus Newton.

ANNUAL ADDRESS,

BY T. ROMEYN BECK, M. D.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY,

SINCE we last closed our annual deliberations, events have occurred to remind us, that as well in our corporate as in our individual capacity, we are not exempted from the common lot of man. An aged and respected practitioner, one of the early Presidents of this Society, has during the last year, yielded to the inevitable stroke of fate.* Nor ought an allusion to his name to be omitted, under whose magistracy we held our last meeting. The friend and eulogist of our profession—the scholar and the statesman—the pride of his native state, has suddenly been removed.

It is a “taming thought to human pride,” that although death destroys those whose existence is deemed most necessary to the common welfare, yet the train of events proceeds on with a steady march. It is no less evident that in the present æra of advancement in knowledge, no minor obstacle can be found which will permanently impede its course. In all the schemes for the melioration of the condition of man,—for his growth in science—his progress in morality and religion, the loss of one master spirit is early compensated by the acquisition of many ardent votaries. We feel this in our own profession.

* Hon. William Wilson, M. D. of Columbia county, President of the State Medical Society, during the year 1813.

The general diffusion of information brings numerous labourers into the common harvest—and emulation is excited as well by the examples of the present day, as by a retrospect of the past. There is no branch of medicine—either strictly belonging to its numerous departments, or ministering collaterally to their improvement, which is not industriously and successfully cultivated.

It is impossible to survey this effort, or its results, without a sensation of pleasure, or without a wish that its value may be generally understood. That there are impediments to this, is only to confess that human nature is imperfect and wayward. But if we examine more closely into the causes of the indifference or ignorance manifested by the greater part of mankind, we shall, I apprehend, find it mainly owing to the negligence of our own profession. The importance of the subject—its extensive and interesting bearings on human happiness—its magnitude, even as a branch of scientific study, are not sufficiently presented in relief before those who can judge with discrimination, or appreciate with accuracy. All proper occasions should be embraced to manifest to the community what is doing to remove the charge of uncertainty in medicine, and to illustrate the discoveries which the talent of the present age is bringing forward. I avail myself of the opportunity, at the conclusion of my term of office, to dwell for a short time on this subject in its interesting relations.

The first illustration I would offer of great IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICINE, is the *distrust which is obtaining against general theories*. There was a period when every physician ranged himself under the banner of some great name—adopted his doctrines

and obeyed the precepts which he inculcated. Many of the celebrated individuals to whom I refer, were indeed master spirits; whose lives cannot be read without admiration, and whose eloquence and learning won them willing votaries. Each in his turn, in various ages, down to our own days, fondly imagined that he had reared the imperishable monument, which neither time, nor human industry could overthrow—each imagined that he at least, had developed the laws of life—discovered their mysterious workings, and elucidated the changes that disease produces in them. But like material monuments, they have slowly crumbled, or been violently overthrown, and we search among the ruins for some precious relic that may have been forgotten in the destruction. Such they all contain. There is no theory ever yet promulgated, which is not based on some portion of positive truth. Indeed it could hardly have been otherwise. The founders were men of vigorous intellect and of keen observation. They drew from their own stores, and were only wanting in that universality of knowledge which is essential to the formation of a perfect system—They seized on some prominent phænomenon, and after examining it with skill and acuteness, made it the groundwork of their superstructure. In the devotion so natural towards a favourite opinion, other facts no less striking, were either unheeded or diminished in value to their mental view. Thus the basis was frequently narrow and contracted, but not, as some are fond of asserting, imaginary.

A subsidiary but important advantage has also accrued from the successive promulgation of these theories. The disciple, animated with an enthusiastic

belief in the doctrines of his preceptor ; warmed by the eloquence of his prelections, or excited by the attacks of his opponents, applies himself to the invention of new arguments, or the detection of fallacious objections. In such a contest, with much that is superfluous, and often something that is offensive, additional facts are notwithstanding elicited, and the value of old ones is better understood and more correctly applied. A rapid accumulation is thus produced, of the mass of knowledge, for which otherwise, years of desultory effort would have been necessary. The utility of this has been noticed in other sciences. In geology, in particular, the promulgation of various theories, and the ardour with which they have been impugned or defended, certainly are among the principal causes of the numerous and most interesting data, of which it now boasts.

But notwithstanding this compensating benefit, the main objection which I have made remains, and it applies with peculiar force to these doctrines which are offered as explanatory of the phænomena of fever. This disease, in its various forms and numerous combinations, is a fertile source of investigation and most deservedly so—for it embraces a large proportion of the “ills to which flesh is heir.” Fevers strictly so so called—the local inflammations—many forms of eruptive disease, and of hæmorrhage, besides a numerous list usually included under the head of chronic diseases, owe much of their character, as well as severity, to the symptoms usually denominated febrile.—To explain these in their order, and to account for the anomalies they so frequently present, has been deemed a fit employment for the wisest and most intellectual of our brethren in successive ages.

Their want of success may be read in the partial prevalence of a modern theory, of which, while I would desire to speak of it with respect, I must notwithstanding remark, that like its predecessors, it appears too partial and confined in its application. Its popularity amongst a portion of the medical profession in France, and the favourable reception it has met with in some parts of our own country, is not, I apprehend, any invalidation of what I have already said concerning the *general* distrust that is entertained. Due praise may be given for the improvements in pathological research which it encourages, (and which I shall hereafter more particularly notice,) and for the caution it has taught against pushing too far the use of some of our most active and valuable medicines; but its leading propositions cannot become the creed of the profession. A similar remark will apply to the opinions on the same disease, promulgated in England, by a talented individual. They both run counter to that course of practice, which, although requiring nice adjustment, has yet on the whole, been found, by those who have had the most extensive experience, the most beneficial in checking or removing disease. They necessarily lead—the one often to too active treatment—the other to an inefficient one—and though in the hands of their authors, these difficulties may not occur, yet in those of their followers, the result, if we may judge from all former experience, would appear to be inevitable. I am aware of the delicate ground which I occupy in making these remarks, and that I may expose myself to the charge of rash and unfounded censure; but the present is not the place for discussing the merits of these doctrines, and I have only aimed to announce and elucidate a

fact, which I believe you will agree with me, is correct, viz, that there is a great repugnance among the profession to embrace general theories, and to shape their practice in strict conformity to them, and that this repugnance is constantly increasing. Whether this is owing to ignorance or perverseness, is a secondary point of inquiry. I for one am free in ascribing it to the more general diffusion of knowledge—to a candid but decisive application of the experience of the past—and to an increasing desire to study diseases distinctly with reference to their appropriate, as well as ever-varying symptoms—and the changes that are thus produced.

This leads me to the notice of a second feature in the present history of medicine, illustrative of its improvement, viz. *the advancement in Pathological Research.*

If there be a single individual in later times to whom the honour of exciting and directing to this particular branch, is pre-eminently due, it is the illustrious BICHAT. His life was closed at the early age of thirty-three years, but that short span was sufficient for him to produce his volumes in General and Descriptive Anatomy, his Treatise on the Membranes, and his Essay on Life and Death. And these works were the result of numerous and varied experiments and observations—of laborious and unwearied employment in the dissecting room—and finally, of the application of rare intellectual powers to their generalization and arrangement. The division of the body by him into its elementary textures—and the inquiry into their distinct properties, with the changes they undergo from disease—form the basis of discoveries, of which we cannot yet appreciate the extent, or the value.

Since his lamented death, the path of inquiry has been thronged by his votaries and admirers. In France, pathological anatomy is pursued by hundreds of ardent and active minds, and in England, with each succeeding year, it is evident that the subject is gaining and commanding consequence. In this nation, with obstacles peculiar, and in some instances almost insurmountable, some additions have been made to the general fund. The result is cheering to the man of science, as well as to the philanthropist. Knowledge is advanced, and human suffering is mitigated or removed. Look at the practical operation of this pursuit. An individual after struggling with disease which resists all medical skill, sinks under its effects. The symptoms have been narrowly watched by his attendant, and he has endeavoured to apply appropriate remedies. But occasionally some appearances have been noticed, the cause of which he cannot explain. His medical agents also do not produce their usual effects. What are the morbid changes that have caused this? If the lifeless body be consigned to its mother earth without examination, can any information, except of a mere negative kind, be drawn from the case, to be hereafter applied for the benefit of the living? Not so is the practice in the foreign countries which I have noticed. The view of the ravages of the disease illustrates the alterations which have taken place; and although they frequently appear rather as effects, than causes, yet sufficient is obvious to enable useful deductions to be formed, to explain many of the symptoms, and to furnish materials for reflection and improvement in future practice. Need I suggest that many diseases are yet imperfectly understood, and can only be elucidated by the light of this torch. How many have been thus developed

by the labours of Morgagni, Baillie and others. How many, even within the present century, have been successfully explored by Laennec and his compeers in France, by Bell and others in England. The nature of new or unknown diseases can thus alone be discovered. Allow me, in illustration, to refer to a case of mortality, the sudden announcement of which is feelingly remembered by every man in the community who was then living. If the death of our beloved and lamented WASHINGTON, was owing, as would seem from the brief account we have of his symptoms, to the disease now styled Laryngitis, where was the instruction to guide the practitioner? It was not until several years thereafter, that the sudden decrease from it of two distinguished physicians in London, led to pathological examination. Its nature became evident—its mortality was rendered less certain—and dangerous as it must ever prove, instances are even multiplying of recovery from its effects. And yet this disease must have occurred centuries ago, and who can tell how many lives might have been prolonged, had its character been thus specially marked and investigated at an early period.

The tendency of these observations necessarily leads me to notice the importance of dissection. I am aware of the prejudices that must be encountered in discussing its necessity; but they must be overcome, if at all, by arguments that shall shake their vehemence. They owe their origin in some respects to the best feelings of the human heart—while they are unquestionably heightened by the practice of disinterment. But it is because we would render this alternative unnecessary, that I venture to mention the subject.

That an intimate knowledge of the condition of the human system, both in health and in disease, is in-

dispensable to the judicious application of curative means, would seem to be an axiom that requires only to be stated, in order to meet with universal credence. It is no less certain that the community must suffer from the consequences of ignorance. The truth of these remarks appears most strikingly in the department of surgery, although they will be no less conspicuous to him who will investigate, in that of medicine. In the language of the report made last summer to the English House of Commons, by a committee of its members not professional (a paper which should be in the hands of every intelligent citizen in our own country) "as the science of anatomy has improved, many operations formerly thought necessary have been altogether dispensed with; most of those retained, have been rendered more simple and many new ones have been performed, to the saving of the lives of patients, which were formerly thought impossible. To neglect the practice of dissection would lead to the greatest aggravation of human misery; since anatomy, if not learned by that practice, must be learned by mangling the living. Though all classes are deeply interested in affording protection to the study of anatomy, yet the poor and middle classes are most so: they will be the most benefitted by promoting it and the principal sufferers by discouraging it. The rich when they require professional assistance can afford to employ those who have acquired the reputation of practising successfully. It is on the poor, that the inexperienced commence their practice."

But it is not the poor only that are thus to be benefitted by the pursuit of anatomy. There is another class of the community whose condition must excite all the best feelings of our nature—the victims of the

elements—at a distance from their home—deprived of the blessings of domestic life, and yet proudly maintaining the honour and glory of their native land. Our gallant soldiers and sailors, in time of war, have no solace when the hour of danger approaches—no hope amidst the storm of battle, that they shall escape from the consequences of dangerous wounds, except in the skill of their medical attendants. The records of the armies and navies of foreign countries, and particularly of England, where the materials for comparison are most copious, attest how much of human life has been thus preserved, and how great has been the diminution of mortality, when compared with former years.

A word or two is necessary in defence of those who pursue these studies. All will grant that they would not have been selected, except from a high sense of duty. It requires some lofty incitement—some moral courage, to be thus employed. The mysterious change which death induces, is alone sufficient to startle the most buoyant spirit; but with this, the pathologist must familiarize himself. He proceeds to his high office at the risk of health—often indeed of existence. I appeal to your reading, in confirmation of the truth of my assertion, that for several years, scarcely a medical journal has arrived from abroad, which does not contain an account of some individual, who has either met with irreparable injury to his constitution, or has lost his life, from accidents occurring during dissection. Instances of a similar nature have happened in our own country—And apart from the honourable ambition of acquiring some fame, what can be the object of this untiring and hazardous labour? Is it not to ascertain what has been the cause of the mortality, and whether its seat and nature are

under the power of human skill? Surely, under the obstacles which I have noticed, a triumphant proof is given of the desire of improvement in our profession.

I will only notice a third circumstance indicative of my main proposition—viz, *a most remarkable improvement in the composition and administration of remedies.*

The slow progress of the *materia medica* in former times, is sufficiently explained by the fact that remedies are applied to a system, that we are scarcely ever certain, is constituted exactly alike in any two individuals. Apart then from the general operation of medicines, and even these are modified by the presence of different diseases, numerous observations are required to establish their respective characters. In addition to this, it was so much the fashion in former times, to unite several in one prescription, that it would seem almost impossible to designate the distinct effects of each. The imagination also often aids in diversifying these results. Some patients, buoyed up by an implicit confidence in a particular substance, assist as it were, its effects, while others take it in doubt and fear, and thus deprive it of half its efficacy. Another and most serious impediment to the advancement of the *materia medica*, has been the number of medicines which encumber our pharmacopœias and dispensatories.

Some of these difficulties are from their nature insurmountable—since they attach to the nature of the human system, and are inseparable from it. There are others, however, which our own times are about removing. It has been discovered, that many medicines, in whose efficacy all agreed, but whose effects were occasionally uncertain, are of a compound nature

—that, along with their curative constituents, they contain useless or noxious ingredients. We are indebted for this knowledge to modern chemistry—a science eminently practical in its details, and promising at no distant day to remodel its sister branch. I cannot adduce more striking examples of the fruit of this analysis, than the discoveries that have been made concerning bark and opium.

The first of these, the cinchona or Peruvian bark, has for many years been known as a powerful febrifuge. It was ascertained that there were several species of trees, which furnished it, and experiments soon showed that their qualities were various. From time to time a change took place in the popularity of the different kinds—but the difference in quality of the imported article, and the repeated disappointments experienced in its administration, either from loading the stomach, or causing other results destructive of its anti-febrile powers—all tended to impair its general reputation, and there was a period, where another remedy, but which all would agree in omitting, if its place could be supplied, was substituted. Chemists however have analyzed the bark, and found, that instead of being homogeneous, it consists of eight or nine ingredients. They have separated the important constituent (the quinine,) and in its distinct form, it is now to be purchased of every druggist. Of its general success in the removal of intermittents, every physician can speak.

Opium also is a remedy that all unite in commending, when judiciously administered. Its powers in mitigating pain and in soothing the wearied mind and diseased body, entitle it to a high rank among medicinal agents. Yet its operation has occasionally been unkind ; and often when we are most desirous of ob-

taining its anodyne effects, a dread of its attendant consequences has restrained us from recommending it. Substitutes, comparatively inefficient, were necessarily employed. But about twenty years since, the compound nature of opium began to attract the attention of chemists, and from the experiments of Sertuerner, Robiquet, Pelletier and others, it seems now established that it consists of (besides several unimportant ingredients) three principles—morphia—narcotine and meconic acid. The first of these produces the soothing effects—without the feverish excitement, heat and head ache, which so frequently accompany the employment of the drug, and which from experiments seem referable to the second substance I have mentioned. The third does not appear to produce any effect on the human system. If morphia be united to an acid, its stimulating properties are apparently still further counteracted.

These are surely important improvements, and the more so, as they allow its use in states of disease, where it must otherwise have been interdicted.

But it is not only to the investigation of the nature of old remedies, and of which I might continue to adduce numerous examples, that the intellect and labour of the profession are directed. New therapeutic agents are constantly developing. Iodine was unknown in 1811. A manufacturer at Paris observed, that in preparing carbonate of soda from the ashes of sea-weeds, the residual liquor powerfully corroded metallic vessels. He inquired into the cause of the corrosion, and the result was the discovery of this substance—a simple, undecomposable body, so far as our knowledge extends. The next step was to ascertain in what bodies it exists—and among these, sea-weeds, the kelp prepared from them, sponges,

and some marine animals, were found to furnish it in the greatest quantity. A physician, recollecting that burnt sponge had acquired some local reputation in the treatment of goitrous affections, embraced the idea, that its virtue might have originated from the iodine it contained. He prescribed it in these diseases, and found its effects so powerful, that it was necessary to alter the form of administration. Yet his success and that of others have been great. Its use has been extended to the diseases of other glands. The result is still under judgment—but all agree, that an agent has been discovered more direct in its operation, than any yet known, on those maladies which minister to the production of our most common and fatal diseases.

Are these examples which I have adduced satisfactory in showing the exertions of the profession to improve the nature of remedies? Are they sufficiently illustrative of its desire to increase them, so far as sober judgment and prudence will warrant? If so, why should others, who are not of the profession, and who cannot, even in common charity, be supposed to have the necessary preliminary knowledge, either of medicines or of the body, be permitted to employ their supposed curative agents? It has been replied, that the use of vegetable remedies alone are to be permitted, and the usual argument advanced, that if they do no good—they will do no harm. But I would ask, whether the effects and the extent of vegetable and mineral medicines when thus placed in opposition to each other, are sufficiently understood. The supposed deleterious substances of the former class, which are most commonly used, are arsenic and mercury. They have been known for centuries as poisonous substances when given in considerable

quantities. The child hears and remembers this ; and the man, long before he enters on the practice of medicine, has his mind deeply impressed with the necessity of administering them in small doses, and then only with caution, and after mature reflection—they are so given. Arsenic combined with potash has been used for upwards of forty years, with great success in the treatment of agues and other diseases. But it was not from choice. It was because the bark failed in numerous instances—because its quality was often bad, and its effects even positively injurious. For the reasons already stated, the use of quinine is rapidly diminishing the employment of the mineral.

As to mercury, I will only say, that if there be a single drug, that in human hands has proved a most distinguished curative means, it is this. That its effects may be occasionally uncertain or injurious, is only to repeat, that there are peculiarities of constitution for which the wisest cannot be prepared—or that there is a malignancy in some diseases which no human effort can counteract. But who will deny its positive utility ? Look at the thousands whom, not only in tropical climates, but in our own country, it has saved from that fell destroyer of our race—fever. Look at the numerous inflammations it has checked or dissipated. Look at the tens of thousands whom it has saved from the consequences of vice.

A similar answer will apply, if we notice the remaining medicines. Their noxious effects (if any) are known—they are given under the high responsibility of this knowledge, and they are selected, notwithstanding this, because their effects are more cer-

tain, and their operation as kind, as those of vegetable substances.

But it would seem to be intimated that mineral medicines are incongruous to the human system, and a certain mysterious affinity has been imagined between it and vegetable remedies. The latter, it is asserted, are milder in their operation; produce healing effects more certainly, and are not injurious, like calomel, in their consequences. Are these assertions founded in a knowledge of the human body, and do the authors of the first idea know of what it is composed? Have they ever heard that a large proportion of the solid parts of the body are a mineral substance—the phosphate of lime? Do they know that iron enters into the composition of the blood?

But this is not all. Allow me to throw a rapid glance over these mild vegetable remedies—these substances that any man after a day's reading may administer. I have already enumerated two of them, opium and iodine. Opium has been raised in this state. It may be thus an indigenous product. Iodine may hereafter be extracted from the sea-weeds on your coast. Now a grain of narcotine extracted from the first, has killed a dog, and a few grains of the last taken daily for a short time, has destroyed a human being. Do you know of a substance which indicates its power over life by lessening the action of the heart with great rapidity—which reduces the rapid beat of the consumptive patient to comparative slowness? It is foxglove, a vegetable cultivated in many of our gardens. Are you acquainted with vegetables which will produce raving madness and convulsions—which inflame and destroy the texture of the stomach? The stramonium, cicuta and wild parsnip will do this. They too are indigenous—they

grow in our streets or lanes—or abound in our marshes. There is a substance which in small quantities convulses the palsied arm of the bed-ridden—the limb that has hung dead for years by his side. It is strychnine, a vegetable product. But to crown all this—what is the most concentrated and deadly poison with which we are acquainted—which will destroy all species of life, from the snail up to man, with the rapidity of lightning—which has struck down the suicide in death, before he could finish the fatal draught? It is prussic acid—a vegetable product, that can be distilled from the leaves and kernels of the peach, or from the laurels that abound throughout our state.

And yet, after this enumeration, we have only gone through a portion of the noxious vegetable substances. Let not this statement startle any of my hearers. It may be laid down as an axiom, generally true, that with the exception of some remedies in the classes of astringents and tonics, a vegetable is valuable as a medicine, in proportion as it is noxious in large quantities. In every botanical work, you find the remark, that those which are not possessed of some acrid qualities, are inefficient in their operation on the human system.

The question then presents itself to the mind of every enlightened man, whether those who have received an appropriate education; who have the stores of accumulated knowledge opened to them, are the safest persons to be entrusted with the care of the health of the community, or whether they shall be put on a par with such as claim instinct—or self-inspiration as their guides. Can these soldiers of Cadmus be expected to bring any useful spoil into the camp? Look at every modern work on the ma-

teria medica. We now know the nature of almost every secret remedy—Chemistry furnishes us with the means of analysis, and almost without an exception, they are the cast-off prescriptions of the older physicians—neglected, because more eligible substitutes have been obtained—or abandoned, because their constituents were found uncertain or dangerous. That man will render a service to the community, who will furnish our public prints with the receipts for compounding these vaunted catholicons.

I rejoice, that as your representative, I have been permitted to bear my testimony on this subject. I do not feel that the profession are to be the greatest sufferers. It will be the community—the country. The three professions at this day furnish the greatest proportion of educated men. Education is essential to the stability of the republic. Will it then be attempted to break down one of these professions? If so—the young men who now crowd its avenues, will seek other means of support—the old will retire in disgust from the thankless contest. The study of the collateral sciences, which has ministered so largely to the advancement of medicine, and which is beginning to give character to the nation, will cease. *The æra of improvement in medicine will have passed away*, and the encomium of Sir William Temple, quoted, and sanctioned, and applauded, by DE WITT CLINTON, will no longer apply. “It is certain (says he) that the study of physic is not achieved in any eminent degree, without very great advancement in the sciences, so that whatever the profession is, the professors of it have been generally very much esteemed on that account, as well as of their own art, as the most learned men of their ages.”



