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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

Erasmus D. Fenner, M. D.

LATE

PROF. OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

IN THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE;

DEAN OF THE FACULTY.

ETC., ETC., ETC.

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ERASMUS DARWIN FENNER, M. D.,

Late Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the New Orleans

School of Medicine.

FEW members of the Medical Profession have died in this Southern country more sincerely and generally regretted, none have lived more widely and favorably known and honored than Dr. Erasmus Darwin Fenner; and we undertake the erection of this humble tablet to his memory with a higher aim than a mere selfish desire to indulge in empty laudation of a personal friend. In his life, Dr. Fenner has stepped aside from the narrow path of self-advancement, and has exerted himself to be useful to his species present with and after him, and it is a duty incumbent on us who follow him, and who are permitted the privilege of emulating his good example, carefully to enroll his name and hand it down to posterity.

Before the American Revolution for Independence of Great Britain, a family of Irish emigrants, of cultivation and refinement, settled in the State of North Carolina. One of these, the grandfather of the subject of our memoir, occupied the honorable position of one of the Council to the Governor of the State. He resided in the town of Newbern. This gentleman had three sons—Robert, William, and Richard. All of them served faithfully on the side of the “Rebels.” Robert was a Colonel, William a Major, and Richard (the youngest) a Lieutenant. One of the descendants now living, says—“I have my father’s (Richard) diploma as a Lieutenant, from the Society of the Cincinnati, signed by

General Washington and General Knox." At the close of the war, Richard studied Medicine, and, in an expedition sent out by General Washington against the Indians of West Virginia, he received an appointment on the medical staff. On his return to North Carolina he married, located himself near Louisburg, Franklin County, and commenced the practice of his profession. He was successful, assumed a high standing, and for thirty years, not only enjoyed an extensive practice, but with it the unstinted confidence of the community around him. During this time he was one of the Vice Presidents of the State Medical Society, incorporated by the Legislature of that day. In the year 1817, and amid his advanced years, he moved to Raleigh, the capital, where he became one of the leading practitioners and pursued his labors for five years more. Impaired health now forced him to retire from practice and return to his estate near Louisburg. But he did not remain there long. In 1823, he removed with his large family to the State of Tennessee, and settled in the "Western District." Here he resided until his death in 1828. We have the best assurance that he was a man of the highest tone of character, and that where he has lived his memory is still warmly cherished.

Dr. Richard Fenner had a family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Of these, ERASMUS DARWIN was the ninth. He was born in the year 1807, on what day we have been unable to ascertain. He is represented as having been, in his childhood and youth, the most delicate, physically, of the family. The family traditions represent him as having, in his youth, been a somnambulist, and many amusing anecdotes are told of him in this connection. In some instances, however, his "sleep-walkings" are said to have been attended with serious consequences, as severe falls, etc. By one who knew him most intimately in early youth, we are assured that "at an early period he evinced the peculiar traits which have marked his character throughout life. His amiability and vivacity of disposition in all the social relations, made him a favorite wherever he was known, and in the virtues of moral integrity, energy, indefatigable industry, and stern devotion to duty—developed in his maturer years—he was unsurpassed."

Dr. Fenner pursued his early studies at the Academy at Raleigh, North Carolina, under the Rev. Dr. McPheeters. After his father removed to Tennessee (he was then in his sixteenth year), a competent tutor was engaged, and under his guidance he acquired a good education in the Sciences and the Greek and Latin languages. He commenced the study of medicine under his elder brother, Dr. Robt. Fenner—still living, and a highly honored citizen of Jackson, Tennessee—, in the year 1827. He attended his first course of lectures in 1829; and in 1830 he graduated at the University of Transylvania, Kentucky. In this same year he commenced the practice of his profession at Jackson, Tennessee. We are told that "his popular manners and devotion to

business, soon brought him into favorable notice, with a remunerative practice, and the confidence of an intelligent and appreciative community." In the year 1831, he made the acquaintance of Miss Ann Callier, a young lady from the State of Georgia, who is said to have been possessed of great attraction of person and manners, and who was at Jackson, on a visit to her sister, the first wife of the late David Merriwether of that place. A mutual attachment soon sprang up, and resulted in their marriage in the following year—1832. In 1833, the young couple moved to Clinton, Mississippi, at that time one of the most important inland towns of a fertile and thriving country. Here Dr. Fenner soon became a popular physician, and he had an extensive and lucrative practice. Here, too, his marriage was blessed with the birth of a boy—Charles E.—who survives him, and is now a practicing lawyer of the City of New Orleans.

It was at the time of his removal from Jackson, Tennessee, to Clinton, Mississippi, that our country was passing through one of those wonderful attacks of commercial mania that periodically prey on communities, and Dr. Fenner did not escape the prevailing epidemic. He made money rapidly by his professional labor, but he engaged in planting enterprizes, and endorsed freely for his speculative friends. In 1837, the grand crash came, and in a moment all the earnings of faithful toil were swept away. But more than all, our friend was now called on to bear a burthen heavier than all others known to men of his nature. The hand of death was laid on his wife, and he was left alone with his little boy. These great troubles, added to the natural desire to appear on a larger and more conspicuous professional stage, were not long in determining him to make another move, and in the Spring of 1840 he appeared in the City of New Orleans.

It is a matter of real regret that we are denied the material for a more minute detail of at least the professional career of Dr. Fenner, up to the time of his making New Orleans his home. During the late war we were thrown in the neighborhood of Clinton, and we had the privilege of conversing with a number of the old citizens of the place and vicinity—professional and non-professional—, and it was really gratifying to note how clearly and favorably he was remembered by all. All praised him; not one had an unkind sentiment to utter. The non-professional remembered and cherished his faithful and valuable attentions as a physician, and his good example as a citizen true to all the obligations of life. The professional dwelt in praises for his uniform professional courtesy and dignity, and his value in sustaining the true standing of the physician. Nearly a quarter of a century had passed away since he had dwelt among them, and he had left in his comparative youth, yet the memory of him had not faded; nor will it fade but in the gradual passing away of the silvered heads who were his cotemporaries and friends.

We have, in the Spring of 1840, found Dr. Fenner launched anew

on the sea of life. He was now on a new theatre. Hitherto his efforts had been directed in the channel of what is known as "country practice;" for, notwithstanding he lived in towns, it was at last the country that would afford the bulk of practice. We have often talked with him of his experiences in this regard, and although he cherished many reminiscences thereof, still he looked back on the arduous labor performed with something of a shudder. He felt that he had passed through a good school, but he believed that it would have been better for him had he made his earliest efforts in a large city. Nature had implanted in him a modest ambition to be useful to his species to the fullest extent of his ability, and he felt that the end was only to be achieved on the theatre now chosen.

He has often told us that he came to New Orleans with narrow pecuniary means, and with few friends and acquaintances. He lived on the most economical scale, and devoted himself to the education of his little boy, to whom he clung as his safe-anchor amid the storm of life. When we first made Dr. Fenner's acquaintance, in 1848, he was still devoted to the instruction of his son, and his evenings were spent in cultivating his mind. During the first year of his residence here, he realized a few hundred dollars from his practice; the next, a little more; the next, a little more; and so on, until, at the time of our acquaintance with him (the eighth year of his residence here), he had a very genteel practice, had purchased a home in the centre of the city, and was working hard to pay for it. Often have we been deeply interested in the tale of his economical life in New Orleans, during at least five years; and in it is to be found an interesting lesson. The work of the city and that of the country are as different as possible in many respects—in none, more than in the experiences of the medical man seeking patronage. Strange as it may appear, amid the throng of the city, and where the bestowers of patronage seem most abounding, such a man has a longer probation to serve in the harness of poverty than if he casts his lot among the fields and forests, where population seems scanty. In the country, greater distances lie between men, and physicians are numerically proportionate. Even if one is preferable above all others, time, distance, pecuniary limit forbid his exclusive employment. In the city, there is more than one point of difference. The unknown physician, however meritorious, is lost for the time being in the very crowd of his seeking; the known are accessible to all alike who possess the means of paying, and both merit and fashion lift into the path of distinction and affluence. Occasionally fortuitous circumstances shape an exception to this rule, but the exception only strongly proves the rule.

Any one at all well acquainted with Dr. Fenner, would know at once that his probation would have to be served under the prevailing rule. Amply possessed of such qualities as should make a man honored as a citizen and loved as a physician, so far from knowing how to press him-

self artificially on society, he naturally recoiled from the study of so doing, and cherished the conviction that professional merit was sure of its reward through a channel more noble, more honorable to the representatives of our calling,

It was in the midst of this probationary struggle that Dr. Fenner found a kindred spirit in poverty and just aspirations, and the result was the beginning of that more public career which brought him to the favorable notice of our brethren at home and abroad, and fixed for him a reputation both enviable and enduring.

In the Spring of 1844 he commenced the publication of *The New Orleans Medical Journal*, in conjunction with Dr. A. Hester, who came to this city about the same time as he did, and who, like himself, was struggling to live. But we quote from his own pen an account of this noble enterprise :

“Happening to be thrown together in the City of New Orleans, and finding our fortunes alike desperate, a fellow-feeling gave rise to an intimacy between us which it is hoped will endure through life. Without money, with but few acquaintances, and dependent on a precarious practice, which barely afforded the most economical support, we determined to project the hazardous adventure of a *Southern Medical Journal*, and trust to the liberality of the medical profession for its support. The field was ample, rich, and entirely unoccupied ; but it was difficult to see how the experiment could succeed without having *one cent of capital* to start with. We actually had the prospectus printed *on credit*, one of our booksellers being willing to go that far at all hazards, and we paid the bill—*three dollars*—out of the first spare money we had. The prospectus being out and distributed throughout the country, we were fairly committed to bring out the work ; but, as yet, could find no person willing to undertake the publication. All we had to give was our own labor, which was cheerfully offered, but something more substantial was required. We appealed to the booksellers, to the proprietors of the city newspapers, and, finally, to the Medical College, and leading physicians of the city for a guaranty of five hundred dollars, but all to no purpose. The enterprise was *conceived in poverty, and finally poverty brought it forth !* At this stage of our gestation we had the good luck to meet with a poor *French printer*, who had a *handful of type and nothing to do*. Him we persuaded, by means of *flattering promises*, to bring out the first number ; and thus the *New Orleans Medical Journal* saw the light ! Each number made out to pay its own way, but left no surplus on hand. In this manner we struggled through the first volume, and were entering on the second with prospects somewhat improved, when an unexpected rival appeared in the field. The Professors of the Louisiana Medical College issued a prospectus announcing the early appearance of a new medical journal from their school. A union was effected between the two, and the late Professors Harrison and Carpen-

ter joined us in the publication of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal. In 1848 we voluntarily withdrew from the Journal, and in less than two years Drs. Carpenter and Harrison were removed by the hand of death, leaving the present worthy editor (Dr. Hester) alone in his glory."*

Both the founders of the New Orleans Medical Journal have passed away, but they have made their impress on society. Both triumphed over poverty and the real and fictitious obstacles of life. One did not live long enough to enjoy the full fruition of his early efforts; the other, though not reaching the full term allotted man, tasted freely of the sweets of consciousness of a life approved and applauded by his fellow men.

Before us are all the volumes of this Journal. Those issued during Dr. Fenner's connection with the editorial corps, are replete with the impress of his pen. Until the third volume was reached he did not appear in the original department of the Journal, but in the editorial and bibliographical departments we find that he labored with true zeal. His name is not attached to articles, but his style is unmistakable to those intimately acquainted with him, and the good fruits of his industrious pen are freely scattered through the pages. No man can read these numerous desultory effusions without being profoundly impressed with the conviction that the motives which impelled him were the noblest, the most unselfish imaginable.

After he retired from the editorial chair, Dr. Fenner continued his contributions to the original department, and his labors as a writer may be said to have only ceased with his life. To give some idea of the bent of his mind, we name here the titles of some of his papers found in a few of the volumes of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal before us. 1st. In No. 2, vol. 3—" *Brief Notes on a Medical Tour in the United States.* Communicated in Editorial Correspondence to this Journal: By ERASMUS D. FENNER, M. D., one of the Editors."

In this tour, which comprised the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, besides many places of less note in point of size, we find Dr. Fenner beginning that extensive acquaintance among professional men, outside New Orleans, which may be said to have been peculiar to him. It was on this tour (May, 1846), that he became one of the members of the first meeting of the embryo American Medical Association, held at New York. He there presented his credentials from both the Mississippi State Medical Society, and the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Louisiana. It is really refreshing to read his letters from the cities named. It is clearly seen that his was truly a professional tour, and as such he enjoyed it and profited by it.

2d. In No. 3, vol. 3—" *Case of Rupture of the Heart, and Compound Fracture of the Thigh, in which the Patient Survived Twenty-Eight Hours and a half.* Reported by E. D. FENNER, M. D."

* See Fenner's Southern Medical Reports, vol. 1, p. 468.

3d. No. 4, vol. 3—“*An Account of the Yellow Fever that Prevalled in New Orleans in the Year 1846.* By E. D. FENNER, M. D.”

This is the first of a series of reports on epidemics of this disease coming under his personal observation, which, for clearness and honesty of detail, will never be surpassed, and which will constitute a large part of the fertile soil from which, at some day, another worker will eliminate valuable results for our species.

4th “*An Account of the Yellow Fever at New Orleans in the Year 1848.* By E. D. FENNER, M. D., etc., etc.”

But just here we find Dr. Fenner embarking in a new professional enterprise, and one which, although he abandoned it at the end of two years' hard work, and for the want of the pecuniary patronage of his professional brethren, will always redound to his credit. We know that Dr. Fenner abandoned his position of editor of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* most reluctantly. It has been seen how, in the early struggles of the originators, factitious obstacles were thrown across their path, and that poverty forced them to a compromise which nothing else could have extorted. All this finally culminated in the retirement of Dr. Fenner, and in 1849 and 1850 we find him editing and issuing, solely on his own responsibility, volumes one and two of “*Southern Medical Reports; consisting of General and Special Reports on the Medical Topography, Meteorology, and Prevalent Diseases in the following States: Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas.* To be published annually. Edited by E. D. Fenner, M. D., of New Orleans; Member of the American Medical Association, Member of the Physico-Medical Society of New Orleans, and of the Louisiana State Medical Society, Corresponding Member of the State Medical Society of Mississippi, the Medical Society of Montgomery, Alabama, the Attakapas Medical Society, and of the New York Academy of Medicine.”

Had Dr. Fenner left no other mark behind him, his “*Introductory Address*” in the first volume would have most honorably saved his name from oblivion. No medical man can read it without feeling that he, himself, is exalted in being allowed the privilege of fraternity with its author. Devoid of the embellishments of a studied rhetoric, simple as the lisping of a child, it breathes all that is noble, all that is honorable, all that is indicative of a just ambition to be useful to his species.

The labor spent by the editor in contributions to these volumes was great indeed, and it is indeed an honor to his name to note the list of those of our profession who lent their pens in aid, viz :

From Louisiana—C. J. Forshey, M. D.; E. H. Barton, M. D.; J. C. Simonds, M. D.; James B. Dungan, M. D.; Wm. A. Booth, M. D.; J. Rhodes, M. D.; O. Carey, M. D.; W. P. Sunderland, M. D.; A. R. Kilpatrick, M. D.; R. T. Gibbs, M. D.; P. B. McKelvey, M. D.

From Alabama—J. G. Bassett, M. D.; Geo. A. Ketchum, M. D.; F.

A. Bates, M. D.; Wm. H. Anderson, M. D.; H. V. Wooten, M. D.; Thos. Fearn, M. D.

From Georgia—E. M. Pendleton, M. D.; J. C. C. Blackburn, M. D.; R. D. Arnold, M. D.; H. F. Campbell, M. D.

From Mississippi—S. C. Farrar, M. D.; C. H. Stone, M. D.; C. S. Magoun, M. D.; A. M. Clemens, M. D.; Samuel A. Cartwright, M. D.; A. C. Holt, M. D.; Thos. Affleck, Esq.

From Tennessee—Lewis Shanks, M. D.

From South Carolina—Thos. Y. Simmons, M. D.; Editors of Charleston Medical Journal and Review; W. F. Holmes, M. D.; South Carolina Medical Association; John B. Porter, M. D.; Samuel H. Dickson, M. D.; Wm. T. Wragg, M. D.; John L. Dawson, M. D.

From North Carolina—W. H. McKee, M. D.

From Texas—J. J. B. Wright, M. D.; N. S. Jarvis, M. D.; Ashbel Smith, M. D.

From Arkansas—Richard H. Coolidge, M. D.

From California—Thos. M. Logan, M. D.

But the pecuniary patronage of the Profession did not suffice to pay the expenses of this noble enterprize, and these two volumes, while they stand a monument to the memory of the Editor, are no less a silent, stern rebuke to the apathy of those whose pittances would have fostered an undertaking valuable and honorable to us all. The failure of this work, solely for want of pecuniary support, must always be a source of regret and shame to all real friends of our profession in the South.

But this failure did not damp the ardor of Dr. Fenner. There was a bottom to his purse, but there was hardly a limit to his energy. With his pen he continued to labor, each year contributing the results of his observations, and in 1854 we find him issuing a pamphlet of eighty-four pages, entitled—“History of the Epidemic Yellow Fever, at New Orleans, La., in 1853: By E. D. Fenner, M. D., etc., etc.” This is the most complete paper of the kind from his pen, and for accuracy and minuteness of detail it is not surpassed.

This leads us to note here the deep interest so continually manifested by Dr. Fenner, during his long residence in New Orleans, in the health, and, consequently, the material welfare of the city. Few men, amid the allurements of life, could keep so continually burning the fire of unselfish interest in the prosperity and happiness of the community amid whom they had cast their lot; and fewer still would have devoted so much energy, so much patient industry, to the discovery of the real cause of the deplorable epidemics which have been the chief, if not the only, cause of our lagging behind in the great onward march of the cities of this country. His investigations were not confined to the facts occurring around him; he looked back far into the past, and recorded all that bore the impress of truth. He did not reach the goal of his

just ambition, but he has left behind him a mass of truthful observations, which will constitute the richest ore that will pass through the hands of the smelter who will one day eliminate the pure metal. Let who will hereafter unfold his pages, one attribute we claim for them; they are truthful to the fullest extent of Dr. Fenner's ability to appreciate truth, and his measure of such appreciative power was no mean one. Yes, we claim for Dr. Fenner here, that he was the soul of professional, of scientific honesty. He loved his profession because he believed it to be the noblest, and he would not have degraded it by even a shade of false record. He felt and taught, that truth was the life of medicine.

But of his devotion to New Orleans, almost his last hours give evidence. The last paper he penned, which was prepared for the pages of the Southern Journal of the Medical Sciences, and the proof sheets of which he corrected just before he was taken sick, contains the following paragraph—a valuable legacy to our community, if heeded.

“If our people would avail themselves of this knowledge, and carry out the measures it inculcates, we have every reason to believe such diseases might be prevented or eradicated when they exist. All efforts hitherto made to prevent their extension by means of quarantine and sanitary cordons have failed, and we have but little reason to hope they will ever succeed. For twenty years we, and some others, have labored to convince the people of New Orleans, that the only way to make the city healthy, is *to make and keep it clean*. But we have labored in vain. In the mysterious course of events, the hand of the tyrant has been brought to our aid, and the results are marvellous. Will our citizens profit by this experience, and continue to enforce their own health ordinances as the federal military authorities enforced them? If they do not the consequences will surely be deplorable.”

The hand that penned these lines is laid low; the unselfish mind that bent itself to labor for the welfare of a whole community has taken wings and fled the material tenement that held it; the silent sheet of paper alone holds up the solemn legacy and begs acceptance; but alas! the vision of efficient quarantine again absorbs us; we are drunk with the pleasing reflection of our ability to hold disease at arm's length and laugh him to scorn, while we revel in the very first causes that give him being, and send him striding over the world. The time is not yet for New Orleans to take lessons of wisdom at the fountain so freely supplied by other civilized communities. Her ear is deaf to the voices that tell her truly that great cities before her have, by the enforcement of local sanitary regulations, been changed from sickly to healthy; her eyes are blind to the fact that she herself is as eminently capable of originating disease as any community on earth. New Orleans ignores the ringing, the trumpet-tongued truth, that for years and years she has instituted quarantine, and yet that quarantine has failed to keep disease away from

her. She ignores the fact that even military quarantine failed to keep disease out of her limits; and, more than all, she ignores the fact that although her great enemy, yellow fever, was brought through quarantine, still it found the city, for the first time in its history, clean, and it failed to become epidemic. We have been sorely chastised by disease, but the shortsighted grasp at the dollar of to-day paralyzes the public spirit of our people, and a heavier rod still will have to be laid upon them before they will arouse from their lethargy. We have energy amongst us, but it is perverted; in the individual scuffle for self-advancement, the interest of the great community is lost sight of, and our energy is wasted.

But, devoted as Dr. Fenner was to the welfare of the community in which he had cast his lot, he was far more devoted to the welfare and advancement of his profession. He believed that the profession of medicine, cultivated and honestly pursued, was the noblest on earth; he felt that it was too much neglected, and he regarded it as a solemn duty for every member thereof to contribute his humble energies for its advancement. We have seen how he, at the time of his greatest obscurity and poverty, succeeded in developing the literary energies of our brethren of the South; it remains to show the rich fruits of his great crowning effort to improve the system of medical education in this country.

From the time of our earliest acquaintance with Dr. Fenner, we found him thoroughly imbued with the idea of taking the initiative in this regard; but he lacked the encouragement of kindred spirits, and year after year he had to content himself with the expression of his views to one or two friends, waiting patiently the good time for action. Dr. Fenner's experience had been a peculiar one. More than any other man of his time here, he had made himself personally acquainted with the general system of medical education in this country, as well as with the resources for teaching possessed by all the cities, North, South, East and West. More, he had long seen the importance of practitioners intended for the South being clinically taught in the South. Lastly, he had for years lived on a soil (New Orleans) incomparably rich in the material for practical instruction, with the primeval forest (if we may be allowed the comparison), cleared away by the most liberal legislative enactments and bounties ever known, and yet languishing for that deep cultivation which monopoly ever forbids, and honorable rivalry ensures. Often have we heard him express his wonder that inland points like Louisville and Nashville should, with their limited resources, be able to command medical classes of three to four hundred students, while New Orleans, with her immense clinical advantages, (really enough for two thousand students) with her inexhaustible supply of anatomical material, and with State munificence exceeding an hundred thousand dollars, should be languishing along with an average class of one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred. To his mind nothing was clearer than

the proposition, that the establishment of a second school here, on a proper basis of practical instruction, would at once give New Orleans her proper position as the medical centre of the South. This, with Dr. Fenner, was a foregone conclusion, because all the elements of success presented themselves to the man who would undertake the enterprise of development. He scorned the idea of a pitiful effort to appropriate one inch of the soil already under cultivation, or to pick up one grain grown thereon; he only urged the occupation and cultivation of the vast and fertile waste around him.

At last, in the spring of 1856, Dr. Fenner found the time, the money, and the kindred spirits available for maturing the cherished plan of years, and all his energies were now bent to the establishment of the New Orleans School of Medicine. Under the general law of the State of Louisiana, the charter of an institution of the kind was at once obtainable, and the organization of the School was forthwith effected as follows:

E. D. Fenner, M. D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Dean of the Faculty.

J. M. W. Picton, M. D., Professor of Diseases of Women and Children.

Thos. Peniston, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, etc.

Samuel Choppin, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

C. Beard, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

Howard Smith, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica, etc.

L. L. Crawcour, M. D., Professor of Medical Chemistry, etc.

A. F. Axson, M. D., Professor of Physiology.

D. Warren Brickell, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics.

Anthony Peniston, M. D., Adjunct Professor of Anatomy.

The Faculty, as thus organized, purchased a large piece of ground on the corner of Common and Villeré streets, immediately opposite the gate of the Charity Hospital, and at once proceeded to erect thereon an elegant and commodious building. Through the liberality of private citizens friendly to the enterprise, the means were found for purchasing a handsome museum, and by the first of November of the same year the new institution was ready for the reception of students. The prospectus of the School, announcing the organization, and placing before the profession the plan of action, was scattered throughout the country, and the new institution was advertised in the medical and secular papers. It was not long before kindly letters of encouragement came in from our professional brethren of the surrounding country; and even while grave predictions of failure, on the part of the unfriendly, were filling the local air, the bright little gleams of success were streaming quietly through the mists on the honest workers. At last the hour of trial came, the beginning of the lecture season, and the opening of the great Matriculation Book. To realize the anxiety of that moment, one must have been of that little organization of nine. Words can convey no definite idea.

Suffice it to say, that no less than *seventy-six* matriculates enrolled their names in the first session, affixing the seal of success to the enterprise. Never shall we forget the calm expression of humble gratification worn by our friend on this occasion. He was winning a victory over those who most unaccountably opposed him ; but, better far, in his estimation, he was receiving a just reward at the hands of those for whom he had so long, so zealously, so honestly worked without price. He regarded the name of each matriculate recorded as a reward for the past and a pledge for the future.

But let not the reader imagine that the labor of Dr. Fenner was confined to effecting so much as is alluded to. On the contrary, in the very midst of success ruin was threatened. We have seen that under the general law of the State, the School found its power of organization and its privilege to confer degrees. Of this there could be no question, but by the opponents of the scheme of course a legal opinion to the contrary could be found, and at once the air resounded with disagreeable doubts, and the Legislature was approached on this point, as well as on the point of prohibiting the Professors and students of the New Orleans School of Medicine from enjoying access to the material of the Charity Hospital. The Medical Department of the State University, for years munificently endowed, and having the freest access to a mass of material which could not be legitimately consumed by three large colleges, claimed all, and on the ground of its being a State institution. Altogether contrary to his tastes, a total stranger to all the politicians of the hour, and more than all, a total stranger to all the wiles and arts of diplomacy, Dr. Fenner had to quit the lecture-room and appear in the lobby. Into this position he was forced, and such a triumph as he accomplished is not often allotted men. To the attacks of enemies, personal and general, he had but one mode of reply. He told our legislators that the objects of the New Orleans School of Medicine were identical with those of the State institution ; that the Faculties of the two were alike constituted, viz : of free and enlightened citizens claiming the privilege of doing good ; that in fostering a State institution the people of Louisiana did not mean to curtail the privileges of other citizens, nor to create in the bosom of the State a withering monopoly ; that the material for teaching medicine in New Orleans was not equalled in this country ; that the vast proportion of it was not only not used, but could not be used by any single school ; that, even if he and his colleagues were granted the privileges they sought, all the material could not then be used by two schools. He asked them if men of enterprise and industry should seek to reclaim and make productive any inundated and useless lands of the State, whether they could think of paralyzing such energy by denying them the privilege, because of objections that might be urged by those whose lands may have been reclaimed by State assistance, and who were now afraid of competition ? He told them that

he and his colleagues did not desire to divide the classes of the University; on the contrary such a result could never repay them for the labor. No, their object was to bring one thousand students annually to New Orleans, instead of one hundred and seventy-five, and that in doing this the very State institution that was now opposing him would be most benefitted. In proof of the soundness of the views held, he pointed them to the flagrant fact, that while the New Orleans School of Medicine, in its very first session, had now matriculated seventy-six students, (the largest first class known in this country) the University had matriculated the largest class known in its history. This, he urged, was the result of the conviction on the part of the patrons of medical schools, that where honorable rivalry existed not only would medicine be cultivated, but all the interests of the student would be most fully subserved. All this was urged in that calm and dignified manner peculiar to Dr. Fenner. The argument was irresistible, and not only did he have the School chartered and endowed with the diploma granting power by special act, but he had the professors and students of the institution granted all the privileges of the great Charity Hospital. Dr. Fenner appealed to the pride, intelligence, and sense of justice of the servants of the people of the State, not to the passions and prejudices of individuals, and his triumph was full and complete.

But there was yet another step to be taken, in order to demonstrate the fact that the State most fully recognized the real value of the New Orleans School of Medicine. As much as the Faculty and their private friends had done towards establishing the School, Dr. Fenner justly considered the State under obligations to give solid aid, inasmuch as it was a clear proposition that she was at last the reaper of the richest part of the harvest annually grown by the efforts of the Faculty. In the second session the class of the School increased to one hundred and twenty-six, and that of the University was now swelled clear beyond the highest point ever before reached. Dr. Fenner went before the Legislature, pointed them to the great patent results, calculated and explained what it all meant in dollars and cents (to say nothing of a nobler aspect) to the State, and asked and obtained an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for the purpose of enlarging the building, increasing the museum, etc., etc. He did not get this without opposition, but it was the spirit of monopoly contending against that of enlightened and liberal advancement in civilization, and the triumph of Dr. Fenner was again complete.

After this Dr. Fenner and his colleagues continued their labors, and the season before the war broke out, the fifth session of the School, the New Orleans School of Medicine had largely over two hundred students, and the aggregate of students in the city of New Orleans was largely over *six hundred*. In this was the triumph of triumphs. Here was the palpable realization of all that Dr. Fenner had predicted. Not only

had he established his own school on the rich soil that had before lain a waste, but he had aroused a spirit of rivalry in the cultivation of medicine here, that at once doubled the patronage bestowed on the State institution, and attracted classes that at once made New Orleans the medical centre of the South. More, the material fact was now attracting attention, that students of medicine were now spending an aggregate of about four hundred thousand dollars per annum in Louisiana, far the larger part of which, under the old régime, would have been poured into the lap of the North. Can any one who is at all familiar with medical matters in this country, doubt for one moment that if there had been no war New Orleans would be now teaching one thousand students of medicine annually?—thus realizing the very words of Dr. Fenner's original prediction: "If the New Orleans School of Medicine is unmolested, in ten years we will have an aggregate of one thousand students in New Orleans, and a third school will have sprung up."

We have been thus particular in reciting the more prominent incidents connected with the founding of this School, for it marks the most important epoch in the history of our friend. To say that Dr. Fenner founded a school would not be doing him justice; to say that he founded a most valuable one, and, in doing so, overcame factitious obstacles which would have effectually deterred most men and buried them amid disaster, is but doing the most ordinary justice. Besides, the recital gives the reader another bright instance of the wonderful triumphs to be accomplished by human probity and energy. It is as disagreeable to the writer as it possibly can be to any one else to recall the unpleasant features of the struggle, but this is necessary in the proper delineation of the picture. Light and shade together give life to canvass and measure the true approach to justice to the conception of the artist.

From the date of the founding of the New Orleans School of Medicine to the beginning of the war—five years—Dr. Fenner's pen was not idle. His labors as a teacher were great, but he found time to contribute to the pages of the New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette, a monthly journal published here during seven years prior to the great struggle. He even became one of the editors of this journal.

As a teacher, the career of Dr. Fenner was certainly to be admired. He was not gifted with an easy flow of language, and his modesty for some time proved an obstacle. He was not long in harness, however, before he was forced to feel that he had the warmest sympathies and the unbounded confidence of his pupils. They soon learned to appreciate the fact that his lectures, didactic and clinical, were well digested, and were founded in what he believed with all his heart to be *true*. He never indulged in theoretical discussions; 1st, because this was not the natural bent of his mind; 2d, because he believed it was a waste of the precious time of the student. He faithfully endeavored to keep himself *au courant* with the valuable innovations in medicine, and these he

clearly expounded to his classes. One idea, cherished during all his professional career, he dwelt on and developed most profitably to his pupils, viz: that the *practice* of medicine must be distinctly geographical. That is, for a man to be really fitted for the general practice of medicine in any particular geographical region, he must be at least clinically educated in that region. For the stern advocacy of this doctrine, from the moment he began to edit the New Orleans Medical Journal, Dr. Fenner has been, by the illiberal, sneered at for "sectionalism" (political sectionalism), but these sneers never disturbed him; and it is gratifying to know that, although late, yet before his death, and in time for him to enjoy the realization, the geography of disease has become a topic of acknowledged importance, and the ablest of minds are directed to the subject. With Dr. Fenner the idea of fully developing the material for teaching medicine in the South, had a far more noble end in view than any self-aggrandizement. He believed that the sick of our country could not get that which they required at the hands of men educated in a Northern climate, at least not until such men had learned the peculiarities of disease here by actual contact; and he contended that it was proper that the practical experience should be acquired in early pupilage if possible, not after the commencement of private practice. More, he thought it the duty of the profession to rise to this platform from the beginning, so that the soil would be most thoroughly cultivated, and those on whom our people relied would be most competent for their work. Often have we heard him say: "What does the most cultivated Northern physician know about treating our yellow fever, or pernicious fever, or our diarrheas? While I certainly would respect the cultivation of their minds, I must confess I'd rather have an intelligent and experienced plantation overseer to treat me with one of these diseases." Nor in this was there one iota of prejudice; it was but the illustration of the great fact long patent to him, now becoming patent to all, that disease wears different faces in different climates, or assumes different intrinsic form; or, indeed, that there are diseases distinctly peculiar to different geographical regions.

And just here is the proper place, perhaps, for calling attention to an idea entertained by Dr. Fenner in relation to our great pestilence, yellow fever. We have said that he was not given to indulgence in the promulgation of theory as a teacher; yet, on some few of the more prominent points connected with disease in our midst, he had his own opinions, based on his own long protracted observations. In general terms, Dr. Fenner was decidedly inclined to embrace the doctrine of the "unity of fevers," and as he grew older he was more and more inclined to believe yellow fever but a grave form of our malarial diseases. This idea he based on his repeated observations in New Orleans of what he termed "the gradual change of the prevailing intermittents and remit-tents of spring and early summer into the true vomito, and then the

gradual change back again as the fall advanced towards winter." We have often discussed the question with him, as it does not become us to discuss it here, but his convictions were firm. Just to test his ideas, we have said to him: "But how do you account for it that in 1853, and since, we have the distinct evidence of the active communicability of yellow fever, not in New Orleans, but in all the region of country around? Remittents and intermittents have no such characteristics." "It is but a variation in type (he would reply), a greater degree of malignancy. Every intelligent physician here must have noticed variations in the types of our epidemics. Sometimes we can treat yellow fever most satisfactorily with quinine; at others quinine is death. Sometimes depletion is, to a reasonable extent, admissible; in other epidemics depletion is death. The first step for the intelligent physician is to recognize the type of the epidemic. If he is blind to this, his patient must suffer. Then why shall we not admit the communicable and non-communicable types of yellow fever?"

We have alluded to Dr. Fenner's love for his profession, and we have shown how he labored to promote its welfare. Without exaggeration we consider him the best friend of the profession, and of its individual members, we ever saw. For those older than himself he always evinced the deepest veneration; for those younger, he had always a cheering voice and a helping hand. The nobleness of his nature forbid his imagining for a moment that the struggling stranger and beginner would be at all in his way. He felt that he had worked so faithfully as to merit a genteel support at the hands of the community, and it really seemed a source of happiness to him that an industrious and deserving young physician was succeeding. No strange young physician ever presented him with a letter of introduction without receiving the warmest welcome, and he was sure to leave his presence with the just conviction that he had secured the sympathies of at least one man in the great city where he had cast his lot. How very many will attest the truth of all this!

In all ways and at all times Dr. Fenner was to be found the active defender of his profession, and a most striking example of this activity was evinced at the beginning of our late war. On account of the want of organization in the Medical Department of the army, and for which the professional corps were in no way responsible, one of the Richmond secular papers made a bitter and most unwarrantable attack on the whole medical corps. Immediately Dr. Fenner, far removed as he was from the scene, took up the gauntlet, severely rebuked the unjust conduct of the paper, exposed the parties to whom the derelictions belonged, demanded the publication of his article in the same paper, triumphed at a single blow, and on all sides received the plaudits of his brethren. And all this he did with the utmost calmness and dignity. When we suggested to him that it was more than probable that the paper that would

issue the attack on the profession would refuse to publish his defence, he replied: "They shall publish it."

On another occasion a professional man of high standing was to be indicted for an alleged base offence. We found Dr. Fenner exerting himself to stop proceedings. While consulting us on the subject, we suggested that it was a grave point for consideration whether, in the interests of society at large, he or any other man had a right to thus attempt to shield crime—that position, either social or pecuniary, could not modify crime. He replied: "I know it; it is wrong; but think of his innocent family! and, then, for the honor of the profession! I am afraid he is guilty, but I must stop it." And he did stop all proceedings from that day.

How widely different the circumstances that aroused him to action, and yet how promptly, how cheerfully did he act under the great single motive!

In strictly private life, Dr. Fenner was surely to be admired. He was universally polite and kind, and without that effort which tells of the cold calculation, that it is best to be so. Even to those who did not merit it, or even who, for their acts, would have justly received the frowns of any other man, he extended the same treatment to the fullest extent compatible with dignity and self-respect, and thus heaped coals of fire on their heads. Throughout the community, amongst rich and poor, high and low, he was accepted as the model of a simple, dignified and polite gentleman; and he never went among strangers that he did not at once increase his list of friends and admirers. In a material view he was careful and economical. His own wants were simple, for he was temperate in all things. He leaves no record behind him of charity dispensed and paid for in poor asylums and newspaper puffs for erecting them; but he built his own private monuments in the hearts of poor kindred clothed, fed, and educated, even unto the day of his death. Charitable, he was, but it was so ordained that it was to be almost confined to the circle of his relatives, inasmuch as he believed it his duty first to assist them. It was our privilege, during many long years, to watch the steady stream of his bounty bestowed on these. Of religion, he made no public profession, but he fully accepted the great Chart of Christianity, and acted as fully up to the spirit as we find men capable of doing. He was fond of going to church, and rarely missed doing so once on each Sabbath; but this fondness did not lapse into the studied antipathy to the lighter enjoyments of this life. On the contrary, he enjoyed the fine music of the opera, and some of the happiest of his evenings were spent at the well-regulated theatre. Having no family save his son, it was natural that his mind should seek relaxation beyond his office, and in this way, as well as in the society of ladies, he found his lighter pleasures. Long, long will his regular appearance at the dinner and tea table, on Sunday, be missed by those who for years on

years expected and welcomed him. These were what he called his "family recreations," for in each house he was recognized as one of the family. Here the little children all knew him and loved him dearly. Often have we heard them cry out, "there's Dr. Fenner!" and yet he had, in opening the gate in the dark, but cleared his throat in his peculiar manner.

As a physician Dr. Fenner would have been valuable in any community. His perceptive powers were not quick, but he was honestly observant, was extremely cautious, read faithfully, stored his own experience away carefully, and frankly communed with his fellow-practitioners. We consider him one of the safest practitioners we ever met. For Surgery and Obstetrics he had no taste, and he always promptly deferred to those who more carefully cultivated these branches of medicine. We have never been able to discover anything like timidity in his professional duties, and this after a long and intimate association with him; but we have always found him prompt to acknowledge error in diagnosis, and willing to have his patient reap the benefit of additional counsel, and to any extent. His opinions were always deliberately formed, and it required close argument to change them; but he always seemed to eschew that empty tenacity which characterizes the bigot. In sickness at home Dr. Fenner was our physician, and we always felt real confidence in him.

Ending his earthly career at the close of one of the most important epochs in history, it is both just and interesting to note his connection therewith. Dr. Fenner had never swerved from the true path of the physician to take part in politics, but he was far from being ignorant of or insensible to, the events transpiring around him. He was well versed in the history of his country, was eminently proud of her career and position; but he had long been disposed to despondency on account of, the utterly corrupt condition of political parties, the aggressive tendency of the Northern mind, and the sensitiveness, jealousy, and anxiety of the people of the South. Withal, the secession of the State of South Carolina took him by surprise, and he considered the act, not as essentially wrong, nor at all unnatural, but as unwise and hasty. Contrary to the general opinion around him, he regarded the step as the first in civil war, and this he regarded as the greatest calamity that could befall the land. When the question was put to the people of his own State he voted against it, still hoping that moderation might prevail. This vote we believe he cast as conscientiously as one ever was cast on earth. Not that he did not consider his section sufficiently aggrieved to warrant separation, but because he feared the resultant evils would be even greater than those complained of. The innate benevolence of his own nature made him hope that other men were all the same, and that the Northern people would ere long see their error, their injustice, and return to the path of right laid down by the fathers of the country.

More, he did love the whole country as his country, and it was a bitter reflection that it was now to be bathed in blood. But the vote of the State of Louisiana was cast for secession, and having been educated in that political school which taught preeminently that State allegiance was paramount when the right of a State was being invaded, at once he yielded his own primary convictions of expediency and followed the fortunes of his State. As soon as Virginia became the theatre of actual war, he repaired thither and devoted himself to the suffering sick and wounded from Louisiana—all at his own expense and with an earnestness unsurpassed. He was the originator of the Louisiana Hospital at Richmond, and labored unceasingly until it was properly established. He visited the commands from Louisiana wherever stationed, and looked into the wants of the sick and wounded. In the fall of 1861 he returned to New Orleans, and during the whole winter he devoted himself, as a member of a special committee, to the business of forwarding supplies of all sorts to the suffering Louisiana soldiers. When the city of New Orleans fell, in the spring of 1862, he remained at home. This he did from a conviction that he could be of infinite service to the many destitute and helpless families whose male friends were all in the army. At last came the stern order of Gen Butler for all to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, or be banished from the city. He did not take the oath, and for months he was not molested. In May, 1863, however, the order was more thoroughly executed, and as he persisted in his refusal he was driven from the city. He took passage, with many others, on board a schooner, and landed within the Confederate lines at Pascagoula. Thence he went to Mobile, and at that city he remained almost constantly until the close of the war in the spring of 1865—just two years. Of his labors there, Louisiana soldiers will warmly attest. Without ever belonging to the army proper, he was awarded the privilege of attending the sick and wounded from Louisiana, and special wards were assigned him in a beautiful private hospital of the Sisters of Charity. To these wards he devoted himself unceasingly. On one occasion we accompanied him on his morning visit, and it was indeed a refreshing sight to witness the evidences of confidence and affection on the part of the sufferers. He treated them all like his children, and they looked upon him not only as the humane and skillful physician, but as a parent. When he told them that it was not possible to procure for them a luxury craved in sickness, they were resigned and uncomplaining, because they knew he had uttered words of truth. And to say that he regretted the meagre means for their comfort at his disposal, is not expressing what he felt; from the bottom of his heart he deplored it. In their presence he was ever cheerful and encouraging, always urging resignation to privations; away from them, his heart ached for them, and he labored ever to mitigate their condition. Long will his memory be blessed by those who passed under his care as sick or wounded.

It was in the midst of his arduous labors in Mobile, and in the last year of the war, that Dr. Fenner experienced the first great shock to his accustomed robust health. There is no doubt that the condition of the struggling South, now anything but encouraging, depressed him greatly. His friends perceived a change in his appearance, and we can attest that his conversation and correspondence betrayed serious despondency. At last he was seized with diabetes, which greatly prostrated him, and his friends were alarmed. At the close of the war he retired for awhile to Canton, Mississippi, and spent some months in quiet repose at the home of his nephew. There his health improved, and when he returned to New Orleans, although those who had not seen him for more than two years were grieved to perceive so great physical deterioration, still those in more recent association with him were gratified to note a marked improvement on the condition of a few months before. He found his business affairs in utter confusion, and his property in process of confiscation. Of course this was calculated to depress, but he bore himself with great fortitude, and passed through the long and extremely hot summer quite comfortably. Among other troubles, that of recovering possession of the New Orleans School of Medicine (then occupied as a negro school) officially devolved on him. He spared no labor in this regard, and fully succeeded by the beginning of fall. Being at once determined, with his colleagues, on reopening the School at the usual time in November, he had to bring his mind back again to the great duty of teaching, and this was no easy task. The beginning of the lecture season found him in improved health, a mere trace of his old affection clinging to him. The School opened most favorably, and he found full stimulus to exertion. Those who were associated with him, and those who followed him as pupils, will never forget how faithfully he labored. He really did far more than his duty. During the session he discussed quite frequently the establishment of a first-class medical journal in New Orleans. He regarded it as indispensable to the profession of the Southwest, and, although greatly preferring that the labor should be undertaken by younger men, he expressed his determination to establish such a journal if the work was not undertaken by others by the close of the lecture season. No one did undertake the work, and on the 4th day of May, 1866, the first number of the Southern Journal of the Medical Sciences appeared, with Dr. Fenner as senior editor. But, alas, for human calculations! On the very day on which this new evidence of the energy and professional love which animated him appeared, our friend passed away forever from the scene of his labors.

At the close of the lecture season his friends were congratulating him and themselves on the fact of his coming through the winter's work with, apparently, no further impairment of health. Late in April, however, he was seized with a paroxysm of what he regarded as simple intermittent fever. He was in active practice at the time, and, although

he took remedies to prevent a recurrence of the paroxysm, he worked on unceasingly. Before his friends were aware of it, he had had two or three of these attacks, and the impression produced was distinct and disagreeable. He called on us one morning, told us he had had a chill the evening before, that he felt badly, but that he was on his way to visit the sick. To remonstrate was useless. In the evening we called to see him; the work of the day had greatly prostrated him, but he was sitting at his table. We begged him to take his bed, urging that he was seriously sick. He replied: "I know I am not well, but it is nothing serious. I'd be ashamed to go to bed for such sickness. I have patients whom I cannot neglect." We left him with gloomy forebodings. Next morning we called again, and found him prostrated on his bed and surrounded by his friends. He had sent for us, though we missed the messenger. A glance at his countenance was enough to satisfy us of the gravest illness. He was at once removed to the home of his nephew, and in a few hours it was manifest that he was overwhelmed by fever of asthenic form. He lived just one week, but rarely during that time giving any ground for hope. Indeed, the march to the grave was steadily progressive. His illness was a very painful one. Cerebral symptoms manifested themselves within a few hours after he took his bed, and the intellect was gradually obtunded. He could always be aroused to consciousness, even within a few hours before his death. Very early in his illness he began to lose the power of articulation, and it was indeed painful to witness his ineffectual efforts to speak to his surrounding friends. He evidently clearly appreciated the gravity of his condition. Even in the midst of this great struggle with death, the mind of our friend could not be wholly diverted from the great field of his long protracted labors. Frequently, in his delirium, he was muttering of the School of Medicine, and several times he looked into our face and said: "Have you arranged that article for the Journal? he is a good writer; be careful."

Dr. Fenner's illness was a short one, and the announcement of his death took the mass of his friends and acquaintances by surprise. The general expression of true sorrow that burst from the hearts of the people—publicly and privately—is the proudest testimonial that could be awarded his worth in the community. His funeral was devoid of "pomp and circumstance," but it was one of which those who loved him may well feel proud. It was a true representation of the whole community; rich and poor, high and lowly, men of all vocations, the soldiers whom he had so tenderly nursed—and, above all, the widow and the orphan, all were thronged there to take the last farewell. Never can we forget the tears that trickled, the sobs that burst from the tender widowed hearts of those at whose sides in time of sickness and distress he had oft stood in all the attributes of the good physician and the sympathising friend.—All bespoke the willing verdict that God's

creature had well filled his mission, and that, although it was hard to part with him, the pang was mitigated by the reflection that he had been called to a better existence.

Thus, in our humble way, have we endeavored to preserve the name of a valued physician and good man from that cold oblivion to which the mass of our species are consigned.—That the task is but poorly performed, we are well aware. It has been done amid the absorbing hours of general practice and under the infliction of impaired health. Should another pen do better in after time, no one will be more gratified than ourself.

In recording the more prominent incidents of Dr. Fenner's life, and in portraying his character as these incidents and a long and intimate association have clearly prompted, we have studiously avoided the exaggerated tone so apt to characterize even the biographical sketch. We have truly endeavored to show him to posterity such as he was.—Moulded as he was by Nature, had he pretended to be more than he really was, he would have fallen in the estimation of those contemporary with him; and it would be unjust to his memory if we should do that which he would have scorned to do for himself.

In an Obituary notice, a contemporary has recently said of him—“At all times ambitious of success, Dr. Fenner struggled to attain an enviable distinction among his fellows.”—Never was a greater error conceived, and it is due Dr. Fenner's memory that it be pointed to. His greatest ambition was to be useful to his species, to fulfil the mission of a man. That he was not selfish, is seen in the facts that in his life he shared freely with others in need, and that he died without being possessed of wealth. It was easy for him to have done otherwise.

That he “struggled to attain an enviable distinction among his fellows,” is truly an error. In pursuing the path he did, the enviable distinction necessarily followed. That he was modestly grateful for it, we have no doubt; but it was too empty a bauble for him to waste his life in struggling for it.

Outside New Orleans, no medical man of the city has ever enjoyed so extensive a professional acquaintance and reputation; at home his status was all that the heart could desire. And in uttering this truth, not one iota of merit is detracted from others. We have shown that Dr. Fenner was well born, well educated; that without being possessed of that brilliancy of intellect which dazzles the throng, and nearly always bespeaks some concomitant obliquity—some want of moral or mental balance, he was possessed of a sound mind and solid judgment. We have shown that he was a zealous laborer in medicine, being the first to rescue the profession of the Southwest from literary oblivion, the first to establish in this country the system of real clinical teaching, and the medium through whom the city of New Orleans promptly rose from a fifth to a first class position for students of medicine. We have shown that he

was appreciated as a valuable physician, for he came amongst us in poverty, always supported himself most genteely, reared and fully educated his son for an honorable vocation, freely dispensed his bounties on his needy relatives, performed all his pecuniary obligations to society, died possessed of a handsome competency, and will always be mourned by those who during long years relied on his skill. We have shown that he was an urbane and polished gentleman, that he carefully eschewed excesses of all sorts, save it be that of charity. Nor did he know how to struggle to be all this. The fount of his heart was almost illimitable, and the great stream flowed silently, deeply, on through life to that ocean of eternal happiness not seen by human eyes, but which is at last the reward for labors well performed. Dr. Fenner's was an example to be emulated.

D. W. B.

The first of these was the
 establishment of a
 permanent
 government
 for the
 United States.
 This was
 accomplished
 by the
 signing
 of the
 Constitution
 in 1787.
 The second
 was the
 signing
 of the
 Declaration
 of Independence
 in 1776.
 The third
 was the
 signing
 of the
 Treaty of
 Paris in
 1783.
 The fourth
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 signing
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 Treaty of
 Mifflin in
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 in 1777.
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