

KELLY (A.O.J.)

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THE OPPORTUNITIES
OFFERED BY
PRAGUE, HEIDELBERG, AND DUBLIN
TO THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT.

BY
A. O. J. KELLY, M.D.,
PHILADELPHIA.



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A REGULAR meeting of the Anglo-American Vienna Medical Association was held at the Riedhof, Friday evening, December 23, Dr. Walter L. Biering, of Davenport, Iowa, the President, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary, Dr. Henry Kugeler, of San Francisco, and approved by the society. The business proper of the meeting was then proceeded with. This consisted of a "Discussion of the Relative Merits of Various Smaller Universities, and of the Advantages one might there enjoy."

It was intended to compare Prague and Dublin as centres of obstetric teachings. Dr. Austin O'Malley, of Washington, D. C., was called upon to relate his experiences at the former place. In substance he said that the obstetric work in Prague is to be done in what is known as the Gebürt Anstalt, Boehmische Abtheilung. Besides a department for midwives, the hospital has two sides, so called,—the Bohemian and the German,—the former of which only is accessible. And having once become an intern there, one's personal popularity and success depend in no small measure upon the vehemence with which he decries everything German; the stronger his condemnations, the more is he thought of. During the first six months of 1892 there were six hundred and twenty-one deliveries in the Bohemian side alone. All abnormal cases are in the hands of the assistants; the primiparæ are delivered by the interns; the multiparæ by the Bohemian students and midwives. The interns, too, may conduct the delivery of these latter cases, if they so desire. During the six weeks the doctor was there he delivered several multiparæ and fifteen primiparæ. Had he not been otherwise engaged, he might have had several more of the latter. Of course, one is called to everything abnormal; and in this connection, a small fee to the attendant will not go amiss. The patients are always placed on their back for delivery. During the puerperium one has opportunities for noting the condition of the patient from day to day, until her discharge from the hospital. The doctor thought that their method of repairing lacerated perineums might be improved upon, as the rent is but



very superficially approximated. They have the most sensible way of dressing the new-born infant; but their success with their children is not very great. One has opportunities for witnessing all gynecological operations, which are done by Professor Pawlik. During the six weeks mentioned the doctor saw eleven coeliotomies, three or four hysterectomies, a few colporrhaphies and the like. Here one can see the various stages of the operations much better than anywhere else; there are so few present, all are close to the patient. The manner of catheterizing the ureters is very carefully explained and taught by Professor Pawlik, who is justly celebrated for his dexterity in doing this operation, which is one of his own devising. Personally the doctor did many finger curettements. But these were purely favors. One might not be permitted to do such operations. Asepsis and antisepsis are carefully practised; the principal antiseptics employed being thymol, lysol, and mercuric bichloride. There are accommodations for four interns only. And in order to be sure of a place one should, before he goes there, write to Professor Pawlik, and later to the secretary or porter for the rooms. The expenses are very small; board is cheaper than elsewhere. The doctor was unprepared to state whether or not it would repay a man to go to Prague. He certainly need remain no longer than two months; one might be sufficient. If a man knew little of his subject, he might with advantage go there; but he thought a visit there would hardly repay one who was well informed on obstetrics.

Dr. A. O. J. Kelly, of Philadelphia, was then asked to give the society the benefit of his experience at Dublin. He said, "What I shall say of the Rotunda Hospital are mostly words of commendation. A student, having been accepted by the master of the hospital as a pupil of the institution, applies to the keeper of the list for assignment to days on which he shall be on duty. Each pupil of the hospital is on duty from 9 A.M. until 9 P.M., or from 9 P.M. until 9 A.M. four days of the week, two days intern duty, two days extern duty; the days on which he is on intern duty precede those on which he is on extern duty. The student selects his own days; but he may not have an extern case until he has had an intern one. Those on duty during the night are mostly undergraduates,—students of Trinity College or elsewhere, who take this way of obtaining their practical obstetrics previous to qualification; they do not live in the hospital. All others are on duty during the day, and have residence, if they desire it, in the hospital. The cases, both intern and extern, are allotted in turn to those students whose names appear on the list as being on duty for the day. Any one not present when called misses his turn. At night, when a call comes, if there are no extern men present, the interns conduct the case. During those days on which a student is on duty he may see all the cases of labor that are delivered in the wards, and has opportunities of becoming proficient in methods of obstetric diagnosis, by means of abdominal palpation of cases in the wards, and vaginal examinations of those cases in labor. To all abnormal cases, at any time whatsoever, all the students are called.

At about nine-thirty every morning, the master of the hospital, Dr. W. J. Smyly, goes through the wards. The pupils accompany him. At intervals he delivers a lecture, illustrated by some interesting case that may be in the ward, on placenta prævia, post-partum hemorrhage, deformed pelvis, and the like. They then repair to the surgery, as the gynæcological department is called. Here various cases are presented; some for diagnosis, others for medicinal treatment, others for operations. The students, of course, see all the operations; and the other cases are examined by them in turn. During 1892 the number of intern obstetric cases was twelve hundred and nineteen; extern obstetric cases about three thousand. The number of intern gynæcological cases number five hundred a year; while those treated in the out-patient department amount to ten thousand yearly. I was there a month and saw thirty-one obstetric cases, about one-third of which were personal conductions. Being otherwise engaged, I missed seeing some. In a month one should see between forty and fifty cases. But a month is hardly long enough to remain. Many stay three months and see almost a hundred and fifty cases; while others prolong their stay to six months and become candidates for the degree of L.M. (licentiate of midwifery). There are accommodations in the hospital for sixteen students. But at times there are more,—others living outside. Especially is this so during the summer months, when the English and Scotch undergraduates go there for their obstetrics, just previous to the commencement of the fall terms at their medical schools. This is a poor time to go; the best time being during the winter and spring. The fee is six guineas for one month; thirty guineas for six months. In addition to what I have mentioned there is a thoroughly practical course on gynæcology given by Assistant Master Dr. Glenn, and a quiz course on obstetrics by Assistant Master Dr. Tweedy."

Dr. J. Page Massie, of Lynchburg, Va., being then called upon, spoke of the advantages offered at Heidelberg. In the course of his statements the doctor said that that branch of medical science for which a man might go to Heidelberg in preference to other places is pathology, both microscopic and gross,—the former of which is excellent, the latter fair,—very good for a small town. In microscopic pathology there are two courses, the better of which is by Professor Arnold, in whose laboratory one may work from 7 A.M. until 7 P.M. The cost of this is nothing. But to take the laboratory course one must matriculate for the professor's lectures on microscopic and gross pathology; this costs but twenty marks per semester. Daily in the laboratory each student is given two preparations, of which he may cut as many sections as he chooses. It is, however, possible for a man doing nothing but pathology, upon application, to obtain more than the two specimens daily. The preparations are given hardened on a block; the student must cut and mount them himself. Besides this, one may take as many specimens of gross pathology as he chooses, and himself perform the entire process of preparing them for microscopic examination,—that is, harden, cut, stain, and mount them. Professor Arnold teaches the method,

and every day carefully explains the specimens given. The second course of microscopic pathology is by Dr. Ernst, Professor Arnold's first assistant. The class meets twice a week, two hours each day. The preparations are given cut and stained; one has simply to mount them. Dr. Ernst demonstrates them by drawings on the blackboard, and then explains them to each one individually. In gross pathology there are from one to six subjects a day, with an average of three or four. Everything is well demonstrated, and one has opportunities of making post-mortem examinations, to the number of three or four a month. By Professor Leber and his first assistant, Dr. Waggerman, there is given a course on the pathology of the eye, which is said to be the best in the world. The work consumes two hours a day, during which time there are given two specimens ready for mounting. These are then very thoroughly explained. The course costs forty marks a month. Dr. Ernst gives also a course on bacteriology which is very good. One works in the laboratory the entire day. The material is enormous; personal attention fair. The course is given twice a year,—during March, and again during August, and costs forty marks; but one must furnish his own glass apparatus, costing from ten to seventeen marks. For a place the size of Heidelberg, Professor Czerny's clinic is splendid. One doing other work at the university may attend the clinics free, and may also, with the professor, visit the wards of the hospital, where he has two hundred beds. The lectures on diseases of the nervous system once a week—Wednesdays—by Professor Erb are also fine, particularly his remarks on diagnosis, on which he lays particular stress. On other days he lectures on internal medicine. In other branches of medicine a person can do much better elsewhere than he can at Heidelberg. Heidelberg is more of a place for a student than for a post-graduate, and in case of any distinction, the student has the preference. It is a fine place to prepare for a degree, for before one finishes he has opportunities of becoming assistant under nearly all the professors, doing this work of course during the vacations, when there are no lectures.

Dr. Holland, of Chicago, then spoke a few words in praise of the bacteriology course at Heidelberg; and Dr. Kugeler, the Secretary, in the same strain, mentioning also the very pleasant surroundings of Heidelberg.

The thanks of the society having been tendered the gentlemen mentioned, and some routine business having been transacted, the meeting was adjourned.



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Instructor in Clinical Medicine, and Lecturer on Physical Diagnosis and Symptomatology in the University of Pennsylvania; Assistant Physician to the University Hospital.

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