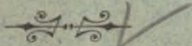


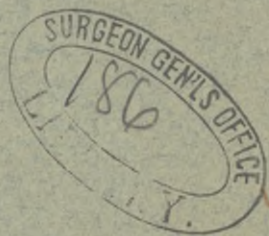
Reeves (gas. E.)

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS
—BEFORE THE—
STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF WEST VIRGINIA.



DR. JAMES E. REEVES, PRESIDENT,
WHEELING, W. VA.



*With regards to
Dr. Rees* ✓

ANNUAL ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

OF THE

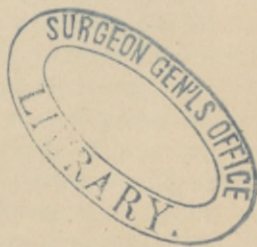
MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

1882—15TH ANNUAL SESSION.—1882.

Instituted April 10th, 1867.



WHEELING:
LEWIS BAKER & Co., PRINTERS.
1882.

ANNUAL ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.

JAMES E. REEVES, M. D.,

OF WHEELING.

Fellows of the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia :

I am very sensible of the high honor conferred by your suffrages, which makes it my duty to welcome you to this, the 15th annual meeting of the society, and preside over your deliberations ; and I do welcome you with all the fulness and sincerity of my heart.

THE DEATH OF DR. BROCK.

But our greetings are damped by the shadow of death ! The King of Terrors has again visited the society, and this time plucked one of the brightest stars from the galaxy of our ex-Presidents.

On the morning of the 24th of April, soft and gentle as the last faint sound of a seraph's strain, the happy spirit of Hugh W. Brock fled to join the Society of the Just, where the Master Physician presides, and from behind and through the baptism which the eternal law requires of all our race—says : “ Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

By the death of Dr. Brock this society and the medical profession in West Virginia have sustained a loss which no words of mine can fittingly portray. He was one of our greatest physicians, and as good as he was great. Indeed, he was one of the purest men I have ever known—kind-hearted, affectionate and gentle as a woman ; yet when moral courage was necessary to defend and enforce the Right, he was bold and brave as a lion ; and the impress of his high professional ability, noble and fearless manhood enriches the records of this society.

Dr. Brock was well and favorably known by the most distinguished physicians and surgeons in America, and thus he reflected credit upon the medical profession generally in this state and the

membership of the society in particular. In every relation of life his excellent qualities, both of mind and heart, shone forth and marked him as an upright, noble man!

On learning his serious illness, I hastened to visit him at his pleasant home in Morgantown. Our friendship—aye, brotherly love, had covered a period of nearly thirty years, during all which time our hearts had never been estranged; and I knew him intimately and in all the grandeur of his exalted character. His last Sabbath but one on earth I spent with him. His faculties of mind were unimpaired, and from the windows of his pure great soul he looked out upon his rapidly approaching death without a murmur of complaint, or fear, or doubt!

When I bade him "good-bye," he knew we should never meet again on earth, and he pressed my hand to his lips in token of his love and to seal the uninterrupted friendship that had bound us so closely for so many years. He had hoped to be present at this meeting, and able to interest you with a report of his experience and observations last year among the great men of the profession in the countries of Europe who assembled at the International Medical Congress in London; and, no doubt, in his heart he gave me this message to deliver to you: "Tell my brethren my prayer is for their harmony—for the prosperity of the society—for the preservation of the honor and dignity of the medical profession in West Virginia!"

"His work is done, not finished; like a song
Hushed in the midst of grandest symphony—
Hushed upon lips that seemed so brave and strong,
We dreamed not death would stay their harmony."

It is impossible soon to turn away from a character of such exceeding beauty as we have been contemplating. In imitation of Dr. Brock's blameless life—his industry and exalted professional example, let us go forward with renewed vigor toward the mount of the object and aim of the founders of the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia.

To encourage industry and original research, and in honor of his memory, hereafter there shall be known "The H. W. Brock Prize" for the best original paper accepted by a committee of this Society.

THE VALUE OF ASSOCIATE EFFORT.

Many of you, no doubt, have made considerable sacrifices to be present at this meeting with your offerings of facts and observations fresh from your arduous toils and study at the bed-side of your patients; thus giving and receiving, teaching and being taught, each

deriving from the accumulated stores of knowledge of other minds the wisdom that can come only from associate effort and collective learning. In this way we elevate the standard of medicine and surgery, and contribute something towards the perfection of the Art of ameliorating and healing the sufferings of the sick and afflicted.

It is one of the distinguishing characteristics of our profession, that its disciples stand ever ready to obey the call of duty; for them disease and pestilence have no terrors that frighten other men, and instead of intimidating, only serve to call forth the brighter dictates of humanity. Like the Old Guard of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo, no sooner does one fall than another takes his place in the ranks.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Medical literature of the present age is richer, more various and instructive; is the record and exposition of a larger number of well ascertained, important facts bearing directly on the prevention and cure of diseases than that of any former one. This literature is not only the transcript of fresh records of the most interesting phenomena connected with and illustrative of organization and life, but it consists also of sharp historical retrospection, in which all that was really useful and material in former ages has been selected, carefully restudied and incorporated with the new materials furnished by the present; hence the claim of superiority of the literature of the age in which we live. For example: How recent the *true* foundations of General Chemistry? And of still more recent growth and expansion—Organic Chemistry? Natural productions of all kinds have been studied and their hidden properties unfolded; while every article of food which sustains life has been analyzed, its constituent parts numbered and weighed, and the nature of the connection between them and the human organism has in many instances been satisfactorily ascertained. When, before our day, had we such definite and demonstrable views of digestion, reproduction, general absorption, the functions of the senses and motility? or so clear a knowledge of the composition, the chemical and vital properties of the blood and other animal fluids and of the agents which modify them by being introduced from without, as at the present day? If all that was pictured and written of the brain and nervous system, anterior to the present century, were lost, we should still be in possession of every essential starting point connected with productive knowledge of their structure and function.

The discovery of distinct properties of nervous sensibility and

motility could not have failed to lead to an improved knowledge of the lesions in which one or other, and often both, of these properties are impaired or lost. So, likewise, the discovery of a plurality of organs of the brain and of their corresponding functions, which had been long conjectured, but never attempted to be proved, has wonderfully assisted our judgment of the location and extent of cerebral lesions as causes of delirium and other mental aberrations in fever and acute diseases, and of insanity in its various forms.

Pathology, like physiology, has received a rich harvest of illustration from the microscope. The contributions to the minute structure of the various tissues are so varied, that the science of general anatomy has, within a comparatively short period, assumed a new and more important aspect. There is no class of organs which has not been most carefully investigated and the knowledge on the subject greatly improved by the employment of the microscope, aided by minute injection and comparative anatomy.

Our knowledge of cancer and the so-called malignant diseases, and of urinary and renal diseases, has been greatly advanced by aid of the microscope. Indeed, I am very sincere when I declare that if from any cause I were deprived of the aid afforded me in general practice by the use of this instrument, there are some diseases in the urinary and renal group I should decline to treat; for without such aid and direction, my treatment of the cases to which I have referred would be the merest guess-work. Take Bright's Disease, and how shall we discover its essential characters, mark its varieties and progress without the aid of the microscope? In scores of instances, this wonderful instrument is absolutely indispensable in discovering the exact nature and successful treatment of disease. How valuable, indeed! yet it is within the reach of all who engage in the study and practice of medicine. A good achromatic microscope and a well assorted collection of injected mounted specimens, normal and pathological—all of which may be purchased for less than two hundred dollars, will convey to the student in a few months' course of study a better knowledge of the human organization and the changes that take place in disease, than he can possibly obtain from books alone in as many years. Just now, the whole medical world is electrified by the light of the microscope in the hands of a young German physician—Dr. Koch, of Berlin. Having repeated Pasteur's culture-experiments of the *bacillus*, which causes Splenic Fever, by the same method of study and experiment, he discovered the *tubercle-bacillus*, a rod-shaped microscopic organism or parasite in the centre of the tubercle-cell and which, it has been confidently asserted, is the

disease-producing agent of *tuberculosis*. Stimulated by the alleged discoveries of Pasteur and Koch, hundreds of pains-taking investigators are, no doubt, already at work; and all humanity waits with anxious hopes for the announcement of the solution of the problem so long regarded as insoluble,—the *cure* of tuberculosis.

But these are not all the advances that have marked and distinguished the industry of the present age. In surgery, there is the attainment of great ends by simple means and without pain or deformity; its almost limitless resources and possibilities; its crowning glory and priceless benefits having been conferred on woman! In *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*, philosophical accuracy and scientific relations mark the present; and though still far from resting on a stable basis, their tendencies and activities are hopefully moving in the direction of "Certainty in Medicine." In *Obstetrics*, the literature of the present time will contrast most advantageously with that of all former periods. While we may not rightfully restrict systematic Midwifery to the present age, yet it is a fact that the mechanism of labor, the series of expulsive movements to which the child is subjected in parturition, the fitting time and best means of mechanical aid in the different positions and presentations of the child, and the stages of labor, almost entirely belong to contemporary literature. And it may justly be further claimed that much of the *tact* calculated materially to accelerate the progress of labor and save the mother much suffering, has been put forth in the present age; and as in every other department of the profession, our own countrymen are in the front rank of progress, if not always in the lead.

The department of Clinical Medicine, Psychology, and Sanitary Science have shown a not less encouraging measure of advancement. Who can refuse to acknowledge the progress of our Art when he beholds the diversified and practically useful records of clinical medicine,—a branch that was never taught as fully and successfully as at the present? when he beholds the improved treatment of the insane, and the idiotic, and the blind? and above all, the positive advances and triumphs of

SANITARY SCIENCE?

A knowledge of correct principles of Hygiene is becoming more and more necessary as a part of medical education, and in like proportion, is being diffused among the people. It has already added to the continuance of human life an additional average duration of seven years and upwards.

The present intelligent application of hygienic principles to the

puerperal female—allowing her fresh air and cooling drinks in place of restricting her, as was the custom in earlier times, to a close, heated, and impure atmosphere, hot teas and alcoholic drinks, has greatly diminished the mortality from child-bed, and, furthermore, is happily increasing the number of healthy, vigorous nurselings.

To defend and relieve our fellow men from the preventable causes of disease is manifestly the highest mission and best service of medical science and skill, for "Life is the sum of the forces that resist death," and the conflict is universal and perpetual. Nothing of a material nature lies so near men's interests as those which affect their health and lives; and hence our art will be exalted just in proportion to the success of its application to the defense and protection of the people from preventable causes of disease and death.

Public health questions embrace a wide range of studies. They include the whole domain of physical geography—the phenomena of climate; the elevation, measurement, angle and slope of mountains; the depth of valleys; the survey and tracking of water-courses to their source; the variety of soils and their chemical constituents; indeed, every agency or thing by which man is influenced or affected. Public hygiene instructs him how to remove from his midst the prolific sources of diseases; to open the thick forest, let in the sunlight, establish currents of pure air, and make sites for healthy homesteads; to drain reeking swamps and stagnant pools; to adopt a proper system of drainage and sewerage for towns and cities, and cleanse foul and fetid sewers and cesspools; to provide necessary supplies of pure water; to select salubrious localities for barracks, hospitals, school houses, churches, legislative halls, theatres, lecture rooms, workshops and prisons; to cleanse foul and filthy dwellings, the infected holds of ships, and all other disease-producing quarters. It teaches him how to build healthy houses to live in; how to effect their warming and ventilation; how to dispose of domiciliary refuse; how the body should be clothed; what to eat and what to drink—in other words: how to be healthy, prosperous and happy.

During the last decade there has been marvelous activity in the cultivation and diffusion of sanitary knowledge. In our own country, the establishment of various voluntary sanitary associations, notably among which, the American Public Health Association; the appointment of numerous state boards of health, and the establishment of a National Board of Health by the general Government, sufficiently attest the growth of public sentiment in favor of rapidly accumulating statutory enactments by state legislatures to encourage and enforce protection of the Public Health.

To recapitulate what has been accomplished by American Sanitarians since Massachusetts, in 1869, led the way of a state board of health, would make many volumes. It is sufficient to state that twenty-nine states have Boards of Health, and the annual reports from these boards constitute a library of advanced sanitary knowledge unsurpassed by that of any other country.

THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

West Virginia though one of the younger states has taken high ground in Sanitary Police. Her model of law for the protection of the public health has been pronounced by those competent of judging its merits, one of the best patterns in the United States. The passage of the act of 1881, entitled "An act to establish a State Board of Health and regulating the Practice of Medicine and Surgery," was a happy surprise to the medical profession of the State. This society had again and again *resolved* to exert its influence to secure the passage of a law having substantially the same objects in view—namely, to protect the public health and regulate the practice of medicine; but the effort as successively failed for the *old* reason "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." To be successful, required indefatigable, individual effort, and an opportune legislature. Fortunately for the state, such a conjunction of favorable influences was discovered and marked the session of 1881 when, besides several high-minded, progressive physicians representing large and influential constituencies, there was in both branches of the legislature a majority of gentlemen of real ability; liberal minded representatives who were moved by a sincere desire to win every possible credit for West Virginia. Of course, as in all representative bodies, the *genus* demagogue was also ably represented. Pending the discussion of the Health Bill, the most *pathetic* appeals were made in defense of the rights and liberties of the dear people against the "close corporation" of "a high-handed despotism" of health laws; and to save the State Treasury from paying tribute to the offended goddess *HYGIEA*! Millions of dollars! if necessary, to save the people from "unjust discriminations by railroad monopolies," but not a dollar for the preservation of the Public Health! not even a penny to prevent the introduction of a loathsome contagion into West Virginia!

MEDICAL MEN IN THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, Dr. A. R. Barbee, of Point Pleasant, an ex-president of this Society and now a member of the State Board of Health, was a tower of strength in securing the passage of the Health Bills. In-

deed, it was very fortunate that we had in that branch of the legislature a physician so appreciative of the honor, dignity and responsibilities of his profession,—such an industrious, capable, earnest advocate as Dr. Barbee.

In the House of Delegates there were five medical gentlemen who deserve to be remembered with grateful thanks for their united and fearless efforts to elevate the standard of medicine and surgery in West Virginia. They are, Dr. Isaiah Bee, of Princeton; Dr. B. F. Irons, of Pickaway; Dr. J. B. Crumrine, of Pennsboro; Dr. D. Q. Steere, of Pleasants; and Dr. W. H. Wayt, of Marshall. Through their influence the bills were carried through the House by a large majority. Again, all thanks to them!

The act passed March 1881 was an experiment, and proved so wise and salutary that from every county in the state there came up in response, and to show the pleasure of all classes of the people, a demand to the adjourned session of 1882 for the establishment of a permanent Health Law. The support provided for executing the act of 1881 was conditional and wholly inadequate. In this difficulty, and to tide over the activities of the board until the next meeting of the Legislature, members of the medical profession in all parts of the state contributed an aggregate of several hundred dollars to insure the energetic administration of the law. And our good GOVERNOR JACKSON, who takes great interest in the progress of sanitary science, made an eloquent appeal in his last message to the Legislature—declaring that “the preservation of the public health should be one of the first concerns of the government,” and he urged a sufficient appropriation to insure all the benefits contemplated under the law. Accordingly, “CHAPTER 150 of the CODE of West Virginia, concerning the Public Health,” was enacted March 15th, 1882; and the future will bring continued progress.

THE AMENDED ACT OF 1882.

In several particulars the Amended Act of 1882 is an improvement upon the law passed in 1881. 1st.—The unconditional appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars per annum for the support of the State Board of Health; 2d.—specific provision for payment out of the county treasury for service performed and expenses incurred by local boards, 3d.—exactly reversing the former manner of appointing local or county boards: the county court now simply *nominates* and the State Board of Health may confirm or reject nominations so made; 4th.—ample powers are granted local boards to enforce their orders establishing quarantine in any county, district or place

therein; 5th.—“itinerant physicians” are required to pay “a special tax of fifty-dollars per month and fraction of a month” in every county in which they practice; and it is made the duty of sheriffs to collect this tax. In other words: the amendments made at the last session of the legislature cover, in the main, such changes as the State Board found desirable and necessary for the better execution of the law, and to fit it for a permanent place in the new CODE.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY BOARDS.

Local Boards of Health have been organized in fifty-two of the fifty-four counties composing the state, and the two yet to hear from will soon fall into line. During the year many opportunities have been afforded for the display of usefulness and economy of local boards as convenient agents of the county courts in suppressing and literally *stamping out* infectious and contagious diseases. In several of the counties small-pox would have gained lodgement and paralyzed the business interests and prosperity of whole communities but for the prompt and efficient means employed by medical officers of local health boards.

HOW THE STATE WAS SAVED FROM SMALL-POX.

Last winter, by the establishment and rigid enforcement of quarantine against the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, the State Board of Health saved West Virginia from the ravages of this loathsome disease. Hence the wisdom and value of properly constituted laws to protect the public health.

With such encouragement in less than one year from the passage of the law, what advancement may we not reasonably expect in the near future when public sentiment shall have been more highly cultivated by the laborers in the vinyard of sanitary science?

ALL CLASSES INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT OF GOOD HEALTH?

There is much to encourage hope of a general awakening of the people of all classes on the subject of good health. In West Virginia, as elsewhere, there is a vast field outside of the frequent scourges of typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other infectious, contagious, endemic and epidemic diseases to engage the earnest attention of sanitarians and exercise the energies of the health boards. Those of us who have had experience in country practice, especially in the interior counties, are entirely familiar with the more

COMMON ERRORS OF HYGIENE

committed in the rural districts; and know how very unreliable is the generally received opinion, that robust health and vigorous constitutions are associated with the labors and pursuits of agricultural life. Many families continue to reside in log-cabins, under the penalty of sickness in the family the year round, whose means would afford them any kind of dwelling they might desire. The erection of these cabins is usually the work of only a few days; the logs are green and covered with their bark; the foundation, or "string-pieces," are laid in direct contact with the earth, and across these the *puncheon* floor is laid, leaving, perhaps, the space of a foot between it and the earth. Through the crevices of this rough floor, fragments of vegetable and animal matter are swept after each meal; and on wash-day of each week, if not oftener, the floor is scrubbed with soap and water, and thus the ground beneath is kept constantly damp. In warm weather the stench arising from such a floor is sometimes intolerable; and no wonder there is sickness and death in the family!

DISEASE IN THE WELL—IN THE CELLAR—IN THE DAIRY.

Connected with dwellings constructed of better materials and with some pretense to modern architecture, the cause of disease and death frequently lurks in the water supply, in the cellar, and in the dairy. The well is situated as near the house as possible—may-be, under the porch-roof, and into it and over its mossy wall, all kinds of domiciliary refuse and filth find entrance. If not so close to the family dwelling, it is frequently in juxtaposition with the barn yard and stable, pig-stye and privy, and poisoned from these sources of disease. In winter, the dark, damp cellar, without even a grating or window for ventilation, is packed with potatoes, cabbage, turnips, apples, etc., and from these, there exhales a most sickening odor which pervades the house from cellar to garret.

And what of the dairy? and the children in cities and towns who are fed from it? The milk is diluted with poisoned water from the well, the pans and crocks are washed with it, and after being filled with milk and water, are set away in a *musty* cellar, surrounded by decaying vegetable matter, to cool. Yet, how often do we hear the beguiling words—"Pure Country Milk!" It is not strange, that the mortality of bottle-fed nurselings is so frightful!

IMPORTANCE OF PROPERLY COOKED FOOD.

Between public hygiene and morality and prosperity the connection is so close that it is not easy to speak of one without more or

less reference to its obvious effects on the others. Varied, abundant and properly cooked food evinces advanced civilization, and is both a support of health and prevention of disease, while, at the same time, it removes one of the most potent temptations to crime.

Notwithstanding farm life and an abundance of aliment, many country people have sallow countenances and emaciated forms, the result of dyspepsia and other disorders of the digestive organs—a condition of poor health which may readily be accounted for by familiarity with their *cuisine*. The frying-pan and skillet are the chief kitchen utensils, and lard, both “sweet” and “rancid,” the material in which are fried, toughened and flavored for each meal beefsteaks, pork, ham, chicken, potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, etc., in fact, every article of food accessible to the family.

The manner of bread-baking is not less mischievous. It is usually hastily prepared for each meal, baked into biscuits or cakes, greasy with lard, and as heavy as clay,—and making about the same demand upon the digestive organs.

WEAKNESS OF COUNTRY WOMEN.

Besides deleterious influences intimately connected with the place and style of dwelling and the character of the water and food supply which equally affect her, woman suffers to a shocking extent. In married women, *prolapsus uteri* is a common weakness, produced by straining and fatiguing positions during labor, and getting up too soon after child-birth. Such is the rivalry in some neighborhoods that she who can in the fewest number of days or hours quit her bed and go about household duties is looked upon as the smartest woman in the settlement. To remain in bed beyond the “ninth day” is regarded proof of either weakly or lazy habit.

INFLUENTIAL LAYMEN BECOMING INTERESTED.

It is an encouraging sign of the times that influential laymen in all parts of the country are becoming more and more interested in the advancement of sanitary science. Appreciating the necessity of physical as well as mental culture—*Mens sana in corpore sano*—our excellent State Superintendent of Public Schools, Hon. B. L. Butcher, has required addresses on the subject of school hygiene at each of the county “Institutes” to be held during the next vacation; and the influence of such wise teaching will soon find its way into every school room and family in the state.

DISEASE IN THE SCHOOL ROOM.

It is a sorrowful fact and shameful to the management, that our public schools are frequently the chief agencies for the spread of epidemic and contagious diseases, and thus is planted the seeds of disease while cultivating the intellectual faculties. In many country districts the school room is used every Sabbath for public worship, and on revival occasions, every evening during the week. Immediately after such service the doors and windows are closed and the confined bad air shut in to poison the children and their teachers the next morning. Hence, the number of pale faces and the frequency of headache in school children. Even in the best regulated schools the great fault, in spite of all protests and warnings, is the crowding of pupils into insufficient cubic space where ventilation is a mockery.

These and all other questions connected with public health are compassed by our law, and it is the duty of the State Board of Health to investigate them for the guidance of the people.

THE "TRUE CHURCH IN MEDICINE."

I am confident it is a source of pride to every member of this Society, and likewise to all regular physicians in the state, that the members of the State Board of Health, without an exception, belong to the "True Church in Medicine;" and I can truthfully say of my colleagues that they are high minded gentlemen and learned physicians—in all respects admirably qualified, both by nature and education, for the faithful discharge of the responsible duties of their office.

It is less than ten months since the board began its work which was initiated by the registration of all legally qualified practitioners in the state.

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED PHYSICIANS.

To this time, the lists show the number in the different classes as follows:

Four hundred and forty-two graduates of "reputable medical colleges" residing in the state; forty-one in Ohio; seven in Pennsylvania; three in Maryland; and one in Virginia.

Three hundred and fifty-eight practitioners, resident of the state, who had "been continuously engaged in the practice of medicine for more than ten years prior to the passage of the law;" eleven residing in Ohio; five in Pennsylvania; and one in Virginia.

One hundred and one licentiates of the board, in the state, and two

in Ohio. These figures show a total of nine hundred and one "legally qualified practitioners of medicine, surgery and obstetrics in West Virginia.

Of the whole number (four hundred and ninety-four) of registered graduates, four hundred and sixty are *regular* physicians; twenty-three eclectics and eleven homœopaths! Thus it is shown that our people, whose proud motto is *Montani Semper Liberi*, believe in tangible doses and sensible effects.

In the ten years' class, all degrees of professional ability and shades of practice—*regulars* of high and low standing; eclectics, homœopaths (seven?) Thompsonians, water-cure doctors, etc., etc., are represented; but the large majority, as in the class of graduates, belong to the regular practice; and some of them do credit to the profession by their industry and superior learning. Of course, it cannot be doubted that many men in this class have obtained certificates who are not qualified to treat the sick; but while this is unfortunately the truth, it is a consoling fact that this class of doctors will grow less and less as the years go by. Since the 8th day of March 1881, there have been no additions to the profession except by college diploma, or examination by the board. In other words: the crop of ten years' practitioners was gathered the 8th day of March 1881, and there can be no further supply.

CHEAP DIPLOMAS.

It is shameful to acknowledge it, but the truth must be told, strike whom it may, that in this great country of ours, notwithstanding the long and loud clamor for higher medical education and the establishment of a Medical College Association to encourage a longer, more uniform and thorough college course of study, a diploma is not always proof that its possessor is a duly qualified physician, or that he has attended even one course of lectures, or that he has ever attended lectures at all. In justification of this charge of bad faith on the part of medical colleges, I do not hesitate to furnish a case in point.

On the 13th of January, 1882, an applicant for medical certificate, a resident of West Virginia, came before the District Examining Board at Wheeling, and failed to pass a satisfactory examination within the meaning of the law. Ten days later, or about the 23d of January, he knocked at the door of the *graduating class* of the Columbus Medical College and was admitted. Within one month from that time he was graduated; and at the brilliant display at Comstock's Grand Opera House, on the evening of the 24th of February, he received his diploma!

I have it from an eye witness that he presented to the Faculty "letters of recommendation from prominent gentlemen in West Virginia," and that in the distinguished graduating class (which was spoken of by some of the professors as one of the brightest and best which ever came from that school) "one man was graduated who did not know what the iris was, nor the pupil; could not locate the mitral nor tri-cuspid valves—placed the valvulæ conniventes in the brain, and the ileo-cecal valve in the rectum!" "There were several of that sort, but they are just now as much doctors (in Ohio at least) as you or I."

What an impressive, never-to-be forgotten scene at the commencement! The stage decorated with beautiful flowers—the orchestra discoursing sweet music and stirring the hearts of the audience—the Faculty, in double file, marching upon the stage—the fifty-nine graduates taking their places in the front rows of the parquette—and the applause! and the bouquets! which greeted the new doctors!! It was most appropriate that a *prayer* was then and there offered!

But, unfortunately, this is not the only example that could be adduced of the ease with which college honors have been won by enterprising applicants. Some of the oldest and most reputable colleges in this country have, now and then, been guilty of relaxing their rules to accommodate *special* cases, and thus done injustice to the profession.

NECESSITY OF STATE BOARDS OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

Surely, it is high time for the establishment of State Boards of Medical Examiners when every nondescript association of doctors, whether for proper or improper purposes, can obtain from state legislatures a charter for a medical college. The old safeguards to respectability have been shamefully broken down by the rivalry of cheap medical schools; and thus the field of medicine has been thrown wide open to every ignoramus and mercenary adventurer who may desire to enter it and profit thereby.

Medical students generally, and college professors in particular, will please take notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly, that the State Board of West Virginia will not hesitate to go behind the returns and refuse to recognize diplomas granted by any school that does not require, as a condition of graduation, one year's reading with a private instructor and at least two full courses of medical lectures.

THE STATES CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE.

The north-central states are chiefly responsible for the horde of ready-made doctors annually turned loose to prey upon the lives of the people and eat up their substance. By her veried supply of fast-running diploma mills, the neighboring state of Ohio is, probably, entitled to greatest distinction. Any sort of a diploma, and gauged in price to suit all grades of purchasers, may be secured without the trouble, expense, and farce of the applicant appearing in person.

But however numerous, and disgraceful alike to the state and the medical profession, such disreputable establishments as we have been contemplating cannot tarnish the good name, or hide from professional admiration the excellent and truly first-class medical schools in Ohio, from which many of our most learned and reputable physicians have received their honors. Naturalists tell us that ill weeds infest the same grounds where the choicest plants flourish, and by whose shade they are protected; and we must be content with the laws of nature.

Just now Ohio is an inviting asylum for the repose of all pretenders in medicine who have been driven out from other states. Within the last nine months, or since our state law went into effect, scores of such "doctors" have fled "o'er the border" and are now, no doubt, supremely happy that the effort in the Ohio legislature, last winter, to keep them moving, failed.

THE DISGRACE OF A SISTER STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

That the medical profession has fallen upon evil times is unhappily shown by the recent action of a sister state society—the State Medical Society of New York, which, under the pretense of "the demands of humanity" and professional "liberality," has convicted itself before "all the world and the rest of mankind" of the charge that *the prospect of a fee quickens both the perception and sensibilities of a majority of its members.*

Cupidity is one of the sins of medical men which tend to disgrace medicine, and it is the most damning [evil] of the profession. The wild rush for business, the low and despicable acts by which it is obtained, and the reckless desperation of the unsuccessful, are most humiliating evidences of the degeneracy of the times.

How absurd to talk of "consultations with legally qualified physicians!" which has the same meaning in the State of New York that it would have in West Virginia where, as has already been shown, may be found quacks of all colors, and the veriest pretenders who have been *tolerated* under the ten years' exemption clause of our law.

THE CONCESSION NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
HOMŒOPATHS.

With singular unanimity the secular press in all directions of the country endeavored to mislead public opinion by heralding the *degradation* of the State Medical Society of the State of New York as a concession for the special privilege and benefit of homœopaths; when, in fact, the act of the society means that its members have full license to consult with and give advice to not only homœopaths, but "eclectics" (a far more respectable class of doctors) and all other irregular practitioners, whenever and wherever the consultation *fee is secure*.

What is the object of a medical consultation? Certainly to benefit the patient, who does not care a straw for differences of opinion concerning the name and pathology of his illness—what he wants, and pays for, presumably, is the proper treatment of his disease by which he can hope for recovery.

SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE CANNOT CONSORT WITH THE NONSENSE OF
HOMŒOPATHY.

There is an impassible gulf between the practice of scientific medicine and the nonsense of homœopathy. The two cannot be made to harmonize—there is no common ground on which science and truth, can meet a trade-name *clan* and deception, and the spectacle of a consultation between a regular physician and a homœopath concerning the treatment of a dangerously sick patient, would be not less ridiculous than to behold Bob Ingersoll and De Witt Talmage, with minds and hearts professedly in unison, administering spiritual comfort and consolation to a dying man!

The line separating the true and the false, the honest and the dishonest, cannot be too sharply drawn, nor too rigidly maintained. Fortunately, the remedy, like the evil, is in the profession; and "the wisdom of the law is greater than the wisdom of any one man," or of forty men. The jurisdiction of our National Medical Congress—the American Medical Association—extends to every state and county; acknowledged as the representative body of legitimate medicine in America, its CODE is high above all state society rules; and no city, county or state society can reverse its power to legislate for its own protection and for the common good of the profession.

The Medical Society of the city of Wheeling and county of Ohio, at a recent meeting, instructed its delegates to the American Medical Association to *stand fast* by the time-honored Code of Medical Ethics! I am confident this society will do likewise, and thus renew its allegiance to the central and supreme authority.

OUR MEETINGS SHOULD BE MORE LARGELY ATTENDED.

It is greatly to be regretted that so few of the six or seven hundred regular physicians in the state can be induced to attend the meetings of this society. Our membership should be at least three or four times larger than at present; and I trust the time is not far distant when the profession in every county will send up to our annual meetings its quota of valuable facts. There is much work to do, and we must "work while it is called to-day; for the night cometh when no man can work." Let it not be said of any of us that we have been like the sunlight on the wall which comes and goes and leaves no mark behind; or the shadow on the shore, which silently passes and disappears, leaving no imprint to indicate its course on the sands.

Finally, let me bespeak your counsel and assistance that I may be able to guide your deliberations to the end that we may have a harmonious and profitable meeting.

I now declare the society ready for the transaction of business.

