

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF DR. SIMON BARUCH.

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[Reprint from PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF AMERICA.]



BARUCH, Simon, New York city, son of Bernard and Theresa (Green) Baruch, was born July 29, 1840, at Schwersenz, Prussia. He was educated in the Royal Gymnasium at Posen, Prussia, and commenced the study of medicine at Camden, S. C., in 1859, with Drs. Workman and Deas; attended lectures at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, and the Medical College of Virginia, and received the degree of M. D. from the last named institution, March 6, 1862. Dr. Baruch served as surgeon in the field in General Lee's army, C. S. A., 1862-'65; was in the private practice of medicine at Camden, S. C., from April, 1865-'81; then removed to New York city. He is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine; member of the Medical Society of the County of New York; of the Northwestern Medical Society; was president of the South Carolina Medical Association in 1873; acting chairman of the State Board of Health of South Carolina in 1880; physician to the Northeastern Dispensary, for diseases of the eye, ear, and throat, New York city, 1880-'83; gynecologist to the same dispensary from 1883-'86; physician to the New York Juvenile Asylum, 1881-'94; chief of the medical staff of Montefiore Home, for chronic invalids, 1884-'92, and president of the medical board since 1892; has been visiting physician to Manhattan General Hospital since 1892.

Dr. Baruch makes a specialty of the treatment of chronic diseases by physiological remedies, diet, rest, exercise, baths, and restricted medication. He discovered the decolorizing effect of the hypsulphites upon Tr. Iodine, *Medical Record*, 1867; he diagnosed the first recorded case of perforating appendicitis successfully operated upon, *New York Medical Journal*, 1889, and for his contributions to the early diagnosis of this affection, Dr. J. A. Wyeth stated before the New York Academy of Medicine that "The profession and humanity owe more to Dr. Baruch than to any other one man for the development of the surgery of appendicitis,"

American Medical and Surgical Bulletin, March, 1894.

Dr. Baruch has endeavored to win the profession over to a more methodical use of "physiological remedies," such as diet, rest, exercise, and baths, not, however, to the exclusion of well-established medicinal agents. He published articles on this subject in the *Therapeutic Gazette*, 1893, and in the *Medical Record*, 1894. He made the first plea in this country and England for the "Brand Baths in Typhoid Fever," Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1889. By request of Dr. Austin Flint, he instructed the house staff of his division in Bellevue Hospital in the details of this measure, and by persistent defence has so far overcome prejudice, that it is now practised in five New York hospitals, taught in three of its colleges, by Professor Wilson at Jefferson Medical College, and by Professor Osler at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Baruch is also the pioneer of scientific hydrotherapy in this country, having first demonstrated its value in the desperate cases at the Montefiore Home, and reported upon it to the county medical society in a paper entitled: "Application of Water in Intractable Diseases," *Medical Record*, 1893.

As chairman of the committee on hygiene, of the Medical Society of the County of New York in 1890, he made a report on public (rain) baths which gave the impetus to the erection of the People's Bath, and others in the city of New York, which afforded 170,000 baths in 1893. His persistent advocacy of this hygienic measure since 1890 has resulted in the passage of a law in April, 1895, making the establishment of free warm and cold water baths to be open fourteen hours daily at all seasons, mandatory upon all cities in New York state having over fifty thousand inhabitants. In consequence of his advocacy of bathing in health and in disease, Dr. Baruch has been termed "The Apostle of Bathing." He is the author of a work on "The Uses of Water in

Modern Medicine," George L. Davis, publisher, 1892, which is being translated into German, and which is an endeavor to sever the scientific method "Hydrotherapy," from the empirical method "Hydrophathy." This work was favorably reviewed in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, November, 1892, and is commended as the "first American original work on hydrotherapy, being brief and yet so rich in information" and worthy of a German translation, by Professor Winternitz in his journal for January, 1893.

Dr. Baruch has written papers upon "Subinvolution of the Uterus;" "Ligation of the Common Carotid Artery;" "Diagnosis and Etiology of Malarial Fevers," *Medical Record*, 1883-84; "Management of the Third Stage of Labor," *American Journal of Obstetrics*, 1885; "Therapeutic Significance of the Cervical Follicles," *New York Medical Journal*, 1885; "Oil of Turpentine in Diphtheria," *Medical Record*, 1888; "Antiseptic and Aseptic Midwifery," Transactions South Carolina Medical Association, 1889; "The Successful Treatment of Chronic Diseases," Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1892; "Relation of Peripheral Irritation to Disease;" "Causes and Treatment of Summer Diarrhoea of Infants," *Medical News*, 1890; "The Status of Water in Modern Medicine," Social Science Association, 1890; "The Rationale of Hydrotherapy," *Medical Record*, 1894; and the article on "Hydrotherapy and Mineral Springs," in Hare's System of Therapeutics.

Married, in 1867, Miss Isabel Wolfe, of Winnsboro, S. C. Children: Four sons, Hartwig, Bernard, Saling, and Herman Baruch, the latter a member of the house staff of Mount Sinai Hospital, in New York city.