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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

OF

HENRY BOND, M. D.

READ BEFORE

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA,

April 4, 1860.

BY

D. FRANCIS CONDIE, M. D.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

IMMEDIATELY after the adoption of the resolution by which I was appointed by the college to prepare a biographical notice of its deceased fellow, Dr. HENRY BOND, I set about diligently to collect the materials requisite for the fulfilment of the task assigned me. My efforts have been attended, however, with only partial success. Of the portion of Dr. Bond's life preceding the period when he took up permanently his residence in Philadelphia, I have been unable to acquire any particulars beyond a few naked chronological dates. Not a single reminiscence has reached me in reference to his domestic training, his first associates, his favorite pursuits, nor to any other of the external circumstances amid which he was placed during his early youth—circumstances, which, if they do not stamp upon the mind and character of the individual their distinctive features, exercise, nevertheless, a powerful influence over both, and often give to them the particular bent they exhibit in after life. But, though unable to present any of the particulars of the early days of Dr. Bond, I may be permitted to point to his moral character, his unfeigned piety—the pure religious principles by which he professed to be actuated, and in accordance with which his intercourse and dealings with his fellow beings appeared invariably to be guided, and which imparted to his conversation and deportment, on all occasions, a peculiar dignity and truthfulness, as strong evidence of the careful nurture he had experienced in early life, and the favorable influences by which, from the cradle upwards, he had been continually surrounded.

The account I am about to present of such portions of the biography of our departed fellow as I am conversant with, will, necessarily, be little more than a simple enumeration of such of the movements of his life as have a more or less direct connection

with his daily routine of professional pursuits and engagements. Beyond these, indeed, the life of the quiet unambitious student and strictly professional man, such as was Dr. Bond, affords but little to interest or to instruct those without the circle of his intimates and immediate associates. The career of our departed fellow was one unvaried calm—broken by neither the love of adventure, nor by the aspirations and struggles which are prompted by a high-aiming and all-absorbing ambition—disturbed by neither dazzling achievements nor startling reverses; but simply a quiet succession of days succeeding nights spent almost exclusively in the retirement of his study, or in the privacy of his patients' sick chambers. Such a career furnishes, it must be evident, no very promising materials for the use of the biographer.

Dr. Henry Bond was born at Watertown, Massachusetts, on the 21st of March, 1790. His ancestors on his father's side came from Bury St. Edmunds, in the county of Suffolk, England. They were among the early immigrants who sought to secure for themselves and their descendants, upon the shores of the new world, the enjoyment of that freedom—personal, political, and religious—which they were denied at home. As early as 1636 they were settled at Watertown, in the then colony of Massachusetts; and they continued to reside there for several generations.

William Bond, the grandfather of the doctor, was, in common with the greater part of the descendants of the first settlers of New England, a determined whig in principles—prepared at any moment to risk everything, even life itself, rather than permit the slightest infringement of that liberty, in the pursuit of which his ancestors had left their homes and country, and willingly subjected themselves to the privations, toils, and dangers of a life amid the wilderness, and in the immediate neighborhood of treacherous and ruthless savages. As might be expected, therefore, William Bond was among the very earliest of those who had the boldness openly to embrace the cause of the American colonies in their contest for independence with the mother country. In 1775 we find him serving, in the 25th regiment of Massachusetts troops, as lieutenant colonel, under Col. Thomas Gardiner, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Bunker's Hill. On the death of the latter, he succeeded to the command of the regiment, which was then on duty at Prospect Hill, near Boston. In the spring of 1776, Colonel Bond was ordered to proceed, with his regiment, to the northern

frontier, to assist in the military operations against the Canadas. Whilst stationed at Mount Independence, on Lake Champlain, Col. Bond was attacked with dysentery, to which he fell a victim on the 31st of August, 1776. He left behind him several sons, residing at Watertown. Of these sons, Henry Manuel, a farmer by occupation, was the father of Dr. Bond. His mother was the eldest daughter of Captain Phineas Stearns, also of Watertown.

In June, 1790, when Dr. Bond was scarcely three months old, his father removed with his family to Livermore, in the then District of Maine, where he continued his agricultural pursuits, while, at the same time, he had an interest in certain mills in the neighborhood. He soon became there an active and influential citizen. He served as a deacon of the first church organized in the town, and was the second person who taught school in the place, which he did in the winter of 1794. He died on the 27th of March, 1796, in the thirty-fifth year of his age, leaving a widow and two children, a son and daughter. The widow subsequently married Zebedee Rose, of Livermore, by whom she had several children. She survived until August 13th, 1803.

Young Bond, in the spring of 1806, was sent to school at an academy, in Hebron, Maine, over which Albion K. Paris for some time presided. At this seminary he was prepared for admission as a pupil of Dartmouth College, into which he matriculated in the year 1809, he being then in the nineteenth year of his age. Four years subsequently (August, 1813) he obtained his Bachelor's degree. While in college, we are told, he exhibited a fondness for the exact sciences, and was esteemed an excellent mathematician. He devoted himself with success to various literary pursuits, and was especially interested in historical investigations.¹

Of the particular circumstances which prompted young Bond to make choice of the profession of medicine as the pursuit of his future years I am uninformed; all that I know is that his medical pupilage was commenced, immediately after his graduation at college, under the direction of Professors Cyrus Perkins and Nathan Smith, of Hanover, New Hampshire, and diligently prosecuted until March, 1815; at which period he was appointed a tutor in Dartmouth College. This position he held until August, 1816, when he resigned. His professional education was completed in

¹ Memoir of Dr. Bond, by Horatio Gates Jones, A. M., Esq., Boston, 1860.

the medical department of Dartmouth College; by the faculty of which he was admitted to the degree of Doctor in Medicine, in the month of December, 1816.

Dr. Bond entered upon the practice of his profession, at Concord, New Hampshire, on the first day of January, 1817, he being then twenty-seven years of age. During his residence in Concord, he delivered three summer courses of popular lectures on chemistry; pursuing at the same time, with great application, his general literary studies.

"In 1818 he was appointed to deliver the oration before the New Hampshire Alpha of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He selected as his theme, 'Traits of American Genius.' The manuscript of this oration, now lying before the writer" (we quote from the memoir of Mr. Jones), "shows that devotion to his profession had not produced a distaste for the paths of literature. Those who knew Dr. Bond only in his later days would be surprised at the tone and execution of the entire production."

From some cause, the nature of which is unknown to me, Dr. Bond very soon became dissatisfied with his position as a medical practitioner in Concord, and, in consequence, finally left the place. In the autumn of 1819 we find him in the city of Philadelphia, in attendance upon the lectures of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania; and in the spring of the ensuing year he settled himself down as a permanent resident of our city, where he continued actively engaged in the practice of medicine during the remainder of his life.

In the memoir of Dr. Bond, by Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., it is stated that it was originally the intention of the doctor to have removed from Concord, N. H., to Augusta, Maine, where he had relations residing, and where an office had been actually engaged for him; but the several new and strong friendships he formed in Philadelphia, and the encouragement these held out to him, induced him to give the latter city his preference as a place of permanent abode.

In the month of December, 1819, Dr. Bond was admitted an honorary member of the Philadelphia Medical Society. In the proceedings of this society he took a deep and active interest from the period he was admitted to membership until its meetings were formally suspended a few years since: serving it with untiring zeal

and the utmost ability, in almost every capacity, from the humblest to the most exalted.

In the month of June of the same year he had been elected one of the Censors of the New Hampshire Medical Society, and orator for the year 1820. The duties of the latter appointment he did not, however, fulfil. In the same year (1819) we find his name enrolled among the honorary members of the Anatomical Society, instituted by Dr. A. Ramsey, in Surgeons' Square, Edinburgh.

Although somewhat reserved in his disposition and manners, especially towards strangers and in mixed companies, with but slight conversational powers, and ungifted with any of the arts adapted to secure the favor, by ministering to the weakness, the vanity, or the prejudices of those with whom he came in contact, Dr. Bond, nevertheless, by the dignity of his deportment, the true benevolence of his disposition, and the stern integrity exhibited in all his acts, was enabled in a short time to gather around him in Philadelphia a circle of warm friends, through whose exertions his success as a physician was zealously and successfully promoted; while his classical and scientific attainments won for him the esteem and admiration of his literary and professional contemporaries. He thus succeeded, very soon after his settlement in our city, in securing a practice highly respectable from the number and standing of his patients, and sufficiently remunerative to meet, as he often assured me, his most sanguine expectations; a result the more honorable to him from the fact of his being an unmarried man, and without the support of any powerful family influence. Dr. Bond, we may remark, remained a bachelor throughout life.

Following in the footsteps of nearly every physician who has attained in this community a character for professional skill, our deceased colleague availed himself, in the commencement of his career, of the admirable field which the practice of our several dispensaries furnishes for the acquisition of clinical experience and tact. Thus, in the year 1821, we find him fulfilling the somewhat arduous duties of prescribing physician to both the Philadelphia and Southern Dispensaries, to which, in 1822, he added those also of out-door physician to the General Board of Guardians of the Poor. The latter post he held for two years, during which period its duties were performed by him in a manner altogether satisfactory to all the parties interested.

In 1820 he was elected a member of the Philadelphia Academy

of Medicine, an association organized for the cultivation, by observation and experiment, of the several collateral branches of medical science. It included on its list of members some of the most talented, and at the same time most cautious and skilful, observers and experimenters among the physicians of our city. During a brief career of usefulness it originated an extensive course of experiments, chiefly with the view of elucidating certain of the mooted questions in physiology. Portions of this course only were completed. The able report of these, and of the general conclusion arrived at by the experimenters, may be referred to as evidence of the zeal, industry, and talents of the members of the Academy, and as an earnest of what might have been accomplished through its instrumentality had its existence been prolonged, and its efforts encouraged by the efficient co-operation and support of the medical men of our city generally.

It was a year or two later that an association was formed by several of the physicians of Philadelphia, under the name of the Philadelphia Medical Lyceum, having for its object the delivery, during a portion of the summer season, of a series of lectures, embracing a complete course of professional instruction, with appropriate illustrations and demonstrations, supplementary to the regular winter course of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. Of this association Dr. Bond was one of the original members; his colleagues were Drs. B. H. Coates, R. M. Huston, W. D. Brincklé, and the writer of the present notice. The branches assigned to Dr. Bond, in the course of instruction adopted by the Lyceum, were those of anatomy and surgery. These he had for some time previously taught at his office to private classes, which are said to have been very well attended. The Medical Lyceum continued its lectures for some three years, but without receiving that degree of encouragement which had been anticipated by its founders.

Although sufficiently well grounded in the subjects he undertook to teach—although anxious to communicate with clearness all necessary knowledge to his class, and having for the accomplishment of the task the required amount of reading and of personal skill—still, Dr. Bond was destitute of many of the qualifications which are essential to constitute a successful public teacher. Slow and unimpressive in manner, and deficient in language, his prelections and his demonstrations, although unexceptionable in appropriateness

and accuracy, were alike destitute of those attractions so necessary to fix the attention of his auditors and impress upon their minds the desired instruction.

In the year 1823 Dr. Bond became a member of the Kappa Lambda Society of Hippocrates, meeting in Philadelphia; and at the period when, its mission having been accomplished, it was dissolved, he was its Secretary. The organization, character, proceedings, and objects of the society received his entire approval. He sustained, with no little zeal, the important ethical object which was contemplated in its establishment, and in the accomplishment of which he was, in all respects, well adapted effectually to aid. The purity and dignity of his character, his conciliatory manners, and his entire freedom from even the suspicion of cliqueism, in any of its forms or phases, enabled him to subdue every feeling of pique, jealousy, or enmity that circumstances may have engendered in others, and to command the respect and confidence of all—converting even the most selfish of professional rivals into friends.

The meetings of the Kappa Lambda Society, on more than one occasion, were rendered particularly instructive, and the pages of its organ—the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*—enriched by communications on various medical subjects from our departed Fellow.

In 1824 he delivered, by appointment, an address before the Society of the Sons of New England, which was published at the request of the Society. It is described as a very creditable production, its subject being a vindication of the people and the institutions of New England.

It was in the year 1825 that Dr. Bond was received as a Fellow of the College of Physicians. From an early period after his reception he became a frequent contributor to its scientific proceedings. Among his contributions, contained in the published *Transactions* of the College, will be found the histories of a number of important and suggestive cases of disease, and many valuable papers, in several of which modifications in surgical and obstetric instruments and treatment are proposed which have received the approval of the profession generally.

For a period of eleven years—from 1833 to 1843 inclusive—Dr. Bond served the College as its Secretary. The duties of the office were performed by him in a most faithful, able, and satisfactory manner, as the Fellows bear testimony in the formal resolution

adopted by them unanimously on the occasion of his resignation of the post, February 7, 1843.

In 1844 the College elected him one of its Censors, to which highly responsible and honorable station he was annually re-elected up to the period of his decease.

Dr. Bond was appointed, in 1833, by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, one of the members of the Board of Health; and in March, 1836, he was unanimously elected by the Board its President. His services in this body were most important. His suggestions, his decisions, and the measures carried out at his suggestion, in reference to the weighty questions—involving always the comfort and health, and often even the lives, of the entire community—which came constantly before the Board, demanding its prompt action, were all marked by sound judgment, and a familiarity with the true principles upon which all sanitary movements adapted to the circumstances and the wants of a large commercial community must be based to insure their being carried out successfully.

During the entire period that Dr. Bond presided over the meetings of the Board of Health, its proceedings were marked by a degree of dignity and cautious deliberation becoming the important nature of the interests involved in them. Few, perhaps, were better adapted for the position he held in the sanitary councils of our city. Industrious and skilful in the investigation of facts, slow and cautious in the formation of his decisions, he was equally determined in the enforcement of whatever measures he believed to be demanded to insure the safety of the community from the attack of disease, being turned aside neither by the claims of expediency on the one hand, nor on the other by the opposition founded on narrow prejudices or arising out of ridiculous fears engendered by ignorance and misconception.

It was the good fortune of Dr. Bond to have as his associates in the Board of Health while he remained a member, those who were both able and willing to aid him in the faithful and skilful administration of the sanitary laws and quarantine regulations of the city and port of Philadelphia.

About the year 1834 a very decided and well-directed movement was made by a number of the leading members of the medical profession of Philadelphia, unconnected with the schools, to elevate the standard of medical education, and to insure the competency

of those admitted to practise as physicians. In accordance with a system of instruction and graduation, adopted after great deliberation, the Philadelphia College of Medicine was organized. Its plan was nearly that of the London Medical University; having in contemplation the conferring of the degree of Doctor in Medicine upon such as should present themselves to its board of examiners, and pass a satisfactory examination in the various branches of medicine and its collateral sciences, after attendance upon a prescribed course of studies, embracing the lectures and demonstrations of such teachers as should be approved by the college. These teachers not being restricted to a single one upon each branch included in its curriculum, but admitting of a choice upon the part of the pupil among several on each branch, should several, as would undoubtedly be the case, be pronounced qualified by the college. The college received in 1835 a charter from the Legislature of the State. In this movement Dr. Bond took from the first a deep interest, and was especially active in furthering the efforts made to render it successful. He was named in the charter as one of the incorporators of the college, and was elected its first treasurer.

It is not our intention on this occasion to examine into the causes which eventuated in the relinquishment of the scheme of improved medical teaching and licensing thus matured. What influence the election to professorships in popular medical schools of some of its leading and most strenuous supporters had in preventing the attempt being made to test its feasibility by actual practice, it is very difficult to say.

In 1840 and 1850 Dr. Bond was sent as one of the delegates from the College of Physicians to the decennial sessions held in those years by the convention for revising the United States Pharmacopœia; and in 1846 he was appointed by the Philadelphia Medical Society a delegate to the convention, by the action of which the organization was effected of the American Medical Association. To the latter body he was also on several occasions elected a delegate on the part of the College of Physicians and Philadelphia County Medical Society. It does not appear from the published transactions of the association, however, that he took at any time an active or very prominent part in its proceedings.

It was not solely with the medical associations of this and other cities that we find the name of Dr. Bond associated; it was not by his professional colleagues alone that a correct appreciation was

formed of his character and attainments; his moral and mental worth, his untiring industry, and accurate business habits. We find him enrolled, also, as a member of a large number of literary, scientific, and benevolent associations. Thus, he was a member, and for some time one of the board of managers of the Apprentices' Library Company of Philadelphia; a life member of the Franklin Institute; a member of the Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons; a corresponding member of the New England Historical Society; a Fellow of the American Statistical Society, at Boston; a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences; a corresponding member of the National Institute, at Washington, and of the Northern Academy of Arts and Sciences, New Hampshire.

Dr. Bond was in person rather above the medium height, large limbed, with strongly-marked features, and of a grave, thoughtful, but, at the same time, benevolent cast of countenance, lighted up, occasionally, by a quiet smile. He was slow, deliberate, and methodical in all his movements. His conversational powers were very restricted; his want of fluency of speech was evident on all occasions, and on all subjects: this was the more remarkable in one who like him was a careful and, within the range of his favorite topics, a somewhat extensive reader, and a clear thinker.

During the earlier portion of his life he appears to have enjoyed robust and uninterrupted health. Several years, however, previously to his death symptoms developed themselves indicative of organic disease of the heart. These increased gradually in intensity, rendering active exercise inconvenient, and obliging him to restrict his professional engagements within very narrow limits, and finally to abandon them entirely.

On the 17th of August, 1858, he was seized with apoplexy and paralysis of the left side, whilst walking in the early part of the afternoon in Washington Square.

"A person who saw him at the moment," writes Dr. Bell, to whose kindness I am indebted for an account of the last illness of our deceased fellow, "represents him to have bounded from the ground and to have made a movement of semi-gyration. When visited at his house, half an hour afterwards, he was found to be still insensible but restless; he could swallow a little fluid, and exhibited some motility of his left lower limb, and before long of the arm and hand. In neither limb was this motility under the control of volition. These symptoms were more distinct in the

evening; by which time cupping the temples and behind the ears had been performed, and about six ounces of blood thus abstracted. Sinapisms to the legs and ice to the head had been previously applied. The bowels were well acted on the following day by pills of extract of colocynth and the citrate of magnesia.

"No regular notes of the case having been taken, it can only be told, in a general way, that in a few days the muscles of the affected side became partially obedient to the will, and speech began to return, although in a very imperfect manner. Consciousness had been restored within a few hours after the attack, and with it came a return of the intellectual faculties. The ability of the doctor to sit up was soon followed by that to walk from one room to another and then in the street, while supported on the arm of a friend and with the additional assistance of a cane. With the coming on of the cool weather he was able to extend his walks alone, and to ride in an omnibus or railroad car—a practice which he continued with considerable regularity, when not prevented by stress of weather.

"Dr. Bond had for a length of time labored under disease of the heart, marked by dyspnoea, and inability to indulge in active or accelerated movements, with a feeling of great oppression. His pulse was, for the most part, regular, and seldom weak.

"For some time after his paralytic attack the pulse was rather weak and soft; but, in proportion as he became able to move about and resume, to a certain extent, the routine exercises of the day, and to indulge his appetite, cardiac action was stronger; and the pulse, up to the time of his death, especially in the evenings, full, somewhat resisting, and rather frequent. He ate freely, and to an extent which he himself admitted, every now and then, to be beyond the limits of prudence. His medical friend and constant visitor (Dr. Bell) hinted at this, and laid some stress on the risk of repletion, without the compensating influence of an adequate amount of exercise."

Dr. Bond had persuaded himself that the leading curative indication in his case was to restore, as promptly as possible, strength to the system by a generous diet, tonics, and stimulants. Throughout life he had been noted for his habitual temperance, bordering almost, in respect to the use of alcoholic stimulants, upon entire abstinence; and yet so strong had his confidence in the latter, as one of the prominent means by which his health was to be restored, become, that it was found necessary, on occasions, pointedly to dis-

courage his persistence in their use, from a fear of the deleterious influence they were liable to exert upon his diseased heart and brain.

“The frame of mind of Dr. Bond, measured by his remarks in conversation, his letters, and written memoranda, his division of time, and his personal habits, was nearly the same after he had recovered from the shock of his attack as it had always been. No aberration of intellect or morbid sentiment was observable, although an occasional vacillation of purpose, in small matters, was occasionally to be noticed. His mind worked with more slowness, and evidently with greater effort, than usual. This was more evident in matters of memory, as, for example, in the difficulty under which he labored to get the desired word in conversing. In his best days he was, however, slow in speech, and had but a limited range of words. His utterance varied in distinctness during the time of his infirmities, according to the tone of his spirits, and the voluntary efforts made on the occasion. During the latter months of his life he felt very sensibly his condition—not evincing this so much in words, as by his being repeatedly moved to shedding of tears—the more so if reference or inquiry was made respecting his altered health in a tone of sympathy or commiseration.

“A frequent visitor would find him with a book or newspaper in hand, of the contents of which he would sometimes speak. The book he was most frequently seen engaged with was his Bible, or, occasionally, a volume of sermons. He took manifest pleasure in referring to his recently issued volumes, the *Watertown Memorials*, in answer to a question relating to any member of a family-branch recorded in their pages.”

There was little or no premonition of the attack by which Dr. Bond was carried off, without, it would seem, a struggle or a pang. He had given his vote the day before at the polls of the annual municipal election, and on the evening preceding was in unusually good spirits—a common prelude, as is well known, to a sudden cerebral seizure, and its not unfrequent termination in death. After playing a game of backgammon with a friend, he remained in conversation with the family until after ten o'clock, when he retired to bed. He was found dead by his servant at seven o'clock on the morning of the fourth of May, 1859. He was lying on his face, within a step of his bed, and with a contused wound on his right eyebrow, which had bled a little, and was caused probably by his

striking against the lower part of a bookcase which was close to, and at right angles with, the bed. It is presumable that, in attempting to rise from bed, life was suddenly extinguished immediately after, if not at the moment of, his fall. The interval between his attack of apoplexy and the period of his sudden death was about nine months.

An examination of his body after death showed hypertrophy with valvular disease of the heart, and softening, to a considerable extent, of the brain.¹

¹ The following account of the morbid appearances discovered on inspection of the body of Dr. Bond was communicated by Dr. R. La Roche to the Pathological Society of Philadelphia, at its session of May 11, 1859. It is copied from the Proceedings of the Society, as reported in the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* for July, 1859:—

“Occipital protuberance uncommonly prominent, with corresponding thickness of bone. The entire surface of the brain exhibited great venous congestion. The arachnoid membrane, especially towards the summit of the brain, was decidedly opaque, with effusion beneath of a serous fluid, and, in patches, of a semi-gelatinous matter. The vessels at the base of the brain were all more or less ossified. In cutting into the substance of the brain, the medullary matter became immediately covered with innumerable small spots of red blood. The choroid plexus was considerably congested. A large amount of serous effusion—probably two ounces—was contained in the lateral and other ventricles. The hippocampus major of the right side was unusually large, infiltrated with fluid, and decidedly softened. The velum interpositum was strongly injected with blood. The substance of the medullary portion of the anterior lobe of the right side of the cerebrum was considerably softened, and injected with a pus-like fluid, the softening extending as far back as the descending cornua. The cerebrum was large in size and firm in texture; the convolutions were uncommonly deep. The cerebellum was, compared with the cerebrum, uncommonly small in size; it was congested, but less so than the cerebrum.

“The cartilages of the ribs were ossified. Old adhesions of the left lung to the costal pleura were discovered. Considerable effusion into the cavity of the pericardium existed. The right auricle contained a very large amount of fluid blood. The heart was much above the medium size, and on its surface were large deposits of fatty matter. The coats of the aorta exhibited ossific deposits. The left ventricle was considerably hypertrophied and thickened; the right nearly natural. The semilunar and mitral valves were, especially at the base, thickened and ossified.

“The changes found in the heart confirmed fully the opinion which had long been expressed of the nature of the disease of that organ under which Dr. Bond labored so many years. Those found in the brain were sufficient to account for the attack of apoplexy and paralysis. In consequence of not finding in the latter organ any marks of recent disease of a kind calculated to explain the sudden death of the patient, and in view of the nature of the morbid changes in the heart, and of the unusual accumulation of blood found in the right auricle and

The contributions of Dr. Bond, of a professional character, were chiefly in the form of communications to the societies of which he was a member.

At a meeting of the Kappa Lambda Society, held February 25, 1829, he read a paper containing observations on the treatment of fractured patella, with the suggestion of an approved apparatus adapted to retain the fractured surfaces of the bone in contact until their union is effected. This apparatus commends itself to the favorable notice of the surgeon by the simplicity of its construction, its easy application, its slight liability to derangement, and its efficiency in the retention of the fractured portions of the patella in apposition, without interfering with the circulation of the limb.

The communication was published in the seventh volume of the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Among the communications presented by Dr. Bond to the College of Physicians, and printed in its *Transactions*, we find one read by him at the session of July 30, 1828, on the subject of foreign bodies in the œsophagus, with the best means for their removal. In this very able and instructive monograph he gives the description of an œsophagus-forceps invented by him, capable, when the head is thrown well backwards, of being introduced to any depth into the gullet, or even into the cavity of the stomach, without its inflicting injury upon the coats of either; and which, while it will readily seize hold of and firmly retain any small body—as a pin, needle, spicula of bone, etc.—with which it shall come in contact, will, at the same time, permit them to assume a position nearly parallel with its blades, so that, in the act of withdrawing the forceps, there is no possibility of the foreign body held in it wounding the lining membrane of the œsophagus.

In the paper here referred to, forms of hooks are suggested for the abstraction from the gullet of coins and other bodies which may have been accidentally swallowed and arrested along some portion of its tract.

In another communication, read at the session of the College held February 6, 1844, Dr. Bond describes a very ingenious forceps for the removal of the placenta when retained in cases of abortion;

surrounding vessels, several of those present at the autopsy [Drs. Bell, Wood, R. La Roche, Coates, Condie, C. P. La Roche, and Brinton] were inclined to look to that organ for the immediate cause of death."

an instrument confessedly much better adapted for the purpose than any of those previously in use.

In connection with the history of two cases of retroversion of the uterus, read before the College at its session of March 6, 1849, he describes a new instrument for the restoration and retention of the retroverted organ. It has been found, by those who have given it a fair trial, to be well adapted for the accomplishment of the desired object.

At its session of November 20, in the same year, he described to the College a modification of the ordinary midwifery-forceps, which he had devised in order to facilitate the application of the instrument, and to allow of its blades being locked in certain cases of labor, where this cannot be readily done when the forceps as usually constructed are made use of. The modification in question consists in an adjustment of the joint by which the two blades, when locked, admit of a rocking motion upon each other, within certain limits, which can be increased or diminished by means of a screw. This contrivance is a very ingenious one, and cannot fail, we think, to increase the usefulness of the instrument.

At a subsequent session—that of December 2, 1851—Dr. Bond presented a very elaborate memoir on the subject of fractures of the lower end of the radius, and on their management. In the memoir a splint is described for dressing the fractures referred to, which is intended to obviate the danger of a deformity which is very liable to occur when the usual plan is pursued of dressing the fracture with flat, straight splints extending beyond the points of the fingers. That the splint of Dr. Bond is constructed on correct principles is almost universally conceded, and, with but slight modifications, it has been adopted, we believe, by the entire profession of our country.

In the printed *Transactions* of the College is contained, also, a short but very neat biographical notice of Dr. John Ruan, a deceased Fellow, read by Dr. Bond, according to appointment, at the session of September 2, 1845.

We have thus briefly indicated some of the more important of the professional communications of Dr. Bond; others, equal perhaps in interest, and but little inferior in value, are recorded in the *Transactions* of the College, and in the contemporary medical journals. They are all of them sound, common sense productions,

having invariably a direct practical bearing. The particular tone of his mind was such as led him to look with indifference upon everything save the positive and the immediately useful. Mathematics, mechanics, statistics, and the exact sciences generally, were his favorite studies. On all occasions he was strenuous in the rejection of mere hypothetical and collateral reasoning, and in restricting himself mainly to propositions and deductions which, in his estimation, were based directly upon clearly established facts, and were consequently to be received as the expression of demonstrable truths. We can thus perceive why, without entirely neglecting any of the branches of medical science or practice—in all of which he was passably well grounded—that those which have most of a mechanical and positive character, such as surgery and obstetrics, were his favorite specialties, and to which the greater part of all his published writings have a more or less immediate relation.

We are unacquainted with any productions of Dr. Bond other than those of a strictly professional character, to which we have already referred, with the exception of a work in two octavo volumes, comprising in all some twelve hundred pages, published in Boston in the year 1856, entitled *Watertown Family Memorials*, with notes and illustrations. Of this we can speak only from the report of others. By such of our friends as have examined the work, and upon whose judgment of its merits we can place full reliance, it is said to be a very creditable production, exhibiting great and laborious research, sound judgment, and good taste. It presents a clear, unassuming narrative of local and family histories, which cannot be otherwise than of deep interest to the numerous descendants of those whose memorials it commemorates.

Among the unpublished manuscripts left by Dr. Bond is one exhibiting in tabular form the statistics of thirteen hundred and seven cases of labor superintended by himself. Every important fact connected with these cases is carefully noted: the age of the mother, whether it was her first, second, or third, etc., confinement; the presenting part of the fœtus, with its position in the pelvis; the period of the day when labor commenced, its duration, and the hour when it terminated; its character, and the result in respect to both child and mother. We refer to this table, as well on account of its real value as a reliable contribution to obstetrical statistics,

and one which we hope to see shortly placed within the reach of the medical public, as from its presenting an evidence of the doctor's methodical habits, his industry, and his fondness for the numerical method in the notation of facts.

In consequence of the extreme modesty and entire freedom from pretension with which the contributions made by Dr. Bond to the common fund of medical knowledge were announced by him, in connection with his ordinarily reserved manner and unobtrusive course of life, unmarked by either contention for favor or by the arduous struggle for distinction, he was perhaps less known to the profession generally, and held in its estimation a less elevated rank, than many with far inferior claims to celebrity and esteem. It was principally among those who had an opportunity to test his professional knowledge and skill, to become familiar with his classical and scientific attainments, and to experience the perfect sincerity and truthfulness of his entire character—his manly virtues and unflinching urbanity of deportment—that he was appreciated at his true value.

Those most intimate with him freely conceded to him their unlimited esteem; while his mental attainments and moral worth commanded the respect of all who knew him. He was never able, however, to attain to that general popularity which constitutes often a most important element of success in life, partly because of his apparent coldness of disposition, but mainly, we suspect, because of his entire freedom from a desire to court, by flattering demonstrations, the good opinion of those with whom he was brought in contact, or, for his own advantage, to conciliate their prejudices. He was invariably courteous in his demeanor, exhibiting always, and to all classes, that true politeness of manner which is equally removed from the vulgar rudeness affected by such as would aspire to the reputation of an honest bluntness, as from the servility and studied adulation of the mere man of the world.

The mind of Dr. Bond was characterized rather by depth, solidity, and caution, than by originality, brilliancy, or quickness of conception. He was unimaginative, even to a fault, and over-fastidious in his rejection of all other evidence than that which is strictly demonstrative. His opinions were formed slowly, after a close and, as he would fain believe, unbiased scrutiny into the nature and true bearing of the facts upon which they were based; but when

his opinions were once formed, it was with difficulty he could ever after be persuaded of their fallacy, or of the insufficiency of the foundation upon which they had been laboriously erected. He was, in consequence, tardy in the admission of novel doctrines in medicine, and of all newly announced discoveries in either of its departments. It was with difficulty, therefore, that he strove to keep even pace with the rapid improvements, additions, and extension by which, in his day, medical science and practice were so eminently distinguished. Though never, perhaps, strictly speaking, actually behind the existing state of knowledge in respect to his profession, he was seldom or ever in advance of it.

As a practitioner of the healing art he was skilful and eminently successful, and as an observer exact, cautious, and industrious. The very severity and mathematical precision of his mind, however, constituted serious impediments in all his attempts to communicate, from his own well replenished stores, knowledge to others—depriving him of the ability to pour forth, almost unconsciously, because of his own overfulness of observation and of thought, a constant stream of instruction, clear and attractive, from which all alike could profit.

Dr. Bond was an unpretending and devoted professor of religion. Brought up from early infancy in the bosom of the Presbyterian Church, he remained in full communion with it throughout life. While, however, he gave to the tenets inculcated by the creed of his forefathers his entire consent and constant personal support, and was ever ready to aid in every scheme adapted for their extension, he, at the same time, was no bigot; but, while he claimed for himself the right to enjoy unmolested his own religious views, and to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, he freely conceded the same right to others—"despising no man because of his religious belief, but extending freely to all whose lives exemplified the lessons of the Divine Teacher the ready hand of fellowship."

By his will, dated April 3d, 1858, Dr. Bond bequeathed to the Philadelphia College of Physicians such of his medical books of which there were not already copies in its library; while his miscellaneous books, including those on history, genealogy, and antiquity, not otherwise disposed of, he bequeathed to Dartmouth College. To the New England Historic Genealogical Society he

bequeathed his interleaved copies of the Watertown Family Memorials; his manuscript books and papers pertaining to town or church histories; those containing the records of births, deaths, and marriages in Woburn; and his files of letters relating to genealogy or antiquities; together with all the unbound copies of the Watertown Memorials.

"These manuscripts," Mr. Jones remarks,¹ "are exceedingly valuable, comprising, with his correspondence, his entire collection of materials, from which he prepared his great work on Watertown. The copies of the Memorials number at least one thousand volumes, and the society, to show their estimate of this legacy, have placed them in the hands of trustees, who design to invest the proceeds arising from the sale of the work in a fund, which, out of regard to their benefactor, is to be called 'The Bond Fund.'"

After devising the bulk of his estate, during life, to three of his near relatives in Philadelphia, he makes Dartmouth College his residuary legatee. The income of the property thus devised to the college to be appropriated to the increase of the college library, and to the payment annually of the sum of one hundred dollars to "any student of the name of Bond, a descendant of William Bond, Esq., and his wife Sarah (Bisco), who settled in Watertown, Massachusetts, as early as the year 1650, so long as he shall continue an undergraduate at said college."

In the final disposition of the bulk of his estate, Dr. Bond does not appear to have displayed the sound judgment and good common sense by which his conduct throughout life had, in other respects, been invariably characterized. As to the propriety of the bequest to Dartmouth not a single objection could be raised, had the property left by Dr. Bond been sufficient, after amply providing for his more immediate relatives, to render his intentions in its bestowal upon the college effective. The entire annual income of the few thousand dollars that will pass to the college, under the will of Dr. Bond, can afford but a trifling sum to meet the first of the objects contemplated, the increase, namely, of the college library; leaving nothing whatever to carry out the second object—the extending pecuniary assistance to persons of the name of Bond, descendants of the grandfather of the doctor, while they remain students of Dartmouth College.

¹ Memoir of Dr. Bond.

But, with even the supposed follies of a good man we are admonished to deal gently—especially should we do so with the few short-comings of one, who, like our deceased colleague, endeavored always to conform his life and conversation to what the prophet has shown to be good—"To do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with his God."