

A CONTRIBUTION

TO THE

MEDICAL HISTORY

OF

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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BY

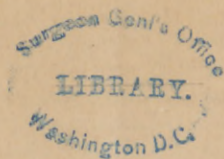
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READ BEFORE THE

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MEDICAL HISTORY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY A. B. CROSBY, M. D.

FELLOWS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY :

The season that brings us together is one of harmonious beauty. Crowned is the forehead of Summer with a bloom of surpassing loveliness, meet for this "bridal of earth and sky." Wherever the eye may rest, upon the mountain, the valley, the woods, lakes, streams—everywhere is life—life in its prime of beauty, life for life's great end—fruition, a mighty harvest, a full garner for the winter of time.

To many of us come thoughts of other summers whose garlands have faded away. To many comes that sadness, not visible to describe, yet ever linked with thoughts of nature to an ear like ours, doomed to harken to "the still, sad music of humanity."

"So build we up the being that we are,
Thus deeply drinking in the soul of things."

* * * * *

"The clouds that gather round the setting sun
Do take a sombre coloring, from an eye
That hath kept watch o'er man's mortality;
Another race hath been, and other palms are won."

As we gather around this altar consecrated to human suffering, and place our annual offering upon it, it is surely not unmeet at certain periods to invoke the "Angel of the

backward look." "Memory," says one, "is like the stern light of a vessel, that illuminates the path just passed, but throws no gleam on the future." Yet they tell us that history but repeats itself, and it has come to be an aphorism that there is no way of judging of the future but by the past.

The fathers of our art who sleep within

"The low green tent
Whose curtain never outward swings,"

were once where we stand to-day. If we read their record we shall find how they worked hard, lived well and died poor. But above and beyond these prosaic facts we shall learn how theirs were lives of practical benevolence, devoted to the good of their kind. And in many of those long lives of ill-requited labor, of long suffering and well doing, we may discover deeds as heroic, all unsyllabled and unsung though they be, as any that the world perpetuates in marble and bronze. Such retrospects, while they do away with many illusions, can not but give us a more abiding faith and incite us to live like them, that our end may be like theirs.

I propose to recall something of the early medical history of New Hampshire, and as associated with it, something of the history of the Dartmouth Medical College. The progress of medical science in New Hampshire has been gradual. During the first hundred years after the settlement of the state, medicine had few exponents. And hence it is that no distinguished names in the profession during that period have come down to us. During the first fifty years of the second century in the history of the Granite State, a number of men arose distinguished for their medical knowledge and their zeal in advancing its most important interests. By more or less frequent intercourse with the mother country, by occasional immigration

from the schools of Europe, and by the importation of approved authors, these pioneers in our art did the most for themselves that their isolated position admitted. Though they had not the advantages of the medical establishments now so common in our country, they had all the aid that could be derived from the published works of the most eminent medical men of Europe. The medical works most generally in use at that time were those of Sydenham, Commentaries of Van Swieten, and the practical writings of Whytt, Mac Brooks, and Huxham. Physiology was represented by Haller; anatomy by Cowper, Douglas, Cheselden, Munroe and Winslow. The surgeries of Heister Sharp, LeDran and Pott, were the standards, while obstetrics were taught from the works of Smellie and Hunter.

The physician of the present day, who in a comfortable carriage drives rapidly over smooth roads or glides almost imperceptibly over the country in a railroad train, with all the approved appliances of our time, can form no adequate idea of the hardships that attended on the life of the physician in those early days. There were in the majority of instances no roads, and the luckless disciple of *Æsculapius*, on horseback, or, quite as frequently, on foot, was obliged to pick his uncertain way by the aid of spotted trees.

One of the earliest practitioners in my own neighborhood—who left a good name and an honorable record—was, tradition says, the owner of a pair of shoes. When he visited the poor his feet like those of his patient were habitually bare, the shoes being carefully concealed within the capacious saddle-bags, in part for economy's sake, but quite as much lest the feelings of his humble friends should be wounded. But when he approached, at long intervals, a patrician bed, the long cherished shoes were donned, and in these galoches of professional fortune, he was wont proudly to tread the sick room like any aristocrat, wellshod.

It is related that on one of his professional trips he was

consulted by a young man from Connecticut, who, bred in comfort, had come into the new country and cleared a piece of land, but his poor bare feet were bruised, torn and bleeding. "I know what will cure you," said the benevolent doctor, and, opening his saddle-bags, he gave him the long treasured shoes; and then, lest, I fancy, his resolution should fail him, he turned his face resolutely homeward,

"Nor cast one longing lingering look behind."

The doctor of those days was almost always obliged to attend to his own commissary department. Hasty-pudding was his principal reliance; although during the winter months he could occasionally indulge in the luxury of pea soup, frozen into cakes of a size suitable for transportation, and which a friendly fire would speedily render palatable.

There was little money in the country, and, in order to live, the physician inevitably became a farmer. Thus his patients could pay him in live stock, and when this had accumulated he was obliged to drive it to market, and so he became a drover. Those were indeed primitive times, yet that they were not incompatible with excellent professional attainments, is rendered evident by the honorable record of the period.

Previous to 1780 there was no medical organization nor association in the state. The student entered his name with some eminent practitioner of medicine, and studied as long as he fancied, or as long as his means lasted. During the first two years he usually lived at home, going to recite at intervals of a week or a month, according to his convenience. The third year was generally spent in riding with some physician to witness the treatment of disease. There was no fixed standard of acquirements for admission into the profession.

Dissection of the human body was almost wholly unknown, and only the marked men in the profession pos-

essed a skeleton. Nevertheless there was here and there a worthy disciple of the great Vesalius who dared public opinion sufficiently to attempt to gain a knowledge of anatomy by dissections of the human body. The first execution for a capital offence in my own county took place at Haverhill, the condemned man being a negro. The gallows was erected in an open field, and a large concourse assembled to witness the melancholy spectacle. Dr. McKinstry, of Newbury, Vt., secured the body, which was rapidly carried to a cabin on the great Ox-Bow Meadow. All the neighboring physicians were invited to be present, and were requested to bring any dissecting instrument they might deem of use. Tradition says that one brought a hand-saw, another an axe, still another a butcher's cleaver, and a fourth came armed with a large carving-knife and fork.

Meantime popular excitement at this proposed sacrilege had reached a high pitch, and it seemed for a time as though all the instruments of these pseudo anatomists must be used in self defence. A guard, however, with fire-arms, was stationed around the locality, and, thus protected, the dissection began. The great point to be settled was what should be done first. After long and earnest consultation, it was unanimously decided that the subject should first be skinned, and skinned it accordingly was, with neatness and dispatch. The cuticle of this unfortunate Ethiop was subsequently tanned and cut up into small pieces, as souvenirs of the occasion. Tradition says, with how much truth I know not, that an enthusiastic but impudent student cut off the ears and sent them in a letter to one of the professors in the academical department of Dartmouth College, whom he did not particularly admire.

How far these dissections were carried, or how long they were continued, I am not informed. There is, however, still living, at North Haverhill, Dr. McNab, a venerable medical

man, who was present and aided in this early effort to establish a "chair of anatomy."

At the period of which I write, and long afterwards, the popular prejudice against dissections of the human body was so great that they could only be practiced by stealth, and the material could be obtained in no legitimate way. If the venerable walls of our State Medical College *could* speak, or if the veterans among its professors *would* speak, they could, I fancy,

"A tale unfold."

But those walls are dumb, and none of my respected colleagues have volunteered to enlighten us, and, therefore, I imagine that they believe with our *Æsculapian* poet that there are some things that are better

"Hushed up among one's friends."

Fortunately this unjustifiable popular prejudice no longer exists. Modern legislators, wiser than their fathers, have rendered it easy for the medical student to legitimately pursue the study of practical anatomy without wounding the sensibilities of the living and without desecrating the graves of the dead. The act passed by the New Hampshire Legislature, at its last session, and on the petition of this society, is creditable to the intelligence of that body, while it is of great advantage to the profession.

Having satisfied his preceptor, the young candidate for medical honors left with a certificate of his qualifications in the different departments. If he was a proficient in surgery, it was mentioned that he had enjoyed the rare privilege of studying the human skeleton.

In the early days of medicine in our country we copied the European fashion, where the different branches were practiced by different men. This proved to be wholly impracticable in our country towns, where there were scarcely

inhabitants enough to support one professional man. It was no uncommon circumstance for a physician and a surgeon to associate in business, each becoming the pupil of the other, while each practiced in his original vocation. My grandfather, Dr. Asa Crosby, became associated in this way with the original Dr. Kittredge, who was the founder of a long family dynasty of physicians in New Hampshire. Indeed, the name of Kittredge became so well and favorably known as the representative of medical skill that some physicians applied to the legislature for a change of their names, believing that, in popular estimation at least, they would thus acquire something of the hereditary prestige.

The practice of obstetrics in these early days was almost wholly in the hands of women. But as most of these female practitioners were ignorant of the first principles of the art, they frequently did a great deal of mischief. Not content to be the handmaids of Nature, they adopted many absurd prejudices and superstitions that proved as injurious to their patients as they were unnecessary. The abuses in this department became at length so glaring that about the beginning of the present century this branch began to be practiced by the physicians, and a little later the custom became universal. More recently the tide seems flowing in the opposite direction, especially in the larger towns and cities. It is a noticeable fact, however, that the female physicians of the present day have, as a rule, enjoyed the benefit of systematic medical instruction.

Previously to, and about 1790, the leading physicians in the state felt the necessity of some medical organization for personal improvement and protection. In 1791 the project assumed a definite shape in the formation of the New Hampshire Medical Society, on the petition of Josiah Bartlett and eighteen others, all regular practitioners of medicine. The legislature, by the terms of the charter, vested in these gentlemen and their successors all the rights, im-

munities and privileges pertaining to corporate bodies. The society was at first limited to seventy members, but at the session of 1816 a supplementary act was passed, extending the number to two hundred. The society, through its censors, was empowered to examine candidates for medical honors, and, if found worthy, to issue to them a license to practice.

It is evident that the founders of this society were in earnest, and that they labored to improve themselves and elevate the profession. Dr. Bartlett gave one hundred and fifty volumes to the society, and during the first twenty years about two hundred volumes were added by purchase. It is to be regretted that these books have all been spirited away. Dr. W. D. Buck, in an admirable oration, delivered before this society at its last annual meeting, thus writes of its early history: "Papers were read and discussed, orations delivered, by such men as Nathan Smith, Mussey, Perkins, Twitchell, Asa Crosby, Ramsey and others, ordered to be placed on file, and sometimes to be printed. Members were continually disciplined for consulting with irregulars, for presuming to question the utility, publicly, of any orthodox remedy, even for the slightest ethical obliquity; were obliged to pay their assessments or be sued, and poor Peter Green was driven to the necessity of shoving up his library on two occasions, for arrearages. A committee was appointed, who selected his best books, and added them to the library, whether or not (to use a legal phrase) by a *mesne process*, I don't know. The scanty records of the doings of this society for the first thirty or forty years, show those men to have been terribly in earnest, and the record is more complete during the first than the second thirty years."

District societies were made auxiliary to the state society, and the books of the latter were loaned from time to time to the former. The district societies are, I believe,

all dead, and I fear they were at least partially responsible for the loss of our library. "But," as Dr. Buck well says, "the loss of our library is not so great a misfortune as the loss of every scrap of the transactions (so far as I know) of the first sixty-four years; the years of the experience of such men as Smith, Perkins, Mussey, Twitchell, &c. The papers read, and the discussions held, would be to us invaluable, and it is a shame that they have been lost." The transactions of the society have been published during the last sixteen years,

This admirable organization has continued in active operation up to the present time, and the good it has done, in raising the standard of the profession, is incalculable. The published list of its members includes the names of many celebrated physicians, whose celebrity has been not only state but national.

Soon after the inception of the enterprise, the impression became general that the state society, excellent as it was both in design and execution, did not fully answer the medical wants of New Hampshire. There were those who felt that the young men of the state should have systematic didactic instruction, and that this could be accomplished only by the foundation of a regularly chartered medical college. This plan was eventually reduced to a demonstration through the energy and talents of one man. It is with profound veneration that I write the name of Nathan Smith. Himself a member of the society, I know not but he gained inspiration and encouragement for the enterprise from his associates here. At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College, in August, 1796, Mr. Nathan Smith, who was then a Bachelor of Medicine, not having received the degree of M. D., made an application to the board, asking their encouragement and approbation of a plan he had devised to establish a Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in connec-

tion with Dartmouth College. After considerable discussion, the board voted to postpone their final action upon the proposition for a year, but in the meantime a resolution was passed complimentary to the character and energy of Mr. Smith, and promising such encouragement and assistance in the future as the plan might merit and the circumstances of the college admit.

The records of the college are extremely barren of details respecting the preliminary steps towards a medical establishment, and there are no means of knowing what the action of the board was the following year. It is evident, however, that some measures must have been taken in relation to the future welfare of the school, for in the year 1798 we find that "the fee for conferring the degree of Bachelor of Medicine *pro meritis* be twenty dollars." The honorary degree of Master of Arts was the same year conferred on Mr. Smith, while it remained for a subsequent board to discover that his professional attainments merited the rank and title of Doctor.

Later in the same session it was voted "That a professor be appointed, whose duty it shall be to deliver public lectures upon Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and the Theory and Practice of Physic, and that said professor be entitled to receive payment for instruction in those branches, as hereafter mentioned, as compensation for his services in that office." Mr. Smith was at once chosen to fulfil the laborious, and to us almost incredible duties of this professorship, while the compensation alluded to was for a long time held in abeyance. It may be that the trustees thought that to so self-sacrificing a man, reward of conscience would be superior to any pecuniary emolument. We also find that in this year the board adopted the following code of Medical Statutes:

1. Lectures shall begin on the first day of October, annually, and continue ten weeks, during which the profes-

sor shall deliver three lectures daily, Saturday and Sunday excepted.

2. In the lectures on the theory and practice of Physic, shall be explained the nature of diseases and method of cure.

3. The lectures on Chemistry and Materia Medica shall be accompanied by actual experiments, tending to explain and demonstrate the principles of chemistry, and an exhibition shall be made of the principal medicines used in curing disease, with an explanation of their medicinal qualities, and effect on the human body.

4. In the lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, shall be demonstrated the parts of the human body by dissecting a recent subject, *if such subject can be legally obtained*; otherwise, by exhibiting anatomical preparations, which shall be attended by the performance of the principal capital operations in surgery.

5. The medical professor shall be entitled to the use of the college library and apparatus gratis.

6. The medical students shall be entitled to the use of the college library under the discretionary restrictions of the President.

7. Medical students shall be subject to the same rules of morality and decorum as Bachelors in Art residing at the college.

8. No graduate of any college shall be admitted to an examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, unless he shall have studied two full years with some respectable physician or surgeon, and attended two full courses of lectures at some university.

9. No person *not* a graduate shall be admitted to such an examination unless he shall have studied *three* full years, as above, attended two full courses of lectures, and shall, upon a preparatory examination before the President and professors, be able to parse the English and Latin lan-

guages, to construe Virgil and Cicero's orations, to possess a good knowledge of common arithmetic, geometry, geography and natural and moral philosophy.

10. Examinations shall be holden in public before the executive authority of the college, by the medical professor, and candidates shall read and defend a dissertation, etc.

11. Every person receiving a degree in medicine shall cause his thesis to be printed, and sixteen copies thereof to be delivered to the President, for the use of the college and trustees.

12. The fee for attending a full course of lectures shall be fifty dollars ; that is, for anatomy and surgery, twenty-five dollars ; for chemistry and materia medica, fifteen dollars, and for theory and practice, ten dollars.

13. The members of the two senior classes in college may attend the medical lectures by paying twenty dollars for the full course.

Besides these statutes, the trustees voted that Mr. Smith might employ assistance in any of his departments, at *his own expense*, and that one half part of the fees for conferring the degree of Bachelor of Medicine be his perquisite, and the other half a perquisite to the president of the college.

The first course of lectures was delivered in the fall of 1797, although Mr. Smith was not elected to his professorship until after his return from Europe, the following year. In the year 1798, two young men were graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. The next year the trustees voted to appropriate the northeast corner room in Dartmouth Hall to the use of Professor Smith, and it was repaired and furnished for that purpose. The room was a small one, scarcely as large as a common parlor, but still it served for a lecture hall, dissecting room, chemical laboratory and library, for several years, when another room adjoining was appropriated to the same purpose.

In 1801, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon Mr. Smith, and a committee was appointed to confer with him in relation to a salary, and concerning some proposed alterations in the Medical Department. It would seem that corporations as well as individuals are addicted to procrastination, for that committee, as well as several others subsequently appointed for the same purpose, never reported. A grant of fifty dollars per annum was voted him, upon which he was to allow a debt he owed the college for money loaned. I fancy that this latter was furnished him in order to enable him to visit Europe.

The trustees about this time made a change in the term of study required for a degree. The new statute fixed the period of three years for academical graduates, and five years for non-graduates.

The evidence is pretty strong that the undergraduates who attended the lectures paid for the privilege rather reluctantly, for, by the request of Dr. Smith, it was voted that the treasurer collect, as part of the regular college bills, all lecture fees due from college students.

In 1802 the salary of the Professor of Medicine was fixed at fifty dollars, and an additional grant of fifty dollars, yearly, was voted for contingent expenses. These emoluments were not, however, ample enough to induce Dr. Smith to remain. Accordingly, in 1803, the board voted a yearly sum of one hundred dollars for the purpose of accommodating him with a house, and added, as an additional bonus, the use of ten acres of land as a pasture, both to be continued during his residence in Hanover and his continuance in the professorship. Notwithstanding these tempting allurements of house-rent and pasturage, Dr. Smith still indicated his intention of leaving. Thus stimulated, the board, in 1804, voted to raise his salary to two hundred dollars, at which sum it remained a fixture.

Through the politeness of Professor Albert Smith, who

obtained the facts at no little trouble and expense, I am enabled to give the official records of the New Hampshire Legislature bearing on this subject; from which we learn that the Senate and House journals, November session, 1802, and also of 1806, are wanting. We find, however, the following official records :

SENATE, June 10, 1803.

A Resolve, That Dr. Nathan Smith have and receive out of the treasury, in his capacity as professor of anatomy, surgery and chemistry, six hundred dollars for the purpose of purchasing the apparatus prayed for, the apparatus to remain the property of the state for the use of said institution, was brought up, read and concurred. Presented and approved.

HOUSE, June 6, 1807.

Voted, That Messrs. be a committee to consider the petition of Dr. Nathan Smith and others, for and in behalf of the New Hampshire Medical Institution, and report thereon.

HOUSE, June 10, 1807.

Committee reported that the petitioners have leave to bring in a bill. Report accepted.

HOUSE, June 13, 1809.

Voted, That Messrs. Evans, Harper, Woodbury, Cady and S. P. Webster, with such as the Senate may join, be a committee to consider the petition of Dr. Nathan Smith, praying for assistance, that he may be enabled to erect buildings near Dartmouth College, for the use of the medical school, and report thereon.

(Journal of June 14th, 1809, torn out.)

HOUSE, June 16, 1809.

Voted, That Messrs. Hough, Kimball and Olcutt, be a

committee to take into consideration a bill making a grant of six thousand dollars to Dr. Nathan Smith, of Hanover, for certain purposes therein mentioned, and report the probable expense of erecting the buildings therein mentioned.

June 17. The said committee reported "That three thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars will be the probable expense of erecting and completing the proposed buildings."

Again : *Voted*, That Messrs. Meserve, Hough and Parrot, be a committee to take into consideration a bill making a grant of six thousand dollars to Dr. Nathan Smith, and report such alterations and amendments as they shall judge necessary.

HOUSE, June 10, 1809.

On reading the bill entitled "An Act appropriating three thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars for certain purposes therein mentioned, and on the question, "Shall the first section pass?" which is in the following words :

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened: That the sum of three thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars be, and the same hereby is, appropriated for the purpose of erecting a building of brick, or stone, for a medical school, sixty-five feet in length, thirty-two feet in width, and two stories in height; provided the said Nathan Smith, before the said money, or any part thereof, be paid out of the treasury, convey to the state of New Hampshire, by a good and valid title, one half acre of land, contiguous to Dartmouth College, whereon to erect said building; and provided the said Nathan assigns to the state aforesaid, such parts of the anatomical museum, and chemical apparatus, as are his private property."

The yeas and nays being called thereon, stood, yeas, 102, nays 59, so the section passed.

HOUSE, June 9, 1812.

Voted, That the petition of Dr. Nathan Smith, praying for legislative aid, be referred to the committee to whom was referred so much of His Excellency's communication as relates to literature and science, and that they report thereon.

JUNE SESSION,

Tuesday, June 16, 1812.

House met according to adjournment.

The committee on the petition of Dr. Nathan Smith, reported the following statement of facts: "The legislature in 1809, appropriated the sum of three thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars for the purpose of erecting, at Hanover, a building of brick, or stone, for a medical school, to be sixty-five feet in length, thirty-two feet in width, and two stories in height, on condition that Dr. Smith, before said money, or any part thereof, be paid out of the treasury, should convey to the state of New Hampshire, by a good and valid title, one half acre of land contiguous to Dartmouth College, whereon to erect said building, and also to assign to said State such parts of the anatomical museum and chemical apparatus as were his private property.

In compliance with this condition, Dr. Smith has legally conveyed one acre, instead of half an acre, of land, and assigned said anatomical and chemical apparatus to the state. The anatomical and chemical apparatus, so assigned, are at a moderate estimate, of the value of one thousand five hundred dollars.

The committee appointed to superintend the erection of the building, in the act of 1809, to render it convenient and useful for the purposes intended, concluded to add ten feet to the length, and, to accommodate more students, to di-

vide the two wings into three stories ; this was done, however, without increasing the height of the walls. The alteration from the first plan appears to have been necessary. The full sum of three thousand, four hundred and fifty dollars has been appropriated toward the erection and completion of the building, under the direction of the committee, who received compensation for their trouble of Dr. Smith. But the amount of the appropriation was found to be insufficient to defray the expenses of finishing the building in a plain and suitable manner, in a sum of one thousand, two hundred and seventeen dollars and fourteen cents. This sum Dr. Smith has paid, or secured to be paid to the contractors.

The building, and anatomical and chemical apparatus, will be exclusively the property of the state, on the death or removal of Dr. Smith from the medical school.

The committee would further state, that ten years preceding the year 1798, Dr. Smith spent much time, and a very considerable sum of money, acquired by his practice, in attaining a more perfect knowledge of his profession and in procuring a library and other apparatus, in order to promote medical science in the state, especially knowledge in surgery; that Dr. Smith, in 1798, was appointed Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth College, and then commenced a course of public instruction in all the branches of medical science generally taught in medical schools, with a library and other apparatus, procured at his own expense, and without any salary from the college. From 1798 to 1810, Dr. Smith supported the medical school by his own indefatigable exertions, in teaching all the branches of medicine himself, except in two instances, when he procured, at his own expense, assistant instructors. During the last twelve years, through his liberal management, the advantages of medical instruction have been greatly improved, and the number of those who attended the medical school increased.

At present, the medical institution at Hanover affords to students of medicine all the means of a correct and useful education. The number of students for the last three or four years, we believe to have been greater than at any medical school in the United States, that at Philadelphia excepted. The reputation of the school is deservedly high. Its connection with Dartmouth College increases the usefulness and celebrity of that literary institution. On the whole, we do not hesitate to declare that this medical school is worthy the patronage of the legislature.

Under these circumstances, the committee submit to the consideration of the legislature, whether it would not be proper to allow Dr. Smith the sum of one thousand, two hundred and seventeen dollars and fourteen cents.

LEVI JACKSON,
For the Committee.

Yeas 58, nays 96. So the motion did not prevail.

We find nothing of interest in the records of the college proper from 1804 until 1810, when Dr. Cyrus Perkins, (created a doctor upon that occasion), was elected Professor of Anatomy. Some trouble having occurred about this time between the college officers and the medical students, the following articles were added to the laws :

1. That each person, previous to becoming a member of the Medical Institution, shall be required to give satisfactory evidence that he possesses a good moral character.

2. That it be required of medical students that they conduct themselves respectfully towards the executive officers of the college, and if any of them should be guilty of immoral or ungentlemanly conduct, the executive may expel them, and no professor shall receive or continue to receive as his private pupil, any such expelled person, or recommend him to any other medical man or institution.

3. That the executive officers of the college be, and hereby are authorized to visit the rooms of the medical students whenever they think proper.

In the year 1812, some important changes were made in the economy of the institution. Up to this time the degree of Bachelor of Medicine only was conferred upon recent graduates, while the degree of M. D. was only allowed in course three years after graduation. This was now changed, and the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon all medical graduates. The term of study was again changed and fixed at the present standard. Another of the new regulations, and perhaps the least agreeable one to the students, compelled candidates to read their theses publicly in the chapel.

The Faculty was also strengthened by the appointment of Rufus Graves, Esq., as lecturer on chemistry, making this department, for the first time, a separate branch. Col. Graves, although a good lecturer, was an unsuccessful manipulator, which caused his dismissal in 1815, three years later. During this same year we find that Mr Reuben D. Mussey, a name thoroughly identified with the success of the school, and with medical progress in New Hampshire, was created a Doctor of Medicine.

In 1814, Dr. Smith, having been absent for a year, it was voted that the salary and emoluments pertaining to the chair of medicine, be paid to Dr. Perkins, and at an adjourned meeting the resignation of Dr. Smith was received and accepted. The Board then proceeded to elect Dr. Mussey Professor of Theory and Practice and Materia Medica. In 1816, Dr. Perkins was excused from lecturing on Surgery, and Obstetrics was added to his chair, instead, while Dr. Mussey assumed the department of Chemistry, in addition to his other labors. In the meanwhile Dr. Smith was re-elected Professor of Surgery, but declining to

accept, Dr. Muzzey added a course of lectures on this branch to his already laborious duties. The following year he was somewhat relieved by the choice of Dr. James F. Dana, as lecturer on Chemistry, which office he continued to hold until 1820, when he was elected to a full professorship. In August, 1819, Dr. Perkins resigned his chair, which the trustees attempted to fill by the election of the lamented Dr. Twitchell, of Keene. To the disappointment of all, Dr. T. declined the proffered honor.

The well known university troubles, which occurred in the triad prior to 1820, gave the trustees in that year plenty of occupation. The first vote of the Board at this meeting was one in which they accepted the proffered fraternization of the New Hampshire Medical Society, by sending delegates to attend the annual examinations. The statutes were also altered very materially. By these amendments the Medical Faculty were allowed the sole control of the discipline, etc., of their department. Students coming to attend lectures were not required to give evidence of the possession of a good moral character, as under the old laws. The invidious have alleged that this latter amendment enabled a larger number to avail themselves of the advantages of a medical education than might otherwise do so. The requirements for graduation were at the same time lessened, being now limited to a knowledge of Latin and Natural and Experimental Philosophy, while the examinations were to be private, instead of public, as heretofore.

It was determined that the Medical Faculty should henceforth consist of :

1. The President of the College.
2. A Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence.
3. A Professor of Theory and Practice and Materia Medica.

4. A Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy.

5. A professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

Dr. Mussey was elected to the first of the chairs ; Dr. Daniel Oliver, of Salem, Mass., to the second ; Dr. James F. Dana, to the third, and Dr. Usher Parsons to the fourth. Dr. Parsons remained but two years, when Dr. Mussey was appointed Professor of Anatomy, in addition to his other branches. No farther change occurred until 1826, when Dr. Dana resigned the chair of Chemistry which was filled by the election of Professor Hale, who continued to lecture until 1835, when his connection with the college ceased. The following year Dr. John Delamater was chosen Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and the present incumbent Professor of Chemistry, while in 1838 a great change was made in the Medical Faculty by the resignation of all the lecturers except Professor Hubbard. By the election of the trustees, the Faculty now consisted of Elisha Bartlett, Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Delamater, Oliver Payson Hubbard, Dixi Crosby, and Stephen W. Williams. Dr. Bartlett resigned in 1840, and was succeeded by Dr. Joseph Roby. Dr. Delamater also left, and Dr. Holmes tendered his resignation. The next year, 1841, Dr. Phelps and Dr. Peaslee commenced their long and useful connection with the school. No farther change was made until 1849, when Dr. Roby resigned and Dr. Albert Smith was elected. In 1867 Dixi Crosby resigned the chair of Surgery, and A. B. Crosby, who had served as Adjunct Professor of Surgery since 1862, was elected to fill the vacancy. In 1869, Dr. Peaslee, having resigned the chair of Anatomy and Physiology, was transferred to a new chair of the Diseases of Women, while Lyman Bartlett How, M. D., was elected to fill the vacancy. And finally Dr. Dixi Crosby has sent in his resignation of the chair of Obstetrics, to take effect at the ensuing commencement

(1870), thus terminating an active connection of thirty-two years with the school.*

Such, in brief, is the record of the days and the men that have gone before. There is neither time nor occasion for extended remarks on the lives and characters of the men whose names I have recorded as having been connected with this college. Yet of some of them the proprieties of the occasion demand a brief mention.

Nathan Smith, the founder of the school, was without dispute a great man. Incited to enter the profession by witnessing an amputation in Vermont, he devoted himself to acquiring the best preliminary education his means afforded, and eventually entered his profession full of zeal and ambition, resolved to act no secondary part in his chosen vocation. To found a medical college at Dartmouth was the chief desire of his early manhood. Regardless of his own pecuniary interests, he borrowed money to buy the necessary apparatus and appliances with which to commence his course of instruction. When the increasing demands of the institution required a building for its accommodation, it was through his personal efforts that it was secured. The college was probably erected in the year 1811. The means were raised and the project carried out by Dr. Smith, who, himself, on his own recognizance, furnished a large part of the money. A part, as shown by the records, was also secured by the same gentleman from the Legislature of New Hampshire, a body, I am ashamed to say, which has only at the rarest intervals evinced generosity or even tolerance towards the only university within the state limits.

Dr. Smith was a man of genius. I hazard nothing in saying that he was fifty years in advance of his profession.

*The trustees accepted the resignation of Dr. Crosby, but in recognition of his long and distinguished services in connection with the college, voted to appoint him Professor Emeritus of Surgery.

He was one of those characters who was not only an observing man, but, rarest of all, he was a *good observer*. Nothing escaped him, and when he had seized on all the salient points of a given subject, he astounded his listeners with the full, symmetrical character of his generalizations.

As instances in point, let me briefly advert to one or two illustrations. When Dr. Smith entered the profession, everything in the way of continued fever in the valley of the Connecticut was termed typhus. Dr. S. soon became convinced that while true typhus did prevail, there was yet a continued fever essentially different in its character, and so he came to differentiate between typhus and typhoid. Noting carefully the symptoms in these cases, making autopsies whenever a chance occurred, and observing the morbid changes thus revealed, he soon found himself master of the situation. Then he wrote an unpretending little tract, in which he embodied his observations and his inferences. This brochure was undoubtedly the first comprehensive description of typhoid fever ever written, and covered in a wonderfully exhaustive way not only the clinical history, but the pathology, of this most interesting disease. This noble record of results, obtained by observations, made mainly at Norwich, Vermont, and Cornish, New Hampshire, was almost the "*Vox Clamantis in deserto*."

Many years later, in the great hospitals of Paris, Louis made and published his own observations in regard to the same disease, and the whole medical world rang with plaudits of admiration at his genius and learning. But in the modest little tract of Nathan Smith, the gist and germ of all the magnificent discoveries of Louis are anticipated. And thus it is again demonstrated that men of genius are confined to no age and to no country, but whether in the wilds of New Hampshire or in the world's gayest capital, they form a fraternity as cosmopolitan as useful.

I have recently learned an incident that still further illustrates Dr. Smith's sagacity. While residing in Cornish he had a friend who was a sea captain, and who, on his return from foreign voyages, was wont to relate to him whatever of interest in a medical way he might have chanced to observe while abroad. On one occasion he told Dr. Smith that on his previous voyage one of the sailors dislocated his hip. There being no surgeon on board, the captain tried but in vain to reduce it. The man was accordingly placed in a hammock with the dislocation unreduced. During a great storm the sufferer was thrown from the hammock to the floor, striking violently on the knee of the affected side. On examination, it was found that in the fall the hip had some how been set. This interested Dr. Smith wonderfully, and he questioned the narrator again and again as to the exact position of the thigh, the knee and the leg, at the time of the fall.

From this apparently insignificant circumstance, Dr. Smith eventually deduced and reduced to successful practice the method of reducing dislocations by the manœuvre, a system as useful as it is simple, and as scientific as the principle of flexion and leverage on which it depends. Had this incident been related to a stupid man, he would have seen nothing in it, or to a sceptic, and he would have discredited the whole account, but to a man of genius it furnished a clue by which another of Nature's labyrinths was traced out. This system is by far the best ever devised, simplifying and rendering easy the work of the surgeon, while reducing human suffering to its minimum.

I do not propose to recall to your minds how much he did for medicine and surgery; that were the work of days, not a single hour. But one anecdote I shall venture to relate, out of many, as illustrating a somewhat amusing trait in his character. When deeply interested in an operation, he was wont to soliloquize or think aloud, without any

consciousness that he was giving utterance to his thoughts. On one occasion, at Cornish, he was operating on a man for strangulated hernia, the bed being surrounded by anxious friends. On cutting through the abdominal wall he discovered a peculiar odor, and immediately his usual soliloquy began, as follows: "What! what! have I cut a gut? I have—I have cut a gut! They might as well make his coffin now as ever." After this little bit of self communion, he completed the operation with a perfectly unmoved face, utterly oblivious that he had said anything. He then called the friends into another room, and with a grave face announced to them that the case was a bad one, and that he was a little afraid that the man might die.

Time would fail me to relate the well authenticated traditions of his skill, his benevolence and his practical greatness. But almost from the inception of his professional life until he left for New Haven, he was the acknowledged leader of his profession in the state, and his reputation came soon to cover the whole of New England. He was the father of several sons, who have since been distinguished in the same profession. The venerable Professor N. R. Smith, of Baltimore, is the eldest, and perhaps the most celebrated of the survivors.

It was only a short time since I asked a venerable man in my own neighborhood, whose hair has been silvered by more than eighty winters, what manner of man Nathan Smith was. He thought a moment, and then, with a moistened eye and a slight quiver of the lip, he replied: "He was good to the poor." For more than forty years the grass has grown on the grave of Nathan Smith, but there are living hearts that still beat his requiem, and voices that still repeat this best of epitaphs, "He was good to the poor."

Early associated with this excellent man was Dr. Cyrus Perkins. This gentleman was a man of large attainments,

and won an enviable reputation as a medical man of skill and learning. In the troubles that sprang up between Dartmouth College and the University, Dr. Perkins sympathized with the latter. After the splendid filial labors of Daniel Webster had, in the Supreme Court at Washington, insured victory and stability to the college, Professor Perkins resigned and removed to the city of New York, where he soon attained a lucrative practice. He died a few years since at Staten Island, full of years and full of honor.

Four years ago to-day, June 21, 1866, there died in the city of Boston, at an advanced age, a gentleman whose reputation as a physician and surgeon has been hardly second to that of any man in America. Although bed-ridden for some months before his death, his mind was unimpaired and the force of his will was unabated. In gazing on him one could exclaim with truth, as did Bayard Taylor when he saw the venerable Humboldt, it is "not a ruin, but a pyramid." I need only write the name of Reuben D. Mussey to recall to the friends of medicine in New Hampshire the memory of an eminent Christian, a learned physician, a world-renowned surgeon, the best labors of whose most creditable life were devoted to the good of our state college and commonwealth. Time is wanting to give even the briefest resume of his pure and most useful life; nor is this so essential here, since the state society, at its last meeting, took such action in the premises as to insure a suitable record of his life and character.

I cannot forbear to recall for an instant the name of Professor Hale, who, after serving the college in the chair of Chemistry for a few years, lost his connection with the institution in a manner by no means creditable to the trustees. Professor Hale was an Episcopalian, and was wont to hold the service of the church of England at his own house, for the benefit of whoever might choose to come.

This course was obnoxious to the college fathers, who were at the time strongly sectarian. The board determined on his removal, but as it was found that it could not be legally accomplished under the college charter, the Alexandrian method of treating this heretical knot was adopted. A vote was passed abolishing the Professorship of Chemistry. Subsequently, as President of Geneva College, Dr. Hale passed a most useful life, and only within a few years has crossed the "insuperable threshold."

I should hesitate to recall an event so discreditable to the past history of the college, were it not that in these latter days more liberal counsels have prevailed, and the utmost latitude of opinion, as is consistent with the true spirit and intent of a university, has come to be tolerated and encouraged. Whatever may have been the derelictions of Dartmouth in the past, I am proud to say that her spirit is liberal and catholic now.

Any contribution to the medical history of New Hampshire would be imperfect which should ignore the name of Amos Twitchell. Born in 1781, and able to attain only the limited advantages of the medical education common to his period, he developed an astonishing genius for surgery, and both in this branch and in the department of practice, he was for a long term of years *primus inter primos* among the distinguished medical men of New England. I consider the fact well established that Dr. Twitchell was the pioneer in applying a ligature to the carotid artery. Sir Astley Cooper has, I think, the credit of having first applied a ligature to this vessel, but Dr. Twitchell antedated Sir Astley's operation six months. Dr. Twitchell never wrote anything, but he achieved the most brilliant triumphs in his profession, and we must forever deplore that he has left no written record from which we might have derived so much in the way of valuable infor-

mation and instruction. Dr. Twitchell died at Keene, May 26, 1850, universally admired, respected and beloved. The traditions of his playful humor and his graceful wit are still cherished by multitudes that never knew him in life. The Cheshire House, which was the scene of many of his most brilliant *mots* and sparkling *repartees*, still seems hallowed by his presence, as if his genial spirit hovered it, the Eidolon of the place. Fortunately the land that knew him can still cherish his name and memory in the person of his accomplished nephew and successor, Dr. George B. Twitchell.

I had designed to say something of Dr. Daniel Oliver, who was a gentleman of greater erudition, more liberal culture and greater personal accomplishment, than any gentleman who has been connected with the past years of the college. It is doubtful whether any medical college in the country could produce his equal in these respects. I should delight to draw a picture of Joseph Roby: grave, yet filled with inimitable humor; learned, yet childlike; lofty and sour to them that loved him not, but to those men that sought him, sweet as summer. Never immersed in the cares and perplexities of a professional practice, he cultivated an æsthetic taste for medicine, and as a teacher carried with him the unbounded enthusiasm of his classes. I knew him only as a boy, but I well remember that when he lectured the hall always rang and rang again with applause. He, too, has crossed the dark river and rests from his labors. But the waning hour warns me that I have no longer an opportunity to discourse of the remainder of our honored dead (which I might do with profit), nor to dwell upon the living, which the proprieties of the occasion would not admit.

I cannot but regret that these facts in the medical history of New Hampshire, which, irrelevant and discursive

as they are, have been obtained with no inconsiderable amount of difficulty, should have so little of comeliness and order. I can only hope that the facts which I this day place upon record may prove useful to some one in the future who has more time and a greater aptitude for such labor and research.

And so I have done. These reminiscences, if they teach us anything, reiterate the old-time tale that "man is but dust, the flower of the field and a breath." Yet, though they remind us so forcibly of our mortality, they teach us how honorable the briefest life may be, if devoted to a useful calling and consecrated to a holy purpose. In the recent language of Stuart Mill: "Nor let any one be discouraged by what may seem, in moments of despondency, the lack of time and of opportunity. Those who know how to employ opportunities will often find that they can create them, and what we achieve depends less upon the amount of time we possess than on the use we make of that time."

It is in no hackneyed phrase that I say ours is a noble profession; but if we would attain honor and emolument in it, we must sacrifice early and often upon the altar of *Æsculapius*. The world is full of poor physicians, but in the upper ranks of the profession there is abundant room. A determined purpose and untiring industry will insure us admittance there. And when the days of our probation have passed and we enter the higher professional arena, we may enter the lists and break a lance to good purpose. The foe with whom our conflict is is worthy of our steel; and in the hand to hand encounters of professional life, if we win (and win many a time we do), how ennobling is the thought that we have, under the great God, been instrumental in assuaging human agony, in palliating dire disease, in saving human life. And if we fail, as when in

fancy the hoofs of the pale horse click beside us, or the skeleton fingers follow ours with its knife, shall we despair? No! a thousand times no! For in the direst hours of defeat, when the heavens are black above us, there will still be the proud consciousness that we have succumbed only to the Conqueror of Conquerors.