

THE FOUNDERS

OF

The Oneida County Medical Society.

BY M. M. BAGG, M. D.

Read before the Society July 12th, 1881,

AND PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

UTICA, N. Y.

PRESS OF CURTISS & CHILDS, 167 GENESEE ST.

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The Founders of the Oneida County Medical Society.

The authority for the organization of this Society is contained in an Act of the Legislature, passed April 4, 1806, and which reads as follows :

“It shall and may be lawful for the physicians and surgeons in the several counties of this State, now authorized by law to practice in their several professions, to meet together on the first Tuesday of July next, at the place where the last term of the Court of Common Pleas next previous to such meeting was held in their respective counties; and the several physicians and surgeons so convened as aforesaid, or any part of them, being not less than five in number, shall proceed to the choice of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others shall be chosen in their places; and whenever the said Societies shall be so organized as aforesaid, they are hereby declared to be bodies corporate and politic, in fact and in name, by the name of the Medical Society of the county where such societies shall respectively be formed, &c., &c.”

In compliance with the authority thus accorded, twenty-nine medical gentlemen of Oneida county, met at Rome, July 1, 1806, to form a Society; they elected their officers and adjourned. Most of them continued to participate in the doings of subsequent meetings, and were more or less identified with the Society's earlier history. All have since passed away, and their places are now occupied by a generation that knows little of the preceding one. A few of them, and especially of those who died the most recently, have been brought to the notice of members of a later date, and sketches of them read before us have been published in the annual volumes issued by the State Society. Except as respects these few, the bare list of names contained in our pamphlet of By-Laws presents for us no information and no interest; we read the list, which does not even indicate the place of residence of these parties, as we would one of strangers in whom we are not concerned. Yet these

were the fathers of our Society, those who gave it shape and nurtured its youthful years. If our history is worth preserving, so too is the story of the lives of those who made that history. Moreover for their individual merit they deserve to be kept in memory, and are, some of them, at least, entitled to our warm esteem. To say of them that they were respectable practitioners, who, with small educational advantages, as compared with those now open to students of medicine, yet evinced careful training and achieved much good in the combat with disease, that they maintained with credit the dignity of their calling, and were, besides, worthy and useful citizens, is not to say that they were among the magnates of medicine, nor to claim for them a record in general Medical Biography. But when we consider that they were the pioneers in a new and sparsely-settled country, that they performed their duties bravely and patiently, under disadvantages and in spite of impediments the magnitude of which it is hard to realize, we come to feel for them a degree of respect and even of reverence as great as that we feel for the most distinguished of the profession. Leaders, moreover, in our field of practice, preceptors, in some cases, of our preceptors, creators and sustainers of our organized association, they have a claim to remembrance that cannot be ignored, a claim which justifies the present attempt to trace out their lives and characters.

DR. MATTHEW BROWN, JR.

The individual who presided on the occasion of the first assemblage of the physicians of Oneida, was Dr. Matthew Brown, Jr., of Rome, a gentleman conspicuous in his neighborhood and of influence throughout the county. Tall, erect, well-proportioned and athletic, vigorous, in mind as in body, and abounding in enterprise, of calm blue eyes, amiable temper and attractive manner, he was at this time in the very prime of life, and yet he had filled with credit important official positions. Though adapted by nature and by training for the practice of medicine, his public spirit and his taste and capacity for business undertakings were preponderant, and these ere long drew him quite aside from the profession he had at first chosen. As an enterprising merchant, manufacturer and projector, a helpful and much-respected inhabitant both of Rome and of

Rochester, of each of which he was among the foremost, he gained an abiding reputation, and one that has, in a measure, overshadowed his earlier repute as an intelligent and trustworthy physician. Of this society the initial meeting was the only one which, so far as I can learn, he ever attended. But as its chairman, and as one who, while he remained a practitioner, was an honor to the calling, it is becoming that we should trace his history.

Dr. Brown, was born in Brookfield, Mass., in 1766. He received a good English education that was supplemented by some knowledge of the Latin language, and then for a time taught the district school in his native place. His medical studies he pursued with Dr. Willard of Worcester, who was at the head of a hospital which was also in some sort a school of medicine. It had a considerable reputation in its day, and was probably as good an institution of its kind as could be found in the country outside of the great cities. The late Drs. Arba Blair, of Rome, Josiah Trowbridge, of Buffalo, and others were among its pupils. While forming his plans for the future, Dr. Brown served for a time as Deputy Sheriff, and performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of his principal. About the year 1793 he made a prospecting tour westward, going on horseback as far as Canandaigua, with a view to settling there. But finding that ground occupied, he returned to Massachusetts, and shortly afterward determined to settle at Rome. Fixing himself at that place, he was in due time joined by his parents and his two younger brothers. His home, if not at the outset, yet during the greater part of his residence was on a large farm east of the village, known in earlier times as the Peter Colt farm, later as Whitall's and now as Greenfield's. With his brothers, Francis and David, he set up a store on the southerly side of Dominick street. Besides drugs and medicines the firm kept a general assortment of merchandize. Dr. Brown's personal employments were the common lot of all physicians in a new country, long rides, exhausting labors, and poor pay. There were one or two other physicians in the place, but these were of less account, he being most esteemed and his opinion chiefly sought. As counsel he was called to advise in the last sickness of Baron Steuben, whom he had previously known and occasionally

visited at his home in Steuben. He was intimate with Dr. White, of Cherry Valley, and had him occasionally at his home for purposes of consultation. With characteristic zeal he championed the discovery of Jenner, which had not probably made much progress in our new settlements. Dr. Arba Blair, cousin of Dr. Brown, came from Worcester, about 1803, and finished his studies with him, when the two formed a partnership as physicians. The public functions which the senior partner had ere this assumed, together with the mercantile and other pursuits in which he embarked, hindered his advance in his profession, and as the junior came to do the larger share of its duties, the senior one slid gradually out of practice.

Of these public functions the first was the postmastership of the village, of which he was the earliest incumbent. He was appointed to it as early as 1795 or '96, and held it until 1808. In April, 1796, he was elected member of the assembly, and re-elected in April, 1797, that month being then the time of the annual election. While in the assembly he was a warm supporter of a bill for the gradual abolition of slavery in this State. It met with much opposition, and was finally defeated by a resolution which declared that it was not right and proper to deprive men of their property in slaves without making them compensation, which resolution was carried by means of the casting vote of the chairman in committee of the whole. The finally successful bill for the abolition of slavery among us was passed in March, 1799, when Dr. B. was no longer a member of the House. When Oneida county was organized, in March 1798, the doctor was made one of the Justices of Peace of the county and continued for some years to act in that capacity. At the first Oyer and Terminer, in and for the new county, held the following June, he was one of the grand jury, and by Judge Jones, in his *Annals of the County*, he is mentioned among the men of Rome, who were prominent before 1800.

As I have intimated, his active mind was busied with important projects of his own, that were quite alien to his profession, and which almost enticed him from it at a period not far distant from the one in which he acted as presiding officer of our forming society. About 1801 the firm of Matthew Brown & Co. erected a saw-mill; and about 1809 or '10 an axe and scythe

factory on Whitall Creek, and this they carried into operation with the aid of a Mr. Cobb who was experienced in the manufacture. About the same time he bought a tract of pine lands in the town of Lee, and was soon engaged in putting up a furnace at Taberg for the making of hollow ware. Of this he was managing Trustee. In the winter of 1812-13, in company with his brothers, he purchased land and water privilege at Rochester, when the stock of goods were at once removed on ox-sleds to that place, and put in charge of Francis. This land lies abreast of the middle or great fall in the Genesee. It was immediately plotted by Mr. Benj. Wright of Rome, and the name of Frankfort given to it, for his brother's christian name. During the six years from 1812 to 1818, he and his brothers had built at Rochester a saw-mill, a flouring mill and a trip-hammer shop for the making of edge tools, and with their associates had established a cotton factory, which improvements involved of necessity much other building. In order to render the water power available they constructed a canal, still known as Brown's Race, that was mostly blasted from hard lime stone, and was a very expensive work. Some time in 1817 their flouring mill was burned, and it was replaced by one of stone which is now used as a machine shop. When built it was probably as good as any in the State. Another scheme in which this stirring man was occupied, while still in the county, was the raising of merino sheep. He had a flock of twenty or thirty, some of which were obtained at a cost of \$200 apiece or more.

The thirty years which followed his removal, in 1818, I do not propose to follow in detail. It must suffice to say that as he was instrumental in drawing many from his native Brookfield to settle in and about the village of Rome, so when he moved to Rochester there went with him quite a colony of goodly material besides the mechanics in his employment; that there as here he was universally respected and useful, serving six years as a member of the village council, efficient in the measures taken by his townsmen to secure the enlargement of the Erie Canal, and coöperating with them in other schemes for the common welfare. He continued to be interested in medical subjects and was often consulted by his friends and by the young Doctors who would drop in to discuss matters per-

taining to their profession. The sanitary condition of the place was a subject of his especial solicitude, and he was active in the first visitation of the Cholera, in 1832.

Dr. Brown died at Rochester, in 1851. A portrait of him is preserved in the Athenæum at that place, of which his brother Francis was the first President. Another likeness exists in the engraved representation of the members of Assembly in 1797, which is to be found in a volume of the Documentary History of New York.

His wife, whom he married in 1797, was Lucy, daughter of Judge Benj. Huntington of Norwich, Conn., and sister of the well known Henry, George and Gurdon Huntington of Rome, as well as of Mrs. Wm. G. Tracy of Whitesboro. Mrs. Brown was a lady of great intelligence and energy, and given to hospitality. Without her efficient coöperation it would have been impossible for her husband to have conducted his many enterprises with so remarkable a degree of success.

Their children were Benjamin, George, Henry and Matthew Brown, Mrs. Barron Williams, and Mrs. Fletcher Haight of Rochester.

To Matthew Brown, Esq. of Toledo, I am indebted for most of the facts above detailed, illustrated as they have further been by the pains-taking inquiries of Hon. D. E. Wager of Rome.

DR. AMOS G. HULL.

The person chosen as first President of the Society was Dr. Amos Gould Hull of New Hartford. Dr. Hull, the only child of Dr. Amos and Martha (Hitchcock) Hull, was born in Connecticut, but in what part of it and at what time I have been unable to learn. His medical studies, I am informed, were conducted under the direction of his uncle, Dr. Titus Hull of Bethlehem in that State. Nor do I know precisely the period of his migration to Oneida county. Masonic records show that he was made a member of the Amicable Lodge in 1796. Two years later there was given up to him for purposes of dissection the body of the first person convicted for murder in this county. This was a woman who shot her husband in the town of Augusta; though she eluded her sentence by hanging herself in the jail at Herkimer, she did not escape the scalpel of the doctor. He was then living in Augusta. There he was

married, he and his bride going back to Connecticut on horseback for their wedding jaunt; there he buried this young wife in Sept. 1798, and there he was the preceptor of two others of the founders of this Society. In the fall of 1804 he bought land in New Hartford and soon removed thither. In New Hartford he continued in active business for twelve years or more, having successively as partners Dr. Coe and Dr. Charles Babcock. In September 1811, he took up his final abode in Utica, remaining here until about 1833-4, when he died while on a visit to his native State. His partners in Utica were, at first, Dr. Ezra Williams, and afterwards Dr. Theodore Pomeroy, who bought his house and his ride some years before his death.

As a physician and surgeon Dr. Hull was as well known as any in the county, for he had a numerous clientage and an extensive professional circuit. As an operator he was daring and quick, if not remarkably expert; as a physician, kind and attentive, but profuse in the administration of drugs, giving more of them, as I have been told by a veteran druggist who knew of his purchases, than the united doctors of the city now do. He was a bustling man in his calling; kept three horses, and drove them without mercy; was prompt at a call, and officiously forward to get all he could of them. His pushing propensity showed itself in new and unheard of expedients. While soda fountains were as yet quite unknown in this region, he heralded his coming to Utica by the announcement of a shop he had opened for the sale of mineral waters. The sale of these waters he continued some years longer at his office in Main street, and joined thereto, as an additional novelty, the practice of electricity and galvanism. A specialty, that, in the end, absorbed much more of his attention, was the manufacture and sale of a hernial truss he had invented. This he first advertised in March 1817, and he received, the next year, from the faculty of Fairfield Medical College as well as from this Society, certificates in its favor. His trusses were also commended by several persons of intelligence and standing, and came into general use with those requiring such appliances. He continued to modify and improve them as long as he remained in the place, and it was the care which this exacted more than visits and prescribing which filled up the later period of his life.

Personally Dr. Hull was amiable and upright, a methodist in religious belief, and an influential member of that body; beloved by his patients and a friend of every child that knew him. Rather short of stature, quick and impulsive in movement, neat in attire, he was withal a little vain of his appearance, and looked to it that the knee-buckles which confined his silk stockings were each day carefully polished. Among his brothers in the profession his manners were conciliating, and his standing with the foremost. In this society his popularity is evident from the fact that he was four times elected President and twice its Delegate, besides holding at other times the offices of Vice President and Censor.

The Doctor's first wife, who was a daughter of Ira Bartholomew of Waterville, died, as we have seen, in 1798, at the age of 19; his second, who was Lydia, daughter of Aaron and Elizabeth Cook, of Wallingford Conn., died in 1812. He afterwards married a sister of his partner, Dr. Williams. His sons, Amos G., Jr. and Cook, became physicians, respectively of New York and Brooklyn. His daughter Elizabeth became the wife of Dr. John F. Gray, a leading homœopathic physician of New York.

DR. SEWALL HOPKINS.

Dr. Sewall Hopkins of Clinton, our first Vice President, was a native of Great Barrington, Mass., where the family were conspicuous and influential. His uncle, Rev. Samuel Hopkins, who was the first minister of the place, officiated there nearly thirty years. His father, Col. Mark Hopkins, a graduate of Yale College and a member of the legal profession, was a man of brilliant talents and fine legal acquirements. He occupied a prominent position in Berkshire county, filled some important civil posts, and was acting as Brigade Major in the militia, when, in Oct. 1776, he was taken sick and died, at White Plains, N. Y., three days before the battle of that place. His mother was the daughter of Rev. John Sargeant, the first missionary to the Housatonic Indians, and of Abigail Williams, half-sister to Col. Ephraim Williams, founder of Williams College. This Rev. John Sargeant,—“greatly beloved in life for his sweet disposition, his superior talents, his engaging manners, and his ardent and persevering piety”—was the father of the Rev. John Sargeant, Jr., missionary to the Stockbridge Indians of this county,

and whom we shall find to be connected by marriage with another of our early physicians. Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., Ex-President of Williams College, is a nephew of the subject of our notice, and lived for a year in his family, while attending school at Clinton.

Sewall did not himself enjoy the advantages of a collegiate course, but from the degree of cultivation he showed in after life it is fair to presume that he had been well trained academically. His medical education he pursued under the direction of his uncle Dr. Erastus Sargeant of Stockbridge, a leading surgeon of his day, who had at various times several students under his care, of whom some became eminent and successful practitioners.* Not long after he had finished his studies Dr. Hopkins removed to Clinton in this county and entered upon practice. His quiet and impressive manners, his affectionate disposition, his devotion to duty, his capacity for business and his honorable conduct, tended to secure for him the respect of his neighbors and acquaintances, while his conversance with his profession and the interest he showed in the welfare of his patients gained him their confidence and affection. His ride in a thinly-inhabited district was of necessity laborious, but within a few years he obtained a successful, if not a highly lucrative practice. After his marriage he occupied a small farm westward from the foot of College Hill, and about half a mile distant from College street. To farming he gave, however, less attention than he did to his professional avocations, which for twenty years or more absorbed him wholly. In his later life he contented himself with his garden and flowers. As a physician he ranked well, and even down to the close of his practice, he was much relied on in fevers. As a man of public spirit, expert in business and alive to the affairs of his town and neighborhood he was truly commendable, while for uprightness of conduct and general integrity, no one of his contemporaries stood higher. His concern for the interests of Clinton and his readiness to take part in its associate undertakings was seen shortly after he made the place his home. In the year 1792 he aided in the establishment of the Oneida Academy, the parent of Hamilton College, contributed to its funds, and when the Academy was incorporated, was made one of its trustees. Of

*Williams' Medical Biography.

the College that grew out of it he was a trustee from 1814 to 1833. In February 1818, he acted as secretary of the meeting of farmers and others convened at Whitesboro, which formed the first agricultural society of the county. Of our own society, after having been two years its Vice President, he was made President in 1808, and again in 1810, but nine years later he declined the honor of another term. He acted as Censor, as likewise upon several important committees. Its meetings he continued to attend down to the year 1830. From general practice he withdrew altogether several years before his death, which event occurred March 30, 1846, when he was aged 76 years and 8 months.

Dr. Hopkins was tall and not very fleshy. He had a thin and rather angular countenance with a gray eye and regular features. He was a small though instructive talker, and was of sedate and dignified demeanor.

He first married Miss Norton, sister of Rev. Dr. Asabel Norton, long the pastor of the Congregational church in Clinton. After her death he was united in marriage with Miss Prudence Hart, daughter of Judge Hart of Clinton and sister of Hon. Ephraim Hart of Utica. By his first wife he had one daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Bristol, who died at early maturity; by his second, one son and five daughters, viz: Catharine, wife of the late Dr. Almon Beardsley of Clinton, Anne, wife of the Rev. A. C. Kendrick, D. D., Professor in the Rochester University, and Frances, Mary and Jeannette, who were unmarried. These have now all passed away, his wife having died April 27th, 1854.

DR. DAVID HASBROUCK.

Of Dr. Hasbrouck, the first Secretary of the Society, I can add nothing to the sketch which is contained in the "Pioneers of Utica," and which I will not here reproduce.

DR. SETH HASTINGS, SR.

The person elected Treasurer at this first meeting was Dr. Seth Hastings, Jr., of Clinton, long favorably known in this vicinity. As his father was likewise one of our founders it will be convenient to introduce them together and in their relation of father and son. The materials for the purpose are drawn in part from a sketch of the family written for the N. Y. *Evange-*

list, by the late Rev. H. H. Kellogg, formerly of Clinton, and in part from details furnished me by Dr. Panet M. Hastings, a family representative of the succeeding generation, who was himself once a member of our society.

Dr. Seth Hastings, Sr., was one of the founders of the Connecticut State Medical Society, being a delegate thereto from Litchfield county, in 1796. He was at that date the head of a large family, so that it is fair to presume he had then been some years in practice. In February of the ensuing year, he removed with all his household from Washington, in the above mentioned State and county, to the town of Paris, Oneida county, N. Y., making the journey hither by means of sleighs and ox sleds. He settled two and one-half miles south east of the village of Clinton, and there, by the aid of a small farm and a limited medical practice, brought up and educated his children. A stiff, old fashioned man, with an old fashioned queue, he lacked the easy courtesy of his son, and partook in a measure of the Puritanical sternness which marked the Connecticut people of the olden time. He aimed to keep his children under close parental influence and as far as possible from the frivolities which were common around them. Certain it is that his family grew up to be one that is well worthy of historical record. Besides the doctor, there were among them Thomas Hastings, widely known as a teacher, composer and reformer of our Church psalmody; Orlando, an eminent legal counsellor in Rochester; Eurotas P. who, from his clerkship in Utica, through his cashiership in Geneva and Detroit, during his presidency of the bank of Michigan and his auditorship of that State, is an unbroken example of honor and usefulness; Charles, once well known as a printer and bookseller in this city. Truman, a lawyer of acknowledged merit, and Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Elnathan Judd of Paris Hill. Dr. Hastings had in all seven sons and three daughters; of the former three were albinos. Of the doctor's connection with this society no record appears after that of the first meeting. He died in 1830.

DR. SETH HASTINGS, JR.

Seth Hastings, eldest son of the preceding, was born in Washington, Conn., Aug. 23, 1780, and was about seventeen years of age when the family settled here. In 1802 he moved

into the village of Clinton and began to practice medicine, having had no other preparation for it, as it would appear, than what he obtained from following the teaching and experience of his father. The same year he married Huldah, daughter of John Clark, and a native of Colchester. For some forty years he conducted a business that was widely spread and successful.

In regard to the professional attainments of Dr. Hastings it may with truth be said that they were very respectable, in consideration of the smallness of the opportunities he enjoyed and the fact that he was but one of a numerous family and early forced to earn his own livelihood. Dr. Panet Hastings has furnished a list of the limited library of his father. It includes only Boerhaave's Lectures, Van Swieten's Commentaries, Thomas' Practice, Denman's Midwifery, Bell's Anatomy and Bell's Surgery, Burns on Abortion, Hamilton on Purgatives and Paris' Pharmacologia, a small stock in sooth, when contrasted with the outfit of most recent graduates. But Dr. Hastings was quick in perception and acute in judgment. Being also sanguine in temperament, cheerful and unusually social and loquacious, active in habits, and ready to respond to calls by night or by day, he was his own educator and the builder of his own repute. He was much esteemed by the medical gentlemen of his neighborhood, and was often in consultation. In the art and practice of midwifery he was deemed especially skillful, and the amount he had of it was for a country practitioner always large. He has been heard to assert that he had waited on 2000 women in such office. One of the dissertations he read before the society was upon the diseases of the mucous membranes in females. As a member of our body he was in constant attendance, never missing a single year, and often coming twice a year, down to 1834, when, by reason of age and long service, he was excused from further attendance,—a now obsolete provision of the by-laws exempting a member from the payment of dues after he had reached the age of sixty and had substantially retired from practice. Yet even at our yearly gatherings of a still later date, I remember to have once or twice encountered his whitened head and cheery face, so familiar with smiling that even in going into church he could not, it is said, reduce it to a becoming degree of composure. His office of Treasurer he filled with satisfaction for three years in succession, and subsequently held the place for three

terms more. In the interim he was three times elected Secretary and four times Censor. Still later he was twice Vice President and twice President; and in the general proceedings of the society no one of his time had a more active share.

The charges for medical services were in that day extremely meagre in comparison with our present rates. "I think," says his son, "that at no period of his practice did they exceed \$1800 for any one year, though possibly during the year 1832 they might have gone beyond that sum. Yet he had nine sons and six daughters, fourteen of his children reaching maturity. How my parents managed to feed, clothe and educate this large family, is a problem difficult of solution. Certainly there was never any lack of the comforts of life, and four of the sons were sent through college. In addition they exercised a large hospitality, especially towards clergymen, my father being many years a deacon in the Congregational church, and active in matters of religion."

In 1851, in the midst of vigorous health, he was suddenly disabled by a shock of paralysis, but lived until March 26, 1861. His wife died September 21, 1850.

Among his sons were the late Hon. George Hastings, M. C., from Livingston Co., the late Rev. Seth Hastings of Chittenango, Rev. Eurotas P. of the Ceylon Mission of the American Board, and now on a visit to his native place, and Dr. Panet M. Hastings of Hartford Conn. Other sons were prominent in different lines of business. Of his daughters two became wives of clergymen and another the wife of a well known citizen of Cincinnati.

DR. CALEB SAMPSON.

In addition to the officers required by the terms of the act heretofore quoted, the Society elected at its first meeting a Delegate and five Censors as at present. These, then, are the next to be considered.

Dr. Caleb Sampson, was the Delegate chosen to represent the Society with its federal head at Albany. By tradition he is reported to have been a man of capacity and acquirement, and he would seem to have enjoyed at this time the confidence of his associates, so that I regret my inability to present a completer picture of him than I have the means to give. No one of his contemporaries of Paris Hill, where he began his pro-

fessional life in the county, is now alive to tell his history, and scarce any one of New Hartford where he afterward continued it. The earliest notice of him I have met with is contained in the recorded deeds of the Clerk's office. A search there has shown me that on the 28th of Oct. 1796, Caleb Sampson, of Paris, physician, bought of Cornelius Glen and Barent Bleecker, merchants of Albany, thirteen acres of land adjoining the public square in Paris. From Rogers' History of the Town of Paris, I learn that a year later he was met by an acquaintance in the City of New York, purchasing medicines. He had come to Paris from the east and had come, as is reported, somewhat hastily, for he had brought with him a wife who was not a legitimate one, the real one having been left behind. There he erected the third frame house that was built in the settlement. Three years later, in 1799, he was in danger of losing his land, it having been sold at vendue for default in payment on the mortgage he had given in pledge. It was bought in by Dr. Elnathan Judd, his successor in the same field of labor, who, however, released it to Dr. Sampson, on condition of receiving back the sum he had paid for it. About 1803-5, the doctor removed to New Hartford and occupied an office near the north end of its public square. He remained there until the spring of 1812, carrying on a moderate professional business, yet was more of a druggist, and was also for some years the village postmaster. In 1812 he sold the premises, but as he attended one of our meetings in 1819, it may be inferred that he did not then leave the place. He is represented to have been a man of learning, honest in principle, gentlemanly, though abrupt in manner, and of excellent judgment. He had a keen penetrating eye, was a good judge of character, and seemed to look one through. He was a pleasant companion, was fond of story-telling and equally fond of a game of checkers; but was possessed of strong passions and was imperious in will, expecting that every one would yield to him, as it commonly happened that every one did do. He was large, fleshy and fine looking.

In the country much is made of a joke, says Sydney Smith, who tells us that he knew of one which lasted seven years. Here is one of Doctor Sampson which has lasted a good while longer. It illustrates his proclivity to fun as well as the spirit of rivalry existing among men of kindred pursuits. There was then in

New Hartford a young Dr. Coe, who was so ardent a lover of fishing and hunting as occasionally to neglect his duties for the sake of his sport. A letter came to the office directed to this Dr. Coe, and as he failed for some days to call for it, the postmaster, or perchance his clerk, inscribed on an upper corner of the letter, "He's gone a fishing," and below it pictured a man on horseback attired for the woods, carrying a fish-pole over his shoulder and riding at full speed, who is met by a boy coming from the opposite direction, out of whose mouth issues the announcement "you need'nt come now, doctor, fathers' dead."

Dr. Sampson was three times a Censor and served on several committees, but attended no meeting after 1819.

His wife, who was of foreign birth, was well educated, neat and industrious. Even after she became blind her habit of neatness did not forsake her. He had a daughter and three sons.

ELNATHAN JUDD.

The first of the newly-elected Censors of whom I shall speak is Dr. Elnathan Judd, already adverted to. He was born in Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 7, 1773. Having lost his father in the war of the Revolution, he was forced at the age of 16 to assume the care of his mother and to labor for her support as well as his own. They decided to remove to Central New York, then the El Dorado of the West. In a wagon containing all their worldly goods they travelled slowly, in part through an unbroken wilderness, and fixed themselves on Paris Hill. Young Judd studied during the evenings aided by his mother, who was a woman of culture and may be assumed to have once held a position of influence. By day he worked with his hands, earning enough for their maintenance, and enough also, as it would seem, to buy, in March 1799, the mortgaged premises of Dr. Sampson. At this date he was pursuing his medical education under the direction of the elder Dr. Hastings. This completed, he married, in 1802, Elizabeth daughter of his preceptor, and on the withdrawal of Dr. Sampson from Paris, he established himself in his house and his ride. Of respectable acquirements in medicine and absorbed in its practice, amiable in temper and affable in manners, his success was assured. The country was new and rugged, and

the extent of it he traversed was large, reaching to all the small villages of the vicinity. In winter his visits were often made on snow shoes over the drifts for which that region is famous. Coming home exhausted, he was yet ever ready for the next call. His daughter's earliest recollection of his hard work and fatigue was, she says, when he was lying, with closed eyes, on a wooden settee, and she was summoned to read to him from some old medical treatise that was dull enough for her. But she adds, "I waited patiently for the happy hour when he was ready to go to the office, where I assisted him in preparing pills, powders and ointments, those hours of instruction which were more to me in practical life than all my boarding-school experience."

Dr. Judd was social and intelligent. His sympathy and his deep christian character endeared him to his patients; and these, with his affability and sense, made for him as many friends as were had by any physician in this region. During quite a portion of his residence he took a leading part in public affairs, without holding any public office, and maintained as absolute a control over the community in which he lived as did any man in it. He was prominent in the Congregational Church of which both he and his wife were members, and they made their house a house of entertainment for ministers and others who were temporarily in the place. Among other frequent visitors was Dr. White, of Cherry Valley, with whom Dr. Judd was intimate in a professional way, and exchanged visits in consultation. When he came, they would turn night into day in their prolonged discussions about the interests of Fairfield Medical College, or about some topic in surgery. To Rome also, and Utica he now and then went to consult with the physicians of these places. In garb or external appearance he was by no means a Brummagem, yet he was neat, and, moreover, made a point of exacting neatness in others; when he visited an untidy family, he would not take off his hat or his gloves until the housekeeper had made a place clean for him. Another habit he had which was startling to those who knew him imperfectly; though he had no idea of tune, yet if he had a critical case, he would conceal his face with his hands and hum for some minutes, while reflecting, then when decided, would open his medical case and proceed to prescribe. In person he was tall and

spare, stooping slightly, with blue eyes and light hair, plain and grave but intelligent features.

Of our Society he was at least an annual attendant down to the year 1830, and was once present afterward. He was four times its Vice President and was three times elected President, but the last time he was, at his own request, excused from serving; was three times Censor, read two or three dissertations, and acted on several Committees.

Down to about the year 1830 few men possessed more fully the confidence of the people, not only of Paris but of the adjacent places, than did Dr. Judd. At this era his influence began to decline, and this decline had its origin in dissensions within the church. The causes and the course of them, were it right or desirable to consider at all, would better become ecclesiastical than medical reminiscences of the county. It must suffice to say that they became more and more bitter, that two distinct parties were formed, one acknowledging the minister, and the other Dr. Judd and another deacon, as its head; that the former party was predominant, and in order to crush its rival, selected the Doctor as its victim, because of the firmness of his stand and because he kept open house for the ministerial friends of its opponents. Charges were preferred against him not only for semi-heresy of belief, but for certain improprieties of conduct in his relations with his patients. The charges were investigated, and while adjudged not fully proven, the church thought proper to pass a vote of censure against him for acts of "great indiscretion." From this action he appealed to the Presbytery with which the church was in connection. The Presbytery reversed the church's decision and reprobated it for its course; not only this, they required a copy of their action to be read by the pastor from the pulpit on Sunday. It was so read, and Dr. Judd was present, but for the last time, attending service thereafter at New Hartford, until his removal from the place. The majority for the vote of censure had been obtained by inducing some of his personal friends to give it their assent as a matter of compromise, and under the belief that by so doing the troubles would be ended and the Doctor not seriously harmed. But he looked upon it otherwise, and never recovered from it. Compelled to withdraw from the church on which his heart had been fixed, seeing him-

self abased from the high position in the community which he had before enjoyed, his success in business undermined, and in a measure destroyed by the introduction of a competing physician through the influence of those who had been his friends but had now joined his enemies, he unfortunately broke down, falling to a condition from which he never rallied.

In 1834-5 he sold his property in Paris and removed to Clinton, and from thence went some two or three years later to Michigan, and there he died.

The Doctor had three sons and two daughters—Dr. Garret P. Judd, the eldest, once a member of this Society, went more than fifty years since to the Sandwich Islands, as a missionary physician under the care of the American Board. After serving several years in that capacity, so marked was his ability, and so well fitted was he thought to be for the highest civil service, that he was released from his connection with the Board in order to enable him to accept the invitation of the King of the Islands to become his Secretary of State, or Prime Minister. And during a long and honorable incumbency of this office, he was eminently useful in guiding the affairs of that infant State.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Elizabeth Judd with an unmarried daughter, also repaired to the Sandwich Islands, and spent the remainder of her days enjoying the prosperity of the people to which her son had so largely contributed, and sharing in the respect and honors he had so richly merited. She lived to pass her ninetieth birth-day.

Her eldest daughter, Elizabeth, the widow of Asher B. Baker, is now a resident of San Francisco.

DR. WELCOME SAYLES.

A Censor of the first four years of the Society's existence, an attendant for nearly twenty years, and an active participant in its various labors, was Dr. Welcome Sayles of Vernon. He was the eldest child of Thomas Sayles, and was born July 4, 1776, in Smithfield, R. I., near which place his progenitor, John Sayles, who emigrated from England, in 1650, took up his residence. The patriotism equally with the gratitude of his parents is evinced in the name they gave to a son who was born on Independence day. His father commanded a company of

minute men during the Revolution, and not long after the close of the war removed with his family to Whitestown. The son received his literary education wholly from his mother, a woman of strong sense and energy, whose maiden name was Prudence Brown. With whom he studied medicine I am not able to tell. His course completed, he made a short trial in Utica, and, in 1804, began a more continued experience in Vernon. Shortly afterward he married Harriet Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. John Sargeant, then missionary to the Stockbridge and Oneida Indians, and living near the village of Vernon, a man of historical note, distinguished for his learning, his simplicity of character, and his zealous devotion to duty. Though Dr. Sayles never had attended school but a single day, he is said to have been during the greater part of his life a diligent reader, devoting several hours of the day, even when actively engaged in his professional labors, in a systematic course of reading, a course, which, besides medicine, embraced history, the sciences and general literature. He accumulated in time a large and well selected library of works in various departments, with all of which he is said to have been more familiar than most men whose pursuits bring them into close association with books. In his writing and conversation he showed an accurate acquaintance with the niceties of his mother tongue, never using an ungrammatical phrase or a slang expression. His native endowments, too, were excellent, and of a kind that qualified him to gain success in his calling. With clear and discriminating perceptions he combined cautious and logical deductions. These gave him power in the investigation and management of disease, since they rendered him accurate in detecting its shades, degrees and tendency, while they imparted wisdom and skill to his treatment. His reputation became extended and his practice a wide one, its range comprising a district nine miles in radius about the village of Vernon, and of this he was for years the chief medical adviser.

Dr. Sayles did not meet with us after the year 1825 and yet he lived twenty-five years longer; his death occurring on the seventh of December, 1850.

He was of medium size, weighing about one hundred and twenty five or one hundred and thirty pounds, and of delicate

constitution. His wife is reputed to have possessed great amiability and purity of character, and was much beloved.

They had seven children who grew to maturity. Of his sons, Dr. Henry S. was a physician at Ithaca, but is now deceased; and John has for many years been a practising lawyer at Brenham, Texas, and Professor in the law school connected with the Baylor University of that State. Of the daughters, one married John F. Richardson, late Professor in Madison and in Rochester Universities, and another Charles Kilbourn, Esq., lawyer, formerly of Vernon but now living in Iowa.

DR. SHERMAN BARTHOLOMEW.

Another of the Censors now elected was Dr. Sherman Bartholomew of Waterville, whose early promise was shortly closed by an honored death gained in his country's cause. He was a native of Wallingford, Conn., and was born March 5th, 1781.

Removing with his father's family at first to Salisbury, Herkimer County, and thence to the neighborhood of Waterville, in Oneida county, he there read medicine with Dr. Amos G. Hull, who had married his oldest sister. The family were settled a mile and a half west of Waterville, or Sangerfield Huddle, as the hamlet was then termed, and here the doctor began practice. To him the credit is given by some, of having suggested the name by which the place is now called. Certain it is that he was one of the half dozen of its citizens who, in 1808, were congregated about the bar-room fire of the tavern on the old Chenango turnpike, subsequently known as the Munger House, in consultation about a more pleasing title for their village than the one it then bore, and who then and there adopted the present one.

As a citizen Dr. Bartholomew was very active, useful and popular; as a physician decidedly the most cultivated of any in that part of the county. He was six feet and over in height, handsome and impressive; in disposition cheerful, and in manners agreeable. By his patients he was beloved, and by his family his memory is still revered. The estimation in which he was held in Waterville is evinced by the number of children, not connected with him, on whom his name was conferred in baptism. From the names which he himself bestowed upon his sons,—Darwin and Rush,—we may infer his admiration

for the great ones in science, if not his enthusiasm for the studies that occupied them and the teaching they imparted. He was a total abstinent from intoxicating drinks, and even from tea and coffee, a peculiarity of habit which in those days was assuredly rare. It was said at the time of the exposure which terminated his life, that had he consented to take stimulents he might have been saved, but he could not be prevailed on to do so. The doctor was an excellent horseman, and perhaps a little vain of his skill and his fine equestrian appearance. When, in the fall of 1814, he was about to start for Sacketts Harbor, as surgeon of the regiment of Col. Stone, he dressed himself in his best attire, set off by a neat and flowing ruffled shirt bosom, mounted his spirited horse, then calling all his family around him, he bade them good-bye, saying that should he never return he desired that their last impression of him should be as he then appeared. That it was their last impression we gather from the inscription upon his tomb-stone at Waterville. This reads as follows: "To the memory of Dr. Sherman Bartholomew, who died at Brownville the 29th of November 1814, in the zealous discharge of duty as a surgeon in the army of the U. S. He was interred here by his brethren, the members of Sanger Lodge, December 19th, in the 34th year of his age. His bereaved widow for herself and their children has placed this stone, July 1817."

His wife was a sister of Hon. Aaron Hackley of Herkimer and of Utica, in which latter place he was recorder of the city. His son Darwin was a physician practising in Lewis and afterwards in Madison county, where he died at the age of his father. Rush and a widowed sister, Mrs. A. H. Owen, are living in Illinois.

DR. FRANCIS GUTEAU, JR.

The two other Censors elected at this time were Drs. Matthew Brown, Jr., and Francis Guiteau, Jr. Of Dr. Brown I have already treated.

Dr. Guiteau, a much trusted surgeon as well as physician, who came into the county in 1792, practised nine years in Deerfield, eleven in Utica, and nine or ten more at Whitesboro, I have sketched at some length, in *The Pioneers of Utica*. Incidents recorded both in Judge Jones' *Annals of Oneida* and in

Mrs. Hammond's History of Madison County, while they show the paucity of surgical operators in the forming days of this region, show also the dependence that was placed upon Dr. Guiteau, and the wide reach of his occasional rides. The cloud, which has of late over-shadowed the family name, has not, assuredly, in the minds of any in this society, darkened the fair fame of our associate, Dr. Luther Guiteau of Trenton, nor obscured the memory of his illustrious father. Neither should it in any wise diminish our appreciation of this brother of the latter, who, though of closer kin to the author of the shame, was in honorable and christian principle, in purity of life and enlightened patriotism, quite the equal of any of his compeers. Of his relation to us it may be said, that after being three times a Censor, he was for two years Vice President, and two years more the President. His last attendance was in 1824, the year of his death.

DR. LAURENS HULL.

Next come, in order, two members of early, long-continued and most capable service, both here and elsewhere, whose lives are already in print, Drs. Laurens Hull of Bridgewater and Arba Blair of Rome.

Dr. Laurens Hull, who for many years represented this society as delegate to its superior at Albany, and was twice the President of the latter, who was twice sent by his neighbors in Oneida county to the lower house of State legislation, and by the people of Alleghany county to be a member of the upper, was too conspicuous a person to remain until this time without a biographer. A sketch of him, prepared for the State Medical Society by Dr. C. M. Crandall of Alleghany county, is contained in the volume of its Transactions for the year 1867. I remember to have once met Dr. Hull, after his removal to Angelica, and when he had entered upon the decline of life, and I can still recall his tall, imposing figure and the impression of dignity, intelligence and wide experience of men and affairs that was left upon me by his stately presence and demeanor. He was a cousin of Dr. Amos G. Hull, our first President, and had studied medicine in the same office, though afterwards as a pupil of the latter. In our society he was annually present until the year 1834, when he was excused from further attendance, having then just completed his third term as President.

DR. ARBA BLAIR.

Dr. Arba Blair, I have already mentioned as coming to Romé, in 1803, from Worcester, Mass., where he had been a student in the same hospital-school of Dr. Willard in which Dr. Matthew Brown, Jr., had been a pupil. I have said, also, that he finished his studies with the latter, and then became his partner and his successor. They were united likewise as relatives, the mother of Dr. Brown, being a sister of the father of Dr. Blair; she being, moreover, a cousin of the mother of Dr. Blair, they were thus doubly joined. Dr. Blair, died in June 1863, and a notice of him which was read before this society by Dr. J. V. Cobb, of Rome, is contained in the volume of State Transactions for the next ensuing year. Down to a late period of his life he was in the habit of being present at our meetings. Many of us remember well his gentle smile and genial ways, the modest, guileless simplicity of his character, and the christian spirit which infused his being and beamed in every act. We have not forgotten the time when he was called on to preside at the observance of our fiftieth anniversary, nor, when he was conducted to the chair by Drs. McCall and Thomas, how reverently we looked on the only representative who was present, and almost the last surviving one, of the worthies of 1806.

As a sample of his pervading christian temper, I cannot forbear to mention an incident that was related to me by a much younger man than Dr. Blair, whom he aided in a difficult case. It was one of protracted labor, which, though perilous to both mother and child, resulted in the saving of the former at the expense of the life of her offspring. The parents were much affected by the issue, and the mother, especially, deeply mourned her loss. Anxious to comfort them and at the same time to direct their thoughts to a proper source of consolation, the doctor proposed that the other physician and he should unite with the family in prayer. This being assented to, he prayed tenderly and fervently for Divine grace to sustain them in their disappointment, at the same same time giving utterance to the gratitude that was due the great Ruler of events for the salvation of the mother. Doubless it is no uncommon experience in the life of a physician to witness, if not to take part, in a similar scene at the bed-side of one who has reached or is

approaching the years of adult life, but who of us would view so sympathetically and so gravely the grief of a mother over the death of an infant that as yet had never breathed. We might, it is true, drop a word of regret for the result, yet the feeling, if at all profound, would as likely be for our own imperilled reputation as for the loss of the principal sufferer.

Dr. Cobb, in his sketch of Dr. Blair, has omitted to note the deep interest he took in the oppressed victims of slavery and the fact that he was identified in full with the once despised party that labored for the abolition of this evil. It remains only to add that he was for one term our President and for one our Vice President, and that down to the year 1842, he was a pattern of regularity in attendance.

DRS. MARCUS HITCHCOCK, SETH CAPRON AND ELIPHAZ
BISSELL.

Physicians who took a part in the organization of the Society, were more or less active during the earlier years of its existence, but whose connection was of limited duration, were Marcus Hitchcock of Utica, Seth Capron of Whitesboro, and Eliphaz Bissell, of Vernon.

A notice of Dr. Hitchcock, as the life-long druggist and postmaster of Utica, I have given among the Pioneers of the place. He was for three years the Society's Treasurer, but I find no mention of him in our minutes after 1817.

Dr. Capron, much more of a manufacturer than a physician, yet a person of whom our profession have reason to be proud for his agency in setting up cotton and woolen mills in this county, I have noticed in an article read before the Oneida Historical Society, and lately published in a volume of that Society's transactions. As a physician, too, though of short duration, Dr. Capron is remembered with affection by his contemporaries.

Of Dr. Eliphaz Bissell, of Vernon Centre, not much is told to his credit. In March, 1811, he was sold out by the sheriff, and went to parts unknown.

BRIEF RESIDENTS.

Thus have we completed our review of those of the founders who were in frequent attendance and intimate union with the

Society from the beginning of its existence until toward the close of their own professional career. There remain to be noticed some who were hardly present after the first meeting, and several more, who, having attended the first one, were not present a second time, until after the lapse of many years, and especially not until after the rehabilitation of the Society, in 1821, when they renewed their connection with it. The reason of the difference between the latter and those heretofore sketched does not clearly appear; whether it is to be found in changes in the State Laws with relation to such Societies, whether in dissatisfaction with the early leaders and a preference for those who came into control after the re-organization, or whether we are to seek a reason in the individual history of the members referred to, is wholly conjectural. Certain it is that among the founders there were some estimable men who at first showed little concern in the Society's proceedings, yet did participate therein after the above mentioned epoch. Let us first consider briefly those who, as it would seem, fell off after the initial meeting, either by reason of early removal from the county, death or other cause, and of whom our knowledge is but scant.

Of Dr. Morris Shannon, whose name appears on the list, I can learn absolutely nothing.

Dr. Thomas G. Hooker, settled in a log house in Augusta Centre, about 1800, bought a piece of land, built a two storied frame house that was a good one for the times and essayed to do business, until 1818, when making up his mind that the place would not support him and two other practitioners, he sold out and moved to Painted Post. He was an amiable but a moderate man.

Dr. Daniel Avery came, in 1793, from Stonington, Conn., to Bridgewater, then a part of the town of Sangerfield. His house and lot, about 80 rods from Bridgewater Centre, he sold to Dr. Laurens Hull, and purchased a farm three-quarters of a mile west of his previous residence. There he lived until about 1814, when he removed to LeRoy, Genesee county. An acquaintance avers that he was a well educated physician, and that, like Dr. Hull, he was an active member of the Congregational Church.

Dr. Samuel Frisbie is mentioned by Judge Jones, as one of the company of immigrants from Connecticut, who settled in the westerly and southwesterly parts of the town of Vernon. The

county records declare that in Feb. 1800, Dr. Samuel Frisbie "of Westmoreland," sold 161 acres of land, being a part of the Oneida Reservation, which he had bought of the Surveyor General, in 1798. The next year he sold 171 acres. In 1803, '4 and '5, Dr. Samuel Frisbie, "of Vernon," sold several parcels more. From Vernon he moved west at so early a period that a gentleman who was brought up on the farm which adjoined his, and who is now in his sixty-fifth year, has no personal recollection of him.

Dr. Thomas Hartwell, lived in the year 1800, about three miles east of Rome, on the road to Whitesboro, and owned 100 acres of land. He died there about 1824-5. He had a son, Dr. John P. Hartwell, who practiced near Elmer Hill, which is south of Delta, and near the town line between Rome and Western.

Dr. Enoch Alden, came to Rome as early as 1798. He lived on the site now occupied by the Tremont House, opposite the Willet House. Not far from 1804, says one informant, he went to Redfield, Oswego county, remained there a while, then came back to Rome and stayed until 1817, when he returned to Redfield, where he died. Another correspondent, who characterizes him as a physician and surgeon of rare natural ability and attainments, speaks of him as living at Elmer Hill before his second residence in Rome, and being there an associate of the Drs. Hutchinson to be shortly introduced. His wife was an Elmer, sister of the father of Mrs. H. H. Pope, of Rome. In 1817, the lots he held on Dominick St. were sold by the Sheriff, and his office was soon occupied by the late Hon. Samuel Beardsley.

DR. PAUL HUTCHINSON, JR.

One of the brothers Hutchinson of Elmer Hill was, like those just mentioned, but a short time in the county after he cooperated in forming the society. This was Paul Hutchinson Jr., who studied with Zenas and became his partner, but soon removed to Jefferson county. He is mentioned in Hough's History of that county, as a member of its medical society in 1809, and he was there during the war of 1812. He is represented as given to practical jokes, and the following is related as one of them. Among his patients, before his removal, he had a woman

of a weak, sensitive nature, with more nerves than cerebral attachment for them, who often applied to him for the relief of some trifling or fancied complaint, and could not be put off without a well-considered prescription. She called at one time to be relieved of a fish bone, which she was sure was lodged in her throat. The doctor, after the most careful examination, was unable to discover anything amiss. Presuming it was her imagination that was chiefly at fault, or that the bone if really there, would detach itself in time, he determined to exorcise the peccant part by a hocus pocus which was quite his own. He hung a sleigh bell about the waist of the woman and gravely enjoined upon her to wear it until the bone should disappear. She departed with the bell dangling at her hips, and continued to wear it until the ridicule of her husband caused its removal, but not before she was cured of the bone in her throat.

DR. ZENAS HUTCHINSON.

Dr. Zenas Hutchinson for forty years or more carried on an extended professional business in the region of the upper Mohawk; and by the united attestation of all who knew him was a good physician and a worthy and influential man. He was a native of New Lebanon Conn., and settled on Elmër Hill as early at least as 1797, occupying a farm of some 70 acres. Physically as well as mentally he was fitted to carry on so laborious a calling in a rough and new country. For he was possessed of a vigorous constitution and great powers of endurance, he loved his profession, and shrank from no labor in the discharge of its duties, surmounting difficulties which would have appalled men of less energy and hopefulness. Though he preferred a good horse when available, and kept two or more fast ones for his daily service, he has been known to travel on snowshoes as far as Redfield to set a broken leg, when the drifts were too deep for him to reach the patient otherwise. His temperament was a buoyant and a happy one. By his cheerful countenance and playful conversation, his easy and familiar manners, he carried sunshine into the darkened chambers of sickness, turned away the thoughts of the sick from their sufferings or their painful forebodings, and inspired them with hope for themselves and confidence in the succor accorded them. The indigent as well as those abundant in means shared alike in his attentions.

When, towards the latter period of his life, he was looking over his accounts and his papers, he was asked by a bystander whether he had received pay for all his hard work. He replied,—taking a roll of bills in his hands,—*there* are thousands of dollars charged for doctoring, and I would be glad to get six cents on the dollar for the whole of them. The doctor was a great lover of sports and social amusements, though he never for the sake of them neglected his appropriate duties. Hunting, singing and dancing were his delight, and his wife and eldest daughters took part with him in the gay and graceful pleasures of the ball-room, until 1825, when they made a profession of religion, and conformed to church rules and practices. Dr Hutchinson united with the Presbyterian Church of Westernville and adorned a consistent christian life.

In illustration of his fondness for hunting, I have been favored by Judge Anson S. Miller of California, who was brought up in the neighborhood of Elmer Hill, with a lively description of a party that once met at his father's for a squirrel hunt, and in which the judge and his brothers acted as whippers-in and game-carriers for their father, the doctor and the Elmers. I carried for the doctor, says he, and even now, though it is nearly sixty years since that memorable afternoon, I laugh at our sportive manœuvres to capture the squirrels. Some he shot while they were running on the fences, others escaped to the tall trees when I frightened them around to his side of the tree that he might have a crack at them. He was limber and active as a boy, and I needed all of my agility to keep pace with him, and of my strength, too, since long before night I was loaded with game and was glad to get relief from the doctor. In more serious matters he was also equally interested, as, for example, not only in the general question of public education, but in the mental improvement of himself and his neighbors. As early as Dec. 18th, 1797, he assisted in founding a public library, and in the articles of agreement his name appears first on the list of proprietors. This association, known as Union Library, has been kept up until a very recent period, as I learn from its present librarian, Miss E. A. Peck of Delta, who has its records and most of its books.

Soon after his settlement Dr. Hutchinson married Miss Fanny Smith, and they became the parents of eleven

children, seven daughters and four sons, now widely dispersed. His wife died in 1828. In 1832 he sold his place, and a few years later married a Mrs. Beckwith of Western and went to live near the village of that name. A few years before his death he took up his residence with one of his sons in New York City, where he died in 1853, his remains being removed to the cemetery of Westernville. He was then 84 years of age, yet his mind was clear and strong. He was of middle height and weighed about 140 pounds.

I find no further mention of his connection with this Society, after the years 1806 and 1808,—on which latter occasion he was put by the Society in quest of illegal practitioners,—until July 1823, when he is named as being present, as also in July 1830, and July 1832.

DRS. ALEXANDER WHALEY AND NORTON PORTER.

Passing directly south from Elmer Hill, the locality of the Hutchinsons, we find at Verona, near the western county line, Dr. Alexander Whaley, who was the last survivor of the original founders, not dying until about ten years ago; and, eastward of him, Dr. Norton Porter of Westmoreland, who, on the other hand, was almost, if not quite, the first of them all to enter the county. Both had bent their steps hitherward from the East when they had just reached the age of twenty-one; both conducted a wide, a prosperous, and a long continued professional business, and secured the good opinion of all who knew them. Interesting obituaries of both have been read before us by Dr. H. N. Porter, son of the latter, which may be found on pp. 112-13 of the volume of the State Transactions for the year 1872. After the opening meeting of the Society, Dr. Whaley was present again in 1823, '24 and '31; Dr. Porter from 1822 to 1837 almost annually, sometimes twice a year.

Going south again from the circuit of Dr. Porter, and passing through the centre of the rides of Drs. Hopkins and Hastings of Clinton, we approach the home of another of the late-attending founders. We think we see him on our course, as we encounter a short, thick-set man, who comes jogging on, his kimboed arms dancing in unison with the measured trot, trot, trot of his old white horse, and his saddle-bags, assuring

us that he can be none other than a country doctor. Yes, this is Dr. John Fitch of Franklin, for forty years its sole practitioner. The particulars of his life I give as furnished me by his son, Dr. John W. Fitch, of Oneida. He was a native of Pomfret, Conn., having been born March 7, 1775. His youthful days were spent in labor upon his father's farm, during the summer, and in attendance upon a district school in winter, until he had acquired knowledge and age sufficient to conduct the school himself. *Docendo discimus*, by teaching we learn, says the proverb; yet the compass of acquirement must needs be small that is embraced within the curriculum of an old-time country school. Such means seemed scarcely adequate to satisfy the thirst for information that was felt by our teacher. A natural desire to do better, and to engage in some pursuit in which this thirst might be gratified, led him into the study of medicine. He entered the office of Dr. Jared Warner, of Scotland, father of the late J. E. Warner of this city, and a physician of more than the ordinary standing. Physically, indeed, his standing was gigantic, since he was no less than seven feet seven inches in height. As to his moral magnitude, it is thus described on his monumental stone:

"Stop ye, my friend, and weep, for Warner's gone;
See, here his glass doth cease to run,
No more his liberal hand shall feed the poor,
Relieve distress and scatter joy no more.
While he from death did others seek to save,
Death threw a dart and plunged him in the grave."

In the office of Dr. Warner, and with the privilege of a country practice, young Fitch remained until he thought that he could successfully embark in business for himself. And of his opportunities he made so good a use that when, in 1802, he settled himself with his blooming bride in this western world, he was probably as well prepared to treat the sick as a great proportion of his compeers. Soon after his settlement, there prevailed in the towns of Paris, Sangerfield and Augusta, as well as in some other parts of the county, an extensive and fatal epidemic of typhus fever. No less than four of the members of our Society were appointed in January 1808, to write dissertations upon it, of whom, however, but one responded. The practice of physicians generally was a stimulating one, consisting in the administration of bark and wine. To

pursue that course thought Dr. F., is to see the greater number of my patients go down to an untimely grave; I will follow a different one. "He was ever" says his son, "an admirer of the Cullenian doctrine of 'vis medicatrix naturæ,' and as such carried out his practice in the treatment of this epidemic. He watched carefully for local determinations and guarded against them as far as possible, corrected the secretions, gave mild laxatives, the effervescent draught, soda, etc., and relied on the expectant treatment generally. The consequence was his success was unparalleled, and his practice so great and calls so many that he could answer but a small proportion of them. It secured him many friends and patrons who remained such throughout his long professional life." The son further adds: 'he admired and was devoted to his profession, was an accurate observer, ever studying the idiosyncracies and temperaments of his patients, judicious and correct in diagnosis, wise and careful in treatment and noted for his surety of prognosis, so that I occasionally meet persons at this day, who say that when *he* said their friend could not live, they considered his recovery impossible.' As before mentioned his whole professional life was spent in Franklin and thereabout, and his practice continued until a few years before his death, which occurred Oct. 23d., 1841. His wife was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Brockway, of Lebanon, Conn. Besides Dr. J. W., he had a son, the late Thomas Fitch, of Syracuse. We find Dr. F. to have been present in the Society in July 1806, January 1809, in 1823, '27, '31.

DR. ISAAC WESTON.

A few miles farther south on the same stream there lived, practised and died, at Sauquoit, Dr. Isaac Weston, an unassuming, well-informed man, of whose connection with our Society I can note only his presence in 1806, again in 1831, and again in 1832, two years before his decease. His family removed to Michigan.

DR. STEPHEN PRESTON.

The last whom I shall mention of those who were present at this first meeting, is another Connecticut immigrant, whose home was near the extreme southern confines of the county.

In the account given of Sangerfield, in Judge Jones' Annals, he thus discourses of him: "In the month of September, 1795, Dr. Stephen Preston became a resident of the town. He was the first regular physician within its limits, and for more than thirty years enjoyed an extensive practice in his profession. He used to say that when he first came into this section the inquiry was: "where shall I get a doctor?" but after a few years it was: "what doctor shall I get?" He was somewhat eccentric, but was, notwithstanding, a man of sterling sense and judgment. He held the office of Justice of the Peace for many years."

To the foregoing I am able to subjoin the following particulars: Dr. Preston was born in Ashford, Conn., December 29th, 1767, and studied medicine with Dr. Palmer, in his native place. He made the journey up the Mohawk on horseback, his wife riding another horse and carrying before her a boy of two years. The boy who came in time to be himself the head of a family, was the late Dr. Medina Preston of Sangerfield, father of the present Doctor of the same name and place. At Old Fort Schuyler they saw only four log houses. They were half a day in getting to New Hartford, such was the wretched condition of the roads. At Sangerfield, which then included Bridgewater also, finding himself without a competitor, the doctor was soon sufficiently busied. His perceptions being quick and his judgment sound, being, moreover, intelligent, friendly and public spirited, he at once obtained a standing which he continued throughout his life to maintain. It is said that in the epidemic before mentioned he, too, was successful, as likewise in the bilious fevers and agues so common in newly-settled districts; and it is also claimed for him that in other respects he was a first class practitioner. His residence was about a mile from the Centre, but he was called on to journey at times, as far off as Oneida Castle and Vernon. Of the Brothertown Indians he became the medical adviser, and enjoyed the friendship of Thomas Dean, their Agent. This carried him northward toward Paris.

As a neighbor and citizen his position was prominent and the part a conspicuous one which he bore in the affairs of the village. Politically he was democratic, and when, in the course of the administration of President Madison, he delivered at Bridge-

water, by request of its people, an address on the topics of the day, he incurred the denunciations of his rival in practice, Dr. Laurens Hull, the staunch upholder of the opposite party.

As a Justice of the Peace he heard many suits, and it is said that none of his decisions were ever reversed, though able counsel often appeared in the cases. A man named Hubbard was at one time complained of for forgery. He was held for trial at the circuit court, and was there convicted. Justice Preston was so impressed with the belief of the innocence of Hubbard, that, taking a genuine note and the presumed forgery, he went down to Albany, seeking a pardon from Martin Van Buren, then Governor of the State. The Governor presently granted it, being assured that if one was genuine the other was also.

Of the eccentricities of Dr. Preston many stories are told, though most of them show as much of his lack of refinement as they do of his social inclinations and humor. His own account of the use he made of an accident which befell his medicines in coming from Utica, where he had been to buy them, is amusing at least, if not worthy of copying. Some of the bottles getting broken and their contents so mixed as not to be easily separated, he added his whisky to the mass and kept the tincture thus made for cases in which he was puzzled how best to prescribe. Such as failed to yield to compounds otherwise chosen, were sure, as he said, to give way to this one. The doctor acquired a good deal of land, and he did it by means in which his example might be wiser to follow. Having laid by a small sum in cash, he would contract for a farm, and then set out to collect additional money to pay for it, dunning his debtors with the plea that his receipts from them were indispensable to help him make up his purchase. And thus by closer collections than country doctors usually practice he went on augmenting his landed estate. He believed in ghostly appearances, and once, when he was on a visit to a sick woman in Vernon, her apparition presented itself beside him; he was so impressed with the circumstance that he noted the time by his watch, and on arriving at the house of the woman he learned that she had died at the very moment she appeared to him. In person he was plain and his face for the most part disfigured by two divergent streams of tobacco. As a member of our society I cannot find the proof

of his attending more than two meetings prior to 1823, and two afterwards. He died February 28th, 1835. His sons were Medina, Henry L. and Stephen H. The latter now lives in Marshall, Michigan.

ATTENDANCE AT SECOND MEETING.

The foregoing twenty-nine are all who were in attendance at the initial meeting. Nine more presented themselves and were received at a meeting held in October following, before the By-Laws had been adopted, and the machinery of the society set in operation. These, it would seem, should as justly be classed among the founders as those already introduced.

Of these nine two or three only will occupy much of our attention. Dr. Solomon Wolcott, a leading inhabitant of Utica, I have discoursed upon at length among its Pioneers, and to that source would refer such as may seek for information. Some were brief residents, and our obscure knowledge of them may be summed up in a few words. Thus, of one, I learn from the proceedings of the State Medical Society that Lucius Kellogg of Queens county received from that body the honorary degree of M. D., in 1832, and I surmise that he is the same Lucius Kellogg whose name appears on our list of 1806, and whom an elderly lady of Bridgewater remembers to have once lived in that place. A nephew of Dr. Isaac Goodsell has an impression that Dr. Goodsell once practised in Oneida county, but knows that he went back to Connecticut and settled in Woodbridge.

DRS. NATHANIEL ROSE AND SYLVESTER NASH.

Drs. Nathaniel Rose and Sylvester Nash were the doctors at Augusta Centre, contemporaries with Dr. Hooker, the former being the leading one, though more of a physician than a surgeon. He died September 5th, 1836 aged 69, leaving a widow two sons and five daughters. Two of the daughters married physicians; Dr. Eli Botsford, a county society member of a later period, was one of them. Dr. Nash lived in Augusta from 1800 to 1828 or '30, and then moved to Otselic. There he died in 1847, August 29th, at the age of 76. He was a pretty good practitioner of medicine, but more fond of the practice of farming. He belied the poet's declaration anent such deficiencies as were his, for he was a jovial and well disposed person, though

he "had no music in his soul." Thunder he would rather hear, as he used to say, than the most skillful band of human performers.

DR. FENN DEMING.

Fenn Deming, or Enos Deming as our list incorrectly has it, sold his lot in Whitesboro in 1807. Further particulars of him I find in an article in the State Transactions for 1865 descriptive of the founding and the founders of the Medical Society of Chautauqua county. It is there stated that Dr. Deming was born in Berlin, Connecticut, read medicine in his native town, and was licensed by the Connecticut Medical Society. He was a surgeon in the army in the war of 1812, was at the attack on Little York, and present at the death of Gen. Pike; subsequently he was taken prisoner, and confined at Montreal, but was finally paroled. He removed to Westfield in the fall of 1815, and commenced practice. In 1818 he was appointed Secretary of the County society, organized in that year. He was the first postmaster in Westfield, and soon after was made Justice of the Peace. Finding practice laborious and distasteful, he occupied himself with his offices and the management of a small drug store. It is stated that he was an intelligent gentleman, and pretty well read in his profession. His death took place October 11th, 1834, at the age of 49.

DRS. JOSHUA RANSOM AND JOEL RATHBONE.

Dr Joshua Ransom had his home in Camden and, Dr. Joel Rathbone about two miles beyond, on the road to Williamstown, in what was known as Seventhtown. They came from Springfield, Otsego county, nearly at the same time, and not far from the date of our first meeting. Both secured a wide compass of business and an excellent name as physicians and as citizens. The former possessed the more sympathetic nature, the latter the more nerve and will, and was the most in request as a surgeon. Dr. Ransom died March 13th, 1830 aged 52; Dr. Rathbone Aug. 23d, 1820 aged 41. Their descendants were respected and prosperous. The late Dr. H. G. Torbert, a former member of this Society, was the husband of a daughter of Dr. Ransom.

Three more names appear on our printed catalogue. Two of these names, the last in order, appear there wrongly, since they

were not received as members of the society, but are recorded as having by authority of the Society been licensed to practice.

DR. EARL BILL.

One only of the quasi-founders is left to be spoken of. This is Dr. Earl Bill of Steuben and Remsen.

An incident which occurred some years since at Boonville, on occasion of the opening of the first section of the Utica and Black River Railroad, first awakened me to an interest in the character of this physician. Being in conversation with a couple of residents of the place, one of them mentioned the name of Dr. Bill. It was instantly caught at by a gentlemanly-looking bystander, who, as he told us, was a native of that region but had been many years absent from it, and was now drawn thither to attend the celebration. Joining the party, he inquired eagerly after Dr. Bill, said that he had been the family physician in the boyhood of the speaker, and was the accoucher at his birth, and expressed himself warmly in admiration of the doctor's kind and loveable qualities. The interest aroused by the encomiums of this unknown admirer, has been increased by the perusal of two communications furnished me by the family, one by the son and one by the daughter of Dr. Bill, both of whom cherish a very tender regard for his memory. It is chiefly from these communications that I gather the following particulars and characteristics of his life.

The eldest son of Oliver and Martha (Skinner) Bill, he was born in Lebanon, Conn., November 5th, 1770. Having accomplished himself in the common branches of an English education, he engaged in the study of medicine, attended lectures at Berkshire Medical College and was graduated therefrom. About 1804 he began practice near Starr Hill in the town of Steuben. It was a new and little cultivated district, and the habits of the people rude and independent. For the young physician to have cast his lot among them gives evidence of enterprise and courage as well as of humble devotion to his benevolent calling. In 1814 he removed to the village of Remsen. His practice embraced the towns of Steuben and Remsen and a large share of Boonville; and as he was for many years the only physician of this neighborhood, it must have been a laborious one. It was here that he spent the greater part of his life, enjoying the

confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and the sincere affection of his patients, with whom his intercourse was marked by uniform kindness, patience and sympathy. His sphere of practice was not characterized by the possession of much wealth. It was the poor who most needed and enjoyed his services. They remunerated him in scanty measure and were never pressed for payment. About the year 1836, his children being now mostly grown up and established elsewhere in business, he left Remsen, and after a short residence in Houseville, Lewis Co., and another short one in Vernon, where, however, he did not attempt to practice, he settled in Holland Patent and resumed his old occupation. But at the solicitation of some of his former friends and employers, he soon moved again to Remsen, locating himself in its northern part at the new settlement of Forestport. Here, when he had reached the age of eighty-three, he has been known to walk by night three miles and back through the woods in order to visit a sick person. It was not until he had attained the age of eighty-six, that he was able to refuse the importunities of his patrons and entirely relinquish a profession in which he had endeared himself to at least two generations by his kindness, self-denial and skill.

His closing years were spent among his children in Ohio. He died at the residence of his son Horace, in Cleveland, May 1864, and was buried with masonic honors at Sandusky.

“With pretty strong mental characteristics and fairly successful as a practitioner,” to quote the words of his neighbor, Dr. Luther Guiteau, Dr. Bill was yet eminent rather in moral than in mental endowments. Unselfish, calm, equable, forgiving, and of the strictest integrity, he patiently and cheerfully exercised the gifts that were his, aspired to no more honored reward than the consciousness of doing good to his fellows, yielded with resignation to the Divine will in all things, and knew no man as his enemy. In practice as in profession he was a true christian. As a father he was indulgent, winning rather than compelling the obedience of his children, with whose pleasures and trials he responded in sympathy, and in whose education he was ever solicitous. One grievous trial which befell him, was the loss, under most painful circumstances, of a son who had just completed his studies in medicine, and to whom he was looking as a sharer in his duties and his eventual

successor. He was aged sixty when called to relinquish these bright hopes and pursue his toilsome way alone. This affliction was followed by the death of his eldest son, two years later.

As illustrative of the forgiving spirit of Dr. Bill I copy from the notes of his son the following anecdote: "I have said that it was almost true that he had no enemy. Only one exception was ever known to me. This was a neighbor against whom his family never heard him utter an unkind or disparaging word, but at whose hands he suffered much that was hard to bear. In the course of events a bright and promising son of this person sustained an injury to one of his ankles, necessitating surgical assistance. Although Dr. Bill was the only surgeon of the town, he was passed by, and one from a neighboring town was called in, who decided that amputation was indispensable. On hearing this, Dr. Bill went unbidden to see the sufferer, at the risk of a scene with his father. Having from a careful examination reached the conclusion that both limb and life might be saved, he strongly, persistently and successfully urged a delay of the operation, then almost ready to begin, until the next morning, when his brother surgeon yielded the point, the limb was saved and is doing service to this day. Thus he did good to one who spitefully used him. In person the doctor was tall and spare, and had a genial and pleasing manner. He was fond of reading, possessed a ready fund of anecdote and a quiet, refined humor, as acceptable in the sick room as it was in the circle of his friends. He despised quackery and against it his jokes were often levelled.

His first wife, and the mother of seven of his children, was Sarah Jackson, daughter of a Revolutionary officer. His second, a widow, lived but two years. In 1824, three years afterward, he married Susan Johnson, by whom he had two daughters, and who died a few months before him.

His surviving children are Cyrus, of Turin, Earl, clerk of the Northern District of Ohio, and Mrs. George Putman of Waterville. Horace N., who died in 1878, was a General in the northern army during the late war.

Nearly all of those we have reviewed were natives of the New England States. They carried on their studies in the offices of physicians living near them, and all but three, so far

as we know, without opportunity to attend a public course of medical instruction. Medical as well as theological and law schools were rare in the country when they were students, and ministers as well as doctors and lawyers were forced to content themselves with the tuition of their home preceptors. Books, too, were much scarcer than at present, and much dependence was of necessity placed on the teaching and the practice of those whom they looked on as their patterns. If the tendency was to make these pupils close followers of the example of their masters, and to start them as mere routinists in practice, the isolated condition in which they found themselves afterward when once engaged in business, and the absence of help from without, caused them to observe and judge, and forced them to a course of self training that was vastly more useful, because self sustained, than the teaching of books and masters. Each case they met with was deeply pondered, and its issue, whether fortunate or otherwise was carefully laid up for future application. They thus became acute and careful practitioners, if not as accomplished anatomists, as skilled diagnosticians and as well versed in the literature of their profession as the doctors who have succeeded them. With less learning, they had quite as much sagacity and penetration, and if not taught it by books, theirs was in reality the true "tactus eruditus."

It will have been observed that in my sketches of them I have enlarged chiefly upon their good traits and have made little mention of their failings. It is not that I would depict them as faultless, or deny that some of them had qualities by no means commendable. One fault only I will speak of, as it was true of more than one of them. It was a vice that was common to the men of their time, and is far less excusable now. I allude to the too free indulgence in intoxicating liquors. When the custom of offering a drink to every visitor was so universal that its neglect would have been looked on as a breach of the courtesy of social life, the doctor especially was in danger, from his constant habit of visitation, of acquiring a taste for the proffered refreshment, which too frequent renewal changed in time to a necessity. The fatigues and exposures he daily encountered seemed, besides, to justify a daily recourse to artificial support. Unfortunately it proved in too many instances the reed which pierced through to the side and wrought his destruction.

How great were the hardships incident to the practice of a physician in Oneida county seventy or eighty years ago, we of the present day can scarcely imagine; yet without a conception of them we are illy prepared to appreciate his self denying and benevolent spirit. His patients ten to twenty or even thirty miles apart, and these often in so critical a condition as to need daily visits; traversing roads through forests and swamps, rough, miry and impassable for carriages, or tracts miles in extent without a human habitation, or uncertain paths and Indian trails, perplexing by day and dangerous by night; added thereto, the occurrence of drenching rains, drifted snows and unbridged streams; his entire armament in his saddle bags beside him, lacking many conveniences and hygienic requirements deemed essential to success, and dependent solely on such aid as his own invention could supply; separated for days, it may be, from his family and lodging wherever his business might carry him,—with difficulties and privations such as these the doctor constantly contended. And what was the reward for all his toil? The small returns of settlers who had little to give, and were themselves struggling to clear and to pay for the land on which they lived. The doctor they too often deferred for the sake of more imperious creditors, or, destitute of money, tendered him of the products of their agricultural labor. Surely men who, under such discouragements and for such compensation, spent their lives in care for the physical well being of their fellows, exhibited the true spirit of heroism. We admire and praise the heroes of war whose mission it is to destroy life, how much more should we admire these heroes of peace who endure such trials in order to save it!

APPENDIX.

DR. LAURENS HULL.*

BY C. M. CRANDALL, M. D.

Laurens Hull, M. D., was born in Woodbury, Conn., June 6th, 1779. His father was Dr. Titus Hull of that town. The attention of young Laurens was directed early to medical subjects, from the fact that during his minority, his health was extremely delicate, and even so late as his thirty-second year, he had frequent attacks of hæmoptysis. It was on this account that he determined to make the science of medicine his study and his occupation. His early education was limited, but he made the best possible use of the ordinary advantages of a common school, to which was added some twenty-one days under a private tutor, which completed his preparatory instruction. At the age of nineteen, he entered the office of Dr. David Hull, of Fairfield, Conn., remaining there about two years. He received his diploma as a Doctor of Medicine in 1802, and soon removed to Augusta, Oneida county, N. Y., where he entered the office of Dr. Amos G. Hull, and continued his medical studies. In 1803, he was married to Dorcas Ambler, of Bethlehem, Conn., by Rev. Azel Backus. In September 1804, he removed to Bridge-water, Oneida county, and commenced the practice of medicine on his own account. In 1806, he took part in the organization of the Oneida County Medical Society. Of the members present at that organization, Dr. H. was the only survivor in 1864. In 1817, he was a delegate from Oneida county to the State Medical Society. In 1824, he was elected a permanent member of this Society. In 1826 he was elected Fellow of the University, and in 1827 received the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Regents. During the same year, and also the year following, he was Vice-President of the State Medical Society.

Dr. Hull was President of the State Medical Society in the years 1839 and 1840. His annual address in the former year was on the subject of "Quackery," and it may be boldly asserted that there are few papers in the published Transactions of the Society showing a more logical mind and a clearer view of the subject treated of. Those members of the Society who have the volume of the Transactions for 1839, will find themselves well repaid by perusing it. His subject the following year was "Improvement in Medicine," an eminently sensible, practical and ably written paper, proving clearly that Dr. H. was no anti-progressive clog upon the wheels of advancing science, but one who believed fully in the doctrine of progress.

Although the subject of this memoir achieved much in the noble profession to which he devoted the best part of his active life, accomplishing enough to satisfy a moderate ambition, he also won triumphs in civil and political life. In 1813, and again in 1825, he was elected a member of Assembly from Oneida county, filling the position with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of his constituents. In 1816, he was a delegate to the first State Convention held in this State to nominate a governor and lieutenant

* From Trans. Med. Soc. of State of New York, 1864.

governor. In the year 1836, he removed to Angelica, Alleghany county, and became interested in manufacturing pursuits, pretty much abandoning the practice of medicine. In 1837, he was elected State Senator from the Sixth District, then comprising nine counties. This position he filled with great credit. Those who were associated with him in senatorial duties and in the court for the correction of errors, of which Senators were then, *ex officio*, members, bear testimony to the zeal and fidelity with which he discharged every public duty, carrying with him in the responsible position he had been called to fill, the same sturdy virtue and unbending integrity that had ever characterized his private life.

About 1856-7, Dr. Hull retired from active business, hoping to spend the remainder of his days in the quiet walks of domestic life. In May, 1858, he was greatly afflicted by the death of his estimable wife, after a union of nearly fifty-five years. In August, 1862, he met with a severe accident, by which he fractured the neck of the femur within the capsular ligament, thus rendering him permanently disabled, sadly interfering with his previously active habits, and dooming him to the use of crutches. Though a severe trial to one of his disposition to activity, he bore his affliction with a patience and fortitude alike remarkable and commendable.

During the years 1864-5, the Doctor's health began to decline more rapidly, and he was finally confined to his room. With the failure of his physical energies, his mental faculties gradually grew weak, his mind frequently wandering, dwelling much upon friends and scenes in the long past. On his eighty-sixth birth-day, however, he conversed rationally and clearly for some hours with his family and friends, listened attentively to the reading of a letter from Dr. McCall, of Utica, an old and valued friend, and soon after sank into delirium which continued till an hour or two previous to his death, which occurred June 27th, 1865.

Dr Hull was a firm believer in the truths of Christianity, and was ever able to give "a reason for the hope that was in him." He united with the Congregational Church soon after his marriage, and ever continued a faithful member. At the time of his death, and for several years previous, he was president of the Alleghany County Bible Society. He was always a friend and a contributor to the various benevolent operations of the time. Politically, he was first a Federalist, then a Whig, and lastly a Republican. He was gratified in the often expressed and cherished desire of his heart, to live long enough to see the great rebellion crushed, and the Federal Union preserved. The interest he took in the State Medical Society is known to all the older members, who will bear testimony to the fidelity and zeal with which he labored in the Society and in the Senate to promote its interests.

Dr. Hull was in every proper sense a self made man—the architect of his own fortunes and position. He possessed a remarkably retentive memory, great perseverance and energy. What he did, he "did with his whole might." His industry was untiring, his faith unswerving, his integrity unyielding. As a physician, he performed every duty his position imposed; as a politician in public life, he was animated by the same high purposes; in private life, his virtues shone conspicuous; as a Christian, he was devoted and faithful, dying with all its hopes of a blessed immortality. Few men, starting out upon the journey of life with the same limited advantages, have filled so many positions of honor and trust, and finished up so perfect a life. May we all, while honoring his virtues, emulate his example.

DR. ARBA BLAIR.*

BY J. V. COBB M. D.

Dr. Blair's ancestors were from Scotland. His great grandfather removed from Scotland to Ireland, during the early part of Cromwell's rule, and settled upon that part of the Island nearest Scotland. They with others of their countrymen, appear to have formed a colony, retaining the peculiar religious and political views of their own country. In 1720, he, with a family of twelve children, arrived at Boston, and the same year settled at Worcester, which became their home. Dr. Blair's grandfather was one of those twelve children, coming to America when ten years of age. He died at Worcester in 1796, aged eighty-six. Samuel Blair, the father of Dr. Blair, was a farmer at Warren, Massachusetts, at which place Dr. Blair was born, July 9th, 1781.

We know very little of him before he was twenty-one years of age, but at that time we find him teaching a grammar school in his native town, and reading medicine with his family physician, Dr. Willard. He came to Rome in 1803, when that village numbered scarcely four hundred inhabitants. He there entered the office of his cousin, Dr. Mathew Brown, as a student, and after about two years study and one course of medical lectures at Columbia College, he was licensed to practice, and became, in 1805, a partner with Dr. Mathew Brown, the principal physician then at Rome. The country then, at least its northern part, was almost a wilderness. The early settlers were few, and located at points remote from each other, so that as a natural consequence, the practice of medicine was arduous, tedious and wearisome, far beyond what the practitioners of more modern times have any conception of. By his skill and kindness, industrious habits, and prompt attention to business, he soon won the confidence of the public, and this confidence he continued to enjoy in all his after life, being a period of almost sixty years.

He was our presiding officer at the semi-centennial celebration, in 1856. After being conducted to the chair, by Drs. McCall and Coventry, he alluded to the fact that Dr. Alexander Whaley and himself, were the only surviving members who took part in the organization of our society. He seldom failed to attend our annual and semi-annual meetings. He has, at different times, held all the offices in the gift of this society. By our recommendation, the Regents of the University conferred upon him, in 1849, the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He has, at different times, also, been a delegate to the State Medical Society, and was elected a permanent member in 1854. We find his name registered as our delegate at New Haven, at the last meeting of the United States Medical Association held there. In every situation and place he has been true to his trust. We admire his character. We venerate his name.

His sense of professional honor was keen, and while he advocated liberal and scientific progress, he abhorred with his whole soul, all dissimulation and quackery. To the young men of the profession, he gave, not only words of encouragement, but acts of kindness and assistance. As a counselor with the younger members of the profession, he had the happy faculty of putting them upon the right track, if they were wrong, without destroying the confidence of the patient in, or injuring the feelings of, the prescribing

*Trans. Med. Soc. of State of New York, 1867

physician. In the sick-room he was kind and affectionate. The soft footsteps and kind words with which he approached the bed-side were admirable, and at once secured confidence. He kept himself well informed in the progress of medical science. He made no great pretensions in surgery, still he did much in his early practice, and was well read in that branch of his profession. As a safe and wise practitioner, I hazard nothing in saying, that no physician among us was better prepared to meet the responsibilities of his profession, under all circumstances, than was the subject of these remarks. It is no disparagement to others to say, that in obstetrics, no one in our county was his superior. He stood preëminent in that section where he resided. He was an ardent patriot, and entered with all his soul into the struggle which is now convulsing the nation, expressing a strong desire that he might live to witness the close of the contest.

Although more than eighty years of age, still, till within the past few months, he has retained his firm step and erect position, never exhibiting the decrepit old man in appearance, or in loss of intellect, but entered into conversation with all the energy of his youthful days. Let the example of such men—the fathers of our profession—as they pass away, be ever cherished. Until within a few months, Dr. Blair, notwithstanding the accumulation upon him of upwards of four score years, was not only elastic in step, but enjoyed good health. His disease was rather obscure, but besides old age, he evidently had some valvular disease of the heart.

The writer was present at his death bed, which was surrounded by his family and Christian friends. Up to Saturday morning, June 20th, he had altered but little, except daily growing weaker. About three o'clock he sank rapidly, and all present felt that his time was numbered by minutes. About fifteen minutes past five, the dark portal was passed, without a struggle or a groan, and his spirit winged its way to the God who gave it. He was an active and leading member of the Presbyterian Church, and for a number of years one of its ruling elders. His funeral was attended by a large number of the members of the Oneida County Medical Society in a body.

An appropriate and interesting discourse was delivered by his friend and pastor, from these words, 2d of Kings, 2d-12th: "My father, my father, the Chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof;" and he added, "a hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." In touching terms, he paid a well deserved tribute to his memory, before a densely crowded audience, composed of citizens and persons from the surrounding country, who had known him while living, and who were anxious to show their respect and esteem for the memory of their departed friend. In the town of Rome, where he was so long and favorably known, the name of Dr. Blair can never be mentioned but with the most profound feeling of respect and esteem.

DRS. ALEXANDER WHALEY AND NORTON PORTER *

BY H. N. PORTER, M. D.

Alexander Whaley was born in Colchester, Connecticut, March 24, 1780. In due time, when he came to choose an occupation for life, he selected the profession of medicine. He pursued his medical studies with Dr. Turner, of Norwich, at that time a physician of some note in that State. When twenty-one years of age, Dr. Whaley left his native State with a view to settle in what was then termed the "Black River country." His proposed destination was Watertown. As he was proceeding thither on horseback, late in the fall of 1801, his horse was taken lame at Clark's settlement, in the town of Verona, in the county of Oneida, so that he was obliged to delay his journey for a few days. The people of the settlement persuaded him to remain with them that winter and teach the district school, giving him at the same time the privilege of practicing medicine. While teaching he obtained considerable practice, and the next spring purchased a farm of 250 acres at what is now Verona village, and continued to reside there until the time of his death.

In his work as a physician, Dr. Whaley's life was an eminently useful one. His ride and practice were extensive. For some six or eight years after his location he was the only physician in Verona, and his visits extended into adjoining and surrounding towns. At that early day, the country was new and sparsely peopled; and the people, who were making every exertion to pay for their farms, had but little means to spare to pay for the services of the physician. It has been noted, to the credit of Dr. Whaley's benevolence, that for one year, during the prevalence of a lake fever, he expended more money for the single article of quinine (then a comparatively new remedy) than he received for his professional services during the same time. This was, of course, an exceptional year, but it seems worthy of note as throwing some light upon what may be termed the practical working phase of the fee bill in those early days. His health was good, and his mind clear and active up to within a few months of the close of his life. He died May 18, 1871, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, one month and three days.

The following notice of another of the original twenty-nine, Dr. Norton Porter, who died at New York Mills in this county, November 18, 1852, is taken from the funeral discourse delivered by his pastor, Rev. R. Richard Kirk:

Dr. Porter was born in the year 1771, in the town of Abington, Mass. Resolute in spirit, and determined in purpose, to make life answer its great design, he emigrated to what is now called Westmoreland, in the year 1791. This was then the far west, and what is now Oneida county was covered with primeval forest. Then, as now, the Star of Empire was moving westward, and in its progress the axe of the pioneer was heard in the forest, openings began to be made, and the smoke of newly kindled fires, from rudely constructed hearthstones, rolled above the leaves. Settlements were commenced at Utica, Whitesborough, New Hartford, Rome, Clinton, and what is now called Westmoreland. To this new settlement Dr. Porter bent

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his steps, while yet a youth, and at the age of about twenty one years commenced the practice of medicine. As a pioneer in a new settlement, he was very active and enterprising in laying the foundations of society, organizing schools and projecting all needful improvements as the population increased.

He acted a conspicuous part in securing for his new home the institutions of the gospel and the organization of the religious society there. God looked upon him with favor, prosperity attended his steps. He was converted about fifty-one years ago; and true to his convictions of duty, he made a public profession of religion, and united with the Congregational Church, of which he continued an active and useful member for a long number of years, contributing his part in every enterprise to build up society upon a moral and religious basis. And to him the religious society, in the town of his adoption, is largely indebted for his long continued labors and wise counsels.

It is supposed that he was the second physician that came into Oneida county. He was well educated for the times in which he lived, having pursued his studies with Dr. John Pomeroy, since Professor in the Vermont Medical College. And the teacher had reason to be proud of his pupil. Dr. Porter, for the long space of forty years, was one of the most eminent physicians in the county. He had a very large and extensive practice, extending all over the county, and not unfrequently into the neighboring counties. It was no uncommon thing for him to ride forty miles on his professional visits—forty miles away from home. * * * But his work is done. A few weeks ago he sickened, and, sweetly as an infant falls to sleep, without a struggle or a groan, he departed this life, Wednesday evening, at the midnight hour, at the age of eighty-one years, a venerable old man and well stricken in years.

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