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ADDRESSES

AT THE

UNVEILING OF THE BRONZE STATUE

OF THE LATE

PROF. SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D.

ERECTED BY THE

AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION
AND THE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 5, 1897

FROM THE
TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION
1897


SAMUEL D. GROSS

THE GROSS STATUE.

HISTORY OF THE STATUE

At the annual meeting of the American Surgical Association in 1891 President C. H. Mastin, in his annual address, recommended "that a committee from the Association be appointed to confer with the friends and admirers of Dr. Gross, and with the medical profession of the whole country, to determine the best method to be adopted to secure the requisite amount for the erection of a monument either of marble or of bronze."

The Committee on the President's Address recommended that the President be empowered to appoint a committee to carry out his suggestions as to the erection of a suitable monument to commemorate the distinguished services of the founder of the Association, Prof. Samuel D. Gross, the Association concurring in the report. The President appointed a committee of twenty-six, with Dr. J. R. Weist, Chairman, and Dr. C. H. Mastin, Secretary. The committee immediately issued circulars addressed to the profession of the whole country, soliciting funds for the prosecution of the work assigned it.

At the meeting of the Association in 1892 a partial report was made, and the committee continued.

At the meeting in 1893 a full report of the work of the committee was made. In the report it was stated that a proposition had been made by the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, to unite with the committee in raising the funds necessary to complete the monument. By a resolution of the Association the committee was continued, its work already done indorsed, and authority given "to prosecute the work in such a manner as it deemed best for the success of the enterprise."

Under the authority given, the proposition of the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, was accepted, and Dr. W. W. Keen added to the committee to represent the Alumni Associa-

tion. A sufficient sum having been collected to justify its action, the committee invited three artists to enter into a competition for a design for the monument; one of them withdrew from the competition; from the other two three models were received and placed on exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where they were carefully inspected by the President of the Academy, the Professor of Painting in the Academy, Mr. St. Gaudens, sculptor, of New York, Dr. Orville Horwitz and Mr. A. Haller Gross, representing the family, and Dr. W. W. Keen, representing the committee. Photographs of the models were also examined by the other members of the committee—Drs. J. R. Weist and C. H. Mastin. A model submitted by Mr. A. Sterling Calder met the approval of all those who examined the models, and a contract was entered into with him to model a heroic statue, nine feet high, to be cast in bronze and erected in the City of Washington, the statue to be completed within two years. He proceeded to Europe, and the statue was cast from standard United States bronze in the city of Paris.

Through the strenuous exertions of the committee, and of many of the Jefferson Alumni and friends of Dr. Gross, and Senators Morgan and Quay and Representatives Adams and Clarke, a bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President, appropriating the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for the granite pedestal ten feet high. The statue stands in the city of Washington on a site selected by the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, Col. J. M. Wilson, United States Army, on the driveway between the Army Medical Museum and the National Museum, a point where it will be seen by many thousands annually, and especially by medical men who will visit the Army Medical Museum.

The statue was unveiled by the American Surgical Association and the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College on May 5, 1897, during the Fourth Triennial Meeting of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons. The American Surgical Association appointed Dr. C. H. Mastin to present the statue and Dr. W. W. Keen to give the address. The Secretary of War designated Gen. George M. Sternberg, Surgeon-General United States Army, to receive the statue on behalf of the Government. The following was the

Order of Exercises.

1. Prayer by Rev. B. L. Whitman, D.D., President of Columbian University, Washington, D.C.

2. Presentation of the statue by Claudius H Mastin, M.D., LL.D., of Mobile.

3. Unveiling of the statue by Miss Adèle Horwitz, of Baltimore, a granddaughter of Professor Gross.[1]

4. Reception of the statue on behalf of the Government by Brigadier-General George M. Sternberg, M.D., LL.D., Surgeon-General United States Army.

5. Address by W. W. Keen, M.D., LL.D., of Philadelphia.

[The accompanying illustration is from a photograph furnished by the courtesy of Col. D. L. Huntington, U. S. A. The building seen in the background is the Army Medical Museum.]

[1] On account of the rain, this part of the programme was omitted.

ADDRESS ON THE UNVEILING OF THE GROSS STATUE.

By CLAUDIUS HENRY MASTIN, M.D., A.M., LL.D.,
MOBILE, ALA.

SIR: This is an occasion of unusual interest, and in the assembly here to-day convened you behold no ordinary gathering of ordinary men. It is the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, an Association which is composed of the leaders of medical and surgical thought in America. They have come to honor the memory of one of their illustrious dead, and in paying a tribute to departed greatness they testify to the world their appreciation of the work which he has done.

As you are aware, sir, the late Prof. Samuel David Gross was a man of distinguished ability in the profession of medicine, and, as such he was justly entitled to the highest distinction which could be conferred upon his memory by hls co-laborers.

His life and character furnish an example which is worthy the emulation of the youth of the land, and hence we desire to place a lasting memorial of his greatness in the capital city of our country.

Born of German parentage in the mountains of Eastern Pennsylvania, he inherited from his ancestry those sterling qualities of head and heart which characterize the race from which he sprang—qualities so essential to great deeds and invaluable in the contest for "the survival of the fittest."

We find him in early youth a poor boy, without the prestige of a name or the influence of family or fortune; of studious habits, ambitious promptings, struggling along the toilsome pathway of a young practitioner of medicine.

We note how he surmounts obstacle after obstacle which impede his progress to the goal of his ambition. Adversity came to him, and adversity was thrust aside; nothing daunted, he gathered anew fresh energy and pressed onward in his high career. Guided by the star of destiny which shaped his course his own indomitable spirit brought to him the fixed persuasion of success!

Ere he had reached the full meridian of life he had become a Master in Surgery. Endowed by nature with a strong intellect, which he carefully cultivated, he used it to the noble end of ameliorating human suffering, and thereby lengthening the span of human life.

A philanthropist in the true sense of the term, he reached the highest position hitherto attained by any American physician. He was bold of assertion, relying upon the rectitude of his purpose; he was fearless of opinion, but with it all, without arrogance, he was charitable.

Enjoying a close intimacy with the wise and the learned all over the world, he was crowned with the highest degrees of almost every foreign university.

His exact knowledge of surgical science enabled him to make important changes in its principles, thereby enlarging the scope of its influence; he added to its literature by stimulating research!

An exhaustive collaborator, he became a painstaking compositor; a voluminous writer, he was the author of many books, which, translated in various tongues, have become standard wherever the art of surgery is known or Hippocratic medicine taught or practised.

Having reached the front rank of his profession—a peer among many—he accepted the sceptre, and without ostentation he placed upon his own brow the Diadem of American surgery.

He lived beyond the limit of man's allotment, when full years, full of honor, beloved at home and revered abroad, he rounded up his great mission and rested from his labors on the sixth day of May, in the year 1884.

Now, after life's fitful fever, on the Western bank of the Schuylkill, in Woodlands' holy precincts, repose his ashes—ashes which make it holier; dust, which is, even itself an immortality.

Such in brief is the outline of a life, which, framed in the prodigality of Nature, was not intended for an age, but for all time—a life of which we can truly say:—

"Finis Coronat Opus."

In acknowledgment of his great deeds in the profession, a movement was inaugurated in the autumn of 1891 by the American Surgical Association, of which he was the founder and the cherished idol, to erect a monument commemorative of his life and character. The initiatory steps having been taken, the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia asked permission to unite in the enterprise. A joint committee having been appointed, the requisite amount of money was speedily collected, not alone from the

profession, but also from many admiring friends, both at home and abroad; and it is to their united efforts that we are indebted for the funds which have enabled us to complete the work in the short space of time since it was begun.

We desire publicly to acknowledge our indebtedness to Senators Quay and Morgan, as well as to Representatives Adams of Pennsylvania and Clarke of Alabama, for services which they rendered in securing the approval of the Government of our wish to erect the statue in the City of Washington, and also for the liberal appropriation made for the massive pedestal upon which the statue rests.

The question arising as to the proper place at which such a statue should be erected, the consensus of opinion was that the only proper locality would be in the National Capital.

His name and fame having passed beyond the confines of the seas, and hence being both national and international, we asked permission of the General Government to place it amidst these classic shades, and to group it with the other statues of the nation's illustrious dead—her heroes whose names have been graved upon the tablets of their country's glory—Statesmen whose words of wisdom in the council have directed the affairs of State; Warriors whose deeds of valor by flood and field have made impregnable the bulwarks of the nation's safety; Jurists who have preserved unsullied the purity of the ermine; Philosophers who have grappled the lightning's fiery wing, and, holding it in dumb submission to the will of man, dispatch it as a messenger of thought to the uttermost ends of the earth.

The statue which we unveil to-day is not that of a statesman, neither a soldier, nor a jurist, but it is one of a Medical Philosopher—one whose mission was holier than either, because it was to follow in the steps of Him who was the Great Physician, that Divine Man whose whole ministry was one of mercy, and who, after "curing all manner of diseases," finished its majestic self-denials in the reconciliation of the Cross.

By adding a physician to this group of celebrities, we show that he was equal to them in his country's favor; and in placing it here, we knew that pilgrims from every clime to which the broad sun turns its universal fires, will see, when they visit this land of liberty, what our appreciation is of one who has done so much for the cause of human suffering, and, challenging our exclusive appropriation of his fame, claim it in the name of all nations and of all times as the glorious heritage of a common humanity!

To me, sir, has been delegated the honor of presenting this statue to you, the authorized representative of the United States Government, and through you to the people thereof. In obedience to instructions, I here to-day, under the protecting ægis of the Goddess of Liberty which surmounts the dome of yon stronghold of freedom in the Western Hemisphere, deliver into your keeping this figure, the likeness and personification of one who is sacredly embalmed in the hearts and memories of his professional brethren.

It is a work of art; the handicraft of one of our own countrymen, Mr. Alexander Sterling Calder, a young artist of Philadelphia, who went abroad for the purpose, and has deftly reproduced in bronze the features and the form exact. It is firmly fixed upon that granite base, which the Government itself has had prepared for its reception, thus making it enduring—so enduring that when the ages which are to come shall roll by, and future generations of freeborn Americans rise up to people these fair lands, they will find, still standing where we leave it to day, the statue of America's Great Surgeon

SAMUEL DAVID GROSS.

"A lofty name,
A beacon light and a landmark on the cliffs of Fame."

ADDRESS ON RECEIVING THE STATUE.

BY GEORGE M. STERNBERG, M.D., LL.D.,
SURGEON-GENERAL U.S.A.

SIR: The pleasant duty has been assigned to me of accepting for the National Government this statue of the great surgeon whose name for many years occupied the foremost place among the surgeons of the Western Continent, and whose fame will be perpetuated by this tribute to his memory, erected by the American Surgical Association and the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

I am not here to pronounce a eulogy on Professor Gross or to review his achievements as a surgeon. This task has properly been assigned to his distinguished successor in the Chair of Surgery at the medical college with which he was so long associated as a teacher. But I think I give voice to the unanimous sentiment of the profession when I say that no man living or dead is better entitled to stand before future generations as a representative of American surgery in the nineteenth century. It is true that many surgeons whose reputation scarcely extends beyond the city in which they live are to-day performing with success operations which Gross would have considered unjustifiable on account of the danger to life attending such attempts before the introduction of antiseptic and aseptic methods. But many of these successful surgeons received their first lessons from the great master whose statue is before us, and all realize that if Gross had lived long enough to have become familiar with the technique and results of these new methods, his skill and experience would have enabled him to accomplish surgical feats which he would not have considered possible when he was in the prime of life and vigor.

It appears to me to be especially appropriate that this statue of our great American surgeon is placed here in close proximity to the Army Medical Museum and Library building, which contains a library in which, no doubt, can be found all of his own valuable contributions to surgical literature, and which is a storehouse of information for all those who, like him, combine with the skill and boldness of the sur-

geon an ardent desire for the advancement of the profession, and indefatigable industry in the literary researches required of one who has obtained prominence as a teacher and leader in any branch of medicine.

In the same building is the extensive collection of pathological specimens in the Army Medical Museum, a collection in which Professor Gross took the deepest interest. Very many of the specimens collected during the Civil War show the results of wound-infection, and serve rather to illustrate the disastrous consequences of methods which had the approval of surgeons of that day than as examples of successful surgery.

Certainly the greatest achievements of modern surgery are those which relate to the saving of life and limb by conservative operations and the exclusion from wounds of those ubiquitous micro-organisms which in the past have destroyed more lives than have bullets or sabres. Professor Gross lived to see the dawn of the new light, and in imagination I see him before me, his expressive features illuminated by the anticipation of future triumphs to be achieved by American surgeons who should follow the paths he had laid out and the methods he had taught with the additional advantages afforded by following Lister's initiative in waging a merciless warfare upon the invisible germs of wound-infection.

In accepting, as I do, for the Government this tribute of American surgeons to a revered master, I beg leave to congratulate the committee which has had the matter in charge upon the successful completion of their labor of love. No doubt they have found the task imposed upon them beset with many difficulties, and the success achieved has been at the expense of much solicitude, extensive correspondence, and persistent personal effort, especially on the part of the chairman of the committee. To him and his co-workers, and to all of the subscribers to the monument fund, the present occasion must be one of great satisfaction, for they cannot fail to realize that they have accomplised a task worthy of their efforts, and I believe that I am justified in conveying to them the thanks of the profession. It is eminently fit that this statue should have been erected here in a public park at the National Capital, where for centuries to come those who visit this spot may read the name of Gross and learn that during the first century of American Independence there lived a great surgeon of that name, whose character and achievements commanded the admiration of his contemporaries.

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ADDRESS.

By WILLIAM W. KEEN, M.D., LL.D,
PHILADELPHIA.

Fellows of the American Surgical Association; Members of the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College, and Friends: Go with me, your spokesman, to-day to the Woodlands Cemetery—that "God's Acre" or "Court of Peace," as the Germans so poetically call it—which holds the dust of so many of the best dead of Philadelphia. Upon an urn there treasured you will read the following:

IN MEMORIAM.

Within this urn lie the ashes of

SAMUEL D. GROSS,

A Master in Surgery.

His life, which neared the extreme limits of the Psalmist, was one unbroken process of laborious years.

He filled chairs in four Medical Colleges, in as many States of the Union, and added lustre to them all.

He recast Surgical Science, as taught in North America, formulated anew its principles, enlarged its domain, added to its art, and imparted fresh impetus to its study.

He composed many Books and among them

A SYSTEM OF SURGERY,

Which is read in different tongues, wherever the Healing Art is practised.

With a great intellect, carefully trained and balanced, he aimed with undivided zeal at the noble end of lessening human suffering and lengthening human life, and so rose to the highest position yet attained in science by any of his countrymen.

Resolute in truth, he had no fear; he was both tolerant and charitable.

Living in enlightened fellowship with all laborers in the world of Science, he was greatly honored by the learned in foreign lands, and deeply loved at home.

Behind the Veil of This Life There is a Mystery Which He

Penetrated on the

SIXTH DAY OF MAY, 1884.

HIS MEMORY

Shall exhort and his Example shall encourage and persuade those who come after him to emulate deeds which, great in themselves, were all crowned by the milk-white flower of

A STAINLESS LIFE.

Who and what was the man of whom this was said?

Samuel David Gross was born near Easton, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1805, and died in Philadelphia May 6, 1884, having nearly completed his seventy-ninth year.

His early years, under the wise training of a good mother, to whose memory he rightly pays a just tribute, were spent amid the rustic labors and healthful pleasures of a Pennsylvania farm. This gave him a strong and vigorous body, without which he never could have performed a tithe of the labor which pre-eminently distinguished his long life. Before he was six years old he determined to be a surgeon, and early in his professional studies to be a teacher. Yet when he was fifteen he knew scarcely any English. Brought up among the sturdy, honest, laborious Pennsylvania Dutch, he could speak that curious English-German. But his English, of which he became so fluent a master, and even pure German, which he began to study at the same time, were learned almost as foreign tongues and as a result of his appreciation at that early age of his need for a better and wider education. Even a still more striking evidence of the early development of the innate strength of his character and indomitable will is a story told in his autobiography. While a boy he became expert in playing cards; but finding he was becoming so much fascinated by them that he replayed his games in his dreams, he resolved—fancy this in a boy not yet fourteen!—to abstain from the game for twenty years—a vow he religiously fulfilled.

At seventeen he began the study of medicine as the private pupil of a country practitioner, but after learning some osteology with the aid of that tuppenny little compend, Fyfe's *Anatomy*, and a skeleton, he gave up in despair, for again he found his intellectual tools unequal to his work. The little Latin he had was insufficient, and to understand the technicalities of medicine, Greek was a *sine qua non*. "This," he says, "was the turning-point of my life. . . . I had made a great discovery—a knowledge of my ignorance, and with it came a solemn determination to remedy it." Accordingly he stopped at once in his medical career and went to an academy at Wilkes-Barre. He studied especially Latin and Greek, the latter by the use of Schrevelius's lexicon, in which all the definitions were in Latin, and Ross's grammar, constructed on the same principle. But to a master will like his such obstacles were not insuperable. To Greek and Latin, English and German, later years added also a knowledge of French and Italian.

At nineteen he began the study of medicine again—a study in which for sixty years his labors never for a moment ceased or even relaxed.

In 1828, at the age of twenty-three, he took his degree in the third class which was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College. He opened an office first in Philadelphia, but soon removed to Easton. Nothing is more characteristic of the man than that, while waiting for practice, he spent hours daily in dissecting in a building he erected at the back of his garden, and provided himself with a subject by driving in a buggy all the way from Easton to Philadelphia and back with a gruesome companion; wrote a work on descriptive anatomy, which, however, he never published, and in eighteen months after graduation had translated and published Bayle and Hollard's *General Anatomy;* Hatin's *Obstetrics;* Hildebrand on *Typhus*, and Tavernier's *Operative Surgery*—works aggregating over eleven hundred pages. His motto was indeed "*Nulla dies sine linea.*" His "stimulus" he himself says, "was his ambition and his poverty."

In 1833, five years after his graduation, he entered upon his career as a teacher—a career which continued for forty-nine years, until within two years of his death. This took him first to Cincinnati as Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical College of Ohio. Those of my audience who left Cincinnati yesterday will be amused to learn that by stage, canal, and primitive steamboat, it took him thirteen days to reach the Queen City; and all of you will admire the pluck and courage of the young man when I add that his total worldly goods on reaching there were one hundred dollars in his purse, a wife and two children in his family, but also in his breast a heart ready to grapple with any difficulties and a determination to conquer them all.

In 1835 he became Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Cincinnati Medical College, where he was a colleague of Daniel Drake, Willard Parker, and James B. Rogers, one of the famous four brothers, with a second of whom—Robert E.—he was later a colleague in the Jefferson.

His book on the *Bones and Joints* had appeared in 1830, and next, as a result of four years' study and teaching, his *Elements of Pathological Anatomy* was published in 1839. It is strange to think that in a then small Western town in America a young teacher in a new medical school should have published the first book in the English language on Pathological Anatomy. No wonder, then, that it brought him fame and practice; that its second edition made him a member of the Imperial-Royal Society in Vienna; and that, thirty years afterward,

Virchow, at a dinner he gave to its then distinguished author, should show it as one of the prizes of his library.

In 1840 he went to the University of Louisville as Professor of Surgery, and, excepting one year when he was Professor of Surgery in the University of the City of New York, he remained there for sixteen years, happy in his family, his students, his flowers, and his generous hospitality. He and his colleagues—Drake and Austin Flint—soon made it the most important medical centre in the West, and he was in surgery the reigning sovereign. While there he published, in 1851, his work on the *Urinary Organs*, and in 1854 another pioneer work, that on *Foreign Bodies in the Air-Passages*. His fame had become so great that he was invited to the University of Virginia, the University of Louisiana, the University of Pennsylvania, and other schools. But he was steadfast to Louisville until his beloved Alma Mater called him to the chair just vacated by Mütter. From 1856, when in his Introductory he said, "whatever of life and of health and of strength remain to me, I hereby, in the presence of Almighty God and of this large assemblage dedicate to the cause of my Alma Mater, to the interest of medical science, and to the good of my fellow creatures," until he resigned his chair in 1882—nay, until his death in 1884—this was absolutely true. Even when the shadows of death were thickening he corrected the proof-sheets of two papers on "Wounds of the Intestines" and "Lacerations Consequent upon Parturition," his last labors in the service of science and humanity.

Three years after he entered upon his duties at the Jefferson he published his splendid *System of Surgery*—a work which, though in many respects its pathology and its practice are now obsolete, is a mine of information, a monument of untiring labor, a text-book worthy of its author, and which has been the companion and guide of many generations of students. It was translated into several foreign tongues and passed through six editions, the last appearing only seventeen months before his death. That even when verging toward fourscore he should have been willing to throw aside all his strong prejudices and accept the then struggling principles and practice of Listerism shows the progressive character of his mind and his remarkable willingness to welcome new truths.

From his removal to Philadelphia until his death, twenty-eight years later, his life can be summed up in a few sentences: daily labor in his profession, editorial labor without cessation for some years in managing the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review*, the successor of the

Louisville *Medical Review*, of which he had also been the editor; article after article in journals; address after address; twenty-six annual courses of lectures on surgery to thousands of students; labors without ceasing until he wrapped the drapery of his couch around him and calmly passed away.

In reviewing his life we may fittingly consider it from the standpoint of the surgeon, the author, the teacher, and the man.

As a surgeon he was painstaking, thorough and careful in his investigation of a case, skilful as an operator, and, having so vast an experience and equally extensive acquaintance with the wide literature of his profession, he was scarcely ever perplexed by the most difficult case and rarely at a loss as to the proper course to pursue in the most unexpected emergencies.

He was a practitioner of the old school, who always mingled medicine with surgery, and attributed much of his success in the latter to his experience in the former. In theory he sometimes clung to beliefs, which, in practice, he abandoned. In one of his later papers, "A Lost Art," and in his lectures, he still advocated blood-letting; but in the nearly twenty years in which as a student, an assistant in his clinic, and a quiz-master I saw much of his practice, I only remember two cases in which he actually bled his patients.

His influence on the profession was marked and wholesome. For many years he was almost always at the annual meetings of the American Medical Association and the American Surgical Association, was looked up to in both as the Nestor of the profession, and his papers and his wise words of counsel moulded both the thought and the action of his brethren to a notable degree. He founded two medical journals, was the founder of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia and of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the founder and first president of the American Surgical Association, and the first president of the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College. It is peculiarly fitting, therefore, that these last two associations should unite to-day in erecting and unveiling the bronze statue of one who did so much for them and whom they rightly delight to honor. All who knew his tall, manly figure and his fine face will agree that it is a speaking likeness, both in pose and feature. Could I only get a glimpse of the right hand which holds his familiar scalpel I would recognize the man. *Ex pede Herculem! Ex manu Gross!*

As an author, his chief characteristics were untiring industry, comprehensiveness, methodical treatment of his subject, and a singular

felicity of style, especially for one who acquired English so late and with difficulty. In fact, through life his speech, by a slight, though not unpleasant accent, always betrayed his German descent.

He "blazed" more than one new "trail" in the forests of surgical ignorance. In the early part, and even in the middle of this century, it was rare for Americans to write medical books. The most they did was either to translate a French or a German work or to annotate an English one. He was one of the earliest to create an American medical literature of importance, and his works on the *Urinary Organs*, on *Foreign Bodies in the Air-Passages*, and his text-book on *Surgery* gave a position to American surgery abroad which we can now hardly appreciate; while, as already related, his *Pathological Anatomy* was the very first work in the English language on that most important branch of medicine.

His experiments and monograph on *Wounds of the Intestines* laid the foundation for the later studies of Parkes, Senn, and other American surgeons, and have led to the modern rational and successful treatment of these then so uniformly fatal injuries. He first advocated abdominal section in rupture of the bladder, the use of adhesive plaster in fractures of the legs, amputation in senile gangrene, and the immediate uniting of tendon to tendon when they were divided in an incised wound. Had he lived but a year or two longer bacteriology would have shown him that scrofula was of tubercular origin, and not, as he so firmly believed and vigorously taught, a manifestation of hereditary syphilis.

That his eminence as an author should have met with recognition from scientific organizations and institutions of learning is no cause of surprise. It made him the president of the International Medical Congress of 1876, a member of many of the scientific societies of Europe as well as of America, and won for him the LL.D. of the University of Pennsylvania, and I believe the unique honor in America of having had conferred upon him the highest degree of all three of the leading universities of Great Britain—Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh. Indeed, it is both significant and pathetic to note that he laid down his pen just after recording in his autobiography the announcement of the honor which the University of Edinburgh intended to bestow upon him at its tercentenary celebration.

As a teacher, I can speak both with personal knowledge and enthusiasm. I can see his tall, stately form, his handsome face, his glowing features, his impressive gestures. He was earnestness itself. Filled to

overflowing with his subject, his one desire was to impart to us as much of the knowledge he possessed as our young heads could hold. Repetition did not blunt the novelty nor time lessen the attraction of his theme. It always seemed as if he were telling us for the first time the new story of the beneficent work that surgery could do for the injured and the suffering. His whole heart was in his work. Especially did he inculcate the principles of surgery, for he was convinced, and rightly, that one who was thoroughly imbued with these could not go far wrong in his practice.

His own statement of one of the qualifications of a teacher is so true yet so often forgotten that, in spite of its mixed metaphor, I will quote it: "A teacher should be bold and decided in his opinions; not too positive, but sufficiently so to be authoritative. The student cannot judge for himself. The knowledge that is placed before him must be, so to speak, well digested for him; otherwise it will stagger and bewilder, not instruct him." His sense of the heavy responsibility of the teacher is well shown by the following from his autobiography: "Nothing was more offensive to me than applause as I entered the amphitheatre, and I never permitted it after the first lecture. I always said, 'Gentlemen, such a noise is more befitting a theatre or a circus than a temple dedicated not to Æsculapius, but to Almighty God, for the study of disease and accident, and your preparation for the great duties of your profession. There is something awfully solemn in a profession which deals with life and death, and I desire, at the very threshold of this course of lectures, to impress upon your minds its sacred and responsible character, that you may be induced to make the best possible use of your time, and conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the dignity of Christian gentlemen.'"

The value of recitations in a medical course I fully appreciate and indorse. They will occupy in the future a much larger place in our medical schools than they now do. But I am equally convinced that such a voice, such a presence, such an impressive, earnest lecturer will never lose their powerful influence nor their place in instruction.

As a man, he was beautiful in his relations with his family, who were devoted to him with an affection that was unusually strong; upright in all his dealings, and despising cant and pretense and anything unworthy a true gentleman. Few men were more widely known in and out of the profession, and few ever had the good fortune to know intimately so many distinguished people of both continents. Wherever he was known he was respected, and by those who knew him intimately he was beloved.

Such, then, was the man whom we are gathered to-day to honor. The American Surgical Association, the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College, and a few friends who have gladly united with us in this service of affectionate remembrance, have presented his statue to the people of the United States, to stand forever in our beautiful capital city as a mute yet eloquent evidence of our esteem for his personal worth and his professional attainments.

It is strange that the human race has failed so grievously to recognize publicly its great medical benefactors. Mr. Lecky, in his last remarkable book, in speaking of the rewards of genius in Great Britain, after enumerating the chief of the extraordinary and beneficent achievements of medical men in the present century, says, "England may justly claim a foremost place in this noble work, and many of her finest intellects have been enlisted in its service. In no single instance has this kind of eminence been recognized by a peerage. It is clearly understood that another and a lower dignity is the stamp of honor which the State accords to the very highest eminence in medicine and surgery—as if to show in the clearest light how inferior in its eyes are the professions which do most to mitigate the great sum of human agony to the professions which talk and quarrel and kill." (*Democracy and Liberty*, i. 429.) And yet Jenner almost saved England from extinction, and Simpson and Lister have done far more to mitigate the terrors of surgery and the pangs of maternity, to save life, and to bring health and happiness to the human race than Marlborough and Wellington and Nelson have done to destroy life and bring sorrow and pain and rapine and misery.

It is pleasant to record that England has atoned, with the opening of this year, for such long-continued neglect. In making Sir Joseph Lister the first medical peer she has conferred less honor upon Lord Lister than upon herself.

The statue of Marion Sims, not long since erected in New York, and this one of Samuel D. Gross, let us hope, are the beginning of a similar recognition of beneficent genius in our own land. Go through the broad streets of this beautiful city, and in its circles and parks and squares you will find, with singular exceptions, only the statues of statesmen and warriors—men who deserve, we all agree, their well-won honors and immortality. But, truly, "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than those of war." Though its heroes are not, it may be, portrayed in marble or bronze, they are enshrined in the grateful hearts of mankind, immortal in literature, even the humblest of such

toilers as the Gideon Grays and the Weellum Maclures that cheer and brighten the world.

And were the soldiers, whose statues one may see everywhere around us, the sole possessors of bravery? In 1832, that most dreaded of all scourges, Asiatic cholera, for the first time broke out all over this country with the greatest virulence. Easton was only eighty miles from New York, and the citizens, in terror lest the dread disease would reach their own town, appointed a young, intrepid surgeon to visit New York and learn what he could for their benefit. When others were fleeing in frightened thousands from the pestilence Gross bravely went directly into the very midst of it, reaching New York when the epidemic was at its very height. In that then small and half-depopulated town 385 persons died on the very day of his arrival—and he stayed there a week in a hot July, visiting only its hospitals and its charnel-houses. What call you that but the highest type of bravery?—a bravery which Norfolk and Mobile and Memphis have since seen repeated by scores of courageous physicians ready to sacrifice their lives for their fellowmen with no blare of trumpets, no roar of cannon, no cheer of troops, no plaudits of the press! No battlefield ever saw greater heroes; no country braver men!

Yonder statue of Joseph Henry has stood alone for too many years. We have to-day unveiled its worthy companion. Both of them are memorials of men great in science, whose lives were devoted to the good of their fellow creatures, to saving life, adding to human comfort, lessening pain, promoting knowledge, cheering the sick, and assuaging even the very pangs of the dying. We do well thus to honor in imperishable bronze the men who have won these victories of peace! To no one can the words of the blessed Master apply with greater force than to the kind surgeon whose time and thought and talents are given to humanity, and, above all, to the poor, with no payment but the grateful look of returning health and rescued life and that inward satisfaction which far surpasses all the wealth of the Orient—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."