

McDOWELL (E.)

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF

JOSEPH EASTMAN, M. D., LL. D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, ETC.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

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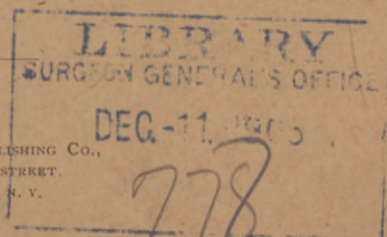
BIOGRAPHY OF EPHRAIM McDOWELL, M. D.,

WITH

PORTRAITS AND LIFE-SKETCHES OF

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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Joseph Eastman, M.D., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SUR-
GEONS, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

DR. JOSEPH EASTMAN, of Indianapolis, Ind., was born in the Bleecker Mountains in Fulton Co., N. Y., in 1842. He is the son of Rilus Eastman, who was born in Amherst, Mass., his ancestors being among the earliest settlers in New England. The Doctor's mother's name was Catherine Jipson. She was of German descent.

Dr. Eastman's early education was confined to winter schools and night study; on reaching the age of eighteen he became a proficient blacksmith, having worked three years at that trade.

At the breaking out of the Civil War, early in 1861, he enlisted as a volunteer in the 77th N. Y.; went to the front and took part in four battles. After the battle of Williamsburg he became a victim of fever, and was sent to Mt. Pleasant Hospital, Washington, D. C. After his recovery, Dr. Charles A. McCall and Dr. Harrison Allen (both now in Philadelphia) placed him on medical duty in that hospital, later having him discharged from his regiment and appointed Hospital Steward in the U. S. Army. Through the courtesy of these doctors he was permitted to attend three courses of medical lectures in the University of Georgetown, where he was graduated in 1865. He then passed the army examination and was commissioned Assistant-Surgeon to the United States Volunteers, and served in that capacity until May, 1866, when he was mustered out of service at Nashville, Tenn.

On his way home from the army he stopped at Indianapolis, and located in a country village a few miles west of the city, where he followed the general practice of medicine and surgery for a period of nine years. In 1868 he married a daughter of Thomas Barker, of Indianapolis. In 1870-71 he attended a course of lectures in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, where he was again graduated in 1871. At the solicitation of Drs. Parvin and Walker he accepted the position of Demonstrator of Anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Indianapolis, locating in that city in November, 1875. Soon after he was appointed Consulting Surgeon to the City Hospital, a position which he held for nine years, delivering lectures on Clinical Surgery during that time. During this same period he assisted Professor Parvin, now of Philadelphia, in most of his gynecological operations. In 1879 Dr. Eastman was one of the organizers of the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Indianapolis, accepting the Chair of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery. After having taught anatomy in the two colleges for seven sessions a special chair was established in the last-named institution, that of Diseases of Women and Abdominal Surgery, which he has held ever since. For the last seven years he has been President of this college.

Since 1886 Dr. Eastman has limited his practice absolutely to diseases of women and abdominal surgery. During this period he has opened the abdominal cavity over 1,000 times and performed hysterectomy, suprapubic and infrapubic, over 120 times.

His Private Sanitorium for Diseases of Women and Abdominal Surgery, five stories high, with an elevator and the most modern facilities of every kind to render his work successful, speaks plainly of what an indomitable energy in the surgical type of a man will accomplish. He is the second in the world, and the only American surgeon who, in operating for extra-uterine pregnancy, has dissected out the entire sac which contained a living child, and saved the life of both mother and child (see Hirst's *American Obstetrics*, vol. ii. pp. 269, 270). While yet doing general surgery he excised the knee joint five times, with five recoveries and five useful limbs; and performed lithotomy five times in the male, with five recoveries.

At the beginning of his special work he visited the hospitals of London, Birmingham, Paris, Strassburg, Munich, Vienna, Leipsic, Dresden, Halle, and Berlin, critically examining the methods of the distinguished operators in the department of diseases of women and abdominal surgery.

In 1891, in recognition of his original professional work, the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Wabash College, the first and only time in the history of this old institution that this honor has been given to a medical man.

The Doctor has one daughter, Mary, and two sons, Thomas B. and Joseph R. Eastman, associated with their father in practice and teaching.

Dr. Eastman is a member of the American Medical Association, and at their meeting last June in Milwaukee, was elected Chairman of the Section of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women.

THE
Joseph Eastman Sanatorium
FOR

**ABDOMINAL SURGERY
AND DISEASES OF WOMEN.**



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