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MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM B. GOLDSMITH, M. D.

BY

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NEW YORK.

Read at the annual meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, held at Old Point Comfort, Va., May 15-18, 1888.

Reprint

FROM

The American Journal of Insanity.

Utica, October, 1888

John S. Billings, M.D. U.S.A.

with the compliments of the author

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM BENJAMIN GOLDSMITH, M. D.

Among Dr. Goldsmith's paternal ancestors were several clergymen. His father after graduating in arts and letters with the first honors of his class, from the University of the City of New York, and in theology from the Union Theological Seminary in the same city, spent forty-three years in the ministry. His second, last and eminently successful pastorate which was closed by his death, was of thirty-six years' duration. An obituary article which appeared in a public journal soon after his death and has the marks of disinterestedness and ability, says that, "possessing a judicial mind, his counsel was often sought and the wisdom of his advice was constantly recognized by his brethren. He was a man of very positive opinions, but had no conflict with those who thought differently. He was careful not to wound the feelings of any."

Dr. Goldsmith's mother, born McCrea, was in the paternal line of Scotch descent. Her great grandfather, Rev. Jas. McCrea, was for many years "an able and successful minister" in the Colony of New Jersey. One of the sons of the latter was a Colonel in the Colonial Army, two others entered the British Army, one of whom rose to the rank of Major General, and his youngest daughter was the beautiful Jane McCrea, whose murder by an Indian Chief at Fort Edward on the Hudson, in the summer of 1777, will ever excite emotions of distress and pity in the heart of every reader of the sad story of her tragic fate. Mrs. Goldsmith's father was at the time of his death in 1830 a member of the Assembly of the State of New York.

The subject of this memoir was born in Bellona, Yates County, N. Y., January 11, 1854. As far as I have learned the most distinguished traits of his childhood were, using the language of my informant, "a strong will and a disposition to believe nothing because others did, but to investigate for himself. When once he had decided that a thing was right and true, however, he accepted it heartily and without reserve. He also had great calmness and power to control others, which made him a leader even among those older than himself."

The common school of the village and home instruction, including his father's library, were his only educational advantages until at the age of fourteen he entered the Boys' Academy in Canandaigua where he fitted for college under the care of Prof. Noah

T. Clark, long the able and efficient principal of that institution. In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith contributed by Prof. Clark to a local paper he says: "An incident in the early life of Dr. Goldsmith, occurring while he was a student in our academy, revealed the secret of the great power which was so abundantly manifest in his subsequent life. The incident did not come to my knowledge until he had entered upon his professional work." It seems there was among the students a fiery young man who when angered, as he often was, became a terror to all about him and so furious as to threaten the lives of those who had offended him. "On one such occasion Goldsmith went into the hall and found the students fastening themselves into their rooms to protect themselves from his violence. He walked quietly through the hall, and meeting the angry man, put his strong hand gently on his shoulder and said in a soft commanding tone, 'sit down on my knee until you get over this passion,' and his murderous, violent spirit was at once subdued and he sat there as in the spell of a mighty unseen power. It was this power, strong, magnetic and gentle * * * , that gave to Dr. Goldsmith his great success in his treatment of the insane."

While at the Canandaigua Academy young Goldsmith frequently called at Brigham Hall to inquire after a patient in whom his mother was interested and in this way came under the notice of Dr. John B. Chapin, then one of the physicians of that institution, who writes that "he was as a boy reserved, manly, shy and had an honest, earnest face" and that he, Dr. C., "came to feel an attachment for him then."

At the age of sixteen he entered Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1874 at the age of twenty. He pursued the regular course of study, but gave some special attention to chemistry. The Hon. Julius H. Seelye, president of the college, writes of his characteristics during his college life, that he was "quiet and somewhat retiring, but genuine and strong, doing his work with steady fidelity, but without self-assertion; a sincere man rather than an evidently brilliant one, he left upon the college a profounder impression of his moral earnestness than of his intellectual force. But, as I have often noted in other cases, this was the basis of a very successful career, with already large results, though so brief. His life in his profession, though it could not have been predicted by his college associates, could hardly be a surprise to those most intimate with him."

As his college course drew towards its close it is evident that

Mr. Goldsmith began to seriously consider what his life work should be, and it is altogether probable that his accidental visits to Brigham Hall and acquaintance with Dr. Chapin while he was fitting for college, made a deeper impression upon his thoughtful mind than was apparent to others, and led to his entering upon the study of medicine with a view to the career of a mental alienist, for in the course of the vacation between his junior and senior years, accompanied by his father he sought the opinion of Dr. Chapin, then at the head of the Willard Asylum, as to the probability of his success in such a career. Having the warrant, as he without doubt properly regarded it, of Dr. Chapin's favorable opinion upon this important point, in the autumn of 1874, after graduating from Amherst, he entered the Willard Asylum as a medical student and dispensing clerk, where he remained until the fall of 1875, when he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York. He also spent at Willard the interval between the two courses of lectures he attended, and in the spring of 1877 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, for which he passed a most satisfactory examination. During his course of study for his medical degree he exhibited, as one of the professors of the college has informed me, the same diligence, fidelity and quiet, moral earnestness that had characterized him at Amherst, but it was in the course of nature that with more maturity and study his mind had developed increased power, and the faculty of medicine appears to have been more impressed with his intellectual force than the faculty of arts and letters.

After spending a few weeks as an interne of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York, Dr. Goldsmith on the 1st of May upon the special recommendation of E. C. Seguin, M. D., then Professor of Neurological and Mental Diseases in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, received the appointment of second assistant physician of the Bloomingdale Asylum. When I took charge of that institution on the 7th of July, 1877, I found him in that position and began his personal acquaintance. I also found that he had already begun a diligent, systematic study of the cases then under care and of others as they came in, with respect both to their nature and treatment, and to the form of disease which each case illustrated, by which he rapidly gained both a theoretical and practical knowledge of mental disorders. When he *finally* left Bloomingdale early in 1881 his knowledge of the English literature of insanity and of the practical value of the views of different authors was very extensive and thorough. He did not however

neglect his patients for study, but in making his acquisitions in the literature of his profession he was evidently stimulated to verify and apply what he read to his practical duty—the comfort and relief of the sick.

By the marked quietude and composure, the diligence and fidelity, the ability and sound judgment and the care and completeness with which he discharged every duty, he soon won my entire confidence and very high personal regard. I do not recollect that he ever pleaded lack of time or strength to discharge any regular or special duty expected of him, or that he ever neglected the thorough, painstaking performance of all his duties according to his instructions and to the best of his knowledge and ability. His sympathy for patients on account of the sufferings and privations of their sickness and his consideration for their feelings were quick and unfailing and always delicately and unobtrusively manifested. It followed that he was never stung by their abusive and often plausible accusations, nor led into the use of harsh, much less resentful, expressions respecting them or their conduct, in or out of their hearing. On the other hand, the respect with which his kindness and simple, manly dignity inspired them, evidently went far to restrain many patients—particularly women—from the indelicate exhibitions of the animal nature to whose powers the loss of reason often relegates our composite humanity.

Not long after I took charge of Bloomingdale he—an ambitious young man without fortune and enjoying his first remunerative employment—one day, most unxepectedly to me, handed me his resignation, saying that he thought that every superintendent should have the opportunity of nominating his own assistants. In returning it to him, I thanked him for the opportuuity he had afforded me of gladly retaining him as my own nominee in the position he occupied. As far as I ever knew, this act, manifestly proper under all similar circumstances, was not suggested to his mind by any example with which he was acquainted nor by any friend or authority, but was prompted by that just sense of the proprieties of every situation, with which he was so remarkably gifted.

With the conviction that his usefulness in the sphere of the profession which he had chosen might be enhanced by observing the arrangements and methods pursued abroad in the treatment of the insane, Dr. Goldsmith resigned his position at Bloomingdale in August, 1879, and in September sailed for England, where he first spent about six months as a volunteer assistant to Dr. Major,

of the West Riding Asylum in Yorkshire, then spent a few weeks in study—mostly in London—and in travel, and finally held a volunteer position on the staff of Dr. Clouston, of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, when, a vacancy in that position having occurred, he was invited to return to Bloomingdale to take the place of first assistant physician. He accepted the position and, returning at once from abroad, entered upon its duties on the 15th of September, 1880; and in his second period of service at Bloomingdale he displayed all the high qualities that had so eminently characterized him during his first connection with the institution, with the added ability in his work which came from a broader culture in its duties, and without in the slightest degree vaunting the high value at which both Dr. Major and Dr. Clouston had estimated his services or the rare and unusual personal attentions he had enjoyed while away.

A vacancy having occurred in the office of Medical Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Hospital for the Insane at Danvers, Dr. Goldsmith was appointed to it upon the strong recommendation of his medical and other friends both in this country and Great Britain. He was then barely twenty-seven years of age and had been a doctor of medicine two months less than four years, but without either shrinking from responsibility or offensive assertion of authority, with a calm, judicial mind and persistent purpose, his mastery of the medical and administrative affairs of that great establishment was soon complete. The people of Massachusetts had been much dissatisfied with the position and the excessive cost, as they considered, of the Hospital at Danvers, and with absurd spite at what they could not help, had transferred their dissatisfaction to its administration under authorities that were in no way responsible for what they and the public, alike but in different degrees, condemned. This blind condemnation had become somewhat exhausted when Dr. Goldsmith took charge of the institution, but having the confidence and support of the able Board of Trustees that appointed him and were close observers as well as co-workers in its able and prudent management, those of the public authorities and people of the State followed and its popularity soon became equal to the former prejudice against it. It is perhaps due to the people of Massachusetts that it should here be said that they appear to fairly appreciate their great indebtedness to Dr. Goldsmith for his agency in creating a favorable sentiment on their part towards this hospital, no part of whose cost can be returned into the treasury in money. Such

beneficent use as is now made of it is the only mode of recovering the great outlay for its establishment.

While abroad in 1879–80 Dr. Goldsmith spent his whole time in Great Britain. Thirsting for further knowledge which he could not acquire while occupied with the details of a large and very active hospital service, when he had been in charge of the Danvers Hospital for about two and one-half years, believing that he had fairly established his administrative capacity and that the institution was then in such a favorable condition both as to its reputation and actual working that he could leave it with honor, he resigned its superintendence with the view of visiting the continent of Europe for both literary and professional study. The trustees, however, invited him to withdraw his resignation and accept a year's leave of absence, which he did. He spent the year in the study of the German and French languages, the examination of institutions for the insane and in professional study under Westphal, Krafft-Ebing, Charcot and others.

Returning from abroad in July, 1884, Dr. Goldsmith resumed the charge of the Danvers Hospital and continued to superintend it with the increasing ability and usefulness that in every calling will follow the faithful applications of the lessons of study and experience, till he entered upon the duties of Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, to which he had been elected by the trustees of that institution to fill the vacancy created by the lamented death a short time before of their former superintendent, Dr. John W. Sawyer. The manner in which he acquitted himself as the successor of the illustrious Ray and the sound, devoted and laborious Sawyer, is best attested by the eminent trustees of that institution, who in a warm but discriminating memorial minute adopted by them and entered upon their records, pay him the high tribute of saying that "He entered upon his duties here on the first day of February, 1886, and at the time of his death had discharged them with rare professional skill, with unremitting assiduity and with singular success, for the period of two years and nearly two months. In this brief period he has left upon the administration and interests of the hospital the impress of thorough and varied professional knowledge, of sound judgment, of great humanity and tenderness and of the highest qualities of educated manhood."

In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, the remark is made that "He had not been quite well since a professional visit to New Orleans, where he had

a febrile attack last autumn, and several times of late he had spoken of feeling ill," but the writer was most unprepared for his fatal illness, having met him only three weeks before his death when he appeared to be in higher health and spirits than usual, and expressed himself to that effect. Having for several days had what he regarded as an ordinary cold, he on Wednesday, the 14th of March, took a long ride in the saddle, his favorite exercise, and on his return complained of feeling more ill than he had done before. He however fulfilled a social engagement that evening. On the morning of the 15th he drove out for a short distance on a business errand. On Friday afternoon his physician visited him for the first time and informed him that he had pneumonia, when he remarked, "one thing is against me, I have a bad heart." The disease appears to have been severe and attended with much pleuritic pain, but not to have been pronounced hopeless, when on the morning of the 20th, after himself looking over the nurse's night report he sent for his sister and telling her he "thought the crisis had come," and adding that he "hoped to get well, but that there was doubt" whether he should do so, he began, with the very sublimity of deliberate calmness and courage, to make his preparations for death, and in those last fleeting hours of life, in great weakness and pain, sent kind and appropriate messages to his particular friends, indicated the disposition he wished made of his effects and gave directions for his funeral, which by his express desire was conducted with great simplicity and without eulogistic remarks. His brief but great life came to its end at 9 o'clock on the morning of March 21st. He is buried in his native hamlet at his own request. His mother and sister, to whom he was most devotedly attached, survive him. He did not marry.

An antithesis of the problem of "squaring the circle" constantly recurs to me in seeking an appropriate illustration of the qualities of Dr. Goldsmith's character and mind. The degree to which he rounded the squares and angles of human character was phenomenal. His character was so marked by fullness and rotundity that it might have presented a sameness of aspect had not his enterprise and exquisite taste given it abundant light and shade.

It is easier to analyze the qualities of a mind whose strong elements were fewer and more dominating than were those of Dr. Goldsmith. He could not lay claim to genius whose almost intuitive acquisitions and powers are apt to be eccentric and fitful, but did possess a receptive and capacious mind that was capable

of every solid acquirement; and by the diligent, unremitting use of his time and opportunities—some of them self-created, both of his visits to Europe for professional observation and study having been made upon the means he had accumulated at the time they were undertaken—his professional and general culture was remarkably wide and thorough, in view of his age and of his having, with the exception of the two years he spent abroad, from the day of receiving his doctorate to his death, spent almost every working hour in the assiduous discharge of the responsible and absorbing duties of practice and administration.

While he loved knowledge for its own sake he acquired and digested it with practical aims, and having a retentive memory, his intellectual armament was well at his command. With no prejudices nor tendencies to extreme views he possessed in a remarkable degree the power of distinguishing what was true and applicable, in considering any subject, from what was speculative, or false, or inapplicable. It follows that he usually reached wise conclusions and rarely had reason to reconsider them. Without elementary incredulity or captiousness he displayed from boyhood what I regard as a constitutional sense of owing it to his individuality to "try all things and hold fast that which is good," and it was the natural habit of his mind, as sleeping and working were the habits of his body, to base his opinions upon his own examination of other men's facts and reasonings and such original light as was within his own reach. He respected the opinions of authors, but did not base his own upon their ipse dixits. Having formed his opinions with care he held them with contentment and some tenacity, but without dogmatism, until new light demanded their modification.

His sense of honor was one of the dominating elements of his character. Indeed, it seemed to be the sum of its primary moral elements. In his childhood and youth he honored his parents, teachers and superiors by love or respect and by obedience, truth and fidelity, without any undue surrender of the claims of his individuality. Later, quickened and informed by an enlightened conscience, it was the strongest underlying principle of his continued assiduity in fitting himself for the duties of life and of his faithfulness in discharging them—of his obedience, loyalty and efficient support as an assistant and of his zeal, justice, consideration and patience as a superintendent. There was never a truer man to his friends. I have known him to be at much pains to serve them with respect to interests of which they had no

knowledge; and such was his fidelity to this principle that I can not conceive of his having ever neglected such service when he knew of the occasion for it.

Dr. Goldsmith's moral and physical courage were not less remarkable than his other affective principles. If an eminent specialist in nervous and mental disorders, Dr. C. H. Folsom, in saying that he had "intellectual courage" meant that he did not hesitate to follow the convictions of his mind against musty error or popular prejudice, I quite agree with the declaration, though it seems to me that the power of doing so lies as much in this affective principle as that to repel the seductions of ill-founded popularity or to pursue the thorny path of right against popular condemnation. An eminent friend of another profession writes of him, that "he was a brave man. He had great physical courage. I have seen it often put to the test. He had great moral courage also. Evil never approached without finding his blade unsheathed." In following his convictions, however, against those of other men, he displayed so much respect for their right and sincerity of opinion, and so little of the spirit of superior wisdom, as never to wound a friend nor make an enemy. Neither his moral nor his physical courage was attended with the slightest bravado nor with other demonstration except as the occasion for it arose. When it did arise, however unexpectedly, he always appeared to be equal to it. Early in his superintendency of the Danvers Hospital, a patient, in attempting to escape from a pursuing attendant, fell and killed himself. The matter was undergoing investigation by a committee of the legislature, and in the course of it a member with as little sense as breeding, after making some absurd criticisms of the occurrence, asked Dr. Goldsmith a question that implied uncandid self-defense on his part, when he quietly but firmly declined to answer any further questions put by that member. He was supported in his refusal by the other members of the committee. When Dr. Goldsmith's youth and inexperience at this time, and the great respect in which he held the committee as a sub-representative of the sovereign authority of the State, are considered, this must be regarded as an act of moral courage as high as it was rare.

There is not in all history that I recall a sublimer display of moral courage than his prognosis of his imminent death twenty-four hours before it occurred, and the resignation and calmness with which he made preparations for it. Several instances have been related to me of his display of physical courage, but, as any

one well acquainted with him would have expected, they were not characterized by the slightest fool-hardiness nor by any insensibility to the danger he encountered.

That magnetism which attracts men to each other was one of the remarkable attributes of Dr. Goldsmith's moral constitution. I have never known a man who made more fast friends than he did, and I never knew him to lose one, so constant and true was he to the obligations of friendship. But he never loved at first sight. The magnetism that drew other men to him was not marked by any sudden, brilliant, overpowering displays of energy. Like that of the pole, it was quiet, unremitting and unrelaxing. He therefore formed friendships slowly, not because of a distrusting, much less a cynical spirit towards men, but partly, as I think, from some natural reserve, and partly because it was the actual and natural habit of his mind to prepare for every proposed undertaking and every event and relation that concerned him, by deliberate observation and consideration. When his friendships were formed, their stability and fervor were in proportion to the depth at which they had been planted and the slowness of their steady growth. The poet Whittier, who resides not far from the Danvers Hospital, writing on the day of his death to a mutual friend, says: "I feel as if I had lost a brother; he was such a true, good friend and neighbor." An appreciative lay gentleman, who made his acquaintance after he graduated in medicine and who made the journey from New York to Providence to attend his funeral, wrote me that "the grief of every one, from trustees to the laboring men on the place, was most sincere." I forbear to make other quotations upon this point, lest they should unduly prolong this paper. I cannot, however, proceed without adding that a large number of letters has been put into my hands, several from abroad, in which, in addition to the warmest eulogiums upon his character, ability, attainments and services to humanity, there are the most ardent expressions of personal affection for him and of grief for his death.

Dr. Goldsmith was ambitious and appreciated his attainments and what he had accomplished. He also appreciated the good opinion of his fellow men, as I believe all men do who are in sympathy with the highest aims of life. Without prudishness or pietism, I believe that his life presented an example of almost faultless purity and correctness. As Dr. Charles F. Folsom has said of him, he was "a gentleman in the best sense of that much abused word." He never forgot nor omitted the consideration

and courtesies due to his associates, high or low. His manners were not graceful, but correct. He had a thorough acquaintance with the usages of polite society and never failed to observe them. These traits and his wide information made him a favorite in the best social circles.

Having briefly presented the history of Dr. Goldsmith's short, useful and noble life in narrative and analytical aspects, with such quotations and observations as seemed appropriate to the period of his life or element of his mind under consideration, and believing that it will do his memory better justice and be more satisfactory to the audience I address, I will here let other witnesses bear testimony to his character as one of effective ability, usefulness and worth. I shall not, however, quote any sentiment which I do not fully endorse. The President of this Association, Dr. John B. Chapin, who, as you have been informed, had known him from the age of fourteen and has ever since been his warm friend, and, since the close of his junior year in college, his frequent adviser, writes: "His opinions were honestly formed, and he was content to entertain them. He was not aggressive nor combative, but was mild in his manner, gentle towards his patients, considerate of the feelings of others, * * * and of dignified deportment. At an early age he had the broad culture and maturity of judgment that as a rule men only acquire at a later date in their lives. He was faithful to all trusts and to the highest conceptions of his responsibilities. He possessed in the largest sense the power of eliminating from any subject the elements necessary to a wise conclusion. We have met with a great loss."

Dr. W. A. Gorton, who was his assistant for several years and then his successor at Danvers, and has now been appointed to succeed him at the Butler Hospital, probably knew more of his daily life, official and personal, since he assumed the responsibilities of the direction of an institution for the insane, than any other person. He writes: "No one could meet him without feeling at once a sense of his exalted manhood. Not only was he a gentleman in the highest sense of the word, but there was in him so strong an element of personal purity and integrity that it impressed itself irresistibly and from the first upon all who knew him. His ideal of life, never obtrusively manifested, was high, and in all his daily relations he was true to it. In the performance of the duties of superintendent he was the embodiment of justice, and of that kindly dignity which enforce obedience, loyalty and respect. No duty was small enough to be evaded; no responsi-

bility so great that he ever sought to escape it. His judgment was wonderfully accurate and never hasty. His patience was tireless, and so great was his kindliness that he sometimes seemed willing to suffer imposition rather than give pain to a wearisome visitor."

In an obituary notice of Dr. Goldsmith in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY, it is stated that a former attorney general of Massachusetts and now a judge of the Superior Court of that State, said of him that he "is an ideal expert witness. His opinions are unbiased and deliberate, his knowledge is extensive and accurate, and his honesty and sincerity of character are so impressed upon all who hear him, that his testimony is almost irresistible in weight."

I will close these quotations with a few other words from Whittier. He writes: "Let it be the consolation of his friends that * * * his life, though short, was so rounded and complete; so full of worthy achievement and good works."

We shall do Dr. Goldsmith's memory scant honor and ourselves much injustice if we only regard his exalted character with wonder and admiration. His life was an instructive one to all men, but particularly to us as physiologists and psychists. If, as I believe, heredity has always the potency of the character that is built upon it, the converse is likely to be true, and is so in fact. According to circumstances and within moderate limits character may be better or worse than the heredity from which it has upgrown, but no training will make Websters of the sons of imbeciles, nor Howards or Dixes of the children of the selfish and depraved. In education the stream of individual human life may rise higher than its sources, but in capacity and character it rarely does so; and when it does it is always liable to fall back to the level from which it sprung. These principles, whose observance is so important to the development of our race, the obligations of our calling require us to study and practically enforce in every proper manner. Dr. Goldsmith's ancestors on both sides appear to have been strong, intellectual and cultivated people of the upper middle class. They do not appear to have reached those heights of wealth, power and luxury at which degeneracy is apt soon to begin. His father was noted for his sound judgment, high sense of honor and positive opinions, which he held with firmness, but not in an aggressive or contentious spirit. His judgment was so sound as to be in much request in the church and neighborhood. If nothing had been known of his father his son would have been

graphically described in the same words. "The child is father to the man." The boy Goldsmith early began to investigate for himself and to show the bent and power of his mind—his capacity for mastery and achievement in a learned profession. The lesson is, that when called to advise with reference to the career of the sons of ambitious parents, we should not send a boy to college who should go to the flail or the hammer or the yardstick. How many boys are doomed to be miserable failures in the professions, who might have been prosperous and happy in cultivating and developing a western farm! And yet the best heredity is only a capacity for development, and no one can too highly appreciate or be too grateful for such an excellent training as Goldsmith enjoyed. Otherwise he might have been only a "village Hampden."

The other lessons of Goldsmith's life and character are for self-application. If we lack the capacity, receptiveness and love of culture that he exhibited—if our sense of honor in all its nicest applications in our intercourse with our fellow men be not as quick and dominating in us as it was in him—if neither our moral nor our physical courage be equal to his—if our calmness and devotion to duty, our politeness without sycophancy and our gentleness without weakness, be inferior to his, the responsible positions we have severally attained forbid the belief that by the faithful practice of his industry and emulation of his virtues we cannot more or less enhance our usefulness in our most responsible calling, and further exalt that good name among our fellow men to which it is both our duty and I doubt not our ambition to aspire.

To the assistant physicians of our institutions for the insane I wish to particularly commend Dr. Goldsmith's noble example, whether they view it from the high standpoint of duty or the low one of interest. When only 27 years of age and he had had less than four years' experience in his profession, he was, purely upon his own merits, recommended for the medical and executive head of a very large and important hospital situated near the cultivated metropolis of New England, with great confidence that he had the ability, wisdom, integrity and firmness necessary to rescue it from the perils and difficulties of that crucial period of its history, and raise it to the enjoyment of public confidence and support. That confidence, which proved to be so well founded, was based upon the ability and earnestness and the fidelity and loyalty that he had displayed as an assistant. It sometimes happens that responsibility develops unexpected practical powers, but as a rule to which the exceptions are few, as the character of the assistant so is the

character of the superintendent. If the ripening life of the assistant be that of unsullied honor, earnest duty and diligent attainment, his mature powers will only be limited by the ordinances of Nature with respect to mental and bodily capacity, which it is an idle sacrilege to attempt to exceed.