

Preston (Ann)

No. 14

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AT THE

Twelfth Annual Commencement,

MARCH 16, 1864,

BY ANN PRESTON, M. D., ✓

PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE,

6076

WITH

ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY THE CORPORATORS.

PHILADELPHIA:

WILLIAM S. YOUNG, PRINTER, NO. 52 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

1864.

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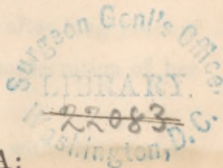
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FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT.

The Twelfth Annual Commencement was held at the College on Wednesday, March 16th, 1864, when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President, T. Morris Perot, Esq., upon the following named ladies:—

NAME.	STATE.	SUBJECT OF THESIS.
Amelia Tompkins,	N. Y.	Mercury.
Anita E. Tyng,	Mass.	Ulceration and Ulcers.
Eliza F. Pettingill,	Pa.	The Ovaries.
Dora A. Swezey,	Mich.	Ulceration of Cervix Uteri.
Amelia F. D. Raymond,	Mass.	The Human Brain.
Elizabeth Dyson,	Wis.	Uterine Hemorrhage.
Mary C. Putnam.	N. Y.	Theoræ ad Lienis Officium.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

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VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

LADIES OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:—It is ever with solicitude, with mingled hope and fear, that we see those in whom we are deeply interested go forth in any important and untried course. With counsels, cautions and encouragements, we fain would surround them, and our own experiences and deepest convictions are brought forth for their benefit. If such be the feeling in regard to the usual epochs of interest in life, how intensified must it become in the minds of conscientious teachers amid the solemnities of an occasion like the present!

With the interests of a great movement for humanity, in some measure, intrusted to your keeping, you leave your alma mater to-day: with all your womanly sensibilities about you, and still having to contend with some difficulties peculiar to a new position, you go forth: with the eye of severe criticism upon you, and destined to bear in your daily duties the deep responsibility of the health or sickness, the life or death of others, you commence your active career; and no one in the least qualified for the great trust involved in the profession of your choice, can assume it, even after long years of careful study, without diffidence and a solemn consecration of her best powers to the duties it involves.

But, ladies, although you may have to contend with some embarrassments, and the remnants of old prejudices, many of the difficulties

that sixteen years ago encountered the first woman in this country who graduated as a regular physician, have been removed.

The footsteps of pioneers already have demonstrated that the path you are entering may lead to success; and the "natural obstacles" that the doubter or scoffer saw impassable as Bunyan's lions in the way, have proved, like them, to be outside of the guarded road, and unable to stay the traveller's course.

Despite of opposition, we think it may be truly said, that public sentiment in this country already decides that woman, in studying the science, and practising the art of Medicine, is not stepping outside of her fitting place, but only extending the range of her culture and activity, in correspondence with the needs of society, and with the instincts and powers of her own nature.

As steadily, with the progress and refinement of communities, she has occupied a more important position, as her coöperation in religious, philanthropic and educational movements, and in literature and art is acknowledged to contribute to the general advancement, so it is felt that in medicine also, the intuitions, observations, sympathies, and knowledge of educated and true women must enlarge the common possessions of the profession, as well as give scope and enjoyment to the individuals engaged.

Whatever of professional opposition may still exist, our own experience leads us to believe that few physicians whose judgment you would greatly value, will decline to meet you in consultation because you are women, and also, that some will be found ready to ask for the benefit of your insight and experience in their own difficult cases.

From year to year the number of ladies engaged in the study of medicine has been steadily increasing, and from various towns and cities we are frequently receiving the inquiry, "Can you not send us a reliable lady physician?" So, ladies, in the fulness of time you

are here. From homes in crowded cities and in quiet country places, from different States, and from under the influence of various religious denominations, you have been brought by one common impulse.

None need tell you that this is only a spasmodic excitement, and that the work is unsuited to your womanly nature. The contradiction comes, not only from your observation of society, but from the depths of your own souls—from those still recesses where ardent desires for development and for usefulness have long burned, and been guarded as sacredly as the Persian guards his altar fires.

As an advance towards a higher and purer condition of society, this movement has been hailed by noble minds, not only upon this side of the Atlantic, but also in Europe. Sir John Bowring,—in a letter to a relative and correspondent in this country, who has kindly furnished the extract,—echoes the sentiment of others when he says, “Your American women are pioneering into many regions where they will fix their standard with honor to themselves and benefit to their race. This medical movement of theirs is worthy of all encouragement, and will, I hope, be crowned with abundant success. It is a step not *from*, but *towards* decency and decorum.”

Indeed, this movement springs naturally from the influence of those free principles upon which this government was founded, and which it is now so terribly vindicating before the quaking despots of the world. The sublime doctrine “that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” not because they belong to favored classes, but because they are human beings, and the common children of God, could not be received intelligently by the masses, without quickening the mind of woman as well as that of man, and leading to a *more natural*, because more spontaneous and less constrained development of society.

In the mortal struggle through which this bleeding land is becoming dedicated anew to freedom and justice, this movement, as well as others tending to enlarge the activities of woman, has received a fresh impetus. American women are aroused as they never have been before, and all classes are working for the exposed soldier or the appealing freedman. Numbers of our truest and loveliest have already sacrificed their lives to their devoted labors in hospitals and camps, and upon thousands more is thrown the necessity of earning their own subsistence or providing for families, and of filling, as far as well as they may, the vacant places to which brother, husband, or father shall return no more.

But, ladies, although the field is open and the general prospect bright, the question of most interest to you to-day is that of your own *personal success*. This is a question of attainment, purpose and character. The profane Byronic sentiment that "the most perfect character of a woman is, that she be characterless," would be fatal to the success of the physician. Firmness, steadfastness, and promptitude must be united to accurate knowledge, and to sound, discriminating judgment in her, who, in this capacity, can win and retain the confidence of society.

The spirit and purpose with which any course is pursued becomes the measure of its dignity. It is your aim, as we trust, not merely to make yourselves independent in a pecuniary point of view, but to strengthen and unfold your best powers to the utmost, and to make your profession and your lives contribute to the stock of human enjoyment and human good. This aim will naturally make your intercourse with others simple and truthful, and cause you to regard the best interests of your patients as your own.

Deception and pretension, whether practised inside or outside of the profession, are the tools of the charlatan; and although they may for awhile impose upon the ignorant, yet time unveils all shams,

and, by a sure law, the genuineness of character ultimately is vindicated. The candor and truthfulness, as well as the skill of the medical adviser inspire confidence, and are elements essential to full success.

As women, you will occupy peculiar and close relations to the rest of your sex. The difficulty of communicating freely in regard to symptoms, has often prevented suffering women from availing themselves successfully of the skill of medical men. In your case, this impediment will be greatly lessened, and the public has a right to expect from you increased success in the treatment of some classes of diseases. Besides, that same freedom of communication will enable you to aid in introducing healthier habits and sounder views into domestic and social life. A large portion of those enfeebling influences which make life-long invalids of so many weary women are surely susceptible of removal. The purity, gentleness, dignity, and courtesy of the Christian woman, united with that knowledge of the human organization, and of the influence of daily habits and surroundings upon the health of the body and mind, possessed by the accomplished physician, will ensure attention to your suggestions in regard to practical and personal details; and these suggestions, doubtless, will often prove to those who consult you, the most important part of your professional services.

Medicine, according to the most orthodox definition, is the science which aims at the preservation of health, as well as the cure of disease. The attention which of late years has been devoted by the profession to Sanitary and Hygienic Medicine, connected with the breaking up of old routine in practice, and the decreasing ratio of mortality in disease, marks a new and progressive era in medical history.

Your therapeutical agents are not only the drugs of the pharmacopœia, and those single agencies—water, electricity, movements, &c.,—each

of which is devoutly believed by zealous advocates to be the one all-potent remedy,—but all the common influences of daily life, and all the wide agents in nature which modify the condition of body or mind are your legitimate instruments—the proper tools of your extended art.

The true physician is a constant learner. So much is yet unknown, disease so often baffles even the skilful, that dogmatism and the assumption of superior wisdom are sure evidences of pitiable ignorance or great folly.

It is only to the humble seeker for more light and truth that Nature, who “never yet betrayed the heart that loved her,” unfolds her beautiful mysteries; and these only are made wise in her divine economies. “Herein,” says a late writer,* “lies the power of medicine over her disciples—viz., in her dealing with *so many*, as well as with the more recondite of nature’s secrets. A man may be the profoundest lawyer, or the deepest philologist, the divinest artist, the most learned theologian; he may be the great warrior, navigator, engineer, and yet as either such simply, he may walk abroad through creation and be deaf to more than half she utters. But let him have studied medicine, as medicine *may* be studied, and he at once becomes free to the *arcana arcanissima* at his feet. He possesses more surely and extensively than any other man, such a range and peculiarity of information as can vivify the world in a way to be vivified by no other one. So far as the pure botanist, pure chemist, pure anatomist, &c., are concerned, he cannot, of course, read such deep lessons in individual books of nature as can they. But he has this power, he can read something, often a great deal, in all of them, as well as in that, the most wondrous of all, and the most hidden to others—viz., the Sibylline leaves of the body and mind in disease.”

* British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, Jan. 1864.

Ladies, you will probably meet with kind wishers who will marvel at the *taste* that led you to choose this work, and pity you for the privations it involves. You can afford to bear this. In the glad freedom of your powers, in increasing range of thought and repose of spirit, in the wisdom accruing from experience, as well as in fresh points of sympathy with humanity, you will find rich compensations for all you may forego.

The experience of your practice will never, surely, permit you to envy the idle children of luxury, so many of whom, racked with pain, devoured by *ennui*, enfeebled by slavish customs and habits, might have gone forth rejoicing in existence, if some ennobling and satisfying work had occupied mind, heart, and hands! Your labors and studies, so varied and important, if pursued in the right spirit, will make each day for you fresh and new, and all too short for its abounding interests.

You will also vindicate the right, scarcely yet conceded to women, to grow *old* without reproach; while at the same time the love of nature and of truth, habitual openness to new ideas, and self-forgetful interest in the welfare of others, will feed for you the fountains of perennial youth, even in the bosom of age.

The virtues, affections, and graces of the true woman will find beautiful scope and culture in the enlarged sphere of your daily activities. From the nature of your professional relations your pathway cannot be isolated. The intelligent and refined will be your associates, and among those who confide in you and sustain you; and the trust and affection of those whom you may benefit will feed and warm your own hearts.

Nor will the intelligent sympathy with which, in many directions, you may meet the wants of woman and of society, exhaust yourselves. All experience proves that, while the sympathy, which, unable to do any thing, folds its hands and weeps in silence, may enfeeble its pos-

essor, that which finds vent in exertions for the relief of suffering is not thus injurious. They who will grow sick or faint in the presence of pain, or at the sight of blood, find the tendency vanish when they assist in binding up the wound or otherwise administering relief.

Allow us, before we part, to urge upon you the necessity of guarding your own health, by all prudent and right precautions. This is a part of your capital, and an instrument essential to full success. Medical practitioners, as a class, have not been noted for attention to hygienic rules in their own persons. That *esprit de corps* which has despised personal danger, may have contributed to this neglect. It is true, there are objects more sacred even than health and life. There are occasions—they will come, probably, to you, when no personal consequences—be they death or long disease, can deter the true physician, or the true woman, from standing at the post of danger; but nothing save duty, should keep you from cultivating religiously those healthful habits in regard to rest and exercise, sleep, food, dress, ventilation, &c., upon which the power of sustained and effective exertion is made to depend.

Abounding as is the vitality that some of you possess, it has, nevertheless, its stern limits. The expenditure of nervous energy that your duties will involve, will require seasons of relaxation, of rest and quiet for its renewal. By systematically guarding these from unnecessary interruption, and by adopting some general method in the employment of your time, you may do much to render it more available for improvement, as well as to lessen the wear of daily duties.

Ladies, in view of the possibilities of your future, our farewell is mingled with deep congratulation. Not that success will come without patient exertion, nor that hard things, and dark days may not be encountered. You, also, must combat difficulties, temptations,

sorrows, and disappointments. But these are the tests of life; and those only who meet them, and overcome, become clothed with the garments of strength, and hear in their inmost souls the pæans of victory.

God grant that no mistakes on your part, no lack of proper knowledge, care or caution, may overwhelm you with the awful consciousness of being responsible for the fatal termination of a case confided to your fidelity and skill.

Entering the sanctuaries of families, ministering at the sacred altars of life, knowing the secrets of sad hearts, and the needs of yearning humanity, we can ask for you no deeper blessing, than that you may prove equal to the glorious opportunities "to do good and to communicate" which are opening before you.

Whatever may be the gifts of nature or of fortune, none are really strong, save as they ally themselves to truth and right—to the everlasting and unchanging, and those alone retain through life their sweet, childlike faith in virtue and in humanity, who practise the one, and strive to bless the other.

Keeping the Divine ideal of the perfect physician before you, may you be healers of the sick, sympathizers with the poor and the suffering, enlighteners of the ignorant, safe depositories of confidence, faithful and wise counsellors. Even the silent effluence from a pure inward life is a *power for good*, and a perpetual sweetness in the world.

Walking onward with serene and full trust in the Invisible, and the All-Faithful, knowing that "duties are ours and consequences are God's," you may lay your burdens upon the arm of Divine strength, and realize in your own blessed experience the joy of those who "walk on earth, yet breathe empyreal air."

THE

FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

North College Avenue, Philadelphia,

(Near Girard College.)

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION of this Institution will commence on Wednesday, October 12th, 1864, and continue FIVE MONTHS.

In issuing this Announcement, the Faculty and Corporators find renewed pleasure in assuring the Alumni and friends of the College of the increasing prosperity of the Institution, and the additional facilities it is able to offer to the earnest student.

The College has been the recipient during the year of the sum of \$5000 from a friend of our cause who prefers that his name shall not be known, and of \$500 from the Estate of the late Benneville D. Brown, of Philadelphia. These sums have been invested as a permanent fund which, it is hoped, will serve as a nucleus for a large and ample endowment.

The class in attendance upon the last session of lectures was larger than any previous one since the breaking out of the war, while the greater part of the students were young women of energy, who had entered upon the study of medicine with the purpose of making themselves proficient in knowledge, and useful in practice.

The connection of the College with the Woman's Hospital is proving a valuable means of practical instruction. The wards of the Hospital as well as its Dispensary are open to the students, while its out-door clinic furnishes opportunities for their observation and study of a great variety of diseases not otherwise brought before them; more than two thousand patients having been treated during the past year.

Never were the Faculty more deeply impressed with the necessity of raising the general standard of medical education, and it is their earnest desire to render those who go forth as the alumni of this school, so thoroughly fitted for their work as to claim and receive the confidence and respect of the community and the profession.

The College possesses good facilities for imparting thorough scientific instruction in the various branches of a medical education; the lectures and demonstrations being aided by an excellent Museum of Papier Maché Models, Drawings, Natural Preparations, Microscopes, and other apparatus.

The curriculum of study in this Institution and the requirements for graduation, are in all respects as high as those of the best Medical Schools in this country.

REGULATIONS FOR GRADUATION.

The candidate must be not less than twenty-one years of age, and must possess respectable literary attainments. She must have been engaged in the study of Medicine three years, one of which must have been passed in some Hospital, or two of which must have been spent under the supervision of some respectable practitioner of Medicine. She must have attended two courses of lectures on each of the following subjects: *Chemistry and Toxicology, Anatomy and Histology, Materia Medica and General Therapeutics, Physiology and Hygiene, Principles and Practice of Medicine, Principles and Prac-*

tice of Surgery, Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, and must also have taken two courses of instruction in *Practical Anatomy*.

The two courses of Lectures must have been attended in different years, and one at least in this College.

The application for the degree must be made six weeks before the close of the session.

The candidate at the time of application must exhibit to the Dean evidence of having complied with the above requisitions. She must also present the graduation fee and a thesis on some medical subject of her own composition and penmanship.

In addition to the above requirements, the Faculty claim the right to refuse examination to a candidate on the ground of what they deem to be moral or mental unfitness for the profession.

TERMS.

THE FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

	<i>First Year.</i>	<i>Second Year.</i>
Professors' Tickets, each \$10 00	\$70.00	\$70.00
Practical Anatomy,	5.00	5.00
Graduation Fee,		30.00
No fees for lectures after the Second Session.		
Whole cost for two or more courses of Lectures and Graduation,		\$180.00

For the encouragement of capable and well-educated women whose means will not allow of the usual expenditure, six students will be admitted annually on the payment of twenty dollars for the session—exclusive of the demonstrator's and graduation fees. Such arrangements will be strictly confidential, and no distinction in point of courtesy and attention will be made between the beneficiary and other students.

Ladies wishing to be received on this basis must forward to the Dean, at least thirty days before the opening of the Session, application in their own hand-writing, accompanied by satisfactory testimonials as to character, age, qualifications, and want of means. The applicant must be not less than twenty, nor more than thirty-five years of age. The successful candidates will be duly notified.

Any lady who desires instruction in some of the branches taught in a Medical College, as a part of a liberal education, may take the tickets and attend the Lectures of any one or more of the Professors.

Board will be secured for those who may request it, either at the Hospital, or in some other place convenient to the College.

Communications should be addressed to

MRS. E. H. CLEVELAND, M. D.,

Woman's Hospital, North College Avenue, Philadelphia.

TEXT BOOKS.

The following Text Books are recommended by the Faculty

Practice of Medicine—Watson's Lectures, Wood's Practice, Williams' Principles of Medicine.

Chemistry—Fowne's, or Booth's Chemistry.

Physiology—Carpenter, Dalton, Draper, Todd and Bowman.

Anatomy—Sharpey & Quain, Grey, Leidy.

Obstetrics—Cazeaux, Bedford, Smith, Meigs.

Surgery—Miller's Principles and Practice, Smiths' Surgery.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics—United States Dispensatory, Pereira's, or Dunglison's *Materia Medica*.

APPEAL OF THE CORPORATORS.

The Corporators of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, appeal to the friends of humanity in behalf of this Institution, and the cause it represents. They regard the medical education of woman as a necessity of the age, and a way-mark of the advancement of civilization.

They find the demand for female physicians wide-spread and increasing, and regard the study and practice of medicine as peculiarly adapted to the nice perceptions of woman, and the tenderness and refined graces of her nature.

They consider that woman, as wife and mother, pre-eminently *needs* a clear understanding of the functions of the human body, and the means of preserving health; and that high-toned and intelligent female physicians, from their relations to their sex, must be important instrumentalities in imparting such knowledge where it is most needed and will do the most good.

It is well known that there is a vast amount of suffering among women, which is left without relief from the shrinking delicacy of its victims, and it is therefore a demand of humanity that women should be put in possession of the requisite knowledge to administer the required treatment in such cases.

They also desire a scientific education for woman, because it will furnish her honourable *employment*—giving her a new sphere of usefulness and happiness, where duty and the sympathies of her nature lead her, in the chamber of the sick and the suffering.

Feeling, therefore, that this is a great *cause*, intimately connected with the improvement and happiness of society, they appeal to generous and true men and women for aid and co-operation.

They desire to place this College—the first medical school of this character of the same extent in the world—on a *permanent* basis; and wish therefore to endow it with a fund which will place it beyond the contingency of accident. Five Thousand and Five Hundred dollars have been donated for this purpose during the past year.

Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. Redwood F. Warner, No. 404 Race Street.

FORM OF A BEQUEST OF MONEY.

I give and bequeath unto "The Female Medical College of Pennsylvania,"
 the sum _____ dollars,
 to be paid by my executors to the person who may be, for the time being, the
 Treasurer of the said College.

FACULTY.

ANN PRESTON, M. D.,

Professor of Physiology and Hygiene.

EDWIN FUSSELL, M. D.,

Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine.

EMELINE H. CLEVELAND, M. D.,

Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

M. SEMPLE, M. D.,

Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

REYNELL COATES, M. D.,

Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

M. G. KERR, M. D.,

Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics.

MARY J. SCARLETT, M. D.,

Professor of Anatomy and Histology, and Demonstrator of Anatomy.

H. RYLAND WARRINER, ESQ.,

Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.

EDWIN FUSSELL, M. D., DEAN,

910 North Fifth Street.

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4

200

3250
6

195.00

TO THE PRESS.

Again we appeal to that portion of the press who favor our enterprise, to once more aid the cause by their friendly notices of the College. The work is not one of pecuniary profit to those who conduct it, and we can only give for such valuable services—in the name of those for whose benefit it is intended—our grateful thanks.