

Presidential  
AND  
Other Addresses

HARWOOD



FROM  
Miscellaneous Periodicals  
1883



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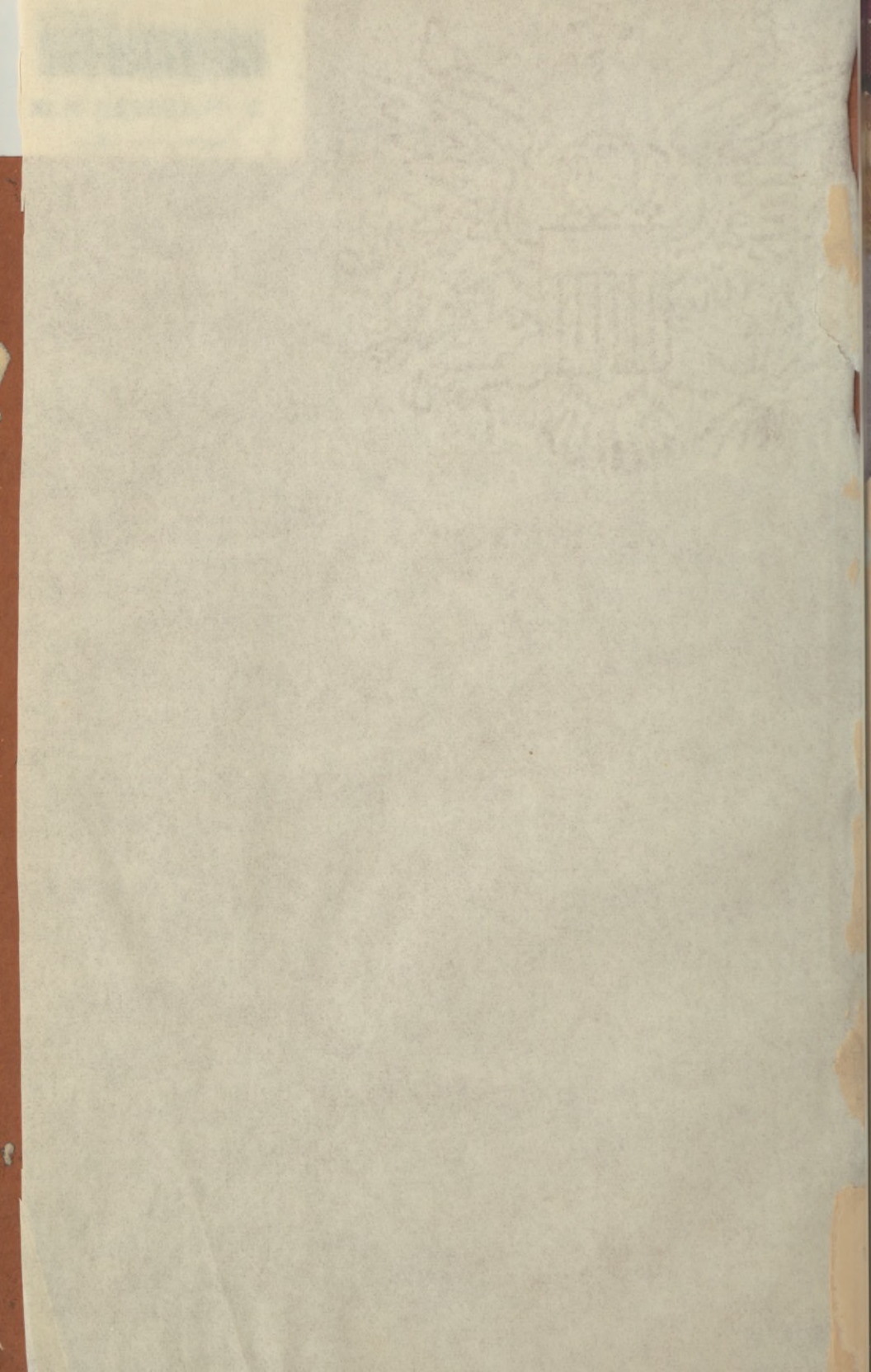
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" "



✓  
PRESIDENTIAL

AND

OTHER ADDRESSES

BY

ED. C. HARWOOD, M.D.,

TOGETHER WITH ADDRESSES BY

Prof. GEORGE T. ELLIOT,  
Prof. LEWIS A. SAYRE,  
Prof. FRANK H. HAMILTON,  
Prof. A. B. CROSBY,  
Etc., Etc.,



Reprints from Miscellaneous Periodicals.

— + —

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1883.



PRESIDENTIAL

OTHER ADDRESSES

ED. C. HARWOOD, M.D.

Author of "The History of the United States"

Prof. GEORGE T. ELLIOT.

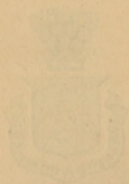
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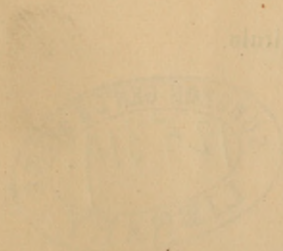
A. B. CROSBY.

Etc., Etc.

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1883



Reprints from Miscellaneous Publications



New York

WILLIAM A. TAYLOR

PUBLISHER, STATIONER AND PRINTER

207 N. 3rd St.

1883



To a Father,

WHOSE PRECEPTS AND EXAMPLE HAVE EVER BEEN A CONSTANT STIMULUS  
TO A LIFE OF LABOR,

AND

WHOSE STRONG ATTACHMENT TO THE  
CAUSE OF

*Civil and Religious Liberty,*

WITH AN UNCONQUERABLE DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THEM, INSURED HIM  
THE ESTEEM OF HIS COTEMPORARIES IN THE

*Historic Town of Bennington, Vt.,*

AND

To the Memory of a Beloved and Respected Mother,

WHOSE APPROBATION IS STILL THE INCENTIVE TO, AND THE REWARD OF, EVERY  
WORTHY ACT, THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE

*Reverently Inscribed.*



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## PREFACE.



THE following papers have been collected from various sources at the request of personal friends, and have been printed for preservation and convenience of reference. The addresses and remarks of other gentlemen have been included, with their approbation, when necessary to preserve the continuity of the subject or explain the matter treated.

44 WEST 49TH STREET,  
NEW YORK, January, 1883.





ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER OF  
ÆSCULAPIUS.

---

*Address delivered at the Fourth Annual Re-Union of the Order of  
Æsculapius, at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College,  
on the evening of February 27, 1868.*

---

*Fellows of the Order of Æsculapius:*

We are here assembled this evening, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of our existence as a society. To those in our audience who have come from the busy fields of professional labor, I extend, in behalf of the society, a fraternal greeting. To our invited guests, I say welcome. To the ladies, whose brilliant countenances lend enchantment to the hour, I say welcome, thrice welcome.

Many of our fellows whom we greeted one year ago this hour, have transferred their labors to the scenes of active medical life, and have already begun to build upon the foundation laid under the fostering guidance of our noble Alma Mater, and are pressing on the toilsome road to fame and fortune. The O. Æ., as an institution of our college, bids them God-speed, with a hearty good will.

But many old faces still gladden our hearts, and many new ones have appeared among us, whom we welcome to these classic halls, hallowed by fond memories, and dear to us from past association. Their experience will be as ours, in her cementing friendships, whose memory and influence time or space shall never obliterate. In the circle of interest which here exists, and under the favorable auspices of a weekly intercourse, in the sharing of each other's hopes and aspirations, we come to know each other better, and esteem each other's excellencies more, while the little failings, incident to human nature become only peculiarities of character, or are screened from the observation of outsiders with jealous care. The principle,

“stand by your friends,” is carried out to the last degree, and it is right that it should be so. The warm grasp of the hand and the hearty salutation which encounter us, form strong and pleasant contrasts to the formal bow, and indifferent greeting of the cold, calculating world, into which we all expect soon to hurl our gauntlets—where before us, with alternately inspiring or depressing effect, loom all the uncertain issues of the conflict involving success or defeat.

Truly, these are halcyon days—days of enjoyment, but above all, days for improvement. In them we meet the Rubicon of our destiny; in them we make or mar our future: for “man is the architect of his own fortune.”

During the four brief years that have elapsed since the organization of our Society many interesting changes have taken place, both in its members and in our college. It is a fitting time to recall some of the reminiscences which are shared by so many of our members, who are now convened from different parts of foreign countries, and our again happy United States.

The founding of this society was the result of the energetic action of three students connected with the class of 1864-5 of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, who wished to organize a society among the students to meet once a week, for the purpose of having interesting essays read, quizzes upon what subject most perplexed them, and to establish that brotherly love and good feeling toward each other, to be ever after remembered through life; also, to bind themselves more closely to their Alma Mater. They met alternately at each other's rooms; but in a few weeks their numbers had so much increased, that they requested the Faculty to give them the use of the little green room of the old college for their meetings; which request they kindly granted, and in that room many pleasant and profitable evenings were spent. Before the close of the session, the first annual reunion took place, which proved a grand success. Most of the professors honored the society with their presence, and by their pleasing speeches added greatly to the pleasure of the night. Each Fellow wore the insignia of our Order, which is now widely known throughout this and the European continent.



The second and third years of the society were also of marked success, and the annual reunions were, like the first very pleasant.

But long before this history of our society was made, our young college became favorably known at home and abroad, as possessing superior facilities for medical education. The founding of our college marked a new era in the history of medicine in our country.

The Board of Commissioners of Charities and Corrections had assumed the government of our public institutions and prisons, and had given the medical supervision of the institutions on Blackwells Island, with the exception of the Lunatic Asylum, and including the new and magnificent Island Hospital, to the Medical Board of Bellevue. The Board now found itself at the head of the noblest and most extensive hospital establishment in America—one second to but very few in any country—containing in its wards cases of every disease mankind is heir to—counting among its inmates, natives of every quarter of the globe; for, I have seen in its wards, Lascars and Chinamen, Indian mixed breeds, Spaniards from South America, lying side by side with the natives of every nation in Europe, and of every State in the Union. The students of our college have access to these hospitals, and within their wards the book of nature is open; for disease, a consequence of the infraction of *her* laws, is no less a part of God's providence than health.

It was soon learned by those aspiring to enter our heaven-born profession, that at our Institution, within a space less than the course of study prescribed by the law of the land, an experience in medicine and surgery could be condensed, that would be more than equivalent to that of the life-long practice of an old-time physician. Having such facilities, and an experienced, intelligent and energetic faculty, students were attracted from all parts of our country; and it was found that our college building was too small to meet the requirements of increasing classes, and the commodious building that we now occupy was erected, affording accommodations the most ample, and, as regards adaptation to the convenience of medical teaching, leaving nothing to be desired. This building

will remain a fitting monument to the memory of the wisdom of the Commissioners, and the energy of our Faculty, who inaugurated the system of bedside, with that of didactic, instruction in medicine.

It may not, on an occasion like this be improper, and I trust I may be assured of your indulgence when I do it, to refer quite briefly to some of those who were foremost in their efforts to promote the best interest of our College and Society.

Among this number was one, who in the first years of its existence and for some time after, was one of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Corrections, and who, during the whole of his life, was honored with some of the highest and most responsible of our municipal offices. Himself of a thoughtful mind and liberal intelligence, he devoted his best energies and efforts to the establishment and support of this school. There are many now present, who will feel that in saying what I have, I am but doing an act of well deserved homage to the memory of a most worthy and excellent man when here, and in this presence, and with all the sincerity of which my heart is capable, I pronounce the name of SIMEON DRAPER.

I should do violence to my own feelings, and injustice to this audience, if on an occasion like this, I failed to refer to one whose name is recorded upon a tablet in this building, as our first Professor of Anatomy. No public occasion can soon occur which in its reminiscences carries us back to the history of our school, which will not demand an honorable mention of the name of TIMOTHY CHILDS.

Among those for whom we have been called to mourn of late, is Dr. J. KING ROBINSON, from California, who graduated March, 1865, and settled at Salt Lake City. As a student and a physician, his character was blameless, his aims high, his motives pure; as a friend he was kind and genial, generous and constant. Dr. ROBINSON was known to have spoken in terms of disapprobation of the system of Mormonism, and for this reason was cruelly butchered by the Mormons one dark night, while on his way with two of them, in answer to their call, to treat a patient with a fractured limb.

One of our original three, Dr. GEORGE D. STANTON, is now at Stonington, Connecticut, in the successful practice of his profession. Another of them has an inglorious record that I would not refer to, but for our own protection as an organization. He has proved false to his most sacred vows, and a traitor to his Alma Mater, and it has been declared by our order that he is unworthy a fraternal greeting from us, and his name has been forever stricken from the roll of the O. Æ. Society.

It now remains for me to speak of one more of our charter members, whose record bears a striking and pleasing contrast to that of the former. I allude to Dr. CHARLES A. LEALE who, immediately after leaving college, passed his examination as Assistant Surgeon, United States Volunteers, and was appointed executive officer of one of the largest hospitals in Washington; and, on the night of the assassination of President Lincoln, was the first to be admitted to the box, where he had been shot by the foul hand of the assassin; was requested by Mrs. Lincoln to take care of him; removed the coagulum from the opening in the skull, which, if it had been allowed to remain a few moments longer, would have produced death then and there in the theatre; who had charge of him until the Surgeon-General arrived; who remained with him until his death; then knelt down around that sorrowful death-bed while a most solemn and impressive prayer was offered to God for the bereaved family, and our afflicted country.

His name will be connected with our history as a nation by several large oil-paintings representing the Death-bed Scene, he being one of the group, caring for him whom the people so much loved.

Dr. Leale remained in his country's service for nearly a year after the close of the war, until the hospitals in Washington had been closed; then returned to New York with a Brevet Commission for faithful services, and completely prostrated in health with typho-malarial fever, contracted while serving on camp duty in Virginia. He made a visit through England and France, and returned to his native city where he settled, and is now in the successful practice of his cherished profession.

One of our ex-presidents is now practicing in the neighboring city of Newark, and of late has been chosen to the responsible and honorable position of Secretary of the Medical Association of that city—a fitting compliment to true professional merit. The energy and zeal that he manifested in behalf of our order, while holding the position of executive officer, is well known to most of our fellows. I allude to Dr. George R. Kent.

There are others among the living and the dead, to whom I would be glad to refer, but I fear that in these extended references, I am trespassing too far and too long upon the golden hours of this golden evening.

This Society partakes of the character of all regular County and State medical organizations in an eminent degree. Its membership is made up of moral, intelligent and energetic students and practitioners of medicine, who are admitted to fellowship after passing a certain form of examination. Our meetings occur every Thursday evening, when a paper upon some medical topic is read and discussed—thus bringing all minds in the body into exercise.

It is designed, as soon as it can be found practicable, to establish other societies like this, in all medical colleges throughout the Union, and thus unite medical students into one common brotherhood, to seek each other's interests, and promote the welfare of our profession; and we hope that this will not only become a national affair, but that it may also be extended to all parts of the globe where medicine is taught.

The object in view is worthy of every exertion that can be put forth to attain it. The debate is to the mind what gymnastics are to the body—an admirable means for promoting the most useful discipline, and securing the completest development.

The habit of speaking in public is of the greatest benefit. Its advantages are by no means confined to the legal profession. Many a physician, who, amidst the responsibilities of active life has a worthy message to deliver, fails in impressing the people with its importance through lack of early training which would have taught him to arrange his ideas in a manner calculated to produce the strongest effect. Another shall steal the hearts of

the people through the beauty of his eloquence and the charm of his manners ; while he who possesses at once honesty of purpose in a good cause, and mental powers under complete training, is sure to be a leader and helper in the advancement of the multitudes whom he sways at his will.

The higher the degree of culture, the more evident does it appear that the best rules for expression, whether by voice or pen, is to declare the idea in as few and simple words as possible. "Brevity and discretion are the secrets of strength."

The wide spread of knowledge in these days, and the rapid progress indicated for the future, make it incumbent upon every physician who would leave the impress of his convictions upon his generation, to employ every means of enlarging his medical resources. The time has gone by, when physicians can boast of their ignorance ; few, and remote from the influences of the age, are those people who are indifferent to the educational needs of their physicians.

A noble field is now lying open for our members, in the great questions which are being called up by the exigences of the times, and in which are contained alike the greatest dangers and the highest advantages of our future as a profession.

The increasing quackery, and venders of cures for all ills that flesh is heir to, are now beginning to be apparent to all minds ; the various disturbances in the social system, which already demand the necessity of more enlightened opinion, and wise legislation on many points ; the increased interest given to medicine and surgical matters, by our own recent experience of war—in a word, the fresh and vigorous struggle for freedom, which is agitating the whole world, in every department of thought and action, are really sufficient incentives to the Fellows of the Order to acquire every art and grace that make them fitter exponents of the best public sentiment and more faithful guides to still greater achievements in professional knowledge.

In the present age medicine is aided by other sciences, which now, more than ever, have become its proper auxiliaries. Its students are among the strong men of the world. Its origin, in a country famous in all history ; whose institutions, government and military heroism are the admiration of the world ; whose poets and orators are themes of ours of the present day—death-

less in their fame—whose sculptures are models of our own—often imitated, never equalled;—the cradle of all that is eloquent in art, the home of learning, the nursery of freedom.

It was at this period that the master mind arose, under whose guidance medical knowledge assumed its rank as a science, prominent among the institutions of that age of learning.

That medicine had an existence previous to the age of Hippocrates, and that its doctors were conspicuous men in the age in which they lived, it were vain to deny. The beginning of the medical art was considered by the ancients as something divine, and the memory of a great benefactor of mankind was preserved by shrines and temples. Thus, there were in Greece four temples to Æsculapius, where were tablets, upon which were inscribed the names of those healed, and their maladies, with the genealogy of the patient, the cause of the disease, and the means of cure. These temples were occupied and attended by the priest-physicians, men of elegant and enthusiastic minds, who thought and practised the system as it then existed, consisting only of the results of their observations, together with the tablet records left by the patients themselves.

Here allow me to correct a popular misapprehension, which accuses the regular practice with having fixed rules and routines of remedies. On the contrary, every agent proved to be of value is eagerly seized, whether of earth, air or sea;—vegetable, mineral, aquatic or ærial, and its virtues published to the world. All other systems of practice are partial or exclusive,—purely vegetable, homœopathic, hydropathic, or hygienic—while the legitimate profession adopts any or all of these, that due investigation has approved.

Comparing the regular practitioner of medicine with all others, who have been the greatest discoverers in medical science? Who are the great chemists and botanists? Who are the surgeons of highest reputation? Who have opened the sealed box of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, explained their mysteries, and translated their language? Who have discovered and introduced the valuable resources of *Materia-Medica* and *Therapeutics*? Who but the regularly educated physician? All exclusive systems are based upon distorted echoes of some of these discoveries.

Now, My Fellows, in conclusion, I wish to extend to you my grateful thanks for your many kind indulgences, and hearty support extended to me while presiding over the interesting deliberations of our cherished Order during the past year, which has been one of steady and uniform prosperity. To my official successors, whose high personal character and fine talents render them eminently worthy of the position they have attained, I bid them God-speed in a work which is hard and laborious; yet, just in that proportion, is it glorious. May joy and gladness fill our hearts on each returning anniversary of the O. Æ.

## DEDICATION OF MASONIC TEMPLE,

BENNINGTON, VT.

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*Address delivered at the Dedication of the Masonic Temple, Bennington, Vt., St. John's Day, June 24, 1868, as Deputy Emminent Commander and Representative of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 36 K. T., New York City.*

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Freemasonry is a moral order of enlightened men, founded on a sublime, rational and manly piety, and pure and active virtue; with the praiseworthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most interesting truths in the midst of the most sociable and innocent pleasures, and of promoting, without ostentation or hope of reward, the most diffusive benevolence, the most generous and extensive philanthropy, and the most warm and affectionate brotherly love.

The members are united together by particular obligations, and acquainted by certain signs and tokens preserved with inviolable secrecy from remotest ages. These were originally adopted in order to distinguish one another with ease and certainty from the rest of the world, that impostors might not intrude upon their confidence and brotherly affection, nor intercept the fruits of their beneficence. They became an universal language, which, "notwithstanding the confusion of foreign tongues, and the forbidding alienation of custom, draws from the heart of a stranger the acknowledgement of a brother, with all its attendant endearments."

The decorations and symbols of the craft, which are those of a very common and useful art, and the phraseology, which is borrowed from its higher orders, serve to characterize an institution which might justly claim more noble devices; and at the same time are used either as emblems or indications of the simplest and most important moral truths.

It collects men of all nations and opinions into one amicable and permanent association, and binds them by new and irrefragible



obligations to the discharge of every relative and moral duty; and thus becomes the most effectual support and brightest ornament of social life, and opens a wide channel for the current of benevolent affections, and a new source to human happiness. Its laws are reason and equity; its principles, benevolence and love; and its religion, purity and truth. Its intention is peace on earth, and its disposition good will toward men. "I think," says a fine writer, "we are warranted in concluding that a society thus constituted, and which may be rendered so admirable an engine of improvement, far from meriting any reproachful or contumacious treatment, deserves highly of the community; and that the ridicule and affected contempt which it has sometimes experienced, can proceed only from ignorance or from arrogance; from those, in fine, whose opposition does it honor, whose censure is panegyric, and praise would be censure. "Assuredly, then, my Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights, you will with me congratulate the members of Mount Anthony Lodge, No. 13, on the agreeable events of this day.

Worshipful Sir, Wardens, Respected Officers and Beloved Brethren: Accept in behalf of Ivanhoe Commandary, No. 36, K. T., N. Y. City, my affectionate salutation; accept the felicitations of all the friends of Masonry. We are pleased with your harmony and zeal, and rejoice in your enterprise and prosperity. This my native Green Mountain State; this, Bennington, the home of my early youth, and Mt. Anthony Lodge, No. 13, my birthplace in Masonry—I am proud of all. The success of Masonry is connected with the best interests of humanity. May the social virtues you cultivate, and the heartfelt pleasure you experience in the Lodge, be your companions through life. Their mild influence, their benignant spirit, will animate every scene of duty, alleviate every corrosion of care, heighten every sensation of joy, and in the hour of dissolution shed divine transport in your souls. Let all my brethren present be willing that I should remind them that in vain do we attempt the vindication of our most excellent society, or the commendatory description of its purposes and requirements, if our conduct contradicts our profession.

Let us, then, be cautious to avoid all those improprieties and

vices which might tarnish the lustre of our jewels, or diminish the credit of the craft. Masonry will rise to the zenith of its glory in our lives. Do justice to its noble principles, and the world will see that our actions hold a uniform and entire correspondence with the incomparable tenets we profess. Then we shall "obtain a good report of them that are without," and those who speak evil of us will be ashamed, seeing they falsely accuse our good conversation and misrepresent our generous purposes. "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

Remember that we are the associated friends of humanity; that our sacred union embraces in its philanthropy the amities of the gospel; and that charity in its kindest exercise and largest extent is our distinguishing characteristic.

Others wear the warmth of summer in their faces, and the coldness of winter in their hearts; but a Mason's disposition should be mild as the breeze, open as the air, and genial as the sun, cheering and blessing all around him; and his deeds pleasant as the clear shining of the sun after the rain, and refreshing as the dewy cloud in a harvest day.

May the assembly at large be convinced that prejudices against Freemasonry are ill-founded, and that the society is worthy of high encouragement and warm commendation.

Finally, let us all pray that the privileges of equal rights may be widely extended, and all men become free; that war and contention may be forever terminated; that peace and happiness may be the uninterrupted enjoyment of all mankind: and to God accord the universal, united, unceasing ascription of love, and joy, and praise.

## THE O. Æ. SOCIETY.

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*Fifth Annual Re-Union, Feb. 26, 1869.*

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The fifth annual reunion of this flourishing Society took place on the evening of the 26th of Feb., 1869, at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. The day had been obscured by fast falling snowflakes, and dark heavy clouds threatened seriously to interfere with the general promises of the programme; but long before the appointed hour the forbidding clouds rolled away to the west, the moon shone out bright and clear, and at half-past seven the large lecture-room of the college was filled with a galaxy of beauty and intelligence. Shortly before eight o'clock the faculty filed in from their rooms, and were greeted with hearty and long-continued rounds of applause.

The Rev. Dr. ALFRED B. BEACH opened the exercises of the evening with an appropriate invocation to the Throne of Grace; after which the President of the Society, Dr. PHILIP WOOLF, delivered the annual address, in which a brief sketch of the aims and objects of the Society was given, as well as some sound advice to those who had just received their degrees. The President felt assured that the common opinion prevailing among young graduates that the older practitioners were their tacit enemies, envious of their success, or oblivious to their merits, was a mistake. The conscientious young practitioner has really no better friends than his seniors in the profession.

Professor LEWIS A. SAYRE then addressed the Society as follows:

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President, and Members of the O. Æ. Society:*

You have been kind enough to invite me to address you upon this, the fifth anniversary of your Society. A society organized for such noble purposes as I understand yours to be, namely the mutual literary and professional culture of its members, deserves and should obtain a high position. Viewing your Society in this light, I take pleasure in complying

with your request to address you with a few remarks. The next question is, what shall be the theme to which I shall call your attention during the few minutes allotted to me this evening? In casting about for a suitable subject, it has just occurred to me that as the most of you are now, in a few days, to assume new duties and responsibilities of the practical exercise of the profession of your choice, and having passed over some little distance on the same road in advance of you, it seems proper that from my present stand-point, I should take a hasty glance over the road just travelled, back to my early starting-point, to the place you are just now entering, and see if I can give you any advice, to guard you against the shoals and quick-sands which may endanger your professional future, and guide you in the sure path to usefulness and honor.

Too many in our profession in assuming this new responsibility in accepting the degree, make the fatal error of thinking that they have ceased to be *students* when they become practicing physicians. A more fatal error could not be committed. It is sure to lead to a low degree of professional standing, and it is dangerous to all those patients who may be so unfortunate as to employ a physician who has so low an estimate of his professional responsibilities and obligations.

While engaged in your college curriculum, if you fail to apply yourselves with diligence to your studies, no one is injured by it but yourselves; the community is not endangered by your ignorance. We, the professors, stand as a guard between you and the people. But when we grant you the degree, giving you the authority to practice, having found after a careful examination that you are conversant with the science up to its present stand-point, you must then recollect that you have assumed the responsibility of keeping yourselves upon the very crest of the tidal wave of its continual advancement.

Medicine is not one of the exact sciences—fortunately it is not—and from this very fact you have constant opportunities for study and improvement. Each day our science is gradually *approaching* exactitude, our knowledge is growing more minute and perfect, our ability to successfully treat disease more certain. These improvements and new lights your patients

have a right to demand a knowledge of in you ; and it can only be obtained by a constant devotion to study. As soon as you cease to be students, you should, as a matter of conscience, cease to be *practitioners*. Though knowledge be the first essential requisite for the practice of our divine art, there must be beyond and above this, correct principles to guide us in using it rightfully. You must be governed always by the most rigid virtue and the strictest veracity ; your character must be pure, and your honor above reproach, otherwise the power derived from knowledge thus obtained will only serve to make you dangerous members of the community. The whole object of your life, the whole motive of your ambition, should be the most speedy removal of disease and the best application of the most accurately ascertained plans and principles of the treatment of disease in the various cases that may be entrusted to your care. Let this be the governing principle of your professional life, and not the gain or profit which may be made by it as a trade, and it will certainly lead you to professional distinction and well-deserved honor.

In all your intercourse with your professional brethren, be courteous and honorable, being neither sycophantic and servile, nor arrogant and dictatorial. Maintain with dignity the true honor of your profession, and never permit ignorance, even should it be found in high places, to be detrimental to the best interests of your patients. The first few years of your professional life will probably not be overtaxed by attention to the wealthy or the great. Persons of wealth or fixed position are generally already in the hands of professional men of established reputation and position. In the hovels of the poor, in the cellars, back alleys and garrets of the city, most of your time will be spent, or if your location should be in the country, your patients will most likely be found in small cottages or hamlets of the more sparsely settled sections of your district, and not in the princely mansion of the lordly millionaire, whose pompous show of wealth commands the admiration of the villagers for miles around. But remember that whatever contrast may exist in the worldly position between the pauper and the prince, their physical frame with all their delicate and intricate organization is governed by the same laws, made by the same

Almighty hand. The great centripetal idea of humanity,  
 "A man's a man for a' that an' a' that!"

should never be forgotten. Your duty, therefore, as physicians, is to give to these poor patients, who may apply to you for relief, the same skill, care and attention as if they were the wealthiest persons in the land. You may probably receive no pecuniary compensation for your labor, or at most, but little, but you will have the greater and higher satisfaction of having at least conferred the benefits of scientific skill, upon a poor suffering fellow-creature. To have saved or prolonged a life which but for the application of that skill would have had an untimely end, or to have restored a malformed useless cripple to all the beautiful symmetry of his natural proportions, giving him thereby the opportunity of being a self-sustaining as well as a self-enjoying and useful member of the community, will give you more pleasure and satisfaction as honorable physicians than all the wealth you might obtain by pandering to the prejudices and desires of the vicious. The gratitude of these poor people for the benefits thus conferred, will find vent in tongues of warmest praise and appreciation of justly deserved honor, which without resort to the puffing and newspaper advertisements of the designing charlatan, will in due course of time bring your proper merits to the just appreciation of the wealthy and the great, who will in turn seek your advice and counsel when you have by this means proved that it is better than they can get elsewhere.

You have displayed so much good taste in inviting this beautiful array of the fair daughters of our city to be present at your anniversary this evening, that I feel that it is entirely unnecessary for me to give you any advice about one of the most important and necessary acts of your professional life, namely, the selection of some one fair damsel as a companion to share your joys, and sympathize with you in your sorrows. May your choice be such that the idea of England's great poet may be realized:

"O blest with temper, whose unclouded ray  
 Can make to-morrow cheerful as to-day.

\* \* \* \* \*

She who ne'er answers till a husband cools,  
 Or if she rules him, never shows she rules,  
 Charms by accepting, by submitting sways,  
 Yet has her humor most when she obeys."

By a careful consideration and proper *application* of these few hasty thoughts, I feel confident that your distinction will be such as to confer honor upon your *alma mater* and be looked upon with pride and satisfaction by all the future members of the O. Æ. Society.

Next in order came the regular toasts of the evening. The toast to "The Ladies" was responded to by Prof. Geo. T. Elliot as follows:

A sincere friend said to me to-day: "My dear fellow, I hear that you are to respond for the ladies this evening. You have my sympathy." I thanked him, and acknowledged that I needed it; and so do I confess, confidentially, to you all, that I have need of yours, and especially now when my friend Sayre has included my toast with his own in his comprehensive grasp.

It is a serious thing to speak for woman just when she is about to break that long silence which has distinguished her through the lapse of ages, and to speak for herself. Let us hope that, if she bring to future discussions the terrible earnestness and directness of purpose which she displayed in the apple question, at least she will select topics less fraught with woe to man.

Perhaps this may be one of the last toasts to woman to which a man may respond. The time may be at hand when this is to be superseded by one which will even now, we trust, cause their veins to tingle, and when we may hear, in soft, melodious cadence, from the lips of beauty—"The gentlemen, and bless them!"

With women arguing metaphysics in the pulpit, managing political majorities, directing the press, and wielding the scalpel in sick-rooms, there is but a step to the remaining fields of labor, and there may be some girlish face here present, covered only with mantling blushes, which may groove its furrows amid the responsibilities of the senate-chamber, or in expounding the majesty of the law.

Who shall paint the dawn of this era, so full of the fruition of woman's joys and privileges? The palette of another Guido must furnish the brilliant colors. Still Aurora, with rosy-tipped fingers, will marshal the procession; still the feminine

encircling hours will keep their accustomed places ; but the male Apollo will be hurled from the central place of honor, and some bright-eyed goddess, typical of woman's future, will seize the reins with no reluctant hand. Love will reign supreme. A new millennium will shed its benignant rays upon the land. Man, shorn of his supremacy, and abnegating even claims to military distinction, will still, we trust, bask in the sunshine of woman's favor, and wish that all the Venuses shall enjoy the rights and privileges of *Mars*.

With such a future, well may a man shrink from responding to-night to such a toast. But I am here with a herald's privileges, though not in a herald's garb. I am in a representative capacity : I speak for my constituents. Four hundred manly hearts, not satisfied with hearing me lecture on woman for five or six months, demand a final word before we part. Ladies, I present these four hundred hearts for your most distinguished consideration. Four hundred, did I say? Just as in that suffrage, soon to be abolished by woman, the male voter deposits a ballot that represents the united wishes and convictions of himself and wife, and daughters, so do these four hundred hearts have each four separate pulsating chambers, throbbing so harmoniously now that methinks you must all be able to hear them. And so, instead of four hundred, do I present sixteen hundred palpitating candidates for favor.

What aspirations does my feeble advocacy present! What longings for homes and firesides are interlinked with these emotions! What delicious courtships, what rapt elysium of engagements, what calm, enduring matrimonial joys do these longings prefigure! Let us hope that four hundred girlish hearts awaken in hastening rhythm to respond to the tumultuous beatings of my constituents.

What matters the language in which these longings are conveyed? What matters the man who presents them? Doremus brings from the mystic arcana of his laboratory a long black wire to meet another long black wire. Who can foretell the wondrous result? At once, on meeting, an intense flame starts into being, in which solid bars of iron melt in fervent heat and illumine the hall with lurid glare and iridescent sparkles. Why may I not do as well as a long piece of



black wire—I, who bring into this arena the concentrated heat of four hundred manly hearts? The result will not astonish the world, but will sparkle in separate matrimonial paragraphs in the daily papers, and light up many a happy home. For the enduring comfort of these happy homes, I must say that, although my four hundred have no Tennyson to hymn their praises in stately stanzas, yet, in the simplest and sternest prose do I declare that the immortal six hundred at Balaklava never charged as my four hundred will.

At the conclusion of Prof. ELLIOT'S witty and classic address, Prof. HAMILTON made his appearance and responded to the first regular toast of the programme, "The Bellevue Hospital Medical College." Prof. HAMILTON remarked that in responding he could not perhaps do better than to speak of what the college had accomplished. It was first organized in 1862, a year after the commencement of the war, at a period of time when literature, art and science generally languished. It was therefore a period unpromising and seemingly unpropitious. To-day, scarcely eight years have passed, you have before you the young stripling of this short age; nearly four hundred students are before me, and one thousand graduates have passed from these halls. This is really a giant progress, and in looking for its causes we shall find that it is not because it is the only college in the city, there are at least two other orthodox schools at no great distance from us; it is not because it is conveniently situated, not because it is the cheapest college, for this college was the first to raise its price to the present amount; not because it has charity students, for it is the only college which has no charity students, we require *cash down* in every instance; neither would he say it was because of the superiority of its faculty. To be sure the faculty were physically pretty large men, but they are not perhaps correspondingly superior in intellect. The success of this institution he believed to be almost entirely due to the fact that it was the "Bellevue Hospital Medical College"—The union of clinical with didactic instruction. This is no new idea, nor is it true that we have not always appreciated the value of such a course in this country, but the time for its practical realization had not yet fully come, but now being fully established, we have

no reason to believe that it will fail. The professor believes that sooner or later all the line of islands near the city will eventually be used for hospital purposes, and thus a rich and vast fund of material be presented for instruction. He had no fears that the Bellevue Hospital Medical College would fail: on the contrary, it is full of promises for the future.

The fourth regular toast, "The O. Æ. Society," was then responded to by GEO. H. PENNY in a very able manner. His address abounded in well chosen classic allusions, and recalled the pleasing recollections and associations which they had enjoyed together as members of the society. To those who were about to strike out into the untried ocean of the future, he wished God speed, and abundant success in their chosen profession.

The fifth regular toast, "The medical profession," was set down for Prof. WM. H. VAN BUREN; and the Sixth, "American Surgery," was to have been answered by Prof. JAMES R. WOOD. Both these eminent lights being unfortunately absent, loud calls were made for Prof. HAMMOND, who came forward and gracefully declined to answer three different toasts at one time. As this was a matter altogether out of the question, he concluded that it would be best for him to say nothing at all. Nothing daunted, the audience having caught sight of Prof. DUNSTER of the Vermont Medical College, unanimously and uproariously signified their desire to hear from him.

Professor DUNSTER came reluctantly forward and faced the music, literally and metaphorically. He could not see the slightest propriety in calling upon him to address this college, seeing that he belonged to a different institution, but if they insisted upon having the Vermont College represented, why, here was Professor CROSBY, who would no doubt be delighted to take his place.

Loud calls were immediately made for the unfortunate Professor, until he made his appearance at the rostrum. He said "he considered that suggestion of Professor DUNSTER the unkindest cut of all; he was astounded, amazed, he might almost say with deference, and in a good sense of the word, disgusted. He felt very much like Professor HOLMES, of Boston, when he was called upon to fill the place of Mr.

EVERETT; or somewhat in the condition of a celebrated sea captain, who had failed to return a salute on his entry into port; when asked by the commander why he failed to return the salute, he said there were some hundred good and sufficient reasons—*first*, he had no powder!

“If,” said the genial Vermont professor, “I had the eloquence of my friend Professor SAYRE, I might possibly make up for the lack of powder.” He felt convinced while listening to the remarks of Professor SAYRE that the latter was designed for a Methodist minister, and that somehow he had naturally drifted into the chair\*of orthopædics, not only to straighten crooked legs and backs, but also the morals of the community, which were certainly very loose and out of joint. While listening to the classic remarks of ELLIOT upon the ladies, he was reminded of the remarks of one of the ancient philosophers, who said that woman’s true ballot-box was the cradle, in which she should deposit not *votes* but *voters*. The good-humored professor here complained of feeling very much embarrassed, and took a drink of water. He then proceeded to remark that he felt himself very much in the position of ARTEMUS WARD, when he went to visit the Mormon widows; there were seventeen of them, he told them that he was far away from home, and that he hoped their intentions were honorable. The Professor then gave a humorous description of the origin of the O. Æ. Society. He had looked the matter up, and learned that these mystic letters stood for “Oculus Æsculapii.” The eye of Æsculapius. The Society had been originally founded in Egypt or some other foreign country, and had only been recently resuscitated. No report can do justice to the impromptu effect of the Vermont Professor, it was the decided hit of the evening, and like a glass of champagne, it ought to be taken when delivered, to be fully appreciated.

The seventh regular toast “The Graduating Class,” was appropriately responded to by R. CARNEY, after which the audience dispersed. The exercises were agreeably interspersed with selections from the “Grand Duchesse,” and other favorite operas, by WALLACE’S band, contributing very much to the enjoyment of the evening.

## ORDER OF ÆSCULAPIUS.

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*Address delivered at the Sixth Annual Re-Union of the Society,  
at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, on the evening  
of February 23, 1870.*

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*Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellows of the Order of Æsculapius :*

Time in its hurried flight, upon the one hand, scatters in its path those who are bound by the ties of nature; and in his ceaseless current, on the other, brings together those who are endeared by the ties of association. It is with no ordinary degree of self-congratulation that we find ourselves on this, the sixth anniversary of our existence as a Society, surrounded by so large and intelligent an audience, especially when every glance of the eye, and every throb of the heart tells us more potently than words, that we have your sympathy and your approbation in our laudable efforts to elevate the standard of the noble profession of our choice.

To the distinguished guests present, to the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, to our fellow citizens, and especially to the ladies who lend enchantment to the hour—to all who have come to meet with us to adorn the occasion with their presence, and cheer us with their countenances, we tender a respectful and grateful welcome.

We meet not to drain the bowl of intemperance, nor to indulge the excesses of gluttony—but to celebrate the increased reputation and usefulness of the medical profession; and to pay the tribute of affectionate remembrance to its departed patrons and brethren, and renew the cordialities of friendship and resolutions of good will.

We assemble not to disturb the peace of mankind by the busier plans of ambition, nor to fabricate those arts of luxury which but augment the miseries of life: our object is to enliven the kindly sensibilities of human nature, and all the sweet civilities of social intercourse.

The members of O. Æ have always been mindful of the duty they owe their *alma mater*, and in seeking to raise higher the standard of medical education, have resolved to aid by every means in their power, the achievement of this much to be desired object.

As representatives of the younger branches of the profession, we respectfully embrace this opportunity of emphatically asserting a most earnest desire for increasing the standard of requirements for those about to matriculate, and by advocating a spirit of emulation among each other, hope to incite attention to some of the many subjects that have heretofore necessarily been hurried over, owing to a limitation of time.

Grateful for the many advantages already proffered by the very excellent and honored institution, which we feel pride in acknowledging as our parent, we deem it a duty to supply a want that has been felt by students on various occasions, and bearing in mind the adage, "Put not off till to-morrow, the work of to-day," have resolved to inaugurate forthwith some measure that might result in establishing a medical library, easy of access at all times, to those who desire to consult it, and by furnishing works of reference difficult to obtain, and beyond the reach of those whose names are limited, prove as a valuable adjunct in the diffusion of knowledge.

All honor to the cherished memory of Valentine Mott. We wish in no way to detract from the merit and intent of the "Memorial Library," but on the *spot, in this very building*, dedicated to the prosecution of those great studies that draw annually within its precincts students from far and distant climes, which offers advantages, many, indeed, but we would add one more, a library.

Fully impressed with this determination, we point with feelings of pride to the nucleus furnished from the Department of State, through the Honorable Hamilton Fish, and to the generous contributions of Messrs. Wm. Wood & Co., Appleton & Co., etc., who have displayed a liberality that deserves more than this passing notice. We would call the attention of our Alumni to the undertaking, and urge upon them the establishment by voluntary contributions, of a library, that shall answer the requirements, and serve as a lasting monument, to per-

petuate the interest they evince in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and add still another to the many attractions which are rapidly putting our young *alma mater* in the foremost ranks of those great Institutions that are to elevate the standard, and raise the dignity and usefulness of our calling throughout the world.

Individual efforts to elevate the standard of our profession has accomplished much, but more, *vastly more*, may be achieved by means of *associated effort*. By association, nearly all the triumphs of the present day have been accomplished; by association, the great arteries of commerce and travel that thread their way across this continent to the far off Pacific, have been established. By association, the Pacific Railroad found its way across the mountains, and the speed of lightning has become a tame and trite expression, since the lightning itself has become the messenger of thought, asking and allowing no calculation of time or space, with which a thousand years are as a moment, and the circuit of the earth but as a needle's point. The telegraph has long ago spread its network of intelligent wire all over the mountains and streams of our extended territory; and by the aid of associated effort, it has now found its way across the trackless ocean, which has united in a communicative union the two great divisions of the globe on which we dwell, thus violating almost as it would seem, the command of the Almighty, by joining together that which God had put asunder. Alone, the dew-drop would be useless, but when it commingles and associates with its kindred drops, they distil their freshness and influence upon the tender plant, making the earth to rejoice, the tender plant to bloom in beauty and verdure, the fields to ripen with the richest harvest, to bless the husbandman's heart.

Amid the gush of pleasure and the joys of this golden hour, it is my painful duty to refer to the illustrious dead of our order, Honorable Martin J. Love, M.D., State Senator of Bennington, Vt., whose high professional attainments, social qualities, and noble impulses, endeared him to all within the circle of his acquaintance. Again, Dr. C. G. Steadman, of Ohio, former Secretary of our Order. Again the faculty of our young college has been called upon to mourn the loss of one of its

youngest and most promising members. In the pride and strength of manhood, in the full promise of successful usefulness, and in the ardent prosecution of the labors of the science he loved so well, Dr. J. W. Southack fell a martyr.

This Society now numbers five hundred members, many of whom are scattered throughout the United States, the British Provinces, and the different parts of the Continent of Europe. Many have risen to honorable distinction; and among those to whom we refer with pleasure is Dr. C. A. Leale, who was one of the attending physicians upon President Lincoln in his last hour, and is now one of the rising young surgeons of our proud metropolis. Another, Dr. J. Taber Johnson, at the early age of twenty-four, is now occupying the enviable position of Professor in the Howard University Medical College, at the Capitol of the Nation. To think and to work is to live. The fellows of this order, therefore, who would occupy an elevated position in our profession, and on the great theatre of life, must renounce forever the pernicious habits of indolence and dissipation. In all our laudable undertakings, we must never remit our ardor for a moment; we must possess a courage and a fortitude which no opposition can dampen, and no adversity can subdue. While pursuing this course, our minds will become enlightened, will become refulgent, and will drive away the clouds and dulness from the mind, as the mist which rolls up the hillside, and disperses before the rising glories of a summer sun.

May I not on this occasion be addressing some member of our order who will yet ennoble, adorn, and bless the age and generation in which he lives; some illustrious MOTT enshrined and canonized in the grateful hearts of his countryman, who will make for himself a monument more enduring than bronze or marble, beneath whose shade things will moulder, and around whose summit eternity will forever play!

Now, my fellows, in conclusion, allow me to say that the duties of your profession are interesting and important. The duties of society and of religion are also binding upon you. May you discharge them all with fidelity and honor! Then, when the events of time shall be ended, and the retributions of eternity begin, we shall be deemed worthy to enter the doors of the celestial temple, and advance the glories incomparably more resplendent than any here below.

## ORDER OF ÆSCULAPIUS.

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*Address delivered at the Seventh Annual Re-Union, in the Lecture  
Room of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York,  
February 27, 1871.*

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*Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellows of the Order of Æsculapius :*

Time, "remorseless time, fierce spirit of the glass and scythe," that knows no weight of sleep or weariness, stalks on in his triumphant, unremitting march; and since we were last assembled, another year has rolled into the deep abyss of the past, and the moonlight of another reunion evening has risen upon us. Again we find ourselves surrounded by a large and intelligent audience, with an enchanting array of female beauty, convened from the best circles of our proud metropolis. Many of our former Fellows have left distant fields of professional labor, to join in this annual festival, thus renewing the ties of friendly intercourse, and again briefly live over the happy days of college life. Under these circumstances, it now becomes my happy privilege to extend to one and all a respectful and grateful welcome to this our seventh annual reunion. Around the altar of friendship do we thus yearly assemble, and bring our votive incense to that temple which our predecessors founded on the firm basis of science and truth, supported by the wisdom of our Faculty, the energy of our intelligent young practitioners and advanced students in medicine, who are ardent and zealous in the advancement of our science, and do most deeply deplore the prejudice that retard its progress. As a society we design to uphold the dignity, and to encourage the legitimate exercise of our profession, the aim of which is to extinguish the false light of empiricism, and to substitute a steady beacon on the solid, permanent basis of truth and science; at the same time to present the extension of the practical mischief of that ignorance which has been our object to enlighten, and allow none to pass the portals of our temple, excepting those who



may be justly considered physicians in reality as well as in name. During the short time that our order has existed, we have gained an honorable distinction throughout the length and breadth of our land; and our influence for good upon the cause of medical education is now felt beyond our national boundaries. Having access to the large hospitals, under the charge of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, we justly appreciate them as advantages that are nowhere else, to such a vast extent, afforded to the students of the human system; but notwithstanding such facilities, we desire to perfect the design of our society library, which has yet to be furnished with many valuable works for reference that are beyond the reach of most students and many old established practitioners, on account of their great pecuniary value. We would call the attention of our alumni to this subject, and urge upon them the propriety of establishing a *Library Fund*. Also in this connection allow me to suggest the propriety of inaugurating a plan to establish a monthly paper, to be called "The Journal of the Order of Æsculapius," in which should appear the proceedings of our weekly meetings, and the valuable clinical reports of our members who are now scattered in various parts of our vast continent. If, perchance, any should consider these suggestions impracticable, on account of our comparative youth as an organization, let me remind them that we do not endorse the idea which is prevalent in many communities, that young men are unfit for doctors, generals or statesmen, and that they must be left in the background until their physical strength is impaired with age, and their intellect blunted with years. Look to the history of the past, and from the long lists of physicians, surgeons, heroes and statesmen who have nobly distinguished themselves, we will find that they were young men who performed those acts which have won for them an imperishable meed of fame, and which placed their names on the pages of history. The late lamented Dr. Valentine Mott, whose name is a household word in all civilized countries, was but twenty-four years of age when elected to the professorship of surgery, in his own Alma Mater. Alexander, the conqueror of the whole world, died at thirty-three years of age. Bonaparte was crowned Emperor of France when thirty-three. Our

own Washington was but twenty-five when he covered the retreat of the British at Braddock's defeat, and was Commander-in-Chief of all the Virginia forces. Alexander Hamilton, at twenty, was a lieutenant-colonel. Thomas Jefferson was but twenty-three when he drafted the ever-memorable Declaration of Independence. Coming down to the present day, we find Dr. W. J. Lusk, a fellow alumnus, at the age of thirty, filling a professorship in two different medical colleges, and of late has been elected to fill the place in Bellevue Hospital made vacant by the death of our late lamented Honorary Fellow, Professor George T. Elliott, whose charming eloquence was listened to on our last anniversary occasion by many who are now within the reach of my voice. Death, although the common lot of all, sad in any walk of life, is more deplorable when invading the fields of usefulness, has entered our own circle. Professor Elliott was one of the first elected to honorary membership in our Order, and during the whole period of his life was ardent and zealous in his endeavor to advance its interests. When called upon to fill any position on our programme, he never failed to comply with the solicitations of our committee. He was a man of powerful intellect, the friend and eulogist of our society; the scholar, the gentleman, and the teacher, the pride of the student, the profession, and his native city; of unwearied public spiritedness, venerable for his useful life and entitled to the gratitude of the profession and public for his exertions to diffuse the benefits of our science, and raise its disciples to that station to which its liberal studies entitle them. In the palace of the rich, the hovels of the poor, and within the walls of our own hospital, he was one to attend all with conscientious care.

“ With gifts of science and skill,  
 To turn away each threatened ill,  
 To watch beside the bed with tender care,  
 With earnest sympathy each grief to share ;  
 And from the couch of languishing and pain,  
 Raise the patient to the joys of health again.”

But alas! he has paid the debt of nature, and has gone to fathom the mysteries of another world. His good deeds and imperishable name are recorded upon the table of fame. No more shall the midnight bell summon him from his slumber to sooth the anguish of pain. Let us all remember that “The

generation of men are like the waves of the sea." In quick succession they follow each other to the coast of death. Another and another still succeed and press on the shore, then ebb and die, to give place to the following wave. Thus are we wafted forward, now buoyed perhaps by hope, now sinking in despair; rising on the tide of prosperity, or overwhelmed with the billows of misfortune. Sometimes, when least expected, the storms gather, the winds arise, and "life's frail bubble bursts." Be cautious then, nor trust the cloudless skies, to placid seas, or sleeping winds. Forget not there are hidden rocks; guard, too, against the sudden blast. Be faith your pilot, and you will be safely guided to the haven of eternal bliss.

As the time has now arrived, my fellows, when I am to retire from the office with which I have for three years been honored, I am desirous of leaving with you my best wishes and best counsel. As President of this order I have endeavored, to the best of my ability, to preside with impartiality over your interesting and profitable deliberations; to vindicate the principles of our institution; and while inculcating upon our members a regard to its duties, to impress the profession at large with a favorable opinion of its design and tendency. You have expressed in the most flattering terms your acknowledgment of my fidelity and your appreciation of my zeal. To have acquitted myself in any degree to your satisfaction, in my official capacity, and in my public vindication of the society, is a circumstance upon which I shall reflect with grateful sensibility so long as I live. My particular thanks are due to my associates in the executive board and the members of the society at large, for the honor they have distinguished me with. In surrendering the emblem of authority to my successor in office, it will be done with the firm conviction that the interests of the order, under his direction, will be looked after as zealously in the future as they have been in the past. My association with Dr. McWhinnie has brought us together at the banquet, the bedside of the sufferer in the hospital, and at the residence of the private patient in affluent circumstances. Be assured that he is distinguished with most commendable characteristics; his motto is: "Do nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing that is wrong." He is onward in duty, unflinching in the hour

of danger, and unyielding in the work assigned him. When he puts his shoulder to the wheel, a movement of the superincumbent weight is bound to take place. Now, my fellows, in conclusion, remember that unity is the golden chain which binds together our willing hearts and holds together our happy society; the principle on which dependeth internal harmony and its outward prosperity. May its links never be broken. May our example and conduct in life prove a high recommendation and fair illustration of our principles, and reflect the brightest honor upon our character and profession. Finally, brethren, farewell. Accept the best wishes, as you share in the best affections, of my heart. The special relation in which I have stood to you will with this evening cease, but the gratitude arising from it will ever remain.

Madame Alfred then sang an aria, "Come, Bells," by Donizetti, in a style which evinced fine culture and rare musical talent.

The Hon. John R. Brady delivered the Honorary Address, which was a rare gem of racy wit, anecdote and poetic story, keeping the audience in a continuous grin.

The next feature in the programme was the installation of officers for the ensuing year.

After the officers were duly installed by the retiring President, Dr. HARWOOD, President elect Dr. MacWhinnie, delivered his inaugural address as follows:

*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

'Twas just one year ago I had the honor of functioning as a High Priest of Oratory upon the rostrum, amid very different circumstances and surroundings, however, from those which now obtain. Then the reign of terror had commenced, and a final examination hung over my devoted head like the sword of Damocles—a position of affairs that those of you who are upon the anxious seat can fully appreciate. The dreaded weapon descended, not to cleave my much exercised imagination, but, like the wave of the magician's wand, to dispel the mists and doubts and fears which shrouded the coveted culmination of all my mental labors, disclosing my tiny bark securely launched upon the troubled, tempestuous sea of pills and

calomels—enabling me to cry out in borrowed phraseology, “Now is the winter of my discontent made glorious summer by a happy issue out of troublous times, my stern alarms changed to merry greeting, and all the clouds that lowered upon my life in the deep bosom of the past buried, forgot.” *Now* with a flourish of trumpets and burst of rhetoric that only my illustrious friend and predecessor could at all do justice to, I am again ushered upon the scene as President of the noble Order of Æsculapius.

'Tis generally supposed the blarney-stone is only to be found in the green isle of Erin, and is eminently Irish; but methinks its twin element has lately been discovered amid the green mountains of Vermont, the exact locality thereof not altogether unknown to Vermont's verdent son, from whose mouth hath just proceeded a saponaceous flow that throws the best of efforts off the far-famed Pennsylvania oil wells wholly in the shade. The process of soft-soaping to which I have been subjected, in view of a native diffidence of manner and disposition of which I am the unfortunate possessor, makes the task of addressing you difficult. But I would not that a hill of difficulty should rear itself into a mountain of impossibility; yet am I in a strait betwixt two, and what I do I do not. If I say anything to the Class of '71, I will be encroaching upon the peculiar province of the gentleman whose duty it is to respond to that sentiment; and if I sound the praises of the O. Æ., I will be caught poaching upon the domain of my noble Duke, Burchard by name; so that, between Scylla and Charybdis, I am in much danger of being swamped in the maelstrom of a sermon without a text, in which case my congregation have my deepest sympathy.

Some of those before me are but beginning to wade in the brooklets of medicine, and are making mud-pies upon the banks; others, venturing upon deeper water, are paddling their canoes upon its streams; while not a few are about to launch their full-rigged ships upon the broad expanse of an uncertain, turbulent, therapeutic ocean—an ocean bounded by potters' fields, country churchyards and city cemeteries, whose green mounds and cold gray pillars raise their heads in constant

warning, proclaiming man's mortality and the end of medical effort.

No doubt the voyage is commenced with feelings warm and prospects high; but do not flatter yourselves that all will be plain sailing. You will encounter the trade winds of success and adversity, dark, heaving storms and fretful calms; and unfavorable weather may tend to drive you upon the shoals and quicksands of quackery; legal sharks may beset your course with open maw, to swallow each advantage; but keeping your decks well cleared for actions in mal-practice, your helm well down, take for your guiding-star Industry, Honesty and Truth; thus will you be enabled to safely ride the crested billows of misfortune, and securely anchor in the calm haven of a clear conscience and contented mind. If, however, you attempt to sail your bark on the principle that the world *owes* you a living, with folded arms and sleepy eye, Micawber like, lazily scanning the horizon, even expecting something to turn up, my word for it the cold chilly winds of December will find plenty of rents in your rigging, through which to whistle the dirge of a profitless existence.

On the other hand, haste to get rich, the greed of gain may induce you to cruise upon forbidden waters; yea, even to join the squadron of that pirate crew who prey upon the credulity of a gullible public, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame. If such be the case, do not mask your guns, and so steal upon your victim in guise of honest craft; hang out the black flag, with its skull and cross-bones at once; display it upon every rock and fence; drive tandem; write for the newspapers; go in for one country, one destiny, one Beecher; run for President, if you will, but for God's sake do not seek to cloak your misdeeds under cover of a diploma from a respectable medical college, thus, assassin-like, foully stabbing the mother which nourished and cherished you, your *Alma Mater*.

Life is a strange anomaly, but death is a deeper mystery—with both, none are brought into more intimate relation than the medical man; his life is one varying scene, but a single stride divides the glittering drawing-room, with its tinsel and gas jets, from the sky-parlor of the tenement house, where the

flickering rays of a penny dip but deepens the gloom around ; yet in both conditions, disease and death will be the same. The fascinations of voluptuous music and the mazy dance will oft be exchanged for the bedside of the dying—perchance a little sufferer upon whose brow a fond parent has placed encircling wreaths of earthly honor, alas, soon to wither and decay in the cold, dark future. Have any entered lightly on the course? If so, I would ask you to ponder well before you take the hazard of a life. In no condition can a man be a greater blessing or a greater curse.

“ A wise physician skill'd our wounds to heal,  
Is more than armies for the common weal,”

With a just appreciation of your duties, your responsibilities, “so live that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan that moves to the mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber in the halls of death, thou go not, like the quarry slave at night, scourged to thy dungeon.”

Little did I think, while enjoying myself at this festive board last year, that another reunion evening would find me chanting the requiem of any of our number. But such is life. Although living in an hospital, brought into daily, nay, hourly contact with disease, and oftentimes death, yet never did I so fully appreciate the narrowness of that isthmus that separates the living from the dead, as when standing beside the bier of our late honorary fellow, Prof. George T. Elliott, gazing upon the ruined walls of what where ambition's airy halls, the dome of thought, the palace of the soul, and I could not help exclaiming, “Where now are all our boasted drugs, our well crammed magazines of health, that even the mighty masters of the healing art succumb to the icy touch of Father Time's boon companion, Death?” Never did I so feel the insignificance of man in the hands of that Divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them as we may.

Death is a theme that hath but little pleasure in it ; and although this matter has already been alluded to, yet would I be doing violence to my own feelings were I to withhold my meed of praise, my tear of sympathy, to the memory of one whom in life I delighted in, and whose death I deplore, now calmly, peacefully sleeping amid the solitude of Woodlawn

Cemetery, until the loud sound of Gabriel's brazen trump shall again awaken to life, light and liberty.

In assuming the mastery of this feast of reason and flow of love, and the Presidency of the noble Order of Æsculapius, I appreciate the honor conferred, and am not wholly oblivious to the duties and responsibilities of the position to which my brother Fellows of the O. Æ. have elected me. I trust the mantle of my predecessor, in descending upon my shoulders, will lose none of its efficacy. Enough to say, my every effort, and what ability God has given me, will be wielded to increase its influence and extend its usefulness. Excelsior shall be our watchword; and with the assistance of both officers and Fellows, I hope that as its past history has been honorable, its future may be glorious.

It is now my duty to announce the remaining courses of the feast: You already have had chicken soup by the retiring President; fish, with medico-loyal sauce by the illustrious Judge Brady, but for the life of me, I can not tell you what particular kind of fish it was, but will venture the opinion that it did not belong to the shark species. Next, Professor Wood will serve the roast, gotten up in a style peculiar to himself; after which, by way of variety, Professor McCreedy will hold forth on behalf of the Faculty. Messrs. Bailey and Burchard will furnish the *entrés*; and last, but not least, Professor Doremus will put in an appearance, with dessert for the ladies—candies, sweetmeats, and boquets, highly perfumed with sulphuretted hydrogen and other sweet-smelling gases, after having done ample justice to which, we will wish you all good night and pleasant dreams.

The doctor's address was followed by a duet, "Master and Pupil," by Mme. Alfred and Mr. C. Anderson.

"Our *Alma Mater*" was feelingly responded to by Professor James R. Wood, M.D., LL.D.

The piano solo, "Eligy of Tears," by Mr. Walter R. Johnson, was rendered in a highly artistic and creditable manner.

"The Class of '71" was responded to by Matt. I. Bailey, M.D., in suitable terms, followed by a song, "The Return," by Mme. Alfred. which was heartily encored.



“The O. Æ.” called up Mr. T. Herring Burchard, who, after an introductory flourish of trumpets, explaining the objects of the society, said :

“No organization was ever instituted for better purposes : first, by mutual criticism and debate upon medical topics would we qualify ourselves to assume the responsibilities devolving upon the intelligent and scientific practitioners. The speaker pleaded for a higher professional scholarship. A Cincinnatus or a Putnam may have been taken from their plow, or a Greene from his forge, and right nobly may they have fought to secure national independence ; but he maintained that a man fresh from the workshop or the farm, be he ever so naturally endowed, without previous mental discipline, is unqualified even to enter upon the study, much less, as too often is the case, upon the practice of the healing art. The interests were too much, the responsibilities too momentous for one ignorant of the fundamental principles of science to assume, when the stake is one of human life. Farther than this : the Society aims to develop the higher elements, the *social* of our nature. In referring to our late honorary member, Professor Geo. T. Elliott, the speaker said :

“But e'en while the notes of our triumph are swelling,  
 And mirth claims the hour for rejoicing and song,  
 A shadow steals o'er us that sadly is telling  
 Of one who is gone from this festival throng;  
 But we'll ne'er let the name once engraved on our altar,  
 Grow dim with the shadows that time doth impart,  
 For once have we trained with our hands that ne'er falter,  
 The wreath of our brotherhood round every heart.  
 Then, Elliott, sleep on, till the bright star of glory  
 Shall burst o'er thy tomb and bid thee arise,  
 When angels and loved ones who've gone on before thee,  
 Shall welcome thee there to thy home in the skies.”

But the hour of parting has come, and to our companions of pleasant hours, spent in the fellowship of our mystic order, must we now bid a sad but final farewell.

After the speaker had concluded, Mr. C. Anderson sang the comic song, “The Merrie Little Fat Gray Man,” which being loudly encored, was followed by chanting the obituary of the late lamented Lord Lovell. On a second encore, Mr. Anderson favored the audience with a synopsis of “Mrs. Watkins' Evening Party.”

"The Ladies" was responded to by Professor R. Ogden Doremus, M.D., a gentleman whose literary acquirements and fluency of speech has given him a place among the favorite lecturers of the city.

The entertainment appropriately concluded by the singing of "Those Evening Bells," by Mme. Alfred, Mr. C. Anderson and Mr. F. Crane.

The following resolutions were presented to the retiring President, Dr. E. C. Harwood :

WHEREAS, Our President, Ed. C. Harwood, M. D., has been unceasing in his labors and endeavours to elevate, sustain, and extend the bounds of usefulness of this Society, during the three distinctive terms of his office, extending over a period of three years, now about to expire ; and

WHEREAS, In view of the foregoing facts, deeming it just and proper that we should give some expression of our estimation of him as a member, friend, medical man, and executive officer ; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the impartial and judicious discharge of the executive duties of this Society by Dr. Ed. C. Harwood, for the three years during which he has presided over our deliberations, claim our respect, and the thanks of the Society be extended to him for the interest he has in various ways evinced for our welfare, and the personal efforts and sacrifices he has made to promote the same, both in his capacity as a member and executive officer.

*Resolved*, That we herewith express our appreciation of his talents, esteem for his virtues, and kind wishes for his future success and happiness.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be read on the evening of the Seventh Annual Re-union, by the President elect, and a copy of the same be sent to Dr. Harwood.

*In Testimony Whereof*, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of our Order to be affixed this 27th day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-one.

J. WALLACE McWHINNIE, M. D.,      GEORGE F. BATES, M. D.

*President.*

*Secretary.*



## “THE MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE OF THE STOKES CASE.”

*See Proceedings of the Medico-Legal Society, March 26, 1874.*

The President stated that he supposed that nearly all remembered that Dr. Peugnet read a paper on the medical jurisprudence of the Stokes case, a few months since, which excited a good deal of interest. Dr. Peugnet divided his monograph as you observe as follows: First, he gives a succinct and careful history of the case of James Fisk, Jr.; second, he proceeds to an elaborate description of shock; third, he applies his definition to penetrating gunshot wounds of the abdomen; fourth, he describes the physiological and toxical actions of morphine; and, finally, he considers the medical jurisprudence of the Stokes case, and *claims* that the facts as shown demonstrate scientifically: 1st, that the shooting of Fisk was not done in self-defense, but with premeditation; and 2d, that the wound in the abdomen was not necessarily fatal, and that the morphine was the immediate cause of death.

To this paper I now invite your attention, and call on Dr. E. C. Harwood.

Dr. HARWOOD.—I must confess that I am quite surprised at being distinguished in the manner that I have been this evening, by being called upon to open the discussion of so important a paper as we have before us for consideration, when we have so many learned gentlemen, representing both the legal and medical profession, present with us. I have had a copy of the monograph bestowed upon me, but am sorry to say that I have not had an opportunity to peruse it; consequently I can say but little more than indorse the views of the author in regard to the cause of the death of Colonel James Fisk, Jr. I have felt much interested in Dr. Peugnet's paper. He has made

bold assertions; and as I recollect the paper as presented to this body last December, he sustained them in the most scientific manner. By so doing, the medical profession of the world incurred a debt of gratitude to this learned gentleman, which I feel they will not fail to promptly acknowledge. I knew Col. Fisk in my early boyhood; he was the only son of worthy parents, who lived in close proximity to the home of my youth, in the old historic town of Bennington, Vt. On the night of January 6th, 1872, I was with Mr. Fisk's father, who was depressed and overwhelmed with grief in anticipation of fatal results from the wound his son had received.

I consoled the old gentleman by telling him his son was surrounded by the best medical and surgical talent that our city could boast of, and that I hoped that the means that they would devise for the restoration of their patient would be blessed with success. I could say much in regard to personal observations that I made at the Grand Central Hotel, on the fatal evening, but I know I would not be in order. Therefore I drop the subject relating to personal interest, and return to the one relating to science. We know that Col. Fisk received a severe penetrating wound of the abdomen. From the objective signs and symptoms we might naturally expect death to promptly issue from shock or internal hemorrhage, but as death did not follow from either of these causes, we would naturally expect recovery, and treat the patient with such anticipation in the case; and if recovery did not follow from proper treatment, the only mode of death we could expect would be the same as occurred in the Richardson and Vallandigham cases—Peritonitis and Septicæmia—and that could not occur short of forty-eight hours or longer.

The sworn testimony rendered on the trial of Edward S. Stokes, shows that  $3\frac{1}{2}$  gr. of morphia, equivalent to 21 gr. of opium, or 28 doses of morphia were given to Col. Fisk, hypodermically and otherwise, within the space of three and a half hours; and when we come to consider that from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a grain of this drug is the ordinary dose, and that prudence requires that we should not, under ordinary circumstances, duplicate the minimum or maximum dose until after the lapse of four or six hours; and that the autopsy revealed the fact that

Fisk died from neither of the causes I have stated—we must, therefore, in the present light of science, and in all honesty, come to the conclusion that Col. JAMES FISK, Jr., came to his death from the injudicious administration of morphine ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  grs., 28 doses having been given within the space of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours), independent of the wound he received from the bullet that was hurled from the pistol of Stokes. In this case we admit local shock, which paralyzed the absorbent powers of the stomach, and allowed 2 grs. of morphia to remain within it inert until  $1\frac{1}{2}$  grs. more were given hypodermically, which lighted up a flame that burnt out the life of one of the most noted characters of our continent. The death of Fisk, under these circumstances, is one of the most unfortunate reflections that could fall upon the medical profession of the United States; but, as much as we regret it, it is not without its lessons in science.

No physician of to-day will instruct his student to administer morphia by the stomach in similar cases to this or any case; but the more judicious method of hypodermic administration will be taught and used.

## THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL UPON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

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*Remarks upon a Paper by Prof. Wm. A. Hammond, before the New York  
Neurological Society, May 4, 1874, at the College of  
Physicians and Surgeons.*

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*Mr. President:*—I came into this distinguished body of learned men this evening through the courtesy of an invitation from one of your officers, expecting merely to be a listener. The subject of “The effect of Alcohol upon the Nervous System,” as first presented by the distinguished author, has afforded me an amount of instruction that I hope we shall all profit by.

As a therapeutical agent, alcohol, I am free as a practitioner of medicine to admit, has proved incalculably beneficial under many circumstances; but on the other hand we must all admit that it has been one of the most frequent causes of a long train of nervous and physical diseases, among which may be enumerated insanity, oinomania, mental debility in the offspring, inflammatory diseases of the brain, apoplexy, paralysis, epilepsy, etc. The experience of many a practitioner must bring the terrible result of intemperance frequently before his eyes; but while he is thus rendered familiar with its consequences as regards *individuals*, few save those who have expressly inquired into this subject have any idea of the extent of the *social* evils resulting from it, or the degree in which they press upon every member of the community. I believe that you will justify me in the assertion that of all the causes which are at present conspiring to degrade the physical, moral and intellectual condition of the mass of the people, there is not one to be compared in potency with the *abuse of alcoholic liquors*; and that if this could be done away with, the removal of all other causes would be immeasurably promoted.

It is admitted by physiologists as an indomitable fact in Organic Chemistry that there is not the slightest relation of

composition between alcohol and muscular tissue. Dr. Hammond very beautifully demonstrates that alcohol is found in the brain and spinal cord and nerves of the rabbit that has been fed upon alcohol; and he also proves that his own weight increased under its use; but this does not prove that the weight added to his body can be regarded as a healthy condition, for we have many pathological conditions where our weight is increased, and at the same time we are in greater danger of being cremated or put into the undertaker's hands.

We do not usually find that those most distinguished for a combination of intellectual power which is known as *talent*, are disposed to make use of alcoholic stimulants to augment their mental power. Of this we have a remarkable illustration in the habits of practical gamblers, who, when about to engage in contests requiring the keenest observation and the most sagacious calculations and involving an important stake, always "keep themselves cool," either by entire abstinence from fermented liquor, or by the use of those of the weakest kind in very small quantities.

The greater part of the intellectual labor which has most extended the domain of human knowledge, has been performed by men of remarkable sobriety of habit: many of them have been constant water-drinkers. Under this category, it is said, may be ranked Demosthenese and Haller. Dr. Johnson, in the latter part of his life, took nothing stronger than tea, while Voltaire and Fontenelle used coffee, and Newton and Hobbes were accustomed to solace, not to excite, themselves with the fumes of tobacco. Of Locke, whose long life was devoted to constant intellectual labor, and who appears independently of his eminence in his special objects of pursuit, to have been one of the best informed men of his time—explicit and remarkable testimony is borne by one who knew him well. "His diet was the same as other people's, except that he usually drank nothing but water, and he thought that his abstinence in this respect had preserved him so long, although his constitution was so weak." The subject is one worthy of our scientific consideration—we should press our investigations, arrive at conclusions and yield nothing to religious fanatics or temperance praying-bands that science will not approve.



## REMARKABLE CASE OF NARCOTIZATION.

*From the Medical and Surgical Reporter, May 9, 1874.*

On the evening of Friday, March 20, at eleven o'clock, I was called hastily from my office to the house of my friend, Dr. Harvey. On arriving, I found his infant son, aged nineteen days, to be thoroughly narcotized, occasioned by the careless administration of morphine by the nurse in using the same teaspoon for the administration of catnip tea which she had previously used in taking a solution of morphine herself. We can approach the character and strength of the solution only from the fact that one-fourth of a grain of morphine was used in two teaspoonfuls of water, and it was found, by dipping the spoon in it and taking it out, that three drops remained in the spoon; and, therefore, we calculated that the child got three drops of the solution of morphine, equivalent to one-fourth of a grain in two drachms of water. Condition: pupils contracted and no response to light or irritation of the conjunctiva; pulse fifty per minute and feeble; stertorus breathing was also present. I stripped the child and sprinkled the face with cold water, and applied the same to the entire length of the spine, with the result of causing a deeper inspiration; gave one-half of an ounce of strong infusion of coffee per rectum, and used Kidder's magneto-electric machine. Applied one pole over the phrenic nerve, and the other to the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, and over the entire length of the spine.

Great alarm was manifested by the parents at the condition of their child. I learned that my friend, Dr. E. H. M. Sell, was the accoucheur of the mother, and she suggested that in the multitude of counsel there was safety. I therefore sent at once for Dr. Sell, who arrived at 12:30 A. M. with Kidder's double cell faradic battery, which was applied with a mild induced current. The temperature at this time was 96° per rec-

tum; respiration stertorus and from 13 to 18 per minute; pulse 116 and irregular. At one o'clock gave more coffee per rectum, a portion of the first having been passed in the napkin. At three o'clock, had made three applications of electricity, one of which was continued during the next half-hour. Temperature  $95^{\circ}$ ; warm bottles of water were applied; respiration still stertorus, 17 per minute, but more regular. Gave one drop of solution of atropia, one grain to the ounce of water. At 4:30 free and natural movements of the bowels; eyes open and a response of the conjunctiva for the first time, and quite a natural cry. At 4:45 gave two teaspoonfuls of breast milk. At 5:05 the condition more marked for improvement; eyes opened and breathing approaching a normal movement; respiration 30 per minute; temperature  $98^{\circ}$ . Gave one-half ounce of strong coffee per rectum; pulse 150. The condition so good that we went home. At 10 A. M. an injection of soap and castor oil was administered with the effect of producing a thorough evacuation of the bowels; an application of cold water was made to the head. At 5 o'clock P. M. the child presented a normal appearance, and the treatment was discontinued, with the exception of a small quantity of lime water, which we advised to be given. It was thought to be indicated on account of the acrid condition of the bowels, manifested by green discharges and some undigested milk.

This constitutes briefly the history and recovery of the case, which is in accordance with the principles of treatment that I always resort to in cases of narcotization from opium, with the exception, I must say, that I do not think the mother's milk ought to have been given under these circumstances, for it is a well known fact that while a young mother is depressed with fear and anxiety, the rich nourishing quality of the milk is changed to that of almost a watery secretion, as it was in this instance, and pure cow's milk was substituted for it during the next twelve hours.

DEDICATION OF MASONIC TEMPLE,  
NEW YORK.

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*Address delivered at the Dedication Banquet, Masonic Temple,  
New York, June 2, 1875.*

*Report by Daily Paper.*

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*Sir Knights of Ivanhoe and Portsmouth Commanderies :*

This is a proud epoch for our Order ; and I rejoice with you all that we have lived to see the sun dawn on so beautiful a day, rise and reflect its glittering rays from the steel of the largest body of Christian Sir Knights that ever assembled upon our Continent.

I have with you enjoyed the grand parade, the banquet, and now comes the feast of reason and the flow of soul.

Our Caterer, Eminent Sir Knight Gugel, has seen fit to order me to be served up at this stage of the proceedings. If it were not for the Eminent Sir Knights of Old Virginia who are present, I should question his taste and judgment in presenting you with so unsavory a dish, after having tasted such dainties from Eminent Sir Knight Grand Capt., Gen James G. Bain, of Portsmouth, No. 5, Va., Dougan of Ivanhoe, No. 36, and others who have preceded me ; but in compliance with the principles of our institution, I submit cheerfully to the will and pleasure of my superior's order, that there may not appear to be any want of discipline on my part.

Now you all see I am much embarrassed ; therefore I claim your brotherly sympathy. My tongue falters, knees totter, senses are touched up and mind alienated ; I feel an unconquerable weakness, but I will say in my own behalf, that this is not consequent upon having drank "firewater" to aid digestion, and got too large a dose, for you all know I am a teetotaler. It is said I am related to the Grants: at all events there was never much eloquence in my family, and all there was has been distributed to my grandfather and father. The first was a farmer in

the old Bay State on the Berkshire Hills. Like the great Vanderbilt of to-day, he always drove a splendid double team, with the exception that his horses did not require bridles nor russet reins, but they had horns. (Applause). The latter attained to the distinction of a civil justice in Old Vermont, in the town where "Molly Stark" did not sleep a widow after the General and the "Green Mountain boys" had given the red coats a good trouncing on the battle field of Bennington. But I am in the presence of Sir Knights of Virginia, who sprang from the same soil that George Washington did, and this thought brings up a subject that I feel unworthy to treat on this occasion, therefore my feelings. Again, I have recently come from a tour in the South, and have been among the homes of our visiting Sir Knights, partook of their generous hospitalities, and my tongue fails to tell the heartfelt emotion of pleasure and gratification that I experienced then and now. The Greeks and Romans who were desirous of perpetuating their attachment by rendering its union more extensive and sacred, used to take a small piece of stone or ivory, divide it in equal parts, one wrote his name on one of these and his friend on the other; then making a mutual exchange, promising to retain the tally as a pledge of inviolable friendship. Let the badges we have in exchange from the Knights of Virginia serve to cement us, and emulate the ancient custom, and when outsiders charge us with demoralizing principles, we will tell them that some of the most orthodox and respectable clergymen are of our order; and when they impute to us disorganizing attempts, we will remind them that Washington was our patron brother and friend.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS,

*At Brussels, Belgium, 19th to 25th day of September, 1875.\**

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*Hon Dr. J. A. Adrian, of Logansport, Indiana, and Dr. Ed. C. Harwood, of New York, constituting the United States Delegation from the "American Medical Association."*

*Translated from the French by Julius Cretin, of New York.*

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Sept. 22d—ADDRESS OF HON. PRESIDENT DR. J. A. ADRIAN.  
*Mr. President :*

For three years the American Medical Association has sent its delegates to the British Medical Association and other kindred European societies, with the special object of asking their concurrence and co-operation in maturing a plan of uniformity of instruments, scales, tables, and records of clinical observation.

The American Medical Association hailed, with fraternal feelings, the call for this International Medical Congress, and with hopes (your first programme containing a motion to create a uniform method of measuring the defects of audition, this being part of the programme) of unity of all the means of observation advocated by the American Medical Association; we cannot help feeling that if you find that part of the plan right you will have stronger reason to support the whole.

The medical profession would find many advantages accruing from the adoption of this uniformity; common measures would insure the communication of thoughts between us better than a common language.

Mothers and nurses could be made useful recording assistants by giving us the true signs and symptoms previously to and between our visits, and they would soon comprehend the true nature of disease and cure, instead of falling into the supernatural notions which are now forced upon them.

For these and other reasons, the American Medical Association

\*See Report of Delegation, page 52.

urges upon the International Medical Congress the necessity of organizing an International Commission, having for its object to devise a plan for uniform means, instruments, scales, and clinical observations, and to report on the same at the next meeting of the International Medical Congress.

ADDRESS OF THE HONORARY PRESIDENT, E. C. HARWOOD, M.D.

*Mr. President :*

In taking the floor of this Congress I must express to you my heartfelt gratitude for the honor you have conferred on the profession of my country by naming me, as one of its representatives, Honorary President of this vast and intelligent body of medical men convened from all parts of the world, where the glorious principles of medicine are taught and practiced.

The remarks of my friend and colleague, Hon. Dr. Adrian, cover nearly all that is to be said in behalf of a uniformity of measures. I wish, however, to urge, in behalf of my constituents, the absolute necessity and great advantage to be derived from a uniform system of weights and measures.

This want has long been felt by the profession in America; and in a country so rapid in its progress, the wonder is that a more advanced system has not been adopted. This may be accounted for, in part, on the ground that America naturally follows in the footsteps of the mother country; but the time has now come when parent and offspring must no longer remain in opposition to the metric system. We might just as well set ourself in opposition to gravitation, except that we can, as two great nations, delay and retard a matter of human progress while we could not retard gravitation.

When I say that I am heartily in favor of the metric system, I think that I represent the sentiment of my countrymen in the medical profession. We desire to see it introduced into our country as rapidly as it can be done wisely. Our colleges and high schools all teach it, and should be earnest advocates for its more permanent introduction into our public schools, since all such reforms must be forwarded by incoming generations, leaving the old system to die out gradually with the generations as they pass away.

There is no longer any doubt with us in regard to the metric system. For there are, at present, many of our best manufacturing chemists, among whom I might instance E. R. Squibb, M.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., who have for many years used the system for all nice work.

Nearly all of our best men regard the metrical system as well assured and secured upon the safe ground ; first, of the growing necessity for something better than the old system ; and second, that it is very much better, and probably quite good enough for the next two thousand years ; and it has been as a system, so well constructed, and so well matured, that in less than eighty years, or two generations, it has had inherent force enough quietly to obtain the approval of a large majority of civilized nations, and is favored, if not adopted, by the best educated classes of all nations.

## AFTER-DINNER SPEECH

*At a Banquet given in London, October 2, 1875, by the Masonic Lodge over which the Prince of Wales presided, to Hon. Dr. J. A. Adrian, and Dr. Ed. C. Harwood, American Delegates to and Honorary Presidents of The International Medical Congress, in Brussels, Belgium, September, 1875.*

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*From the London Freemason.*

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*Worshipful Master and Brethren :*

Wherever I go, in my own country, in England, on the Continent of Europe, in the halls of science, or at the social banquet, I always find myself overshadowed by my brother, friend, companion and colleague, Dr. J. A. Adrian, who has just spoken. These circumstances and the lateness of the hour will preclude any extended remarks on my part.

It is with no ordinary degree of self-congratulation that we find ourselves surrounded by so many brethren of the mother country; and especially so, as we have met with such magnificent hospitality and such warm and cordial greeting among you. Believe me when I tell you that warm is the heart that feels, and willing the tongue that speaks, and yet I cannot express acceptably the feeling emotions that come welling up from the deepest fountains of the heart in response to the warm and fraternal greeting which you have extended to us on every and all occasions. There is indeed a bond of union between brethren however distant; there is a common tie that comes up, unbidden, from the deepest fountains of the heart in response to those great and glorious principles of Freemasonry. And what are the great tenets of Freemasonry?

I answer, brotherly love, relief and truth.

By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family—the high, the low, the rich and the poor, as created by one common parent, and placed upon the same theatre of action, are to support and protect each other. These in connection with the three great theol -



gical virtues—faith, hope and charity—are the golden links of that chain which binds earth to heaven—man to God.

The strongest ties of fraternal feeling should ever exist among Masons of the mother country and those of America. And, brethren, did we but realize in all its force the fact that we are indeed brethren, and with the feelings and emotions and impulses which should move a brother earnestly to promote each other's welfare and best interests, this world of ours would soon present a spectacle of bliss that even angels might wish to come down, make and call their own.

Freemasonry in all its parts is an organization of principles brought from the highest source of human reason and divine revelation, and in their practical exhibition and moral influence, of untold value to the human family.

Looking from its throne of brightness upon man in all its natural and assumed depravity, and regarding him in the light of a glorious future, not only as a social being connected by ties and impulses to his fellow man, but also as an immortal being, linked with beings of a higher source and a life that knows no ending; an institution invested with attributes of such glorious consequences; and in the plenitude of that power, tearing down the bulwarks of human misery and awakening in the heart of man new thoughts, new hopes and new desires, and telling him that he may be not only happy, but how to make others happy, it is an organization that must flourish. It is the cause of civilization, virtue, religion and human happiness. Wherever its empire has been established, its reign has been marked with numberless blessings and its votaries made to rejoice in a cause which has done so much and is destined to accomplish still more for poor humanity. In conclusion let me offer as a sentiment—"The Brothers of the Mother Country and those of America—now and forever—one and inseparable."

FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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*Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting, Held in the City of Philadelphia,  
June 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1876.*

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SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7th.

The delegates to the International Medical Congress at Brussels reported as follows:—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the American Medical Association:*

At the last meeting of your honorable body, held at Louisville, Ky., May 4 to 7 inclusive, 1875, the following resolution offered by Dr. EDWARD SEGUIN, of New York, was adopted, viz.:—

“Therefore, the American Medical Association resolve to nominate new delegates, commissioned to again advocate in Europe the unity of clinical observation, and charge them to report progress, in brief, at the meeting of 1876.”

In accordance therewith, the following gentlemen were commissioned as such delegates; namely,

Drs. H. D. HOLTON, of Vermont; A. E. M. PURDY, H. B. SANDS, JOHN DRAPER, J. C. HUTCHISON, E. C. HARWOOD, of New York; H. R. STORER, and L. F. WARNER, of Massachusetts; E. T. EASLEY, of Texas; J. A. ADRIAN, of Indiana; and JOHN MORRIS, of Maryland.

Arriving at Brussels, Belgium, the American delegation was found to consist of only two members, Drs. J. A. ADRIAN, of Indiana, and E. C. HARWOOD, of New York. They felt great regret at not finding a larger number present.

They were received with distinguished consideration and marked courtesy by the International Medical Congress, there convened on the 19th day of September; and as soon as their presence was officially announced to that body, they were enthusiastically and unanimously made Honorary Presidents.

Feeling the responsibility which devolved upon them, as the only representatives present from the American Medical Association, they at once proceeded to forward the measures which they had been appointed to advocate. They are not at the present time able to present the result of their efforts, owing to the fact that the transactions of the International Medical Congress have not yet reached this country. The serious illness of the Secretary-General, M. WARLOMONT, has also delayed that publication several months. They can, therefore, merely report progress. However, from conversations held with various distinguished gentlemen present on the occasion, they feel quite fully warranted in saying that their propositions in your behalf would be very favorably entertained.

Your delegates wish to express the great pleasure and gratification which they experienced in the manner of their reception by the Congress, by the city of Brussels—having been made its guests—and by His Majesty, the King of Belgium, at the royal palace.

They desire also to acknowledge courtesies from Drs. EDWARD SEGUIN, of New York; HENRY COLLIGNON, of Brussels; and ALEXANDER OGISTON, Surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Scotland.

They have referred to the fact that, owing to the illness of the Secretary-General of the International Congress, the publication of its Transactions, *in extenso*, has been delayed several months.

They are happy to say that they were fortunate enough to secure and bring with them an official copy of the Minutes of the Congress, published in a small pamphlet in the French language. From this document, through the courtesy of Dr. GEORGE W. WELLS, of New York City, a translation of the essential points of what transpired has been made and compiled, under the title, "Brief Résumé of the Proceedings of the International Medical Congress at Brussels, 1875," etc., a copy of which is herewith submitted as a portion of this report.

To the English reading portion of our profession this Résumé will be found of special interest; but the French reading physician is referred to the full Transactions, which may be

obtained from the Secretary-General at a cost in gold of about the same as our own Transactions.

All of which is respectfully submitted in behalf of the American Delegation to the International Medical Congress, Brussels.

EDWARD C. HARWOOD, M.D., of New York,

*Chairman.*

CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS ON INFLAMMATION  
OF THE MASTOID CELLS.

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*Read before the Northwestern Medical and Surgical Society, November  
15th, 1876.*

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*Reprint from the Virginia Medical Monthly, Richmond.*

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen:* The paper as announced for this evening is founded upon one case, selected from several which have come under my observation.

It is not my purpose to enter into an elaborate and extended dissertation as to the nature and causation of the affection under consideration. Suffice it to say that the disease, in my experience, is more frequently the result of a strumous diathesis, cold, neglected otorrhœa following scarlatina and measles, etc. It is oftener observed in children than in adults; in the latter, it frequently results from traumatic causes and syphilis.

CASE.—Julia Higgins, now before you, aged ten years, residing in this city, had, as I was informed, always up to this time (April, 1874,) been a healthy and active child, with the exception that at the age of six she suffered considerably from whooping cough and scarlet fever, which were both severe. During the paroxysm of coughing, the cerebral congestion was of a remarkable character. She often had bleeding from the nose and ears, accompanied by vomiting. On recovering from her attack of scarlet fever, there remained a discharge from the left ear, which continued until about the middle of September last without interfering with her general good health. A few days before I saw her, while at school, she was attacked with

ear and toothache, in consequence of which she was obliged to go home and remain there. So great was her suffering, that on the morning of April 18th, 1874, at two o'clock, her parents were obliged to seek the advice of a physician.

When I arrived at her bedside, I found her in convulsions. A hot water and mustard pediluvium was ordered, and dry cups were applied to the nape of the neck, but without the desired effect. I then administered chloroform by inhalation, which promptly arrested the convulsions.

I now discovered that her pupils were widely dilated, giving no response to light, and that there was complete paralysis of the right side—the latter condition being first made manifest by the fact that when the bed covering was turned down from the chest, she would immediately put it up again with her left hand. The left side immediately responded to irritation; but over the entire right side there was no sensation. I therefore diagnosed compression of the brain, from an unknown cause, and regarded the case as a desperate one. The pulse at the time (three o'clock A. M.) was 160 per minute; temperature, 105°F. I administered\* *ol. tiglii*, gtt. ij, placing it well back upon the tongue, together with an enema,† composed of *ol. ricini*, ℥ss; *ol. terebinth.*, ℥ss; *aq. bul.*, ℥iv. In twenty minutes the patient arose from her bed, and walked in a delirious manner about her room, moaning the while; then she evacuated freely both the rectum and bladder; after which she voluntarily assumed the recumbent position—still, however, manifesting traces of delirium. The pupils now appeared natural, and readily responded to a strong light. At five o'clock A. M., the pulse was down to 120; temperature, 102°. I then ordered:

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| ‡R. Potassii iodidi..... | 3j   |
| Potassii bromid.....     | ℥ss  |
| Aquæ puræ.....           | ℥iv  |
| Syrup. glycyrrhizæ.....  | j M. |

Metrically rendered—

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| *R. <i>Ol. tiglii</i> , gram..... | .65     |
| ‡R. <i>Ol. ricini</i> .....       |         |
| <i>Tereb. aa</i> gram.....        | 14.76   |
| <i>Aq. bull.</i> .....            | 118. M. |
| ‡R. <i>Pot. iod.</i> gram.....    | 3.69    |
| <i>Pot. brom.</i> .....           | 14.76   |
| <i>Aq.</i> .....                  | 118. M. |

Sig. A dessertspoonful every hour until my return, which was about 9.30 A. M.

On my return, I found her sufficiently conscious to recognize her friends, but some of those whom she knew most intimately she could not call by name. The treatment was continued with slight variation, administering the bromide mixture at longer intervals until the 22d, during which time I had ascertained that the cerebral trouble and hemiplegia were the result of inflammation of the mastoid cells. I determined to operate, and with that view I had this instrument (Fig. 1), made by C. E. Riker, 1227 Broadway, New York.



FIG. 1.

On the morning of November 23d, 1874, assisted by my friend, Dr. Charles A. Leale, having anæsthetized the patient with sulphuric ether, I made a crucial incision over the mastoid process, about one-half an inch posterior to the ear, down to the bone, which was found to be roughened. About two ounces of pus immediately made its exit. Then with a small trephine (7-16 of an inch, Fig. 1), I cut through the table of the bone, and the removal of a corresponding-sized button was followed by a small amount of pus. The wound was then closed by two sutures, with the exception of the lower portion, which was left open for the exit of pus, and dressed with cold water.

One o'clock P. M. Patient comfortable, with the exception of slight pain in the region of the wound. Pulse, 106; temperature, 99.8°. Ordered tinct. opii, if necessary to procure rest.

Five P. M. Temperature, 104°; pulse, 106°; tinct. opii given.

Nov. 24. 10 A. M. Patient had a good night's rest—sleeping until 8 A. M., when bromide mixture was given, together with generous diet. Pulse, 100; temperature, 98.5°.

Three o'clock P. M., Pulse, 100; temperature, 99.5°. Sprayed the wound with carbolized soap and water, and dressed the same with carbolized tow moistened with warm water.

I shall not attempt to give a detailed statement of the symptoms and treatment; suffice it to say that the case was closely watched, all symptoms noted, and indications promptly fulfilled. She was ordered a generous diet, with as much fresh air as she could avail herself of; and no unfavorable accident supervened to prevent her rapid progress toward health, and I discontinued my daily visits on the 12th of the following month:

I again quote from my notes:

*Dec. 21.* The family have been attending to the dressing since my last visit. Some discharge continues from the external ear, as well as from the upper and lower sinuses of the wound. I left the case, with instructions to call at my office if anything appeared to be wrong.

In five days, my patient called and was entirely well, with the exception of deafness in the left ear, and continued so until about two weeks since. Complaining of pain in the ear and tenderness over the track of the old cicatrix, syringing with warm water relieved her.

I recently mentioned the particulars of the case to my friend, Dr. D. Webster, who kindly requested me to send the patient to his office for examination. She accordingly went, and returned with the following note:

"No. 19 EAST 39TH STREET, )  
"NEW YORK, November 11th, 1876. )

"*My Dear Doctor* :—Julia Higgins is, so far as I am able to judge, entirely deaf in her left ear. She does not even hear the tuning fork with it when placed against the forehead. She has a large perforation of the membrana tympani, leaving only a rim on all sides, except the lower portion, where not a vestige is left. The auditory canal, is normal, except that it is somewhat excoriated from being constantly bathed with offensive pus from the middle ear. That there has been loss of substance of this mastoid is evident enough.

"Hoping to meet you Wednesday night, I remain

"Yours sincerely, D. WEBSTER.

"P. S.—Cleansing and astringents are indicated. D. W."



This, Mr. President, completes what I have to say at present on the subject; and as it is the custom of the Society to allow its members to express their views on all subjects brought before it, I hope to be followed by remarks or the narration of cases by others, which will no doubt add material interest to this meeting.

#### DISCUSSION.

Prof. J. L. Little, M.D., said: I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to Dr. Harwood's interesting paper on mastoid disease. The operation of trephining or opening the mastoid process, in cases of suppuration or caries of the mastoid cells, has become of late years a recognized procedure. In two cases which have occurred in my practice, after an incision was made through the soft parts and the bone exposed, a fistulous opening was found, leading into the mastoid cells. In a large proportion of cases, this condition will be found when the external incision is made, and all that is necessary for the surgeon to do is to enlarge this opening so as to permit a free escape of the pus. This can be very easily done, I think, by an instrument used by dentists called the "burr drill." These drills can be obtained of different sizes, so that the opening may be enlarged to any extent. (The doctor exhibited these drills to the Society, Fig. 2.)

Mastoid disease is rarely, if ever, a primary affection. In all the cases which have come under my notice, a discharge from the ear had existed for some time previous. Inflammation of the middle ear, with perforation of the membrana tympani, is the primary difficulty. Patients with so-called "otorrhœa," or, more properly speaking, suppuration of the middle ear, are always exposed to two formidable complications: *First*, Mastoid disease, and *second*, cerebral abscess by the extension of the inflammation through the roof of the tympanum. This last condition occurs more frequently than the first, and is always fatal.

In all cases where complaint is made of severe pain in the head accompanying a discharge from the ear, a careful examination of the mastoid process should be made, and if tenderness exists, or if the scalp is swollen and œdematous, at this point a free incision down to the bone should be made at once. In some cases, simple periostitis exists, and the incision gives immediate relief. If relief is not afforded, perforation or trephining of the mastoid should be resorted to.



FIG. 2.

A case of this disease came under my observation while lecturing at Burlington, Vt., last June. I was called in consultation with Dr. A. P. Grinnell to see an old lady about sixty-five years of age, who had suffered from a discharge of pus from the right ear for some months. About two weeks before I saw her, she had severe pain in the right side of the head, and especially in the vicinity of the mastoid. Swelling over the mastoid took place, and Dr. Grinnell very properly made an incision, and a quantity of pus made its escape. On examination, I found the external meatus filled with pus, and so swollen that a speculum examination could not be made. The incision over the mastoid was enlarged, and a probe could be passed through the bone into the mastoid cells, and as the pus seemed to have a free outlet, nothing more was advised to be done. Prof. D. B. St. John Roosa, M. D., of this city, was present and concurred in the advice.

In a few days after, however, brain symptoms manifested themselves, and the patient sank into a comatose condition and died.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would call the attention of the members of the Society to the importance of a careful examination and the early treatment of all cases of aural disease accompanied by a discharge of pus from the ear.

Dr. C. S. Wood said: I have, during a period of twenty-five years, been so fortunate or unfortunate as to have seen quite a number of cases of mastoid disease; some of them terminated fatally, while others have recovered by the supervention of suppuration from the ear. We all are well aware that the

cause of the disease is suppurative otitis and is usually the result of scarlet fever. As a rule suppuration has existed for a considerable period of time, the child enjoying good health in the meantime, when, from exposure to cold, the discharge suddenly ceases, or nearly so, at which time cerebral symptoms at once become manifest. There is fever, anorexia, vomiting and restlessness, often preceded by convulsions, soon followed by coma and local or general paralysis. On examination of the post-auricular region, usually there is found more or less redness and tumefaction, pressure upon which causes the patient to cry with pain. In such cases there is no question about the propriety of making a free incision down to the bone, which, with the application of warmth and moisture over the ear, will, by the reëstablishment of the discharge relieve all the threatening symptoms. In the majority of the cases, such will be the result; but, if the suppuration is not reproduced, the severe symptoms will not yield, when it may become necessary to make an opening through the outer table of the skull. Even after this operation many, perhaps, according to my experience, most of them die, as we do not always get pus as expected, it having formed, by a sort of metastasis, in some other portions of the brain.

I have recently lost a case, a girl aged six years, where the suppuration had existed for more than two years, caused by scarlet fever, which ceased suddenly after exposure, when cerebral symptoms immediately supervened, without any special evidence of mastoid disease, sufficient to justify an operation. Still she had strabismus, vomiting, coma, etc., and died within a week from the time of attack as I predicted she would unless the discharge from the ear could be reëstablished, which, unfortunately, was not the case.

I have lost several patients under similar conditions, and some of them after operating and expecting to find pus enclosed in the mastoid cells, and am of the opinion that where we can reëstablish the original discharge (which in the majority of cases we can do), they will recover; but if not, whether with or without an operation, the prognosis is very grave.

Dr. A. R. Robinson said: Inflammation of the mastoid cells can follow either an otitis interna or a periostitis partis mas-

toideæ ossis temporis. This latter inflammation can be either primary, *i. e.* arise independently from mechanical injuries or chemical irritants to the part; or, as is generally the case, it is secondary to some inflammation in the neighborhood. The most frequent cause, however, of an inflammation of those cells is an otitis interna purulenta. This form of inflammation can arise *ex contiguo* from inflammation in cavo pharyngo-nasali, and is a frequent sequence of scarlatina and variola, especially in scrofulous children. Inflammation of the mastoid cells appears to be a common accompaniment of a purulent inflammation of the middle ear; but it is rare for the inflammation to pass further inward. When this latter occurs, it does so by passing along the vessels and connective tissue bundles in the sinus sigmoidus producing a phlebitis in the sinus; or a thrombus is formed with or without a breaking down of the latter, and from here the inflammation passes inward and produces a meningitis, or encephalitis, or both. I can confirm Gubler in the statement that inflammation of the brain is not a frequent consequence of an otitis interna in young children, for though I have seen a great many cases of otitis interna purulenta in children—and consequently of inflammation of the mastoid cells, I have not yet seen a case in which the inflammation has passed to the brain or its membranes. When the inflammation is seriously threatening to extend inward from the mastoid cells in spite of the operation of myringotomy, or spontaneous perforation of the tympanum by the pent-up pus, the operation of trephining down to the cells should, according to all authorities, be performed without delay. These cases, when operated upon, however, are usually not so fortunate in their termination as was Dr. Harwood's. Therefore on account of this very danger of the inflammation spreading from the mastoid cells inward and proving fatal, I think cases of inflammation of the middle ear especially, should not be neglected in the manner they usually are, either because the patients are unaware of the possible ulterior result, or that the physician in charge is not competent to treat such cases and allows them to proceed unchecked. Such cases, I believe, should always be placed in competent hands, and I never fail to direct such patients where they will receive the proper treatment. But few medical men possess the requisite knowledge to treat

those cases, and if the forms of ear diseases which sometimes lead to inflammation of the mastoid cells, and from them to the brain or its meninges were early and judiciously treated, there would be fewer fatal cases from implication of the brain, and the valuable sense of hearing would be oftener preserved than is the case at present.

Dr. J. A. Adrian, of Logansport, Ind., being present, was called upon for an expression of his experience and observation in the treatment of the case under consideration. He asked: When there has been for a long time considerable swelling or tumefaction, redness, tenderness and pain in the mastoid region, with or without a discharge from the ear, is the surgeon justifiable in cutting down and making an opening into the mastoid cells?

Dr. Little answered in the affirmative.

Dr. Adrian said: In the course of a long experience, and somewhat extensive observation, I have been led, and especially of late years, to make a free opening. In the cases where there had been a discharge from the ear, it almost invariably ceased, after an opening into the mastoid cells; and in these cases where no discharge existed, there was no subsequent discharge. In these cases when a discharge has existed for a long time, the incision should be kept open for some time; otherwise the discharge will not be permanently controlled. I think the disease is most frequently associated with a strumous diathesis. When such is the case, tonics and mild alteratives, and in short remedies which will elevate and sustain the vital forces, will be of much service in accomplishing a permanent cure.

Dr. Harwood said: I have listened with much gratification to the remarks which have been made, and consider them of very much importance in connection with the subject as presented. Prof. Little's mode of operating differs considerably from my own. I see no reason, however, to take exceptions to it; but as a matter of fancy I prefer to operate with the instrument I have devised, at the same time extending the privilege to others of selecting whatever mode of procedure or instrument that may be desirable. An ordinary carpenter's gimlet has been successfully used for this purpose. The important point to bear in mind is to operate early when necessary.

## NORTH-WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

*Special Meeting, held August 9, 1877.*

The President, Dr. C. S. Wood, on assuming the chair, spoke briefly of the sadness of the occasion which had caused us to convene, after which Dr. Ed. C. Harwood followed with

### REMARKS ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF WM. E. H. POST.

*Mr. President :*

For the first time since the organization of the North-Western Medical and Surgical Society, death has invaded its ranks and plucked from among its members one who was well beloved by his fellows, and one whom his associates delighted to honor.

Wm. E. H. Post, M.D., is no more. He has passed through the portals of eternity, and is now cognizant of those realities which will be known to all at no distant day. For we too must soon close our eyes on all things here, and open them on things in the eternal state.

Dr. Post was born in the quaint and pleasant village of Quogue, Long Island, February 27, 1848. He was the second of a family of three sons. His father's name was George O. Post, and he was an old and respected resident of the above mentioned town. He was in easy circumstances, and was thus enabled to give his son, our departed friend and associate, the advantages of a private tutor in his early childhood.

In due time he was prepared for a higher course of study, removed to Williamstown, Mass., and engaged in a three years' preparation for college under the supervision of Prof. N. H. Griffin. He entered Williams College in 1866, and graduated in 1870. From letters received from his associates and teachers, we learn that young Post was studious, generous, ever ready to aid in trouble and assist in distress.

A classmate says : " Dr. Post was a school and college mate of mine, and a very dear friend. Together we prepared for college at Dr. N. H. Griffin's School—together we joined the First Congregational Church in this place (Williamstown). We

roomed together more than two years of our College Course, and were as dear to each other as are brothers. Of all the friends I have ever had, or fellows I have ever known, none were kinder, more generous and affectionate to me than Will Post.

"He was always to be trusted in every place, and was loved by all who knew him. \* \* \* \* \* He always took an active—though not prominent—part in Church Prayer Meetings, and I think his faith and trust in God rarely if ever wavered when the rest of us were in doubt.

"His was a life not to be filled with marked incidents, but the one thing which you always felt about him was his reliability and steadfastness."

Dr. Post was apparently always inclined to the Profession of Medicine; for this same classmate who knew him so well, and who bears such precious testimony concerning him, proceeds to say: "He was 'cut out' for a physician from the first. None knew as well as he when another was ailing, and just how much, and what to do for him."

One of the Professors of Williams College says: "W. E. H. Post, fitted for college with my father, the late Rev. N. H. Griffin. \* \* \* \* \* I was not in Williamstown during his school and college days, and had, therefore, only a slight acquaintance with him. I was, however, much drawn to him by his cordial, manly ways, when I did occasionally see him, and the news of his sudden death gives me much sorrow."

Thus we find him after a literary training of seven years, ready to engage in the preparation for his life work. Accordingly in the fall of 1870 he registered himself as student in the office of Prof. James R. Wood, of this city, and became a matriculant in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College soon after. He attended three courses of lectures in that institution, and received the Degree of Doctor in Medicine in the spring of 1873.

He determined to commence the practice of his profession immediately, and accordingly opened an office at No. 243 West Forty-third Street, where he remained until April, 1875, whence he removed to 233 West Fifty-first Street, the office occupied by him at the time of his death. In October, 1874, he was appointed by the Board of Health, an Assistant Sani-

tary Inspector, which office he filled with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his superiors.

About this time he was attacked with malarial fever with manifestations of a typhoid character. He was confined to his house six weeks.

Upon recovering he resumed his professional duties, and continued in the full discharge of the same up to the beginning of the fatal attack of peritonitis from which he died.

He was taken sick on Thursday morning, the 19th of July, with a chill, on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, with severe pain, and immediately sent for Dr. J. H. Ripley, who at once responded to the call, and continued to attend him in conjunction with Drs. Bliss, Bryant, Metcalf and Hawes, until death relieved him of his suffering on the evening of Monday, July 23d, at 6:50 o'clock. His funeral occurred at his late residence on the morning of Wednesday, July 25th, at 10½ o'clock. The services were conducted by the Rev. George H. Houghton, and the remains conveyed the next morning to his native village, where they were quietly deposited in their last resting place amid the scenes of his early childhood, by the side of his ancestors, of which he represented the fifth generation, mourned by his relatives, former neighbors and friends.

And as the moistened earth quietly settled with hollow sound upon the casket which contained all that was mortal of our late beloved member and officer, it did not reveal a greater void, or touch a chord more tender in the hands of his more immediate friends than that which exists in our own.

We might here close our brief account of Dr. Post, were it not for an incident connected with his closing hours no less beautiful than as one more exponent of his honorable nature.

As the evening of Monday was drawing nigh, and he was surrounded by his friends and medical attendants, he asked, "What is my temperature, what is the rate of my pulse?" A direct answer was not given. He was told that they had not been taken. They would take the pulse and temperature in a little while, and then they would tell him. They then took it, and found the temperature to be 107 degrees, and the pulse 160.

"That's a bad pulse and temperature, too bad to expect to



get well with. You should have told me before." Then he desired to be stimulated, and wanted to know how long he would live. He was told that he would survive probably four or five hours. After he had somewhat revived, he requested that his affianced, who was in the house, be called, together with a clergyman, and at that solemn time, two hours before his death, while the shadows of evening and the dark night of death were gathering around, he fulfilled an honorable promise made some time previous, and Miss Mary Mylford became his wife. Alas! how soon to be widowed.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Houghton, assisted by Dr. Post's personal friend, Rev. J. F. Stern. But while missed by many others, he will be missed also by our organization. He held two important offices in this society; namely, that of Secretary and Treasurer, to which offices he was elected March 15, 1876, the offices being made vacant by the retirement of Samuel B. Ward, M.D., to accept a Professorship in the Albany Medical College.

He was re-elected at the annual meeting in December of the same year; and although the duties connected with these positions were onerous, none enjoyed our scientific and social gatherings more than he; none took more pains or manifested more delight or experienced more pride in preparing for them than Dr. Post.

It has been my privilege to be present with him at the operating table, and to meet him in the pestilential chamber, and I have ever found him prompt and decisive in the discharge of every duty, intrepid in danger, and a man in every respect!

On motion of Dr. Bosworth, it was ordered \* \* \* that a committee be appointed to draft suitable resolutions to the memory and worth of Dr. Post.

The Committee on Obituary reported the following, which was approved:

*Whereas*, Recognizing the will of a Divine Providence in the decease of our late associate and Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. WM. E. H. POST, and desiring to record our appreciation of his worth while among us, and our bereavement at his death, peculiarly sad and sudden; be it

*Resolved*, That the Medical Profession has lost an upright and faithful member, and our Society an esteemed and honored brother.

*Resolved*, That we extend our heart-felt sympathy to his family for this their irreparable loss.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to his family and also to the "New York Medical Record" for publication.

F. H. BOSWORTH, }  
 ED. C. HARWOOD, } Committee.  
 GEO. B. FOWLER. }



TO THE MEMORY  
OF OUR LATE  
SECRETARY AND TREASURER,

Wm. E. H. Post, A. M., M. D.

Who Died July 23d, 1877.  
Aged 29 Years, 4 Months and 26 Days,

THE NORTHWESTERN  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY

DEDICATE THIS PAGE,

*In recognition of his unselfish,  
Upright walk, charitable deeds, Christian and  
social graces;  
In testimony of his unceasing devotion to our profession  
and the duties of his official positions,  
and as a tribute of affection,*

**For a Tried, Trusted and Honored  
Friend.**

JAMES L. LITTLE, M.D.,  
President.

ED. C. HARWOOD, M.D.,  
Secretary.



## REPORT OF A CASE OF PISTOL-SHOT WOUND

OF THE SECOND AND THIRD CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ, CONSIDERED IN  
ITS MEDICO-LEGAL ASPECTS.—ATTEMPTED  
SUICIDE.—DEATH.\*

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*From the Bulletin of the Medico-Legal Society of New York, Vol. IV.,  
No. 5, March, 1881.*

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*Gentlemen:* I have the honor to report for your consideration this evening a case of pistol-shot wound of the vertebræ of the neck, caused by an attempt at suicide, which is interesting not only *per se*, but which presents some important Medico-Legal bearings, and upon which I would be pleased to have the expressed opinion of the Society.

A few months ago I was requested, in the early part of the evening to visit Mrs. ———, age 48, the statement made by the messenger being that she was suffering from a severe attack of sore throat. Being professionally engaged at the time, and not able to respond promptly, I made some hasty inquiries, and was told that she had been well in the morning; that her husband had left her so, and on returning in the evening found her suffering from sore throat; hence the urgent call for a physician. I said I could not respond at the time, and that if the symptoms were of a very urgent nature, another physician had better be called; but the family desired my services, and I was retained to attend her.

Shortly afterwards I proceeded to her house, and at twelve o'clock in the evening found her sitting on the sofa, with apparently nothing in her appearance to indicate any grave state of affairs. On interrogating her as to her condition, she stated simply that she had "sore throat." Her pulse was normal, or but little above, countenance calm, and there was a general

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\* Meeting of Feb. 2, 1881.

absence of external symptoms of a serious nature. On examining her mouth and depressing the tongue, I found the latter organ very black, thickened and congested. It filled the mouth, and made it difficult to open it. I asked her several questions, which she failed to answer in a satisfactory manner, because of her inability to articulate freely. I asked her to write the answers, but she refused to answer any questions by writing. In short the whole affair had the appearance of mystery.

Upon a further examination of the fauces, the first thing to suggest itself was gangrene; but when I considered that she had been well in the morning, and that there was absence of the usual collateral symptoms of gangrene, that conclusion was laid aside.

The next idea to suggest itself was that there had been an attempt at suicide from corrosive acid. But there was absence of pallor or any indication of the loss of blood. I felt, therefore, that she knew more about the case than I did, and treated it upon the expectant plan.

Having procured the necessary syringes, I applied warm water douches, and continued the same at intervals through the night. At six o'clock I allowed myself a few hours' rest. On reflection, I concluded that I would question her more particularly as to the cause of her condition, and during the absence of other members of the family. She seemed anxious, and wanted to know the probabilities of her recovery. I also considered that, whatever her knowledge of the case might be, we had better have counsel. She then told me that she had attempted her life with her husband's pistol, by firing two shots in her mouth. On inquiring for the pistol, she told me it was in the bureau drawer. On examining the mouth, with this information, I found that one of the projectiles had penetrated the tongue, entering about an inch from the apex, passed through the tongue lengthwise, coming out at the base and imbedding itself in the cervical vertebræ.\* Its location was confirmed by the aid of Nelaton's probe. I then went to my office to procure proper instruments for the extraction

\* With reference to the velocity of the ball, experiments subsequently made with the same pistol, held in close proximity, proved the penetrating power sufficient to perforate an inch board and become deeply imbedded in another board of the same thickness.

of the bullets, together with the oral speculum of Dr. Whitehead.

I fortunately secured the assistance of my friend Dr. C. A. Leale. We endeavored, by our conjoined efforts and the aid of reflected light, to extract the bullets. We had three sittings. On the first day we did not succeed; neither did we on the second, although we got hold of a bullet: but on the third day I succeeded in extracting one. It had passed through the soft palate; but the opening was so small that we were obliged to enlarge the original orifice with a scalpel. I failed to extract the second ball.

She seemed very anxious that no one should be informed of what had happened, as none of the family were at all suspicious of the true state of affairs. But I told her that it would be very essential that she should give me in writing a statement of her case, the circumstances connected with it, and the reasons which induced her to make this attempt at suicide. I assured her that I would not use the statement unless I was compelled to, but that I must have it for my own protection. It is as follows, names being omitted for obvious reason:

*Dr. Ed. C. Harwood:* I have not been feeling well in a long time. Am naturally very nervous, and I imagine all sorts of things that no one would ever think of. I feel at times as though I should go right through the window. Would go and close my blinds every night. Could not see into my rooms. My family all being away from day to day, it left me alone to my gloomy, sad feeling, and I got so excited, and my brain was so crazed, it seemed all on fire, that last Saturday, at two o'clock P. M., I took a pistol from ——'s\* drawer and fired two shots into my mouth, with the intention of taking my life. I was on my son's bed when I fired them. I lay awhile, then got up, took off the sheets and pillow-slips, put them away in the clothes-basket, and when he came home I sent him out after you; and when you came that night, I could not tell you; but after working over me all night, as you did, not knowing what I had done, I knew I must tell you."

The case was treated according to the most approved

\* Naming her husband.

methods, in my judgment and that of professional friends—two different surgeons beside myself seeing her. She lingered for three months, suffering a great deal of pain. There were abscesses which were opened and discharged freely. She died at the expiration of the period mentioned.

The case was reported as one of caries of the cervical vertebræ, cervical abscess, septicæmia, and asthenia.

By inspection of the pathological specimen which I show you, it will be seen that the odontoid process is entirely necrosed, and has disappeared; the anterior portion of the atlas had been fractured but reunited completely; the spinous processes are almost entirely destroyed. The second ball, which could not be found until at the autopsy, which was very nicely made by Dr. E. C. Spitzka, the Curator and Pathologist of the Society, may be seen *in situ*, between the second and third vertebræ.

Since the specimen has been macerated in alcohol, it has shrunk, so that it is not quite as good a specimen as it was when first prepared.

The free ball shown you is the one which was extracted. The marks of the forceps on the bullet are plainly visible.

The Medico-Legal bearing of this case, it seems to me, is of importance to the profession, and its consideration involves a reply to the question whether, under the circumstances, as related, of a person dying eventually from self-inflicted violence, I was justified in pursuing the course I did, of not bringing it to the notice of the coroner. I feel, myself, that my course was the only proper one. The family was one that I had known intimately for many years. They were people of wealth and culture. There was not the slightest suspicion of foul play or criminal carelessness, and I thought that, under such circumstances, and such people, it was better that a matter of this character should never be brought before the public and be heralded through the press.

I am aware that the law regulating coroners' inquests in the County of New York (Chap. 462, Laws of 1871) reads as follows:

“SECTION 1. Hereafter, when in the City and County of

New York, any person shall die from criminal violence, or *by a casualty, or suddenly, when in apparent health*, or when unattended by a physician, or *in prison*, or in any suspicious or unusual manner, the coroner shall subpoena a properly qualified physician, who shall view the body of such deceased person externally, or make an autopsy thereon, as may be required [preparatory to an inquest].”

But, while recognizing the superiority of the law, my own conscience supports me in the conviction, that here was apparently a conflict between law and a physician's duty. We are obliged by the laws of the State to keep inviolate the secrets of patients necessary to the proper performance of professional duty, as will be seen from the following quotation from a report of the Permanent Commission of this Society, in reply to an inquiry by the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society (through Dr. John H. Packard, as its President), which very valuable report may be found in the Second Series of Medico-Legal Papers, pp. 46-48, inclusive. The law there quoted is as follows :

“No person duly authorized to practice physic or surgery shall be allowed to disclose any information which he may have acquired in attending any patient in a professional character, and which information was necessary to enable him to prescribe for such patient, as a physician, or to do any act for him as a surgeon.” (Part 3, chap. 7, title 3, art. 8, sec. 73, R. S.)

Whether this law applies to this case, or not, I leave for determination to the legal side of the house.

I hold in my hand a translation of the ancient Hippocratic oath, which, with your permission, I will read :

#### HIPPOCRATIC OATH.

“I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Æsculapius, and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this Oath and this stipulation—to reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents ; to share my substance



with him, and relieve his necessities if required ; to look upon his offspring in the same footing as my own brothers, and to teach them this art, if they shall wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation, and that by precept, lecture, and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine ; but to none others. I will follow that system of regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel ; and in like manner, I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce abortion. With purity and holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut persons laboring under the stone, but will leave this to be done by men who are practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter, I will go into them for the benefit of the sick, and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption ; and further, from the seduction of females or males, of freemen and slaves. Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I see or hear, in the life of men, which ought not to be spoken of abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

“ While I continue to keep this oath inviolate, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men, in all times ! But should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot ! ”

I also have before me the modern oath, which is administered to every graduate in medicine, by the authority of the State, before the degree is conferred. It is as follows :

#### MODERN HIPPOCRATIC OATH.

“ You do solemnly promise and declare that you will honestly, virtuously, diligently, and faithfully conduct yourselves in the discharge of the several duties of your profession ; that you will strive to preserve its purity and promote its advancement ; that you will be kind and attentive to your patients, and treat their

diseases, so far as your ability may avail, in such manner as shall most certainly secure their safety and promote their speedy recovery ; and that you will keep inviolate the innocent secrets of those persons and families to whom you may be called to render professional aid ; you, moreover, do solemnly declare that you will never, by any considerations, be induced to administer medicines or prescribe remedies for improper or pernicious purposes.

“And you do further agree, that in case of failure on your part to observe these obligations, the authorities of this college, from whom you received the right to exercise the healing art, may publicly revoke the same, and declare your diplomas null and void.

“These obligations you do now, each of you, assume and acknowledge.”

Mrs. ——— was a woman of thoughtful mind, liberal intelligence, and exemplified the characteristics of a good mother and loving wife in the highest degree ; and I think that none of you will hesitate to agree with me, that my duty was to protect her and her family under the circumstances ; but whether I acted entirely according to law or not, I am unable to say. I leave that, Mr. President, for this Society to determine.

#### DISCUSSION.

Hon. G. H. YEAMAN remarked that whether the ethics of the medical profession required Dr. Harwood to disclose these facts or not, he did not know. As to the confidence between physician and patient, the law protects both, and prohibits the doctor from divulging any information that is communicated by the patient, which was necessary to a proper treatment of the case. They are sealed not only under professional confidence, but by the statute, and the seal cannot be broken without the consent of the patient. The doctor asks the question : Was he justified in the course pursued ? He could only say that in the profession of law, they would take the course which Dr. Harwood had taken. Still he would defer to the other members of the bar who were present, and who understood coroner's law better than he did. All could appreciate the fact

that in the case of this cultured, respectable lady, who had been smitten with this peculiar frenzy which terminated in that act, and of the family, it would be a great stroke and mortification to have the circumstances of the case known, but publicly discussed in the newspapers. It would require a very plain and positive statutory command to induce him (Mr. Yeaman), or to compel him, if he thought the best interests of all would be better served by withholding a similar case from the public, to report it, when he thought the happiness and peace of the family depended upon such a concealment.

D. S. RIDDLE, Esq., had not given coroner's law, in relation to the subject in hand, a very critical examination; but he wished to refer to a few points which had occurred to him. He did not wish to discuss the question raised by Dr. Harwood from the point of conscience or ethics, but from the point of law. There are three relations which the law regards confidential; those between physician and patient, lawyer and client, and clergyman and parishioner. Whatever disclosure is made by the patient to the physician in respect to the disease, or by the client to the lawyer in respect to the matter consulted about, or by the parishioner to the clergyman at the confessional, is confidential, and cannot be disclosed by physician, lawyer, or clergyman. The law will not allow it to be disclosed, and will not recognize it if disclosed. That is common law. He had in mind the case of a person who, at the confessional, disclosed to his confessor the fact that he had committed a murder. The secret was not and could not be disclosed, as the man knew, having been made to a priest at the confessional. Some time after this, however, this man met the same priest in the street and boastfully referred to his confession and the fact that it could not be divulged. But the priest replied: "What you told me at the confessional is sacred, but what you told me here is not. It is now my duty to inform on you"—and he did. This was strictly lawful. While it was the duty of this clergyman, as a good citizen, to disclose a crime which had come to his knowledge outside of his relations as a confessor, the law would not permit him to do so if he obtained the knowledge in his relation as such. The law will not penetrate the secret of this relation, and will allow no light to shine upon it.

So in regard to communications made by a patient to his physician while the relation exists.

There is no provision of law which Dr. Harwood violated when he refused to disclose what was said to him by his lady patient.

R. J. O'SULLIVAN, M.D., has always been under the impression that physicians were bound, according to the common acceptance of the law, to report cases to the coroner if the case is criminal and life has been taken. He may be totally wrong; but that is his impression. We should be careful how our sympathies are excited.

CHARLES A. LEALE, M.D., thought that the law of the State of New York amply protected the physician, lawyer, and clergyman in cases of confidential communications, and even if professional men were not thus legally protected, no gentleman would for a moment doubt the propriety of burying forever secret communications (not beneficial to the living) made to regain health, by those no longer able to deny, or justify by explanation, the actions of life. Nor should any torture or threat have any avail in forcing such confidence to be betrayed, for just so surely as death is to be averted, so have absolute confessions to be made to the physician by those in all professions and conditions of existence. In justification of the laws of our State, Dr. Leale stated that shortly after receiving his diploma he was called to appear before the Grand Jury, and was impertuned by two of the jurymen for a direct answer to a leading question involving a dying statement made to him. He refused to impart the information, although threatened to be sent to prison for contempt. He appealed to the foreman, saying nothing could make him reveal it, when one of the jurymen present jumped up and said: "Young man, do you refuse to answer a question of the Grand Jury?" He replied, "Yes, when it involves a professional communication." A legal gentleman, then present, instructed the jury that by the laws of the State a physician was protected. Thereupon he was discharged, and the case never again was referred to.

The doctor thought that Dr. Harwood had acted correctly in not permitting the publicity of an act for which no living person was responsible any more than if his patient had died of con-

sumption, and which might cause pain and lasting sorrow to a large circle of intelligent and worthy members of society. Dr. Leale then expressed his opinion on a subject he had seriously considered for a number of years, viz: the eagerness with which not only the public but even the coroners render verdicts of suicide in cases where, perhaps, eccentricities or peculiar habits were seized upon as the easiest way of arriving at the supposed cause of an unexplainable or mysterious death. He did not believe that more than fifty per centum of the recorded deaths by suicide were in reality cases of self-destruction. The *onus probandi* being so difficult, we ought to be exceedingly cautious before permitting to be rendered the verdict of suicide, considered by so many an unpardonable sin, and which, according to the ecclesiastical laws, prevents a Christian burial.

There are several Medico-Legal points illustrated by the case narrated by the author of the paper, but perhaps inadvertently omitted to be mentioned. First, the power of concealment which a patient might have after producing such an injury. He was called by the doctor in consultation to see this lady, and although the pistol was held within a few inches of the mouth, he could see no traces of the blackening by the charcoal of the powder, and as the wound of entrance was in such a vascular part and could only be seen by carefully examining the posterior fauces, by pressing the tongue forward, it can readily be understood how such a patient, if not minutely examined, could pass off her trouble as one of idiopathic tonsillitis, especially during a severe epidemic of diphtheria, such as we in New York were then having. The doctor gave the case a thorough examination, and by his treatment undoubtedly prolonged very much her life. He gave free exit to the discharge of pus, and frequently cleaned the then open wound thoroughly from the accumulations of the rapid destruction of tissue, which he had so often seen follow these injuries of the throat. Secondly, he was of the opinion that the woman was insane at the time she committed the act. She was at a critical period of her life, when we know women are frequently suffering from cerebral congestion. Just as menstruation ceases, women are subject to these severe attacks of transitory mania, and are often in the actual state of irresponsibility: and woe to the one who at this

period wantonly irritates the unfortunate sufferer, as the experience of many of us can verify. This lady had many of the surroundings to cause sleeplessness and disturbed mental equilibrium, and was in that state of frenzy placing her actions entirely beyond her own control. He thought that the doctor was perfectly justifiable and did right in keeping the secret; that he did all possible to save or prolong her life, and then protected the innocent family from the stigma of publicity, as Mr. Yeaman had so well expressed it.

Dr. E. C. SPITZKA stated that the case presented by Dr. Harwood was important from a Medico-Legal point of view. He did not think that the law required a case to be sent to the coroner unless it was the direct result of criminal violence. The death in this case was not the direct result of criminal violence, but was due to a series of causes which were remotely traceable to the injury.

The remarkable feature in this case was that, while the anterior half of the ring of the atlas had been entirely destroyed, and the articular process of one side of the epistropheus was carious, and that pus and detritus were in immediate proximity to the the spinal dura, the brain and cord, and their membranes, were entirely healthy.

It may be interesting negatively to report that while this patient had evidently committed the *tentamen suicidii* in a state of insanity—the form known as melancholia—a minute examination failed to reveal the slightest evidences of disease in the brain-tissue, an experience in conformity with others he had made.

Dr. HARWOOD said he was very much gratified at the interest which his report had awakened. He fully appreciated the remarks of his friend Dr. Leale, in regard to the possible concealment of the self-inflicted injury of his patient; but the fact that he could not see any blackening from the powder should be no surprise to him or to any one else, when he recalled the fact that Dr. Leale did not see the patient until twenty-four hours from the time the shooting occurred, and that he (Dr. Harwood) had practiced irrigation with warm water to the pharynx and buccal cavity for an almost uninterrupted period of six hours.

Instead of the pistol being held within a few inches of the

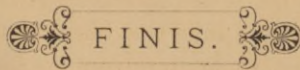
mouth, as Dr. Leale remarked, the real facts were that the muzzle had been inserted in the mouth, in order to avoid the liability of producing an unsightly corpse.

He felt under lasting obligations to his friends Drs. Leale and Spitzka, for the support they both gave him in carrying out his convictions in regard to the propriety of keeping the record of this unfortunate woman hidden from the world.

There was no act of his professional life that he could recall which afforded him more satisfaction than the one that this estimable family had been saved through his instrumentality from the stigma of having it publicly known that this fond wife and mother, during an attack of frenzy had attempted her own life.

The beautifully articulated vertebral column loaned him by his friend Prof. Lewis A. Sayre, showed more thoroughly than any description could, the difference between the abnormal and normal condition of the specimen presented.

He felt that the law relating to the subject of confidential communications, and the professional oath as administered to those about to graduate in medicine, by authority of the State, thoroughly protected him in the course adopted in this case.







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