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BURLINGTON COUNTY MEDICAL  
SOCIETY  
REPORT



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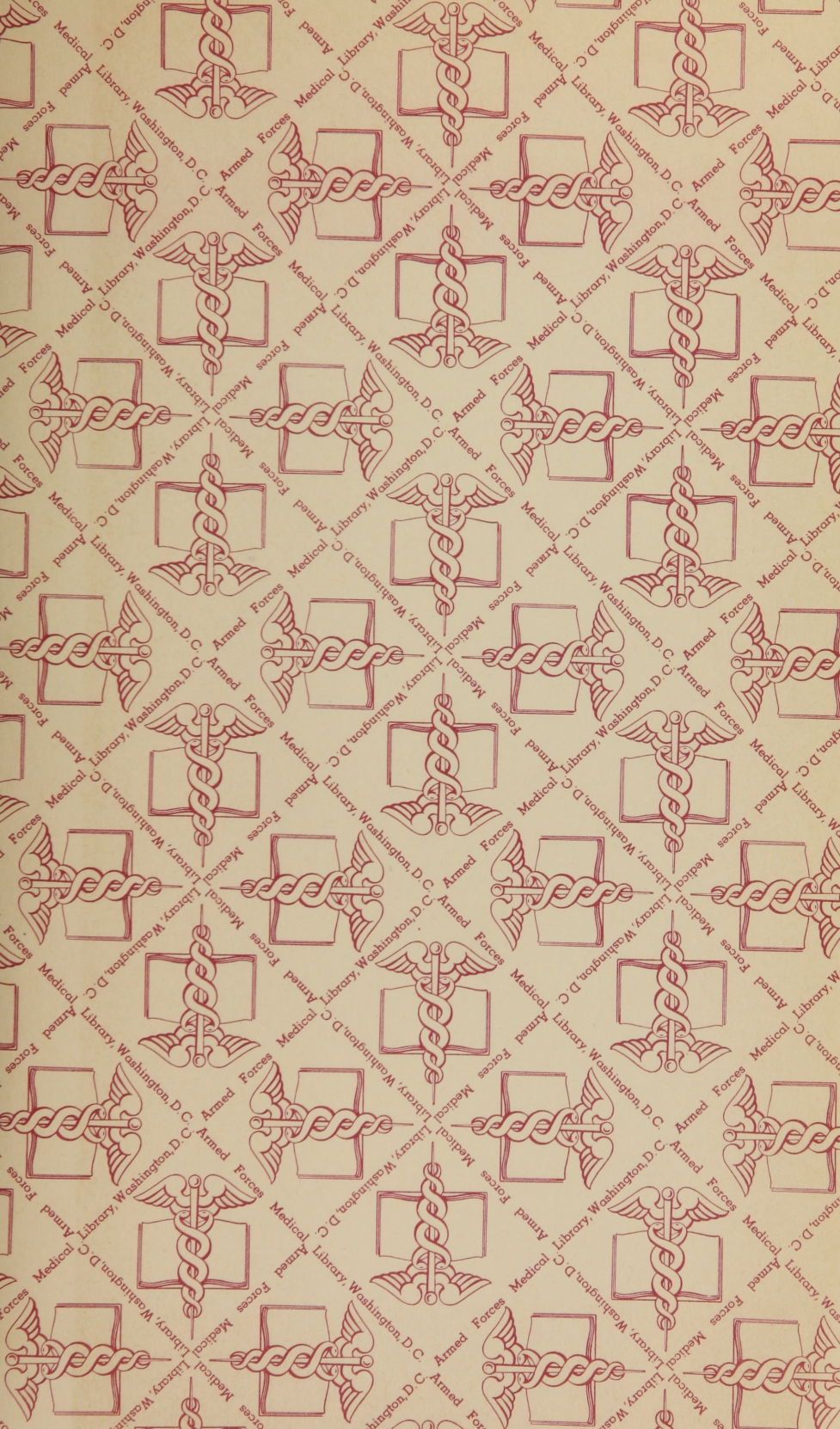
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*Charles Ellis, M. D.*



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Burlington County Medical Society

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Report of Semi-Centennial Meeting of the Burlington County Medical Society, held at the City of Burlington, June 17, 1879.

The meeting was called to order in the City Hall at 11:30, A. M., by Dr. Chas. Ellis, of Burlington, the only surviving Charter Member. In addition to delegates from other County Societies in the State, a number of invited guests and leading citizens were present.

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## ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

BY R. H. PAGE, M. D., OF COLUMBUS

GENTLEMEN:—In welcoming you as guests of the District Medical Society of Burlington County to participate in the celebration of its Semi-Centennial Anniversary, I trust you will not think me egotistical in briefly alluding to the history and character of the Society. Having its inception in the minds of a few earnest members of the profession of the county, its birth in their labors, and its continued growth in the love and zeal of their successors, it has passed through infancy and youth and arrived at the full growth of maturity—not in numbers—probably not in the talent and reputation of its members, but in their zeal and love of their profession, and their loyalty to all its ethical laws and requirements, and to-day we have met to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. Fifty years past—what a history in the very sentence when we think of the “now and then;” wisdom, genius, and learning, acting and reacting one upon the other, have erected in the fleeting years of that period enduring monuments in the material progress of the intellectual, moral, and practical affairs of life that no prior period parallels. And while this is true of all other departments, the science of medicine and surgery has emerged from the partially illumined shades of doubt, uncertainty and empiricism, and stands to-day the peer of the progress in all other departments of knowledge, and, may we not claim, occupies a height above and beyond others as it has had to deal with the hidden mysteries of life in the most wonderful and complex work of God.

This Society we believe has acted well its part in this advancement, not in planning campaigns, not as a commander of the forces, but as a subaltern in the ranks, always willing and ready for the advance and attack, and in



assisting to hold the positions gained, whether in the broad fields of new theory and practice, correcting the errors of the past and present, or against the ignorance and credulity of the deluded followers of quackery, or opposed to empiricism in all its protean forms, either within or without the profession and our proudest boast to-day is that upon our banner the one word, "LOYALTY," is inscribed, which in the future as the past will be our watchword. In thus referring to our society it is not for the purpose of self-laudation, or in a spirit of false pride whose boasting is based upon the shifting sands of assumption, but in the knowledge of having acted our part to the best of our ability, and in a true spirit of pride based upon the firm rock of our love. And this love that we feel for our Society, while not as sacred, is almost as natural as that of the child for its mother who gave it birth, for most of its present members have passed the whole of their professional lives within its protecting arms.

Its meetings have always been replete with pleasure, instruction and support: pleasure in the social reunion of its members; instruction from discussion of medical topics, and in rich gleanings from the ripe experience of those whose lives from youth to old age had been dedicated to a conflict with disease, not alone for the thrift of gain, but as oft by the lowly cot of the indigent as by the silken-draped couch of the opulent;—a free-will offering at the shrine of our common humanity; the reward of a clear conscience and an empty pocket: and support in our conflict with quackery by the mandate of its laws, which have always been in accord with our venerable State Society, and the certainty of the infringement bringing reproach and disgrace. When *her* portals are passed there must be no dallying with the "*unclean thing*," and "no variableness or shadow of turning from our watchword "*Loyalty*" to the code of ethics.

But this picture that I have so inadequately presented to you of our love for and pride in our society by reason of the high character it has always sustained, has at times been clouded by sorrow and regret, not of opportunities neglected, not of acts committed to be repented of,—although they may be many—but as the years have rolled on in their ceaseless course death has oft been in our midst and many of our predecessors and compeers have been called from among us by its imperious mandate that all must sooner or later hear and obey. We sorrow for their loss; miss their cordial greeting, words of counsel, and the amenities of professional intercourse; but regrets are vain,

they have been called from their work here, we trust, to its happy fruition above. But there is one chair empty at our board; one voice hushed in our councils; one presence gone from among us whose absence will always be felt with regret commensurate with the love and esteem his life inspired as a valuable and active member of the society for more than forty-six years; a skilful, conscientious physician and a true, warm hearted, honest man. The memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stratton will ever be cherished by his associates in this society; and on this occasion, the celebration of which was a favorite idea of his, it is meet we should entwine a few branches of cypress with the laurel in our festive wreath. In memory's gallery hang many other portraits of those departed whose virtues we could record with a willing pen that want of time forbids us to even name, with one exception—that of Dr. Isaac P. Coleman,—and when we recall his virtues as a man and his excellence as a physician, again we feel deep, lasting, yet unavailing regret for a life cut off in the fulness of its promise. The death of Dr. Stratton, who was one of the five charter members, all of whom our essayist, Dr. Parrish, will fully notice, left but one of the five among the living, who, we are happy to state, is yet with us as an honorary member; and it is with unalloyed pleasure that I present him to you to-day in the person of our presiding officer—Dr. Charles Ellis, of Burlington city, whom the Committee of Arrangements most appropriately selected to preside over this meeting. We all hope that his life may be long spared and that the years to come will be as peaceful and happy as those that are passed have been useful and honorable; and may we have the further satisfaction of seeing the society he helped to organize evolve from the maturity of the present, the elixir of perpetual life without the decrepitude of old age coming on to mar her usefulness. And can we not hope a few of its younger members will be spared to join in the celebration of its centennial anniversary and find her then, as now, having kept even pace with the advanced profession of that period and a vigorous co-laborer in a yet further progress.

Gentlemen, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, it is a pleasure to most cordially welcome you here to-day to participate with the members of our society in this, to them, pleasing event of the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of its natal day, and in our greeting of the distinguished members of the profession, who have honored us by their presence, we extend the right hand of fellowship as co-workers with us in placing our beloved



profession in the vanguard of all the material progress of the age. And to the laity present (if I may be allowed the use of the word) we extend an equally warm welcome and greet them with our warmest thanks for their loyalty to our honored profession, whose foundations were laid in an almost mythical age, while its superstructure has been advancing to completeness through the centuries; and by their faith, where so many have been and are faithless, assisting us of the profession to strike many a lusty and telling blow against the marshalled cohorts of empiricism and quackery, consisting of a motley crowd; the credulity of ignorance, the education of imbecility, unblushing mendacity, the over-nice palates of those clothed in purple and fine linen; the assumption of that immense mass to whom "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and all that innumerable throng who absorb the *strange* and *wonderful* as greedily as a sponge absorbs water, and all commanded by self-seeking men, whose every oblation is offered upon the altar of the golden calf. These springs all tend to one common centre, the feted stream of "ism and schism," which soon flows into the broad sea of spiritualism, communism, nihilism, and charlatanry, the deadly poison of whose waters, unlike the lethean draught, not alone destroy memory but all the powers of health and life.

Gentlemen, one and all, I again welcome you, and when we see those with you whose names are inscribed upon the loftiest pinnacle of the beautiful temple of our art, and who have added so many shafts and columns wreathed with the chaplets of their genius, to strengthen, beautify, and adorn it, and remember that by their labors the streams that are flowing in ever-increasing volume from its many founts of knowledge are becoming impregnated more and more with the elixir of life, we feel how little cause we had to laud our predecessors and our own labors, except for their fealty to its ethical laws, and can only claim to be faithful dispensers and filterers of these healing waters. And in welcoming you to-day, we greet you with thanks for so kindly accepting our invitation to join with us for a brief season in the review of the first fifty years of our society's career, not for the purpose of trumpeting its name and deeds to the world, but simply to learn lessons from the successes and failures of the past, for guidance in the attainment of greater usefulness in the future, and for social enjoyment of its closing hours; and ere the hand-shake and farewell of departure, we trust you will unite in the benediction, "God speed," as it steps upon the threshold of its second half century.

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

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BY JOSEPH PARRISH, M. D.

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GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY AND FELLOW CITIZENS:—The task that has been assigned to me, as a participant in these exercises, is one of mingled pleasure and disappointment. At best, the memorials of a physician's life are few and brief. They may be interwoven with the memories, and often with the affections of the sick and suffering, at the bed side, but are seldom found upon the roll of public fame. A half century more than suffices to trace his first and last foot-prints as he makes his daily rounds among the dreary homes of the poor, as well as in the abodes of the rich. His services being personal to his patients, do not always outlive the generation for whom he labors. At least I have found it so, in attempting to glean the scattered reminiscences of those who have gone before us, in this Society. The records are imperfect, and yet there is sufficient material to demonstrate the existence of a good degree of earnest work for the profession, and a noble purpose to maintain its honor and purity.

In bringing you the result of my researches into the history of this Society for the past fifty years, I do so with feelings somewhat akin to those which might be attributed to a confused artist, who is about to offer for inspection to critical experts, a novel picture which he had been selected to paint, with a most unique back-ground, a varied outline, and a rude grouping of strange characters and colors. You may recognize grotesque figures, in the picture I shall present to you, as I am sure you will a very un-artistic arrangement and shading, but if it be true to life, or even partially so, I feel that your considerate judgment will accept it as the best that I can do.

The law regulating the practice of "physic and surgery" in New Jersey at the commencement of this century, required that a license should be obtained from the State Medical Society, whether the applicants had diplomas from Medical Schools or not, and imposed a penalty of twenty-five dollars for every prescription given by a non-licentiate; and unless such license was properly recorded, either in the office of the County Clerk, or of the Chief Justice of the State, no fees could be legally demanded for professional services.

The year previous to the organization of the society (1828), an incident



occurred which demonstrated the efficiency of this law, and led to the union of the few physicians then in the county, for their own protection. The scene was laid in the little town of Columbus, at that time known as Black Horse. The parties immediately concerned were Dr. Asahel Page and Prince Murat, a relative of Joseph Bonaparte, then residing as ex-King of Spain, at his beautiful seat in Bordentown. The prince and the doctor were both fond of horses, and each kept several trained for the course. They were to have a race through the street of Columbus, which had been well advertised. The prize was to be one of the racers. The prince and the doctor appeared in due time, and the race was accomplished in the presence of a goodly crowd. The prince came off the winner, and demanded his prize. The doctor said there had been foul play and refused to surrender his steed. The prince was angry, and declared in a menacing manner that he would not pay the doctor's bill for professional services. Suit was brought by the doctor to recover the amount of his bill. The Hon. Garret D. Wall, late of this city, was one of the counsellors. The case was tried, and the doctor non-suited—the evidence in the trial showing that, though he had passed an examination and had received a license, he had neglected to comply with the provision of the law, which required the filing of his certificate in the office of the Chief Justice of the State. Hence the loss of his case.

The story of this horse race and trial, created considerable excitement, and the discovery was made that there were but few authorized medical licentiates in the county—Drs. Nathan W. Cole, of this city, and John L. Stratton, of Mount Holly, were two of the number. There were, however, three younger men, fresh from the halls of the University of Pennsylvania, with their diplomas, who took advantage of the occasion and proceeded immediately to Freehold for the purpose of an examination before the Censors, which having passed, certificates were furnished and legally registered; so that there was added to the list of regular licentiates, the names of Charles Ellis, of Burlington, Benjamin H. Stratton, of Mount Holly, and John C. Davis, of Pemberton. These, with their seniors already named, constituted the legal number for a District Medical Society; and on the 30th of April, 1829, they met at the house of Griffith Owen, in Mount Holly, to consider the situation.

At this meeting they agreed to ask the State Society for authority to organize according to the provisions of the law. On the 12th of the follow-

ing month, authority was formally granted, and in one week after, being the 19th of May, these five gentlemen again met and took the preliminary steps that were necessary to effect their organization. They agreed upon their officers, and appointed Drs. B. H. Stratton, Ellis and Davis to "draft rules and regulations for their government," and to report on the third Tuesday of June—just fifty years ago this day.

At that time they met at the house of Stacy B. Campion, in Mount Holly, adopted their constitution, appended their signatures, and each paid two dollars into the treasury,—the officers being Dr. Cole, President, Dr. Ellis, Secretary, and Dr. John L. Stratton, Treasurer ; the latter being authorized to procure suitable books for the society.

The *iv*th and *xv*th Articles of their Constitution furnish the keynote of the spirit which animated them. The *iv*th Article makes the fee-table of the State Society the standard for regulating charges for professional services, and contains the following words : "It shall be dishonorable for any member to charge less than the rates fixed, for the purpose of injuring his fellow practitioners, or to secure business for himself."

The *xv*th Article declares it to be "dishonorable and worthy of censure for any member to hold professional intercourse with expelled members, or with those of notoriously bad characters."

Mutual protection and aid—each standing by the other on a common platform, and all together endeavoring to maintain the purity of the profession, seems to have been the corner-stone which these five physicians carved and laid beneath the superstructure which we now enjoy.

A few moments may be spent just here to acquaint ourselves with these men, as they stand prominently before us.

*First*—DR. N. W. COLE :—He was born, it is believed, in Middlesex County, on the 14th of December, 1777, and died July 18th, 1848. He came to this city as an assistant teacher in the old Academy, which stood on the very spot now occupied by St. Mary's Church. Under whose preceptorship he was guided in his medical studies is not known ; but that he attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, and afterwards was presented with an honorary degree from the University—in 1829—through the intervention of friends, is no doubt true. I remember him well as a prominent practitioner of this city, and knew him intimately. He was a man of commanding presence and enjoyed a large share of the confidence of the people. As a practi-



tioner, Mercury and the Lancet were his chief reliance in many, if not in most forms of disease; and there are a few people now living who can bare their arms and point to countless scars, as trophies of his heroic routineism. I remember, as a youth, being sick with what was commonly called bilious fever, and Dr. Cole was my physician. The first thing was blood-letting and a mercurial cathartic, and the next was salivation, I shall never forget a certain visit he made to my room, when he saw me with a basin under my chin, and a rivulet of saliva flowing from my mouth. I felt as if I was certainly dissolving, and looked anxiously to the doctor for relief, or, at least, encouragement. He sat for a few moments at my side, threw wise glances over his spectacles into the pool in the basin, smiled, scattered his snuff freely, and addressed my kind attendant thus: "Betsy, there is a complete dissolution of the disease, and the patient will recover." This was certainly gratifying—to know that it was the disease, and not I, that was undergoing dissolution.

On the first night of his last illness I was summoned to his bedside, and as I approached him, his arm was already extended and made bare, and he called out in a positive tone—"Bleed me! bleed me!!" I saw no urgent cause for doing it, and so expressed myself, but he was the more urgent, and seemed relieved, in mind, at least, when the current began to flow. His hatred of quackery was intense, and I might narrate numerous examples of this strong characteristic. Suffice it to say, that it was his habit never to cross the threshold of a patient of his after his own services had been substituted for those of an irregular practitioner; and though his custom was to keep very loose accounts against his patients, he could always find sufficient data for large bills against those who had abandoned him for any charlatan.

After nearly fifty years of practice in Burlington, he was followed to his resting place, in St. Mary's church-yard, at the age of 71 years.

DR. JOHN LEAKE STRATTON appears next on the roll. He was born in Deerfield, Cumberland County, N. J., on the 23d of February, 1777. His father was a farmer, who could not afford to give to his four sons more than a common school education.

The subject of our sketch was, however, naturally studious, and in addition to the education of his neighborhood school, he acquired some knowledge of Latin, and on the 12th of May, 1797, commenced the study of medicine with

his cousin, Dr. James Stratton, of Swedesboro', in this State. After attending the required course of lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, he was licensed to practice medicine and surgery on the 27th of March, 1800. He commenced practice at once in Mount Holly, and continued to reside there, with a single intermission of short duration, until his death.

As early as 1808 he drove from Mount Holly to New Brunswick, to attend a meeting of the State Medical Society, at which there were present twenty-five members. Dr. John L. Stratton was a fine specimen of manly comeliness. Affable, amiable and affectionate, he sympathized earnestly with his patients of all classes and conditions; and after a life of self-sacrifice and devoted usefulness to his profession and his patients, died as he had lived—an honored Christian gentleman—on the 18th day of August, 1845.

His son and successor, Benjamin H. Stratton, was known to many of us, as his remarkable life terminated but a short time since. In many respects he was a rare man. He was born a doctor, and though he may not have studied books as closely as some men, he studied disease at the bedside as few men do. His memory of cases was unusual, and his practical ability in their management quite as striking. During all the years of his membership of this Society there was probably no one else who contributed more instructive matter at its meetings than did Dr. Stratton. He looked forward with intense interest to this day, and had he lived, would doubtless have occupied the place which your kindness has assigned to me on this occasion.

He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1827, and died on the 29th of December, 1875, having practiced medicine in Mount Holly during all the time, with great credit to the Doctorate, and comfort to the community.

Dr. John C. Davis, of Pemberton, was young and ambitious. I remember visiting him at his office in Pemberton, soon after his graduation in 1826. I do not know that it would be too much to say of him that he was naturally a brilliant man. His father was a physician in Cranberry, of this State, where the son was born. After a very short career he passed away, leaving but little behind him.

Of Dr. Ellis it is needless to say much; his presence to-day is a token of his long attachment to the profession, and though for many years his relation to the Society has been an honorary one, we are gratified and grateful because of his presence as its only surviving charter member.

We turn to you our venerable friend, with the salutation of fraternal



greeting. As you have kindly consented to be with us to-day and preside over this meeting, we recognize that you represent a generation that has passed away, and that while you still linger with this, we seem to be with those with whom you lived and labored half a century ago.

They were men as we are, and we laud them not where praise is not due; but not one of them lived in vain. They lived for the profession of which we are a part, and their voiceless appeal comes to us to-day, to stand fast by its purity and honor. It is true also of us, that

“ We are such stuff  
As dreams are made of, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep.”

but yet we may be permitted to repeat as our wish for you, what the poet wished for another,

“ The Heavens hold firm  
The walls of thy dear honor; keep unshaked  
That temple, thy fair mind.”

It will be impossible to go far beyond this limit in the narration of personal characteristics of members, but it is especially appropriate to have before us the figures of the five founders of the society, though they are so faintly given. A few more must be named.

The next figure is that of the courteous and cultured Wm. S. Coxe of this city, who graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1811—and was duly elected a member of this society in February 1830, and who on the very day of his election, moved that a circular letter be addressed to every practitioner of medicine in this county, giving information of the existence of a law making it obligatory upon the county society to prosecute every person practicing medicine in the county, without a license, and urging all physicians to obtain their credentials in compliance with the law as soon as practicable.

This action, taken together with the publication of the law in the *New Jersey Mirror* resulted in the accession of fourteen new members during the time we are considering. Their names are as follows :

Asahel C. Page, Rockefeller Dakin, Hugh H. Higbee, Samuel Woolston, Chas. Ridgway, Jno. Stokes, Jonathan J. Spencer, John Chapman, Edw. L. Dubarry, Chas. F. Lott, Isaac P. Coleman, Zachariah Read, Alexander Brown and John Perdue.

With a single exception, all these have died, though some of them re-

moved from the county before their death. The single exception is known to most of us.

Dr. Zachariah Read still stands in the foreground, and though unconsciously to himself, is an important factor in the early history of the society. With the exception of Dr. Ellis of the preceding group, he is the one solitary figure that is left from among the fourteen associates by whom he was surrounded in the first decade of our society life.

He would be here to-day if it were possible, and because it is impossible, it is due to him that mention should be made of his name, and his days of active usefulness recalled.

As a cloud that is poised on the verge of the horizon, balancing itself in the evening vapor, unconsciously waits to be dispelled, that the glory behind it may become visible,—so the flimsy shadows that envelop the physical being of our friend, and conceal the nobleness and gentleness of his real nature, are only lingering for a space that they may be scattered at last, to reveal the true, but hidden man, as he shall appear in the atmosphere of celestial skies in the companionship of those who have gone before.

Dr. Read graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1830, was an active worker, and ardent lover of the profession, and had a large place of usefulness in the society.\*

The business done at the meetings during the first ten years, so far as the minutes show, was chiefly to perfect the organization and increase the number of members. The Treasurer's account was always examined by a committee, and was always correct, and the society was never without funds to pay the expenses of delegates to the State Medical Society, who were appointed regularly every year, and who never failed to go and report. There was also money enough to pay for dinner and horse feed on the days of meetings. Sometimes the bills did not exceed the sum of two or three dollars and at the November meeting, 1832, in a paroxysm of generosity it was

*Resolved*, That at each stated meeting of the society, the tavern keeper shall be ensured a minimum consideration of five dollars, and that for this amount the funds of the society shall be responsible.

If this resolution could be now revived with the consent of the "tavern keepers," our Treasury would suffer from a plethora that would call for active depletion.

All along the decade over which we are now passing, it is very evident

\*While this address was undergoing revision for the press Dr. Read died at his home in Mount Holly, July 28th, 1879—aged 71 years.



that in whatever other respects our predecessors may have differed, they were a positive unit in one thing. They meant to secure the co-operation of each other, in counteracting if not in suppressing charlatanism. The article of the constitution already referred to, the urgent call upon brother practitioners, and the publication of the law on the subject, furnish abundant evidence of this. There is one noteworthy instance of action in a special case, which illustrates the tenacity with which the society adhered to its principles in this regard.

There was a physician in the county, of considerable practice and local influence, who was unscrupulous in his disregard of ethical rules. At a meeting in 1832, his case was considered, and a resolution unanimously adopted, that no member of the society should hold consultation with him on account of "ungentlemanly conduct in relation to his professional brethren," and the secretary was directed to furnish the offender with a copy of the resolution. Further than this, they meant to protect other portions of the State from his offences, and at the next meeting, resolved to transmit a copy of their action "to the several Boards of Censors in the State, and to the President of the State Society."

Quackery, as understood by this society, means all boastful pretensions to knowledge or skill that is not possessed; all undignified means of attracting public attention or securing business; in fact, every departure from the line of professional probity. Indeed the mere pretender, with no stock in hand, but ignorance and presumption, who practices upon the credulity of the people, is less blame-worthy, than the educated graduate who has passed, not only the technical curriculum of the schools, but who, from association and habit of thought, has been reared and cultured in the department of ethics and good breeding, who stoops to dishonorable methods to promote his own aggrandizement.

It may be that now is a fitting time to revive and cultivate the noble sentiments of our predecessors in this respect. With the advance of medical science, its wonderfully increased scope of domain, its penetration into the revelations of hitherto remote and allied sciences, and especially its adventures into psychological research, have made it easy to separate and classify its departments, so as to constitute what are known as distinct specialties, wherein lies the risk of which we are now speaking. One of the dangers of this new classification is, that it is an open door to the most concealed and

dangerous form of empiricism. There are distinguished specialists, who, with an apparent innocence that is remarkable in men of such learning and eminence, will take our patients from us, if they can, without scruple or inquiry, and will ride scores of miles to confer with practitioners, with whom our regulations forbid our holding consultation. I have said that this is done with *apparent* innocence of harm, but such gentlemen, however exalted their positions, cannot claim immunity from obligations which are recognized as sacred; nor have they any right to be blinded by a self-asserted pre-eminence that obscures their moral vision, and causes them to stumble in their professional walk.

From charlatanism, outside of the profession, we have nothing to fear. It soon finds its own level, and the people who patronize it, in any of its forms, are alone responsible for its influence upon themselves and upon society at large. Whilst we cannot affiliate with irregular practitioners, we need enter into no controversy with them; but when they profess to practice according to a special law, and at the same time to occupy our field, they discredit and invalidate themselves.

For example, we can respect and honor a conscientious and intelligent homœopathist; but when he pretends to practice on the law that "like cures like," and also upon the comprehensive basis of true medical science, which eschews and disdains all exclusive dogmas, he displays an ignorance for which he's to be pitied, or a lack of principle for which he is to be avoided.

Let us continue to steer clear of these irregularities as our predecessors did; and let us educate our patients in the truth that nature does not provide one class of remedies for us, and another for different schools in medicine.

The rocks, the earth, the vegetation, the animal life, with which the world has been blessed and adorned, are alike tributary to scientific research, and each yields its quota of medicinal product for the welfare of the race. There is no remedy in the whole domain of medicine that is not equally available to all of us; and when physicians of any name, be they ignorant or learned, assume that such and such remedies belong exclusively to themselves, they assert what the common sense of the common people is beginning to appreciate as a statement that has no foundation in fact. A decision of the Supreme Court of New York, some time since, is reported to be as follows: "Whoever offers to practice either homœopathy or allopathy, as



his patients may wish, is practically a quack in his profession. This is doubtless true, and applies equally to all who pretend to practice any system that may suit the whims of their patients; and all such persons, whether they belong to our school of practice, or to any other, are unworthy members of the profession.

In matters that concern the public weal—such as temperate living, sanitary reform, the care of the poor and the insane—our society has always taken an active part.

As early as 1831 Dr. William S. Coxe, of Burlington, introduced the following resolutions:—

*“Resolved,* That we are convinced that the use of distilled liquors as a drink is always unnecessary to persons in good health, and injurious generally in proportion to the amount consumed; that they increase the liability to disease, and render them less amenable to medical treatment; that they are much less frequently indispensable in the practice of medicine than has heretofore been supposed; and when the necessity occurs, it has, in a majority of cases, originated in a pre-existing habit of using them.

*“Resolved,* That we deem it our duty to discountenance, by precept and example, the consumption of ardent spirits by men in health, and to abstain from their exhibition as medicine, when less dangerous stimulants can be conveniently substituted, and may be expected to prove equally efficacious.”

This resolution was considered so important—involving such a wide scope of domestic and social habits, as well as of professional practice—that it was laid over for consideration for six months. When the society met again, however, Dr. Cole offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*“Resolved,* That the propositions submitted by Dr. Coxe, at the last meeting of this society, for the consideration of its members, be adopted, and that we individually pledge ourselves to use all proper influence in the support and practice of temperate habits.”

The society thus committed itself forty-eight years ago, on the great question which to-day, more perhaps than any other, occupies the public mind. It gave utterance to no uncertain or indifferent statement, but defined with distinct minuteness its position.

It is a common impression among the people, that medical men as a class, are unfavorable to temperance. This is not so. I doubt if there is a

medical society on the continent where the resolution of Dr. Coxe would be voted down.

Alcohol is recognized as an essential solvent in the departments of Chemistry and Pharmacy, and as a useful therapeutic agent, having its proper place and function; but outside of its legitimate place, and used when it should not be used, it is believed by medical men to be dangerous to health and happiness.

At this point, I am sure you will allow me to enrich my narrative by the mention of a few of the departed, who participated in these proceedings, and whose eccentricities, or other qualities, made them somewhat conspicuous in the communities where they labored.

First—ROCKEFELLER DAKIN. He was a singular character; I remember Dakin as a student. He came from Ohio with a drove of cattle, and entered the office of my father, as a green and awkward novice to study medicine. He was exceedingly quaint, even grotesque in his personal appearance, and yet his proficiency was remarkable, and he was soon regarded as a prodigy for a first course student. He did not however immediately disclose the fact, that he had already taken a course of private study in his native state, which accounted for his unusual facility in acquiring elementary branches. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1827, the subject of his thesis being "Vitality." Immediately after graduating he settled in Columbus in this county, and true to himself, and in quite consistent accord with his thesis, he did quite an extensive practice in an agricultural district on foot. A friend says of him "He flourished about forty years ago, in brogans and saddle-bags strapped to his back and used shanks mare in preference to jackass or horse." He joined this society in 1830, and read before it, the first paper of which there is any record, the title of which is as follows: "On the application of similar medicines to similar tissues, be they located externally or internally."

Unfortunately for those of us who are left, and for the medical literature of the period, this paper has not been preserved. From its title, the suspicion is allowable that it was more eccentric than orthodox.

In striking contrast with Dakin, was the polished and genial JONATHAN J. SPENCER, of Moorestown, a kind and good physician, and a public spirited citizen. He was born in Moreland, Montgomery Co., Pa., in 1792, (Aug. 18), studied medicine with Dr. Moore of Abington, Pa., and took his degree of



M. D. at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1813. He at once joined the army as surgeon and remained with it in active service till the close of the war, known as the "war of 1812." His health was impaired by his exposure and he remained delicate for several years. In 1817 he settled in Moorestown, as the successor of Dr. John Stokes, and enjoyed a fine practice, and a large share of public esteem and confidence.

In 1837 he went to Europe, and after his return, did much less practice than formerly. He was at one time the Whig candidate for Congress. In 1844 was delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and in 1845 was proposed as candidate for Governor, but he declined the nomination. About this time he was chosen one of the Judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals, which office he held four years. He was also one of the Directors of the N. J. Lunatic Asylum and of the Bank at Camden. In 1868 he died aged 75 years. He was President of this Society in 1834.

JOHN STOKES, who is here referred to, died before this society was organized, being born 1764; graduating in 1786; and deceased 1817.

JOHN H. STOKES, his son, was elected a member of this society in — but never signed the Constitution. Born 1808, Died 1872.

CHARLES RIDGWAY, was a remarkable man, stout, short, slow of speech, positive in opinion, and yet genial and firm in friendship. He was born in Burlington 1791, died 1871; he had one strong peculiarity. He felt it his duty always to inform his patients if he considered the disease dangerous or fatal. The warning or the doubt it was his province to foreshadow, as it was to relieve or cure if possible.

EDMUND LEWIS DUBARRY, was one of the early members, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, 1822. His birth place is unknown. Surgeon in U. S. Navy, settled in Bordentown; was attending physician to Joseph Bonaparte; moved to Washington City and remained till his death. He translated a French work by Guillaume Tell Poussin, entitled "The United States, its Power and Progress."

CHARLES FRANCIS LOTT, born in Princeton 1781, studied medicine with Dr. Moses Scott; graduated in Philadelphia in 1805; settled in New Mills, (now Pemberton) 1806 or 1807; practised medicine there for thirty years; Ass't Surgeon, with rank of Captain in Major Reed's regiment, 1812. His practice extended to the furnaces in Speedwell, Hanover and Batsto, and to the County Almshouse. Retired in 1835 and lived in Trenton. In 1837

went to St. Louis, where he practiced for several years and returned to the East, residing in Quakertown, Bucks Co., Pa., till his death.

\*JAMES P. COLEMAN, was known to most of us. He graduated in New York City and was elected a member of this society in 1836, while a resident of Juliustown, but soon afterwards removed to Trenton, where he remained till his death.

While at Juliustown he composed and published a satirical poem, entitled "Number Six, or the Thompsonian conferring the degree of Steam Doctor on Sam Simons, with practical advice." This was intended to bring into discredit a notorious empiric, and tradition tells us that it was so effectual as to cause his removal from the county.

DR. SAMUEL C. THORNTON, SR., was known to some of our elder members as a laborious and faithful practitioner in Moorestown—the associate of Spencer and Stokes. He came from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1791, having received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1816. He resided in Moorestown from 1818 till the time of his death in 1858 and was highly esteemed as a physician. He was elected a member of this society, in 1848.

Among the physicians who were not members of this society, but yet were honorable licentiates of the State, may be mentioned the following: DR. THOMAS PAGE, who was born in this county in 1798, practiced at Cross Roads for a number of years; but health failing he was obliged to abandon active duty and confine himself to consulting practice. He was a man of progressive character, adopting remedies years ago, which were in advance of his time. He died in 1876.

DR. CHARLES D. PATTERSON, the predecessor of our honored colleague Dr. Goodell, of Plattsburg, (now Sykesville) was distinguished in his day as a man of scientific culture and practical skill. He excelled as a surgeon, and was well supplied with the most approved surgical instruments of his time. He was the son of Judge Patterson, of Monmouth County, where he was born, and died at his home in this county in 1839, aged 35 years.

CHARLES PARRY, brother to the Hon. Wm. Parry, one of the Associate Judges of this county, was a student of Dr. John H. Stokes, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1835. He settled in Camden, where he remained for a short time, and then removed to Columbus. He was proposed as a member of this society soon after settling in Columbus, but before

\*For Isaac read James, on page 10.



his name was brought forward for election he removed again ; this time his destination being Indianapolis, Ind. He settled there, grew up with that thriving city, and took a prominent place in his profession. He was distinguished as a surgeon, and was among the first, if not the first surgeon west of the Alleghenies to perform Barton's operation for ankylosis of the knee-joint. An account of his operation was published in Hay's journal and republished in Europe. He also published in the same journal an essay on Pernicious Fever, which is referred to by Dr. Wood in his work on Practice, and otherwise distinguished himself as an able practitioner of medicine and surgery. He died in 1861, aged 48 years.

The indisposition of the members at that time to read essays or lectures at the society meetings, seems to have been even more decided than at the present time. With the exception of the paper by Dr. Dakin, already referred to, there were but two others during the first decade, and they were by Dr. Cole, the President, on the "Importance of Medical Science," and by Dr. Coxe, on "The Treatment of Fever."

The record of the meeting of May 2, 1837, is the last that was made by our honorable friend, the chairman of this meeting. There were found in the trunk however, loose minutes, covering all the meetings to May 5, 1840, making an interval of three years. At this meeting Dr. Z. Read acted as secretary, there being but three members present, namely : Woolston, Stratton, Jr., and the secretary.

During this period, the records are so fragmentary, that nothing can be gleaned from them to throw any light upon the nomination or election of members. From May 1840 to November 1846, there are no records preserved, though it appears from those of a meeting held in November 1846, that meetings must have been held during the interum, as Dr. Parrish reported on behalf of a delegation previously appointed, that he had attended the State Society meeting. It also appears that the treasury was not only equal to the demands of the occasion, but was able to honor an additional draft to meet a certain new regulation concerning the expenses of the Censors. At the organization of this meeting, the only members present were Ellis, Stratton, Read and Parrish. Delegates were appointed for the first time to the American Medical Association, and Dr. Isaac S. Haines, who had been previously proposed for membership, was elected a member, and being present, was at once enrolled.

Thus commenced a new era in our history. The elder Stratton was

enfeebled in health, Dr. Cole, was relaxing his interest in the society, Dr. Ellis was contemplating retirement, and it devolved upon the few younger men who were left in the ranks, to take the reins, and guide the society in the way of prosperity and usefulness. From six or seven members in 1846, the roll was increased during the next decade to thirty-four, and there was a corresponding evidence of renewed zeal in professional affairs. The society was now, by reason of its connection with the American Association, as well as by its relation to the State Society, a part of the organized profession of the entire continent, and under the inspiration of this new order of things, it renewed its work with fresh earnestness and zeal.

One of the first things it did was to direct the secretary to write to each of the township clerks of the county, call his attention to the new registration law, and urge a compliance with its provisions. Similar action, in this respect, was subsequently repeated, and the society may be congratulated upon having contributed by its persistency, to the final consummation of this act in its present improved and practical form.

In 1848 the New Jersey *Medical Reporter* was originated and conducted by one of our members, as the first effort at Medical journalism in the State. It soon came into favorable notice, its subscription list increased rapidly, and on the recommendation of this society, the State Medical Society adopted it as the medium for publishing its transactions, and as an endorsement of its authority, furnished the imprint of its seal for the title page. As you know, the journal is still in existence under a modified title, being published in Philadelphia, and is reported to have as a large a circulation, as any Medical Journal on the continent.

In 1849, Dr. Zachariah Read offered a resolution instructing the delegates to the State Society to request "said society to petition the Legislature of this State to pass a law requiring every vender of secret nostrums or patent medicines to place a label upon the bottle or package containing it, stating its ingredients and their proportions in relation to each other, in the English language, and to append such penalties for non-conformity, as the importance of the subject may seem to require;" and at the same meeting Dr. Evans offered a resolution, further instructing the delegates to ask the State Society to call the attention of the legislature to a more complete system of law in respect to public health, particularly regarding vaccination.

The progress that has since been made in these respects is worthy of



note. Whether the Legislature ever seriously considered the subject of patent nostrums, I do not know; but it is believed to be a fact that they are not now used so freely as they were a quarter of a century since. There are fewer millionaires, who build palaces with the money gained by fraud, and damage to the race. The health of the people is improved, the death rate lessened, and the longevity increased, as the masses have become more intelligent in respect to sanitary laws, and as the researches of advanced chemistry have revealed the ingredients of the compounds that have been vaunted for their all-healing properties.

In 1849 Dr. Woolston presented for inspection a splint of his own invention, for the treatment of fractures of the femur, and a committee was appointed to examine into its merits. At a subsequent meeting Dr. Woolston read a letter from Dr. Stanley of London, approving the splint, and the society adopted a resolution recommending it to the notice of the profession.

At the spring meeting of 1852 the subject of representation in the American Medical Association, was considered, and the society declared itself emphatically in favor of county delegates, as a means of counteracting the influence of schools and colleges in said Association, and transmitted a copy of its resolutions, one of which is here presented as indicative of the spirit of the movement.

*“Resolved, That we heartily repudiate the distinction made between professors and laymen; that we will use our influence to equalize the rights and privileges of all properly educated and recognized physicians.”*

This was an important step at the time, as some of you may remember, for there was a period in the history of the American Association when there was danger of its being controlled in the interest of the schools, which calamity has however been averted by the action of the county societies throughout the country.

At the same meeting the initial step was taken to procure a historical record of the members of our society, by the appointment of a committee to report a “chorographical and medical history of the county of Burlington.” Dr. B. H. Stratton was chairman of the committee, and all that appears afterwards on the subject is a report of progress. His associates were Read and Haines. Had the important service to which they were appointed been systematically commenced, I could have presented you with a more interesting and complete record to-day.

At the October meeting in 1853, an important movement was inaugu-

rated to which attention is directed afresh, as applicable to the present time. It related to the collection of fees for professional service, and was laid over for three months for deliberation, and the secretary was instructed to notify every member, in order to secure a full attendance. At the next meeting, there was a larger attendance than there had ever been before, fifteen members being present; and the following resolutions were freely discussed, and adopted.

*Resolved*, That after the first of January, 1854, the physicians of this county will consider their bills due at the termination of each individual case of sickness, and will present them at that time, or within one month."

In addition to this, it was resolved to publish this action of the society, three times, in each of the county papers.

Gentlemen, this is a subject of equal moment to-day. The medical men of Burlington county are proverbial for their carelessness in respect to collecting bills for services. It has always been so, and the result is, that the people have learned to be indifferent in this regard. This is notably so with county and township officials. They feel themselves at liberty to tax the time and skill of physicians, at their pleasure. Coroners, in the execution of their official functions, may find it important to seek professional skill to determine causes of death. Post-mortem dissections must be made, poison tests employed, and much valuable time expended by physicians, adequate compensation for which, may be withheld, or not, according to the whim or caprice of the officers. Township Committees and Chosen Freeholders take upon themselves also, to determine the value of medical services, if they see fit. Such was the case within the last three years. A small-pox epidemic occurred in one part of the county, and many of the sufferers were poor, and might have been removed to the hospital wards of the County House. For fear of spreading the disease among the inmates of the house, the patients were kept at their own homes, and faithfully attended to by local physicians, who to this day, have received no compensation from the proper authorities. Had physicians declined to attend these small-pox cases in their own homes, and refused to institute such methods of isolation, and arrest of contagion, as best they could, our county might have been overrun with this loathsome disease. But the genius of our profession forbade any such course, and our members were prompt and true to the calls of suffering. By their efforts, the spread of the disease was diminished, and many lives were saved, though their own families were exposed to danger and death.

Public officials though applied to, have declined to honor the claims



physicians for attending upon these poor, and in a recent trial before the court, a member was refused due compensation for his invaluable services, by the estate of a person in good pecuniary circumstances. Gentlemen, this is a reproach, not only to the county, but to ourselves. We should assert and maintain our true position and claim adequate compensation, as a duty. If we look over the list of heroic men who have preceded us as members of this society, and if we could count the number of miles they have traveled, the risks to which they have been exposed by day and night, the toils they have endured; and then turn to their descendants, and count the discomforts and embarrassments to which some of them have been exposed in their widowhood and orphanage, the picture would not be flattering to the custom which we have allowed to grow into an established rule. Let us renew, or republish the resolution of 1854 and adhere to it, and we shall be more esteemed in the community, and more bound to each other.

As an evidence of the desire to maintain relations of concord with the profession at large, the secretary was directed in 1854, to invite members of all other county societies in the state, to attend the ensuing annual meeting, which was done, and several counties responded by sending visiting delegates.

During this period of revival in the society, the amount of work done was quite surprising, as compared with the years previous. Not only were the subjects which pertain to self-protection as prominent as ever before, but the meetings were made interesting and instructive by the discussion of medical subjects. The first pathological specimen that was ever offered to the society, was a complete membrane, taken in an autopsy from a child, who died of pseudo-membranous croup; and this was the text for the first really medical discussion that is reported. This specimen, I believe, is still preserved in the museum of Jefferson Medical College. The subjects discussed during this period were, Erysipelas, Sympathetic Uterine Affections, Uterine Hemorrhage, Uterine Anæsthesia, Vaccination, re-Vaccination, Low Diet, Puerperal Fever, Functions of the Skin, Hysterical Mania, Congestive Fever Spasmodic Croup, Dysentery, Cholera, Paralysis, Salivation, Remittent Fever, Rupture of the Uteris, Placenta Previa, Medullary Sarcoma, with specimen; Tuberculated Liver and Stomach, with specimen; Schirrus of the Liver, Ossification of Semi-Lunar and Mitral valves, Ergot, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Contagion, Hydrothorax, and Lead Poisoning.

In addition to these, which are noticed in the minutes, informal conversa-

tions on all medical subjects were always in order, and were participated in freely by most of the members. One practical feature in the discussions is worthy of note. They were mostly illustrated by cases, and the remarks were the result of careful clinical observations. Country physicians are supposed by some, to possess but little knowledge, and it is said that they have a way of skimming over the surface of things, of prescribing carelessly, and of taking a general and superficial view of their cases. Indeed, a distinguished teacher recently remarked, that country doctors had but few books and were poor students.

If it were possible for me to bring out the discussions of this society, even as they are imperfectly recorded on the minutes, there would be an exhibition of research and skill in the management of some very grave disorders, of which even public teachers need not be ashamed. To speak in praise of the now living and active members, would not be in good taste; but could I reveal the debates by Stratton, Read, Coleman, Haines, Butler and others, as they discoursed upon the doctrine of contagion, for example; or as they revealed the clinical discoveries that they had made in some anomalous forms of disease, or as they described surgical cases which had been successfully treated by themselves, it would be in pleasing contrast with the declaration just referred to.

The amount of surgical practice that is done, and well done, by physicians in retired and even remote rural districts, is very considerable. It does not appear in the journals, it is not exhibited in amphitheatres, or in hospital wards, but it is nevertheless done successfully.

The number of strange and unusual cases that occur in the practice of many country physicians, is not always known to the exponents and teachers of medicine in cities, but they are, nevertheless, studied, treated and cured, under circumstances of embarrassment and difficulty, which would be considered serious complications in city practice, or in the wards of a hospital.

During the period we are now traversing, the first reporter for this county was appointed, and a series of questions agreed upon and circulated among the physicians of the county. From that date (1850) till now, the society has not been without a reporter, who, I believe, has made his returns to the Standing Committee of the State Society every year. The present incumbent of that important office has reason to congratulate himself that he fills the position with unusual satisfaction, inasmuch as his own prolific



brain supplies the deficiencies of his medical brethren, of whom he complains, as not taking sufficient interest in his enquiries. His complaints are just, and our omissions are without excuse. We have no right to withhold any of our experiences, the publication of which would contribute to the common good.

From 1856 to this time, there is but little on the minutes, except the usual routine business, and a much more extended record of cases, showing an increased interest in the strictly scientific aspect of the profession.

Here and there spicy hits at irregular practice are noticed, but most of the time was occupied with papers and discussions. One, on the contagiousness of scarlet fever, was very interesting; Stratton taking the view that it is not, and Spencer that it is, contagious. Surgical operations are reported for strangulated hernia, one by Coleman and two by Goodell; and one of lateral operation for renal calculus, by Coleman.

The change in the types of disease, and the comparative necessity for bleeding and other antiphlogistic treatment, constituted a topic for interesting discussion at one of the meetings. At another period, between 1863 and 1865, an epidemic of spotted or typhus fever, was the occasion for much research and able discussion. The use of alcoholic stimulants in cases of syncope, or prostration following child-birth, was discussed. Dr. Stratton disapproved of their use, preferring other cardiac stimulants. He believed alcohol overwhelmed the nerve centres and hindered reaction.

A striking case of "cystic ovarian tumor," of four years duration, under the care of Elwell and Coleman, was reported, during which time over four hogsheads of water had been taken. Townsend, and Thornton, Jr., each reported a case of uterine rupture, which elicited much discussion on the use of anæsthetics in parturient cases; the opinion being in favor of their use.

A remarkable case of abscess near the umbilicus was reported by Dr. R. H. Page, from which were taken forty calculi; and by Dr. Goodell, a case of stricture of the œsophagus, which he was able to relieve.

Interesting discussions were had on the differentiation between Apoplectic and hysterical convulsions in the puerperal state, and on the use of chloroform in puerperal eclampsia, which was recommended. But among the most noticeable reports in the whole history of the society is one by that popular family doctor, our worthy treasurer, who presented the history of three living children, at one birth, each a breech presentation, and each

weighing four-and-a-half pounds, and all of them were living at the time the report was made.

I find myself lost in an attempt to do justice to the records of the last years of the society. They are full of practical suggestions, and give evidence of deep research and wisdom. To continue to select from the cases that have been reported, or to attempt a description of the pathological specimens exhibited, would occupy more time than I dare claim.

Suffice it to say, that, though of necessity, the minutes are incomplete, they are a credit and honor to the profession of the county.

At this point, we may pause a moment over the graves of Haines, Evans, Coleman, Cook, Spencer, Ridgway, Butler, Heintzleman, Bryan, Woolston, and perhaps others; and while we mourn them all, we can only tarry long enough to speak of the sudden removal by accident of Heintzleman while yet in his prime; of Evans, the scholar and statesman, as well as physician, and of Issac P. Coleman, who may be aptly spoken of, as one whom we all delighted to know, and whose acumen as a physician, and virtues as a man, we should all do well to emulate. He was brother to James already referred to, and after a short residence, at Juliustown, as successor to his brother, removed to Pemberton, where he remained till his death. For the benefit of those who in after years may read these lines, I shall copy from the marble shaft which covers his remains in the cemetery at Mount Holly, the following inscription:

On one side of the monument are these words:—"The Medical Society of Burlington County, N. J., with the family and friends of Dr. Coleman, erect this monument as a memorial of the high professional standing and social character of their late member and friend.

On the other side, the following is written:—"Issac Pearson Coleman, of Pemberton, N. J. Died Nov. 4, 1869 in the 65th year of his age."

"As for me I will behold thy presence in righteousness, and when I awake up after thy likeness, I shall be satisfied with it."

And now, after fifty years have passed away, and we stand by the graves of these men, we should renew our pledges of fraternity to each other, and our high obligation to the noblest and best of all professions; noblest and best, because without ostentation or display, it carries balm to the wounded, relief to the sick, and comfort to the sorrowing. This is our daily task, and



to do it well, is to do the noblest and best thing that mortals can do for humanity.

Hereafter, I shall speak of the labors, of living members in the society, as being done by the society itself, for we are now in a period when to refer to each by name would be unbecoming, and perhaps invidious.

The service done by the representatives of our society has been marked by distinction. In the domain of philanthropy it has always held its place. As far back as 1831 it declared itself in favor of temperate living, and thus took its position on the side of sound morals in this regard. It has several times been represented in the Legislature of the State, and in one case, for four consecutive years. It was during this time that the strongest speech ever made in that hall, in favor of a lunatic asylum, was made by Dr. J. W. C. Evans; and the passage of the bill at that time, was accredited to him by general consent.

The county has furnished Philadelphia and Jefferson Medical College with one of its most eminent professors—Dr. Joseph Pancoast—and the society has furnished four presidents for the State Society, each of whom acted his part well. We have been in Congress also, and if nothing else may be said here of our Congressional record, it can be said with truth, that it is not stained by corruption, or dishonored by fraud.

The condition of the insane, in poorly kept departments of county alms-houses, has occupied the attention of our society, and a committee was appointed to lay the subject before the Chosen Freeholders, with a view to the removal of the insane to Trenton; at least till suitable accommodations should be provided within the county. This application—originating as it did in the society—was approved by the Freeholders, and the necessary steps taken to accomplish the purpose; at the same time the society resolved to influence the Legislature, as far as it had influence in that direction, in favor of extending the capacity of the asylum at Trenton, for the purpose of accommodating the additional patients from the counties. It is said that the first proposition to erect a State Lunatic Asylum, originated in this society, but there is no record of such action having been taken. If it was, it doubtless occurred during the six years of which there is no record of meetings.

Its influence has also been felt in foreign lands in connection with this subject of insanity. It has penetrated the enclosures of the Vatican at

Rome, and plead for the insane of the Holy City, securing the appointment by the Pope, of a medical commission to enquire into alleged abuses of the hospital, and resulting, not only in subsequent removal of said abuses, but in the supply of many additional comforts to the inmates.

During the late war our society was found in many a hospital, and on many a field of blood. From Washington, along the Atlantic Coast to the Carolinas; on the Potomac and the James to Fredericksburg, City Point and White House; in the west, at Look-Out Mountain, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Nashville; and finally at Gettysburg, as well as in hospitals at home, the Burlington County Society was present; not in a hostile attitude, but as the messenger of consolation to the sick and wounded; and its deeds were always deeds of cheer and comfort.

It supplied an active element in the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and aided the government in its struggle for life, more than will ever be known.

It has been active in other departments of medical philanthropy, as is witnessed by a law in this state, by which imbecile children are provided for at public expense in an institution in Pennsylvania, that was resuscitated and finally established, as one of the permanent charities of that Commonwealth by this society; and is now conducted by a son of Burlington, who received his first professional impulse, and learned his first medical lessons in this city.

It has established an institution for the cure of inebriates, which has had remarkable success in this new field of medical research; and has been summoned by the British Government to appear as evidence before a committee of its Parliament, in the interest of this grave and solemn subject, the Parliament having passed a bill, which in its definition of a "Habitual Drunkard," and the provision made for his custody and treatment, comports with the testimony and counsel of the commission referred to.

During the legislative term of a now living member of the society, a bill was introduced into our State Legislature by him, and passed by his influence, authorizing the establishment of an inebriate asylum in New Jersey, which, however, was never consummated, because the state was not prepared at that time to render the necessary pecuniary aid.

One thing more it has done; one of the last things and one of the best. Now, at the very close of our first half century, we have commenced work again in the field of journalism; not because our first effort failed, for it has



not. It still bears fruit in another soil, whither it was transplanted years since; but now the *Country Practitioner* begins. Its first number has just greeted us. It is a new seedling from a thriving stock. It was budded in the genial mould of this society, and is now a living fragrant plant. Its fruit time is not yet, but it will soon come, if we stand by our brother the editor and aid him in his work. Its pages should be the medium for publishing the history of Burlington County medicine for the next half century; and not an honorable name nor a worthy deed of our profession should fail of record.

May the *Country Practitioner* become a power for good among us.

And yet one more good thing has been done, which I now have the pleasure of exhibiting. It has come into my hands this very day, and has not yet been generally introduced to the profession—as it soon will be. It is the “Adaptable Metric Gauge,” a neat little instrument for the accurate measurement of urethral, uterine, rectal and other instruments. It has been devised by an honorary member\*, whose name it bears, and who has permitted me to present it to you for inspection, with the promise that each member shall be presented with it. As it will soon become known to you and to the profession, I shall not describe it.

Now, gentlemen, I have finished the imperfect record of the doings of our society. Had I attempted to tabulate from the minutes of the one hundred and forty meetings that have been held, anything like a full report, my address would have been extended far beyond suitable limits; and yet I must say that such a tabulation of medical subjects discussed, and of opinions expressed, would have been highly creditable to the profession.

Our duty now is to appreciate the demands of the age in which we are living, and to prepare ourselves to meet the questions that are certain to arise in the course of medical enquiry. One to which allusion has just been made, viz: the treatment of inebriety as a disease, will soon be of absorbing interest to every physician who keeps pace with the discoveries and advanced views of medical science. It must be met, as other questions of pathology and therapeutics are met. We must study them at home, in the quiet of our own retirement, and with regard to the increased and absorbing demands of our civilization in this respect.

Insanity has been referred to, and idiocy. These are grave subjects

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\*Charles H. Thomas, M. D., of Philadelphia.

about which but little—very little—is known. They have been left to specialists and experts, but we meet them constantly in our private practice, and as citizens are taxed in their behalf. As political economists, as well as physicians, we must accept and master these subjects. Before the centennial anniversary of this society shall be held, there will be a strange revolution in both public and professional opinion about them. Our large and costly asylums of which we are now so proud, will have had their day, and more rational and successful modes of treatment will have been adopted, as the product of the patient and silent ministries of our profession.

The science of law, and the science of medicine, are discovering affinities toward each other which have not been appreciated before; and the relation between crime and cerebral pathology, will claim more of the attention of jurists and physicians than it has hitherto done. There should be in every judicial district in the commonwealth, a medico-legal society, composed of competent jurists and physicians, whose joint researches into penology and pathology would doubtless result in a wiser jurisprudence, than that which controls the courts of law in this day.

Now is not the time to enlarge upon the subject, but the field is wide and the harvest rich in this department of medico-legal enquiry.

Let me say to our visiting delegates from other counties of New Jersey, that from this time onward, we should all renew our interest in historical researches.

The recent publication of our State Historian, Dr. Wickes, has given us the clue to the medical history of the centuries preceding this, and we should not accept a member in any county society hereafter, who does not at the time of his admission attach to his signature the date and place of his birth, his medical instructor, the school at which he graduated, the title of his thesis, the date of his graduation, residence, etc., and he should be followed in his history from year to year, so long as this life shall last. So also should every older member, go back in his record to its beginning, and thus bring up from the year 1800, as complete a history as Dr. Wickes, has furnished of the long and darker years previous to that time.

A word to Philadelphia and the adjacent parts of Pennsylvania. More than two hundred years ago, ships from foreign lands were anchored in our harbor at this place, and the port of entry at old Burlington was the first commercial centre of this region of the new world. Philadelphia was not known



or thought of. Burlington had an existence, however, and also its eminent physician, Dr. Daniel Wills, who came in the good ship Kent, with the first settlers. He was the father of medicine in this county, and when a few years after, the little town of brotherly love arose as our first suburb, the old doctor extended his visits to that young community, and an entry in his journal notes the fact that during one of his visits he purchased there a leathern apron. If you could see his journal as I have seen it, with his unique prescriptions, and could examine his herbarium, amputating saw, and suture needles, all of which I had hoped to be able to exhibit on this occasion, you would probably reach the conclusion that the apron was an operating apron, to be brought into requisition with his huge saw, and other appliances.

To-day Philadelphia and Pennsylvania come to us in the persons of some of their honored physicians, not with leather aprons and amputating saws, but with words and deeds of fraternal greeting.

Philadelphia was at first our little suburb, looking to us for aid. Now she is our metropolis, and her medical men and schools, do us, as well as herself, honor. Philadelphians, you are welcomed by our society, and by this attractive audience of our citizens, not only as one with us, but one of us.

Finally, I must acknowledge to you with whom I am associated in this society, my thanks for your kindly aid in furnishing much of the material for this record. It would have been impossible without it, to have introduced anything like a history of the worthy physicians who have lived in our county, in this address; but I invoke your further aid in the completion of the Historical Archives in which shall be placed, if possible, a brief notice of every physician in good standing, who during the last fifty years, has been a practitioner in the county, with a view of continuing it in all coming time. Then future historians, whoever they may be, shall have but little to do, but to chronicle under the name of each member, the noteworthy acts of his life, and, as the turn of each comes along, to mark the dark necrological line where it may be required, and when the century shall be rounded out, and most, if not all of us, shall have gone to sleep for the last time, this historical book shall be the heirloom of the society, and will be cherished in memory of the men who have made it historic.

—†o†—

At the close of the Historical Address, Dr. Franklin Gauntt advanced to the platform, holding in his hands a handsomely engrossed and framed certificate, which he presented to Dr. Ellis, with the following remarks:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I have the honor of being chosen by my confreres to present to you this proof of their appreciation and esteem. In the discharge of this very pleasant duty, and in behalf of the District Medical Society of Burlington County, I return thanks to the citizens who have so kindly favored us with their presence on this occasion, and to the numerous visitors from distant towns, both laymen and doctors who have thus honored us. We indulge the hope that not one of our guests or visitors to this historic old city will have any cause to say, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" is there no physician there?

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFORTS OF

Charles Ellis, M. D.,

TO ESTABLISH

The District Medical Society,

—OF THE—

County of Burlington, New Jersey,

*Fifty years ago: of his faithful services as its Secretary for ten consecutive years, and as an expression of gratitude that his life has been prolonged to enable him to preside at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of its organization, this certificate is awarded by this society, and with it the assurance of the esteem and fellowship of its members.*

*Joseph Parrish, President,  
A. W. Taylor, Secretary.*

BURLINGTON, N. J., JUNE 17, 1879.

*Semi-Centennial Anniversary*





## COMPLETE ROLL OF MEMBERS.

Those marked with a \* were elected members but did not sign the constitution. Those marked with a † resigned.

## ELECTED.

1829	Nathan W. Cole.
"	John Leake Stratton.
"	Charles Ellis.
"	John Cox Davis.
"	Benjamin H. Stratton.
1830	William S. Coxe.
"	Asabel C. Page.
"	Rockefeller Dakin.
"	*Hugh H. Higbee.
"	Samuel Woolston.
"	Charles Ridgway.
"	*John H. Stokes.
"	Jonathan J. Spencer.
"	John Chapman.
"	Edmund L. Dubarry.
1833	*Charles F. Lott.
"	*James P. Coleman.
"	Zachariah Read.
1836	*John Perdue,
"	*Alexander Brown.
1844	Joseph Parish.
1845	Isaac S. Haines.
"	Andrew E. Budd.
1847	*George S. Duer.
"	Job Haines.
"	Franklin Gauntt.
1848	*Samuel C. Thornton.
"	*John H. Stokes.
"	*Joseph H. Cook.
"	H. H. Longstreet.
"	J. W. C. Evans.
"	Aaron Reid.
"	Isaac P. Coleman.
"	Alexander Elwell.
"	George Haines.
"	Isaiah S. Reeves.
1850	David B. Trimble.
"	Edwin A. Heintzleman.
"	William S. Challis.
1851	Irene D. Young.
"	Samuel W. Butler.
"	R. H. Page.
1853	William L. Martin.
"	*W. H. Worthington.
"	William Bryan.

## ELECTED.

1853	James J. Wright.
1854	Samuel C. Thornton, Jr.
"	George Goodell.
"	*E. R. Denby.
"	J. Howard Pugh.
"	*T. E. Waller.
"	E. B. Woolston.
"	*L. Bailey.
"	William Cook.
"	T. T. Price.
"	*James Bean.
1855	William Cook.
1856	*S. D. Harvey.
1858	N. Newlin Stokes.
"	Joseph Warrington.
"	Geo. S. Shively.
1860	Eugene Schump.
"	Abner Woodward.
1864	Ellis P. Townsend.
"	Lewis P. Jemison.
1866	*William Woolsey.
"	F. B. Lippincott.
"	John W. Webb.
1867	Richard E. Brown.
"	Lewis L. Sharp.
1868	Enoch Hollingehead.
"	David B. Vanslyke.
1869	Alfred C. Stokes.
"	Jos. H. Horner.
1870	*S. B. Irwin.
"	John H. Firman.
1872	A. W. Taylor.
"	Phineas K. W. Hilliard.
"	Ledyard Van Rensselaer.
1873	Stanley G. Clark.
"	Charles A. Baker.
"	Isaiah Reeves.
1876	D. G. Van Mater.
"	W. C. Parry.
"	A. H. Paterson.
"	†H. M. Harvey.
1878	William H. Shippis
"	Walter E. Hall.
1879	Frank Ashurst.



Names of physicians practising in the county previous to 1829, as far as can be found :

1677	Daniel Wills,	Burlington.
"	John Gosling,	"
1683	Robert Dimsdale,	Mount Holly.
1699	Francois Gaudonet,	Burlington.
1709	Samuel Marmion,	"
1723	Joseph Brown,	Bordentown.
1724	John Rodman,	Burlington.
1745	Dr. Baker,	Tuckerton.
"	Thomas Shaw,	Burlington.
1752	Alexander Ross,	Burlington and Mount Holly.
1755	Alexander Moore,	Bordentown.
1761	Stacy Budd,	Mount Holly.
1765	Ralph Assherton,	Nottingham Township.
1766	John Ross,	Mount Holly.
1772	Jonathan Smith,	Burlington.
1777	Daniel Bancroft,	"
1783	John Brognard,	Burlington and Columbus.
1784	Daniel De Bénéville,	Moorestown.
1786	Samuel Treat,	Burlington.
"	John H. Stokes,	Moorestown.
"	Edward Taylor,	Pemberton.
1787	Daniel Greenman,	Burlington.
"	Lewis Morgan,	"
"	John A. De Normandie,	"
1792	Benj. Say Budd,	Mount Holly.
1793	Wm. McIlvaine,	Burlington.
1795	Edward Shippin,	"
1796	John Blackwood,	Mount Holly.
1797	Ephraim Standish Sawyer,	Tuckerton.
1800	Samuel Tucker,	Burlington.
1803	Francis Brognard,	Columbus.
"	Lewis Morgan,	Burlington.
1811	Wm. K. Mason,	Tuckerton.













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