Perkins (Jos.)

INTRODUCTORY

LECTURE

TO THE

SPRING SESSION OF LECTURES

IN

CASTLETON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

By JOSEPH PERKINS, A. M., M. D.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

ALBANY:
PRINTED BY C. VAN BENTHUYSEN AND CO.

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Castleton, March 6th, 1844.

DEAR SIR:

At a meeting of the Students of Castleton Medical College, March 6th, 1844, L. WELLS HIBARD of Vt. in the chair, and SAMUEL H. GRISWOLD of Vt. acting as Secretary, we the undersigned were appointed a committee to request of you a copy of your recent able and eloquent Introductory Lecture for publication. In complying with this request, you will not only confer a great favor on the class, but also on the public.

A. S. PITKIN, Vt.
W. HUMPHREY, N. Y.
WM. HAYDEN, Penn.
C. H. KINGSMORE, S. C.
W. M. BURBANK, Mass.
ISAAC MARCHESSAULT, Canada.
FRANK S. CHAFFIN, N. C.
A. W. KINGSLEY, N. J.
SAMUEL AVERY, N. Y.
CYRUS P. HATCH, N. H.

TO PROF. PERKINS.

Castleton, March 8, 1844.

GENTLEMEN:

In compliance with your request of the 6th instant, I cheerfully commit to your disposal a copy of my Introductory Lecture. Although I cannot entertain the high estimate of its merits implied in your very flattering note, it will ever give me pleasure to gratify the reasonable desires of those whom I have the honor to instruct.

Accept, gentlemen, for yourselves and the class whom you represent, the assurance of my high regard and constant devotion.

J. PERKINS.

Messrs. PITKIN, HUMPHREY, HAYDEN, KINGSMORE,
BURBANK, MARCHESSAULT, CHAFFIN, KINGSLEY,
AVERY and HATCH, *Committee.*

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:

By the courtesy of my associates, the Faculty of this College, it is my duty to express to you our cordial welcome to the interesting relation which now commences between us; and occupy this hour in which we meet, with some topics of a general character, introductory to the important instructions which it behooves us to impart, and which your presence and attitude evince you are desirous to receive.

This occasion demands no *foreign* genius to inspire a theme of entertainment for our first greeting and mutual recognitions. *Our genius* is *Medicine.* Already are our invocations granted; led by a common mpulse, protected by a common Providence, we find ourselves convened in this temple, commencing a new epoch in our devotions.

This moment, these circumstances usher upon us thoughts of thrilling interest; the arduous labors—the self-denials—the mutual responsibilities—and not least, the anticipations of substantial pleasure and the grateful hopes of success, are considerations which press for utterance.

It is chiefly in the *intrinsic* qualities of the study which is about to engage us, we are to seek the worthy motives, the steadfast zeal, and noble purpose, which yield gratification in the arduous ascent, and ensure our ultimate success. Perhaps you have already anticipated the ulterior objects of Medicine, as a means selected by Providence to diminish human suffering; to restore health and prolong life; and when practised with inteligence and uprightness, the means also of procuring to the practitioner those emoluments and honors, which gratitude bestows as the reward of philanthropy. But you have not to await the distant and uncertain termination of your career, for the compensation of toil and awards of merit; the path you have entered, although rugged and upward, is garnished with fragrant blossoms and golden fruits—good, unalloyed with evil, of which the most eager may partake, without satiety or crime. Each new acquisition is nutrimental, increasing both the appetency and the power of still larger acquirements, affording to the ardent mind of incipient manhood the inexpressible delight of developing itself, in the acquisition of intellectual power.

The science of Medicine is a noble edifice; its foundations broad

and deep; its elevation lofty; its proportions symmetrical; its material rich and select. Indeed, so deep, so high, so symmetrical, so rich is it, as to afford ample scope for yet a host of other Harveys and Hunters and Bichats, and Davys, whose high aspirations and profound researches shall yet demonstrate the simplicity and perfection of nature's truth, in the yet unexplored fields of Medicine.

You, gentlemen, have not, like the ancient hero, to sigh for other fields of conquest.

It is not my intention to repeat at length what has been so often and so well declared, of "the intellectual and moral greatness—the benevolence of our art," or the "nobleness of its objects," or the powers and capabilities commensurate with its labors, or to pluck its laurels of fame. I believe ere this you have counted the cost; that you already deem every endowment of the man, physical, intellectual and moral, in its best estate of culture, as under the ban of contribution to our science; that *now* and *ever*, your strength, health, sense, memory, judgment, and chastened imagination, *are* and *shall be*, consecrated on the *altar* of Esculapius.

It is not my design to entertain you with a formal programme of Medicine; I prefer, according to my humble powers, to introduce you to *one* of the interesting views of its character, in which, if successful, I shall believe myself happy in contributing as well to your present entertainment as your substantial advantage.

I have said that Medicine is a *symmetrical* science. By symmetrical in this relation, I intend to be understood, a due proportion of each member or part in the category of medical science, according to a rule embracing both its *intrinsic* qualities and *practical* valuation.

Thus we shall contemplate Medicine, both in the attractive garb of science, and as a system of facts and doctrines, designed by the great Author of nature, to be sought out and applied by man, as means of his highest temporal benefit.

The parts and members comprising the science of Medicine, are Anatomy, Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology, Materia Medica, Practice, Surgery, Obstetrics, and Medical Jurisprudence. A portion of these—Anatomy, Chemistry and Physiology, are elementary and complete in themselves, as parts or chapters in the great volume of nature; worthy to be read and known of all, but especially fundamental and preparatory to the study of other members of the science. Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pathology, constituting the second *stratum* of our edifice, are also in important relations, elementary as well as fundamental, to the more appliant branches—Practice, Surgery, Obstetrics

and legal Medicine. Obviously, each member possesses its distinctive elements and relative value, but in such proportions, the rudimental value of one being compensated by the conservative or restorative utility of others; it might prove a difficult, if not an invidious office, to award to either a crowning excellence, at the expense of a community of merit.

As in the most perfect specimen of the Divine workmanship, "there are many members, yet but one body." "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you;" so in *practical* Medicine at least, each part is a member of others in the *one* great *symmetrical* body. Medicine is a community of sciences—a republic—"a *state without a king;*" and whoever, professor or student, attaches the beau ideal *exclusively* to one branch of Medicine, inflicts incalculable evil. Besides exhibiting little of that charity which "vaunteth not itself," he disturbs the harmony and infringes the peace of the republic. The result most unfortunately is, that by a species of *demagogueism*, teachers of this stamp draw in their train some unwary pupils, who at length find to their cost, that having viewed Medicine through a false medium, and having devoted the brief space allotted to the curriculum of their studies to a few favorite topics, to the neglect of others; they come up to their *ordeal*—the bed side of the patient—"half learned Doctors." And well is it to themselves and community, if at this pass, their hobbies prove restive; and if chastised by the wounds and mortification of the fall, they apply commendably, though late, to complete the lessons of their pupilage. Another evil incident to this species of favoritism, lies more directly at the door of the student, of which truth constrains me unwillingly to speak. Some students there are, who become so facinated with certain luminous *points*, and reflecting *surfaces* of Medicine, as to overlook all intervening and interior objects; bound in mazy admiration of some few *dogmas*, or *isms*, of some favorite author or teacher, which they plead in extenuation of neglecting others; they contemplate the shadow of goods things and overlook the substance. I hardly need to say, these constitute a class, not of *learned*, or *half* learned, but of *unlearned* Doctors. One idea forever suffices them; and if they ever enter regular practice, after a brief probation, they usually become affiliated either in the ranks of Thompsonianism, Homœpathy, Hydropathy or Mesmerism.

In no wise do I disparriage the *distinctive* characteristics of any member of our confederacy, or their importance to systematic study; or the

necessity of exclusive devotion to the attainment of eminence in a single department; or the division of labor necessary to accomplish the arduous duties of instruction; or the vivid and impressive presentation of his subject by each Professor, such as will inspire zeal and furnish *his* peculiar claims of attention from the pupil; and yet I would, that as *students*, you should comprehend in the idea of Medicine the *relations* of its several parts: that along with the *boundaries* and *terminal* lines, or either side, you should associate those corresponding and parallel influences, which give unity to the science and utility to the art. Medicine is a community of delicate sensibilities; if in pupilage, you accord your devotions too exclusively to one member, considering the pertinacity of early habits, it may prove a violence to the social harmony which you will never retrieve. Carrying your predilections into practice, your patrons, if not yourselves, must appreciate the consequences.

Anatomy is universally regarded as the basis of Medicine; a belief which it is not right to deny, while we admit that one important division—*General* Anatomy—is in part embraced in the domain of Chemistry, by which we are informed of the elements composing the various animal textures, and the different combinations which result in the composition of different organs and systems. Special Anatomy teaches the physical properties of animal solids and fluids: the form, magnitude, density, situations, relations and connexions, of the bones, muscles, membranes, vessels, nerves and viscera; and in connexion with *Topographical* Anatomy affords the general knowledge, necessary to discover the locality, of disease and guide the practitioner in the mechanical operations of Surgery and Obstetrics. General Anatomy, borrowing from animal Chemistry, (upon which Liebeg, Giessen and others are daily shedding fresh lustre,) is the stepping stone to the more subtle and evanescent properties denominated *life*, and its various modifications in health and disease; introducing us to Physiology, or the doctrine of functions, and to Pathology and Therapeutics, comprising those general facts and principles, which relate to the elements of disease and the operation of curative agents. Thus constituted, Anatomy becomes the *portal* of Physiology and the principles of Medicine, and the *hand servant* of Practice, Surgery, Obstetrics and legal Medicine.

As Anatomy has reference to the *structure* of living beings, *Physiology* regards their *actions* or *functions*. In the former, we are restricted to physical properties and laws; in the latter, we contemplate a superadded principle or property, which is called *life*, whose mutations and evanescence appear in striking contrast with the stability of the

inorganic world, constantly testifying "that our life is a vapor, that appeareth but a little time and then vanisheth away."

Notwithstanding the immense value of microscopic aid, many difficulties are still presented to the study of Anatomy, by the minuteness of the forms and distinctions of structure; and if, after the careful scrutiny of thousands, so much of our *organization* remains uncertain and undiscovered, is it surprising that greater difficulties should attend the study of an *unseen* agent, whose properties are learned only by its effects, and whose doctrines are elicited chiefly by induction; always limited by the premises, often falling short of them? Or, is it surprising, that in Physiology much *more* remains uncertain and undiscovered? Still, Physiology, embarrassed as it is by the nature of its circumstances, reflects many precious rays into the dark recesses of minute Anatomy. There are instances of minutiness of form and distinction, in complicated organs, where observation terminates and *induction* begins, proving the continuity and identity of textures, by identity of function. In turn, Physiology is indebted to Pathology and Therapeutics, for enlarging her boundaries, in regard to our knowledge of the relations of various portions of the nervous system; what more clearly illustrates the distinct functions of the cerebral and spinal nerves, than the different localities and effects of those diseases which produce paralysis, or the Physiological and therapeutic effects of Strychnia?

The study of Physiology is especially elementary to the principles of practical Medicine, or General Pathology and Therapeutics; comprising the science of life in its normal condition, it marks the boundaries of health and the commencement of disease. Without a knowledge of the conditions of health, you are unprepared to comprehend even a definition of disease; much more to deduce the many fundamental principles, which are to lead your investigations of the locality, causes, phenomena, classification, distinction, results, prevention and cure of disease. Without a knowledge of the structure of the human body in health, you cannot understand a single principle which shall prepare you to practice the healing art. It is to the peculiarities of structure and function, of the different tissues, and their several physiological relations, we are to trace some of the essential peculiarities of diseases; and from the known *physiological* effects of certain substances, we have been lead to employ them with safety and success as therapeutic agents. By modern researches of the nervous system, some of the obscurities involving function and structure being removed, diagnosis and treatment are now often successful in cases formerly the most indomitable and distressing.

Chemistry, is perhaps more strictly elementary than any other branch of medical study, embracing the *material* universe; taking cognizance of all elementary substances, and the laws which control their combinations, it comprises the inorganic, the vegetable and animal kingdoms; and whether, as in the former, it displays the laws of purely chemical attraction and combination, and the beautiful doctrines of the atomic theory and equivalent numbers; or in the latter, the modification of those laws by the laws of life; to every art and science, to every avocation, it imparts substantial benefits. Without the light of Chemistry you cannot comprehend a single atom of matter or one principle of organization; and much more, the complicated systems of nature, both stupendous and minute, which continually attract our attention and invite our study. In a sense, Chemistry, embracing *all*, borrows from *none*. But for *discoveries* in Chemistry; for its *development* as a science, it is indebted to every art and physical science, as well as to accident and laborious design; and with none has it reciprocated so much as with Medicine. The ancient chemist, pursuing an *ideal* good became unwittingly, the benefactor of man. In the pursuit of wealth he unfolded the resources of health. The *diamond* thus disintered, attracted multitudes to the mine; thus was formed an alliance never to be divorced, from which has descended a noble progeny of brilliant discoveries.

At first deriving from unorganized substances a few potent remedies, the physician was prompted to those investigations which have resulted in a vast enlargement, both of Chemistry and general Medicine. For a long period have been acknowledged the important relations of Chemistry to Pharmacy and Materia Medica, chiefly in regard to substances derived from the inorganic kingdom. *Modern* Chemistry, penetrating *organic* nature, has illumined the great laboratory of life; investigating and exposing the products of vitality; it has displayed the *secondary* elements of organized beings, and exposed the mutual operations of physical and vital laws. And now, so numerous and so diligent are the devotees of organic Chemistry, we are surprised, not by the frequency, but the lustre of their discoveries. In the applications of organic Chemistry, the anatomist and physiologist are receiving daily accessions; the pathologist is better informed, both of the evidences and results of disease in the solids and fluids; and Hygiene and Therapeutics are furnished with new and improved agencies, for the preservation of health and the cure of disease.

To every branch of human industry, cherishing its favor, Chemistry

has yielded ample returns ; investing man with new creative powers, to avoid the ills he fears, to brave the angry elements, to annihilate space and traverse securely the ethereal expanse. In fine, gentlemen, without *her* passport, you will knock in vain at the gate of her sister sciences.

General Pathology, in distinction from *Special* Pathology or practice of Medicine, is a group of doctrines, serving as an intervening chain between elementary and practical Medicine. Beginning and ending in other studies, receiving and bestowing important accessions, Pathology possesses its own peculiar domain ; it is in fact the *philosophy* of Medicine ; the collected deductions, from Anatomy both healthy and morbid, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and the various phenomena of disease. From each are derived the *subordinate* phenomena and principles which are involved in the general laws of disease, and the broad principles which are to guide us in practice. It has been said, and is to some extent, without reflection, a popular belief ; that great experience enables a physician to practice Medicine with success, without perplexing himself with theories ; and practitioners of supposed eminence are sometimes referred to as exemplars of practice *without* theory. If by theory is intended *bare hypothesis*, then doubtless is this popular sentiment tenable ; but if by it is intended the system of facts and doctrines, derived from all experience, since the days of the Coan sage, then are we required to give credence to a *solecism ;* and henceforward you may fling to the winds your hard earned acquisitions both in fundamental and collateral studies, and disregarding Anatomy, Physiology and Chemistry, retreat to the dark ages of empiricism, satisfied that the practice of Medicine requires but a name, a symptom and a remedy—" *Facilis discensus averni.*" But it is *not true*, that practitioners of *successful* experience, prescribe without theory or principles. " In fact, the leading rules of practice, those which guide the most experienced men, (although many are not aware of it and would not acknowledge it) are founded on general views of diseased function and structure—that is, *General* Pathology. You will not find that practical men treat a disease merely according to its name, or according to the nature of the local mischief. Inflammation is not always to be combated by blood-letting, nor hœmorrhage by styptics. The condition of the system—that is of the functions, is to be taken into the account ; and the variations of this condition, the states of stenia and astenia, tone and debility, excitement and depression, plethora and anemia, are the very subjects which General Pathology explains and shows how to treat. Practitioners *act* more on general ideas of disease, than on their

knowledge of particular diseases. They feel the pulse and the skin to guide them in the use of blood-letting, whether they have found out the special disease or not. They examine the tongue and inquire as to the state of the evacuations, to guide them in the use of purgatives, under whatever complaint the patient labors. They consider the complexion and bodily strength in connexion with dietetic measures; and the chief treatment of convalescence depends on rules suggested by General Pathology."* If in any science, art or avocation, is demanded the aid of *generalization*, it is in Medicine. The *laws* of disease are *contingencies;* its elements combine in no definite proportions, and are often disguised by a specious mark. Hence, every right opinion is the result of comparison, every prescription a *judgment* rendered. It is the province of General Pathology, not to *supersede* experience, but as far as is practicable to supply to the novice its deficiencies, and afford him such rules as shall render his experience both advantageous and agreeable; rules, which if comprehended and observed, a few years' experience will initiate into the difficult mysteries of practice; if despised or neglected, "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth," the practitioner of fifty is in his noviciate still.

Practice of *Medicine* or *Special* Pathology is the application of doctrines derived from other branches of medical study, to the discrimination and cure of *special* diseases. "Surely, to the student the practice of Medicine must be as interesting as it is important," being "the useful application of all his knowledge; the winding up of the drama of his studies;" "the rehearsal of the great performance of his life." Yet if you have neglected the study of *General* Pathology, which has been symbolized as the trunk and larger branches of a tree, as special diseases are likened to the leaves and boughs, you may find it an irksome and interminable labor, by *analysis*, to *descend* from leaf to bough, and from bough to branch; a study which you will soon learn to avoid; as an "unknown land" of shadows and doubts; a trackless "wilderness of confusion."

But if having acquired the *elements* of Medicine, you are prepared to begin, *synthetically*, to trace their combinations in the various forms of special disease, and their various methods of cure, much of the perplexity vanishes. You will, however, find still before you an immense field of facts and principles, combining in almost endless varieties, tasking heavily your intellectual powers; sufficient indeed to occupy a life of well directed toil. By this method of study, practice of Medi-

* Williams' Principles of Medicine, p. 19.

cine approximates the exact sciences ; it becomes, at least, a *satisfactory* science ; and when to the study of books and lectures, you shall have added a few years of clinical observation, you may possess the conscious ability, by your intellectual powers, of thought and design, of removing disease in a majority of instances, with a degree of that certainty and adoptedness of means to ends which fills the chemist and philosopher with delight, when witnessing the play of affinities and the harmonies of nature. Who would not aspire to a knowledge of these affinities which the benevolent Ruler over all, has established between the remedies, and the " ills which flesh is heir to ?" And who possessing the knowledge, is unwilling to become a minister of benevolence ?

Materia Medica also asserts claims upon the student, which are not the least onerous among the qualifications of his profession ; standing at the gate of all practical Medicine ; having in custody the implements and appliances, which are to test his knowledge of all the collateral branches ; why is it that the student so often faulters on Materia Medica ? as if this of all the sisterhood possessed no attractions. In the study of the natural history and composition of medicine, you will, to some extent, re-enter the interesting walks of Mineralogy, Botany and Zoology, and retrace the pleasant fields of Chemistry. Investigating the sensible properties, so necessary to understand and identify the important agents of our art, you will cultivate those sentient faculties, which constantly demanded, should ever be vigilant both in the observation of disease and the selection of remedies. Both the physiological and therapeutic operations of remedies must be understood preliminary to their employment as curative agents. Of vital importance also, is a knowledge of pharmaceutic preparations and compounds ; and as well the relative and qualifying operations of different agents, as both the positive or ordinary doses, and the quantities relative to conditions of disease, and the different operations indicated by the same agent. I doubt not, if once introduced to the gist and essence of Materia Medica, you will find associated with it an interesting group of doctrines, which if once acquired, will secure to you the benefits of your acquisitions in other branches of Medicine ; but if neglected, in an hour when you ought to triumph, your *remedy* may prove a poison ; " and one false step forever blast your fame." If Materia Medica is your *last* study in pupilage, it will be your *first* study in practice, unless indeed you deliberately determine to descend to the shades of empiricism, and grope forever in the twilight of nostrums and panaceas.

In the department of Surgery your attention will be directed both

to the principles and operations belonging to surgical diseases. The former are always allied to, and often identified with the principles of Medicine or General Pathology and Therapeutics; the latter are based upon Topographical or Surgical Anatomy. In addition therefore to the qualifications of the general practitioner, you must become accurately acquainted with Topographical Anatomy, and combine your knowledge of both, in the treatment of what are called surgical cases and diseases, whether they occur from causes acting generally or locally.

And moreover, you will have to acquire a knowledge of, and dexterity in employing a great variety of mechanical means and operations, which constitute the peculiarities of Surgery, and give dignity and importance to the art. There are also certain physical and mental qualities, either inherent or attained, to be possessed by the surgeon. These are only acquired and preserved by strict temperance in all things, and a thorough impression of all your duties as a surgeon. Possessing these qualities in an eminent degree, many there have been whose names are inscribed in the annals of fame, who, having the moral courage, the dexterity, the *humanity*, in the emergencies which occur from accident or disease, have rescued from the universal conqueror his lawful prey. Thus is it, the husband, the wife, the child, is withdrawn from the grave; thus was it the venerated Marshall was given back to his country, for a few precious years; and thus may you hereafter evince the *beneficence* of Surgery, and its *relative* value in the great *symmetrical* edifice which we labor to build.

Midwifery or *Obstetrics*, not less than Surgery, is indebted both to Anatomy and the principles of Medicine. Treating of the diseases and abnormal occurrences which are incident to the female during pregnancy, parturition and the puerperal state, it is not limited to a single class of organs, their functions or diseases, but embraces the numerous relations and sympathies of those organs with the entire system. And hence it is not among the least improvements of the age, that the practice of Obstetrics is no longer entrusted, indiscriminately, to those who are incompetent, or to the rash or the imbecile of the weaker sex. Depending on his knowledge of anatomical structure, and the laws of health and disease as they relate to the peculiarities of sex and condition of the female, the accomplished accoucher sometimes meets with incidents in his practice, which task to the utmost, his skill, courage and endurance; incidents which in the hands of the weak and ignorant, must result in immense suffering and the sacrifice of human life. Therefore in the study of Obstetrics, while you are to

regard pregnancy and its sequents as generally functional or physiological states, and remembering that "meddlesome midwifery is bad," you incline to the *expectant* practice of your fair predecessors, you should be aware that no small degree of *medical* skill is sometimes required, even to determine *when* to administer or withhold Obstetrical aid. And as Obstetrics cannot be severed from General Medicine, it should be your study to combine the gentle and delicate traits of the *female* accoucher with the more intelligent and sterner qualifications of the physician and surgeon.

Medical Jurisprudence, is defined by a standard author, to be "that science which applies the principles and practice of the different branches of Medicine, to difficult questions in courts of justice." In professing pretensions to a knowledge of this subject, you will incur great responsibilities, both in regard to your own reputation, and the decisions of justice which are to depend on your testimony. It will be for you to exhibit, in a public and conspicuous manner, the honor or dishonor of your profession; and touching crimes of the darkest hue, the disposal of property and reputation, the personal liberty and lives of your fellow men, may depend on your fiat. Incurring such responsibilities, it is your duty to possess both the general knowledge of the accomplished physician, and the particular knowledge which is comprised in legal Medicine. For whether your opinion is to settle the momentous questions which relate to poisons or wounds, sanity or chastity, you will have continually to recur to the facts and principles of Medicine, as the basis of your belief and evidence, which it will be your duty to present in conformity with your obligations and privileges as a witness, and the legal rules of evidence. If deficient in medical knowledge you will lack the basis of correct judgment and opinions; ignorant of your duties and privileges as a medical witness, your testimony may be misunderstood or misconstrued, to defeat the ends of justice.

In this plain epitome of Medicine, I have endeavored to show you the beginning and the ending; the order and relations, of the various subjects to which we invite your study. Possibly I might have selected a more gaudy and attractive dress; yet I have preferred to hold forth as I was able, the *unity* of Medicine as a whole, and the *value* and *relations* of its various parts; hoping your devotions to the several topics coming before you during the present session, will be accorded in something of the symmetrical proportion which our science demands. And that adopting such a rule of study with sufficient zeal and perse-

verance, you will ultimately approximate that symmetrical perfection of character, which constitutes " the good physician."

Gentlemen, I have now spread before you a broad field of intellectual toil; and although the powers that be, in their wisdom, have deigned to license the manufacture of nostrums and charlatans, *we* can boast no patented enginery or labor-saving machinery for the production of learned physicians. Your own single-handed, stern, individual efforts, with such aids and facilities as are afforded by the steady improvements of science, only can accomplish the high destiny of a *truly* learned physician.

Among these aids and facilities, I venture to affirm that not the least is the method of teaching by demonstrations and oral instruction; and it is my sincere hope and belief, that by the verbal explanations, and the various illustrations, both ordinary and clinical, which will be imparted, or pass in review before you during the ensuing courses, you will in the end become conscious, comparing such attainments with those derived from books, that you have approached at least one step nearer to *bed-side* practice.

We boast not our prowess, nor extol the advantages we offer you; such as they are, they are all that our earnest devotion to a beloved profession and your highest interest can accomplish: you are now with us, gentlemen, and when the ordeal is past, can judge for yourselves. We deem ourselves your companions in study; and with no other distinctions than what are decorous to our seniority and official positions, we welcome you to our friendship and confidence; devoutly invoking that great Being whose province it is to give direction to all human affairs, to crown with success our mutual efforts, that our friendship, now originating from reciprocal offices, may become cemented by bonds of permanent esteem; and ever cherished as the happy antidote to the perplexities and griefs of our mortal existence, it shall be at length transplanted, and grow perennial in higher and holier spheres, " where friendships never end."

CIRCULAR

OF

CASTLETON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

There will be delivered annually TWO FULL courses of Lectures at the Castleton Medical College, each course continuing SIXTEEN weeks. The FALL session will commence on the first Thursday of August, the SPRING session on the last Thursday of February.

Faculty.

JOSEPH PERKINS, M.D.
Professor of Materia Medica and Physiology.

CHAUNCY L. MITCHELL, M.D.
Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence.

EZRA S. CARR, M.D.
Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy and Natural History.

WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D.
Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine.

ALFRED C. POST, M.D.
Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

SAMUEL PARKMAN, M.D.
Professor of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy.

ALBERT G. UPHAM, M.D.
Professor of Pathological Anatomy.

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Fees for each course, $50. Matriculation Fee, $5. Graduation Fee, $16. Fee for those who have attended two full courses at other Colleges, $10.

Board, including Fuel, Lights and Washing, is furnished at $1.50 to $2.00 per week.

E. S. CARR, *Registrar.* J. PERKINS, *President.*

Castleton, Vt. March, 1844.