Rogers (L.)

FACTS AND REMINISCENCES

OF THE

MEDICAL HISTORY OF KENTUCKY:

AN ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

KENTUCKY STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

By LEWIS ROGERS, M. D.,
PRESIDENT.

LOUISVILLE:
JOHN P. MORTON & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.
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GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY:

I esteem it a very high honor to be the presiding officer of the Kentucky State Medical Society, an association composed of members, past and present, many of whose names are among the most distinguished of this country. I deem myself specially fortunate in being permitted to enjoy this honor in the prosperous and hospitable metropolis of Western Kentucky. I am pleased with the centrifugal movement which this meeting inaugurates. Heretofore we have met in the more central parts of the state; hereafter we may indulge the hope that the members from the remote parts will more fully participate in our proceedings, and contribute the result of their varied observation and study to the common stock. I am sure that I shall not be mistaken in the expectation that this meeting in Paducah will add greatly to the future usefulness of the Society by enlisting new and zealous workers who have not heretofore been associated with us.

As the time for our annual reunion approached, my mind became somewhat solicitous as to the subject of this address. What shall I or what can I write about that had not been presented to you in a more attractive form than I felt that it was possible for me to present it was naturally a question of much anxiety to me. The subject of medical education was "a thrice-told tale." In all of its many important phases, as connected with medical schools and office instruction, it had been discussed over and over again much more ably than I could discuss it. This would not do. And so in regard to the amount and the kind of education which should be required as preliminary to the study of medicine. This had formed the vexed topic of many an interesting debate before this body and elsewhere. Sanitary science, in all of its wide range, had often been pressed upon your attention and disposed of as it should be. I could add nothing to it. And so again with the Anatomy Bill, with the law for the government of apothecaries, and many other matters of equal and even greater moment. They all have reference to the present or future interests of the public and the profession, and I have felt so sure that they would continue to command the public and professional mind until their beneficent purposes were accomplished that I could but deem it unprofitable to raise my voice in their behalf.

The history of medicine in Kentucky, the remarkable record which the profession has made since the very infancy of the state, are topics which may be recalled with just pride and very great pleasure. I propose to speak of some of these by-gone things as "Facts and Reminiscences of the Medical History of Kentucky." Many of the facts are already familiar to you in a fragmentary form; it may not be unprofitable or uninteresting to view them in a group. My own reminiscences may be received for what they are worth.

Whatever may be the present status of Kentucky medicine—and I hold that it is high—the past at least is secure. When Kentucky was to a large extent a wilderness, and not yet wholly free from hostile incursions of the Indians, when the population was so sparse as scarcely to give encouragement to any educational enterprises except such as were necessary for the simplest branches of learning, the interests of medicine were not only not neglected but received conspicuous regard.

In 1798 "Transylvania Seminary" and the "Kentucky Academy" were united under one board of trustees, with the name of "Transylvania University," and in 1799 law and medical departments were added to the academical. Dr. Samuel Brown was appointed the first professor of medicine in Transylvania, and the *first* in the West. Dr. Francis Ridgeley was appointed a professor in the University shortly after Dr. Brown, and was the *first* to deliver a course of medical lectures in the West. From 1799 to 1817 various appointments were made in the medical department, and partial courses of lectures were delivered. During this interval, among the locally-distinguished men who were appointed to professorships, none were more remarkable than Dr. Joseph Buchanan. He died in Louisville in 1829; and I call up from the memories of my boyhood, with great distinctness, his slender, flexible form, massive head, and thoughtful, intellectual face. He was a man of great and varied powers of mind. He was a mechanical, medical, and political philosopher. His "spiral" steam-boiler, the prototype of the exploding and exploded tubular boiler, and his steam land-carriage, were among the wonders of the day. As a physician, his papers attracted distinguished notice from the medical *savans* of Philadelphia, then the great center of medical science. As a political writer, he was deemed worthy to discuss, and did discuss with power and effect, the momentous problems of special and general political economy agitating

the country at the stirring period when Clay, Webster, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, and Andrew Jackson were the ruling spirits. Dr. Buchanan was then editor of the Louisville Focus, a post for which he was selected by the discerning mind of William W. Worsley, the founder of the Louisville Focus and of the great publishing-house of John P. Morton & Co. If Dr. Buchanan had concentrated his wonderful mind upon some one of the great branches of medicine, he would have added much to the luster of Kentucky medicine. "His full nature, like that river of which Alexander broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth."

In 1817 a full course was given in Transylvania to a class of twenty pupils, and in the spring of 1818 the degree of M. D. was conferred for the *first* time in the West. John Lawson McCullough, of Lexington, was the *first* graduate in medicine in the valley of the Mississippi. History thus assigns to Kentucky the honor of inaugurating the teaching of scientific medicine in the West. The first to begin, she has occupied the most prominent position in this field of education to the present time. Her schools have been the most popular, her classes the largest, her professors the most learned, her graduates the leading practitioners of the South and West, her influence upon practical medicine and surgery greater than that of all other schools.

Ranck's History of Lexington states "that vaccination had been introduced for several years in Lexington by Dr. Samuel Brown, of Transylvania, when the first attempts at it were being made in New York and Philadelphia. Up to 1802 he had vaccinated upward of five hundred persons in Kentucky." This invaluable discovery was announced by Jenner in 1798, and we find it successfully introduced into the backwoods of the West, by Kentucky enterprise, before 1802. The Kine-pock Institution of New York was established in 1802.

The Eastern Lunatic Asylum has long enjoyed a distinguished place among institutions of the kind in this country. Dr. W. S. Chipley, for so many years the eminent superintendent of this asylum, has made it known at home and abroad by his valuable reports and other papers upon mental alienation. This asylum was founded in 1816, under the name of the "Fayette Asylum." It was the *first* ever established in the western country, and the *second* state asylum opened in the United States.

In connection with the history of medicine pertaining to Lexington, Dr. B. W. Dudley must ever occupy a conspicuous place. Distinguished in every branch of surgery, he was particularly eminent, as we all know, as a lithotomist. If not the first surgeon to perform this operation in Kentucky and the West, he was the first lithotomist in the number and successful results of his cases of the period in which he lived. His fame was co-extensive with surgical literature.

If Kentucky had conferred no other benefaction upon mankind, the operation of ovariotomy performed for the *first* time by Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Danville, in 1809, would entitle her to immortal honor. I believe that no one now denies to Dr. McDowell the originality of this heroic surgical achievement. Every surgeon in this country concedes it. In a conversation which I had, in 1865, with a number of eminent surgeons of Great Britain, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Spencer Wells, Mr. Baker Brown, and Sir James Syme, no one had any reserve on the subject except Mr. Syme. While he did not deny the claim of Dr. McDowell, he did not admit it. It is not a little amusing sometimes to notice with what reluctance European writers recognize the great works of American surgeons and physicians. In a recent article in the Edinburgh Review upon the progress of medicine and surgery, the operation of ovariotomy is fully discussed without the mention of Dr. McDowell. Mr. Spencer Wells is made the hero of the operation.

The value of this operation can be better estimated by the statistics of eminent specialists. It is to be viewed as a remedy for a disease of utter hopelessness, if permitted to pursue an undisturbed career. Medicines have no influence over it. Though a few may live many dreary years, the average duration of ovarian tumors is from two to three years. Dr. McDowell operated thirteen times, as far as can be ascertained. He preserved the lives of six out of seven of his first patients. How many of the other cases were successful is not known, though it is certain that several were saved. Up to June last Mr. Wells's ovariotomies numbered 500, with 128 deaths. From March, 1870, to April, 1871, he had a succession of 32 cases in private practice without one death. Dr. Keith, of Edinburgh, up to July last had operated 146 times, with only 26 deaths. Dr. W. L. Atlee, of Philadelphia, has operated about 300 times. Mr. Clay, of Manchester, up to December, 1871, had operated 250 times, with 182 successes. The results may be tabulated, so as to be seen more clearly:

Spencer Wells,	73.25 per cent.	Kimball, . .	66.11 per cent.
Clay, . . .	72.80 "	Dunlap, . .	80.00 "
W. L. Atlee, .	71.00 "	Peaslee, . .	67.85 "
Bradford, . .	90.00 "	Thomas, . .	66.66 "

Keith has attained the highest success yet achieved in Europe, having saved 81 of his first 100 cases, and 30 of his next 36 cases. In the United States the general average is 63 per cent., in Great Britain 60, in France 50, in Germany 41.66. Spencer Wells thinks the average will yet be 90 per cent. of cases in private practice, without excluding those extreme cases in which the operation is performed as a forlorn hope.

My purpose in presenting these details is to call attention to the fact that Dr. Taylor Bradford, of Augusta, Ky., has *already* attained the 90 per cent. success which Wells thinks

may be ultimately attained. In Kentucky, where the operation was first performed, the *highest* success has been reached.

Peaslee presents the great benefits conferred by ovariotomy in the following words: "It may be shown that in the United States and Great Britain alone ovariotomy has within the last thirty years directly contributed more than thirty thousand years of active life to woman, all of which would have been lost had ovariotomy never been performed."

The Institution for Deaf-mutes, in Danville, Ky., was founded in 1823. It was the first institution of the kind established in the West. It followed closely upon those of Hartford, New York, and Philadelphia. From a small beginning it has become a noble and most beneficent school. Mr. Jacobs, so long its superintendent, has made it known throughout the civilized world. The results attained in the education of deaf-mutes are astonishing. They no longer speak by a manual alphabet or manual signs only, but are trained to utter their thoughts in articulate sounds wonderfully perfect.

Dr. McDowell and Mr. Jacobs have given the name of Danville an illustrious perpetuity, and bequeathed to their successors in that beautiful town a reputation which their pride should be emulous to sustain. It is not an undeserved eulogium to say that Dr. John D. Jackson and his associates of the Boyle County Medical Society uphold very ably the prestige already acquired.

Dr. Alban Goldsmith was an assistant to Dr. McDowell in several of his ovariotomies, and operated himself one or more times. He visited Europe at the time that Civiale was attracting great attention to his original operation of lithotripsy. Dr. Goldsmith, under the teachings of this master, perfected himself in this specialty; and returning to his home in Kentucky operated on a gentleman in Lincoln County in 1829, the *first* operation of lithotripsy ever performed in Kentucky or in the United States. Dr. Goldsmith, desiring

a wider field for his labors, removed to Louisville in a short while. In that city I had the pleasure of seeing him operate in this special way and in other branches of surgery. While residing in Louisville he conceived the project of another medical school, recognizing the importance of a large hospital and its clinical facilities in the teaching of medicine and surgery. To carry out this admirable design he procured from the legislature, in 1833, the charter of the "Medical Institute" of Louisville. A faculty was organized, but did not lecture. When a portion of the faculty of the Medical Department of Transylvania University seceded from that school, in 1837, they organized under the charter of the institute, and continued to act under it until the University of Louisville was chartered, in 1845. Dr. Goldsmith may thus be considered the legal founder of a school so long sheltered by his charter.

From Louisville Dr. Goldsmith removed to Cincinnati, and for a time was professor of surgery in one of the schools of that city; but finally settled permanently in the city of New York, pursuing to the close of his life the special branch of surgery in which he was so skilled. His son, Professor Middleton Goldsmith, is well known to the profession of this state as an able teacher and practitioner of surgery.

Dr. Gross, in his report on Kentucky Surgery, made to this Society in 1852, remarks: "In the treatment of hernia Kentucky may justly claim the credit of having effected one most valuable improvement. The truss invented by Mr. Stagner, and afterward modified by Dr. Hood, has acquired a world-wide celebrity. The value of the invention of Stagner and Hood can be fully appreciated by those only who are familiar with the nature and treatment of hernia, and with the state of our knowledge thereof prior to their time."

In the same report Dr. Gross records "that some years ago Dr. Bowman, of Harrodsburg, showed me an instrument for injecting the parts immediately around the abdominal

canals and apertures with a weak solution of iodine and other articles. It was constructed upon the principles of an ordinary syringe, with an extremely delicate nozzle, intended to be introduced through a small opening in the skin. The instrument was successfully used in several cases." We here find the hypodermic syringe foreshadowed, if not actually invented. When Wood published his first papers on the subject of hypodermic medication, I carried out the practice, with the syringe having a delicately-curved nozzle used by dentists, in the treatment of an obstinate case of lumbago. Dr. S. Brandeis, of Louisville, imported the first hypodermic syringe ever used in Kentucky, as he also did, through me, in 1862, the first laryngoscope.

The Louisville Marine Hospital was founded in 1817, and was among the first of the great public charities in the valley for sick and disabled marines. It was sustained partly by taxes upon sales at auction, and partly by a fund created, under a law of the United States, from weekly or monthly sums paid by all sailors navigating the Ohio and other western rivers. This institution was admirably managed. Its trustees were selected from the best citizens of Louisville, and its physicians and surgeons were the *élite* of the profession — mature men engaged in a large and busy private practice. Among them I recall the names of Drs. Richard Ferguson, George W. Smith, Coleman Rogers, Joseph Middleton, John P. Harrison, R. P. Gist, and Llewelynn Powell. Conspicuous in this medical staff, for personal virtues, for the qualities of the Christian gentleman, for all of the attributes of the accomplished physician, it gives me pleasure to single out for special notice Dr. Harrison. My earliest recollections of medicine are associated with this remarkable man. I knew him well, and his history has always been a favorite theme with me. In this hospital he labored very faithfully, and laid the foundation of a medical career of great usefulness and distinction. Kentucky never produced a more worthy

son. He was an assiduous worker at the bedside and in the dissecting-room. He spent many of the long winter nights in the study of all forms of anatomy by minute and careful dissection. Not content with the modicum of anatomical knowledge acquired while attending his several courses of lectures, it was his custom to revise this important branch of study every winter. As a boy, I was often his companion in the fourth story of the hospital. Dr. Harrison was a general as well as a medical scholar. He delighted in all kinds of polite literature. He was peculiar in his habits of reading. The lighter works of general literature occupied his leisure hours in the warm summer months, while the long winter evenings were devoted to the severer studies of the sciences. He was never idle. Of an ardent and active temperament, he could not be idle. He was a man of the purest personal and professional honor. Toward his professional brethren he bore himself with fastidious care. In medical ethics he was a martinet. There were subordinate qualities about Dr. Harrison which should and can pertain to every physician. Every one can not be tall and graceful in form as Dr. Harrison was, with dark hair and complexion and keen gray eyes; but every one can have agreeable manners, a dignified bearing, and be neat in dress and person. Dr. Harrison was always so. He dressed simply but elegantly, and every thing about him looked the refined gentleman. His office was attractive, the furniture good and in order, the books in his large library systematically arranged. When his patients called upon him they were impressed by these things. His horse was always well groomed, his harness bright, and his gig perfectly clean. In all regards he sustained the respectability of his calling. These personal details may seem unworthy of notice in an address like this, but they have an important moral. I am sure that the influence and usefulness of medical men in cities, villages, and country places, are materially lessened by inattention to such matters as were striking qualities of Dr.

Harrison. Personal qualities are often tokens of professional character. Slovenly dress, unkempt hair, a dirty office, with a few broken chairs, and a rickety table with a dusty slate on it, are not likely to inspire the sick with pleasant ideas of their medical adviser. Such conditions spring from and react upon the character of the physician.

Dr. Harrison kept himself fully up with the advances of medicine. The first stethoscope I ever saw, and the first one brought to Kentucky, was imported by him. It was of the pattern originally devised and made by Laennec himself, and was in my possession for many years. Dr. Harrison talked of going to Europe to study this new physical diagnosis of diseases of the chest, but was for a time skeptical as to the reality of Laennec's great revelations.

In this connection my memory calls up the interesting fact that Prof. Henry M. Bullitt, of the Louisville Medical College, was the first physician in Kentucky, as far as I am informed, to carry the stethoscope into the daily study of his cases. He returned from Philadelphia in 1838, having become an expert in this method of diagnosis, under the teachings of Gerhard and Pennock. I was then pursuing the same study in the wards of the Marine Hospital, and owe my first advances to the instruction of Dr. Bullitt. Dr. Bullitt brought with him, besides this practical knowledge, a mind thoroughly and ardently imbued with Louis's inductive method of studying disease. This method, substituting carefully-ascertained facts and the results inductively evolved from them for mere closet theories, was then bringing about a thorough revolution in the science of medicine. In this Dr. Bullitt played an efficient part by his pen and his teachings.

Dr. Harrison appreciated at an early day the importance of clinical medicine, and was among the first in the West to give clinical lectures, in the wards of the Marine Hospital, to a class of students. The clinical advantages of Louisville

caused him to look to that city as the future seat of a great medical school.

In 1834 Dr. Harrison removed to Philadelphia to find a more suitable theater for the realization of his ambitious purposes. He was called very soon, however, to fill an important chair in one of the schools of Cincinnati. While teaching here, and for many years before, his pen was prolific in the production of valuable papers on various medical subjects. As a teacher of materia medica he was distinguished for his sound and practical therapeutics. He was an able practitioner, and brought before his class the ripe fruits of his extensive experience. He published a "Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics," the first and only systematic work on this subject by a western physician. The practical portions of this work are excellent, and worthy of all respect even at the present day. The book is remarkable as being probably the last ever published in this country in which the doctrines of pure solidism are asserted and those of humoralism opposed. The idea of the absorption of medicines by the blood-vessels is vehemently rebuked.

In 1838 Dr. Charles Caldwell delivered the first clinical lectures of the University of Louisville in the wards of the Marine Hospital. I was his clinical assistant. In 1839 the *first* clinical amphitheater ever founded in the West was attached to this Hospital. From that room, for more than thirty years, the practical lessons of Drake, Gross, Eve, J. B. Flint, Bartlett, Ethelbert Dudley, Annan, Austin Flint, Palmer, Hardin, Middleton Goldsmith, D. W. Yandell, and their associates and successors, have been diffused throughout the length and breadth of this country.

Dr. Samuel L. Metcalfe, who died in Philadelphia in 1856, had a scientific character of which Kentucky may well be proud. Though known to many of the older physicians, he is possibly unknown to some of the junior members of the profession. In 1833 Dr. Metcalfe published, at New York, a

treatise, entitled "A New Theory of Terrestrial Magnetism," containing speculations of a remarkable character, and contending for the identity, in certain relations, of heat, electricity, and magnetism. In it were the germs of the great philosophical theory called "the correlation of forces," now received by the scientific world. This book was reviewed by Dr. T. S. Bell, in the Louisville Journal, shortly after it was published, and pronounced the first work of its kind on the subject.

In 1838 this work was expanded into a noble treatise, entitled "Caloric: its mechanical, chemical, and vital Agencies in the Phenomena of Nature." Dr. Metcalfe took the manuscript to London and endeavored to find a publisher. One was at last found, who agreed to publish it provided the author would permit him to submit the manuscript to the inspection and approval of a scientific reader employed for such purposes. The manuscript was kept for some weeks, and after many calls Dr. Metcalfe succeeded in recovering it, with the information that the judgment of the reader was unfavorable. Prof. J. B. Flint was in London at the time, purchasing the library for the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, and to him Dr. Metcalfe communicated these facts; with the additional statement that he had ascertained, beyond a doubt, that Michael Faraday was the reader to whom his manuscript had been submitted. The doctrine of "the correlation of forces," which forms a conspicuous element of the fame of Faraday, was clearly and cogently taught in this new work of the Kentucky philosopher; and prior to the time that Dr. Metcalfe's manuscript was perused by him he had never taught any thing of the kind. In 1843 Dr. Metcalfe published his treatise in two large volumes. It was received in Europe with an unusual amount of favor. In 1853 a second edition was published, a copy of which is owned by my distinguished friend, Dr. T. S. Bell.

Dr. Metcalfe resided near Simpsonville, Shelby County, while in Kentucky. The state, and especially the medical men, have abundant reason to cherish his well-earned fame. His reputation was so firmly established in Europe that he was importuned to become a candidate for the Gregorian Chair in the University of Edinburgh, which he declined.

In January, 1843, Dr. Wm. A. McDowell, a cousin of the great ovariotomist, and one of his aids in the performance of his operations, published an octavo volume, of two hundred and sixty-nine pages, entitled "A Demonstration of the Curability of Pulmonary Consumption in all of its Stages." Dr. McDowell removed to Louisville some years anterior to this date, with a name and prestige which soon won for him an excellent practice in all of the branches of medicine. Pulmonary consumption was one of his favorite subjects, and he soon put forth the claim of unusual success in the treatment of this disease. Such unusual results were announced as to excite in the minds of his professional friends an unjust suspicion of charlatanry. When his book appeared it was received not only with incredulity but with severe and sneering criticisms. Time, however, has done justice to Dr. McDowell's character and claims. The work, though defective in literary merit, crude in many of its ideas, and asserting powers for many medicines which they do not possess, contained not only the germ but the substance fully developed of the therapeutics of consumption now considered orthodox. He states that he first derived the views which he inculcates, modified by what he denominates the *antipodal* plan, from Dr. Joseph Parrish, of Philadelphia. To quote the language of his preface: "We concluded upon combining his theory with an antipodal plan which we ourselves had determined to adopt, consisting of a course of dietetics and regimen calculated to produce acquired gout; for we regarded gout as the extreme athletic or tonic morbid condition, consumption as the extreme atonic." Though this

mode of presenting the subject be crude and coarse when compared with our more refined and seemingly more recondite rationale of treatment, the same great analeptic truth underlies both. I have no doubt that Dr. McDowell cured many cases of genuine phthisis pulmonalis, and prolonged the lives of many more, as the tonic and restorative plan, now universally adopted, is well known to do. His book was in advance of the times in this country certainly, and I do not know that a formal presentation of the subject had then been made in Europe. Dr. J. Hughes Bennett, of Edinburgh, and other distinguished co-workers, were beginning to inculcate very strongly the same method of treatment, but had not given a published form to their views. This book of Dr. McDowell's has not secured the place in the literature of pulmonary consumption to which its intrinsic merit entitles it.

The Kentucky Institution for the Blind was incorporated in 1842. The movement for such a school in our state was inaugurated by Dr. S. G. Howe, of Massachusetts, who had so successfully begun the beneficent work in the latter state. Kentucky was among the first to follow the example of the "Old Bay State." From its foundation to the present time this institution has been an object of just pride. Much of its progressive success has been due to an eminent member of our profession. "To inaugurate a great charity is a noble work; but to watch over it, to foster it, to stand by it from the beginning, to be its firm friend through every disaster and its counselor in every emergency, to give it unwearied attention for over thirty years, and sacrifice to its good an incalculable amount of anxious thought and valuable time, is surely equally noble. Such services the state of Kentucky has received from Dr. Theodore S. Bell." This is the testimony of one who is familiar with the devotion of this remarkable man to this institution. I can add my own testimony to the same effect. In my many professional drives in the

direction of the Blind Asylum I rarely fail to meet Dr. Bell making his daily visit to his pet institution. By his efforts the Bible was stereotyped, and a copy given to every worthy pupil of the school. Kentucky enjoys the honor of being the first state in the world to make a provision by law of this kind.

The history of the Blind Asylum has a bright page for this constant friend. The history of Kentucky medicine for the last forty years will also devote to him a large and varied space. Ever busy, working more hours every day and sleeping fewer than any one I ever knew, there is scarcely a department of medicine upon which he has not left his impress. As a public hygienist, as a medical philosopher and journalist, as a controversial writer, as a practitioner and teacher, he has long occupied and now occupies a conspicuous position. Seemingly untouched by time, he is to-day as fresh and strong in physical and mental power as he ever was.

Kentucky was one of the first states of the West, probably the very first, to comprehend the incalculable value of a careful registration of the marriages, births, and deaths of her citizens. The importance of such registration, fully appreciated by many of the states of Europe and by a few in this country, was ably set forth in Kentucky, and impressed upon the public and legislative attention, with great force and effect by the first regular president of this Society, Dr. W. L. Sutton, of Georgetown. In effecting the passage of a very perfect law, by the legislature of 1851–2, he was ably re-enforced by Dr. W. S. Chipley, of Lexington, and Dr. T. S. Bell, of Louisville. It will not be deemed immodest in me to say that a "Lecture on Sanitary Reform," delivered by me to the medical class of the University of Louisville at the opening of the session of 1851–2, and published by the class, had some influence, by the logic of its statistics, in determining the passage of the act. Dr. Sutton was the first

registrar, and most successfully carried the law into execution. Before, however, even a partial realization of the great results anticipated by him, Dr. Sutton was removed by death from this sphere of public usefulness, and was succeeded by Dr. S. M. Bemiss, now of New Orleans. Dr. Bemiss proved to be a worthy follower of Dr. Sutton. He carried the work forward with zeal and ability, and his reports attracted much attention both at home and in foreign countries. The war of 1861 put an end to this as to all other civil pursuits, and since its close the law has not been revived. It is a reproach to the intelligence of the state, and most deeply damaging to her interests, that it has not been restored.

Dr. Sutton was one of the ablest men of the profession in Kentucky. Plain, modest, practical, an excellent observer, a good writer and a sound practitioner, the state has produced few superior to him. In sanitary science he was the foremost man among us. His brochure on Typhoid Fever, and a few other papers on medical subjects, gave him high rank in medicine proper.

In October, 1846, ether was first used by inhalation as an anæsthetic. In the winter or spring of 1847 Dr. Joshua B. Flint administered it for the first time in Kentucky, and possibly in the West, in an amputation of a lower limb performed by him in the presence of a number of professional friends. I was present. The ether was then called "letheon," and administered by the aid of a complicated inhaler.

Chloroform was first brought forward by Sir James Y. Simpson, as a substitute for ether, in November, 1847. It was used for the first time in midwifery in the city of Louisville, and as far as is known in the state of Kentucky, by Prof. Henry Miller, on the 20th of February, 1848.

Prof. S. D. Gross was the first surgeon in Louisville to use chloroform as an anæsthetic in surgery. He operated upon a servant under its influence in the family of Thos. P. Smith, removing a large tumor.

Professor Miller was a pioneer in several other important branches of his specialty. In an able and very candid paper, denominated "Retrospect of Uterine Pathology and Therapeutics in the United States, especially in regard to intra-uterine medication in chronic internal metritis," published by Dr. Miller, in 1871, it is certainly established that he was the first in the West to use the speculum uteri systematically in the treatment of diseases of the os and cervix uteri. This was as early as 1835, a period when the speculum was almost unknown practically to the profession in any part of the United States. The first speculum was brought to Louisville by Dr. Allan P. Elston, a distinguished young physician, who after a residence in Europe for several years returned to Louisville and resumed his professional labors. Failing health compelled him to retire after a short but honorable career. Dr. Miller was present when Dr. Elston examined one of his patients in the Work-house Hospital, and becoming enamored of the speculum forthwith devoted himself to this interesting branch of surgery. It is needless for me to tell this audience with what distinguished results. For a time the treatment by the aid of the speculum was limited to the os and cervix uteri. In 1843 Dr. Miller extended this local treatment still deeper, and made applications to the cavity of the organ. In the paper above mentioned he proves conclusively that he was in advance of every one else in the United States in intra-uterine medication. Kentucky justly claims priority in both forms of uterine therapeutics.

Dr. Miller is the author of the first systematic work upon midwifery ever published in the West, a work which ranks in original thought and practical value among the best ever published.

Kentucky has been ever prompt to obey the requirements of philanthropy. Under the wise counsels and benevolent influence of Robert W. Scott, the legislature, in 1860, founded the Kentucky Institution for the Education of Feeble-minded

Children and Idiots. This is the only institution of the kind south of the Ohio River. There are several in the North, which have undoubtedly achieved surprising results in elevating the mental status of these unfortunate beings. They who have not observed the amount of mental improvement which may be effected by systematic training, in subjects who seem to be hopelessly feeble, would scarcely credit the real results. Our own institution promises to be a benefaction worthy of generous encouragement.

The Louisville College of Pharmacy was established in August, 1870. It has organized a school of pharmacy, with efficient professors, to teach the theory and practice of pharmacy, materia medica, chemistry, and the collateral sciences. Such an institution has long been needed in Kentucky, and there now exists no reason why every apothecary should not be a graduate of this or some other equally worthy college, and his qualifications fully ascertained, before he is permitted to dispense medicine. The interests of the public, no less than of the profession, demand the enactment of such a law.

On the 28th of March, 1872, the legislature of Kentucky passed an act incorporating the "Central Kentucky Inebriate Asylum." This asylum is intended for the medical treatment, control, and restoration of the inebriate. It is invested with the power to receive and retain all inebriates who enter it, either voluntarily or by the order of the committee of any habitual drunkard. The committee of the person may keep him in the asylum at discretion. This act does not indicate by what power this committee is created. Some previous law must exist; and I presume that an act, approved March 18, 1872, to provide for the preservation of the estates and security of persons of unsound mind, who by habitual or excessive use of poisonous drugs have become incompetent to manage themselves or estates with prudence and discretion, supplies the defect or provides for it. This act empowers the circuit or chancery court of the county to appoint a committee

of one or more persons to take charge of any person who by the habitual or excessive use of opium or hasheesh, or any other drug, has become incompetent to manage himself or estate. The fact of such incompetency must be brought before the court by affidavit of two or more respectable persons, and an inquest must be held by a jury in open court to inquire into the fact. The committee of custody and control is invested with the power to confine such person in any private asylum or in one of the lunatic asylums of this commonwealth. It will be observed that this act specifies opium, hasheesh, or any poisonous drug, but does not mention by name *alcohol* and its preparations. A fair and scientific construction would include these; yet a doubt is left, and difficulty might spring up if any one chose to contest the point and insist upon a literal interpretation of the law. Habitual and inveterate drunkenness is certainly one of the forms of insanity. It is a condition in which the will is under the mastery of the passions. It is recognized by the best authorities as insanity, and has received the names of dipsomania and oinomania. The interests of the individual and of the entire community would be advantageously consulted if this view of drunkenness were carried into practical effect, and the drunkard made amenable to the law which is applied to the ordinary lunatic. Whether the asylum just incorporated be one merely for voluntary confinement or one to which a jury may send any proper subject, Kentucky has led the advance, as far as I am informed, in this direction, in the valley of the Mississippi.

It is a creditable fact, reflecting the estimate in which Kentucky medicine is held by the profession of the United States, that our state has directly furnished two presidents of the American Medical Association, in the persons of Drs. Henry Miller and David W. Yandell, and indirectly a third, in the person of Dr. S. D. Gross, all members of this Society. No member of the profession in this country has received

more honors at home and more foreign decorations than Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, another member of this Society.

The establishment of a new school in 1837, and of several others at later dates, led to important results in the history of Kentucky medicine. These schools have been the means of developing and bringing into more conspicuous position many of our own most gifted physicians, and have invited from other places some of the most eminent physicians of the United States. Among the former may be mentioned Bush, Peter, Ethelbert Dudley, Miller, Powell, Hardin, Richardson, Bullitt, the Yandells, Foree, Breckinridge, Cummins, Bell, Bemiss, Bayless, Bodine. Among the latter, Bartlett, Silliman, J. B. Flint, Drake, Cobb, Colescott, Austin Flint, sr., Eve, Gross, Palmer, J. Lawrence Smith, Middleton Goldsmith. Some of the best contributions to American medicine and surgery were made by several of these gentlemen while they were connected with the schools of Kentucky, and these may be fairly considered as belonging to the medical literature of our state. If all of the works were not written here, much of the matter which gives them interest was obtained while their authors were connected with the schools and hospitals of Louisville. This is particularly true of the works of Gross, Drake, and Austin Flint.

Connected with the schools of medicine which have existed in Kentucky many reminiscences of men and things arise in my mind. Among the most pleasant of these is my recollection of Dr. Wm. H. Richardson, so long the professor of obstetrics in Transylvania. Few men ever had nobler traits of character. He was warm-hearted, brave, and a sincere friend. I knew him from my earliest boyhood, and have passed many happy and instructive hours at his magnificent home in Fayette County. His hospitality was profuse and elegant. I listened to his public teachings as a professor with interest and care, because I knew that he taught the truth as far as he possessed it. He was not scholarly nor

graceful and fluent as a lecturer; but he was ardent and impressive, sufficiently learned in his special branch, and had at his ready command a large stock of ripe personal experience. I honor his memory beyond that of most men whom I have known.

I have often recalled with wonder the supreme satisfaction with which I looked upon the whole science and art of medicine, after listening to one course of lectures by Dr. John Esten Cooke, for so many years the venerable incumbent of the Chair of Practice in Transylvania, and in the University of Louisville. Few teachers ever held such sway over the minds of intelligent professional men as Dr. Cooke over the entire medical mind of the valley of the Mississippi. Every one entertained profound respect for his great intellect and general learning, for his purity of character and honesty of purpose. His theory of medicine was peculiar to himself, and elaborated with great care. It seemed to be built upon an impregnable logic. It was dogmatically taught, and carried captive the minds of the hundreds of young men who listened to his positive enunciations. There were no graces of oratory about him, yet he had a subtile way of infusing the poison of his false doctrines which could not be resisted. These doctrines were of singular simplicity and universal adaptedness. The practice growing out of them, so long dominant in the South and West, was equally simple and adaptable. Three familiar medicines constituted the trinity of his practical creed. Quinia and opium were not known in his materia medica. With the retirement of Dr. Cooke, in 1844, a new medical era commenced in the wide region over which his teachings so long prevailed; and now not a vestige of either his theory or practice remains, except in the pages of his book and in the minds of a few of the ancient members of the profession.

Who that ever saw Dr. Charles Caldwell can fail to have a living remembrance of him? Who that ever listened to

him as a teacher can fail to recall with admiration the great intellect, the varied scholarship, the beauty and power of pen, the polished eloquence of the grand old man? He impressed every one by the stateliness of his personal appearance. He looked a very monarch, as, with scepter waving in his hand, he moved majestically along.

Dr. Caldwell was largely instrumental in carrying the Medical Department of Transylvania to its high point of prosperity. He was one of the great levers by which the School of Louisville was elevated to a still loftier position. By reason of certain attractive qualities, and peculiar powers foreign to pure medical teaching, he was eminently successful as an architect of medical schools. Despite these facts, the truth of history compels the averment that he was never a teacher of true *practical* medicine, nor of that kind of medical philosophy which forms the useful medical mind. In these regards he has not left an enduring record in the annals of Kentucky medicine.

While Dr. Caldwell was yet holding a conspicuous place as a medical teacher a revolution was going on in the whole science of medicine. Old medicine was expiring and new medicine taking its place. Before the pressure of professional opinion created by this revolution, Dr. Caldwell, like his old colleague, Dr. Cooke, retired from professorial life in 1849.

When the trustees of the Louisville Medical Institute were organizing the first faculty, in 1837, Dr. Caldwell, the chief artificer of the enterprise, was furnished with *carte blanche*, and sent on a mission to find a professor of surgery. A careful search eventuated in the selection of Dr. Joshua B. Flint, of Boston, Mass. Dr. Flint was a graduate of the Academic and Medical Department of Harvard. He was indorsed to Dr. Caldwell, by the best men of Boston, as a mature and thorough general and medical scholar, as a conservative, skillful surgeon, and as an acceptable teacher. He

was tendered the chair of surgery in the institute, accepted it, and sundering his many ties in Boston came to Louisville and united his fortunes with our school and our people. The impression which he made upon the profession in Louisville was favorable in the highest degree. He disclosed qualities which at once commanded confidence and respect. He was quiet and modest, avoiding rather than courting conspicuous notice. His fine scholarship, literary and professional, made itself evident to all appreciative observers. He was not ostentatious in this regard. His sound judgment as a practitioner of surgery, and his rare dexterity and coolness as an operator, were readily recognized. In the field of operative surgery he was distinguished, beyond all other men of his time, for his conservatism. Many limbs and parts were saved by him which would have been lost by less considerate surgeons. He did not desire the *eclat* which great surgical feats elicit.

As a teacher, Dr. Flint came forward at a time when medicine and medical teaching were in a transition stage; when mere theories were giving place to facts, and things were taught and not mere speculations. His style was quiet, eminently and purely didactic. He was not a declaimer, had no *ad captandum* arts, said nothing for effect merely or to elicit applause. His lectures derived their ornament from correct rhetoric and classical illustrations. They were never soiled by coarse anecdote or indelicate allusions. He was a dignified teacher of the facts and truths of a serious science. He did not seek popularity with his classes. He hoped to win their confidence and approval by giving them sound instruction. Possibly he made the distance too great between the master and the pupil. This had not been the usage in this wild western country. It was so in the place of his education, and in the foreign schools. He was known to favor the use of the professorial cap and gown.

As a candidate for business before the public, he stood, coldly, upon his demeanor as a gentleman and his real merits

as a practitioner. He had no arts about him to win popularity. He rather repelled than attracted people. He was punctiliously careful in his intercourse with the patients of other physicians. In this relation he was, as Charles Lamb said of his father, "a man of losing honesty." Socially no man was more charming. Though dry and not much of a talker generally, on festive occasions his conversation was brilliant and his wit sparkling. At a dinner or evening party, among cultivated people, he was delightful.

I must mention one other quality in Dr. Flint. To his sick brethren he was constant in his attentions, aiding them by his wise counsel and cheering them by his hopeful words. Dr. Flint retired from the institute at the close of his third course of lectures, but was reinstated in the same chair after the lapse of a few years.

Dr. Daniel Drake, though claiming Cincinnati as his home, was really a Kentucky physician, having passed the most active years of his life in our state, and achieved his great fame as a teacher and writer while connected with our schools. It is unnecessary to detail his brilliant medical history. It is known to every one. I wish to mention the single honorable fact that he was the *first* physician of the West ever called to fill an important chair in an eastern medical school. In 1830 he was appointed professor of theory and practice of medicine in the Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia. Dr. S. D. Gross was appointed to the chair of surgery in the same school at a later day, and, as far as I now remember, was the second western man thus distinguished.

As the intimate personal friend and fellow-student of Dr. Jas. M. Bush, I had the opportunity to learn, at an early day, the genius as an artist, the quick perceptive faculties and the logical qualities of mind which form the basis of his high professional reputation. He was a student first in the office of Dr. Alban Goldsmith, and then in that of Dr. B. W. Dudley. He won the high regard of both of these eminent

men. As soon as he graduated in medicine he became prosector for Dr. Dudley, and then his associate in the practice of surgery. When Dr. Dudley retired from teaching, Dr. Bush was appointed to the vacant chair, and discharged its duties with eminent ability. When Dr. Dudley retired from the field of his brilliant achievements as a surgeon, Dr. Bush had the rare courage to take possession of it. No higher tribute can be paid to him than to say that he has since held possession without a successful rival.

In the sciences collateral to medicine Kentucky has played a distinguished part. In the interesting departments of botany, geology, and chemistry, Dr. Charles Wilkins Short and Dr. Robert Peter are known throughout the scientific world. As teachers, the modest, almost shrinking manner, the seemingly acerb dignity, and the Addisonian style of the one, and the lucid expositions and brilliant illustrations of the other, must be remembered by all who ever listened to them.

I can not close these hasty and imperfect reminiscences, so unworthy of their subjects, without the mention of one with whom I had the honor to be upon terms of personal and professional intimacy for more than thirty years. I refer to Dr. Llewellyn Powell. Dr. Powell held the chair of obstetrics, first in the Kentucky School of Medicine, for some years, and afterward in the University of Louisville. In both he was recognized as an able, eloquent, and instructive teacher. He gave unqualified satisfaction to colleagues and pupils.

There are two classes of medical teachers: the one professional, trained in the arts of elocution and happy illustration, studiously skilled in the many ways of putting things; not subordinating matter to manner wholly, but relying largely upon felicitous modes of presenting their subjects. The other class includes physicians of mature study and observation, who have accumulated a large stock of practical knowledge from which to draw the matter of their teaching. Out of the fullness of their knowledge they are teachers. The graces

of rhetoric and the tricks of elocution are not conspicuous elements of their style. Dr. Powell happily blended the best qualities of both of these classes. By nature he was wonderfully endowed with the gift of language. Words the most appropriate were uttered promptly and gracefully at the bidding of every thought. Though he was not trained to the special work of teaching, he seemed to possess the happy facility of the professional teacher. With such a manner he was prepared to impress upon his pupils with singular effect the practical knowledge derived from many years of clinical observation.

Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge was reared and educated in Louisville. Of a distinguished family and singularly pleasing address, graceful and easy as a speaker, as a writer forcible, pointed, and scholarly, he would but for his untimely death have plucked the highest honors in the profession.

Dr. Carey H. Fry, an original member of this Society, died, on the 5th of March, in the city of San Francisco. He was present and took an active part in our memorable meeting of 1852. He was with us again, in Louisville, in 1872, with undiminished interest in our proceedings. Truth warrants and personal affection impels me to say that he was the peer of the highest in all noble qualities of character. He was a refined gentleman, an accomplished physician, and a gallant soldier.

Whatever of renown the University of Louisville may have acquired, a portion of it is due to two distinguished members of another profession, the Hon. John Rowan and the Hon. James Guthrie. Judge Rowan was the first president of the board of trustees, and gave the influence of his national name to the foundation and early fortunes of the school. Mr. Guthrie became the president upon the death of Judge Rowan, and continued so until the close of his long and useful life. No institution ever had a more devoted friend. His fealty to it never faltered. Amid the cares of state and

a large professional business, he always found time to work for the interests of the University. Whatever seemed likely to promote these interests met with his warm approval; whatever opposed them was sure to meet his stern and inflexible hostility. His name is indissolubly linked with an interesting part of the history of Kentucky medicine.

The medical journalism of Kentucky has always been of a high order. Though commenced at a later date than that of her sister state of Ohio, Kentucky was in advance of all other states of the valley. The Transylvania Journal of Medicine and the Associate Sciences was the first journal published in Kentucky. It dates from 1828, and continued to be the leading journal until its close, in 1838. Its successive editors were Professors John Esten Cooke, Charles Wilkins Short, Lunsford P. Yandell, and Robert Peter. The next was the Louisville Journal of Medicine, in 1838, edited by Professors Henry Miller, L. P. Yandell, and Dr. T. S. Bell. This had a brief existence. Then came the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, edited at first by Profs. Drake and Yandell, and then by Professor Yandell and Dr. T. S. Bell. It lived from 1840 to 1855. The Western and Southern Medical Recorder was published by Dr. James Conquest Cross, in Lexington, in 1841–2. The Kentucky Medical Recorder, a continuation of the Transylvania Journal, was edited by Profs. Henry M. Bullitt and Robert J. Breckinridge, in 1851–2, in Louisville. Dr. L. J. Frazee edited a semi-monthly journal, called the Louisville Medical Gazette, in 1859. Drs. Bemiss and Benson published the Louisville Medical News, in 1859–60. The Louisville Review, edited by Gross and Richardson, in 1856, and the Louisville Medical Journal, by Dr. Colescott, in 1860, were short-lived. The Sanitary Reporter was published, semi-monthly, by the United States Sanitary Commission, in Louisville, in 1863–4.

A distingnished editor of the first journal of Kentucky still survives, in the full vigor of his intellectual powers, and

is yet a large contributor of his mature learning and experience to the journalistic literature of the state. A brilliant and instructive teacher, first in Transylvania and then in the University of Louisville, no member of the profession in the West has written more gracefully and powerfully than Dr. Lunsford P. Yandell. No Kentucky author has written more or upon a greater variety of important topics. His scientific reviews, elaborate monographs upon various subjects of medicine, papers upon geology and other branches of natural history, his introductory and valedictory addresses, and contributions to general and popular literature exceed one hundred in number. Besides these, I can not omit to mention a most valuable unpublished report made to this Society, in 1853, upon the Medical Literature of Kentucky. It is a work of exhaustive research, and an accurate index to the papers of all the writers of Kentucky. It should be continued to the present time, and published by this Society.

The two journals which now represent this branch of medicine in Kentucky, the American Practitioner and the Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal, rank among the ablest of this country.

In a community which has founded and fostered so many great medical institutions, true science would necessarily always command respect and confidence. In no part of this country have the many forms of quackery met with so little encouragement. Every where, of course, will be found ignorance, credulity, and the other weak elements upon which medical fungi grow; but Kentucky may be justly proud of her remarkable exemption from them.

Time and your exhausted patience admonish me that I must bring this historical *olla podrida* to a close. I trust that what I have said may serve to add something to the good name of our beloved state, and stimulate us to contribute yet more to the renown which our illustrious fathers have achieved for it.

I wish to say a few words as to the work of our present meeting. We have come, many of us, a long distance to do this work. Let us do it thoroughly and well. Let our sessions be devoted to scientific business, undisturbed, as far as possible, by matters which can not advance the interests of our beneficent calling, and may mar the usefulness and happiness of our annual reunion. I have a hope that this meeting may be signalized by the dignity of its conduct and the number and value of its contributions to medical science.