

Duhring (L. A.)

THE RISE  
OF  
AMERICAN DERMATOLOGY  
BEING THE  
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

BEFORE THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
DERMATOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, AT NEW YORK,  
AUGUST 26, 1879

BY  
LOUIS A. DUHRING, M.D.

EXTRACTED FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Box 3c



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GENTLEMEN :

The importance of collecting and preserving facts in connection with whatsoever department of science can not be overestimated; and yet they are difficult to grasp. As Dr. Johnson a century ago sententiously remarked: "The hardest thing in the world, sir, is to get possession of a fact." But they are literally the material wherewith to build; without them our structure, no matter how ingeniously devised, must be theoretical and doomed almost inevitably to destruction and speedy oblivion. The progress of all science is dependent largely upon the character and especially the accuracy of the observations, and in no province are reliable notes more needed than in the study of medicine. Upon the close observance of disease must we rely for our knowledge of the morbid process. Indifferent or careless observations are not merely valueless, but mislead and thus retard progress. Scarcely of less consequence, and essential for the preservation of information, is the proper recording of our labors. He who is capable of noting what he observes in a straightforward manner, stating the same succinctly and clearly, possesses truly a talent. Of the importance of such work, and for its conscientious performance, viewed as it should be by the physician in the light of an almost sacred obligation, too strong words can not be spoken. Upon this topic I would express myself entirely in accord with the late Dr. Edward H. Clarke, when he says "whoever recognizes a fact, however insignificant it may seem to him, and reports the discovery, makes a valuable contribution to science."

Yet, notwithstanding the best of intentions and the loftiest aims, individual minds are so differently constituted that, even where

the education and experience have been similar, scarcely two observers will note the same occurrence from precisely the same standpoint, much less in the same language. But we should be blind indeed did we not recognize about us, at the present day, the spirit of the modern scientific method of research pervading every field of study, and the gains which have already accrued therefrom. The methods of study of the present era must prove of inestimable value, and will in time assuredly bring about greater accuracy of thought as well as of expression.

In the study of science, exact formulæ are demanded; where these can not be obtained, the information ought to be as precise as the subject will permit of. Dermatology calls for the closest observation, for it is with the minutest details and seemingly unimportant differences that the dermatologist deals. The diseases must, in the first place, be viewed individually, and afterwards comparatively. It is by the latter method of study only that we can hope to arrange and classify them as to their true relations. Every feature and symptom, including causes known or probable, whether internal or external, must be attentively considered if we would thoroughly comprehend the disease in its totality.

Valuing as we must, therefore, the influence of historical data and of recorded observations upon any given subject, I have undertaken to prepare for the present occasion a sketch of the work accomplished in our country relating to dermatology, with the plan of showing how from an obscure and neglected branch of medicine it has gradually assumed its present comprehensive proportions. Benjamin Rush, in one of his addresses, tersely and aptly remarks that sciences are not made, but grow. This is eminently true, and may be as pertinently applied to dermatology as to any of the other sciences. I shall consider the manner as well as the character of this growth; look into the past and examine the records, many of them long since buried, others quite forgotten: in fine, review the rise of dermatology and account for its existence, for, as we shall see, it can claim a parentage, and this no mean one.

American dermatology, in the broad sense in which this term is to-day employed, is of recent birth, dating back scarcely farther than a period within the recollection of the members of this association. At the same time, while this remark is quite true, we must not allow ourselves to become oblivious of the labors of

earlier workers in the same field, many of whom, though now barely remembered, are yet entitled not only to mention for the intrinsic merit of their productions, but to all praise for pursuing the study of the subject single-handed and under manifold difficulties. It is to these early pioneers that I desire in the first place to offer tribute wherever this may be conscientiously done. Let us not be unmindful of the day in which they lived. They labored for the most part in darkness, and their advantages were small. Faithful, honest work, whether performed in the backwoods or in the teeming city, in the past or in the present, provided it be in accord with the most advanced light of the period, must ever command due regard.

The earliest literature relating to our subject is as one might suppose but a part of the history of general medicine, and a small one, the publications being with a few exceptions extremely simple and practical in character. To estimate these productions correctly, it is necessary to bear in mind the existing state of medicine, which both at home and abroad, it may be said, was characterized by the utmost simplicity of practice. According to Thacher \* the first medical publication of any kind in New England, and we may safely assert in this country, was a brochure entitled "A Brief Guide in the Smallpox and Measles," the author being Thomas Thacher, a noted divine as well as a learned physician of Boston, published in 1677. Other small works on the same topic, as those of Benjamin Colman,\*\* Zabdiel Boylston, † distinguished for having introduced the practice of inoculation into this country, and Nathaniel Williams, ‡ all of Boston, shortly followed. At this period there also appeared, from the pen of Dr. William Douglass, pamphlets on "The Practical History of a New Epidemical Eruptive Miliary Fever, etc.," § and "An Essay on the Expediency of Inoculation," by Laughlin Maclane. || Cad-

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\* "History of Medicine in America" (in "Amer. Med. Biog., etc."). Boston, 1828.

\*\* "Some Account of the New Method of receiving the Smallpox, by Ingrafting or Inoculating," Boston, 1721.

† "An Historical Account of the Smallpox inoculated in New England." This work was published in London in 1726.

‡ "New Method of Practice in the Smallpox," Boston, 1752.

§ Boston, 1736; reprinted in the "New England Jour. of Med. and Surg.," vol. xiv.

|| Phila., 1756.

walader Colden, a man of great learning and high attainments, and the author of a work on the climate and diseases of New York, at about this time is said also to have written a paper on the cure of cancer.\* Nor need we express surprise at the interest manifested in the smallpox when we consider that it was throughout these decades that the disease was making such direful ravages among our early settlers—when every twenty or thirty years found the country prostrated by the ruthless visitation.

At the time of which we have been speaking there was written by Dr. John Mitchell, of Virginia, an essay which is in every way worthy of claiming our attention. The work, bearing the title "An Essay upon the Causes of the Different Colors of People in Different Climates,† is an elaborate and lengthy one, wherein the author endeavors to establish a number of points pertaining to the anatomy and physiology of the skin. The systematic and able manner in which the subject is considered is worthy of special remark, and shows the author to have been a deep thinker as well as an ardent student of dermatology. The essay opens with the color of the skin in general, after which the peculiarities in the color of the white and black races, together with certain views as to the causes of the difference in color, are set forth. The color of negroes, the author states, "does not proceed from any black humors, or fluid parts contained in their skins; for there is none such in any part of their bodies, more than in white people," an observation which at the time was doubtless deemed one of importance.

The author next proceeds to demonstrate very plausibly that the different colors of the human race may be explained by the effect of climate and mode of life, and finally supports the doctrine of the common origin of man, regarding it as highly probable that the primitive color was a shade between black and white, from which the Europeans degenerated as much on the one hand as did the Africans on the other; the Asiatics, he thinks, perhaps best representing the original complexion of the human race. From this very brief and imperfect analysis it is evident that the work is one of unusual merit, and there is every reason to believe that

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\* This statement is made on the authority of Thacher (*loc. cit.*). I have not been able to find the essay.

† Published in the "London Philosophical Transactions" for the year 1744. See abridgment of the "Phil. Trans.," vol. x., p. 926, 1756.

it was not only original, but that it was moreover the first systematic essay on the subject, Lecat's well-known work, it may be mentioned, published at Amsterdam, not appearing until some years later—in 1765.

When we take into consideration the period at which the essay was written, and the limited store of material in the form of previous publications on this topic at the command of the author, we can not but regard it as a remarkable production. The condition of our colonies at this date was far from encouraging to original investigations. The medical profession was truly in a deplorable state, and was as the late Dr. Robley Dunglison remarks chiefly remarkable for the absence of all the facilities for education and improvement.\* Dr. J. B. Beck, in his interesting address on the "History of American Medical Literature before the Revolution," † likewise gives a graphic description of the lamentable condition of medicine during these early days of struggle for existence. As he concludes, in estimating the status of the medical profession, medicine undoubtedly stood lower in point of respectability in the opinion of the community than either law or theology. With the profession in such an unfortunate situation, the wonder is not that these years should have been so barren in literature, but that any work like that we have been considering should have been produced. Dr. Mitchell is said to have been distinguished in natural history as well as in medicine, and was also the author of a work on the yellow fever as it prevailed in Virginia in 1741.

The climate and the diseases peculiar to our country received some attention at the period of the Revolution from Dr. Lionel Chalmers, ‡ an English surgeon of South Carolina, and from Dr. Johann David Schoepff, § a German and surgeon of the Anspach-Beyreuth troops in America. In Dr. Chalmers's treatise we find but little space devoted to the diseases of the skin, a brief, quite

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\* "History of Medicine from the Earliest Ages to the Commencement of the Nineteenth Century." Phila., 1872.

† "Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York," vol. v., 1842.

‡ "Climate and Diseases of South Carolina." This work was published in London, in 1776.

§ "Climate and Diseases of America." Translated by James Read Chadwick, M.D., of Boston, 1875.

amusing chapter on "ringworms" and "sudamina" constituting all that the author had to say of cutaneous diseases.

Dr. Schoepff, however, who was a man with acute powers of observation and a botanist of some distinction, in speaking of the intense heat of our summer months, describes at some length the eruption of prickly heat, or "prickling heat" as he tells us it was termed by the people. From the manner in which he delineates the symptoms (writing to Professor Delius, of Germany) it was manifestly a new form of disease to him. It would seem also from his account that the affection was of more frequent occurrence and of a severer type then than now. He appears to have been profoundly impressed with the high degree of summer heat, for in writing from New York he adds: "The rays of the sun are often powerful enough to raise vesicles on the tender parts of the body when exposed." According to the late Professor George B. Wood, Schoepff was the author of the first work on the *materia medica* of our country, bearing the title "*Materia Medica Americana*."

In referring to the diseases of our country, omission must not be made of the works of Dr. William Currie, which shortly followed those we have been reviewing. In his "*Historical Account of the Climate and Diseases of the United States of America*"\* we find a description of the eruption produced by, as he states it, the "*Rhus vernix*, or poison sumac, and by a small creeping vine, resembling the ivy, called *rhus radicans*, or poison ivy," together with judicious remedies for the treatment of the same. In a later work, entitled a "*View of the Diseases most prevalent in the United States of America*,"† he speaks of erysipelas only, under which head, however, as a variety of this disease, we discover "*zona aurea*, or shingles"!

It requires no lengthy dissertation to show that cutaneous diseases at this date were still shrouded in the uttermost obscurity, all with few exceptions being disposed of with the single designation of "skin disease." Even the more important and graver maladies were scarcely distinguished one from another, while concerning etiology and pathology we note even worse confusion, no less eminent a physician than Dr. Benjamin Rush stating that leprosy, elephantiasis, scurvy, and venereal disease appear to be

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\* Phila., 1792.

† Phila., 1811.

but different modifications of the same disorder, and that "the same causes produce them in every age and country."<sup>1</sup> Nor was the subject much further advanced in Great Britain, where we find Turner's work, replete with crude observations and the superstitions of the day, numerous editions of which appeared through a period of some thirty years, constituting England's sole authority on dermatology.

Among the numerous publications of Dr. Rush, we note "An Account of the External Use of Arsenic in the Cure of Cancers";\* "An Inquiry into the Causes and Cure of Sore Legs," † as well as articles upon scarlatina ‡ and measles.§ In connection with the last-named diseases, Dr. John Morgan's brochure on small-pox || may also be mentioned. At this time there was republished John Hunter's "Treatise on the Venereal Disease," in the form of an abridgment by William Currie, ¶ which according to Billings\*\* was followed the next year by a translation of the third edition of Swediaur's "Practical Observations on Venereal Complaints"; †† in 1791 by Hunter's complete "Treatise on the Venereal Disease"; ‡‡ and in 1795 by Benjamin Bell's "Treatise on Gonorrhœa Virulenta and Lues Venerea," §§ these being the first works on the subject offered to the American profession. Considering that syphilis had for a century and more occupied a foothold in our country, it is singular that the disease should not have received earlier attention at the hands of writers. Thomas Thacher ||| tells us that syphilis first made its appearance in Boston in 1646. In speaking of the diseases to which the early settlers were liable, he says, in this year "these virtuous people were much grieved by the discovery of a disease in Boston, with which till then they were entirely unacquainted, and which, the venerated Winthrop in his journal says, raised a scandal upon the town and country, though without just cause. This proved to be

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<sup>1</sup> "An Inquiry into the Natural History of Medicine among the Indians of North America." An oration delivered before the American Philosophical Society, Phila., 1774.

\* Read before the American Philosophical Society in 1786. Phila., 1789.

† Phila., 1809. ("Medical Inquiries and Observations.")

‡ Phila., 1789.

§ Phila., 1809.

|| Boston, 1776.

¶ Phila., 1787.

\*\* "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," Oct. 1876.

†† New York, 1788.

‡‡ Phila., 1791.

§§ Phila., 1795.

||| "Amer. Med. Biog.," Boston, 1828.

the lues venerea. It originated with the wife of a seafaring man, who after childbirth was affected with ulcerated breast. Many persons were employed to draw this woman's breast; by which means about sixteen persons, men, women, and children, were affected with this odious disease." He further adds that they were unable to control the disease until a young surgeon from the West Indies arrived, who "soon performed a cure."

The year 1787 witnessed the publication of an important, elaborately prepared work upon the same subject as the earlier essay of Dr. Mitchell, having the title "An Essay on the Causes of the Variety of Complexion and Figure in the Human Species," the author being Samuel Stanhope Smith, a noted President of the College of New Jersey. It was delivered as an oration before the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in 1787, and was published in the same year in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The object of the discourse is to prove the unity of the human race notwithstanding the diversity of color and form under which it appears in different portions of the globe. Throughout its pages are recorded numerous interesting observations on the color of the complexion and hair, from which by way of example we may cite the case of the well-known negro of Maryland, Henry Moss by name, who during a period of twenty years underwent a change in color, from a deep black to a clear healthy white. Reference to this case, to which many bore testimony, also appears in the "Medical Repository" for the year 1800. In the same periodical two other similar cases are recorded.\* Although the principles maintained in this work are essentially the same as those set forth by Mitchell forty odd years before, the author does not seem to have been familiar with this essay. - The book is certainly original, and shows the author to have been a man of great erudition and a close observer. It was received with favor and attracted considerable attention in Europe, where it was republished with notes by a professor in Edinburgh. In 1810 a second American edition, comprising copious critical remarks and a scathing review of Lord Kaim's discourse on the original diversity of mankind, by the author, was published.

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\* Vol. iv., 1800; vol. v., 1801. A case of vitiligo in an American Indian may also be found in the "Transactions of the Physico-Medical Society of New York" for the year 1817, reported by Dr. Bissell. Dr. R. W. Taylor gives an account of the case in the "Archives of Dermatology," July, 1879.

With the close of the century we note the first of a series of admirable and in some instances remarkable theses, the greater number of which were presented in the University of Pennsylvania, which by this time had risen to a conspicuous position as a seat of learning. The power of its corps of distinguished professors, who at this epoch constituted a truly brilliant galaxy, embracing such men as Rush, Wistar, Shippen, Woodhouse, Benjamin Smith Barton and Physick, is plainly manifest in the tone of the medical dissertations. Thus may we mention those of Magruder on small-pox ; \* Williamson, on scarlet fever ; † Huger, on gangrene and mortification ; ‡ and Condict, on the effects of contagion on the human body ; § while that of Horsfield, entitled "An Experimental Dissertation on the Rhus Vernix, Rhus Radicans, and Rhus Glabrum, commonly known in Pennsylvania by the names of Poison Ash, Poison Vine, and Common Sumach," || stands forth as being exceptionally good and worthy of special remark. It is able and exhaustive, and comprises an accurate description of the botany of these plants, together with numerous experiments as to the degree of their poisonous properties, as well as other matters of interest.

Next we may refer to the dissertation "On Perspiration," by Agnew, ¶ of Princeton, New Jersey, who prefaces his work with those strong and meaning words of Rush : "Simple anatomy is a mass of dead matter ; it is physiology which infuses life into it." \*\* Throughout the essay, which is one of unusual excellence, are found numerous references to such authorities as Abernethy (who had a few years before published a brochure on the functions of the skin), Malpighi, Haller, Priestley, and Liewenhœck. Rousseau, in the same year, produced an admirable thesis "On Absorption," †† illustrated by experiments. In speaking of the susceptibility of certain individuals to salivation, the author says : "Dr. Barton assured me that he was salivated by only going several times in a close room where one of his patients was under a profuse salivation, produced by the mercurial frictions." He further remarks that Drs. Shippen and Wistar also informed him that at

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\* Phila., 1792.

† Phila., 1793.

‡ Phila., 1797.

§ Phila., 1794.

|| Phila., 1798.

¶ Phila., 1800

\*\* See "An Inquiry into the Causes of Animal Life," being three lectures delivered in the University of Pennsylvania.

†† Phila., 1800.

the Pennsylvania Hospital persons residing in the room where the mercurial frictions were administered to several patients had been salivated.

The following year two dissertations appeared: one by Lockette, of Virginia, "On the Warm Bath,"\* wherein many original experiments are recorded; the other by Tongue, of Maryland, on the "Lues Venerea, the *Modus Operandi* of Mercury in curing it, Gonorrhœa," etc., † in which the author sets himself the task of proving that syphilis was not introduced into Europe from America, and moreover that syphilis and gonorrhœa are two distinct forms of disease. Several other dissertations are worthy of notice and an honorable place in the literature of this epoch, as those of Jackson, of Georgia, "On the Efficacy of Certain External Applications," ‡ and Klapp, of Albany, N. Y., with the title "A Chémico-Physiological Essay, disproving the Existence of an Aëriform Function of the Skin, and pointing out, by Experiment, the Impropriety of ascribing Absorption to the External Surface of the Human Body." § The work was clearly intended to refute the views of Rousseau, which had been promulgated, as we have seen, a few years before; how unsuccessfully is apparent. Yet the character of the experiments, as well as the ingenuity of the author, cannot fail to attract the attention of the reader. Still another brochure on the same question, with the title "On Cutaneous Absorption," || may be noticed, the author being Henry P. Dangerfield, of Virginia, a student of the University of Pennsylvania.

In contemplating this group of essays upon physiological subjects, it seems to me one readily discerns the influence of the renowned Professor of Physiology upon his pupils. So zealous a physiologist as Rush could scarcely have failed to profoundly impress his class, and to have engendered among them a love for his favorite branch of medicine. Nor, on the other hand, in accounting for their production must we lose sight of the circumstance that these topics were then receiving much attention in the Old World, where experimental studies were being conducted by such famous men as Bichat, Seguin and others.

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\* Phil., 1801.

† Phila., 1801.

‡ Phila., 1802, "Medical Theses," edited by Chas. Caldwell. Phil., 1806.

§ Phila., 1805.

|| Phila., 1806.

We can not leave this epoch in our history without alluding very briefly to the subject of vaccination, which was now the all-absorbing medical topic in the New as well as in the Old World. The great discovery of Jenner, which was made public in his famous "Inquiry" in 1798, had been hurried over the sea and reached our shores early in 1799. According to Baron's "Life of Jenner," a copy was early forwarded by the discoverer to Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the University of Cambridge, who while prepared to receive the news was as yet cautious in expression, as may be gathered from a paper on the cow-pox headed "Something Curious in the Medical line," which appeared in the "Columbian Gazette," March 12, 1799.\* It was but a short time, however, before Dr. Waterhouse tested the discovery, of the truth and value of which he was now convinced, by boldly inoculating with cow-pox virus obtained from Dr. Jenner's stock seven of his own children. The following year he wrote his well-known brochure, "A Prospect of Exterminating the Smallpox; being the Discovery of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Kine-pox." † Vaccination now, as a matter of course, obtained universal attention, scarcely less in our own country than abroad, and as a consequence numerous publications in the form of pamphlets were issued, among which may be cited the "Jennerian Discovery; or, a Concise View of all the most Important Facts concerning the Vaccine or Cow-pox," by C. R. Aikin; ‡ "Letters on the Kine-pox, etc.," by Oliver and Currie; § "Practical Observations on Vaccination or Inoculation of the Cow-pock," by John Redman Coxe; || "A Practical Treatise on Vaccina or Cow-pock," by Samuel Schofield; ¶ "Information respecting . . . Kine-pock Inoculation," by B. Waterhouse; \*\* and "A Discourse upon Vaccination," by Valentine Seaman. ††

Toward the close of the first decade of the century there were published in Boston two Boylston prize essays, from the same pen, one of which in particular must be specially noticed. The first of these considered the subject of "Mortification," §§ the other "The Structure and Physiology of the Skin, with a view to the

\* "Life of Edward Jenner." London, 1827.

† Second American edition, Phila., 1801.

|| Phila., 1802.

¶ New York, 1810.

†† New York, 1816.

† Boston, 1800.

§ Phila., 1802.

\*\* Cambridge, 1810.

§§ Boston, 1808.

Diagnosticks and Cure of Diseases usually denominated Cutaneous,"\* the author being George Cheyne Shattuck, of Boston. The latter essay, while it can scarcely be said to present an exposition of the dermatology even of that day, yet indicates the author to have been possessed of considerable originality and force of thought. We note an almost entire absence of reference to the labors of earlier workers in the same field, as, for example, to the published theses to which we have just been referring; nor does the author appear to have availed himself of the writings of Willan, whose work on diseases of the skin was first published in London in 1798, copies of which without doubt had long ere this reached our libraries. But the subject-matter is none the less interesting for such omissions, and is replete with observations which show the author to have been a close student of the skin and its diseases. Throughout occur brief reports of cases, some of which, it must be confessed, we should be reluctant in accepting without more complete notes than are given. As an example I may quote the case of Dr. Fay, of Boston (which appears to have been well known), who states that he was called to attend two African children suffering from body lice, and who, on being suddenly freed of their vermin, by means of a warm bath, "dropped down and expired immediately"! *Credat Judæus Apella.*

The following year Willan's great work "On Cutaneous Diseases" † was republished; and within the next few years a translation of the fourth edition of Swediaur's "Complete Treatise on the Symptoms, Effects, Nature, and Treatment of Syphilis," by Thomas T. Hewson, of Philadelphia; ‡ and Albernethy's work on "Diseases resembling Syphilis," § were likewise given to American readers. According to Billings, || Felix Pascalis, a New York physician of some eminence, published an original treatise on syphilis in 1812.

In passing, a singular little work by Charles Jones, which appeared in this year, bearing the unique and fanciful heading "A Candid Examination into the Origin of the Difference in Color in the Human Family, showing the reason why, the time when, the place where, and the merciful designs of the Author, in bringing about the great variety of natural distinctions," ¶ may be referred to. This curious little essay may be described as being for the

\* Boston, 1808. † Phila., 1809. ‡ Phila., 1815. § Phila., 1811.

|| "A Century of American Medicine: Literature and Institutions," "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," Oct. 1876.

¶ Printed for and sold by the author, Phila., 1812.

most part an autobiographical, religious history, the subject-matter possessing but the feeblest possible relation to the title. One may speculate to no purpose over the author's object in writing it.

Republications of foreign works on diseases of the skin and on syphilis, especially the latter, were now becoming more numerous, "Hunter's Treatise on the Venereal Disease, with an Introduction and Commentary, by Joseph Adams;" † Bateman's "Practical Synopsis of Cutaneous Diseases, according to the Arrangement of Dr. Willan;" § Jourdan's work "On Syphilis," translated from the French by R. La Roche; || Carmichael's "Essay on Venereal Diseases, with Practical Notes, etc., by G. Emerson;" ¶ and Desruelle's "Memoir on the Treatment of Venereal Disease without Mercury, to which is added, Observations on the same Subject, by G. J. Guthrie;" \*\* all being issued between the years 1818 and 1830.

The current literature, as found in the medical journals during the first quarter of the century, was indeed scant, any author of prominence of the present day contributing, it might almost be said, more in a single year than the whole profession in a decade. An occasional report of a case, often an example of some *lusus nature*, as Haskell's "Ichthyosis Cornea" (with a chromo-lithographic plate ††), or Wiesenthal's extraordinary "Corneous Excrescence,"<sup>1</sup> and "Case of a Negro whose Skin became White,"<sup>2</sup> constituted the average productions of the time. A few other communications, as Cervallo's cutaneous horn (with a portrait),<sup>3</sup> Dakin's account of the eruption due to rhus-poisoning,<sup>4</sup> which he supposed he was the first to describe, and Harris's treatment of syphilis without mercury may also be cited. According to the statement of Dakin, Hobson likewise wrote at about this date on the eruption produced by rhus, but I have been unable to obtain

† First American edition, Phila., 1818.

§ Phila., 1818. A second edition was published in 1824.

|| Phila., 1823.

¶ Phila., 1825.

\*\* Phila., 1830.

†† "New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery," 1819.

<sup>1</sup> "New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery," 1819.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> "Medical Repository," 1820.

<sup>4</sup> "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1829.

the paper, or indeed further reference to it. Two other articles remain to be noted; the first, "An Inquiry concerning Cutaneous Perspiration, and the Operations and the Uses of Sudorific Remedies," by Edward Miller, a distinguished physician and writer of New York; the second, "A Case of Anthrax successfully treated," by David Hosack, likewise of New York and well known as an author, who also wrote several papers on the subject of contagion. In this connection we may also record John Armstrong's "Practical Illustrations of the Scarlet Fever, etc.," and "of the Measles," reprinted in Hartford in 1823; John D. Fisher's "Description of the Distinct, and Confluent, and Inoculated Small-Pox, Varioloid Disease, Cow-Pox, and Chicken-Pox," published in Boston in 1829; and finally, Luther V. Bell's "Observations on Certain Obscure and Undecided Doctrines in Relation to Small-Pox, Varioloid, and Vaccination."

When we reflect upon the fact of the entire absence of interest concerning diseases of the skin as manifested in the systematic works upon medicine of this era, the barren state of periodical literature may be readily explained. Thus, the surgical works of Dorsey and of Gibson, treatises belonging to this age, make but the barest reference to even what may be termed the surgical diseases of the skin, "corns" and "warts," and perhaps a few other diseases, constituting the list. These were dark days for dermatology; days when, as some one has related the story, a student, asking information upon a disease of the skin from a physician, received the reply, "Sir, I know nothing of skin diseases; you must go to the surgeon;" appealing to the surgeon, he was met with, "Sir, I must refer you to the physician." The situation seemed helpless; the whole subject was shrouded in mystery, and it would seem was judged either obscure, or as being too insignificant to be worthy of serious attention. A disposition existed to consign the whole of this branch of medicine to those outside the professional pale. No one seemed prepared to take up the matter. Nor can this deplorable condition of affairs be accounted for on the plea of lack of opportunities, for much had already been accomplished abroad, especially in England through the labors of Willan and Bateman. The profession was simply not qualified to entertain the subject, and the task remained for later generations. Nevertheless, on the part of a handful of readers there existed some interest and certainly a demand for foreign works, as ex-

hibited by the translation of Cazenave and Schedel's treatise bearing the title, "A Practical Synopsis of Cutaneous Diseases, from the most Celebrated Authors, and particularly from Documents afforded by the Clinical Lectures of Dr. Biett."\* The name of the translator is withheld from the title-page, although, according to the catalogue of the library of the Pennsylvania Hospital, compiled by Dr. Emil Fischer, Dr. R. E. Griffith is entitled to the honor of this work. In 1832 there appeared an original and practical work on "Baths and Mineral Waters," by Dr. John Bell, † in which occurs much of interest relating to the physiology of the skin. The book, the first on the subject from the American press, at once obtained a high position, and to the present day has retained much of its former popularity. Dr. Bell was a scholar of unusual literary attainments, and a prolific as well as an agreeable writer, whose many essays on the most varied medical topics showed him to possess a mind of no ordinary caliber. It was the rare fortune of the writer to become acquainted with this author toward the close of his long and eventful life, and, although sorely tried by disease, his mental faculties to the last remained unimpaired, while the energy and rapidity with which he expressed himself, coupled with unusual quickness of thought, rendered him a most entertaining companion.

A few years later, the "Broome Street Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin," New York city, was established, an event to which it affords me pleasure to refer, being the first institution of the kind in our country. It was opened June 22, 1836, with Drs. H. D. Bulkley and John Watson as physicians in charge. The following year a course of lectures was delivered at the Infirmary by Dr. Bulkley, who had prepared himself for the task by previous study abroad. These lectures, so far as I can learn, were the first ever given on the subject in this country. They were continued during the next three years at the Broome Street School of Medicine, at the New York Dispensary, and later at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then located in Crosby Street, nine courses of lectures having been delivered here during the following ten years.

The importance of the subject of diseases of the skin was now for the first time beginning to be realized. American students

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\* Phila., 1829. A second edition was published in 1832.

† Phila., 1832.

were seeking the hospitals of Europe, especially those of Paris, where at the "St. Louis," under Biett and Cazenave, clinical instruction in skin diseases was made highly attractive. Indeed, at this period there existed only one school of dermatology, that of Paris, which had been created by the vast clinical resources of the St. Louis, and the life-long, earnest and indefatigable labors of Alibert, Biett, Gibert, Cazenave, Schedel and Rayer. Those were the palmy days of French dermatology, an epoch when the eyes of the whole world turned to Paris for the latest discoveries, and when to question the dicta of her professors would have been regarded in the light of presumption. Opportunities for the study of diseases of the skin in England as well as in Germany were almost entirely wanting, neither clinics nor teachers existing, attractive enough at least to engage foreign students. Thus it happened that the American dermatology of this period and for years subsequently was so thoroughly tinctured with the methods and views of the French. The few articles which appeared in the journals of that day, as, for example, those of Dr. C. W. Pennock, of Philadelphia, on lepra, psoriasis, and elephantiasis,\* as well as the clinical lectures of Dr. Bulkley, of New York, † all with few exceptions bear the stamp of Biett and the influence of the St. Louis school. In 1838 a department for skin diseases was instituted at the Northern Dispensary of New York, Dr. Alexander N. Gunn receiving the appointment.

Considerable interest had by this time begun to be manifested in our subject, as evinced by the increased amount of literature in the form of original work, communications on varied topics, and republications. In 1830, a Boylston Prize dissertation, from the pen of Dr. Usher Parsons, later well-known as a prominent physician of Rhode Island, "On the Connection between Cutaneous Diseases which are not Contagious and the Internal Organs," was written, although not published until some years later—in 1839. ‡ The style and tone of the essay is very similar to that of Dr. Shattuck, to which reference has been made, and like that work is notable for originality and the absence of remark on contemporaneous literature. The physiology and pathology of the skin first receive attention, after which we find the author dwell-

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\* "Amer. Jour. of Med. Sci.," 1834.

† "Annalist," 1846—1848, New York.

‡ Boston.

ing upon, with decided expression of opinion, the mutual dependence and reciprocal influence of different parts of the body, and the sympathy existing between the skin in a state of disease and the various internal organs, the relations of the nervous system to cutaneous diseases being especially insisted upon—views which I would fain see more generally entertained by teachers of the present day. The following year, another Boylston Prize dissertation, "On Scrofula, Rheumatism, and Erysipelatous Inflammation," by Edward Warren, was published.<sup>1</sup>

Among the articles which appeared in the medical journals may be mentioned those of George Busche,\* George Howard,† and N. R. Smith,‡ on the treatment of vascular nævi; "Observations on Purpura Hæmorrhagica," by Samuel Jackson; § "A Remarkable Case of Sweating," by S. S. Marcy; ¶ and a description of the "Cape May Albinos," by the same author; ¶¶ and "On Syphilis in Infants," by H. D. Bulkley.\*\* The last quoted paper is an able production, setting forth clearly the many symptoms, especially as concerns the skin, of this protean disease. Mention may also be made here of several articles on malignant pustule, by Drs. C. W. Pennock, of Philadelphia, †† and William M. Carpenter, of Jackson, Louisiana, ††† wherein may be found reports of twelve cases, together with matters of interest pertaining to this disease, which was then exciting some discussion.

That the profession was now fully alive to the importance of keeping *au courant* with the old world, and that the publishers were aware of an increasing demand for the most recent works in all departments of medicine, is clearly evinced by the many publications which appeared within the decade. Especially numerous were the volumes relating to dermatology, First, in 1837, there came a reprint of Plumbe's "Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Skin," §§ which for a time enjoyed great popularity

<sup>1</sup> Phila., 1840.

\* "New York Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin," 1832.

† "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," 1838.

‡ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1843.

§ Ibid., 1834.

¶ Ibid., 1839.

¶¶ Ibid., 1839.

\*\* "New York Quarterly Journal of Medicine and Surgery," 1840.

†† "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci." 1836.

††† "Southern Medical Journal," 1839.

§§ Phila., 1837.

in Great Britain ; and the same year witnessed the republication of Colles's "Practical Observations on the Venereal Diseases, etc."<sup>1</sup> The following year Green's "Practical Compendium of Skin Diseases"<sup>2</sup> was reprinted ; and within the next few years there were issued two more editions of Hunter's "Treatise on the Venereal Disease," one with notes by G. G. Babington,<sup>3</sup> the other with notes by James F. Palmer ;<sup>4</sup> the brochure of Parker "On the Modern Treatment of Syphilitic Disease" ;\* the paper of Key "On Primary Syphilitic Cases" ; † Dendy's "Practical Remarks on Diseases of the Skin . . . During Infancy and Childhood" ; ‡ Ricord's "Practical Treatise on Venereal Diseases," translated from the French by H. P. Drummond ; § and Erasmus Wilson's famous "Practical and Theoretical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin," ¶ which has since passed through so many editions, in this country as well as in England. ¶ Reference must also be made to Walshe's "Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Treatment of Cancer," with additions by J. Mason Warren ; \*\* Nunneley's "Treatise on the Nature and Causes of Erysipelas" ; †† Durlacher's "Treatise on Corns, Bunions, the Diseases of the Nails, and the General Management of the Feet" ; ††† Lugol's "Researches on Scrofulous Diseases," translated by A. S. Doane ; §§ Phillip's work on the same disease ; ¶¶ Acton's "Complete Practical Treatise on Venereal Diseases" ; ¶¶¶ and finally Rayer's "Theoretical and Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Skin," with colored plates, edited by John Bell. \*\*\* The last-named treatise is a republication of the English translation by R. Willis, a comprehensive and valuable work, which must be regarded as unquestionably the best exponent of early French dermatology, and one which the student may still consult with profit. The name of Rayer must always remain one of the most conspicuous in the list of those who served to create dermatology. He was a student

<sup>1</sup> Phila., 1837.

<sup>2</sup> Phila., 1838.

<sup>3</sup> Phila., 1839.

<sup>4</sup> Phila., 1840.

\* Dunglison's "American Medical Library," Phila., 1840.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid., 1841.

§ Phila., 1843.

¶ Phil., 1843.

¶¶ Dr. H. C. Lea has kindly informed me that the several American editions of this work bear the dates of 1843, 1847, 1852, 1857, 1863, 1865, 1868.

\*\* Boston, 1844.

†† Phila., 1844.

‡‡ Phila., 1845.

§§ New York, 1845.

¶¶ Phila., 1846.

¶¶¶ New York. 1846.

\*\*\* Phila., 1845.

and a physician of unusually high attainments, for he excelled not only as a distinguished dermatologist, but also as a remarkably acute observer and investigator in other departments of medicine.

The same year bore witness to the first American work on diseases of the skin, with the title "A Synopsis of the Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment of the more Common and Important Diseases of the Skin," with sixty colored plates, by N. Worcester, M.D., Professor of Physical Diagnosis and General Pathology in the Medical School of Cleveland, and late Professor in the Medical College of Ohio.\* The book obviously lacks originality as well as experience, and can therefore scarcely be regarded as more than a compilation from the works of the French and English dermatologists of the day. The author, indeed, frankly states in the preface that utility and not originality was his design. The colored plates are from the works of Willan and Bateman, Alibert, Wilson, Cazenave, Rayer and others, but are much reduced in size, and very imperfectly reproduced. Dr. Worcester was a native of Vermont and a graduate of Dartmouth Medical College. He spent some time in the hospitals of Paris acquiring knowledge on the subjects of chest and cutaneous diseases. Upon his return to this country he located in Cincinnati and afterward removed to Cleveland, where the treatise on skin diseases was written. He was a man of ability, and had his life been longer spared would doubtless have contributed original work to dermatology, although it is said that his choice of study rather inclined to diseases of the heart and lungs. He died at the early age of thirty-five, in the year 1847.

As has been intimated, the works upon general medicine and surgery which had up to this date been published, contained but little that in the least degree bore upon dermatology. In 1837, Dr. John C. Warren's treatise on tumors † appeared, wherein he briefly considers "epidermoid" and "dermoid" tumors; among the latter he gives an account of two diseases which he designates respectively "eiloides" and "lepoides," about which I may be permitted to take this opportunity of saying a few words.

Eiloides, from *εἰλω*, to coil, is very briefly described as an hypertrophy of the skin manifesting itself like a "coil of inflated

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\* Phila., Boston, Cincinnati, 1845.

† "Surgical Observations on Tumors, with Cases and Observations." Boston, 1837.

intestine," each roll (in the case described) being four inches long, growing by a narrow base from the side of the neck, It was removed, but a year and a half later had repullulated. From the description given we should learn but little of the disease, but a colored chromo-lithographic portrait entirely supplies any deficiency in the verbal delineation. The disease is manifestly that which is to-day known as dermatolysis, and this view is further corroborated by the author's statement, who closes his remarks by adding that the case possesses the same characters and is doubtless the same disease as that of Eleanor Fitzgerald, described by John Bell, in his "Principles of Surgery." Two excellent portraits accompany Bell's case (which he fails to designate with a name), from which it is plainly seen that this growth as well as Warren's "eiloides" are both well-marked instances of dermatolysis. As for the "lepoides," from *λεπος*, bark conveying the idea of roughness, the affection is manifestly a form of epithelial cancer having its origin in a sebaceous gland. I have taken occasion to devote so much space to these diseases for the reason that some recent writers of distinction have, it seems to me, evidently failed to appreciate their true nature, still describing them under the names proposed by Warren and as being peculiar and rare diseases. Thus, I may cite Professor Gross, who in the last edition of his great work on surgery,\* devotes separate chapters to "eiloides" and dermatolysis, quoting largely from Warren for his account of the former.

Among other general treatises which were published at this period, I would also refer to Gross's "Elements of Pathological Anatomy," the first edition of which appeared in 1839 and the second in 1845. † There may be found an admirable section on the pathology of cutaneous diseases, which without doubt is the first description of the pathology of these diseases to be found in American literature. The subject is viewed from what may be termed the modern standpoint, while the remarks are comprehensive and fully up to the age in which they were written.

A few years later the classic work of the late distinguished Professor George B. Wood, upon the "Practice of Medicine,"\* made its appearance, in which there occur excellent chapters on the diseases of the skin, to which many thousands of students have since

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\* Phila., 1872.

† Philadelphia.

turned for information, and doubtless in many instances have relied upon as their sole guide in the study of these diseases. At this point reference may also be made to the original and valuable work of Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, entitled "Lectures on the more important Eruptive Fevers, etc.," including cutaneous hemorrhages, which was published a few years earlier.† The subject of erysipelas, which according to Gross‡ during these years (from 1844 to 1846) was epidemic throughout the country, and was so prevalent and fatal at times that even the slightest surgical operation had to be undertaken with the greatest possible circumspection, was further enriched by communications from Dr. Charles Hall and George J. Dexter,§ and by a long article from Dr. Samuel Kneeland, of Boston, "on the Connection between Puerperal Fever and Epidemic Erysipelas, in its Origin and Mode of Propagation," || in which the author reaches the conclusion that "these diseases have the same origin, one and the same contagion operating in the production of both." This question has again been recently opened by Thomas C. Minor, of Cincinnati, ¶ who likewise endeavors to show a connection between the two diseases.

About the year 1850 the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania came into possession of a large and fine collection of models of skin disease, which had been purchased in Europe by Professor George B. Wood and presented by him to the University. This, I believe, was the first treasure of the kind ever brought to our shores. The museum still remains in excellent state of preservation, and comprises some two hundred and thirty pieces, most of which are of wax, and the execution of that well-known and faithful English artist Joseph Towne, so long connected with Guy's Hospital, London. The models, indeed, are reproductions of the best specimens in Guy's Hospital Museum. Among the rarer diseases represented are the three historical models illustrating the several stages of Addison's keloid; a remarkable case of brown ichthyosis of a hand; vitiligoidea tuberosa of

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\* Phila., 1847,

† Phila., 1844.

‡ "System of Surgery," Phila., 1872.

§ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1844.

|| Ibid., 1846,

¶ "Erysipelas and Childbed Fever," Cincinnati, 1874.

the palm of the hand; and true yaws, or frambœsia, of the hand and arm, showing dark-red nodes and tubercles, some of them in a state of ulceration. The collection is also rich in leprosy, one model exhibiting a rare form of the malady where the skin of the face in addition to the characteristic infiltration and tubercular formations has assumed a circumscribed, sharply-defined, uniform olive-green color. The University further possesses the museum of Dr. H. H. Smith, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, comprising some seventy models of cutaneous and syphilitic disease. The St. Louis Medical College, through Dr. Charles A. Pope, also acquired a museum of chiefly syphilitic diseases during this decade.

At this time there was published a unique and strange book with the title "Tricologia Mammalium, or a Treatise on the Organization, Properties, and Uses of Hair and Wool, etc.," by Peter A. Browne.\* As I have intimated, it is a curious treatise, and unmistakably the work of an enthusiast. Throughout its pages we find evidence of extensive research, great labor, and painstaking investigations. It would seem, indeed, as though the author had devoted his life to the study of the subject, so minute and varied are many of his observations. Hair from every portion of the surface of the various races of man and from the lower animals is carefully examined and classified as to its length, shape, caliber, color, and other peculiarities. Among other matters of interest we may also note an instrument devised by the author and called a trichometer, designed to measure the ductility, elasticity and tenacity of hair. The chapters to which the dermatologist would perhaps first turn are those relating to the hair of the head taken from the different human races, wherein may be found some curious statements. Regarding the work as a whole, however, it may be remarked that the subject is viewed from a decidedly eccentric and it must be said indifferent standpoint, and that in place of a treatise on hair we have but little more than a grand collection of facts thrown together without arrangement or system. One can scarcely escape the reflection that with such an amount of material at his command the author should have produced a work of greater practical value.

Republications of foreign works on diseases of the skin and on syphilis and venereal disease were now rapidly multiplying, each

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\* Phila., 1853.

year adding one or more volumes to our libraries. In 1846 Dr. H. D. Bulkley, of New York, edited with notes Burgess's translation of Cazenave and Schedel's "Manual of Diseases of the Skin," a work which was favorably received by the profession, due in part doubtless to the judicious notes of the American editor.\* A few years later Dr. Bulkley likewise edited Gregory's "Lectures on the Eruptive Fevers, with Notes, and an Appendix embodying the most Recent Opinions on Exanthematic Pathology; and also Statistical Tables and Colored Plates."† At this period Neligan's "Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin"‡ was issued and proved well adapted to the wants of American readers, probably in a great measure on account of the extreme simplicity of the arrangement of the subject-matter as well as of the style: During the same year, furthermore, Wilson's "Treatise on Syphilis, Constitutional and Hereditary, and on Syphilitic Eruptions"; § Ricord's "Letters on Syphilis," translated by W. P. Lattimore; || and Ricord's "Illustrations of Syphilitic Disease," translated from the French by Thomas F. Betton, with the addition of a history of syphilis by Paul Beck Goddard, with fifty large quarto plates ¶—works of some importance—made their appearance; while Neligan's Atlas of Skin Diseases,\*\* Wilson's "Healthy Skin: a Treatise on the Management of Skin and Hair in Relation to Health";<sup>1</sup> still another edition of Hunter's "Treatise on the Venereal Disease," with copious additions by Ricord, edited with notes by Dr. F. J. Bumstead;<sup>2</sup> Ricord's "Letters on Syphilis," translated by D. D. Slade;<sup>3</sup> Vidal's "Treatise on Venereal Disease," with colored plates, translated and edited by Dr. George C. Blackman;<sup>4</sup> Jahr's "Alphabetical Repertory of the Skin,"<sup>5</sup> edited by C. J. Hempel; and Toothaker's "Notes on the Diseases of the Skin"<sup>6</sup>—all published within the following few years—complete the list. Mention must in addition be made of an original essay, a Boylston Prize dissertation, "On the Constitutional Treatment

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\* Published in New York. A second edition was demanded in 1852.

† New York, 1851.

‡ Phila., 1852.

§ Phila., 1852.

|| Phila., 1852.

¶ Phila., 1852.

\*\* Phila., 1856.

<sup>1</sup> Phila., 1853.

<sup>2</sup> Phila., 1853.

<sup>3</sup> Boston, 1853.

<sup>4</sup> New York, 1854.

<sup>5</sup> New York, 1850.

<sup>6</sup> "Diseases of the Nervous System," by A. E. Small, M.D., to which is added a treatise on the "Diseases of the Skin," by C. E. Toothaker, M.D., Phila., 1856.

of Syphilis,"\* from the pen of Dr. Silas Durkee, of Boston, which was published at this period.

The contributions in the form of communications to medical journals for the decade were few, and, with some exceptions, of no vital importance. Two cases of change of color in the negro are reported respectively by Dr. T. S. Savage † and Dr. J. C. Hutchinson; ‡ while a "Case of Glanders in the Human Subject," by Dr. L. A. Dugas; § reports of cases of Molluscum Fibrosum, by Drs. J. H. Worthington || and H. H. Smith; ¶ "Contributions to Practical Dermatology," by Silas Durkee; \*\* "Cases of Cornu Cutaneum," by P. A. Jewett †† and F. P. Porcher; ‡‡ and a paper, chiefly therapeutical, on purpura, by J. P. Mettauer, §§ are likewise worthy of mention. An exceptionally good article by Valentine Mott, of New York, describing five cases (with two portraits) of dermatolysis, or pachydermatocele, as the author terms the disease, was read before the London Medico-Chirurgical Society and published in the transactions of that society for the year 1854. To Dr. Mott belongs the honor of having been the first to describe a series of these cases illustrating this curious form of hypertrophy of the integument. Malignant pustule at this time also again received attention from Drs. J. H. Baldrige,<sup>1</sup> S. B. Wells,<sup>2</sup> Dr. Pierson,<sup>3</sup> Willard Parker,<sup>4</sup> and John Watson.<sup>5</sup>

That professional opinion was looking toward the higher development of medicine is shown by the circumstance that special departments for diseases of the skin were created at more than one institution in several of our large cities. Thus we note that in 1853 the Demilt and Northwestern dispensaries of New York each opened clinics for cutaneous diseases. At the former, Dr. H. D. Bulkley, at the latter, Drs. J. Lewis Smith and Stephen Smith, were appointed to conduct the respective services, the

\* Boston, 1854.

† "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1846. (With a colored plate.)

‡ Ibid., 1852.

§ "Southern Medical and Surgical Journal," 1847.

|| "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1845.

¶ Ibid., 1850.

\*\* Ibid., 1851.

†† New York Medical Times," 1853.

‡‡ "Charleston Medical Journal and Review," 1855.

§§ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1846.

<sup>1</sup> "New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal," 1851.

<sup>2</sup> "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," 1859.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 1859.

<sup>4</sup> "New York Journal of Medicine," 1854.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 1850.

clinic at the Northwestern Dispensary comprising vaccination and skin diseases.

In the same year the Howard Hospital, in Philadelphia, was established, with numerous departments for special diseases. Cutaneous diseases were here placed in charge of Dr. Oliver H. Partridge, a gentleman who had fully qualified himself for the position by long-continued study in the Hôpital St. Louis, and who on his return to this country devoted himself specially to these diseases. Since the foundation of the Howard Hospital over six thousand cases of cutaneous disease have been entered on the register. A few years later, in 1856, a clinic for skin and venereal diseases was opened at the Eastern Dispensary of New York, Drs. Morse and Belden being elected the first physicians to the place; and the following year a like service was inaugurated at the German Dispensary of New York, in charge of Drs. Edward Schwedler and Joseph Goldmark; while, in 1862, the Northeastern Dispensary of New York made a similar service, with Drs. J. Scott Payne and Thomas Haigh as attending physicians.

At about this date there appeared, within a few years of each other, two original works on venereal disease to which allusion must be made. The first of these, entitled "Gonorrhœa and Syphilis,"\* a volume of some magnitude, came from the pen of Silas Durkee; the second, bearing the title "The Pathology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases,"† was the production of Freeman J. Bumstead. Of the last-named treatise, which was received with unqualified favor, taking at once an enviable position in the world of literature, a second edition was soon demanded, which in 1870 was succeeded by a third. A few years later, moreover, a similar but less pretentious work, with the title "Lectures on Venereal Diseases,"‡ by William A. Hammond, was published.

Valuable additions to our knowledge of certain surgical diseases of the skin, as found in Gross's "System of Surgery,"§ and Smith's "Principles and Practice of Surgery,"|| both publications of this epoch, may here be referred to. The work of Pro-

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\* Boston, 1859. A second edition was published in 1878.

† Phila., 1861.

‡ Phila., 1864.

§ Phila., 1859.

|| Phila., 1863.

fessor Gross, in particular, contains comprehensive chapters upon erysipelas, anthrax, and furuncle, as well as extended remarks upon warts, sebaceous tumors, cutaneous horns, and fibrous molluscum.

Students of dermatology, well qualified by long sojourn abroad and deeply interested in their work, were now beginning to return from Europe, and enter upon the field as instructors and lecturers. Paris and her long line of famed teachers, who for so many years shed lustre on the Hôpital St. Louis, no longer claimed the exclusive attention of American students. One now began to hear on all sides of the teachings of the eminent Viennese dermatologist, Hebra, who for a lifetime had been devoting himself to the study of these diseases, and who was at this period reaping the fruit of his labors. Students flocked to Vienna from all parts of the world, eager to listen to the words of a teacher who was able to unfold and explain in plain language these hitherto obscure maladies. Among the number were a few of our compatriots, who, after several years' study with Hebra and his distinguished *confrères*, returned home well prepared to teach the principles of the new dermatology, the practical value of which they were not slow to recognize. As early as 1859, we note Hebra's views obtaining a foothold on our shores through the writings of our honored ex-president, Dr. White, whose articles on the "Use of Potash Soap in Cutaneous Diseases,"\* "Epizoa, Epiphytes, and Itch," † "Lupus Vulgaris," ‡ "Nature of Favus," § "Pityriasis Versicolor," || "Scabies," ¶ "Psoriasis," \*\* and "Army Itch," †† show clearly the fascination as well as the force of Hebra's doctrines, set forth in the writer's well-known lucid and terse style. In 1861 Dr. White gave the first lectures on diseases of the skin at Harvard University, which were followed, in 1864, by a course on the subject designated "University Lectures." Instruction was also given from 1860 to 1862 in the Rush Medical College by Dr. J. Adams Allen. As worthy of mention, reference may be made to Alfred Hitchcock's communication on "Neuroma," †† in which are reported three cases of cutaneous neuromatous tumors occurring in one family; also to H. M. Lyman's paper "On Cer-

\* "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," 1859.

† Appleton's "New American Cyclopædia," 1859.

‡ "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," 1860.

§ *Ibid.*, 1861. || *Ibid.*, 1862. ¶ *Ibid.*, 1864. \*\* *Ibid.*, 1865. †† *Ibid.*, 1866.

‡‡ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1862.

tain of the Accidents which may follow Vaccination,"\* where he quotes an instance of fifty persons being vaccinated with a vaccine fluid, the bottle containing which had been carried and shaken in the pocket; in every case erysipelas and gangrene followed the operation, three out of the number dying, but in none was true vaccinia excited. Lastly, to Dr. A. N. Bell's admirable brochure on "Malignant Pustule in the United States,"† which presents a *resumé* of the disease as observed in this country, together with numerous cases. In an article published subsequently, Dr. A. H. Smith also describes the same affection.‡ But if little was done for dermatology during the period we are touching upon, it must not be forgotten that the whole country was plunged into civil strife and terrible war; an era when the profession with one mind naturally turned to surgery, and when the saving of life and limb, rather than the refinements of medicine, occupied the attention of our best intellects.

In 1865 two English books, Wilson's "Student's Book of Cutaneous Medicine and Diseases of the Skin,"§ and Hillier's "Handbook of Skin Diseases,"|| were republished, one of which, the latter, justly attracted considerable attention by the simplicity of the author's style, and the easy manner in which the subject was presented. A second American edition of this work was subsequently demanded.¶ We can not mention the name of Thomas Hillier without pausing to regret the untimely hour that deprived the dermatological world and the profession at large of a light which was beginning to shine so brightly, and gave such fair promise of future good work. Had he been permitted to live, he would, it is not too much to say, long ere this have occupied a high and conspicuous place among England's dermatologists.

Shortly after the close of the war, several important clinical lectureships on diseases of the skin were established, the first, in 1865, being that of the University of New York. Dr. Faneuil D. Weisse was the first incumbent of this chair, which in 1867 became a clinical professorship, a position which he held for nine years. Upon his resignation, in 1874, Dr. Henry G. Piffard was elected to fill the vacancy. In the winter of 1866, Dr. William H. Draper

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\* "American Medical Times," 1862.

† Albany, 1862.

‡ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1867.

§ New York, 1865.

|| Phila., 1865.

¶ In 1870.

also lectured on diseases of the skin in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and the following year was appointed clinical lecturer at the same institution, the chair becoming a clinical professorship in 1869.

Bellevue Hospital Medical College, in 1866, likewise created a lectureship on dermatology, which the late Dr. Foster Swift was the first to occupy, and which in 1867 was changed to a professorship. In 1871 Dr. Edward L. Keyes was chosen lecturer here, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Swift, and the following year received the appointment of professor of dermatology.

Nor was Philadelphia behind her neighbor city in instruction in this branch of medicine, for in 1866 a lectureship on cutaneous and venereal diseases was established in the Jefferson Medical College, the late Dr. Francis F. Maury, one of the early members of this association, being appointed to the place, a position which he held until the time of his death, only a few brief months ago. Venereal diseases here received special consideration, Dr. Maury, through his vast experience with these affections, being eminently fitted to impart the knowledge he had thus acquired. He taught the subject clinically, and from a sternly practical standpoint, always with particular reference to therapy, upon which he was wont to dilate so earnestly and with such forcible expression as to deeply impress his hearers. He was emphatically a popular lecturer, his love for the profession, together with his magnetic presence, impulsive, rapid, at times passionate utterance and flow of language, his agreeable voice, sympathetic and fascinating manner, and genial traits—all conducing to render him a great favorite, not only with his class but with all with whom he came in contact, outside as well as within the circle of the profession. In general surgery, to which branch of medicine he mainly devoted his energies, he undoubtedly achieved his most enduring laurels. As a surgeon he was second to none, being notably distinguished for excellence of judgment and as a brilliant and unusually successful operator. His untimely death, at the early age of thirty-nine, is a loss to the community at large, to his many friends, and to the profession to which he had so zealously devoted himself.

Toward the close of the decade there appeared Cullerier's "Treatise on Venereal Diseases,"\* translated by Dr. Bumstead,

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\* Phila., 1868.

with notes and additions, illustrated with an atlas of chromolithographic plates. The same year witnessed the translation, by Dr. Piffard, of Hardy's brochure on "The Dartrous Diathesis, or Eczema and its Allied Affections,"\* an essay setting forth more plainly the views of the French school on this topic than can be found in any other work with which I am familiar. It was at this date that the translation of the first two volumes of Hebra's great work was published in England through the channel of the New Sydenham Society, a body to whom we are indebted for the introduction to so many valuable French and German works. American readers were not tardy in recognizing the practical and at the same time scientific spirit which pervaded every page. It required no effort to discern here sound logic, based upon an enormous experience such as never before had been presented. One felt that here was a writer who had not only keenly observed, but was capable of drawing deductions from his store of knowledge.

Appearing as the work did almost immediately after the publication of the treatise of Bazin and Hardy, in which were given free expression on the question of diatheses, and simultaneously with the last edition of Wilson's treatise, so long a terror to the student, a profound and most favorable impression could not fail to be created. The time was critical. What with the increasing nomenclature, which threatened to assume colossal proportions, and the widely divergent and conflicting views on almost every point of the French and English writers, it was indeed difficult to predict the future of dermatology. The difference between the schools seemed almost irreconcilable. A strong hand was needed to settle definitely certain elementary points, whereby a common territory might be secured upon which to build. This work, it is not too much to say, was accomplished by Hebra.

English nomenclature, in particular, represented by Wilson, whose iconoclastic and at the same time constructive passion (if I may be pardoned for using words so strong) was at this period in the exercise of its fullest sway, and added not a little to the general confusion of the time. Especially trying was it that this authority, whose works had been so largely read in our country, should have abandoned himself to the demolition of his own nomenclature. New words were coined to take the place of old,

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\* New York, 1868.

tried, and well-known terms; the spelling of many names was so changed as to render them barely recognizable; and, in short, complete annihilation of former self seemed more than probable. As an instance of the absurdity of the situation, no less than five names were in turn proposed by Mr. Wilson for the disease we now know (and let us hope may ever know) as psoriasis: lepra, psoriasis, alphos, lepra-alphos, and lepra Græcorum were all tried, and sooner or later rejected. In his last published writings—"Lectures on Dermatology," delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons—lepra Græcorum receives his favor. These numerous and constant changes, actuated from whatever cause, emanating from so high an authority as Mr. Wilson, were certainly disastrous in their results. A brief but able and severe article entitled "An Amusing Chapter in Nomenclature,"\* from the trenchant pen of Dr. J. C. White, published at the period we are considering, showed palpably in what an unenviable position Mr. Wilson had placed himself.

Some idea of the confusion that existed at this epoch, owing, as has been intimated, to the antagonistic doctrines of the French and English, and to the arrival on the field of Hebra's writings, may be gleaned from an address "On the Present Condition of Dermatology," by Dr. Henry G. Piffard, before the New York Medical Journal Association.† In referring to the almost hopelessly disturbed state of the nomenclature, Dr. Piffard remarks that the difficulty will never be adjusted until a definite nomenclature and classification be adopted. While the advisability of such a scheme can not for a moment be questioned, we should be inclined to doubt its practicability as a whole. The matter of nomenclature is decidedly more important than that of classification. Let every one then first endeavor, as far as possible, to harmonize existing discrepancies and to bring about the establishment of a fixed and universal nomenclature. Nor, in the light of all that has transpired in the last decade, does it seem extravagantly optimistic to look forward to the realization of this boon at no distant day. I would further add, what it appears to me must be patent to every discerning observer, that the labors of this Association have already accomplished incalculable gain in this direction.

The two books of Dr. Howard F. Damon now made their ap-

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\* "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," 1869.

† "Medical Gazette," 1868.

pearance. The first, an octavo of one hundred pages, entitled "The Neuroses of the Skin; their Pathology and Treatment,"\* contains chapters upon hyperæsthesia, dermalgia, prurigo (the pruritus of the present day), urticaria, zoster, and anæsthesia; the second, a larger and more pretentious volume, but similar in style and tone, bears the title "Structural Lesions of the Skin," † including hypertrophies, atrophies, and pathological new formations, concluding with an extensive bibliography. These works, while they do not bear the stamp of extended personal experience nor of noteworthy observation, being rather compilations than original essays such as we have at all times full right to expect in the case of monographs, must nevertheless be regarded as among the first contributions to what may be termed our modern literature. Nor can it be said that dermatology was during these years slighted in periodical publications, numerous papers, among them some of merit, appearing in the various medical journals. Mention may be made of a series of clinical lectures in the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal" ‡ upon eczema, impetigo, ecthyma, lupus, scabies, and rupia, by Silas Durkee; while this author also published in the same journal reports of cases of "Cornu Cutaneum" § and "Linear Atrophy of the Skin." || The "Nature and Treatment of Eczema," ¶ by James. C. White, and an article on "Pediculi Vestimentorum," \*\* by F. B. Greenough, likewise made their appearance in this journal. Carnochan's well-known and most interesting case of elephantiasis Arabum (or Græcorum, as the disease was erroneously designated), published in the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," †† must also be quoted. The patient was a middle-aged woman, the growth causing monstrous deformity being confined to the head, for the relief of which Dr. Carnochan, in 1858, tied, at intervals of six months, both common carotids. Great diminution in size and remarkable improvement speedily followed the operation. At the end of eight years the hypertrophy had assumed even smaller proportions, the result

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\* Phila., 1868.

† Phila., 1869.

‡ These lectures were reprinted the following year, with the title "Contributions to Dermatology."

§ 1866.

|| 1869.

¶ 1866.

\*\* 1867.

†† July, 1867.

being in all respects highly satisfactory.\* Finally, the communications of Bedford Brown, "On the Treatment of certain Chronic and Acute Affections of the Skin by means of the Chloride of Iron"; † B. Joy Jeffries, on "Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus"; ‡ A. B. Arnold, on "Three Cases of Scleroderma"; § and William H. Geddings, on "Lupus Erythematosus" || remain to be referred to. The last-named paper was an especially meritorious contribution, and was one of the first essays on the pathology of this disease.

In looking over the portly volumes of the "Transactions of the American Medical Association" one can scarcely escape being struck with surprise that so little pertaining to dermatology should have been presented before this large and in one sense representative body. It was not, indeed, until twenty odd years after the founding of the association that the first dermatological paper was offered. In 1869 Dr. Joseph Jones, of the University of Nashville, read an article on "Observations and Researches in Albinism in the Negro Race," in which we find recorded several instances of true albinism, as well as examples of vitiligo, occurring in the negro. One set of these cases is so unique and so complete in the history that I may be pardoned for giving as concisely as possible the outlines. Two true albinos, characterized by total absence of coloring matter throughout the entire pigmentary system, including the eyes, were born in succession to two black negroes, man and wife. According to the family history on the mother's side, the grandmother and the great-grandfather were all the subjects of vitiligo, but were not veritable albinos, the characters of albinism first appearing in the fourth generation. From these observations the deduction is manifest that vitiligo in the negro may be hereditary, and furthermore that albinism may sooner or later succeed vitiligo. From the researches of the author it is also apparent that these anomalies of pigmentation occur quite independently of any order or laws of succession, the parents alternately or otherwise procreating perfect negroes and albinos. The same facts were established by Dr. Sam-

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\* Two lithographic portraits accompany the article, exhibiting the disease previous to and after the operation.

† "Amer. Jour. of Med. Sci.," 1866.

‡ "Trans. of the Amer. Ophthalmological Society," 1868 and 1870.

§ "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1869.

|| Ibid., 1869.

uel S. Marcy, to whose communication reference has already been made, and where it is stated that out of six children from the same mother and father, "both fair emblems of the African race," three were perfect negroes and three faultless albinos. The first two children were male negroes; then followed two female albinos; then a black female, and finally a male albino. The subject of vitiligo in the negro, it may be remarked in passing, has more recently been considered by Drs. L. P. Yandell, of Louisville,\* and T. F. Wood, of Wilmington, North Carolina.†

It was at this period that the study of dermatology was being pursued with much zeal and activity in the schools of Vienna, Paris, and London, by a number of our fellow-countrymen; not a few of whose names, it may be said, are to-day as well known abroad as throughout our own land. The teachings of Rokitansky and Virchow in general pathology, which during this decade were exerting such a powerful and revolutionary influence over not only Germany but the whole world, applied with equal force to special pathology; and, as a result of this stimulus, we find investigators everywhere earnestly engaged in the study of the pathology of the skin. The subject was taken up with especial fervor in Vienna by Hebra and his numerous pupils, among whom Auspitz, Köbner, Biesiadecki, Neumann, and Kohn (Kaposi) stand forth preëminently conspicuous. Among our compatriots the admirable pathological studies of J. Collins Warren on keloid, David Haight on herpes zoster, William H. Geddings on lupus erythematosus, and R. H. Derby on prurigo, may be referred to as worthy of particular mention.

At home new departments for diseases of the skin at our hospitals, as well as special dispensaries, continued to be established. In Boston, the City Hospital, in 1868, opened an out-patient department, in charge of Dr. Howard F. Damon, where during the past decade, as I am informed by Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, now physician to this clinic, nearly twelve thousand patients have been treated. The Massachusetts General Hospital likewise inaugurated an out-patient department for these diseases in 1869, Dr. James C. White receiving the appointment. Here, during the last ten years, between nine and ten thousand cases have been

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\* *American Practitioner*, 1872.

† *Archives of Dermatology*, vol. iv., No. 1, p. 90

recorded. In New York, in 1868, a department for skin diseases was founded at the German Hospital, with Drs. F. Zinsser and E. Schwedler as surgeons in charge; while in 1869 the New York Dispensary for Skin Diseases was founded, under the management of Dr. Henry G. Piffard. The Woman's Medical College of New York also established a lectureship on skin diseases in 1868, Dr. Edward L. Keyes being appointed to the place, which has since been occupied by Drs. R. W. Taylor, L. D. Bulkley, and G. H. Fox. In Chicago, the same year (1868) saw the creation of a lectureship on dermatology and clinic for skin diseases in the Chicago Medical College.

As showing the spirit of the time and the interest which was now beginning to manifest itself, I may quote a few words from a letter to the "Journal of Cutaneous Medicine," written by Dr. F. D. Weisse, of New York, in 1869. Dr. Weisse, addressing the editor, Mr. Erasmus Wilson, says: "I take great pleasure in communicating to you the fact that the 'New York Dermatological Society' has been organized. . . . The objects of the society shall be to afford all those interested in this important department of medicine an opportunity for a free exchange of their opinions and methods of practice, and to contribute American experience and investigation to the fast-accumulating stock of knowledge of the diseases of the skin." The first officers were H. D. Bulkley, President; F. D. Weisse, Vice-President; H. G. Piffard, Secretary; F. Zinsser, Corresponding Secretary; R. W. Taylor, Treasurer; and F. L. Satterlee, Librarian. The first meeting of the society was held May 18, 1869, on which occasion the President delivered an address, relating the early struggles of dermatology in New York.\* Thus was started an organization which has since exerted a marked and unquestionably beneficial influence upon the profession.

If we look into the state of affairs in Great Britain at this epoch, we shall see that, although much was being accomplished for the subject by a few individuals, there was as yet but little concerted action, and that the profession was by no means fully awakened to the importance of special study, whether of skin or other diseases. McCall Anderson, in the introductory remarks to his excellent monograph on "Parasitic Diseases of the Skin," de-

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\*"Archives of Dermatology," 1878.

scribes well the state of affairs at this time, humorously setting forth the sentiments of the profession, which to say the least were decidedly conflicting as to the expediency of countenancing specialties. Mr. Wilson, in the same year, however, writes more hopefully when he says: "A recognition of the importance of the study of dermatology is fast gaining ground in our medical schools," and goes on to refer to the fact that departments for diseases of the skin were about to be instituted at several of the large hospitals. Although the subject had previously received considerable attention through special institutions for these diseases in London, it was really not until the period of which we are speaking that the establishment of departments for skin diseases at the hospitals became general. But English public sentiment was now not slow in recognizing their value, for Mr. Wilson, writing a few years later, in 1871, tells us that not less than twenty clinics were in operation in Great Britain.

As an indication of the life which was now on all sides springing up in our cities, and of the overture for an American journal of dermatology, I may also cite the remarks of Dr. Keyes in a review in the "New York Medical Journal," for June, 1869, where he observes: "Activity in dermatological literature seems to be on the increase, and an American journal of cutaneous medicine is now all that remains to appear to make the list fairly full." After referring to the then recent establishment of the Italian, English, German, and French journals of dermatology, he adds, "there certainly is enough interest attaching to the subject to call for a dermatological journal on this side of the water. Let us hope that it will soon appear." Nor was this activity by any means confined to dermatology. The other branches of medicine, including ophthalmology, otology, neurology, and numerous other special fields of study, all seemed to share in the life which had so vigorously manifested itself.

With the year 1870 a new and promising era, full of vitality and spirit, opened upon the dermatology of our country, signalized in the first instance by the appearance of the "American Journal of Syphilography and Dermatology," under the editorial management of Dr. M. H. Henry, of New York. This publication must always be regarded as an important event in the history of American dermatology, for it was unquestionably the means of calling forth a considerable amount of substantial interest in this branch of medicine, as well as much good work, which without

such a stimulus would probably never have been produced. The journal throughout its career was ably conducted by its editor, who, together with the untiring exertions of his collaborators, obtained for it an honorable position abroad as well as at home. It contained many meritorious original contributions, translations, abstracts, as well as reviews, representing a large amount of faithful work which could not fail to exert a most salutary effect. During these years American dermatology was born and began to grow; slowly but surely, and vigorously; gaining strength from year to year as new and zealous workers, some of them men of talent, came prominently on the field. The influence of Hebra's views was now commencing to be felt through the medium of not one but a number of his former pupils. Men from the different cities and sections of our country were returning from Vienna, well grounded at least in the method of studying diseases of the skin, while the doctrines of Hebra were ably and clearly set forth in studied reviews of his more important publications, as well as in lectures and in numerous practical papers. Old and erroneous opinions and statements, which, coming perhaps from the hand of authority, had been blindly accepted without question, were now freely exposed and often severely criticised by writers entirely familiar with the subject, who for the sake solely of truth and the advancement of dermatology, were prepared to sacrifice even the ties of friendship. An elaborate and thoughtful article of this kind, just but severe in tone, entitled "Modern Dermatology,"\* did signal service in directing attention to the foreign literature of the day, much of which was antiquated or worthless in the light of recent investigations, and in sifting the grain from the chaff. Literature began to assume an appreciably different and a decidedly healthier tone, the writers with few exceptions who published obviously being sensible that they possessed information worthy of communication; and their productions demonstrated that they were not only intelligent observers, but were moreover thoroughly familiar with the matter in hand. With such a condition of affairs a sense of confidence naturally soon asserted itself, and which, it is indeed quite superfluous to state, has since been steadily acquiring additional strength.

These events bring us to the period when, it seems to me, it

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\* "Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sci.," 1871.

may be safely asserted American dermatology actually began to exist; when the foundation-stones were being laid; and when the topic matured into a reality worthy of the name of dermatology; a period when the number of those interested in the study of these diseases and the distinguished character of their work were such as to insure for the matter general recognition. At this point, without attempting to enlarge upon the theme or to elaborate my position, I am constrained to conclude the sketch which I have had the honor of presenting to you; for, while it was my intention to carry the history onward to the present day, the large amount of material yet remaining I find renders this task quite impossible.

I have thus endeavored to show the gradual rise and development of the dermatology of this country; how from nothing the solid organization of to-day has been reared, pointing out more particularly the means which have been instrumental to this end. Of all that has since been accomplished—including the foundation of special institutions, numerous out-patient departments in connection with hospitals, dispensary services, wards in hospitals for skin diseases, professorships and lectureships, and the extensive and valuable work in the form of treatises, atlases, monographs, and essays—the barest statement only can be made. But the grand result of this large and varied measure of honest labor, which for the last ten years has been accumulating, is so obvious and so cheering that I shall make no venture to descant on the subject. Suffice it to say that we have to-day, and the statement may be pronounced without fear of contradiction, a science of dermatology of which the profession, and we as members of this Association, may regard with sentiments of just pride.

I desire, in conclusion, to express my cordial thanks to the members of the Association for the kind services they have rendered in securing information which without their assistance would scarcely have been possible.





