INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

ON THE

OPENING OF THE SESSION OF 1860-61,

IN THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

OF THE

University of Pennsylvania,

DELIVERED OCTOBER 8, 1860,

BY

JOSEPH CARSON, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

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1860.

The Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania desiring the publication of Prof. Carson's Introductory Address, called a meeting for that purpose. Mr. James M. Leete, of Mississippi, was called to the chair, and Mr. G. W. Ellis, of Pennsylvania, was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Mr. R. J. Bonner, the President was directed to appoint a General Committee on Publication, composed of the following gentlemen:—

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CORRESPONDENCE.

University of Pennsylvania,
October 16th, 1860.

Professor J. Carson, M. D.—

Dear Sir: It is with pleasure we tender you the thanks of the Class which we represent, for your eloquent and instructive Address, delivered as the Introductory to the present Course, and solicit a copy for publication.

Hoping that this request will meet with your approval, we are,

Very Obediently,

G. H. Fowler,
P. H. C. Noble,
M. C. B. Richardson,
J. C. Spear, Jr.,
M. Stovell.
} *Corresponding Committee.*

University of Pennsylvania,
October 17th, 1860.

Gentlemen: I accede, with pleasure, to the desire, expressed through you, on behalf of the Class, to publish my Introductory Lecture. Accept the expression of my thanks for the compliment paid me, and of my deep interest in the welfare of yourselves and class-mates.

Very sincerely, yours,
JOSEPH CARSON.

To Messrs. Fowler, Noble, Richardson, Spear, Jr., and Stovell.

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN:—

We are assembled to-day for the purpose of inaugurating the regular course of instruction to be given, during the ensuing session, in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and it is my pleasing office to first tender you a cordial greeting, and on behalf of my colleagues, as well as for myself, to welcome you to these Halls of Science.

We, this day, commence with many of you, and renew with others, a relation which has always been regarded a sacred one,—the relation of instructors and pupils. The obligations and duties connected with it are of mutual origin. We deeply feel the responsibility which lies upon us of aiding and cheering you onward in the execution of your great purpose,—the attainment of a knowledge of our honorable profession, while I doubt not, you will heartily cooperate with our endeavour. As in the physical world, action and reaction are every where evident, so with us, little advantage would be derived without that hearty response which I am sure you will manifest in the labors which are before us. Again, Gentlemen I bid you welcome.

It has heretofore been the custom for each Professor to open his course with a formal Introductory on some general subject connected with the branch he taught, or which his taste and fancy might dictate, and not to enter upon the special topics of instruction until all the branches had, in a similar manner, been presented. This plan of commencing the Lectures of the season is attended with numerous disadvantages; among the most prominent of which are, the postponement of settled work on the part of the student, and the expenditure of time without any compensating profit from general expositions. To avoid the inconveniences connected with a reiteration of Introductories, which, indeed, has nothing to recommend it but the deference paid to ancient usage, the Faculty of this school have determined to pursue the plan which elsewhere has been adopted, and which has been found in many institutions, both in this country and abroad, to operate favorably, this is, to limit the formal commencement of the Lecture Term to a single Introductory, after which the whole machinery of instruction will be put in motion. With this design I now present myself before you as the organ of the Faculty, and to bespeak for them your interest and attention. The subject that I have selected pertains to the prosecution of your studies.

For the purpose of attaining our ends, it is necessary to employ the means, and the adaptation of means to the purposes we have in view, is an evidence of the highest wisdom and happiest forethought. To every ingenuous mind certain laudable objects are presented, and their attainment prompted by motives of duty or advantage;

but success or failure will ensue in proportion as judgment may direct correctly, and ability enable to carry out the modes to compass them.

A correct judgment, a power of nice discrimination, capacity, are not, however, all the qualities requisite to secure prospective good; a spirit is needed which shall infuse itself into every effort, and be deeply stamped on all exertion.

Before entering upon any enterprise, it is well for each one to consider calmly the objects he proposes to accomplish, to examine closely his plans of operation, and it may be said, in temporal as well as holy purposes, to "try the spirit," and ascertain if there be energy, resolution and perseverance to surmount difficulties and make self-sacrifices.

To such an audience as the one I now have the honor to address, to individuals congregated from far and near, from beyond and within the confines of our extended Union, to perfect themselves in medical learning, I need hardly state that the spirit which should actuate you is the *student spirit*.

The motive, Gentlemen, which brings you to these Halls is evident, the enjoyment of advantages which systematic teaching offers, and of the superior facilities presented by extended illustration. Is your object, then, truly, to make the most of them? To neglect no passing opportunity of improvement? To hail at the commencement of each day the promise of augmented knowledge, and to feel at its conclusion that your time has been spent profitably? If so, the student spirit must be cherished.

Assuming that your intent is earnest, and that there exists not a man among you so lost to self-respect as to deliberately waste his time and means, while others are engaged in strenuous endeavor to secure advantages so freely offered; permit me, by counsel and advice, to smooth the way for your advancement, and hold up the prospect of present gain and future benefit.

The study of medicine does not consist in memorizing axioms, but in accumulating facts and principles, which are to be elaborated

"In the quick forge and working house of thought,"

and proficiency depends upon the faithfulness with which these parts are executed. It is not necessary to inform you, (as by this time the discovery has been made by you,) that medical science is not of easy acquisition. The several branches of which it is composed, with the details of each of them, and the technicalities appertaining to them, must inevitably entail protracted labor. Medical education, may, indeed, be likened to a stately edifice, requiring both materials and cement for its construction,—he therefore builds to little profit, who has not the requisite supply of either. It may be that the first aspect of the crude heap of subjects constituting the materials,—the *rudis moles* which is presented, may startle the student by its shapelessness; yet, when they are assorted, when method is acquired of giving to them just positions, when their adaption to each other is demonstrated, and the means suitable for consolidation of the whole are furnished, the feasibility of his undertaking is apparent.

The prosecution of useful studies, and the acquisition of solid learning are reducible to rules, which have been tested by experience, and it were vain not to accord in their correctness. It falls not within the scope of my present purpose, to discuss the question of the degree of preparatory knowledge requisite to pursue successfully the study of medicine. It is to be understood that I presuppose a sufficient amount of educational advantages to understand the instruction given from each chair in our school, and I take for granted, that the more accomplished the novice may be in preliminary information and habits of application, the less difficulty will he find in prosecuting his medical studies.

The first rule, then, that I desire to impress upon you, is to lay a good and deep foundation, for without firmness of basis no lofty and enduring superstructure can be reared, and fortunately for the student of medicine of the present day, a judicious and natural separation of departments will enable him to do so. The strictly demonstrative subjects should secure the earliest attention. It is with these that training should commence.

Irrespective of the acquisition of primary and essential information from the study of demonstrative subjects, the perceptive powers are most usefully exercised, and the true nature of things fully comprehended by an examination of their qualities and relations. The ability to employ the senses freely and perfectly is indispensable to the physician, and no mere power of intellect can be substituted for it. The eye, the ear, the touch, nay even smell and taste, are to be brought practically into exer-

cise. A single sense, or two, at most, may suffice in many extremely difficult pursuits, but all are necessary for the skilful practitioner of physic. The faculty of observation is dependent on a free employment of the senses, and this is a main quality for usefulness and reputation, for he who has learned to observe correctly, will be little liable to errors in the management of disease.

But accuracy, which is acquired by rigid observation, is not restricted to individual advantage; it is reflected, and influences all within its circle. The want of this quality is the prolific source of mistakes which have been committed in the prosecution of medical science; through defect of the senses, through limited familiarity with modes of inquiry, through vanity and wickedness—(I mean that which instigates deliberate fabrication,) the most flagrant perversion of truth is constantly to be met with, and even under the name of medicine, systems are paraded which outrage common sense. It has been remarked by Gregory, the Elder, "that every part of Natural History, and medicine above all others, is crowded with facts attested by eye-witnesses of supposed veracity, which, notwithstanding, had never any existence but in their own imaginations." This is lamentably so. To acquire habits of accuracy entails patient toil, watchfulness and control of self, little compatible with indolence upon the one hand, or erratic flights of fancy on the other. To assert is easier than to investigate, and with regard to medicine, as with every thing, too frequently the shorter course is taken. By forming a taste for positiveness of knowledge, and engendering the necessity of

adhering to it, the demonstrative branches fulfil one of their best offices.

To obtain a thorough acquaintance with the human frame, which involves particulars the most minute, should be the earliest endeavor of the student, as upon it depends the comprehension of all the practical departments. I shall not enter into protracted exposition to support so plain a statement. The whole history of our art sustains it. By exploration of organs and tissues, not only form, but expression has been given to medical science, and distinctions have been brought in bold relief, which were once as shadowy and illusive as ancient symbols. Physiology, in all stages of its progress, has been, and will be dependent for its correctness upon antecedent anatomical investigations;—for the deeper the vein of structural research has been penetrated, the richer have become the discoveries issuing from the exploration. To adduce a single proof let the account of cell organization be examined. It must further be conceded that Pathology is equally indebted to it, and without an appreciation of pathological changes, all therapeutical plans are doubtful and uncertain. But, can Surgery or Obstetrics dispense with this important branch? If so, why have hours and days, and nights been spent at the dissecting table, by their great cultivators, and why have records of results obtained from observation been so well received and lauded? The labors of such eminent observers and delineators of the animal organization as Bichat, the Hunters, a Cooper and a Lee, in their applied results have conferred inestimable service, while the Modern School

of histological inquirers has revealed to us important knowledge. How great must have been the ardor of the Roman sculptor, when he labored to exhibit with anatomical correctness, the form and attitude, and agonized expression, in his dying gladiator, the exemplification of a barbarous pastime, and shall the zeal and industry of the disciples of Esculapius be less, who profess to prosecute anatomical inquiry with the design of securing health and life, and happiness to fellow mortals?

But the utility of anatomical investigation does not stop here,—with its application to medical science. There has been a life-world antecedent to our own. A book of nature has been opened, unintelligible until anatomical investigations supplied the characters, and gave the key by which it can be read and comprehended. The former denizens of this earth, who have for ages been entombed within her bosom, have been arrayed before us,—conjured again into existence, to exhibit to wondering man the stupendous yet harmonious workings of an All-Wise and beneficent Creator. For such revelations we are indebted to the master labors of a Cuvier and Owen, of Agassiz, and Leidy.

Let not, then, this subject be neglected, nor lose the opportunities now at your command, for, if they escape you, bitter regrets will come hereafter.

Another important elementary department is Chemistry. I am aware that this is ordinarily regarded as difficult, and many students so far prejudge their powers as to suppose it cannot be acquired by them, but with respect to a very large majority, this is a mistake. Let

once an appreciation of its practical utility be impressed upon the mind, and determination to understand it will vanquish obstacles. It requires, simply, close attention. At the present epoch of medical advancement, Chemistry is a handmaid, whose assistance is indispensable. The air we breathe, the food which nourishes us, and in many cases, when diseased, the medicines we employ cannot impress the animal constitution, except in accordance with laws which are deduced from it. Without it Physiology would become a dead letter in the courses of instruction, and practical medicine be cramped and restricted for want of remedies. The Materia Medica, as in the earlier ages, would be reduced to simples, and these crude and repulsive. From such it has delivered us. It is not my design to indulge in an exalted commendation of the department, yet if any one deserves a eulogy for brilliant discoveries, which have contributed to medical progression, it is that under consideration.

In the departments specified, I cannot too earnestly enjoin upon you to lay well your foundation, assured that by so doing, your subsequent progress will be easier and surer.

A second rule for the successful prosecution of study, and especially that of medicine, is to proceed methodically. By him who has paid even the least attention to the processes by which great undertakings have been achieved, the truth of this must be at once recognised. Order, nature's first law is found impressed on all animate as well as inanimate creation. With the Mind Infinite it originated; with the mind finite it is coercive; and an attempt

at violation of a principle so obvious is rebellion against an immutable decree. What has been applied so conspicuously upon the extended scale of the universe is equally imperative upon the smaller scale of human development; hence the rule of method is to be sought and closely adhered to by every one whose purpose is mental cultivation. In this connection, I may pertinently quote the remark of a recent prominent writer, who states, "of its immense, and indeed, supreme importance, the annals of knowledge supply abundant evidence, and for want of it, some very great men have effected absolutely nothing, consuming their lives in fruitless industry, not because their labor was slack, but because their labor was sterile. The progress of every science is affected more by the scheme according to which it is cultivated than by the actual ability of the cultivators themselves."

In urging the necessity of laying the requisite foundation for medical education, it was with the view of setting forth more explicitly the advantages of subsequent method for its completion. Having become familiar with the branches mentioned, there will be a readiness to proceed to others. Upon chemistry may be profitably engrafted Materia Medica and Pharmacy, upon Anatomy the operative part of Surgery. With a knowledge of the two, Physiology can most advantageously be pursued. The platform is now erected on which rest the Institutes, and what proceeds from them, Practical Medicine. Regarding Obstetrics as a subject mechanical and medical, with such preliminary information, it offers no difficulties.

What is meant by method, in its application to your

present occupation, is an observance strictly of natural transitions. The great oversight which frequently occurs is, not to be impressed with these transitions, and in the anxiety to grasp all details which come before the mind, without reference to connection between different branches, the student is involved in confusion and perplexity, which disheartens him. To grapple with a subject so infinitely complex as medicine, involving as it does so many antecedent facts, on which depend conclusions or principles, requires arrangement, for, without it, were it even possible for the memory to retain them, no adaptation to each other being seen, like *disjecta membra*, they would be valueless.

The idea, moreover, should never be dismissed, that the object of education is not so much extended acquisition, as it is to bestow the facility of learning, that it is not restricted to storing up facts and principles, but requires that they should be fully understood; for when this is secured, should they even be forgotten, they are readily at command by reference to their sources. The most important and leading facts and principles must assuredly be fixed upon the memory; for these are the materials upon which the reflecting powers are to be exercised and strengthened. I take the ground, then, that precision and positiveness of information should be sought for, predicated upon such details of each particular subject, as will be sufficient to secure the ability of thorough investigation of that subject, when necessity requires it, or leisure affords the opportunity. This is all that can be required of any student, and to push him fur-

ther is a tax upon his capabilities. In this connection, it may be stated that the works and treatises of reference you should consult are those from which full and clear information can be obtained, which leave nothing uncertain and indefinite in the mind, and which, so far as they go, are explanatory. Compendiums for the mere purpose of packing the memory ought to be carefully avoided.

Associated with a proper method of study is uniform application. That industry will accomplish more than talent irregularly exercised has been received as a maxim, for without it even talents the most brilliant are inoperative, while but a moderate amount of talent may be compensated for by industry. In every calling or pursuit, those have best succeeded who to their purposes have clung the closest, and who, enticed aside by no attractions, have followed the undeviating course to their attainment. It is worthy to be noted that the tide which floats the voyager towards his destined port is liable to ebb, and he is exposed to loss of all that has been gained of progress, should he, when fairly embarked upon it, venture to lie to, or intermit exertion Ephemeral application exhausts the energies, while continuous, wholesome exercise gives to them additional force. Fluctuation of effort, under no circumstances, can be propitious to efficiency, and as

> "The bird
> That flutters least, is longest on the wing,"

a steady flight will carry the greatest distance.

Medical education, in a prominent degree, demands un-

flinching perseverance, with the versatility of disposition, and temptation to relax from labor, peculiar to the inexperienced, this truth is frequently not appreciated until too late to remedy the deficiencies which neglect of it may have occasioned.

In urging the importance of continuous application, I wish not to be interpreted as advocating such as will wear upon or impair the faculties. Protracted or unreasonable mental exertion is unproductive, and finally must terminate in exhaustion of both mind and body. By constant tension, elasticity and spring are lost, and, with them power. Seasonable alternation, with what serves to relieve the attention, in the form of rest or amusement, is therefore of the utmost consequence. Upon these propositions you should seriously reflect, and be guided by their dictates.

A third rule in acquiring knowledge is, to proceed with the necessary deliberation. This implies devotion of the time to particular subjects, sufficient to secure a competant acquaintance with them.

The most difficult task, perhaps, that can be undertaken in this country, is to convince the public that hurried movement is inimical to completeness, and yet the lessons of experience, though unheeded, proclaim this truth. The so-called enterprise of the day prompts to impatient expedition in carrying into operation plans of action, and more especially is this evinced in preparation for positions of usefulness or emolument. It is not surprising that in a community where changes are incessant, where advances in prosperity are rapid, and where

numerous channels for success are open, erratic and speculative tendencies should preponderate over the regular methods of procedure, and that sentiments should be generated at variance with practices which secure, if not extraordinary, at least certain and permanent success. Such sentiments are contagious, and the misfortune under which we labour is, that they extend to offices and occupations with which they are entirely incompatible; hence, the superficiality which prevails in what are termed the learned professions, and it cannot be denied that the imputation rests too heavily on our own. It can be shown, not only that superficiality in the primary steps of medical education is the cause of subsequent inefficiency in the practitioner; but that it is a prolific source of empyricism and charlatanry which disgrace an honourable calling, leading, in the end, to degradation of character and positive injury to society. To obviate the evils mentioned is of the utmost consequence, and this can only be done by rigid adherence to the well settled regulations of educational training.

At the commencement of the undertaking in which you are now engaged,—your preparation for the duties of a profession requiring extended learning and much research,—rapid progress is not permitted

"To climb steep hills
Requires slow pace at first,"

which applies to intellectual as well as physical effort, and precipitation will not only exhaust the faculties, but in addition, will entail a liability to mistake the way, and forego what would have been attained by due delibera-

tion. Facility of movement, in connection with strength, are the primary objects of discipline whether of the body or the mind, and these pertain to early lessons in medical science. If elementary branches, if fundamental facts and principles should first be studied, time must be spent in the thorough mastery of them.

An extension of knowledge is from the known to the unknown, between which the links must be preserved, or expenditure of pains will be in vain; development in intellectual acquirements must be as gradual as increase of bodily growth, and both are by slow accretion of materials. To exceed the rates prescibed by nature will be likely to terminate in imbecility.

Too rapid movement will defeat itself, and then no remedy remains but to retrace the steps that have been taken, for

> "We may outrun,
> By violent swiftness, that which we run at,
> And lose by overrunning."

The caution, therefore, cannot be too earnestly enjoined against anticipation; to be guarded in passing from branch to branch without the adequate preparation; or from hasty consideration of any subject, being liable to the risk of overlooking essential particulars, by which after embarrassment may occur, or correct appreciation of its relative bearing upon others be impossible.

An attempt to accomplish over-much at once, must crowd upon the mind more than can possibly be retained, or if remaining with it, than can undergo assimilation. Under such circumstances, as an intelligent student once

remarked, the process of displacement is set up, and as new ideas are introduced the old ones vanish. It is plain such study is without advantage. A definite period, then, has to be appropriated to an elementary course of education, and how idle is it to suppose that the whole of our science can be graven upon the understanding within such limits as barely suffice for a full comprehension of one department. Such doctrine is of recent origin, and might appear to well befit an age when ingenuity is liberally expended upon labour saving artifices. As yet, no power-loom applicable to medical education, no reaping machine for medical facts and principles, no condensing apparatus by which all the learning necessary has been brought within the scope of intuition, have been invented, and present as well as future generations must be content to follow the established usages of their predecessors. The term of three years study which has been prescribed, and which is insisted on by the first schools of the country, is still regarded by those who have most zealously employed it in the acquisition of information, as not sufficient for their purposes. This is the united testimony of the best educated physicians, who, upon the termination of a laborious novitiate, have been aware of their deficiencies, in the face of which it is virtually declared that to be fettered by time is useless, that intellect should not be restricted, and cramped by definite limits, and that he who can pass a set examination is equally entitled to public confidence as he whose knowledge is minute and varied. With how much precision did Quinctilian endeavor to establish the precepts to be followed

in the preparation of an orator, and how earnestly insist upon extended culture,—and does the practioner of medicine, with all the requisitions of this science, need less culture? Surely the most enlightened and skilful in their art have not so thought. He therefore submits himself to wisest guidance who takes these for his beacon lights.

The advantages which must accrue by following the rules which have been dwelt upon will develop themselves as the student proceeds in his education; and no matter what difficulties, or seeming impediments he may encounter, by degrees the eyes of his understanding will be opened. Every thing great or noble, pertaining to humanity, has had its beginning in weakness, and we cannot but be forcibly struck with the illustration of the ancient writer, whom we have mentioned, when he states "that studies have their infancy, and as the most vigorous constitutions started from the breast and the cradle, so the most commanding eloquence commenced by cries, by confused and ill-formed words, and hung awhile upon the mere forms of the alphabet." Let no one, therefore, be discouraged by the supposition that any portion of the science which is to be the business of his life, is beyond his grasp, or be disappointed if his first essays perplex him; let him but diligently persevere, and in the end the best results will follow. To the plenitude of the intellectual strength, of which he is susceptible, he assuredly will attain, and by the application of his powers and knowledge, become not only a useful member of society, but a benefactor of his race.

In all that has been said with respect to the modes of

following out the course of medical education, reference has been had strictly to those branches which have been regarded as essential; to these, however, the practitioner who desires extensive medical knowledge will not restrict himself. He will endeavour at least to gain an insight into what are termed the accessory branches, and it must be conceded that they have been too much neglected. Irrespective of the gratification afforded by the study of the Natural Sciences, in which every inquiring mind must be deeply interested, they can everywhere be made available for the advancement of the profession. Thus Botany, which has so largely contributed to the resources of the Materia Medica, should be so far understood as to serve in making tributary the productions of particular localities or neighborhoods, or by substituting scientific knowledge for ignorance, supplant the pretensions of those who boast that they resort simply to the products of the vegetable kingdom, and impose upon the community by their vaunted skill in using them. To unmask charlatans is always a duty, and who can better do this, in the case which has been stated, than he who is conversant with articles for which favor is sought, or whose real value may give éclat to presumption? Something even may be done in the way of discovery, for it is reasonable to suppose that our vast domain has not been fully gleaned, nor that all the valuable remedies it contains have been brought to light.

A subject which has but recently assumed importance in connection with medical science is Geology. As an independent branch of knowledge, it has been extensively

cultivated by medical men, and numerous are the discoveries with which its records have been enriched from their enthusiasm. But, irrespective of its constituting a species of investigation particularly captivating, and leading to the development of the secrets of creation, so far as research and reason can fathom them, if it can be directed in a way to unmask the origin of disease, and present the reasons of its prevalence, it must be ranked with the legitimate branches of medical education. The practitioners of rural districts, who have constant opportunities for observation and examination of the features presented by their localities, and who may make their daily rounds conducive to this purpose, can, with little trouble to themselves, determine the formation of the country, and the peculiarities which pertain to it. To such researches there is an interest and importance not ordinarily appreciated, and by one who regards the world as presenting objects of contemplation deeper than the surface, in every hill that he ascends, in every valley that he crosses, in every excavation, or in every rivulet, material is found for exploration. It has been remarked by Doctor Paris, that the "saunterer stumbles over the stone that may cross his path, and vents only his vexation at the interruption, but to the philosopher there is not a body, animate or inanimate, with which he can come in contact, that does not yield its treasures at his approach, and contribute to extend the pleasures of his existence," and we may add, his utility to society.

A motive which should prevail with every youthful aspirant for distinction, is the necessity of preparation for

efficiency under whatever circumstances he may be placed. He should, therefore, seduously so improve his talents as to take advantage of the opportunities which, in after life, may arise before him. In the engrossing routine of every day's existence, the fact may not be obvious that the world is a shifting scene of exertion and of enterprise, and that neither men nor things are stationary. But it cannot be otherwise, than that the office, the field of active pursuits, securely occupied by incumbents who apparently admit no competition, and ostensibly present monopoly, must in a little time be vacant, and be open to succession. New and untried, perhaps undreamed-of positions may be offered, and then "men make or mar their fortunes." It is the faculty with which they turn to account their opportunities, which elevates them, and the inability to do so, which leaves them worse than they were before; for they have been tried and have been found wanting. Truly has the wise King of Israel instructed us that "a man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men."

The history of eminent individuals connected with your profession, both deceased and living, might be profitably cited to illustrate the reflections which have been uttered. Could Peron, an humble but ardent devotee of science, at the Garden of Plants of Paris, have anticipated, (when he, with difficulty, obtained and gladly accepted the lowest post in a commission of the most distinguished naturalists of France, who were despatched by that patron of brilliant expeditions, the first Consul of the Republic, to explore the unknown regions of the South Sea,) that he

alone would execute the commission and become the illustrious historian of the voyage of the *Naturaliste?* For not a savan who departed with her performed the adventurous and perilous voyage save himself, and none gained the glory but himself.

But it is not necessary to seek for foreign examples of like success, where opportunities have been propitious to the display of preparation and efficiency. Innumerable instances might be adduced among our countrymen, and within our own circle. To a prominent one I may allude, and that in the person of a native of this State, and a graduate of this School of Medicine. On the Catalogue of graduates of 1798, will be found the name of Thomas Horsfield. Tradition informs us he was a laborious and ardent student, but he was poor as well as meritorious. Adventure, for the purpose of bettering his fortune, led him to the East, and Java became his temporary home; accident made it for many years a permanent one. The British became the masters of that rich and flourishing Island, the key to the wealth and commerce of China and the Moluccas, and in the dearth of science, talent and energy, peculiarly adapted to the emergency incident to conquest; the young adventurer became physician, naturalist and civil officer, under the enlightened statesman at the head of government, Sir Stamford Raffles. In this position, he turned well to account his previous educational training, and has placed on record his laborious exploration of the resources and productions of that locality. Possessing fortune, the fruit of his own industry, he lately died in London, full of

years and honors, a venerable officer of the British East India Company.

Gentlemen, the inducement for presenting the view I have taken of medical education is, that its consideration is of especial importance at the present period of your studies. My desire is, that your commencement should be such as will ensure you success, and that in the prosecution of your labors they should be directed in the manner that will secure the greatest profit and efficiency. Encouragement has been held out to you, in order that you may be cheered by a bright prospect of future prosperity and eminence. Your fortune is in your own hands, the consciousness of which should always be the stimulus to exertion. Enthusiasm ought never to be permitted to expend itself, and when the time for active duties shall have arrived, and beset with cares and difficulties, as you assuredly will be, sustained by your knowledge, and relying on your well regulated powers, you will look back with satisfaction to the time when the student spirit which had been kindled within you, directed your steps and urged you to effort.

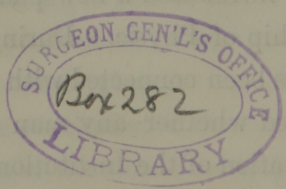
And now, in conclusion, I may properly advert to a change that has taken place in the organization of the Faculty since the conclusion of the last course of lectures. In accordance with the announcement of his intention, made some time previously, Doctor Wood, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, resigned his chair, the second he had held in connection with our school during the long period of a quarter of a century. I intend not to expatiate at length upon the rare qualities

and exalted character of our late associate. With the concluding public exercises of the last session of the Medical Department, full exhibition was given of the estimation in which he was held by his class, and by the Honorable Board of Trustees, through their representative, and as his life may be said to have been passed in the presence of all his brethren, by them also a tribute of respect was tendered to him. I desire now to speak of him in his capacity as a teacher. Fitted by education and experience as a private and public lecturer, Doctor Wood assumed the responsibilities of Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University, under circumstances peculiarly trying and embarrassing. By making the chair a strictly demonstrative one, and illustrating his subjects upon an extended scale, it assumed the importance it intrinsically merits, while by an unwearied devotion to the cultivation of the branch, in placing himself among the first of pharmacologists, he reflected lustre upon his office. When successor to Doctor Chapman, he carried his own views and method of imparting information with him, and introduced a new plan of instruction into the Professorship of Physic. During the five and twenty years he has been connected with the University, it may be questioned whether any man has done more to elevate the reputation of the Institution, or has placed his impress more deeply upon the medical mind of the country, an impress which must last so long as the publications of which he is the author are studied and appreciated. If there is one quality for which he is more remarkable than another, it is accuracy, which, joined to

his extended scientific and literary accomplishments, has placed him foremost among his compeers. Of such a man, well may the University of Pennsylvania, the profession of our country, be justly proud.

The Professorship thus vacated has been filled by the appointment of Doctor William Pepper, a gentleman who assumes his functions with the prestige of a well-earned reputation, as a practitioner and clinical teacher. We doubt not his duties will be performed to your utmost satisfaction, and that the mantle of his predecessor has been placed on one worthy to bear it.

Gentlemen, let us now enter upon our labors with the zeal and earnestness that become men who are conscious that an important duty is before them. It will be our grateful occupation to aid you, by instruction, in the accomplishment of your purpose, and should the success we anxiously hope for attend our efforts to guide you into channels of medical acquirement that may have an influence upon your position and usefulness hereafter, our most sanguine wishes will be fulfilled.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