

W. C. Clintock (Jr.)

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO

SESSION OF 1860 & '61

IN THE

ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PHILADELPHIA.

On Wednesday, at 7½ o'clock, P. M., Oct. 24th, 1860.

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ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

—My appointment of my colleagues a person may agreeable duty to render you their cordial salutations, and welcome you to our new hall. In creating you I cannot refrain the expression of my gratitude to the friends of the college, who, by their presence here, have placed intelligent gentlemen, who, by their presence here, have placed in the world their determination to assist the faculty in their efforts to organize and sustain an Eclectic Medical College in this city to teach, or abundance of means of instruction, shall be fully equal to any institution in the land.

The effort to establish in this city of medical system a school of liberal principles, untrammelled by the dogmas of any one school, from the entire heads of any sect, and maintained by the friends of all alike, is no longer an experiment or a matter of doubt. The present success of this College demonstrates that the faculty which have long bore the reputation of the profession, that they have risen in their rank and determined to be free to all themselves of all the means a beautiful and useful career has placed within their reach to ameliorate the pains and distress of suffering humanity. Yes, gentlemen, your presence, and the support of a woman like you sustain our efforts, and encourage us to proceed certain to place our College in as perfect a condition as any school that endures in the world. A few weeks your faculty to all honest attempts, by the advancement of the study of the noblest profession that can occupy the attention of the human mind. Let

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

Gentlemen:—By appointment of my colleagues it becomes my agreeable duty to tender you their cordial salutations, and welcome you to our new halls. In greeting you I cannot restrain the expression of my gratification in witnessing so large an assemblage of intelligent gentlemen, who, by their presence here, proclaim to the world their determination to assist the faculty in their efforts to organize and sustain an Eclectic Medical College in this emporium of medical science; which, in quality of faculty, capacity to teach, or abundance of means of instruction, shall be fully equal to any institution in the land.

The effort to establish in this city of medical fogyism a school of liberal principles, untrammelled by the dogmas of any creed, free from the servile bonds of any sect, and unrestrained by the tyrannical edicts of any clique, is no longer an experiment or a matter of doubt. The present success of this College demonstrates that the medical men of the land have cast off the chains of prejudice and servility which have so long bound the majority of the profession, that they have risen in their might and determined to be free to avail themselves of all the means a bountiful and merciful Creator has placed within their reach to ameliorate the pains and distress of suffering humanity. Yes, gentlemen, your patronage, and the support of freemen like you sustain our efforts, and encourage us to increased exertions to place our College in as perfect a condition as any such institution can attain; and I now pledge your faculty to all honest attempts for the accomplishment of this result.

You are engaged, gentlemen, in the study of one of the noblest professions that can occupy the attention of the human mind. Next

to the promulgation of the doctrines of Christianity, the study and practice of medicine are considered the most honourable vocation a man can follow. I presume, that as sensible men, you have thoroughly examined this subject in all its details, that you have carefully calculated the cost, and counted the difficulties you must overcome, and the labour you must perform; and that you have properly estimated the honours you may attain, and the glorious rewards you will receive if you industriously and honestly perform the duties of the heaven-born profession to which you have devoted yourselves.

In all scientific investigations differences of opinion will be found among men, as to the best course to pursue for the attainment of the most desirable results. In theology, we observe the most opposite views entertained and defended; and hence we find among professors of religion numerous denominations or sects, as Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, and many more, all professing to be influenced by the Spirit of God, and the desire to serve him most faithfully on earth, so that they shall be admitted to his worship and presence throughout eternity.

History, from the earliest times, proves that in medical matters there have been as discrepant views as have existed, and still continue in reference to religious doctrines. The time allotted to the present discourse, would not permit even a short statement of the views of the different sects that have flourished in our profession; but I will mention the names of a few of them, and pass to a brief examination of the doctrines of those which may be called the most prominent of the present period.

From the time of our Saviour until this century, there have been in medicine, as independent sects, the Rationalists, the Empirics, the Methodics, the Pneumatics, Eclectics, Expectants, Humoralists, Solidists, and many others, too numerous to mention now. In the present day, the disciples of Esculapius may be divided into three great classes, viz., *Allopathists*, *Homœopathists*, and *Eclectics*. I need not refer to the numerous smaller divisions that claim existence.

The Allopathists are the oldest, most numerous, and assume to be, forsooth, "*the regular profession.*" In this school I was reared in the strictest faith, and I think I understand its views thoroughly; for more than thirty years I studied its principles under its best mastery in this country. I practised its precepts as faithfully as an honest, independent man can do. I taught its doctrines, in nearly all the branches of medical study, for many years, and attained in it as high positions as any man, even a vain one, may aspire to. In speaking of this sect I shall "nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice," but will give you its views fairly and truthfully, and after I have spoken of the others, I shall call your attention to some facts in its history, to prove the selfishness,

tyranny, and persecuting spirit of some of its practitioners, even among those occupying the highest positions in our city.

The term *Allopathy* is derived from two Greek words, which signify other and morbid condition. It is "that method of medical practice, in which there is an attempt to cure disease by the production of a condition of the system, either different from, or opposite to, or incompatible with the condition, essential to the disease to be cured; the ordinary mode of medical practice." This sect dates back to the time of the great Greek Hippocrates, and its practitioners pretend that in the course of centuries they have accumulated all the medical information that thus far can be acquired. But, gentlemen, while I am willing to award lasting credit, and give all thanks to many of the noble men of this class, who, by their watching natures, actions, and their close observance of the phenomena of disease, have done so much to increase our knowledge, and benefit humanity; I cannot, by any means, agree that they have so nearly approached perfection as they claim. I have not time to enlarge upon this part of our subject; but if you examine history, you will find, that the principles and practice of this sect have changed so often, that their views hardly deserve the name of scientific disquisitions at all.

Homœopathy comes from two Greek phrases, meaning like and affection, and is "the doctrine or theory of curing diseases with very minute doses of medicine, by producing in the patient affections, similar to those of the disease." It does not accord with my plan to enter into an examination of this system; its advantages, and the objections to it will be ably explained to you by my colleague, the Professor of Practice, but I avail myself of this opportunity to express my thanks to Hahnemann and his disciples, for the many new views they have promulgated.

The word *Eclecticism* is also derived from the Greek, and implies to choose, to select. Physicians of this class avail themselves freely of the labours of their predecessors, and contemporaries of all schools, and from the knowledge thus attained, added to the results of their own investigations, they have established a system of practice, approaching, I think, more nearly to scientific accuracy, than any other school. We insist that our students possess a good preliminary education, and that they become thoroughly familiar with all the branches which form a full curriculum of medical study, these are Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, and Medical Jurisprudence. The principles of our sect are admirably explained by my friend, Prof. Paine, your Teacher of Practice, in his *Eclectic Practice of Medicine*, in the following terms:

1st, "A determined effort to ascertain more precisely than has been done hitherto, the natural causes and effects of diseases, or, in

other words, the fatality of disease, when left to the unaided efforts of nature.

2d, "A determination to understand more fully the *modus operandi* of medicines, and to ascertain their real curative powers.

3d, "To continue our researches in the vegetable, mineral, and animal kingdoms, for the purpose of developing resources for the removal of disease.

4th, "To introduce into the profession a spirit of liberality and progression, to dispense with all creeds and cliques, and to overcome all party prejudice among the different members of the profession.

5th, "That it is the duty of every physician to investigate each system of medicine, and make its valuable resources available for the relief of the sick.

6th, "That it is far better to leave the disease to the unaided efforts of nature, than to remove it with medicine, unless its indications are demonstrated by observation and science.

10th, "That investigation and research into the nature and cause of disease, should be encouraged, and all new facts, relative to medical science, should receive due attention.

11th, "That neither Allopathy, Homœopathy, nor Hydropathy, as an exclusive system of medicine, has arrived at any considerable degree of perfection, as shown by the fact that neither very materially lessens the natural fatality of disease; although, occasionally, each of these may prove successful, as shown by the power of cold water to allay inflammation, which is Hydropathy; by nitrate of silver for aphthæ of the mouth, which is Allopathy; or by rhubarb for diarrhœa, which is Homœopathy. Each of these systems of medicine being occasionally applicable in removing disease, they should be understood by the physician, and adopted as indicated.

12th, "To discourage, by every honourable means, the baneful practice of drugging for all trifling diseases.

13th, "To investigate and adopt the physiological and hygienic methods of curing and preventing disease by a proper regulation of the diet, temperature, and purity of the air, by bathing, friction, proper clothing, occupation, mental and physical training, &c.

15th, "To avoid adopting any set of dogmas in medicine as infallible; bearing in mind, that a constant change of opinion, relative to the fundamental, practical principles of the art, shows that what men supposed to be true at one time, has been proved to be entirely erroneous at another, and that the only means of advancing medicine to the rank of an exact science, is by the constant rejection of old errors, and the reception of new, and well attested truths.

16th, "To combine the two extremes of the profession—the ultra conservative, and the fanatical reformer. As conservatives,

we would pay due respect to the labours and discoveries of our predecessors in the profession, and adhere with commendable zeal and dignity, to those doctrines, which long usage, and extensive experience and science, have demonstrated to be true. As reformers, we would extend our researches in every direction which promises accession to the already existing stock of medical knowledge, paying no homage to the aristocracy and learned pedantry of the profession, only so far as it has contributed to the advancement of science. Finally, that we adopt, and adhere to the facts of the conservative, and enter into the labors of the reformer, with equal cordiality.

17th, "To use every practical means to inform the public upon the subject of medicine in all its departments, that they may understand the true merits of the different systems of medicine, and be prevented from trusting their lives and health in the hands of men, ignorant of the principles and practice of the profession.

18th, "To cultivate the spirit of true Eclecticism, liberality and progression, and to show the positive necessity, that every physician, or student of medicine, who would acquit himself with honour and fidelity to his practice, should not only pass through the ordinary and preliminary course of study, but that his whole time and attention should be devoted to the investigation of all the therapeutic resources of every school of the profession, selecting from each, that which science and experience have proved beneficial in the treatment of disease."

I have thus given you, gentlemen, a full exposition of our principles; their freedom, great liberality, and truth, so fully accorded with my own views and teachings, for the past twenty years, that when I was invited to join the ranks formally, I very soon gave a free and unreserved consent, and expressed my perfect willingness to be placed, if necessary, in the very vanguard of the army of true Eclectic Physicians; in taking this step I knew I should have heaped upon me all the vituperation and slander, that many of the *gentlemen* of the *regular* profession could manufacture, or get made for them; but I was accustomed to these things, as I shall explain after a while. I was not deterred from putting my hand to the plough, and every day I live, I am thankful that Providence enabled me to take the best step, I think, of my medical career; and "for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE," I pledged my professional life, my fortune, and my sacred honour. I anticipated to be called quack, the associate of empirics, and every thing that way, vile and contemptible; nor have I been disappointed, for, as some of you are aware, I am now as well a traduced man as any one can be.

But if my present position in this respect troubled me, which it does not, I have the gratification of knowing that I am not the

first of our calling, who has been persecuted by the hounds of the profession, for daring to break the chains, which bound him, and assert his independence. I shall now refer to only two illustrious instances. "Jenner was threatened with disgrace, if he did not cease annoying the quietude and self-complacency of his friends, with the silly visionary subject of vaccination.

"Harvey, for discovering the circulation of the blood, and announcing the heretical fact, was treated with scorn by his medical brethren, deprived of his practice, and driven into exile. It is a fact, containing an instructive moral, that not one of his contemporaries of the age of 40 years, when Harvey made known his discovery, ever conceded its correctness. They were stable-minded men, and despised to be led astray, like boys, by the glare of novelties."

In the year 1848, Dr. Rush Van Dyke, then my colleague, and still my friend, in an Introductory Lecture to the Students of the Philadelphia College of Medicine, uttered sentiments, so exactly apposite in the present case, that I will quote them to you:

"As regards *ourselves*, all the great obstacles to success in an undertaking like this, have been surmounted. A commodious and comfortable building is all our own—the grand essentials of instruction are all provided—and all the luxuries of demonstrative courses are being superadded, as opportunities from time to time occur, from the ample means at our command. Under such circumstances, you may rest assured, that the word 'fail,' for *us*, has no existence, whatever may be the representations to the contrary of those, whose interest, or malicious pleasure it may be, to 'say all manner of things against us falsely.' They may call us quarrelsome fellows—a house divided against itself which cannot stand! They may continue as they have begun, to call us by any hard names they please. They may even call in question our capacity, and means for instruction. They may say we are not *respectable*, and refuse to take our students ad eundem. This last will disturb us least, for it is the fashion of the place,—and we little fear, that any one, who spends one session with us, will wish to spend his next elsewhere; at least any one who is capable of appreciating instruction, or of being satisfied anywhere. But to show that regard for science, or the dignity of the profession, has nothing to do with this decision upon the *respectability* of an institution, it may be stated, that the students of an institution, 'whose faculty shall not exceed three professors, located in an obscure corner, remote from hospitals and libraries, where the unwonted sound of academical applause, might almost startle the dun deer from its noon-day repose, on the skirts of the primeval forests,—whose terms of tuition are such, as to place the doctorate within the reach of all, whose means supply the ordinary wants of nature,

whose announcement of collegiate fees, to prevent mistakes, includes the cost of *board* not only, but also all the repair, and cleansing of garments,—the students of such a school as this, may be admitted *ad eundem*—but each college in Philadelphia refuses so to receive the students of any other incorporated in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Juxtaposition, with talents even of ordinary character, creates jealousy and envy in minds of men who feel the weakness of the tenure by which they occupy their places. But let envy, jealousy, or spleen, as the case may be, exhaust themselves. There is one lesson we have learned by experience, and we would impress it upon your minds. It is this—that if you have only by diligence, and attention to your studies, qualified yourselves for the duties of your profession, neither slander nor misrepresentation can prevent your success. When, therefore, you hear that you have been traduced, when your skill and ability are belied, or called into question, do not allow your tempers to be irritated,—define your position in the light of truth, which must in its might, ultimately prevail, and leave the rest to a candid, a liberal, and intelligent public, who will most assuredly render you in the end a righteous verdict in the premises.”

“That thou are blamed shall not be thy defect;
For slander’s mark is ever yet the fair;
So thou be good, slander doth but approve
Thy worth the greater.”

We teach here, gentlemen, a course of scientific practice, based upon a knowledge of the structure, functions, and pathological condition, with all the information we can obtain, of the *Materia Medica*, and the best views we can educe of *Therapeutics* from the most reliable experience and observations of practitioners of all schools: in this respect we try to follow the advice of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” Our system is not a tissue of hypotheses, or fine spun speculations; nor is it a set of dogmas, handed down from generation to generation, and maintaining its position from the authority of great names, whether of ancient or modern times; but we give you views of health, disease, and its management, that are the results of the observations and experience of well informed men, and thus we approach, as nearly as it can be attained, the establishment of a positive medical science, founded upon true philosophical principles.

To illustrate the “selfishness, tyranny, and persecuting spirit of some” of the practitioners of the old school, I will call your attention to a few facts in the history of the Jefferson, Pennsylvania, Franklin, and Philadelphia colleges of this city.

In the year 1824 the University of Pennsylvania was the only medical college in operation in this State. It was the oldest school

here, and there were in it, and had been connected with it, some of the most distinguished physicians this country has ever produced.

The Institution was located on the present site, but not the commodious edifice now there, it was a wing to the south of the "Washington Mansion," illy constructed, badly ventilated, and altogether a miserable arrangement. A majority of the practitioners of this city had attended the lectures, or were its graduates. The school had been liberally endowed by the State, and its influence was all-controlling in the profession. It was a tyrannical monopoly. In this year, 1824, Dr. John Eberle, Dr. Joseph Klapp, Dr. George M'Clellan, and some of their friends, in view of the fact, that the classes in the University had for several years averaged four hundred or more students, thought that a new medical college might be advantageously established. After the necessary preliminary arrangements with the Trustees of the Jefferson College at Canonsburg, in this State, they applied to the Legislature for the legal power to found a branch here, and then commenced such a war among the Doctors as had never been known in this region. The friends of the University throughout the State, were invoked for their aid to prevent the injury to the venerable institution and to the profession that would result, if the new project succeeded; the columns of the newspapers were occupied with long arguments on both sides of the question, and it was said, that the University employed people to go to Harrisburg, and try to operate upon members against the scheme, and it is a fact, that two prominent physicians, professing to be friends of the old school, spent many days at the Capital, working most industriously against the bill, and as if to illustrate what strange things happen in this world, one of these very gentlemen subsequently strove for and obtained a chair in Jefferson College. Notwithstanding all the opposition that could be raised, the supplement to the act, incorporating the Jefferson College, became a law, and the medical department was erected here. Among the most potential friends of the new project were two gentlemen, graduates of the University, members of the Legislature, and chiefly through their influence, the bill was passed. It gives me great pleasure to say that one of these distinguished gentlemen honours us with his presence here to-night. The faculty rented a building that had previously been the Tivoli Theatre, in Prune, east of Sixth street; the house is now the mineral water manufactory of Mr. E. Roussel, and here the lectures were given to a class of about ninety, in the winter of 1825, the faculty was Dr. John Eberle, Practice; Dr. George M'Clellan, Surgery; Dr. Jacob Green, Chemistry; Dr. N. R. Smith, Anatomy; Dr. B. Rush Rhees, Materia Medica; and Dr. F. S. Beattie, Obstetrics. Of all these gentlemen, Dr. Smith, Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland, is the only one now living. Before the

next session difficulties occurred among the Professors; this school furnishes many such quarrels; Dr. Beattie was removed from his place, and Dr. John Barnes became his successor. A chair of Institutes of Medicine was created, Dr. Rhees was transferred to it, and Dr. Wm. P. C. Barton, of the United States Navy, became Professor of Materia Medica. The school continued in Prune street until 1828, when a new building was erected in Tenth, near Walnut street; this was changed and enlarged, and the present edifice is the result. In the year 1838 the Legislature separated the medical branch from the mother institution at Canonsburg, and a new board of Trustees was created, under whose control the College remains to this day.

After many changes of faculty, and vicissitudes of fortune, the school began to rise, and finally attained the position it now occupies, of being, numerically, the best patronized College in the country. About 1838 dissensions of a very bitter character occurred among the Professors, which culminated in 1839 by the dissolution of the faculty, under the act of the Trustees; in the re-organization Dr. George M'Clellan and Dr. Samuel Colhoun were left out, and Dr. Joseph Pancoast and Dr. Robert M. Huston were appointed to their places. Dr. Samuel M'Clellan, Professor of Obstetrics, soon retired, and a little later Drs. G. S. Pattison, and John Revere, resigned their chairs, and accepted places in the new University of New York; these circumstances, and the death of Dr. Green, rendered a new arrangement necessary, and this was effected by the appointment of most of the present faculty. For the first fifteen years it was a very difficult matter to maintain a healthy existence for this school: its intestinal feuds, and the unceasing opposition of the friends of the old College, at times almost destroyed its vitality. The University was the *regular* and *respectable* school: so strong was its position at that time, that all but its graduates were excluded by law from holding a municipal medical office, and this act was only repealed by the exertions of my friends, to enable the Mayor of the city, Hon. Benj. W. Richards, to appoint me one of the vaccine Physicians. Why, gentlemen, when I graduated in the Jefferson College, in February, 1829, many persons thought I had marred my prospects forever, and disgraced myself for life.

In 1839, Drs. George M'Clellan, Colhoun, Samuel M'Clellan, William Rush, Samuel G. Morton, and Mr. Johnston, arranged with the Trustees of the Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, that they should open a medical department in this city, and the lectures began in October of that year. During the course these gentlemen became satisfied their charter was so imperfect that they could not operate under it, and they applied to the Legislature for a proper law, and, as was alleged, notwithstanding the opposition of both

University, and Jefferson College, their request was granted, and the present Institution is the result. The lectures for the first few years were given in the building in Filbert, west of Eleventh street, now known as the Homœopathic College; some ten years since the present fine edifice was erected by the friends of the Institution for the use of the faculty.

In the year 1844, about one thousand students attended the different schools in this city: this circumstance, or some other cause, induced several gentlemen to combine and request the Legislature to incorporate the Franklin Medical College; their application was successful; the charter was granted, and the School opened in the fall of 1846, in a building on the north side of Locust, west of Eleventh street. It had previously been the Medical Institute in which lectures were given by some of the Professors in, and satellites of, the University, during the summer months; the house has since been converted into stores and residences. The Faculty of Franklin College was, as nearly as I remember, Drs. Goddard, Biddle, Clymer, Tucker, James Rogers, Bridges and Page. Among these gentlemen were some of the most liberal and best informed physicians of whom this city could then boast. Two full courses were given in this College, and then its doors were closed.

During the year 1846, Dr. Thos. D. Mitchell, then of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, now Professor of Materia Medica in Jefferson College, while on a visit here, suggested to me the expediency of establishing a College in this city where lectures should be given between the months of March and November. After consultation with some friends, I determined to make the effort to obtain a charter for that purpose; accordingly, soon after the next Legislature convened, I met my friend, Dr. Wm. H. Allen, at that time professor in Dickinson College, Carlisle, now the popular President at Girard College, at Harrisburgh. Through the efforts of our friends, a bill for the incorporation of the Philadelphia College of Medicine passed both houses, was signed by the Governor, my friend, Francis R. Shunk, and I was on my way home again, with the copy of the charter in my pocket, in less than forty-eight hours from the time I left this city. Such rapid legislation had never till then been heard of, and it is a remarkable fact that every member of both houses voted for the project, notwithstanding, as many of them assured me, they had been requested by professed friends of the other schools here to vote against the measure. After I came home, in January, 1847, I found that the idea of a summer college was ridiculed as preposterous, and I was informed by the Deans of some of the other institutions, that they would not receive our students ad eundem; therefore, in the month of February, I returned to the Capital and asked for a supplement to give us the right to lecture in the winter months, and make us the equal in law of the most

avored of the other colleges. On the morning the bill was to come up, the Speaker of the Senate informed me he had received letters against the scheme, and he must request a postponement of the matter until some gentlemen from the other colleges here could get to Harrisburgh, or send their agents to oppose the project. After some explanations he agreed to remain quiet, and the supplement was passed, signed by the Governor, and became a law within twenty-four hours. On the 15th of March, 1847, I delivered the opening lecture of the College; the courses were given in the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, and the building of the College of Pharmacy to a class of forty-five students. The Faculty was Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell, Midwifery and Practice of Medicine, Dr. Jesse R. Burden, Materia Medica, Dr. Wm. H. Allen, Chemistry, and your present speaker held the Chairs of Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery.

In the fall of the same year, 1847, we purchased the property in Fifth, south of Walnut street, and altered it into a very commodious college edifice. In a short time I became the owner of all the property and its contents. In 1853, I resigned my chair, rented the establishment to the Faculty, and engaged in the vending of medicines. In 1854 I sold the entire concern to several gentlemen, some of whom are now Professors in the Pennsylvania College, and by their act the Philadelphia has been closed for a few years past.

While I was connected with this Institution, from 1847 to 1853, although it was the youngest of the *regular* schools, it was the third in number of students: one year its classes reached to about two hundred and thirty pupils, of whom many have become distinguished practitioners and teachers. Among those who frequented its walls probably the larger number was from the "Sunny South." I often recur with pleasure to the remembrance of their honourable conduct and manly deportment; and I here avail myself of this public opportunity to thank them and their generous brethren from the other parts of our country, for the cordial and unprecedented support they always rendered me, whether as a private teacher or professor.

From the brief sketch of some of the Medical Schools of this city, which I have just given you, gentlemen, I have no doubt you have come to the conclusion that they did not work together in the most "perfect love and amity;" but more like

"A base pack of yelping hounds,
Who wish their betters to annoy,
If a stray cur enter their bounds,
Will bruise and mangle and destroy;
So they will on some plan unite,
By which to vex him and to spite:
His very virtues they will use
As pretexts for their foul abuse."

For some time past many of my friends have urged me to some

public notice of the stories that have been falsely and freely circulated as to my professional life. I know that

“Base envy withers at another’s joy,
And hates that excellence it cannot reach.”

But on my own account, I am very indifferent to any calumny that was, or may be, uttered; I am very sure my acquaintances give no credence to the reports, and that my friends are too well posted in the facts, to be, by any such means, prejudiced against me.

But, gentlemen, the slanders are continued and used to the injury of the cause of Eclecticism, in whose ranks I am a soldier, and, therefore, to place myself “*rectus in curia*,” I will give you a short history of my student and professional life. In trying to perform this duty, I know full well that

“In other men we faults can spy,
And blame the mote that dims their eye:
Each little speck and blemish find,
To our own stronger errors blind.”

To enable you to appreciate properly the remarks I shall make, please bear in mind the following definitions:

Empiric—“Literally, one who makes experiments. Hence its appropriate signification is, a physician who enters on practice without a regular professional education, and relies on the success of his own experience. Hence the word is used also for a quack, an ignorant pretender to medical skill—a charlatan.”

Quack—“A boastful pretender to medical skill, which he does not possess; an empiric, an ignorant practitioner.”

Nostrum—“A medicine, the ingredients of which are kept secret for the purpose of restricting the profits of sale to the inventor or proprietor—a quack medicine.”

After a good preliminary education, I commenced the study of medicine in 1823. I was born in 1809. I became Dr. Eberle’s private pupil in 1826, having attended occasional lectures in 1825. By the arrangement of Dr. Eberle, I was made the office student of Dr. George McClellan for Anatomy and Surgery. The apparently warm and impulsive nature of the latter, attached me very warmly to him, and I became his strong friend and constant supporter. I enjoyed all the advantages the offices of these two gentlemen afforded, and by the kind liberality of my father I was permitted to avail myself of every opportunity for improvement that money could procure in this city, outside of Jefferson College.

On the 28th of February, 1829, I graduated, and I am the first person who received the diploma of Jefferson College after its removal to Tenth street. In 1829 I acted as Demonstrator of Anatomy for Dr. Samuel McClellan, Adj. Prof. to his brother, and the next year full Professor; in which station I continued until the arrival of Dr. G. S. Pattison, from England, who had been appointed

to the chair, and Dr. S. McClellan was transferred to Midwifery. On the plea that he would be his own demonstrator, Dr. Pattison declined my services, and I became a private practitioner.

In the spring of 1831, I gave a short course on Anatomy and dissecting in the College; in this year I was appointed one of the vaccine physicians of the city.

In 1832 I delivered about thirty lectures on obstetrics to a small summer class in the College. In July and August, same year, I served in the Cherry street Cholera Hospital, with Dr. C. D. Meigs, Dr. Wm. Darrach, Dr. Geo. S. Schott, and Dr. C. B. Matthews, I think, during the epidemic.

About this time I was offered the Demonstratorship of Anatomy in Cincinnati, Ohio, by Drs. Drake and Eberle. I declined the place, and was told it was accepted by Dr. Samuel D. Gross, my fellow student, now Professor of Surgery, in our Alma Mater.

In 1836, under the appointment of the Visiting Inspectors, I served as Physician to the County Prison, Moyamensing, for several weeks, until Dr. Wm. H. Klapp was elected permanent officer.

In the fall of 1838 I rented, for a dissecting room, the fourth story of a building at the south-east corner of Eighth and Walnut streets, recently torn down, and a new house erected on the site.

During my first course on Anatomy and Surgery, my class numbered forty-two; most of them were students of the University and Jefferson. Before I had been in operation a week, the Prof. of Anatomy in the latter College, took a student to task for having dared to take my ticket, and told him his examination for diploma would be more difficult on this account; but fortunately for me and the pupil, I had friends enough in the Faculty to counteract the malign influence of the threatening Professor.

In 1839 I leased a building in Chant street, formerly College Avenue, in the rear of the University. It was then the most commodious private school of Anatomy and Surgery that had been fitted up in the United States. I called it by the name it still bears—the Philadelphia School of Anatomy. That session my class was about one hundred and fifty. During this year I was appointed one of the Consulting Physicians to the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, and served as Accoucheur until 1841, when I resigned.

At that time none of the colleges required, or do they yet demand, that students should take the dissecting tickets of the Institution they attended. Private schools had been established many years before, under the charge of Drs. G. McClellan, John D. Godman, James Webster, Joseph Pancoast, and others, and the colleges had permitted upon their blackboards the notices of such schools; but my effort was an unpardonable offence; I was not the hanger-on of any school, nor attached to any clique; I was an independent teacher, and I must be crushed. To accomplish this result, every possible

scheme was resorted to; I had difficulty in procuring the necessary subjects; students were told I had bodies in my rooms which had died of small pox; I was an irregular, and not much of a teacher; my cards were torn from the blackboards of the colleges. In one instance I traced this mean act directly to a Professor of Anatomy, and when I called upon him to demand an explanation, he told me I had nearly emptied his dissecting room. I tell you, gentlemen, these were times that tried both my body and mind; but still I persevered; and the next winter, 1840, I had a class of over two hundred; and among those who thus honored me were some of the most prominent physicians in this country—surgeons in the Army and Navy, and others.

In this year Dr. Horner informed me he had recommended me for a chair of Anatomy, in St. Louis. I begged him to withdraw his unsought testimonial: that I would not accept the position. About this time I was in correspondence with some of the authorities of the University of Maryland for the chair of Anatomy, then vacant. I was informed the action of one gentleman would be potential in the case, and that he would soon call on me here; he came to this city, but went home again without seeing me; I was informed that he heard such stories against me, he thought it best not to complete the arrangement. Two years afterwards, in his own house in Baltimore, he told me the author of the slander, and he was a man I had served for years, and who professed to be one of my best friends. Of such vile stuff are many of the *regular* doctors made.

In April I was called to Vermont, to fill the chair of Anatomy and Physiology, in the Vermont Academy of Medicine. Soon afterwards I removed to Castleton, became President of the Institution, the name of which was changed by the next Legislature, to Castleton Medical College; and the subsequent spring I was made Professor of Surgery in addition to my duties as Anatomist.

In the fall of 1841, I was Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Berkshire Medical Institution, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

In 1843 I returned to this city, having relinquished all connexion with New England colleges, and again started the Philadelphia School of Anatomy. During this year I was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Washington University of Baltimore. I sold my establishment here to Dr. Wm. R. Grant, with the understanding that if at any time he wished to sell it, I should have the first opportunity to purchase on the same terms he paid me. I went to Baltimore, and when I found out the condition of the Institution there, I declined the chair.

In the spring of 1844 Dr. Grant, having been elected to Anatomy in the Pennsylvania College, desired to dispose of the Philadelphia School. I offered to purchase on the terms of our agreement, but for several days he rather evaded the arrangement, until finally I

told him I had another place in view, and if he did not sell to me within twenty-four hours, I would lease it. He then let me have the property, and afterwards he told me the reason of his delay was that a Professor in one of the colleges offered to pay him more for the property than I was to give for it. The Professor urged as a reason that as he and Dr. Grant were connected with colleges, it was their interest to keep me from teaching here, and that "McClin-tock had sunk money, and could not afford to start again, if he were kept out of that school." He, the Professor, could afford to pay for the place, and let it be idle; nor, as I have said, did I effect the purchase of my old school until I had partially arranged for a new house; but I got "home" again, and remained there until the Philadelphia College of Medicine was started, as I have already explained, and until 1853.

In 1844 and 1845 I was connected with Dickinson College, as Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology.

Under the advice of friends, some of them prominent physicians, I sold several recipes, in 1853, to a gentleman in New York, to form a series of "Family Medicines;" there was no panacea among them, but each remedy was prepared with special reference to a class of diseases in which its use was appropriate. My object was to put up reliable medicines, to abate, if possible, the use of the quack remedies which then flooded the country, and, of course, I expected to make for myself a comfortable competency, while I was benefiting the public.

During the preceding twenty-five years, I had joined, or was elected honorary or corresponding member of, several medical societies; before engaging in the medicine business I resigned from all that I could remember being connected with, for I had every reason to believe that all the little people attached to them would abuse me as soon as the facts were known; but forgot the great sanhedrim, and did not send my resignation to the American Medical Association, of which I was an original member.

In my lectures I had often recommended the remedies which composed the "Family Medicines; nor after their announcement did I keep them secret or refuse to tell any competent person their entire composition; and in 1857 I published them fully in two respectable medical journals. They were not patented, nor were they quack medicines or nostrums. In this respect my course was very different from that of a *regular* doctor I once met in an inland town; he was then, and for aught I know, is now a member of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society. He told me he had used my "Whooping Cough Remedy" very largely, because of his faith in me, although he did not know the ingredients which composed it. After thanking him for his good opinion, I told him every article in it. During our conversation he remarked that he made a poultice that was an

infallible cure for white swelling. I asked what it was, but he declined to inform me, as it was a secret with him. In many cases physicians bought my medicines and used them in their own families; while in other instances they purchased them, and after putting them in other bottles, gave them to their patients suffering with the diseases for which I recommended them.

During all the time I was engaged in the medicine business, I prescribed, in the *regular* way, too, for many patients who consulted me in my office, and by letter.

For two years the feelings of many of the "weak sisters" of the profession were terribly excited by my "disgraceful quackish conduct;" at last they were relieved by the occurrence of a crisis at Detroit, at a meeting of the American Medical Association, in 1855. I was not present, for I attended but one meeting of the body: at the session referred to, I am told that a resolution was offered by an obscure practitioner from the interior of this State, and it was carried, to expel Dr. J. R. McClintock, (my name is simply James,) from the body, for having violated the "Code of Ethics," by engaging in the vending of nostrums. I had never received a notice of any charge against me, nor had I been furnished with a copy of the proceedings, nor did I know of the matter until some of my friends, who had been present, informed me I was the person referred to.

In 1857 the Chief Resident Physician of the Philadelphia Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and Alms House, resigned, and after a severe struggle, I was elected to the place; but it was not accomplished until all the efforts of many prominent men in the *regular profession* were exhausted to prevent this dreadful calamity to the craft. Seven of the eight of the Assistant Resident Physicians resigned before I took the post, and every possible means was employed to prevent me getting gentlemen to fill their stations. The most slanderous stories were told the Guardians to defeat me; some of the members of that Board are in this audience, and so much prejudiced were they by the tales referred to, that one of them would not vote for me either time I was before the Board. In these troubles, gentlemen, I had some noble friends among the Doctors, many of whom, of the highest and best in the profession, either gave me strong testimonials or used their personal influence to secure my election. It affords me much pleasure to avail myself of this first public opportunity to thank them for their manly and generous support to me under the most uncompromising hostility of many of their brethren; and I must include in this expression of gratitude, several Professors in Allopathic Colleges, in different parts of the country. I can pay these gentlemen naught

"For this noble usage,
But grateful praise; so heaven itself is paid."

Nearly all the municipal offices of the city are held by partisans

of the political party in power. In May, 1858, an arrangement called the "People's Party," gained the election here, and as I was known to be a somewhat prominent Democrat, it was determined I should leave the Alms House, and Dr. R. K. Smith was elected my successor. Previously to my retirement from the Institution, the Hospital Committee passed a unanimous resolution, thanking me for the honest, faithful and competent manner in which I had discharged the duties of the station.

In the spring of 1858 I was appointed by the Guardians to represent the Institution in the American Medical Association, which met at Washington in May. Soon after I reached that city, I found that measures had been adopted to prevent me taking a seat in the convention. I prepared a statement in which I acknowledged I had violated the "Code," but as I was then in full practice, and had closed the medicine business, I respectfully requested to be reinstated. Two of my friends, who had urged my appointment, were under trial, and threatened with expulsion for the unpardonable offence; but after the most humiliating apologies, they were forgiven, and remained within the pale of the profession. Under these circumstances, I did not present my certificate, or put my petition before the convention. My great crime was a violation of the "Code of Ethics," in having engaged in the vending of (so called) nostrums. "The very head and front of my offending" had "this extent; no more." If I were guilty of quackery in openly selling my medicines, I would like some sophist to inform me what is the condition of Professors that furnish prescriptions to apothecaries to put up as pure nostrums; for the venders refuse to tell their ingredients.

I present you, gentlemen, a bottle of medicine, obtained from Mr. Bringham's, Tenth below Chestnut street, on inquiring for the "Tonic Tincture" of Prof. Joseph Pancoast, of Jefferson College, and the seller refused to tell the articles in the composition. Here is a box, containing pills, procured at Mr. Blair's store, Eighth and Walnut street, by asking for Dr. John K. Mitchell's "Aperient Pills," prepared from his prescription while he was Professor of Practice in Jefferson College; as in the former case the vender will not tell the composition. Some years ago "Swaim's Panacea" was put on sale: it was a secret remedy; and, so far as I am aware, no person outside of its manufactory yet knows its ingredients; but if the pamphlet furnished at Mr. Swaim's Laboratory be truthful, as I presume it is, the nostrum was used, and recommended by "Dr. Thomas Parke, President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia," &c., "Dr. N. Chapman, Professor of Institutes and Practice of Physic in the University of Pennsylvania," &c., "Dr. W. Gibson, Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania," &c., "Dr. William P. Dewees, Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania," &c.; and "Dr. Valentine Mott,

Professor of Surgery in the University of New York." No one ever heard that any of these gentlemen was arraigned before a medical convention for their "quackery," nor were they expelled from any society because they recommended a "nostrum." If these gentlemen were regular, how was I ever quack, empiric or nostrum vender? Envious men may continue to call me quack, and say that I have "been a great man," that I am "old and broken down," that I never "was more than a third rate man," and any other story that they can invent, and I shall be satisfied. I have the gratification to know that the people of this city give no credence to such tales, as their patronage to me abundantly proves; for I here boldly assert, that I do not believe any private physician has in Philadelphia prescribed for as many patients in the last year as I have.

Gentlemen, I could give you many other facts to prove the statements I made in the early part of this discourse, but I think I have said enough to establish their truth, and with many thanks for your kind attention, and my hearty wishes for your success, I bid you good night.