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In Memoriam.

JOHN M. KEATING, M.D., LL.D.

By JUDSON DALAND, M.D.

presented by the author -

PHILADELPHIA.

1894.



[Reprinted from the INTERNATIONAL CLINICS.]

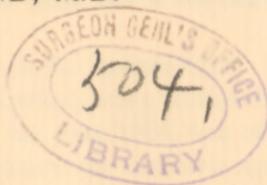


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THE death of a man who was so eminent as a physician, whose fame as an author and teacher was truly international, and who possessed such a host of warm personal friends, demands more than the brief, though eloquent, notices that have appeared in the medical and secular press.

Dr. John M. Keating was born in Philadelphia in 1852. His father is Dr. William V. Keating, well known to the profession as one of the former professors of obstetrics at the Jefferson Medical College, as author and editor of a number of medical works, such as Ramsbotham's *Obstetrics* and Churchill on *Diseases of Children*, and, for many years, as director of the St. Agnes' Hospital. His mother was the daughter of Dr. René La Roche, the author of one of the best and most exhaustive books on Yellow Fever, which is to-day considered one of the classics of medical literature. He married Edith, daughter of Mr. Peter McCall, and his widow, three girls, and a boy survive him.

The Keating family is one of the oldest in the Quaker City. The deceased's great-grandfather, Baron John Keating, was a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, and died in the year 1856, one of the most distinguished men of his day. He reached the venerable age of ninety-six, and retained to the last moment the full possession of his mental faculties. The baron's grandfather was Sir Geoffrey Keating, who distinguished himself at the siege of Limerick, and was afterwards obliged to withdraw with the army of James II. to France.

Dr. Keating's uncle, William H. Keating, was a professor in and his father and himself graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, thus making three generations of the family that have been officially connected with this institution.

Dr. John M. Keating received his early education at Seton Hall College, South Orange, New Jersey, and at the Philadelphia Poly-

technic College, and then entered the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1873. He served as interne in the Philadelphia Hospital, and soon afterwards became one of the visiting physicians to that large institution. For fourteen years he served this hospital as visiting obstetrician, during which time he delivered many important and valuable clinical lectures, more especially upon diseases of children. He was Lecturer on Diseases of Children in the University of Pennsylvania; assistant physician to the Children's Hospital; consulting physician for Diseases of Women to the St. Agnes' Hospital; gynæcologist to the St. Joseph's Hospital; physician in charge of the Children's Department at Howard Hospital and St. Joseph's Female Orphan Asylum. For fifteen years he was connected with the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, during the latter ten of these as its medical director.

He was an officer or member of many of the leading medical societies of the country, at one time president of the Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors, and president of the American Pediatric Society. Even so recently as during the past summer he was an active and a prominent member of the Pan-American Medical Congress, which was held at Washington in September, 1893, serving as executive president of the Section on Diseases of Children. He was also a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, of the American Gynæcological Society, and of the British Gynæcological Society; and the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him at Seton Hall College in 1891.

In 1879 he was one of General Grant's party that visited India, Burmah, the Malay Peninsula, Siam, and China, and on his return home published an interesting record of the journey, under the title of "With General Grant in the East." The brother of the King of Siam, Prime Minister and real ruler of that country, was his warm personal friend. The souvenirs that he then collected are most valuable and interesting.

Dr. John M. Keating was the author or compiler of a large number of medical books and treatises, some of which were written in collaboration with other physicians. Among others may be mentioned "The Mother's Guide to the Management and Feeding of Infants;" "Diseases of the Heart and Circulation in Children;" "Maternity—Infancy—Childhood;" "How to Examine for Life Insurance;" "A New Pronouncing Dictionary of Medicine;" and "Mother and Child." For twenty years he contributed articles of more than ordinary value to the various medical journals in this and other cities, and

to him all honor is due in founding the *International Clinics*, of which he was one of the editors from April, 1891, until his death. He was also editor of the *Archives of Pediatrics*, founder of *The Climatologist*, and contributed articles to Pepper's System of Medicine, Buck's Reference Hand-Book, Sajous's Annual, etc.

The work, however, by which he was particularly known to the medical profession on both sides of the Atlantic is the "Cyclopædia of the Diseases of Children," which met with universal approbation because of the excellence of the various articles, written by leading specialists in this country, Canada, and England. Its sale was enormous, and it is to-day the most advanced and complete work upon this subject in the English language, and is destined for years to come to represent pediatrics as it existed in this decade.

In 1890, while suffering from overwork, he developed pulmonary consumption, necessitating his removal to Colorado. The invigorating climate of his new home soon produced a most happy effect, and in about a year he was again able to assume the duties of his chosen and beloved profession. His qualities of heart as well as mind endeared him to his newly-formed colleagues, and he gave every promise of repeating in the West his great achievements in the East. His strong personality and influence over men showed itself as of old, and the medical society of the city of his adoption, which had been allowed to languish, took on new life; a better *esprit de corps* showed itself. That he was loved by all was evidenced not only from the fact that three doctors remained with him the entire night while life was slowly ebbing away, even though no medical assistance was necessary, but from the personal testimony of his colleagues. While in Colorado he showed his usual broad-mindedness and great interest in his fellow-men by his many valuable suggestions looking to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the city, the hygiene of the people, and the spread of true knowledge among physicians as to the effect of the climate of this portion of the United States upon diseases, especially upon pulmonary consumption.

From time to time he would make the hearts of his friends glad by a brief visit to his native city, but, though we all rejoiced in his improvement, none of us could close our eyes to the truth that he was waging a terrible battle for life with all the cool bravery of a true soldier, despite terrible odds. This thought always produced an unspeakable sadness, for it was manifest that there could be but one result, and that death must conquer. However, as months passed hopes returned, and during his last visit in September we all felt jus-

tified in believing that he would be with us for some years. Soon after his return to Colorado Springs he received a severe mental shock upon hearing of the sudden death of his intimate friend and kinsman W. J. Wilcox, and had several hemorrhages, followed by pneumonia, and in a few days the long struggle was over. No words of mine can so well describe the closing hours as those of one who knew him from childhood and who was with him to the end. "His death was touching to a degree; he met it with a calmness and peacefulness that could not be called bravery, for there was nothing to indicate the thought of danger; nobody was forgotten; everything was attended to, but religion was paramount, as it always was during life. He has left a memory and an example that will ever abide with those who knew and loved him, and which affords to them proof of the higher capabilities of this life and of the certain existence of that which constitutes its highest aspirations."²

Thus passed away our friend, exemplifying in death those noble qualities so characteristic in life, a sincere Christian and a firm adherent to the Roman Catholic faith, ever thoughtful of those about him, and with all that simple gentleness that bound his friends to him with bands of steel. As has been so well said by one of his friends,¹ "Dr. Keating belonged to the princely type of men. He had enjoyed all that comes from gentle birth, the refinements of society, and lofty associations. He inherited a deep-seated faith and piety, which formed the groundwork of his character and inspired all his actions. Genial and pleasant to all, a man ever ready to see life's humorous side, yet there could be found none who was more serious as an adviser or more steadfast as a friend."² His strong personality, combined with an extraordinary gentleness of manner and charming courtesy, was a delight to all his friends, and though more than a decade has passed since the writer, while yet a student of medicine, met him for the first time, and then as a friend and an associate in literary work, this remarkable charm of manner was as strongly marked at the last as at the first meeting. The same charm was doubtless felt by many, if not all, of his colleagues, and even in his letters this happy influence showed itself. As a further illustration of this delightful trait of character may be cited the remark of one² who has published most of Dr. Keating's books, to the effect that, despite his large and varied experience, he knew of no one who could gather together so many authors of various tastes—authors, too, who, by reason of professional

¹ J. Russell Young.

² Craige Lippincott.

engagements, would rarely undertake literary work—and induce them to co-operate with him, as was so brilliantly shown in the “Cyclopædia of the Diseases of Children.” All seemed glad to assist him, and all felt the spell of his companionship. His conversation was bright, sparkling, and attractive, and was conjoined with a marked gentleness of manner and courtesy that never forsook him.

To attempt to describe in words these qualities is as impossible as to convey to a blind man in the same manner the wonderful beauties visible in nature. In part this attractiveness was undoubtedly due to his varied tastes, for, while passionately fond of his profession, his leisure hours were devoted to other pursuits, in which he displayed new talents.

From childhood he manifested a pronounced taste for art, and at one time, so strong was his leaning in that direction, it was thought that he would adopt it as a profession. He could sketch beautifully, and this talent assisted him in illustrating his writings. He took up etching as a diversion, and produced some creditable plates. He was devoted to photography, and his home abounds with many examples of his skill in this direction. He was always at work, and no sooner was one task completed than another was begun. His great nervous energy and mental capacity far exceeded his physical powers; and when one remembers how large was his practice and how numerous were his hospital and public appointments, and then recalls the number and variety of contributions to medicine by a man who had battled with physical infirmities for years, and whose life terminated at so early an age, one cannot help wondering what this great intellect might have accomplished had it been implanted in a strong and sturdy frame and allotted the usual threescore years and ten.

His was a nature most affectionate and genial, never more happy than when surrounded by his family, relations, and friends, always endeavoring to make every one a sharer of his happiness.

In closing this tribute to one who has been a friend for so many years, the writer must say that the real man has been but faintly described, as those who have had the pleasure of his friendship will fully appreciate.

JUDSON DALAND, M.D.

PHILADELPHIA.

