

MASSACHUSETTS.

It is only from the most scanty materials, and with the aid of tradition, that we can trace the origin and progressive improvements in the healing art, among the early settlers of the American colonies. It was not selfish views of pecuniary interest, nor motives of secular ambition, that wrought on the pure spirits of our fathers; but the noblest principles of religious liberty and religious reformation, were awakened in their souls, and bore them on to their destined place of refuge. Physicians of high standing in professional acquirements and experience, could find no adequate motive to induce them to quit a lucrative establishment in their native land of civilized society, to encounter perils and hardships, and to become exiles in an uncultivated wilderness. Providence, however, had provided a source from which the settlers were to be supplied with that medical assistance, which their peculiar circumstances imperiously demanded. The puritanic, clergy in England were, for more than twenty years prior to the emigration of the first settlers, subjected to the sharpest persecution. The prospects of the nonconformists, of a peaceful and comfortable subsistence, rested on the most precarious tenure, constantly liable to the frowns of tyrants, by which they were prohibited the liberty of exercising the duties of their sacred calling according to the dictates of their own conscience. Hence, as a precautionary measure in case of an ejection, a considerable number of clergymen of that period, were educated to the medical profession, and not a few were eminent practitioners before they crossed the Atlantic. Besides, we find that it was not uncommon in their day for a part of education to consist in the study of ancient medical authors, as Hippocrates, Galen, Aretæus, Celsus, &c., as among the accomplishments of a finished scholar. New England, therefore, at its earliest settlement, was provided with some able and well educated physicians; though not favoured with the great facilities of the present day, our fathers were no less learned in the science of their time, than we in ours. When these professional men came to form ministerial connexions in the colonies, it was found that the small congregations were unable to afford them a comfortable support; hence the necessity and the convenience of their resort to secular avocations; and what more eligible, or more consonant with the benevolent views and feelings of puritan clergymen, than to minister to the relief of their suffering brethren, and to render consolation in the solemn hour of dissolution? The practice of medicine, therefore, was in many instances united with the parochial duties of ministers of religion. More exalted, however, were their avocations than those of the ancient priests of Egypt, of Greece and Rome, for they had made respectable attainments in medical science, and were well qualified for great usefulness in their respective callings, they were actuated by the purest motives

and the highest considerations of benevolence. By their amiable manners, zealous attention and pious converse, they endeared themselves to their people ; mutual attachments were formed, and the fullest confidence was reposed in their medical skill. While in some instances the duties of the physician, of the teacher of religion, and of the instructor of youth, devolved on the same individual, some of the eminent civilians also of our early history were found to participate in the same duties of benevolence. The honourable John Winthrop, son of governor Winthrop of Massachusetts, was eminent in medicine as well as in philosophy, and was one of the founders of the Royal Society. New England from its first settlement has not been without able and learned men in every profession. It is highly honorable to our fathers that their civil and religious institutions, however imbued with the imperfections of their turbulent age, are incomparably the wisest and the best that any legislative body ever bequeathed to their posterity ; and in their literary and scientific foundations, we recognise the radical principles which are cherished at the present age as the immutable laws of civil and religious freedom. The independence, liberty, and privileges, which the whole United States now enjoy, are almost entirely the emanations from the noble spirit which was inherited from the early settlers of New England. It should therefore be our endeavor to preserve their sons from dishonoring their fathers' holy standard, by exhibiting to their contemplation in a fair and impartial light, the lives of some of their distinguished ancestors. Unshielded from the rigors of a boisterous season, they were compelled to erect citadels of defence against the attacks of cruel savages, while their hearts were pierced with the keenest anguish by the arrows of death, depriving them of rulers, parents, husbands, wives and children. How cheering would have been the consolation, could those pious fathers have foreseen a period like the present, when their descendents, assembling in magnificent temples are gratefully chanting their praises, and cultivating those principles of virtue, patriotism and religion, which they assiduously cherished as the objects of their fondest attachment. It was but shortly after the landing of the first emigrants at Plymouth, December 22, 1620, that they were visited with severe sickness. Having undergone the perils of a long voyage in an inclement season, subjected to fatigue, privations and sufferings, their constitutions impaired, their spirits depressed, and their hopes in many respects frustrated ; it is no matter of surprise that they were afflicted with uncommon mortality, insomuch that nearly one half of their number perished during the first winter. But it was their laudable zeal, and heavenly mindedness that first inspirited them to commence the race of liberty and glory, and it was the same sublime spirit that fortified their minds against scenes of woe and despair.

It is not to be considered an extraordinary circumstance that more than a century and a half elapsed after the first settlement of the colonies, before a single effort was made, either by public authority or by the enterprise of individuals, for the establishment of institutions for the education of physicians, or the regulation of the practice of medicine. Our ancestors were strongly impressed with the importance of general education, and it was their constant solicitude to provide for institutions of learning, as far as was practicable. But the welfare of the church and their political economy were made paramount to all other considerations. The peculiar motives which prompted their emigration to this country, the difficult circumstances which they were called to encounter, and the depressed state of medical science in the countries whence they came, will furnish the most ample apology for their neglect of the means of improved medical education. They possessed a spirit of submission to the privations incident to a new settlement, and they enjoyed a religious confidence in the skill of their clerical physicians; besides which, several accomplished European physicians had emigrated with the early settlers. In process of time a considerable number of young graduates from our colleges repaired to Europe to complete their medical education in the public schools, and to qualify themselves to practise in the colonies.* The period can be recollected when it was not uncommon for a skilful surgeon to ride one and even two hundred miles to perform a capital operation, and so late as about the middle of the eighteenth century a patient afflicted with stone in the bladder actually crossed the Atlantic, to have the operation of lithotomy performed by the celebrated Dr. Cheselden in London. Medical libraries had no existence in the country, and it was seldom that students could have access to the elementary works necessary for their instruction. No medical journal was published in America until near the close of the eighteenth century, through which physicians could communicate the results of their experience, or make known their improvements and discoveries; not even a newspaper was printed till the year 1704.† Hence it is not strange that we are so little acquainted with the character and practice of our predecessors.

The first physician of whom we have any account among the

* Harvard college was founded at Cambridge	- - - - -	1638
William and Mary college of Virginia	- - - - -	1691
Yale college in Connecticut	- - - - -	1700
Princetown college in New Jersey	- - - - -	1746
Philadelphia college	- - - - -	1754
King's, now Columbia college New York	- - - - -	1754

All these colleges furnished students for European medical institutions.

† The first newspaper printed in America was the *Boston News-Letter*, begun April 24, 1704, by B. Green. The first in Pennsylvania, December 22, 1719. First in New York, October 16, 1725. First in Charleston, S. C. 1730. In Rhode Island, October, 1732. In Connecticut, 1755. In New Hampshire, 1756.

the colonists, was Dr. *Samuel Fuller*. (b) He formed one of the company who came over in the first ship, and was a deacon in Rev. John Robinson's church. Whether he had enjoyed a collegiate education is uncertain, but he is said to have been well qualified in his profession; he was zealous in the cause of religion, and eminently useful as a physician and surgeon. He extended his benevolent labors not only to the sick among his immediate friends at Plymouth and the aborigines in the vicinity, but in 1628 and 1629, by the desire of governor Endicot, he twice visited the new settlement at Salem, where he manifested his skill and success in practice among the numerous sufferers under scurvy and other diseases introduced there by the ships on their arrival. He received the entire approbation of governor Endicot, and his letters of thanks for his useful services. In a letter to governor Bradford, June 28, 1630, Dr. Fuller says, "I have been to Matapan (now Dorchester), and let some twenty of those people blood." What disease prevailed among them to require the loss of blood in the warm season of June, we are unable to determine. In the year 1632, the settlers at Plymouth were visited with a disease which they called an infectious fever, of which upwards of twenty men, women and children died, among whom was their pious and excellent physician, Dr. Fuller. The same disease proved very fatal also among the native Indians.

In the year 1633, Dr. *Giles Firmer* was a deacon in the Boston church, and was esteemed as an able physician, and a man of learning. In 1637, it is noticed that Dr. *John Fisk* arrived and settled at Salem, where he sustained a respectable character as a clergyman and physician. *William Gager* accompanied governor Winthrop to Boston in the character of surgeon, where he died greatly lamented. At the first commencement at Harvard college, in 1642, *Samuel Bellingham* and *Henry Saltonstall* were graduated, and were afterwards honored with the degree of M. D. at European universities, and both were reputed learned and skilful physicians. *Leonard Hoar* was graduated at Cambridge in 1650, and repaired to England, where he studied medicine and received the degree of M. D.; he returned to New England, and was for about two years president of Harvard college. *John Glover*, in 1650, repaired to England, and returned after having the degree of M. D. conferred on him at Aberdeen. *Isaac Chauncy* was graduated in 1651, and was honored with the degree of M. D. in Europe. *John Rogers* M. D. was president of Harvard college from 1682 to 1684, but whether he was in the practice of medicine is uncertain. *Charles Chauncy* (b) was president of Harvard college in 1652; he had a medical education in England, and had six sons educated at Harvard college, all of whom studied medicine, and were said by Dr. Mather to have

(b) This letter denotes those whose biography is to be found in this volume.

been eminent physicians as their father was before them ; several of them removed to England and did not return. *Mathew Fuller*, a relation probably of Dr. Samuel Fuller, first of Plymouth, about 1640, removed to Barnstable in 1652, where he died, 1678. He was appointed Surgeon General of the provincial forces raised in Plymouth colony in 1673, and he is also styled Captain in 1675. Item from his inventory. Surgeon's chest and drugs £16.0.0. Library, £10.0.0. *Thomas Starr*, of Yarmouth, as early as 1640, and living there in 1670, is occasionally styled Chirurgeon in the public records. *Comfort Starr*, Chirurgeon, first of Newtown, alias Cambridge, removed to Duxbury, in Plymouth colony, in 1638, whence after a short period he removed to Boston, where he died about 1663. *Samuel Seabury*, styled Chirurgeon in the records, appears in Duxbury, in Plymouth colony, at an early date, where he died 1680. Items of his inventory. Nicholas Culpeper's Practice of Physic, £1.4.0. Ditto Anatomy 3s. Reed's Practice of Surgery, 1s. 6d. Physician's Practice, 1s. Latin Herbal, £1.10.0. Art of Distillation, by John French, 2s. Surgeons' Instruments 12s. Antimonial Cup, 5s. *Thomas Little*, born in Marshfield, Plymouth colony, graduated at Harvard college 1695, settled in Plymouth as a physician about 1700, where he died, 1712, aged 38 years. He held several civil offices in the county of Plymouth, and was also a merchant of some note ; one of his sons, *Thomas Little*, was a physician in Chilmark, 1726. Surgeon's chest of Thomas Little senr. £17.10.0.

Thomas Oliver, who was an elder in the Boston church, is mentioned with high approbation in Winthrop's Journal, as an experienced and skilful surgeon about 1644. The new settlers, from exposure to extreme hardships and to famine, were frequently afflicted with alarming and fatal diseases, which at some periods threatened almost a total extinction of their population. At different times from 1678 to 1702, the smallpox spread through the colonies, and, from the injudicious mode of treatment, its effects were like a mortal scourge wherever it appeared. But in the year 1646 these virtuous people were much grieved by the discovery of a disease in Boston, with which till then they were entirely unacquainted, and which, the venerated Winthrop in his Journal says, raised a scandal upon the town and country though without just cause. This proved to be *Lues Venerea*. It originated with the wife of a seafaring man, who after child birth was affected with ulcerated breast. Many persons were employed to draw this woman's breast, by which means about sixteen persons, men, women and children, were affected with this new and odious disease. The nature of the complaint was at length ascertained ; but no physician could be found in the country who was acquainted with the method of cure. But it fortunately happened that at that very season a young surgeon arrived from the West Indies, who had been experienced in the disease, and he soon performed

a cure. In the summer of 1647, an epidemical sickness spread through the country, among English, French, Dutch and Indians. It resembled a cold attended by slight fever, (probably Influenza.) Those, says Winthrop, who were bled or used cooling things, died, those who took comfortable things, for most part recovered in a few days. Not a family, and but a few persons escaped an attack of this epidemic: about 40 or 50 died in Massachusetts, and about the same number in Connecticut, among whom was the Rev. Mr. Thomas Hooker, pastor of the church in Hartford. Dr. *Nathaniel Williams* was graduated at Harvard college in 1693. He was ordained a minister of the gospel, but was for many years a very useful instructor of the south grammar school in Boston, and was very popular as a practising physician, to which he devoted the latter part of his life, and was called the "beloved physician," from his kind and tender deportment in the chamber of the sick. He died in 1739. He published a pamphlet on the inoculation of the smallpox in 1721. *Thomas Thacher*, (b) who came over to New England in 1685, was educated to the ministry, and was the first minister of the Old South Church in Boston. He also received a medical education, was considered a great divine, and learned physician; and preaching and practising to general approbation, attained great eminence in both professions, and in the learned languages. He published a work entitled, "A Brief Guide in the Smallpox and Measles" in 1677, which is the first medical publication found on record in New England, if not in America. In 1669, it appears that *Henry Taylor*, Surgeon in Boston, had his rate omitted in consideration of a cure performed and a promise to attend the sick poor, or such as may be hurt; and in 1671, Dr. *Daniel Stone* undertook to attend the town's poor, for twenty shillings money, and remittance of taxes. Several persons by the name of *Clark* are found on record as Physicians and Surgeons. Drs. *Thomas Oaks* and *William Hughes* were in some repute as medical men in Boston from 1685 to 1695. Dr. *Elisha Cooke* senr. practised physic with much reputation in the town of Boston in the latter part of the 17th century. He was a great politician, and for more than 40 years a popular leader in the general court, and was a member of the council. He died in 1685, aged 78 years. Dr. *Elisha Cooke* jun. followed the political course of his father, and was one of the most popular political characters in the town of Boston, and a leader of the debates in the house of representatives. He was sent to the court of Great Britain as agent for the people of Massachusetts, and was afterwards elected a counsellor. He died in the year 1737. The two *Cookes*, according to Dr. *Eliot's* biography, were the most zealous republicans who ever acted their parts in Massachusetts Bay. Having thus exhibited such a sketch of the state of medicine in Massachusetts during the 17th century as the imperfect documents at command enable us to compose, we

enter upon the history of medical science in the 18th century under more auspicious advantages, and shall close with more honorable and important results.

In the year 1721, after an absence of nineteen years, the small-pox again invaded the settlements of the planters with its usual cruel ravages. This disease had ever been considered as one of the greatest scourges with which the human race had been afflicted. Such was the dreadful virulence of this pestilence, that a large proportion of the sick became its victims, and the most of those who escaped with their lives, were disfigured with scars and pits, which destroyed the comeliness of the countenance, and in some instances a total blindness was the consequence. Those who have not been conversant with this formidable malady, can form no conception of the hideous spectacle exhibited by one suffering under malignant smallpox. The head is swollen to a monstrous size, the eyes are entirely closed, the lips swollen and of a livid color, and the face and surface of the whole body are covered with maturated pustules, from which issue purulent matter; the miserable being has the appearance of a putrid mass, and scarcely the semblance of the human form remains. The visitation of the smallpox at this period afforded occasion for an event, which in its consequences may be ranked among the most important to the welfare of mankind that have ever been recorded in the annals of medicine. It is the introduction of *Inoculation of Small-pox* as a substitute for the natural infection: it is in fact a triumph over that mortal scourge, disarming it of its malignity, and reducing it to comparative mildness and safety. If reliance can be placed on tradition, the art of inoculation may be traced back to remote antiquity;* but it was not until the first part of the 18th century that it attracted the notice of the most intelligent and enlightened class of mankind, and it was first regularly adopted in England in the year 1721. The celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montague, having resided sometime in Constantinople, became acquainted with the method of inoculation as practised by some Turkish women, and satisfied with its safety and salutary effects, subjected her son to the operation of *engrafting* as it was then

* It is a remarkable fact, that in many countries in Europe, and in Africa and Asia, particularly in Hindoostan and China, inoculation for the smallpox was practised by the common people, for many years before its introduction by the physicians of Great Britain; and, in some of them, as far back as tradition can be traced. It is also a still more remarkable fact, that in *Wales*, in the Highlands of *Scotland*, among the ignorant peasantry of *Germany*, in the interior of Africa, and in several parts of the *Asiatic* continent, distant as they are from each other, differing widely as they do, in manners, customs, law and religion, the art of communicating this disease by inoculation was designated by the singular phrase of *buying the smallpox*; because it was superstitiously imagined that inoculation would not produce the proper effect unless the person from whom the variolous matter was taken received a piece of money, or some article in exchange for it. See Woodville's history of Inoculation, and Miller's 18th Century.

termed. On her return to England, she directed that her daughter should undergo the operation, which was performed by her surgeon, Mr. Maitland, in April, 1721, and this was the first instance of inoculation in the English dominions. About the same time, Dr. Cotton Mather, a learned divine in Boston, having observed in the Philosophical Transactions printed in London, an account of inoculation by Timoni & Pylarini in Turkey, communicated the information to several physicians in Boston, who treated the subject with contempt. He then recommended to his friend Dr. *Zabdiel Boylston* (b) to adopt the practice. Accordingly with the little information which he could obtain from that publication, and in the face of the most violent opposition, on the 27th day of June, 1721, Dr. Boylston inoculated first his only son about thirteen years of age, and two negro servants, in which he was completely successful. This had the happy tendency, not only to confirm in his own mind the safety and utility of inoculation, but in some degree to quiet the fears of others. In the year 1721, and first part of 1722, Dr. Boylston inoculated 247 persons, and 39 were inoculated by other persons in Boston and its vicinity. Of this number six only died, and several of these were supposed to have taken the infection before inoculation. In the same period, 5759 took the disease the natural way, of whom 844 died, and many of those who recovered were left with broken constitutions and disfigured countenances. The degree of *odium* and *persecution* which Dr. Boylston brought upon himself by this very laudable innovation, is almost incredible. His house was attacked with so much violence that he and his family could not feel themselves safe in it. He was assaulted in the streets, loaded with every species of abuse, and execrated as a murderer. Indeed many sober pious people were deliberately of opinion, when he commenced the practice of inoculation, that if any of his patients should die, he ought to be capitally punished. A bill was brought into the legislature for prohibiting the practice under severe penalties, and it actually passed the house of representatives; but some doubts existing in the council, its progress was arrested, and it never became a law. (Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts, vol. 2d.) But Dr. Boylston was repeatedly summoned before the selectmen of Boston, and received their reprehension. He not only suffered the greatest indignity from an enraged populace, but the resentment and censure of his professional brethren, who formed a powerful combination against him; although he repeatedly invited them to visit his patients and examine for their satisfaction. The novelty of the subject and the strong prejudices then subsisting, caused much public agitation, and involved both clergymen and physicians in a spirited and intemperate controversy. The clergymen in general, however, acted an honorable part, and many of them became zealous advocates of the new practice, while most of the medical faculty were its active and violent op-

posers. The newspapers teemed with pieces on both sides of the interesting controversy, and from the opponents of inoculation issued some of a virulent and scurrilous character. The *New England Courant* printed by the Franklins, (the young philosopher himself being one of the editors) was under the influence of the physicians, who abused the clergy for their interference in the matter in controversy. Some of the clergy received personal injury, others were insulted in the street, and were hardly safe in their houses, nor were their services acceptable on Sunday, until the success of the practice induced the people to think that it was the hand of Providence in their favor. Dr. *William Douglass*, (b) a Scotch physician of considerable reputation in Boston, took the first rank in the opposition, and his coadjutors were *Lawrence Dalhonde*, a French practitioner of popular talents, and *Joseph Marion*. Dr. Douglass was a man of learning and abilities, but conceited and arrogant, and behaved with great disingenuousness on this occasion. He published *Essays on Inoculated Smallpox* in 1722, and in 1730. During the malevolent persecution of Dr. Boylston, Dr. Dalhonde was prevailed upon to frame a singular deposition before two magistrates in Boston, and the selectmen of that town had the effrontery to publish it in support of their opposition. Notwithstanding the palpable falsehood of the deposition, it was not only industriously circulated in New England, but even in London, where it was reprinted to expose its absurdity. (See note A. at the end of this sketch.) Dr. Boylston, however, being a man of great benevolence and courage, in despite of obloquy and opposition, persevered in his professional duty, and ultimately enjoyed the happy results of his very useful labors. The practice of inoculation gradually gained ground and became general in New England, and in a few years it was extended to New York, Philadelphia and Charleston. By the invitation of Sir Hans Sloane, Dr. Boylston visited London, where he was highly respected, and honored by being elected a fellow of the Royal Society, and introduced into the presence of the royal family. While in that city in 1726, he published by desire of the Royal Society, an historical account of the smallpox inoculation as practised by him in Boston, which he dedicated to Princess Caroline, and after his return it was reprinted in Boston, a copy of which has been deposited in the medical library at Harvard college, by Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq. See the biography of Dr. Boylston in this volume.

In the year 1752, the country was again scourged by a visitation of smallpox, and by order of the magistrates an account was taken of all who were affected with the disease, either in the natural way or by inoculation, in the town of Boston, and rendered on oath; by which it appears that the number of inhabitants amounted to 15,734. The whole number of smallpox patients the natural way was 5544, of which 514 died. The number of inocu-

lated was 2113 of which 30 died. Hitherto mercury had not been employed as a preparatory for inoculation in Boston; but according to Dr. Gale, in the year 1764 three thousand persons recovered from inoculation in the new method by the use of mercury, and eight only died, and these were chiefly children under five years of age. Practitioners in general had not at this time abandoned the very injurious method of treatment in smallpox. Contrary to the cooling system of the great Sydenham, the sick were warmly covered in bed, heating and stimulating medicines were freely administered with the view of keeping out the eruption and promoting a profuse perspiration; and some there were who would not permit the linen of the sick to be changed during the whole course of the disease, however copiously the bodily filth might have been accumulated. But about the year 1766, Dr. Sutton, an English physician, and Baron Dimsdale, an experienced and able practitioner, promulgated their improved mode of treatment by exposing patients to the cool air, allowing them to drink cold water, and administering mercurial purgatives and refrigerant medicines. Ancient prejudices soon vanished, and the new plan gradually became general, and was adopted in America as the most rational and successful method of treatment. The first public hospitals for smallpox inoculation of which we have any record in New England, were opened in the vicinity of Boston in 1764, one at Point Shirley, by Dr. William Barnet, from New Jersey, and another at Castle William, in Boston harbor, by Dr. Samuel Gelston, of Nantucket. Mercury was at this period in the highest repute for its supposed specific powers as an antidote to the variolous poison, and it constituted a part of the preparatory course of every experienced inoculator. When the British army evacuated the town of Boston, in March 1776, the smallpox was found lurking in various parts of the town, and to prevent its general spreading all the inhabitants and the American troops stationed there were subjected to inoculation, and with a successful result. Hospitals for the purpose of inoculation were again established in various parts of Massachusetts, particularly at Cambridge and Brookline, by Drs. Isaac Rand, William Aspinwall, and Lemuel Hayward, by whom more than two thousand persons were inoculated in one year, and by whose successful mode of treatment the practice of inoculation was greatly encouraged, and its benefits extensively diffused. The high confidence hitherto reposed in the efficacy of a mercurial course, was now considerably diminished, and practitioners were daily strengthened in the opinion, that success depended principally on the cooling regimen, air and antiphlogistic diet with which it was accompanied.

The smallpox again visited the town of Boston as an epidemic in 1792. The whole town was inoculated in three days to appease the infatuation among the inhabitants with respect to the danger of

infection of the deadly pestilence. The hurry and confusion in which inoculation was resorted to on this occasion, precluded the possibility of affording in every instance the requisite attention, and of adopting the most judicious and eligible mode of procedure. The number inoculated was 9152 persons indiscriminately, and 165 deaths were the consequence. These, however, were chiefly the people of poor families, many of whom were destitute of the comforts of life. Little reliance was now placed on the specific action of mercury in this disease. In many instances it was entirely dispensed with, and shortly after altogether abandoned.

In the years 1735 and 1736, the disease called *angina ulcusculosa*, (*angina maligna*) prevailed extensively throughout the country in its most malignant form, and it was estimated that in Massachusetts alone about one thousand persons became its victims. On this occasion calomel was for the first time administered as a remedy, and attended with the happiest success, arresting in a surprising manner the fatal tendency of the disease. Dr. William Douglass published a valuable practical essay detailing the characteristics and the method of treatment of this alarming complaint.

Among the earliest publications on medical subjects in America, was an essay on fevers, published in Boston in 1732, by Dr. John Walton. Dr. John Cutler was long an eminent physician and surgeon in Boston. He was the preceptor of several of the early physicians, among whom was Dr. Zabdiel Boylston. The gentlemen now to be noticed were those who chiefly commanded the practice in Boston during the middle and latter part of the eighteenth century. The most of whom were employed to inoculate the poor of the town when the smallpox was prevalent among them in the year 1764. Dr. *Sylvester Gardiner* sustained a high reputation as an operative surgeon and was for a long period the most noted druggist in New England. He died at Newport, in 1786, aged 80 years. Dr. *Benjamin Church* (b) was very popular among the whigs, and was gaining practice before his unfortunate transaction in 1775. Dr. *James Lloyd*, (b) was considered as highly accomplished in all the branches of the profession, but particularly distinguished for his skill in surgery and midwifery, being the first and most eminent practitioner in this latter branch in Boston, and probably in New England. He kept a genteel equipage, and entertained company with great liberality, and he commanded a more respectable circle of professional business than any other physician of his day. Dr. *Joseph Warren*, (b) memorable for patriotism and public virtue, was in a full circle of medical practice, and educated a number of young gentlemen for the profession before the event of the battle in which he so gallantly sacrificed his life. Dr. *Thomas Bulfinch*, senr. (b) was in much repute in his profession. Dr. *Thomas Bulfinch*, junr. (b) enjoyed a large share of very genteel practice, and lived in a handsome style, keeping a chariot, and was greatly valued and respected by all who required his attendance. Dr. *Miles*

Whitworth was considered as possessing good medical abilities, and, residing in Boston during the siege, he was the attending physician and surgeon of the American prisoners who were wounded in the battle on Bunker's Hill in 1775. They were thrown into the common jail in Boston, and provided with little more than the ordinary jail provisions, in consequence of which they suffered greatly, and many died, in particular Lieutenant Colonel Gardiner, or Parker, a very respectable man ; but their sufferings were greatly alleviated by the humane attentions of Dr. Whitworth. Dr. *Nathaniel Perkins* practised in Boston before the revolutionary war, and was very respectable and popular. Drs. *William Lee Perkins*, *John Perkins*, *Philip Godfrey*, *Benjamin Curtis*, *Kast*, (*b*) *Roberts*, *Barret*, *Pecker*, and *Pyncheon*, were contemporaries and enjoyed a good share of professional reputation and practice, in Boston. Dr. *Joseph Gardener* was in high reputation both as a physician and surgeon, and was a dexterous operator. He pretended that he regarded learning as superfluous in a physician, that the bedside was the only school for a practitioner ; but he did, nevertheless, devote some time to study, and was more learned than he chose to appear to be. He was remarkable for wit and satire, and retained his popularity during life. Dr. *Joseph Whipple* was taken under the patronage of Dr. Gardener, was for some time secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was rising from small beginnings into notice and business, but died in 1804, aged 48 years. Dr. *Nathaniel Appleton*, was a most amiable man, but too diffident to display his real worth and abilities, which were far above mediocrity. Dr. *Charles Jarvis* (*b*) was held in much respect, and greatly beloved as a physician, and distinguished in the ranks of democracy as an active politician, after the establishment of the federal constitution.

Dr. *John Sprague* was a pupil of Dr. Dalhonde, of Boston, whose daughter he married. He early entered into extensive practice in Boston, and accumulated large property. He is said to have been a man of a good deal of natural acumen, of considerable reading, and of nice observation, and a very successful practitioner ; he had a singular bluntness in his manners, but was amiable in his temper, a lover of money, but indulgent to his debtors. Having married a second wife, who was a lady of fortune, he retired and spent his last days in Dedham. Dr. *John Homans* was a Surgeon in the army during the revolutionary war, after which he settled in Boston, and was elected a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He received from nature a great share of good sense, which was well cultivated, and as a physician he was much employed and highly approved, being considered inferior to no one of his age. He discharged the duties of his profession with tenderness and humanity, and to the poor with disinterested benevolence. In 1800 he undertook a voyage for the recovery of his

health, but died on the second day after the departure of the vessel, June 3d, in the 47th year of his age.

The means of medical education in New-England were more limited and deficient than in the middle and southern provinces; no medical school nor public lectures were known. But when the alarm of war pervaded our country, and an army was formed, a new and vigorous impulse was given to the investigation of subjects pertaining to medicine and surgery. Military hospitals were established under the auspices of the most eminent professional characters, affording a fund of practical knowledge; and no circumstance in our history could have been more efficient in accelerating improvements in the most important of all the sciences. It was not, however, till since the close of the war for independence, that any thing more than a tardy and silent progress could have been expected, as our existing embarrassments and necessities required all our efforts and resources. It was, at the early part of the war, found extremely difficult to select medical men who were fully competent to the arduous duties pertaining to the higher stations in the hospital department; and numerous embarrassments and sufferings were experienced, till at length the most important offices were occupied by men no less distinguished for public virtue and genuine patriotism, than for medical dignity and eminence.* Their united wisdom and skill were happily directed to the melioration of the condition of our military medical establishments, and ultimately to the promotion of professional knowledge, and the faithful discharge of duty among the surgeons of the army. Since the termination of our glorious struggle in the cause of liberty, the dark clouds which, in our infant state, enveloped the science of medicine, have been gradually dissipated, our imprisoned mental powers and faculties liberated and improved, and our medical character, like our national Independence, has been honorably and advantageously established. In the year 1781, and in several preceding years, great difficulties were experienced among professional men, by the fluctuating state of the old continental paper money. In order to obviate as far as was practicable the inconve-

* The first Director General of our military hospitals was Dr. Benjamin Church, of Boston; but being, soon after his appointment, charged with a treasonable correspondence with the British, he was tried and dismissed, and Dr. John Morgan, of Philadelphia, succeeded to his office. This gentleman was, however, superseded by Dr. William Shippen, and Dr. Benjamin Rush was appointed Physician General to the army, but a short time after he was induced to resign his commission. The following gentlemen are personally recollected as holding the stations of Physician or Surgeon General or Deputy Director General of the different departments of the army, viz.:—Malachi Treat, John Cochran and Samuel Stringer, of New-York; Jonathan Potts, of Pennsylvania; Robert Johnston and J. Brown, of Maryland or Carolina; James Craik, of Virginia; and Isaac Foster, of Massachusetts. Andrew Craigie, Apothecary General. Those who served as Hospital or Regimental Surgeons, belonging to Massachusetts, during the war, were—Isaac Foster, Samuel Adams, John Warren, William Eustis, David Townsend, John Homans, John Hart, Joseph Fisk, John Thomas, Abijah Richardson, Daniel Shute, James Thacher.

nience and loss sustained from this cause, the physicians of Boston instituted a club, the meetings of which were held at the Green Dragon tavern. Physicians' fees had been much below par, and when paid in depreciated paper money, little or nothing could be realized from them. The fee for a visit was one shilling and sixpence, afterwards increased to two shillings. Midwifery and capital operations were at a guinea, with charges for after visits. The first fees established by the medical club, were fifty cents for a visit; if in consultation, one dollar: rising and visit in the night, after 11 o'clock and before sunrise, double fee: obstetrical case, eight dollars: capital operation in surgery, five pounds: reducing a dislocation, or setting a fractured bone, one guinea: bleeding, opening abscess, extracting tooth, fifty cents, and the usual fee for visit was added. All accounts were to be calculated in hard money, and, if paid in paper, according to such agreement as could be made with the parties. The profession was much benefited by these regulations, having a happy tendency to bring physicians acquainted with each other, and to promote harmony and good fellowship; all party politics were prohibited at their meetings, and the medical fees were made more adequate to the services performed.

In 1784 scarlatina maligna appeared, and spread through the New-England states, but it was more benign in its effects than formerly. But a more distressing calamity visited the town of Boston in 1798: the yellow fever made its appearance, and exhibited every mark of great malignity. Although it was limited to a small section of the town, the deaths were about one hundred and forty-five, during the few months of its continuance. There were no evidences of its having been imported, nor any instance to justify the supposition of its being contagious. Boston was again visited by this fatal malady in 1802, with all the circumstances of its former malignant and destructive nature, and about fifty persons were its victims.*

It should be noticed in this sketch, that, from about the first part of the 18th century, it has been the practice of many physicians of eminence in New-England, to administer mercury as an efficacious remedy in febrile diseases of every description. It was employed, not so much for its evacuating power, as with the intention of introducing it gradually into the system as an alterative. The fullest confidence was reposed in a moderate course of mercury in pleurisies and peripneumonies, esteeming it as the most efficacious attenuant and expectorant which the *materia medica* afforded. But the strongest prejudices against the use of mercury subsisted among all classes of people, and physicians were obliged to observe the utmost caution in its administration, as their popu-

* A more particular account of the yellow fever will be found under the head of Pennsylvania.

larity depended upon concealment. It was customary to give it the significant term of *ponderous medicine*, imagining that mercury acts upon the system by its ponderosity, destroying the too great siziness of the blood, and rendering pervious such vessels as might be obstructed by the *Error loci* of Boerhaave. In various chronic diseases, a deobstruent course, in the form of Plummer's pills, was a favorite remedy.

Among the epidemics which have visited our country, the *Influenza*, or *Tussis Epidemica* of Sydenham, deserves some notice in this place. It has prevailed in America at nine or ten different periods since the year 1733; but in the autumns of 1789 and 1807, it was more universally extensive and severe in its effects than at any preceding era of its visitation. It first appeared at New-York and Philadelphia, from whence it was, in a short time, diffused through every part of the continent. It was estimated at the time that three fourths of the inhabitants were, in a few days, affected with this singular epidemic, in a greater or less degree. The amazing rapidity with which it spread through the country, resembled more a storm agitating the atmosphere, than the natural progress of a disease from any contagious source. Almost a whole city, town, or neighborhood, became affected with its influence in a few days, and as it did not incapacitate people in general from pursuing their ordinary occupations, it was common to observe in every street and place of resort, a constant coughing, hawking, and wheezing, and in public assemblies little else was to be heard or attended to. Although all classes of people experienced the operation of the influenza, it is remarkable that a small number, comparatively speaking, were so ill as to require medical attendance, and instances of its fatal termination were of rare occurrence.

In the year 1799 the glorious discovery of the vaccine disease, which renders the human system unsusceptible of the smallpox, was announced in our newspapers and in the Medical Repository of New-York. The honor of this important discovery belongs to the late Dr. Edward Jenner, a celebrated English physician. Dr. George Pearson, of St. George's Hospital, had some agency in ascertaining the fact familiarly known for years before, that the dairy maids were proof against the smallpox, and suggested the use that might probably be made of that fact.* Dr. Jenner, with great perseverance, matured and fully established the prophylactic efficacy of the vaccine disease, and for his invaluable enterprise the British Parliament granted him an honorable and liberal reward. The first information relative to this novel and singular discovery,

* Dr. Pearson transmitted in a letter to Dr. Hosack, of New-York, a thread impregnated with the matter of the vaccine virus; and in a letter to Dr. H., towards the close of 1798, and which accompanied a copy of his "Inquiry concerning the History of the Cowpox," published in London, November, 1797, he says, "I now send you my proof sheets of a new work on a subject which will much surprise you, and which promises to supersede that most loathsome disease, the smallpox."

although from unquestionable authority, did not receive in our country universal credence. By some it was treated as chimerical, while others resolved to suspend their opinion for the issue of future experiments. Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, however, then Professor of Medicine in the University at Cambridge, did not hesitate to proclaim his full confidence in the statements and facts, which he had received directly from Dr. Jenner. In July, 1800, he procured matter from thence, and tested the experiment in the persons of four of his own children, the eldest about seven years of age, who thus became the first subjects of vaccination in the United States; and being afterwards exposed to smallpox infection in the hospital of Dr. Aspinwall, they proved to be unsusceptible of its influence. This very laudable example was soon followed by many others, some of whom were tested by variolous infection, with the happiest result. These first successful examples produced in a great degree the desired effect of establishing the public confidence in the prophylactic efficacy of the vaccine disease. In the same year and at subsequent periods, Dr. Waterhouse presented to the public, historical and practical treatises on the cowpox, and communicated, through the medium of newspapers, useful and discriminating directions and precautions relative to the genuine disease. In the following September, Dr. James Jackson, of Boston, returned from London, and having acquired experimental knowledge, by attending the practice of vaccination with Dr. Woodville, generously contributed to its propagation in Boston and the vicinity. In the same year, Dr. Miller, of New-York, received vaccine matter from Dr. Pearson, of London, which failed, however, to produce the genuine disease, nor was another supply, sent on from Boston, attended with better success. In fact, spurious matter, in some instances, and want of skill and experience in the operator in others, occasioned numerous failures during the first attempts, which had the effect of damping public confidence, and restricting the exertions of the friends of vaccination. The Massachusetts Medical Society, early in 1801, addressed an application to the Vaccine Institution in England, requesting a supply of matter. Publications on this new subject were now continually multiplying, and the most gratifying evidences in favor of vaccination issued from various quarters. In the year 1802 the Boston Board of Health directed nineteen persons to be vaccinated under their inspection, all of whom were afterwards tested by the smallpox infection in the most satisfactory manner and with the happiest result. In the following year the junior physicians of Boston formed an association for the express purpose of bestowing gratuitously the benefits of vaccination upon the indigent, and of disseminating the matter among medical practitioners.

In 1808, a committee was appointed by the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the purpose of collecting all the evidence which had transpired respecting the efficacy of the

cowpox, as preventive of smallpox, and to report the most eligible method of conducting the practice. A copious and interesting report was made and published in the communications of the society, accompanied with evidence sufficiently strong to remove every vestige of prejudice and uncertainty relative to the prophylactic powers of vaccination. In the year 1809, the towns of Milton and New-Bedford made arrangements for the vaccination of a considerable proportion of their inhabitants, which was attended with a successful result. The next attempt to disseminate the advantages of vaccination will be found in the transactions of the legislature of Massachusetts, who, in 1810, authorized the several towns to appoint committees, and raise monies annually for this important purpose. At length the glorious triumph of vaccination over that most dreaded scourge of the human race, the smallpox, became established by incontestable proofs, and has received the sanction and applause of the community, and of the wise and learned in the remotest regions of the earth. We can now congratulate the citizens of the United States, who, in common with the whole civilized world, are in possession of this heavenly blessing,—a blessing which eradicates from the catalogue of human miseries the most loathsome and fatal disease, and which happily closes one of the most crowded avenues to the tomb.

The horrors occasioned by the ravages of the yellow fever in our cities had scarcely ceased, when another epidemic equally formidable and malignant in its nature, and fatal in its consequences, commenced its distressing career, and spread terror and desolation through the interior of the country. This malady, which has obtained the name of *spotted fever*, was first noticed by Drs. Danielson and Mann, at Medfield, Mass., in March, 1806. Its ravages were afterwards experienced in Connecticut, and in 1810 it prevailed in the county of Worcester with unexampled mortality, baffling the powers of medicine, and setting at defiance the best skill of physicians. On this alarming occasion, the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society appointed a committee, with instructions to make all possible inquiry and investigation relative to the disease in question. Their report as to its causes, history and mode of treatment, was elaborate, honorable to themselves, and of great practical utility. The fact has been well ascertained that the disease is not contagious, as was by some at first apprehended. It is remarkable of this epidemic, that it is most rife in the cold seasons of winter and spring, and that it is more prevalent and genuine, in its character, in the interior, than in the vicinity of the sea-board. But, wherever it waves its standard, the arrows of death cross its paths, and all classes and sexes become its indiscriminate victims. In some situations and seasons, the proportion of deaths, in severe cases, is supposed to have been more than one half of the number seized. One instance occurred, at a considerable distance from any place where the disease was known to exist, of

the death of seven adult persons out of eight, belonging to four or five contiguous families, before the fifth day, and the eighth survived but a few days longer. In other more favorable instances, and under a more improved and judicious mode of treatment, the number of deaths, it is said, has not exceeded one in sixty or eighty. In many instances of this formidable disease, Dr. Fowler's arsenical solution proved to be a remedy superior to any other that was employed.

In the autumn of 1812, a formidable epidemic made its appearance among the soldiers of the United States' Army at Greenbush, and other military stations, where its desolating effects were marked with great severity. During the winter and spring of 1813, it was prevalent and extremely fatal among the inhabitants of Vermont, in the upper parts of the state of New-York, in several towns in the interior of Massachusetts and the state of Maine, assuming a multitude of treacherous shapes, and triumphing over its victims with inexorable sway. This pestilence has been termed *bilious peripneumony*, or *typhoid peripneumony*, according to its various symptoms and forms; and Dr. Thomas Miner has denominated it *typhus syncopalis*. In some of its appearances and forms it may be identified with the petechial fever above mentioned, and, if it be a distinct disease, there is an obvious and close analogy in their nature and character. It has been remarked that the petechial fever produces a peculiar derangement of the functions of the brain, while this latter epidemic directs its morbid powers to the pleura, lungs, heart and its membranes.

The University at Cambridge, Mass., has contributed to the interest and advancement of medical science, by an institution founded on the generous benefactions of several enlightened and liberal individuals. Dr. Ezekiel Hersey, of Hingham, who died in 1770, bequeathed one thousand pounds, and his widow, at her decease, a like sum, to be applied to the support of a professor of anatomy and surgery. His brother, Dr. Abner Hersey, of Barnstable, who died in 1786, and Dr. John Cuming, of Concord, were also donors to the amount of five hundred pounds each for the same laudable purpose; and William Erving, Esq. of Boston, left one thousand pounds towards the support of an additional professor. In conformity with the views of the patrons and donors, professors of talents and character were in 1782 appointed, by whom lectures on the several branches were regularly delivered, and students received the honors of the institution. In 1780, Dr. John Warren, while surgeon of a military hospital in Boston, commenced a course of anatomical lectures, and in the following year they were attended by the students of the university. Dr. Warren furnished a plan for a medical school which was adopted by the corporation of Harvard college, and he was appointed first professor of anatomy and surgery, Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse professor of the theory and practice of physic, and Dr. Aaron Dexter, professor of chem-

istry. This was the first essay made in New-England, for the establishment of an institution for medical education. George Holmes Hall, and John Fleet, were the first who were admitted in course to the degree of Doctor in Medicine at the university, in the year 1788. From a spirit of envy and jealousy towards the professors, great opposition was made to the degree being conferred upon the two candidates, and it was by the address and perseverance of Dr. Warren, that the object was finally accomplished. In consequence of many inconveniences, both to professors and students, and of the superior advantages which might result from lectures delivered in a more populous situation, the Corporation and board of Overseers of Harvard University deemed it expedient to establish a medical school in the town of Boston. The several courses of lectures were accordingly transferred, and commenced in that metropolis, in December, 1810. The immediate accession to the number of students, presents the most abundant and conclusive evidence, that the high expectations entertained of the superior advantages, which would be realized by the removal from Cambridge, were not imaginary. The annual increase of numbers at the Boston school, and the favorable attestations that their labors are justly appreciated, must afford the learned teachers the highest gratification. It must be conceded that the privileges and the means of acquiring medical knowledge, in our metropolis, are such as to justify the respect and full confidence of the public. The legislature of Massachusetts have granted the sum of \$20,000 to Harvard University, for the liberal purpose of improvement in the department of medicine. The professors are furnished with a very valuable and extensive chemical apparatus, which, by recent improvements and additions, is supposed to be most complete of any to be found in the United States. The university is also indebted to the liberality of Elias H. Derby, Esq. of Salem, for a fine collection of curious imitations in wax of various parts of the human body from Italy. In addition to the foregoing donations, very important contributions have been received from Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq. In the year 1798, this noble spirited gentleman secured to the college an annuity of one hundred and thirty-three dollars, one hundred dollars of the sum to be offered annually in prizes for three best dissertations on medical subjects. The subjects to be given out, and the prizes adjudged by a committee of medical gentlemen appointed by the corporation. The remainder of this annuity was to be carried annually to a fund for establishing an anatomical museum, and when the prizes are not assigned, that part of the annuity was to be added to the fund for the museum as above. For several years three prizes were offered, of late only two of fifty dollars each, or a medal of that value are proposed. In 1817, Mr. Boylston secured to the university an annuity of sixty dollars to be applied in

five premiums, two of fifteen, and three of ten dollars each, or medals of that value to those who should excel in elocution at a public trial in speaking the day after commencement; the corporation to join with them five gentlemen as judges of the performances. The college is also indebted to Mr. Boylston, for his good offices in behalf of the university, with his friend John Nicholls, L.L. D. of London, who presented a valuable part of the injected anatomical preparations of his father, Dr. Frank Nicholls, and a manuscript owned by Dr. Mead, an admirable specimen of chirography. Mr. Boylston is the founder at the university of the Boylston medical library, consisting at present of 900 volumes of select works in medicine and surgery. Premiums have been annually awarded, agreeably to the design of the founder, for ingenious and approved dissertations, which sufficiently evince that this generous establishment is well calculated to inspire the desired laudable emulation among professional men of the rising generation, and to promote the interest of medical science in general.* Candidates for the degree of Doctor in Medicine must attend two courses of the lectures of each of the medical professors in this university, and also their clinical practice in medicine and surgery during their lectures. They must study two years under the direction of a regular practitioner of medicine, and allow a third to elapse before they can be examined. Provided, however, that, in extraordinary cases, the medical professors, with the consent of the president, may dispense with one course of lectures on such conditions as may be thought reasonable. Those who have not received a university education, must satisfy the president and medical professors, of their knowledge in the Latin language and in experimental philosophy. The examination of candidates commences on the second Wednesday after the termination of the winter course of lectures, and the subjects of their examination are anatomy, surgery and midwifery, the theory and practice of medicine, chemistry, materia medica and clinical medicine. Each of the candidates approved prepares an inaugural dissertation on some medical subject, which dissertation, having been submitted to the faculty of medicine, at least fourteen days before, is read and defended at a public examination, in the philosophy chamber at Cambridge, on the Friday preceding the last Wednesday in

* The annual proceeds of the Boylston fund amount to one hundred dollars, which are divided into two premiums, to be awarded as above mentioned. Mr. Boylston has recently established another prize fund in connexion with the Boylston Medical Society, particularly for the medical class attending lectures in the university, and designed especially to improve young men in the style of writing on medical subjects. This institution has already produced very beneficial effects. We rejoice that the valuable life of the liberal minded donor has been protracted to witness the great utility of his munificence; and it should be gratefully acknowledged that he has devoted his wealth and influence to the promotion of medical science to a greater extent than any other individual in America.

August, in presence of the governors and instructors of the university, and such members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and other individuals as may choose to attend. Each successful candidate is admitted to receive the degree of Doctor in Medicine, at the ensuing commencement. In the year 1809, John C. Warren, M. D. was associated with his father as adjunct professor of anatomy and surgery, and John Gorham, M. D. adjunct professor of chemistry ; and in 1812, James Jackson, M. D. superseded Dr. B. Waterhouse, as professor of the theory and practice of physic. November 1st. 1815, John C. Warren, M. D. was inaugurated at the University Hall, professor of anatomy and surgery, as successor to the late lamented Professor Warren, who held that station for many years with great honor to himself and advantage to the institution, and who was no less distinguished for his talents and virtues than zeal and success in performing the arduous duties of his profession. On this occasion was announced the appointment of Jacob Bigelow, M. D. as lecturer on materia medica, and Walter Channing, M. D. as lecturer on the theory and practice of midwifery in the university. The present professors are

John C. Warren, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

John W. Webster, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

Walter Channing, M. D. *Professor of Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence.*

Jacob Bigelow, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica.*

James Jackson, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.*

Berkshire Medical Institution, was founded in 1822, and located at Pittsfield, under the charter of Williams College. Professors,

John P. Batchelder, M. D. *Professor of Surgery and Physiology.*

John D. Wells, M. D. *Professor of General Anatomy and Physiology.*

Henry H. Childs, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.*

John Delamatter, M. D. *Professor of Pharmacy, Materia Medica and Obstetrics.*

Chester Dewey, A. M. *Professor of Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy, and Natural Philosophy.*

Stephen W. Williams, M. D. *Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.*

The legislature of Massachusetts having endowed the university with funds for the erection of a college of medicine, a commodious edifice has been erected in Boston,* and the lectures of Harvard

* The *Massachusetts Medical College*, erected 1815, is situated in Mason-street near the Boston Common and Mall. The building is of brick, 88 feet in

University commence in the lecture room annually, on the third Wednesday in October, and continue three months. During the lectures the students are supplied gratuitously with sets of osteological specimens for study, and can have the use of the dissecting room, on defraying the attendant expenses. They are admitted *without any expense* to the surgical operations and clinical practice of the Hospital. The faculty of medicine in Harvard University have founded by their private donations a library for the use of the students in medicine. The Boston medical library, consisting of nearly 2000 volumes, is now united with it, and deposited in the Medical College. These highly valuable collections of medical books, will afford a supply amply sufficient for all the purposes of students in each of the principal departments of medical science. A hall in the new building is appropriated and furnished with every necessary aid and convenience for the study of anatomy. Students have the aid of private demonstrations on any part they may prepare for the purpose, and every convenience is furnished to assist them in making preparations for their own use. The number of subjects for demonstration is as great as could be wished. The Massachusetts general Hospital institution was incorporated February 12th, 1811, and the Legislature endowed the corporation with the estate commonly called the Old Province House and land to be sold at the discretion of the said corporation and the proceeds to be applied as a foundation of a General Hospital. There are two separate departments of the Institution, the one called "The General Hospital," the other "The Asylum for the Insane." These are to be kept locally separate from each other, and the whole establishment is committed to the immediate direction of twelve trustees, to be chosen annually by the corporation, except four, who are to be chosen by a board of visitors appointed by the government.

The Asylum for the Insane has been established in a very eligible situation in Charlestown, and was opened for the reception of boarders October 1st, 1818.

length, and 43 in its greatest breadth. Its figure is oblong, with a pediment in front, and an octagonal centre rising above the roof, and also forming a three-sided projection in the rear of the building. This is surmounted by a dome, with a skylight and balustrade, giving an appearance of elegance to the neatness and fit proportion of the building. The apartments on the first floor are, a spacious medical lecture room of a square form, with ascending semi-circular seats; a large chemical lecture room in the centre, of an octagonal form, with ascending seats; a chemical laboratory, fitted up with furnaces and accommodations for the costly apparatus used in the lectures; and a room to be occupied by the Massachusetts Medical Society, which is filled by a medical library, already consisting of 3 or 4000 volumes. In the second story is the anatomical theatre, the most extensive room, occupying the whole central part of the building, covered with the dome and skylight; with semi-circular seats, which are entered from above, and descend regularly toward the centre. In this theatre are placed a beautiful statue of the Venus of Medici, and a noble cast of the Apollo of Belvedere, designed to illustrate the external forms of the human body. A large and a small room for practical anatomy, together with another for the museum, occupy the extremities of the same story.

The corner stone of the General Hospital was laid in Boston, on the 4th of July 1818, in masonic form, in presence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. This hospital was opened for the reception of patients in September 1821. The Massachusetts General Hospital is one of the most flourishing institutions in the United States, having received, within a few years, more than \$300,000 in private donations, in addition to its previous liberal endowment from the state legislature. Some of the most splendid instances of public generosity which the present age has witnessed, are to be found among the benefactions to the Massachusetts General Hospital. While this institution gives accommodation to the full extent of its means to the sick poor, it gives also admission to the students of the medical class attending the lectures of the physician and surgeon. Regular clinical lectures are now given during the winter by the professor of the theory and practice of physic, and students are admitted to the patients, to enable them to become practically conversant with the symptoms of diseases and the operation and influence of medicinal agents. It is obvious that the privilege of gratuitous admission to so extensive a course of medical and surgical practice, is an advantage not usually attainable in medical schools, and one of the highest importance which can be offered during the period of preparation for the medical profession. The number of beds provided for patients is at present one hundred; and the number of surgical operations of magnitude, performed in this hospital during the first two years and nine months, amounts to one hundred and twenty. The cleanliness, punctuality, and order observed at the hospital, the regular and daily attendance of the physician and surgeon, the care and attention in selecting suitable persons to serve as nurses and attendants on the sick, all combine to render this a most eligible and convenient asylum for those who may labor under chronic diseases, requiring the assistance of the most skilful physician and surgeon.

Acting Surgeon, John C. Warren, M. D.

Assistant Surgeon, George Hayward, M. D.

Acting Physician, James Jackson, M. D.

Assistant Physician, Walter Channing, M. D.

For obtaining admission, application in writing, mentioning the place of residence of the patient, must be left at the hospital. The physician or surgeon visits such patient if residing in Boston; and, if the patient is free from a contagious disorder, and is a fit subject for the Hospital, a certificate of admission is granted. If such patient does not reside in Boston, the application must be accompanied with a certificate from a respectable physician, stating that the patient is free from contagious disorder, &c. The visiting committee fixes the rate of board, which in every case is as low as the funds will permit. The sum fixed, includes medicines, medical attendance, nursing, food, and every other expense.

In case of accidents or sudden disease, the patients are received without delay, and strangers are admitted on the same conditions as others. A bond is required for the payment of the patient's board.

The Asylum for the Insane at Charlestown, is also an establishment of the highest importance, it enjoys one of the most salubrious situations in that vicinity, and is provided with every accommodation and convenience for the comfort and support of its unfortunate inmates. John McLean, Esq. late of Boston, at his decease, left the sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be added to its funds. In consequence of which, the Asylum has taken the name of the munificent benefactor, and is hereafter to be called the McLean Asylum for the Insane. It is under the superintendence of Rufus Wyman, M. D. an able and experienced physician, whose character for humanity and faithfulness is unquestionable, and whose mode of treatment has been attended with remarkable success, a large proportion of recent cases having been cured. Every application for admission must be in writing, and accompanied with, 1. A certificate that the candidate is insane, and free from contagious disease ; 2. A certificate of his or her property, and of any friends liable for his or her maintenance ; 3. A certificate of the ability of the persons proposed as principal and surety in the obligation for payment of board ; 4. A history of the case from its commencement, and the medical treatment. No boarders can be visited except by near relatives, or by others at their request in writing.

The establishment of a botanic garden at Cambridge, will doubtless prove, at a future period, an excellent auxiliary to the study of botany and pharmacy, and facilitate a knowledge of the indigenous plants of the country, and their introduction into our materia medica. Two townships of Eastern land have been granted by our legislature, and a subscription of \$30,000 was obtained, for the purchase of land, and other expenses of this valuable establishment. The situation affords the best advantages for the establishment, and the systematic arrangement adopted has been judicious and useful. It was for several years under the management of William D. Peck,* as professor of Natural History, and a board

* William Dandridge Peck, Esq. formerly Professor of Natural History in Harvard University, merits a grateful recollection for his indefatigable labors in the pursuit of knowledge in the various branches pertaining to his professorship. For nearly twenty years his mind was most assiduously and intently devoted to the pursuits to which the bent of his genius and taste inclined him. Mr. Peck under numerous disadvantages so cultivated his mind as to become an able and profound botanist, and his knowledge of natural history was more extensive than that of any other individual in this part of the United States, perhaps in the nation. He was elected the first Professor of Natural History at Cambridge, in which he continued until his death, which took place in September 1822. He was a good classical scholar, he was fond of painting, and sculpture, and architecture, without professing to have skill in them. No man who ever saw the exquisite accuracy and fidelity with which he sketched the subjects of his peculiar pursuits, would doubt the refinement of his taste. In social life, his virtues were of that pure and simple cast which a

of trustees, of which the president of the Medical Society is *ex officio* a member.

The Massachusetts Medical Society was incorporated by an act of the legislature in 1781, and in the following June, was organized, and Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., of Salem, elected the first president. By several subsequent acts the constitution and by-laws have been so altered and reformed, as more effectually to promote the views and designs of the founders of this excellent institution. In the act of incorporation, the legislature have disclosed their views of the high importance of medical regulations and establishments, formed on liberal principles and fostered by the patronage of the government. They premise, that "It is clearly of importance that a just discrimination should be made between such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine, whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals may be endangered, or perhaps lost to the community." The society is therefore "authorized and required to appoint censors or examiners of candidates, and to license such as may be found qualified for practice; to devise and direct such systematic mode of medical instruction as might be deemed requisite for candidates previous to examination, and to increase and diffuse medical knowledge." In order to subserve the views of the legislature, and to render the society extensively beneficial, it seemed desirable to unite and associate, as far as practicable, into one harmonious body of brothers, all the meritorious part of the medical practitioners in the Commonwealth. For this purpose, great exertions have been made by the counsellors and fellows, since their organization, to select those gentlemen whose education and respectability as physicians or surgeons justly entitle them to the honors and privileges of the society. The object in view is now accomplished, and the society consists of three hundred fellows, exclusively of honorary members and licentiates entitled to become members. The stated meeting of the society is on the first Wednesday of June annually, when a discourse on a subject connected with medical science is delivered by one of the fellows. At the annual meeting, a proper number of the fellows in the several counties of the state are elected by ballot to officiate as counsellors. This branch is authorized to elect fellows and honorary members, to appoint the officers of the corporation, to establish district societies, and, in general, to watch over and promote the interest of the Institution. The stated meetings of the council are on the day following the annual meeting of the society, and the first Wednesdays in October and February. The censors meet for the examination of candidates for practice, on the

life devoted to such innocent and delightful pursuits, was calculated to produce. Since the decease of Professor Peck, the botanic garden has been committed to the direction of Mr. Nuttall.

Thursday next preceding the annual meeting of the society, on the days following the meetings of the council in October and February, and on special occasions, when the president by his written order may direct. The modes provided for admission into this society afford a facility which cannot fail of being satisfactory. Licentiates of the society and medical graduates at Harvard University, who have been reputably engaged in the practice of medicine three years from the reception of the license or diploma, and have supported an honorable private character, may claim a right of admission. The counsellors and fellows, having labored with unwearied assiduity to establish this institution on a respectable foundation, and having imbibed a tenacious concern for its dignity and interest, it was not to be expected that persons of deficient education or undeserving character, would be admitted to a participation of its honors and privileges; accordingly the by-laws provide that no person educated within the commonwealth shall be admitted to an examination by the censors of the society, or by those of any district society, unless he have the following qualifications. 1. He shall have such an acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages as is necessary for a medical or surgical education, and with the principles of geometry and experimental philosophy. 2. He shall have attended two full courses of lectures, and studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice of some one or more of the fellows or honorary members of the society; during which time he shall have studied the most approved authors in Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Surgery, Midwifery and the Theory and Practice of Medicine; or, at least, all those which the counsellors shall from time to time specify as constituting a proper course of medical or surgical education. No person educated out of this commonwealth, shall be admitted to an examination either by the censors of the society, or of those of any district society, unless he have the qualifications specified in the first of the articles above mentioned, and, instead of those required in the second, shall have studied three full years under the direction, and attended the practice of some reputable physician or physicians, surgeon or surgeons, as the case may be. To promote the laudable design of the legislature in incorporating this society, to prevent, as far as may be, all unqualified persons from practising medicine or surgery, and in order to discourage empiricism and quackery, it shall be deemed disreputable, and shall be unlawful for any fellow of this society, in the capacity of physician or surgeon, to advise or consult with any person, who, having been a fellow of the society, shall be expelled therefrom; or with any person whatever, who shall hereafter commence the practice of medicine or surgery within this commonwealth, until he shall have been duly examined and approbated by the censors of the society, or by those of some district society, or shall have

received a degree of Bachelor or Doctor of Medicine at Harvard University; or, (in case he shall have been educated in, or come from some other state or foreign country,) shall have produced to the censors of the society, or those of the district wherein he resides, such evidence or testimonials of his qualifications for the practice of medicine or surgery, as they deem and certify to be sufficient to entitle him to the privileges of a physician or surgeon regularly introduced. And every fellow of the society who shall abet or assist any person not so qualified, by affording him assistance in the capacity of physician or surgeon, shall, for such offence, be disqualified from giving his vote at any meeting of the society, or of the district society whereof he is a member, for one year: shall be liable to the censure and reprimand of the counsellors, and, in aggravated cases, to expulsion. "If any fellow of the society shall *publicly advertise* for sale any medicine, the composition of which he keeps a secret, or shall, in like manner, offer to cure any disease by any such secret medicine, he shall be liable to expulsion, or such other penalty as the society, at their annual meeting, may think proper to inflict."

It is the duty of the counsellors, once in three years, to publish a list of the most approved books which should be read by medical students. The act of the legislature, in the year 1813, authorizes the organization of district societies by the counsellors, on application of any two members of the society. In 1810, the legislature extended their liberal patronage and encouragement to this society, by a grant of a township of Eastern land for its support, and they have exempted the fellows from serving in the militia, as a remuneration, in some degree, for their expense and exertions in promoting an institution of public interest and concern.* By an act of the legislature, passed February 19th, 1819, it is provided, "That no person entering upon the practice of medicine or surgery after the first day of July, 1819, shall be entitled to the benefit of law, for the recovery of any debt or fee accruing from his professional services, unless he shall, previously to rendering those services, have been licensed by the censors of the society, or those of some district society, or shall have been graduated a Doctor of Medicine in Harvard University."

* The Presidents of the Massachusetts Medical Society, from the period of its first organization:—Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., 1782; William Kneeland, M. D., 1784; Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., 1786; Cotton Tufts, M. D., 1787; Samuel Danforth, M. D., 1795; Isaac Rand, M. D., 1798; John Warren, M. D., 1804; Joshua Fisher, M. D., 1815; John Brooks, M. D., 1828.

Officers elected 1825 and 1826.

President, James Jackson, M. D.

Vice President, Abraham Haskell, M. D.

Corresponding Secretary, John Dixwell, M. D.

Recording Secretary, John Gorham, M. D.

Treasurer, Jacob Bigelow, M. D.

Librarian and Cabinet Keeper, George Hayward, M. D.

The most salutary and beneficial effects have already resulted to the community from the association thus patronised by the government. By far the greater portion of respectable practitioners of medicine and surgery established in business in the commonwealth, are associated and cemented into one learned body, whose efforts are continually directed to the extension and increase of medical knowledge. Their united and individual influence is exerted in favor of a regular system of medical education, and in discountenancing those who undertake the important business of the profession, without being qualified for the great and serious duties it imposes. They are, moreover, in some respects alert and vigilant guardians of the public health and welfare, regarding with peculiar interest the occurrence of every epidemic, or other disease, which may assail the inhabitants of our country. The judicious measures adopted by the counsellors relative to the cowpox in 1808, and the spotted fever in 1810, have already been mentioned, and reference may be had to the society's communications for the detailed particulars of their valuable reports. At an early period of this institution (1790), the society published their first number of medical papers, containing a selection of important communications, and a third volume has now been published and distributed among the fellows of the society. In the second volume will be found a brilliant dissertation on the mercurial practice in febrile diseases, by John Warren, M. D., then president of the society.

We should not omit to mention that the Rev. Dr. Manasseh Cutler, of Hamilton, Massachusetts, presented to the Academy of Arts and Sciences, a valuable account of indigenous vegetables, the produce of New-England, botanically arranged. His collection is very numerous, and may be considered an honorable attestation of his indefatigable industry and zeal in the cause of botanical science, at a period when the subject was almost entirely neglected. This production was communicated to the Academy in the year 1784, and was published in their first volume. Many of the medical plants which Dr. Cutler first brought into notice, have been since introduced as valuable articles in our materia medica. He was respected for his dignified character as a divine, distinguished for piety, and learned in the sciences; he was elected an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and his fellow citizens elected him to represent his district in Congress, which station he filled with dignity and usefulness.

In the year 1808 the Massachusetts Medical Society appointed James Jackson, M. D. and John C. Warren, M. D. a committee to prepare a *Pharmacopœia* conformable to the modern chemical nomenclature, and designed to establish uniformity in the prescriptions of physicians, which was published by the society, and which was afterwards adopted by the Medical Society of New Hampshire for use in that state. This production was also adopted by the present author as the basis of "The American New Dispensary."

tory," which was approbated by a committee chosen by the society. This work has now gone through the fourth edition, and being an attempt to introduce many indigenous vegetables as articles of our materia medica, it is hoped may still be found useful among the practitioners of our country.

The New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery has been established in Boston since the year 1812. It is now entitled, The New England Medical Review and Journal; and is a work of superior merit and utility, which reflects great honor on the learned and indefatigable editors, and on the medical character of the metropolis of Massachusetts. The Medical Intelligencer is published in Boston, in the form of a weekly paper. The able editor is entitled to great praise for the judicious manner in which this useful publication is conducted.

A. See page 22.

Dr. Dalhonde's Deposition.

"First. About twenty-five years ago, I was at Cremona, in Italy, in the French army, where there were thirteen soldiers upon whom this operation was performed, of which operation four died; six recovered with abundance of trouble and care, being seized with parotid tumors and a large inflammation of the throat. One of them was opened; his diaphragm was found livid, the glands of the pancreas tumefied, and the caul gangrened. On the other three the operation had no effect. Secondly. In the year 1701, being in Flanders, there was committed to my care one Captain Hussart, taken ill of the smallpox, who told me in these very words: Ten years ago I was inoculated five or six times without that cursed invention taking effect upon me; must I then perish? He was so violently seized that he had several ulcers upon his body, especially one upon his arm, which occasioned a lameness there of through life. Thirdly. At the battle of Almanza, in Spain, the smallpox being in the army, two Muscovite soldiers had the operation performed upon them; one recovered, the other received no impression, but six weeks thereafter was seized with a frenzy, and swelled all over his body. They, not calling to mind that the operation had been performed upon him, believed that he had been poisoned. It was ordered by two of the King of Spain's physicians, that the body should be opened. His lungs were found ulcerated; from whence they concluded it was the effect of that corruption, which having infected the lymph did throw itself upon that vital part, which occasioned his sudden death. By me,

DR. LAWRENCE DALHONDE."

"Boston, July 22d, 1721.

"The foregoing is a true translation from the declaration made in French by Dr. Dalhonde, done at the instance and request of the Selectmen of the town of Boston. By WILLIAM DOUGLASS.

"*Jurat coram nobis.*

JOSEPH MARION.

"TIM. CLARK, } *Just. Pac.*
"WM. WELSTED, }

In England the opposition to the new practice of inoculation, appears to have been even more virulent than in Boston. Dr. Wagstaffe, a man of high medical standing, invidiously remarked "that posterity will scarcely be brought to believe that an experiment, practised only by a few ignorant women, should so far obtain in one of the politest nations in the world, as to be received into the royal palace." One of their writers declared "this new practice to be founded in atheism, quackery and avarice, which push men to all the hellish practices imaginable; men murder fathers, mothers, relations and innocent children, and any that stand in the way of their wicked desires." But this declaration was exceeded by a singular sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Massey, on Sunday, July 8th, 1722, against "The Dangerous and Sinful Practice of Inoculation," in which he bestows upon the inoculators the most opprobrious epithets, as *diabolical sorcerers, hellish venefici, &c. &c.* His text was very appropriate: "*So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*" The deluded preacher would have it understood that the *Devil was the first inoculator, and that poor Job was his first patient.** Hence he terms inoculation "a diabolical operation, and an anti-providential project, that insults our religion, and banishes Providence out of the world." It was alleged by the friends of inoculation that the practice may be justified upon the principle of curing *natural*, by raising *artificial diseases*. "What is bleeding, but an artificial hæmorrhagy? purging, but raising an artificial diarrhoea? Are not blisters, issues and setons, artificial imposthumations?" To this it was replied, "Very good, sir; but go on: what is correction at the cart's tail, but the noble art of muscular phlebotomy? What is burning in the hand, but the art of applying a caustic? What is hanging, but an artificial quinsy, which makes the patient feel for the ground, and chokes him? What is breaking on the wheel, but the art of dislocations and fractures, and differs from the wounds and amputations of surgeons only by the manner and intention?"

* This conceit of the reverend divine gave rise to the following epigram, published in the Monthly Miscellany for March, 1774:

We're told by one of the black robe,
The Devil inoculated *Job*.
Suppose 'tis true, what he does tell,
Pray, neighbors, did not *Job* do well?
Woodville on Inoculation.

No instance of inoculation was known in Europe, until the daughter of Lady Mary W. Montague was inoculated by Mr. Maitland, her surgeon, in April, 1721; and the next was the son of Dr. Keith, on the 11th of May following. The Princess Caroline of Wales, having nearly lost one of her daughters, Princess Ann, by natural smallpox, became extremely solicitous to preserve her other children by means of inoculation; but not satisfied of its safety and utility, she interceded with the king, her father, for the pardon of *six criminals*, that they might be the subjects of the experiment; and they were inoculated at Newgate on the 9th of August, 1721. One of these, however, had the address to conceal the fact that he had previously undergone the smallpox. All of them recovered, and all escaped the halter. After this, a female convict was reprieved, and, variolous matter being introduced into her nostrils, she also escaped with a slight indisposition. But still more to confirm the confidence of the Princess of Wales in its safety, she directed, early in the spring of 1722, the experiment to be made first upon six, and afterwards upon five, charity children, in all of whom it was attended with the desired success. The princess now consulted the celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, the court physician, respecting the propriety and safety of inoculating her children. Sir Hans being cautious in his reply, the Princess inquired if it was his desire to dissuade her from it, and being answered in the negative, she said "then I am resolved it shall be done," and directed Sir Hans to wait on the king, George the First. His Majesty readily concurring, the Princesses Amelia and Caroline were, on the 19th of April, 1722, inoculated by Serjeant Surgeon Amy, and under the direction of Sir Hans Sloane. In the year 1724 inoculation was a second time introduced into the royal family. His royal Highness, Prince Frederick, aged 18 years, was inoculated by Mr. Maitland, at the court at Hanover, on the first of May, 1724; and his royal Highness, Prince William, was about the same time inoculated in London, by the king's Serjeant Surgeon Amy, and under the direction of the court physician, Sir Hans Sloane. Both of these princes went through the disease in the mildest manner, Prince Frederick having not more than from eleven to eighteen pustules. In the years 1721 and 1722, one hundred and eighty-two persons were inoculated; and in 1723 two hundred and ninety-two were the subjects of the operation in England. But from June, 1721, to the first part of the year 1722, Dr. Boylston inoculated two hundred and forty-seven, and thirty-nine were inoculated by other persons in Boston and its vicinity.

The foregoing statement is compiled from Woodville's History of Inoculation, published 1796, and Moore's, published 1815.

STATE OF MAINE.

THIS district of Massachusetts, before the separation, possessed little claim to the merit of contributing to the improvement of medical science; a scattered settlement over an extensive country affords no facilities of union and enterprise in scientific pursuits. There were, however, some individuals who sustained the honor of the profession, and were eminently useful in their day. Among these Dr. Nathaniel Coffin (*b*), the elder, and Nathaniel Coffin, M. D. (*b*), of Portland, were for many years the leading characters in that district. Dr. Kinsman, of Portland, Dr. Jones, of North Yarmouth, and Dr. Benjamin Page (*b*), of Hallowell, were respectable and popular practitioners. Dr. Samuel Adams, of Bath, was for some time a surgeon in the American army; he was a skilful physician, and an amiable and virtuous man, and in after life religion and piety were leading traits in his character. Dr. A. R. Mitchill (*b*), of North Yarmouth, was a man of great popularity as a physician, as well as for his useful services in political life, and his practical religious virtues. Dr. Thomas Rice, of Wiscasset, was much esteemed, and enjoyed extensive practice.

The epidemic termed spotted fever, made its appearance in 1810, and till 1816 prevailed at Hallowell and its vicinity with great severity. It fell to the lot of the present Dr. Benjamin Page, of Hallowell, to devote a large portion of his attention to the sick during the prevalence of this epidemic; more than two thousand cases fell under his observation, and he is entitled to much honor and the gratitude of the public for his correct observation, his indefatigable industry, and his very judicious mode of treatment, by which the disease was divested in a great measure of its malignity and fatal tendency.* In 1820 the *Medical School of Maine* was established at Brunswick, under the charter of Bowdoin college. This school has three professorships.

Parker Cleaveland, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica.*

Nathan Smith, M. D. *Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Surgery.*

John D. Wells, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

There is a medical society of respectable standing in that state, of which the Hon. Daniel Coney was for several years the president. He yet survives, venerable in years and steadfast in moral rectitude and public virtue.

* See the American Modern Practice, new edition, p. 344.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN this state many medical characters rendered their names conspicuous for professional knowledge at a period when public medical institutions were unknown in New England. The most meritorious of these were Joshua Brackett, M. D. (*b*), Dr. Josiah Bartlett (*b*), the two Drs. Cutter (*b*), Dr. Clement Jackson (*b*), Dr. Hall Jackson (*b*), and Samuel Tenney, M. D. (*b*). Since the establishment of the medical school at Hanover, it has honorably supported the medical character of the state, and has sent forth to public suffrage men of eminent attainments and signal usefulness. The *Medical School of Dartmouth College, at Hanover*, was founded by the enterprise of Dr. Nathan Smith, who in 1798 was appointed sole professor of the school, and for twelve years gave lectures on the different branches of medicine, except two courses, in which he was assisted in the department of chemistry. Present professors :—

Reuben D. Mussey, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy, Surgery and Obstetrics.*

Daniel Oliver, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Physiology.*

Benjamin Hale, A. M. *Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy and Materia Medica.*

An infirmary has been instituted at Hanover, to which indigent patients may resort for surgical operations and medical attendance gratis ; and the medical class have the privilege of being present at the operations.

A medical society was incorporated by the legislature of the state in the year 1791, which now consists of about 160 fellows. They have adopted a system of laws and regulations similar to those of Massachusetts.

STATE OF VERMONT.

A VERY limited knowledge only can be obtained respecting the medical character of Vermont. It is but recently that attempts were made to establish institutions for medical instruction ; but their zeal in the good cause has produced two establishments of that description, which now exist in the state. *Vermont Academy of Medicine*, established at Castleton in 1818.

William Tully, M. D. *President and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Medical Jurisprudence.*

Theodore Woodward, M. D. *Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.*

Alden March, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

Jonathan A. Allen, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.*

Lewis C. Beck, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry and Natural History.*

Amos Eaton, Esq. (of Troy, N. Y.) *Professor of Natural Philosophy.*

Medical School of Vermont, organized at Burlington in 1822.

Henry S. Waterhouse, M. D. *Professor of Surgery and Obstetrics.*

George W. Benedict, A. M. *Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.*

John Bell, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

William Sweetser, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and of Materia Medica.*

STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.

MEDICAL science has received considerable patronage in this state from an early period of its history. The family of Bowen (*b*) has enjoyed for more than a century a wide spreading fame for their medical character, and for their patriotic virtues. The first of the name emigrated to that colony in 1640. John Bret, M. D. emigrated to this country and settled at Newport about 1740. He was a pupil of the much celebrated Dr. Boerhaave, and a graduate at the university of Leyden. He acquired great reputation in consequence of the extended fame of his preceptor. Thomas Moffat, M. D. a learned Scotch physician, arrived in this country and settled in Rhode-Island in 1750. He was often consulted in difficult cases, but was driven out of the country in 1772 on account of his political opinions. Dr. Thomas Rodman came over at the same time and settled at Newport. William Hunter, M. D. (*b*), a native of Scotland, was educated under the elder Monro at Edinburgh, came to Rhode-Island about the year 1752, and gave lectures on anatomy at Newport in the years 1754, 5, and 6, which have been considered the first lectures given on medical subjects in New England, if not in America.

The medical department of Brown University was organized at Providence in 1821.

Levi Wheaton, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Obstetrics.*

John DeWolf, A. M. *Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.*

Usher Parsons, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery.*

Solomon Drown, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Botany.*

There is also in this state a respectable Medical Society, consisting of nearly all its regularly educated physicians.

In the years 1797, 1800 and 1805, the town of Providence was visited by the yellow fever, which was supposed to have been imported from the West Indies, and which occasioned very considerable mortality. On these occasions Dr. Pardon Bowen engaged with a laudable zeal and assiduity in the investigation of the subject, and in the most satisfactory manner traced the origin and progress of the deadly pestilence. His communications on the subject have been published in the 4th volume of the American Medical and Philosophical Register, by Professors Hosack and Francis of New-York.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

AMONG the earliest settlers of Connecticut colony, was the Hon. John Winthrop, who in 1662 was made the first governor of the colony under the charter which he procured of Charles II. He was the eldest son of the first governor of Massachusetts, and was an eminent physician, and one of the founders of the Royal Society, being in England at the time as agent for the colony. He died 1676, aged 71. The Rev. Jared Elliot (*b*) was the next physician of distinction in the colony. He died 1763. The Rev. Phinehas Fisk was his contemporary and friend, and was particularly distinguished for the cure of epilepsy and insanity. Dr. John Ely was born at Lyme, 1743. He practised in Saybrook, and was the first physician who regularly practised inoculation for the smallpox in the state. He erected a hospital, where he pursued the business of inoculation for several years. The cool regimen for the smallpox, was generally practised there, successfully, earlier than in Europe. During the revolutionary war Dr. Ely was a colonel of a regiment, and was early made prisoner and carried to New-York; on account of his skilful services and attention bestowed on his fellow prisoners, he was suffered to remain in captivity three years for their benefit. He died in 1800, aged 63 years. Dr. Josiah Rose was a native of Wethersfield, and received his medical education under Dr. Dalhonde, of Boston, and for several years served as surgeon on board of a ship. He was considered as one of the ablest practitioners both in physic and surgery of his day. He had five sons who were educated to the profession, two of whom were surgeons of regiments during the war of independence. He died in 1786, aged 70 years. Dr. John Bird, of Litchfield, Dr. Perry, senior, of Wood-

bury, Dr. James Potter, of New Fairfield, Dr. William Jepson, of Hartford, were all prominent professional characters of the last century. Hon. John Bulkeley was born at Colchester in 1704. He was educated at Harvard college, and was afterwards instructed in the two professions of divinity and medicine. He was considered as a man of talents, and well versed in all the literature and science of the day ; and in law and politics, he was no less distinguished than in medicine. He sustained the various offices of colonel of the militia, member of the legislature, judge of the supreme court, and was one of the most popular characters in Connecticut. He died about the year 1754. Dr. John Simpson, Dr. John Noyes, Dr. John Watrous and Dr. John Rose, were all respectable surgeons in the American army, and in private life were held in estimation for professional merit and benevolence of character. Dr. Benjamin Gale (*b*) published a treatise about the year 1750, in which he advocated the utility of a course of mercury as a preparative for smallpox by inoculation, affirming that before that practice was adopted in 1745, one in a hundred of the inoculated died, while under the new method of treatment it proved fatal to one only in eight hundred. This production of Dr. Gale has been favorably noticed by European authors. (See his biography.) His life was protracted to advanced age, and was terminated in 1790.

In 1788, the Medical Society of the county of New Haven, published "Cases and Observations," a work which has been referred to by foreign authors, and gives a very favorable view of the practice in the state of Connecticut subsequently to the revolutionary war. The work on pestilence by Noah Webster, LL.D. affords evidence of uncommon industry and research, and contains a body of curious matter illustrating the history of epidemic and pestilential diseases. Silliman's Journal of Science is unquestionably the most distinguished work of the kind published in this country, and perhaps it is not surpassed in any other. Although the plan is not directly medical, it is an auxiliary containing many very valuable papers upon chemistry, botany, and various articles of the *materia medica*. The prevalent diseases of Connecticut are not essentially different from those of other parts of New England ; the yellow fever afflicted the city of New Haven in 1794, but it was supposed to have been of foreign origin. The same disease made its appearance in Middletown in the year 1820. But the malady which has been the most extensively formidable and destructive, is the epidemic which has received the exceptionable name of spotted fever, but to which Dr. Thomas Miner has given the more appropriate term, "Typhus Syncopalis." From 1807 to about 1816, this epidemic prevailed with its usual ravages ; and in 1822 and 1823, it reappeared to an extent almost unparalleled, but its fatal tendency was greatly subdued by the very judicious management of several accurate observers and experienced phy-

sicians. (See Dr. Thomas Miner's pamphlet on Typhus Syncopalis, and Dr. Woodward's communication in the New England Medical Review and Journal, Vol. I.)

With regard to medical improvement, it must be conceded that in Connecticut the field of science has been cultivated with great diligence and the happiest results. Numerous productions have emanated from that state, which evince talent, industry and research, and which have proved of signal utility. In 1810 Dr. Nathan Strong published a Dissertation on Spotted Fever, and in 1811 Dr. North published a Treatise on the same disease, and has since written and published in the periodicals a dissertation on the vitality of the blood. Henry Fish, M. D. was author of remarks on spotted fever. Drs. Monson, senior (*b*) and junior, wrote upon the yellow fever of New Haven in 1794. Joseph Comstock, M. D. is the author of a valuable Essay on Prognosis, and the compiler of an elementary chemical work, and Dr. Sumner is the compiler of an elementary system of botany. Thomas Moseley, M. D. was a respectable practitioner at East Haddam. He was for several years president of the Medical Society of Connecticut, and died about 1812, aged upwards of 80. Dr. Rockwell wrote on puerperal hemorrhage, and Drs. Woodward and Bestor wrote on spotted fever. Professor Smith, besides his treatise upon Typhus, has published in the periodical works of the day many interesting surgical and other cases, and has also written on bloodroot and other articles of the *materia medica*. The Hon. Sylvester Wells, M. D. published a series of valuable essays on the spotted fever of 1809; and William Buel, M. D. is the author of an able account of a disease that appeared in Sheffield. Dr. William Tully is author of an Essay on Pneumonia Typhoides, and other papers in the New-York Medical Museum; of an Essay upon Sanguinaria Canadensis, Strictures upon Orfila on Poisons in the New England Journal, and of an essay upon Scutellaria Lateriflora; he also wrote a paper on *Secale Cornutum* in Silliman's Journal. He has besides written upon the yellow fever as it appeared in Middletown in 1820; a work inferior, perhaps, to no other on that subject. In 1823 Dr. Thomas Miner and Dr. William Tully published "Essays upon Fevers and other medical subjects;" the first part by Dr. Miner and the second by Dr. Tully. This is to be considered as a work of superior merit, equally honorable to the authors and interesting to the profession, giving a correct view of the nature and treatment of febrile diseases. In 1825 Dr. Miner favored the public with his valuable account of Typhus Syncopalis. This pamphlet is the result of a long course of experience, and the most accurate observation; as proof of its acknowledged merit, it may be mentioned that it has passed through three editions, and a fourth will shortly appear. Dr. Miner is also a writer in the periodical works of the day, author of biographical sketches of several distinguished physicians of

Connecticut, occasional essays upon medical subjects and translations from French medical journals.

The science of chemistry, under the able supervision of Professor Silliman, and indigenous *materia medica* under Professor Ives, are, perhaps, at a higher standing at Yale College than at any other similar institution in the United States. But the establishment of a general hospital would be an important acquisition as an auxiliary to the advancement and interest of the different branches of medical science in that state. The Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Retreat for the Insane, both established at Hartford, redound to the honor of the community, and are auspicious to the cause of humanity. Under the able treatment of Dr. Todd, the practice at the Retreat for the Insane has been attended, it is said, with an almost unparalleled success, more than ninety per cent. of all the recent cases having recovered.

The Medical Institution of Yale College was incorporated by the legislature in the year 1810. Lectures commenced in 1813, and are continued annually. Professors in 1825 :—

Eneas Monson, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.*

Nathan Smith, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, Surgery and Obstetrics.*

Benjamin Silliman, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology.*

Eli Ives, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Botany, and Lecturer on Diseases of Women and Children.*

Jonathan Knight, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, and Lecturer on Obstetrics.*

There is also in Connecticut an incorporated Medical Society of very respectable standing, and regulated by laws adopted by other similar societies.

In this brief sketch it may be proper to bring to recollection the Metallic Tractors invented by Dr. Elisha Perkins, which he announced to the public in the year 1796, as a new remedy for a variety of topical diseases. This singular remedy attained a considerable share of celebrity and ultimately excited a universal interest throughout the United States, and in various parts of Europe. A particular detail of the origin and progress of this discovery will be found in connexion with the biography of Dr. Perkins in this volume.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

This state has strong claims to pre-eminence in the noble pursuit of improvement in medical science and literature. Among the earliest physicians we find the names of Dr. Dupey, Dr. Du-

bois, and John Nicoll, M. D. The latter was a native of Scotland, who was graduated in medicine at the university of Edinburgh, and came to this country and settled in New York about the year 1700. He has been noticed as a successful practitioner, and was beloved for his private virtues. After having spent a life devoted to the work of benevolence and piety, he died in 1743, aged 63 years. Dr. Magraw, a physician of the Radcliffe school, emigrated to this country and settled in New York about 1740. In 1743 Cadwallader Colden, Esq. (*b*) Lieut. governor of the Province of New York, and a distinguished physician, communicated his thoughts on the probable method of curing a malignant fever, which occasioned great mortality in that city in 1741. He also published a treatise on the cure of cancer, and an essay on the virtues of the Great Water Dock, which introduced the learned author to the notice of the celebrated Linnæus. The same author published in 1753, some observations on an epidemic sore throat, which appeared in Massachusetts, and spread over great part of North America. Dr. John Bard (*b*), eminently distinguished as a practitioner in New York for more than fifty years, was the author of an interesting account of the malignant pleurisy, which prevailed at Long Island in the year 1749, besides some other medical papers. Dr. Ogden, of Long Island, about the year 1764, favored the public with valuable observations on the malignant sore throat, which then was prevalent and very mortal. Dr. Peter Middleton (*b*), a man of professional talents, was author of a medical discourse or historical inquiry into the ancient and present state of medicine, published in 1769. In the year 1750 the body of Hermanus Carroll, a criminal who had been executed for murder, was dissected in the city of New-York, by Dr. John Bard (*b*) and Dr. Peter Middleton (*b*), two of the most eminent physicians of that day, and the blood vessels were injected for the instruction of the young men then engaged in the study of medicine; this is the first essay made in the colonies for the purpose of imparting medical knowledge by dissection, of which we have any record.

In 1788 there occurred in the city of New York a popular tumult, commonly called the doctors' mob. This was in consequence of a suspicion that the physicians of the city had robbed the graveyards to procure subjects for dissection. The concourse assembled on this occasion was immense, and some of the mob having forced their way into the dissecting room, several human bodies were found in various states of mutilation; enraged at this discovery, they seized upon the fragments, as heads, legs and arms, and exposed them from the windows and doors to public view, with horrid imprecations. The rioters had now become so outrageous, that both the civil and military authorities were summoned to quell the tumult, and the medical students were confined in the common prison for security against the wild passions of the populace. The mob continued for two days, setting at defiance both

the civil and military authorities of the city, but was at length quelled without the loss of lives.

In the autumn of 1775 a surgical work entitled "Plain Remarks upon Wounds and Fractures," was published by Dr. John Jones (*b*) of New-York. This work was intended for the instruction of the young and inexperienced surgeons, who were about engaging in the American army. A work of this description was at that time of indispensable importance, and no one in America could be found so well qualified for the undertaking as Dr. Jones, who held the highest standing for knowledge and experience in the art of surgery. The advantages which the surgeons of the army derived from this valuable production, are incalculable. It passed through three editions, the latter of which, with notes and observations, was published in 1795; to this is prefixed a biographical memoir, by a very respectable pupil of the author, Dr. James Mease, of Philadelphia. It was not till 1768, that a medical establishment was effected and organized; in which were united the learning and abilities of Drs. Clossy (*b*), Bard (*b*), Jones (*b*), Middleton (*b*), Smith (*b*), and John V. B. Tennent, by whom lectures on the several branches were delivered. This school was connected with King's, now Columbia college, where in 1769, the degree of bachelor in medicine was conferred upon Samuel Kissam and Robert Tucker. "In 1770 the degree of doctor in medicine was conferred upon the last mentioned gentleman, and in May of the succeeding year, the same degree was conferred upon the former." These were the first instances of medical degrees being conferred in America, being a short time before those which were given at Philadelphia in the same year. Dr. Kissam's Inaugural dissertation on the anthelmintic property of cowhage, was published in May 1771, for the medical doctorate in King's college. The events of the revolutionary war deranged and frustrated in its infancy the immediate design of this promising establishment. In 1769 Dr. Samuel Bard (*b*) delivered a public address at the first medical graduation, in which he inculcated the necessity and utility of a public infirmary; and such was the influence of his memorable discourse, that, upon the same day on which it was delivered, a subscription was commenced by Sir Henry Moore, then governor of the Province, and the sum of eight hundred pounds sterling was collected for the establishment of a hospital; and, three hundred pounds being added by the corporation of the city, the foundation of the New-York hospital was laid in 1773. But, unfortunately, before the edifice was completed, it was destroyed by fire, and, the war intervening, it was not until January 1791, that it was rebuilt and in a proper condition to receive patients.

After the return of peace in 1783, various attempts were projected with the hope of reviving the medical school of New-York, but, from feuds and collisions among professional brethren, all ef-

forts directed to that effect resulted in disappointment. Courses of lectures, however, were delivered by many learned teachers, until a new organization of a medical school was effected by the trustees of Columbia college in 1792. Although the learned professors devoted themselves with commendable assiduity and faithfulness to their respective duties, from various causes the benefits arising from this school were very limited and unsatisfactory. The board of Regents, therefore, deemed it expedient to grant a charter establishing the present college of physicians and surgeons in March 1807. The incorporation of this institution was sanctioned by the Legislature, and gave very general satisfaction. It was soon discovered, however, that its successful progress was to be impeded by feuds and discontents arising from competition and rivalry between it and other medical schools in the same city. In April 1811, the Regents were induced to remodel the college of physicians and surgeons with a view to their union with the medical faculty of Columbia college. In 1813 this union was happily effected, and the venerable Samuel Bard, M. D. was placed at the head of the college as president. By this consolidation of the two medical schools the most eminent medical talents in the state were combined into one splendid seminary, under the general superintendence of the board of regents, aided by the patronage and liberal endowments of the legislature.* In 1816 the regents made the following report to the legislature: "The college of physicians and surgeons in the city of New-York, is advancing to that celebrity, which must soon place it at the head of similar institutions in the United States. Perhaps no place can afford greater opportunities for giving medical instruction to the best advantage, on all the variety of cases in which the human frame is liable to disease, and where more opportunities are daily offered to exhibit them to the inspection, and for the instruction of students. It is, therefore, the decided opinion of the regents, that this institution should receive the undivided support of the state: and that no other should be countenanced, which, by a spirit of rivalry or hostility, might, in any degree, succeed in repressing its justly deserved and increasing reputation as a medical school." The most sanguine expectations were entertained respecting the utility of the institution thus reorganised, and the result of a few years experience, clearly evinced that the learned professors filled the important stations assigned them, with ability and success. The number of medical pupils in 1815, was one hundred and seventy-one, and the number of graduates was twenty-seven, greatly exceeding the number attending at any prior session. The author of a historical sketch of the present institution, concludes his observations in the following words: "When the advantages which

* The legislature in 1808, made the liberal grant of \$20,000 for the benefit of the medical college.

New-York possesses for a great medical establishment, are considered, advantages arising from its natural situation, its extensive population, now nearly equal to most of the capitals of Europe, its large and well endowed hospital, and other public charities, its botanical garden, its well organized medical college, and the extensive system of education which it embraces; and when it is further considered, that these advantages are increased by the munificent patronage of the state, it is not too much to say that, in the means of instruction, the College of Physicians and Surgeons is second to no similar institution in the United States. The college opens annually, on the first Monday in November, and the several courses begin, successively, that week, after the introductory lecture of the respective professors. The session closes on the last day of February.

For a period of about seven years subsequent to the union of the two schools, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, whose weight of character was sustained by the most able teachers which the state could produce, was on the march to the highest degree of eminence, and its reputation was recognised in every portion of the union. The class of students consisted of two hundred, and the number was increasing with the opening of each session. But from some cause those professors, whose talents and zeal had been universally acknowledged, were assailed with clamorous accusations, and charges of serious import were arrayed against them: these, however, on investigation by the regents in March, 1825, were declared to be unsubstantiated, and were pronounced by that honorable body, in their elaborate Report, to have arisen from jealousy and professional rivalry. Broils and contention, nevertheless, continued, and the opposition assisted systematically in their purpose. In April, 1826, the professors, wearied with unavailing attempts to silence the opposition, came to the conclusion that "it would best consist with their own self respect" to withdraw altogether from the institution, and accordingly they tendered their resignations of their professorships and offices. The board of regents accepted their resignations, April 17, 1826, and presented their thanks "for the faithful and able manner in which they had filled their respective chairs as instructors and lecturers in the said college." The Professors were,

David Hosack, M. D. *Vice President, and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

William James Macneven, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Botany.*

Valentine Mott, M. D. *Professor of Surgery.*

John W. Francis, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children, and Registrar of the College.*

Wright Post, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy.* (Had given in his resignation before.)

The places of the above professors were filled as follows. College of Physicians and Surgeons :—

John Augustine Smith, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

Alexander H. Stevens, M. D. *Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

James F. Dana, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.* (Since dead.)

Joseph M. Smith, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*

Edward Delafield, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

John B. Beck, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Botany.*

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the state of New York, was incorporated by the Regents of the University in 1812, and the legislature made a grant of \$15,000. It is located in the town of Fairfield, Herkimer county.

Joseph White, M. D. *President, and Professor of Surgery.*

Westel Willoughby, M. D. *Vice-President, and Professor of Obstetrics.*

James Hadley, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica.*

T. Romeyn Beck, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Medical Jurisprudence.*

James McNaughton, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

Medical School of Auburn, at Auburn :

James Douglass, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

Pliny Hays, M. D. *Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

E. D. Tuttle, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.*

S. Mosher, M. D. *Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.*

Jedediah Smith, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica.*

The following gentlemen were practitioners of considerable merit in the city of New-York since the American war, and their names are deserving of commemoration.

Dr. Malachi Treat was a surgeon in the hospital department during the whole of the American struggle for independence, and part of the time officiated as deputy director of the hospital. He died in New-York of the yellow fever. Dr. William Pitt Smith was a pupil of Dr. Treat, and was also in the hospital department

during the war, and he also fell a victim to the yellow fever in 1797. Ebenezer Crosby, M. D. was a native of Braintree, Massachusetts, was graduated at Harvard University in 1777, and completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Crosby was at an early period of the war appointed surgeon to General Washington's guard, and was received into his military family, in which he continued until near the close of the war. On the return of peace he took his residence in New-York, where he soon acquired a respectable circle of practice, and in the year 1785 was chosen Professor of Midwifery in Columbia College, which appointment he retained until his death, which occurred 16th July, 1788. Dr. Amasa Dingly was a native of Marshfield, Massachusetts, and was graduated at Harvard University in 1785. He settled in New-York, where he displayed abilities and a spirit of enterprise which would have raised him to eminence had his life been protracted. Benjamin DeWitt, M. D. merits great praise for the services which he rendered to the college, more particularly in obtaining the liberal grant from the state of \$30,000. He was prematurely cut off by the yellow fever while in the discharge of his official duties of physician of the port of New-York, in 1819. He published on the *Datura Stramonium*, and a paper on the salt works of Onondaga. "Richard Bayley, M. D. (b) was among the most eminent of the physicians of his time, and equally distinguished in medical and surgical practice; after a life of great activity and usefulness, he died of yellow fever, which he contracted in the discharge of his official duties as health officer of the port of New-York, in August, 1801, aged 56 years. His medical writings are, his letter on Croup, addressed to his preceptor, Dr. Hunter of London, and his account of the epidemic fever of New-York in 1795. They are sufficient evidence of his talents: his wide and disinterested benevolence is remembered by thousands." John V. B. Tennent, M. D. completed his medical education in Europe. While in London, in 1765, he was created a member of the Royal Society. His course of instruction in obstetrics was able and satisfactory, and laid a foundation for improvement in that branch in the Medical School of New-York. He died at an early age of the yellow fever, in the West Indies, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health.

The prevailing diseases of the state of New-York are of a similar character with those in the New-England states, but it has had a large share of the epidemics of our country. In the city of New-York consumption has also been very prevalent and fatal. The yellow fever has been known to prevail in that city at various periods during the last century. The same pestilence has revisited that city and Long-Island in 1798, 1803, 4, 5, 9, and 1822; at some seasons its course has been marked with great mortality. The year 1798 was most fatal to the faculty, more than twenty

physicians of the city becoming its victims within three months. The legislature and citizens have been liberal in the establishment of Hospitals, Infirmaries, Dispensaries, and other humane and charitable institutions, for the relief of the poor and destitute, for the insane, and for the deaf and dumb. The Cowpock Institution was established in New-York in January, 1802, for the purpose of substituting vaccination for the smallpox, more particularly among the poor, and for preserving a constant supply of genuine matter. The first physician appointed to vaccinate for the Dispensary was Dr. Valentine Seaman. According to the annual report, dated January, 1826, no less than 1223 patients enjoyed the advantage of the city Dispensary, besides those who had received vaccination gratis. In the year 1808 the number of patients who enjoyed the advantage of the Dispensary was 1340 : in 1811 the number was 1446 : the trustees also stated that in addition to these patients, 1016 had been vaccinated at their office since the first of January, 1811, gratis, and that in every instance the cowpock has proved a perfect security against the smallpox.

The state of New-York has furnished a full portion of learned and scientific professors, lecturers and teachers, by whose labors medical literature and science have flourished, and been extensively diffused. From this source, also, medical and philosophical works of sterling worth have emanated, which have received approbation and applause in various foreign countries. The periodical journals on medicine and the collateral branches of science, which have appeared in New-York at different times, have been the following:—The Medical Repository, first projected in 1798, and the earliest journal which was issued in this country in this department of learning ; its editors were Drs. Mitchell, Miller and Smith. It has been extended to twenty-three volumes by subsequent editors. The New-York Medical and Philosophical Journal, commenced in 1809, and published anonymously—3 volumes. The Medical Magazine, by Drs. Mott and Underdonk ; it terminated with the publication of one volume. The American Medical and Philosophical Register, edited by Drs. Hosack and Francis ; it began in 1810, and was terminated in 1814. The four volumes which it embraced are composed exclusively of original materials ; and these can safely be referred to for many papers of great value on medical and surgical subjects, as well as for biographical memoirs of American physicians, and detailed accounts of most of the public and literary associations for which New-York is so much distinguished. The last periodical, which still exists, is the New-York Medical and Philosophical Journal ; it was began in 1822, by Professor Francis and Drs. Dychman, and Beck ; a volume appears annually. The transactions of the New-York Literary and Philosophical Society contain various papers on medical subjects, and the collections of the New-York Historical Society may be referred to for similar topics.

It may not be irrelative in this account, before we part with New-York, to state that this city holds no inconsiderable rank, as having been the place where most of the prominent operations of American surgery have been first performed. Dr. McKnight's operation for extra-uterine conception, is well known. Hydrocele, treated after the manner revived by Sir James Earle, and the operation for femoral aneurism, though, in the present state of surgical science they do not afford any particular novel principles, were carried into successful results by Professor Hosack, then of Columbia College, so long ago as 1795, and in 1807. In 1812 Professor Post tied the common carotid for aneurism successfully ; it was the first operation on this artery for aneurism that had been performed in this country. In 1817 Professor Post tied successfully the subclavian artery above the clavicle, external to the scaleni muscles, for a brachial aneurism. This is the first successful operation of this character ever performed. The first ligature upon the arteria innominata of a human being was applied by Professor Mott, then of the University of New-York, for an aneurism of the right subclavian artery. It was performed in May, 1818. In November, 1821, Dr. Mott performed his first operation upon the lower jaw, for osteosarcoma of that bone. Nearly half of the lower jawbone was successfully removed. He has subsequently operated upon three other cases ; in one the jaw was removed at the articulation and sawed through on the opposite side, after extracting the first bicuspid tooth. Three out of the four patients recovered. Professor Mott was not aware that the operation on the lower jaw had ever been performed before that by himself. For a similar disease of the upper jaw, Dr. Mott has operated seven times. In October, 1824, he successfully amputated at the hip joint, for a necrosis of the femur. The same surgeon has also tied the carotid artery six times ; the external iliac three times ; the femoral artery fifteen times. But, as if further to add to the surgical renown of New-York, the same eminent operator has lately tied the common iliac near the aorta for an aneurism of the external iliac, March, 1827. This is the first operation ever performed upon the primitive iliac for aneurism ; it was completely successful. These displays of surgical science are worthy of the highest praise, and with those of Physick, Gibson, and Dorsey of Philadelphia, and Warren of Boston, present essays worthy of the profoundest study of our American youth.

In practical medicine, New-York has also done her part. On the vexed subject of yellow fever, her authors have furnished many valuable papers ; and the treatment of the disorder by them seems to be more rational and better defined than by those who have so vehemently contended for the lancet and mercury. That after the disorder has affected the human system, the constitution is rarely affected a second time with the complaint, is now generally thought to be the fact. This interesting feature in the nature of the disease, was first promulgated in the United States by Pro-

fessor J. W. Francis, in his letter on Contagion, dated at London in June, 1816, and has been confirmed by numerous observers in various sections of the country. Tracheotomy has several times been successfully performed for the removal of foreign substance from the windpipe by Dr. Mott; and though, as it is believed, not yet in croup, still in the membranous or fatal stage as it is generally called, the *vitriolic* emetics (white and blue,) have restored the little sufferer when every other hope has been abandoned. For this novel and felicitous principle in practice in this truly alarming complaint, the public are also indebted to Dr. Francis, who has published several successful cases. The monographs of Bayley and of Middleton, on Croup, ought not to be omitted in this cursory enumeration.

The present section of our history of medical affairs in New-York, would hardly be deemed satisfactory, without a few particulars concerning that extensive charity, the New-York Hospital, and the Bloomingdale Asylum for the treatment of the Insane. Both these extensive institutions have been most amply endowed by legislative munificence, and are directed by the governors of the New-York Hospital.

The ground on which the hospital stands, is an area of about four hundred and fifty-five feet in length, and four hundred and forty in breadth, bounded in front on Broadway, and near the City Hall. The principal building, denominated the Hospital, is of grey stone and of the Doric order: in front one hundred and twenty-four feet; fifty feet deep in the centre and eighty-six feet deep in the wings, which project on each side. It consists of three stories above the basement: the height above the ground is fifty-two feet. In the third story, looking to the northwest, is the theatre for surgical operations, fitted up so as to accommodate about two hundred persons. The building contains sixteen wards, thirty-six feet long and twenty-four feet broad, in which about three hundred persons may be accommodated. On the southerly section of the grounds is another large and commodious edifice, ninety feet long, forty feet deep in the centre and sixty-five feet deep in the wings, which project twelve and a half feet on each side. The hospital is furnished with a most valuable and extensive library on medical science and the collateral branches, particularly on botany. It has a kitchen garden, ice houses, a bathing house, and convenient stables. From the last printed report of this Institution for, 1826 we gather the following facts:

Remaining in the hospital, December 31, 1825, pay patients	
including U. S. seamen	110
Paupers	55
Admitted during 1826, of the first order	1097
of the second	676
	1938

Of these 1284 are reported to have been discharged cured ;—relieved 123 ; discharged by request 72 ; improper objects 25 ; disorderly and eloped 22 ; died 198. Of the whole, 1177 were natives of America.

The Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane.—In the month of April, 1815, the late Thomas Eddy submitted to the governors of the Hospital a small tract entitled “Hints for introducing an improved mode of treating the Insane in the Asylum.” This communication met with a favorable reception, and the benevolent plans of the distinguished projector were carried into effect with all practicable facility. “It would be,” says Mr. E. “an undertaking singularly interesting and instructive, to trace the different methods of cure which have been pursued in different ages, in the treatment of those laboring under mental derangement ; and to mark the various results with which they have been attended. The radical defect in all the different modes of cure that have been pursued, appears to be, that of considering mania a physical or bodily disease, and adopting for its removal merely physical remedies. Very lately, however, a spirit of inquiry has been excited, which has given birth to a new system of treatment of the insane ; and former modes of medical discipline have now given place to that which is generally denominated moral management.”

It is almost superfluous to state the plan of the Retreat at York, in England ; the successful issue of that benevolent establishment, as made known to the world by Mr. Take’s publication, fortified the patrons of the New-York Asylum in their enlarged and enlightened views. The legislature of New-York were not reluctant in countenancing the undertaking, and in April 1816, passed a munificent act appropriating the yearly sum of ten thousand dollars for forty-one years, to enable the governors to erect further and more extensive accommodations for insane patients. Accordingly a purchase was made of a suitable location about seven miles from the city of New-York, near the Hudson river, and fronting on the Bloomingdale road : the whole quantity of ground is stated to be somewhat over seventy-seven acres. It is remarkably dry and pleasant, and from its elevated situation affords an extensive and delightful view of the East and Hudson rivers and the adjacent country for an area of nearly forty miles. The plan of the edifice adopted was that of Thomas C. Taylor ; it comprehends a centre building which is two hundred and eleven feet in length and sixty feet deep, with two wings, each placed at the distance of fifty feet from the principal building and connected with it by a colonnade. Each wing is one hundred and ninety-four feet in length and fifty feet deep. The middle or principal centre building is calculated to accommodate about two hundred patients. It would require many pages to notice the various accommodations and advantages which this great institution possesses, and it is to be hoped that an ample publication of such a nature will not much longer be with-

held from the public. The state, in her patronage to this Asylum, has added to her renown for public works, great as it has previously been, and the names of Clinton, Clarkson and Eddy, will be cherished with the most lively and lasting gratitude by every friend of afflicted humanity. The following is an abstract of the report of this Institution for 1826. During the above period, admitted, males 97—females 45; total 142: of these the recent cases were 93—old 49. Recovered, including males and females, 56: much improved, 6: improved, 5: discharged by request, 9. Died, all of them of the old cases, 6.—The forms of the diseases were mania, 63: monomania, 28; delirium a potu, 35; dementia, 15; idiotism, 1. Total 142.

STATE OF NEW-JERSEY.

WE are destitute of materials for the medical history of this state. It is, however, well known that medical men of distinguished character have flourished in it during the last century; memoirs of some of the most meritorious have been procured and are inserted in this volume. A medical school, connected with Rutgers College in New-Brunswick, has recently been instituted, and is conducted by professors of exalted character for scientific attainments,* a majority of whom lately formed the Faculty of medicine in the University of New-York.

Officers of the College.

David Hosack, M. D. F. R. S. *President of the Medical Faculty.*
 Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. LL.D. *Vice President.*
 Peter Townsend, M. D. *Registrar.*

Professors.

David Hosack, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.*
 William James Macneven, M. D. *Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.*
 Valentine Mott, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics and Forensic Medicine.*
 John D. Godman, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*
 John Griscom, LL.D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

The several courses of instruction commence on the first Monday in November, and terminate on the last day of February, an-

* Rutgers' College, originally called Queen's College, was founded in the year 1770. In that year the Dutch Reformed Church of New-York and New-Jersey, then united and formed the plan of erecting a college in New-Brunswick, for the purpose of preparing young men for the gospel ministry, and obtained a charter from the legislature of New-Jersey.

nually. "Colonel Henry Rutgers, of New-Jersey, has established in perpetuity the premium of a gold medal, to be awarded annually to the student of that institution, who shall exhibit the most satisfactory testimonial of talent and attainment in medical science, in his inaugural dissertation for the doctorate; the same to be approved by the board of professors, and the decision to rest with them. The honor to be delivered to the successful candidate at the public commencement." A silver medal has also been proposed by the liberality of a distinguished citizen of New-York, to be awarded to the author of the approved dissertation on some subject connected with the indigenous diseases and topography of the country. These incentives to exertion cannot but produce the most salutary emulation among the students of the newly organized school. During the first session of this school in the winter of 1826-7, the total number of students attending the several classes, was one hundred and fifty-three. At the medical graduation, held in July, 1827, twenty-nine students of the institution received the honors of the doctorate.

The location of the Rutgers Medical College is in the city of New-York. It is situated in Duane Street, near Broadway, in the immediate vicinity of the New-York Hospital. It was erected by the medical faculty at their own expense expressly for the accommodation of students of medicine. It is admitted by all that this building combines with the necessary spaciousness, a degree of neatness, convenience and comfort, very rarely found in similar establishments. The lecture rooms are three in number. The chemical room is on the lower floor, and is provided with necessary furnaces and fixtures. Adjoining the laboratory is the room for the mineralogical cabinet and such philosophical apparatus as is employed in pneumatics, hydrostatics, and other departments of science connected with chemistry. The hall for the lectures on the practice of physic, materia medica, botany, and obstetrics and forensic medicine, is on the second floor. This hall is also designed for the delivering of introductory lectures and for public collegiate exercises. The library room is on the same floor with the hall. The surgical and anatomical amphitheatre is on the third floor. The saloon of practical anatomy on the fourth floor, is unrivalled in this country for its extent and the entire convenience of its arrangements. This apartment is of the length and width of the whole building, and is during the day lighted by a fine skylight and four windows. At night it is brilliantly illuminated by ten large gas burners, which entirely obviate the necessity of using table-lamps. The cistern of water is supplied by means of a forcing pump in the basement. A furnace of appropriate construction is employed for the daily removal of fragments usually allowed to accumulate in and about anatomical apartments. The use of this furnace and the regular attention paid to the tables, remove from the study of practical anatomy all the circumstances usually pro-

ductive of disgust. An angle of the saloon is screened off for the accommodation of practitioners of medicine, who may wish to revise their anatomical studies free from interruption. The anatomical cabinet is rich and valuable. The collection of the professor of surgery is so in an especial degree, on account of its being principally composed of morbid specimens, removed by himself in his operations, or procured from subjects with whose previous history he is acquainted. Collections to a valuable extent are forming by the professor of the materia medica; and the illustrations, casts and preparations for obstetrical knowledge, are constantly augmenting. The whole of this college is furnished with gas lights, and warmed by a single fire burned in the basement, from which heated air is conveyed by flues to all parts of the house. The arrangement is so effectual that but a few minutes are necessary to the production of a summer temperature even in the coldest winter. The heated air flows from below the seats in the different lecture rooms, so that they are equally warmed throughout.

The school is abundantly supplied with the material necessary for practical anatomy at a very moderate expense, and the students enjoy the opportunity of witnessing the extensive surgical and medical practice of the New-York Hospital. The qualifications of candidates for the doctorate are similar to those of the New-York College, and the graduates are vested with the usual powers to practise. The candidate must have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and have studied medicine three years under the direction of a regular practitioner; during this period he must have attended two full courses of lectures at the college, or one full course in another and one full course in Rutgers College. The examination takes place immediately after the close of the lectures.

The Medical Society of the state of New-Jersey for the regulation of the practice of physic and surgery, was incorporated in 1783, and is governed by provisions similar to those of the society of Massachusetts. There are also three district medical societies.

STATE OF DELAWARE.

In this state have originated men of professional talents and profound erudition. To Dr. James Tilton (*b*) our country is greatly indebted for important services in the line of his profession during both the former and the latter war with Great Britain. Dr. Sykes (*b*) was eminently distinguished. Dr. Joshua Clayton was governor of the state, and a member of the United States senate; he died in 1799. During the war of Independence, from the great scarcity of the Peruvian bark, Dr. Clayton found an eligible substitute in the bark of the root of dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and

the inside bark of the white oak tree, combined in equal parts. This proved equally efficacious in all those cases in which the Peruvian bark is usually employed. In this state a respectable medical society is established, and the professional character honorably supported; but its vicinity to wealthy and populous cities renders the establishment of medical schools altogether unnecessary.

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

It appears that in the latter part of the 17th and early part of the 18th century, many learned and enterprising medical men emigrated from Europe, and established themselves in Pennsylvania and the more southern provinces. Thomas Wynn, an eminent Welsh physician, who practised medicine several years with high reputation in London, and his brother, came to this country in 1682 with the original settlers, located themselves in Philadelphia, and were the earliest physicians of that city. These gentlemen were followed by a succession of regular and well educated professional men. Dr. Griffith Owen arrived in the prime of life, and is said to have done the principal medical business in the city of Philadelphia, where he was highly distinguished for his talents, integrity and zeal. He died in 1717, about the age of 70 years, and left a son who practised in Philadelphia some time after his father's death. Dr. Græme came from Great Britain with the governor, Sir William Keith, in the year 1717. He was about 30 years of age when he arrived, had an excellent education and agreeable manners, and was therefore much employed as a practitioner, and greatly confided in by his fellow citizens. Dr. Lloyd Zachary probably commenced the practice of medicine in Philadelphia between 1720 and 1730, and died in the year 1756 in the meridian of life, greatly and most deservedly lamented. He was one of the founders of, and a very liberal contributor to, both the college and the hospital. Dr. Kearsly sen. was for many years a very industrious practitioner both in medicine and surgery. He was not deficient in public spirit. The public are more indebted to him than to any other man for that respectable edifice, Christ Church; and by will he founded and endowed a hospital for poor widows. He educated Dr John Redman and Dr. John Bard, of New-York. Foibles are common to humanity, and we often find them blended with the most splendid virtues in the human character. Dr. Kearsly possessed a morose and churlish temper, which banished all cheerfulness and social converse from his pupils, and rendered him an unpleasant companion. Dr. Cadwallader Evans (b) was one of the first pupils of Dr. Thomas Bond, and completed his medical education in England. He was descended from a much venerated early settler, and had a great share of public spi-

rit, as well as of professional worth. In 1769 some observations appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine of London, from Dr. John Kearsly, jun. of Philadelphia, relative to angina maligna, which prevailed in 1746 and 1760. "It extended," says the author, "through the neighboring provinces with mortal rage, in opposition to the united endeavors of the faculty. It swept off all before it, baffling every attempt to stop its progress, and seemed by its dire effects to be more like the drawn sword of vengeance to stop the growth of the colonies, than the natural progress of disease. Villages were almost depopulated, and numerous parents were left to bewail the loss of their tender offspring." An essay on the iliac passion by Dr. Thomas Cadwallader (*b*), a respectable physician in Philadelphia, appeared in the year 1740, in which the author opposes with considerable talent and learning the then common mode of treating that disease. This was one of the earliest publications on a medical subject in America. Dr. Thomas Bond (*b*), about 1754, was author of some useful medical memoirs, which were published in a periodical work in London. Phineas Bond, M. D. (*b*), a younger brother of Thomas Bond, after studying medicine some time in Maryland, visited Europe, and passed a considerable time at the medical schools of Leyden, Paris, London and Edinburgh; on his return he settled in Philadelphia, where he enjoyed a high reputation for many years. He was one of the founders of the College, now the University of Pennsylvania. About the middle of the 18th century Dr. Adam Thompson, of Pennsylvania, or Maryland, published a discourse on the preparation of the body for the reception of the inoculated smallpox, and the manner of receiving the infection, as it was delivered in the public hall of the academy before the trustees and others, in November, 1750. This production was highly applauded both in America and Europe, as at that period the practice of inoculation was on the decline. The author states that inoculation was so unsuccessful at Philadelphia, that many were disposed to abandon the practice; wherefore, upon the suggestion of the 1392d aphorism of Boerhaave,* he was led to prepare his patients by a composition of antimony and mercury, which he had constantly employed for twelve years with uninterrupted success.

As connected with medical science, it might appear improper to omit the distinguished name of John Bartram, Esq. to whom our country is so greatly indebted for improvements in natural history and botany. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1701. His grandfather of the same name accompanied William Penn to this country in 1682. This self-taught genius early discovered a great thirst for the acquisition of knowledge, and especially of botanical know-

* Boerhaave's 1392d aphorism:—"Some success from antimony and mercury prompts us to seek for a specific for the smallpox in a combination of these minerals reduced by art to an active, but not to an acrimonious or corrosive state,"

ledge. He travelled in pursuit of it, with unwearied diligence, in various parts of his native country from Canada to Florida, and made such proficiency in the study that Linnæus is said to have pronounced him the "greatest natural botanist in the world." He corresponded with many of the most distinguished men of science, both in America and in Europe. He was elected a member of several of the most eminent societies and academies abroad, and was, at length, appointed botanist to his Britannic Majesty George III. He died in 1777, in the 76 year of his age. Mr. Bartram was the first native American who conceived and carried into effect the plan of a botanical garden for the reception and cultivation of indigenous as well as exotic plants, and of travelling for the purpose of accomplishing this plan. He purchased a situation on the banks of the Schuylkill, and enriched it with every variety of the most curious and beautiful vegetables, collected in his excursions, which his sons have since continued to cultivate.

It was reserved for the accomplished Dr. William Shippen (b) and Dr. John Morgan (b), to construct a permanent foundation for the medical institutions of our country. Both these gentlemen were natives of Philadelphia, and after receiving the usual preparatory course of instruction, repaired to Europe to complete a scientific education. Here they enjoyed ample means of qualifying themselves for the great duties of professors and teachers, and while in Europe they concerted the plan of establishing a medical school in their native city. Accordingly in 1762 Dr. Shippen commenced a course of lectures on anatomy and midwifery, accompanied by dissections, to a class of ten students, and this was the first systematic course of lectures on medical subjects ever delivered in America, if we except those delivered at Newport in 1756, by Dr. Hunter. In 1765 Dr. Morgan returned from Europe and was appointed Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Dr. Shippen the Professor of Anatomy; and they were the only professors of this new institution until 1768, when Dr. Kuhn (b) was elected Professor of Botany, and in the following year Dr. Benjamin Rush (b) was chosen Professor of Chemistry. These learned characters, assisted by the venerable Thomas Bond (b) as lecturer on Clinical Medicine, zealously devoted their talents to the duties of the several departments of medical instruction. This first Medical School in the American colonies, was soon after confirmed and established by the authority of the trustees of the College of Philadelphia, while Dr. Franklin officiated as their president. The science of medicine was unfortunately deprived of the benefits and improvements expected from this honorable association, by various circumstances connected with the revolutionary war. The Philadelphia Dispensary for the medical relief of the poor, the first institution of its kind in the United States, was founded in 1786. The College of Physicians of Phila-

delphia, was established in 1787, and the labors of the Professors commenced under circumstances eminently auspicious to the improvement of medical science ; an unfortunate competition and discord, however, between the medical college and an opposition school, for a time marred their prospects, and impeded that useful progress which the friends of the institution and the public had confidently expected. But in 1791 some important changes took place, an harmonious union of the contending parties was effected, and Dr. Rush was appointed Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic and of Clinical Medicine. From this period, the progress and improvement of the institution have been no less honorable to the venerable founders, than beneficial to the community. The commanding talents and profound erudition of Professors Rush (*b*), Barton (*b*), Physick (*b*), Dorsey (*b*), Chapman and others, have given the Medical School of Philadelphia a celebrity, which will probably long remain unrivalled in the United States, and will enable it to vie with the most elevated seminaries of the European world. It has become the resort of students from every section of our united confederacy. Five hundred in some seasons have attended the various courses of lectures, and the inaugural dissertations of those who from time to time have received its honors, have extended the fame of the school from which they emanated. At the commencement in June, 1771, the degree of A. B. was conferred on seven, and the degree of M. D. on four candidates. Such has been the prosperity of this medical institution, first founded in our country, that from the most accurate calculation that can be made, it is computed that, between 7 and 8000 young men have received instruction within its walls since its first establishment, and from this source the remotest parts of our union have been furnished with learned physicians who are ornaments to their profession. During the four months attendance on the lectures, the class expend not less than \$200,000 in the city of Philadelphia. The present faculty :—

Philip Syng Physick, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy.*

John Redman Coxe, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.*

Nathaniel Chapman, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and Clinical Practice.*

Thomas C. James, M. D. *Professor of Midwifery.*

Robert Hare, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

William Gibson, M. D. *Professor of Surgery.*

William C. Horner, M. D. *Adjunct Professor of Anatomy.*

It is ascertained by historical records, that the yellow fever made its appearance in the city of Philadelphia in 1699 and 1740, and that the same malady again visited that city, New-York and some other parts of North America, in the years 1744, 1747,

1760, and 1762: at the last mentioned period it was attended with such malignity as baffled the skill of the most experienced physicians. The medical characters of those times, as well as the public generally, considered the disease to be contagious, and imported from the West Indies. But the city of Philadelphia was afflicted with a dreadful visitation of the yellow fever in 1793, which is to be regarded as a memorable event in the history of the United States. Such was the magnitude of this awful calamity, as to excite in the breasts of all classes of people the keenest emotions of sympathy and commiseration. The city was abandoned by a large proportion of its inhabitants, and those who remained were not sufficient to administer comfort to the sick and to bury the dead. It was not uncommon for persons to expire alone in a house, and without a human being to witness the awful scene. A negro leading a horse and hearse was to be seen in every street, and at almost every hour. If a solitary passenger was met, his gloom and ghastly visage proclaimed the horrors of his soul, as if conscious that with every breath is mingled the sting of death. No less than four thousand and forty-four persons fell victims to this destructive epidemic in that ill fated city, between the first of August and ninth of October.*

The same pestilential fever has at several subsequent periods been permitted to ravage that and almost all the cities and seaport towns in the United States. The alarm and distress which pervaded our cities on these melancholy occasions, were inexpressible. The nature, origin and propagation of this formidable disease, became the topics of interesting inquiry and universal concern. The investigation was pursued by many of our most distinguished medical philosophers with commendable zeal and perseverance; but from the conflict of opinions, a spirit of illiberality was, in too many instances, allowed to mingle with discussion, and impede the progress and attainment of truth. Whether the yellow fever, as then prevalent, was of an inflammatory or typhoid character, whether the disease was actually of a contagious nature and imported from a foreign country, or originated in some domestic and local cause existing in our cities, were questions agitated with peculiar interest and considerable warmth, by the learned laborers in this ample field of controversy. The discordant opinions of contagionists and non-contagionists, were little calculated to satisfy and soothe the public mind while afflicted with this awful source of mortality. From the investigation and inquiries of some of the most eminent physicians in the United States, much light has been elicited relative to this recondite

* For a particular narrative of the sufferings of the inhabitants of Philadelphia by this tremendous visitation, the reader is referred to Rush on the Yellow Fever of 1793, and a publication by Matthew Carey, Esq. and the periodical publications of the day.

subject. It would require volumes to examine and illustrate the various points in controversy, and those who may be desirous of more satisfactory information, may consult the numerous publications of that period relative to the subject in question.

Dr. Rush, after having experienced the palpable inefficiency of all the known curative remedies in the yellow fever of 1793, was induced to adopt the depleting plan, and boldly resorted to the lancet and to mercurial purges, as his last hope ; at subsequent periods of its prevalence, however, the lancet was more cautiously employed, and mercury used as the sovereign remedy. It was given with the view of evacuating the alimentary canal, or in such form as would speedily affect the salivary glands, in which event it proved eminently efficacious. Influenced, probably, by the opinion and example of Dr. Rush, most of the learned physicians of the United States have declared themselves advocates for the mercurial mode of treatment. Being thus sanctioned by the highest medical authority and by general assent, the mercurial practice is now received and adopted by a majority of our practitioners as the safest and most successful method of cure, not only in the yellow fever, but also in typhus and other forms of malignant febrile affections. This plan of treatment was found to be coincident with the practice of some respectable men of extensive experience in the yellow fever of the West Indies. Dr. Chisholm, indeed, is reputed to have been one of the earliest of those who resorted to mercury as an agent in controlling the violence of that fatal disease, in that climate, in the years 1789 and 1790, and he is worthy of being styled the champion of the mercurial practice ; having in one instance exhibited by the mouth, by inunction and by clyster, no less than five thousand seven hundred and four grains of mercury in five days, and the result was the rapid recovery of the patient. It would seem scarcely credible, a priori, that the human system were capable of sustaining such an enormous quantity of this active metal, and it is presumed that the learned gentleman will long remain without a rival in this respect in the United States.

Works of great merit have been and still are produced by the profoundly learned and literary professors and teachers of Philadelphia, particularly Rush, Barton, Wistar, Dorsey, Physick, Mease, Currie, Chapman, Dewees and others. Among our periodicals, those published in that city stand pre-eminent in point of merit and utility. The Medical Recorder has long been established and its fame extensively disseminated. The Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, was commenced in 1820, and is edited by Drs. Chapman, Dewees, &c. This is a work of superior merit. It is proposed to render it still more valuable by enlarging its plan, and uniting in its support the principal medical talents of the country. It will hereafter be known under the name of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences.

The North American Medical and Surgical Journal was commenced in 1826, and is conducted by gentlemen of talent. The Philadelphia Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery was commenced in June last, and is gaining reputation and respectable patronage.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

THE following were the earliest physicians who flourished in this state. Dr. Hamilton, a Scotch physician of eminence, emigrated to this country about 1700, and settled in Maryland, where he practised for many years with acceptance; nearly contemporary with him were Dr. Sprigg, Weisenthal, Pue, Scott, Murray, and Tootell; and at a later period Drs. Thomas, Warfield, Stewart and Gauth. These gentlemen were educated in foreign schools, and several of them were natives of Europe. They were all eminent practitioners, and did much in forming the medical character of Maryland in the eighteenth century. Gustavus R. Brown, M. D., an eminent physician of Charles county, received his medical education at Edinburgh, and was graduated in medicine at that university in 1768, at which time he defended a thesis on "Animal Heat." On his return he settled in his native place, and enjoyed through life an extensive practice. Dr. Rush, who was contemporary with Dr. Brown at Edinburgh, used to say of him that he was not second to any student of the university at that period. Dr. Brown was not only a well read physician, and an able practitioner of medicine, but a good classical scholar, and indulged his taste for general reading during the whole course of his laborious practice. It is said that he used but few remedies in his practice, and those of a most efficient character. Drs. Gustavus Brown and William Brown were nephews of the preceding, and educated at Edinburgh at nearly the same period. They were both eminent practitioners of medicine, the former of St. Mary's county, Maryland, and the latter of Alexandria. It is not known that either of these gentlemen left any medical writings behind them, except the inaugural thesis which they defended at the time of their graduation. Dr. Parham, of Charles county, Maryland, was contemporary with the Drs. Brown, and also educated at Edinburgh. He was a distinguished practitioner of medicine and surgery in his native state.* Dr. John Owen practised medicine in the city of Baltimore. He is eulogised in the newspapers as possessing the qualities which gained unbounded confidence in his skill and in his probity. Dr. John Archer, who first introduced the seneca root as a remedy in

* See Lecture delivered at Columbia College, D. C. by Thomas Sewall, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, to whom I am indebted for this and other extracts.

croup, deserves to be commemorated ; but no memoir of his life could be obtained.

The College of Medicine in Maryland, established at Baltimore, was regularly organized by an act of the legislature of that state, in 1807. This school owes its origin to Dr. John B. Davidge, who in 1804 commenced a course of lectures in Baltimore on midwifery to a class of six students. In 1807 two eminent physicians, Dr. Cocke of Virginia, and Dr. Shaw of Maryland, united in the school, and lectures were given on the different branches of medicine ; in the same year a charter was granted, and the school became regularly organized by the style of the " College of Medicine of Maryland." By the influence and zeal of its distinguished founder, and the labors of other eminent teachers, this institution has been rapidly rising into importance, and at the present time is one of the most respectable institutions in the country. An infirmary has recently been erected in connexion with the school, for the purpose of clinical instruction. The following are the Professors :—

John B. Davidge, M. D. *Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.*

Nathaniel Potter, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.*

Elisha De Butts, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy.*

Samuel Baker, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica.*

Professor of Anatomy.

Richard W. Hall, M. D. *Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

Maxwell McDowell, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.*

The state of Maryland has an excellent pauper establishment which contains an infirmary, a lying-in hospital, a workhouse for the employment of vagrants, an asylum for destitute children, a lunatic hospital, and a medical and chirurgical school.

STATE OF VIRGINIA.

In the history of this state are recognised the names of distinguished medical men among the earliest colonists. " In 1608, being the year after the planting of the colony of Virginia at James Town, the arrival of Walter Russel, doctor of physic, is mentioned by the colonists ; and he is afterwards spoken of as accompanying Capt. Smith on a voyage of discovery, from James Town to the Chesapeake, and up the Potomac to the Falls ; and also, of having rendered surgical aid to Capt. Smith, in the case of an accident which happened to him on this occasion. Some islands, which we discovered in the Chesapeake, during the voyage,

were called Russel's Islands, says Capt. Smith, in honor of Dr. Russel. Anthony Bagnal, surgeon, is also mentioned by Capt. Smith, as accompanying him on a similar voyage, made the same year from James Town to Nansamond, the place where Norfolk is now situated. Drs. Russel and Bagnall, therefore, were probably the first physicians who came over to the colony of Virginia ; but whether they remained in the country or soon returned to Europe, we have no account ; but it is probable that their residence in America was only temporary ; for, in 1609, when Capt. Smith was badly wounded by the explosion of gunpowder, he says there was neither chirurgeon nor chirurgery at the fort ; and he was compelled to return to Europe, for the recovery of his health. In 1611 Dr. Bohun is mentioned, being about to leave the colony of Virginia, and to take ship with Lord Delaware for the West Indies. But no particular account is given of either of these physicians."

John Mitchell, M. D. (*b*), a distinguished physician and botanist, came from England and settled in Virginia about 1700. He wrote an interesting and original essay on the causes of the different colors of people of different climates, which was published in the Philosophical Transactions. He was also the author of several valuable productions, which will be particularized in his biography in this volume. Dr. John Clayton (*b*), an eminent botanist and physician, came to Virginia in 1705 ; as a practical botanist he was probably not inferior to any one of the age, and his practical observations gave him a respectable rank among the learned naturalists of that period. Mark Catesby, F. R. S. though not a physician, may be noticed as a very eminent naturalist. He was born in England, 1679, and came to Virginia in 1712, and in 1722 removed to South Carolina. He spent nearly his whole life in the cultivation of natural science. In 1748 he published a natural history of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands, containing numerous plates. Dr. John Tennent, a respectable physician of Port Royal, Virginia, who brought into view the virtues of the Seneca snake root, published in 1736 at Williamsburgh an essay on pleurisy, in which he treats of the Seneca as an efficient remedy in the cure of this disease. Dr. Tennent, it is believed, was a family connexion of the late celebrated Dr. Richard Mead, of London. He held a medical correspondence with Dr. Mead for many years, and it was to him that he first communicated his account of the Seneca. Dr. George Greham, a respectable physician of Virginia, emigrated to this country in the early part of the last century. He was a native of the north of England, and was educated at Edinburgh. When he came over to this country he settled at Dumfries in Virginia, where he enjoyed an extensive practice for many years, and sustained a high reputation. Dr. Currie, of Richmond, practised through his life with great reputa-

tion. He seemed to possess, intuitively, the faculty of distinguishing the character of disease, and of discovering the remedy. He received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Siccary, a practitioner of medicine, was, it is believed, a Portuguese Jew. It is said by Mr. Jefferson, that we are indebted to him for the introduction of that admirable vegetable, the tomato. He was of opinion that a person who should eat a sufficient abundance of these apples, would never die. Whether he followed his own prescription, is not known ; but he certainly attained to a very old age, and particularly for the climate in which he lived. The tomato is raised in abundance in Virginia and the adjoining states, and is regarded as a great luxury, and by some is considered a preservative against bilious diseases. Dr. Andrew Robertson was a native of Scotland, and received his medical education at the Edinburgh University. He first served as a military surgeon in the British army in Flanders, and came to America with Braddock's army in 1755. He remained in the country, and settled in Virginia, where he acquired a high reputation, and for many years enjoyed an extensive practice. He was particularly distinguished for his charity and attention to the indigent sick. He made several valuable medical communications, which were published in the "London Medical Inquiries and Observations." He died in 1795.

Arthur Lee, M. D. was a native of Virginia, and brother to Richard Henry Lee, the celebrated patriot of the revolution. Dr. Lee received his classical education at Edinburgh, and afterwards studied medicine in that university. As soon as he was graduated, he returned to his native state and settled at Williamsburg, where he practised medicine for several years ; but afterwards abandoned the profession, went to England, and commenced the study of the law in the Temple. He soon entered into political life, and rendered important services to his country during the revolutionary war. He died in Virginia, in 1792. Hugh Mercer, M. D. a general of the revolutionary war, was a distinguished physician, who, like Warren, fell in the defence of the liberties of his country. He was a native of Scotland, and educated at Edinburgh. He early emigrated to Virginia and settled at Fredericksburg, where he practised medicine for several years with great reputation. During the revolution, he zealously engaged in the support of the liberties of his adopted country, and fell in the battle of Princeton in 1777. James McLurg, M. D. was a native of Scotland, and was educated at Edinburgh. He was graduated in medicine about 1771, and defended an experimental thesis on the bile. He settled at Williamsburg, and was by common consent placed at the head of the profession. Dr. William Baynham (b) was long considered as the most eminent surgeon in the southern states, and was particularly distinguished for his accurate knowledge of anatomy. He died in 1814. Walter Jones, M. D. (b),

one of the most eminent physicians in our country, was born in Virginia, and received his medical education at Edinburgh, where he was graduated about the year 1770. He practised in Virginia, and sustained through life the highest standing both as a scholar and physician. Dr. James Craik (*b*), a respectable Scotch physician, was educated at Edinburgh and came over to this country with Braddock's army in 1755, and served as surgeon in General Braddock's campaign, after which he settled in Virginia. He sustained an important office in the medical department during the whole of the war of independence, and enjoyed the personal friendship and confidence of Washington, and attended that illustrious chief in his last illness. He died at Alexandria in 1814, at the age of 84 years. Dr. Dick was also one of the attending physicians of Washington, but we have no information respecting his life and character.

Medical School of the valley of Virginia, established at Winchester in 1826. Professors :—

John G. Cooke, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Obstetrics.*

Phillip Smith, *Professor of Materia Medica.*

H. H. McGuire, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

A. F. Magill, M. D. *Professor of Surgery and Chemistry.*

STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

For eighty or ninety years after the settlement of this state, according to the late Dr. Ramsay, the practice of physic was almost entirely in the hands of Europeans : among these were several able physicians, who possessed an accurate knowledge of the diseases of our country, and, says the great man just mentioned, at a period before Dr. Rush began his brilliant career as an author, there were more experiments made, more observations recorded and more medical writings ushered into public view by the physicians of Charleston, than of any other part of the American continent. Between the years 1768 and 1778, ten native Carolinians obtained the honors of a medical degree at the University of Edinburgh ; three of these were afterwards presidents of the Medical Society of that state, viz. Drs. Fayssoux, Harris and Chandler. About the year 1748, John Lining, M. D. (*b*) published an accurate history of the American yellow fever, which was the first on this subject which issued from an American press. Lionel Chalmers, M. D. (*b*) in 1754 communicated to the Medical Society of London some valuable remarks on Opisthotonus and Tetanus, and he published also an essay on fevers in 1767.

Alexander Garden, M. D. (b) presented to the public in 1764 an account of the medical properties of the *Spigelia Marylandica*, or Carolina Pinkroot, with a botanical description of the plant. John Moultrie, M. D. (b), a distinguished physician of Charleston, was a native of Europe, and came to this country in 1733. For 40 years he stood at the head of his profession in the city. He possessed great talents for observation, and was wonderfully successful in finding out the hidden causes of disease. He was the idol of his patients; and such were the affection and attachment of his female friends that at his death, in 1773, many ladies of the city went into mourning on his account. The year following his death, an unusual number of females died in childbed, and apparently from despondency. Dr. Moultrie had a son who was graduated at Edinburgh in 1749, and was a distinguished scholar and an eminent practitioner of medicine in Charleston. At his graduation he defended a thesis, "*De Febre Flava*." William Bull, M. D. (b) was a physician of South Carolina, and a native of the state, distinguished for his literary attainments, as well as for an extensive knowledge of the science of medicine. He was the pupil of Boerhaave, and received the degree of M. D. at the University of Leyden in 1734, at which time he defended a thesis on "*Colica Pictorum*." He is quoted by Van Swieten as his fellow student, with the title of the learned Dr. Bull, and was the first native of South Carolina, and probably the first American, who obtained a degree in medicine. Drs. Alexander Baron, Tucker, Harris and Samuel Wilson, should be mentioned in terms of high respect; they died in advanced age. But of all the medical characters which have adorned the southern states, no one has displayed more brilliant talents, or professional erudition, than the late David Ramsay, M. D. (b). An interesting memoir of this learned physician will be found in the biographical department in this work.

In 1824 the Medical College of South Carolina was established at Charleston. In this school there are seven professorships. The students have the privilege of attending the practice of the Marine Hospital. The professors are:—

John Edwards Holbrook, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy.*

S. Henry Dickson, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic.*

James Ramsay, M. D. *Professor of Surgery.*

Thomas G. Prioleau, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

Henry Rutledge Frost, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica.*

Edmund Ravenel, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

Stephen Elliot, LL.D. *Professor of Botany and Natural History.*

The yellow fever was known to exist in Charleston so early as the year 1699, and again in 1748, when Dr. Lining published an

accurate history of the disease, and pronounced it imported and contagious. At several subsequent periods that city has been afflicted with the same mortal epidemic.

In the year 1738 smallpox was brought from Africa by a cargo of slaves into Charleston, where from the beginning of June to the end of August it proved exceedingly fatal. Mr. Mowbray, a surgeon, was the first who introduced inoculation into this Province, and in a short time performed the operation upon 450 persons. He was seconded by Dr. Kirkpatrick and others, so that the number of the inoculated in a few months amounted to 1000, including whites and blacks. Six of the former and two of the latter died of the disease thus communicated.

THE Medical College of Ohio was established in Cincinnati in 1818. Professors :—

Jedediah Cobb, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine.*

Elijah Slack, A. M. *Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.*

John Moorhead, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Obstetrics.*

Jesse Smith, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

Transylvania University. Medical School at Lexington, Kentucky. Professors :—

Benjamin W. Dudley, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

Charles Caldwell, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Practice.*

Daniel Drake, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.*

William H. Richardson, *Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

Short, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany.*

James Blythe, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

The Medical School of Jefferson College, located in Philadelphia. Professors :—

John Eberle, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice, and Clinical Medicine.*

George McClellan, M. D. *Professor of Surgery.*

Jacob Green, A. M. *Professor of Chemistry.*

B. Rush Rhees, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica.*

F. S. Beattie, M. D. *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Midwifery.*

Nathan R. Smith, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

Columbia College, D. C. Instituted under a charter of the Congress of the United States, and located at Washington, District of Columbia, in 1824. Professors:—

Thomas Sewall, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

James M. Stoughton, M. D. *Professor of Surgery.*

Thomas Henderson, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.*

N. W. Worthington, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica.*

Edward Cutbush, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

Frederick May, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics.*

The following is a statement of the several medical institutions in the United States, with the date of their respective organization, and the number of students attending the lectures in 1825-6, as correct as possible.

	No. st.		No. st.
University of Pennsylvania	1765 480	Med. School of Maine	1820 60
Med. School of New-York	1768 196*	Med. School of Brown University	1821 40
Med. School of Harvard College	1782 130	Med. School of the University of Vermont	1822 42
Med. School of Dartmouth College	1798 80	Berkshire Med. School	1822 94
College of Med. of Maryland	1807 215	Med. College of S. Carolina	1824 50
College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the state of N. Y.	1812 120	Med. School of Jefferson Coll.	1824
Med. School of Yale College	1813 82	Columbia College, in the District of Columbia	1824
Med. College of Ohio	1818 22	Med. School of Auburn	1825
Vermont Academy of Med.	1818 124	Med. School of the Valley of Virginia	1826
Med. School of Transylvania	1819 235	Rutgers Med. College	1826 153

We have now detailed, in the order of time of their respective establishments, no less than twenty medical schools and colleges in the United States, and it is hoped that no one is omitted; there is the best reason to believe that they have been organized with great judgment, and are conducted with commendable zeal and ability. It will be perceived that a course of lectures is given in all the institutions on the various branches of medical science, from three to five months annually. The subjects of anatomy and surgery are illustrated by dissections and operations on the dead body, and by models, drawings, and dried preparations; the subject of chemistry, by the exhibition of chemical experiments. Most of the schools are in possession of valuable medical libraries, anatomical and mineralogical cabinets, museums, &c., and, in almost all instances, hospitals or infirmaries are established in connexion, affording the young student the best possible opportunities of improvement in practical medicine. Every school is invested with

* In 1826-7 reduced to 84.

the power of conferring medical degrees on those who, on examination, are found to be entitled to such honors; the manner and form are nearly similar in all the schools. Such is the unexampled progress in medical improvement, and such the ample means of instruction at the present day, although "one hundred and fifty-eight years of our history elapsed after the first settlement of America, before a single medical school existed in the country"; and though about sixty years ago one only was established, and but ten pupils attended its first lectures, we may at the present time boast of twenty schools, occupying the talents of more than one hundred eminent professors, imparting public instruction to more than two thousand young students annually. Besides the numerous seminaries already noticed, medical societies for the regulation of the practice of physic, and the suppression of quackery and empiricism, have been formed in most of the states of the union. The establishment of these institutions originated with the legislature of Massachusetts, who in the year 1781 incorporated the first body of this description, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The views and design of the founders of this excellent institution, with the very important advantages which have resulted to the community by its operation, have already been detailed in page 38. Similar societies have since been incorporated by the legislatures of most of the states. In some of the states where such societies exist, persons who are not licensed are permitted to practise, and are allowed the benefit of the law; and in some states, a severe penalty is inflicted for prescribing medicine without a licence.

By the establishment of medical schools and societies throughout our country within the last half century, most important improvements have been made in almost every branch of the science of medicine, and it must be gratifying to every patriot to know that our citizens have acted a very conspicuous part in effecting an object, in which the character of our nation and the interest of mankind are so deeply concerned. These circumstances will be hailed as propitious omens of the prosperity and literary fame which await our aspiring citizens. Important and auspicious effects are already visible in the character of our physicians. A thirst for the acquisition of knowledge, a laudable emulation, a taste for observation, inquiry and research, have been excited, and the talents and efforts of medical men in various sections of the union have been happily combined. Within the last half century medical publications have greatly multiplied in the United States, and many of them reflect honor, both on their authors and on the national character. The numerous and valuable works of our late medical philosopher, Professor Rush, hold the first rank in the American catalogue. These, with the learned productions of Professors Barton, Hosack, and Mitchell, have been translated into various foreign languages, and received the meed of applause from some of

the most celebrated characters of the European continent. The Anatomy of the late professor Wistar has been received with universal approbation, as a display of uncommon talent, and will be a lasting monument to his memory. Dr. Dorsey's "Elements of Surgery," an original work in two volumes, has been republished, and, it is said, made a text book in the celebrated medical school at Edinburgh.* There are numerous other writers in the United States, who by their labors have honorably contributed to our domestic literature and science. Many handsome specimens of ability, industry and learning, will be found among the inaugural dissertations published by the students of our medical schools; and the most considerable portion of our journals and periodical publications, in point of merit and utility, may vie with the long established vehicles and repositories of medical intelligence beyond the Atlantic. The plans and means of instruction in our establishments and seminaries, are continually improving. The road to medical knowledge is laid open, and is fraught with allurements. Emulation and fashion are directing their votaries into its various avenues, and conducting them to the fountain of professional honors, distinctions and emoluments. No longer, therefore, need our young men humbly reap the fruits of European fields, but assiduously cultivate and diffuse the ample advantages to be found in our own. In duly appreciating the advantages of our own institutions we advance the interest and reputation of our native country, and prevent the necessity of an expensive resort to Europe in pursuit of medical knowledge. We recognise in our institutions no uniform theoretical system as the rule of practice. Medical history affords abundant evidence of the instability of human systems. Every age has teemed with theories or visionary hypotheses fleeting as the wind, scarcely surviving their authors, but yielding to others as transient and unsubstantial as themselves. The medical authorities most respected, are Cullen, Rush and Good. These, modified and improved according to the judgment and views of the respective professors, are adopted and taught in the various American universities. In the art of surgery the leading authorities are Pott, the Bells, Desault, the Coopers, Abernethy, Cline, Home, Latta and Hey, to whom we may add our own countrymen, Physick and Dorsey of Philadelphia, Post and Mott, of New-York, and the late John Warren, and John C. Warren of Boston, and others, whose names we may with pride associate with those who have adorned the annals of surgery, in either hemisphere, in ancient or modern times. In the departments of chemistry and botany, the most modern European authors are consulted, together with the labors and improvements of our own enlightened professors. American botany is now cultivated

* This it is hoped will silence those invidious writers in that country, who for years have labored to detract from the merit of American physicians.

with that commendable ardor and solicitude, which the importance of the subject demands, and many indigenous medicinal plants have been introduced as new articles of our *materia medica*.

Although there is no uniform standard of attainments established, in order to graduation, in most of our schools it is required, that before a student can be admitted to an examination for a degree, he must have attained to the age of twenty-one, have studied three years with some regular physician, attended two full courses of lectures on the different branches of medicine, and, if he has not enjoyed the advantages of a collegiate education, he must furnish satisfactory evidence of having made respectable classical attainments; and particularly that he has acquired a competent knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, has studied mathematics, natural and experimental philosophy, geography, and belles lettres. In several of our schools it is required that he shall have attended the clinical practice of some infirmary for a specified term. It is also required that, before he can receive his degree, he must pass a close examination in the different branches of medicine, and write and defend a thesis on some medical subject.

A national Pharmacopœia, adapted to the present state of medical science in the United States, had long been a desideratum, as the only mode by which a uniform system of practice could be established. In January, 1817, Dr. Lyman Spalding submitted to the New-York County Medical Society a project for the formation of a national Pharmacopœia, by the authority of all the medical societies and medical schools in the United States. The plan adopted for the purpose of accomplishing this great object, was to divide the United States and territories into four districts, viz. the northern, middle, southern and western. In each of these districts a convention was called, consisting of delegates from the several medical societies, colleges of physicians and surgeons, medical schools, faculties of medicine and voluntary associations of physicians. It was proposed that each district convention should form a Pharmacopœia, or select one in general use, and make therein such alterations and additions as might adapt it to the present state of medical science. The district conventions were requested to appoint one or more delegates to meet in a general convention and submit to the same their Pharmacopœia. Circular letters were transmitted to the medical schools and institutions throughout the United States, and met with universal approbation. The places designated for the meeting of the district conventions were Boston, Philadelphia, Columbia in South Carolina, and Lexington in Kentucky. These district conventions held their meetings accordingly, and appointed delegates to meet in a general convention to be held in the city of Washington, for the purpose of compiling the American Pharmacopœia from those which were presented by the district conventions. It was agreed that each medical society, or medical institution, should defray the expenses

of its own delegation and its proportion of the expenses of the district convention : that the general convention should adopt a plan for revising the American Pharmacopœia at the end of every ten years ; and that no alteration should be made therein except at those periods, and then only by the authority aforesaid. The general convention for the formation of the Pharmacopœia assembled in the capitol at Washington on the first day of January, 1820, and elected Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. as their president, and Thomas T. Hewson, M. D. as secretary. Two Pharmacopœias, being those prepared in the northern and middle districts, were submitted to examination. These works were duly examined and compared in detail, and their contents, with such additions as were thought necessary, consolidated into one work, which, after full revision, was adopted by the general convention as the American Pharmacopœia, and ordered to be published by a committee appointed for that purpose. It was a preliminary that the general convention should sell, for ten years, the copyright of the American Pharmacopœia, and that they should defray their expenses out of the proceeds of the sale, and also that it be recommended to every medical society, &c. to adopt the Pharmacopœia, and encourage the use of it by all druggists and apothecaries. It was resolved by the general convention that their president shall on the first of January, 1828, issue writs of election to the several incorporated state medical societies, &c. requiring them to ballot for delegates to a general convention to be held at Washington on the first of January, 1830, for the purpose of revising the Pharmacopœia, and introducing such alterations and additions as the progress of medical and pharmaceutical science may require.

The following periodical publications on the subject of medicine have been established in the United States.

The New-York Medical Repository was the first medical journal published in the United States, and was commenced in that city in 1797 by the joint labors of Drs. Samuel L. Mitchell, Edward Miller, and Elihu H. Smith. Since the commencement of this work, a succession of periodical journals has been established, among which are :—

The Philadelphia Medical and Physical Journal, commenced in	1804
Philadelphia Medical Museum, in	1805
Baltimore Medical and Physical Recorder, in	1808
New-York Medical and Philosophical Journal and Review, in	1809
American Medical and Philosophical Register (at New-York), in	1810
The American Mineralogical Journal (at New-York,) in	1810
Eclectic Repertory (at Philadelphia), in	1811
Baltimore Medical and Philosophical Lyceum, in	1811

New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery (at Boston), in	1812
American Medical Recorder (at Philadelphia), in	1818
Philadelphia Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences, in	1820
American Journal of Science and Arts (at New-Haven), in	1821
New-York Medical and Physical Journal, in	1822
Western Medical Reporter (at Cincinnati, Ohio), about	1822
Hartford Analectic Journal of Medicine and Surgery, in	1823
Boston Medical Intelligencer, in	1823
Medical Review and Analectic Journal (at Philadelphia), in	1824
New-York Monthly Chronicle of Medicine and Surgery, in	1824
Carolina Journal of Medicine, Science, and Agriculture (at Charleston), in	1825
The North American Medical and Surgical Journal (at Philadelphia), in	1826
Philadelphia Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery, in	1827

"These publications have, in general, been well sustained, and while they have been useful in disseminating medical information, and in exciting a more general taste for reading and inquiry, they have called forth the talents of physicians in every part of the United States, in exploring the medical topography of the country, investigating the causes of its epidemic and endemic diseases, examining its animal, vegetable, and mineral productions, and in publishing the results of their observations and discoveries to the world. They have thus been among the most efficient means of advancing medical science, and elevating the character of the profession. Several of the journals which have been established, are discontinued, and others have assumed a different title.* As vehicles imparting useful knowledge, and improving the science of medicine, they have been of the highest importance. If the advancement of science in the early periods of our history was marked with tardy and feeble steps, we can boast of honorable amendment by the rapid strides observable in our own times. Within the last sixty years our progress has been without a parallel. We have established no less than twenty medical schools, besides medical societies; numerous hospitals, infirmaries and dispensaries, devoted to the cause of humanity and benevolence, have been erected; a system of medical education and of medical police has been established, and their benefits extensively diffused. In the language of a late elegant writer,† "We have produced a host of able teachers, successful practitioners, and some of the best writers of the age. If much has already been accomplished,

* Professor Sewall's first lecture at the opening of Columbia College, D. C. March, 1826.

† Ibid.

much still remains to be done. Though our large towns and cities and the more populous parts of our country are supplied with well educated physicians, a large portion of our territory, remote from the schools, is still without those who have enjoyed the benefits of public instruction. If we have ten thousand physicians, as computed by a late writer, we have more than fifteen thousand practitioners of medicine, many of whom have never heard a public lecture, or seen a demonstration in anatomy." "If, in sixty years, with the limited means we have possessed, and with all the difficulties we have had to encounter, we have produced the best system of medical education, the most perfect code of medical police that has been exhibited to the world; if we have produced some of the best practical and elementary books, and some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of any age or country; if we have done this in the short period of sixty years that are passed, what will be our advance in sixty years to come?" The foregoing sentiments of Professor Sewall, as it respects the multiplication of medical schools, and the increased facilities of acquiring professional knowledge, cannot but receive universal acquiescence, as a happy display of the prosperity of our country, and auspicious to our national character. But it has unfortunately happened, that in some of our cities instances have occurred to prove that prosperity and successful progress depend less on the number of schools, than the harmoniously combined efforts of a single institution. Collision and unfair rivalry, ought to be reprobated by all who have at heart the true interest and honor of the profession. But so multiplied and copious are now the fountains of medical honors that the streams flow into every one's soil, and the diploma is prepared to announce from numerous sources talent and acquirements with surprising facility. Notwithstanding, however, we may pride ourselves on the number of our medical institutions, it is to be apprehended that the degree of medical knowledge and attainments of our students generally, is inferior to that which is required of graduates at the European schools. Experience has verified the fact, that in too many instances degrees are conferred on candidates who are not qualified to discharge the duties of the profession, or to reflect honor on their instructors. The subject, therefore, is not unworthy of mature consideration, whether a more limited number of medical institutions in our country would not better subserve the great object in view, the improvement of medical science and literature. This would afford an opportunity of selecting professors from among those of the highest grade in point of talent and weight of character, and the increased number of students would yield them ample encouragement and support. This object effected, a uniform system of instruction and terms of admission to practice might be established, a longer period for education and a greater amount of scientific acquirements be made a requisite stipulation,

and all pretence obviated for students to prefer a particular school with the view of obtaining a diploma on more favorable conditions. In consequence of diligent and learned research, and of emulation among medical philosophers, new and important facts have been developed, and the restoring art has reached an honorable and dignified rank among the sciences. Yet it is still fraught with deficiencies and altogether inadequate to our desires. To what extent the frail condition of human nature is capable of being meliorated, and existence protracted by the application of the principles of medicine, must be reserved to the wisdom and industry of future generations to determine. It is, nevertheless, incumbent upon us to consecrate our talents to this noble science, duly to appreciate and exalt its merit, to cherish its dignity, to study and improve its principles, and to cultivate a religious sense of the inestimable blessings which mankind derive from its influence. "So great," says the pious Dr. Rush, "are the blessings which mankind derive from the healing art, that if every other argument failed to prove the administration of a Providence in human affairs, the profession of medicine would be fully sufficient for that purpose."