

P2781

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
INSTITUTED APRIL 10th, 1867,
TOGETHER WITH THE
CODE OF ETHICS,
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS.



Wheeling:
FREW, HAGANS & HALL, STEAM JOB PRINTERS.
1868.

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CIRCULAR.

To the Medical Profession of West Virginin :

GENTLEMEN:—As a means of elevating the standard of Practical Medicine and Surgery in West Virginia, and to render quackery odious, as it deserves, the want of State medical organization is severely felt by all true cultivators of our noble science within the limits of the State.

In West Virginia the profession is, at many points, adorned by one or more active, intelligent members, who, by their industry and devotion to science, have made for themselves a name outside of their fields of labor; and there are others, too, of modest talent, scattered here and there, who but require the contact and association which a proper organization would so surely effect, to develop latent powers and capabilities of great credit to themselves, individually, and beneficial, in the highest degree, to their patients and the commonwealth of medicine.

There is much labor to be performed by the profession in West Virginia before it can reach the standard of respectability, which is its legitimate inheritance in some of the sister States. Disease and death do not relax their hold in favor of our mountains and valleys. On the contrary, some of these are the very strongholds of the enemy; and before his ravages can be stayed, the inhabitants must be taught the laws of Hygiene, and be able to mark the difference existing between the true and false—the intelligent physician and the murderous pretender, who is everywhere present with the offer of his ignoble service. These important lessons none but competent medical men can teach; and it is high time they should begin the noble work of giving life and health to the people, and respectability to themselves.

Organization would necessitate interchange of opinion on subjects connected with the different branches of the profession, and, besides the profit and pleasure of regular communications, habits of closer study and more patient investigation would be encouraged; the demand for classic and periodical literature largely increased—and these would be the signs of our improved *status*.

To accomplish all these excellent ends, it is proposed to organize a State Medical Society; and in order to formally initiate the movement, the undersigned have, upon consultation, agreed to issue this call for a convention, to assemble in Fairmont on the 10th day of April next. The call is urged upon all members of the regular profession, and their presence in the proposed convention is earnestly solicited. A full attendance is desired, not only on account of the interest connected with the organization of the State Society, but also because the American Medical Association will meet in Cincinnati early in May, and the profession of this State should be represented in it, in accordance with the expressed desire of the Association.

THOMAS KENNEDY, Grafton,
 H. W. BROCK, Morgantown,
 J. C. HUPP, Wheeling,
 E. A. HILDRETH, Wheeling,
 R. H. CUMMINS, Wheeling,
 W. J. BATES, Wheeling,
 A. S. TODD, Wheeling,
 JAMES CUMMINS, Wheeling,
 JOHN FRISSELL, Wheeling,
 J. W. RAMSEY, Clarksburg,
 J. M. BLACKFORD, Clarksburg,
 J. M. BOWCOCK, Clarksburg,
 JAS. E. REEVES, Fairmont,
 D. S. PINNELL, Buckhannon,
 G. A. CRACRAFT, Triadelphia,
 JNO. H. STORER, Triadelphia.

February 28, 1867.

OFFICERS FOR 1867 AND 1868.

President,

Dr. JOHN FRISSELL, of Wheeling.

Vice-Presidents,

- 1st, Dr. JESSE FLOWERS, Mannington,
2d, " H. N. MACKEY, Morgantown,
3d, " J. M. LAZZELL, Fairmont.
-

Secretary,

Dr. JAMES E. REEVES, Wheeling.

Treasurer,

Dr. JOHN C. HUPP, Wheeling.

Committee of Publication,

THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER,

with

- Dr. JAS. H. BROWNFIELD, Fairmont,
" HENRY J. WEISEL, Wheeling,
" F. C. SHEPHERD, Bruceton.

WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL CONVENTION.

THE STATE MEDICAL CONVENTION assembled at Fairmont, in the Methodist Protestant Church, on the 10th day of April, 1867, pursuant to call bearing date, February 28th, 1867.

Dr. H. W. Brock, of Morgantown, called the meeting to order, and, on his motion, Dr. W. J. Bates, of Wheeling, was selected as temporary President, and Dr. J. W. Ramsey, of Clarksburg, as Secretary.

On a call of counties, the following named physicians responded, all of whom were duly accredited:

Doddridge—Dr. L. S. Charter.

Harrison—Dr. J. W. Ramsey.

Lewis—Dr. S. W. Hall.

Marion—Drs. James E. Reeves, Jas. H. Brownfield, Jas. M. Lazzell, and Jesse Flowers.

Monongalia—Drs. H. W. Brock, H. N. Mackey, and George W. Dent.

Ohio—Drs. W. J. Bates, John Frissell, John C. Hupp, and Henry J. Weisel.

Preston—Drs. Jas. H. Manown, Wm. M. Dent, and F. C. Shepherd.

Taylor—Drs. A. H. Thayer, A. S. Warder, and W. H. Sharp.

Wood—Dr. M. Campbell.

Wirt—Dr. J. E. Kendall.

The Committee of Arrangements, through their Chairman, Dr. James E. Reeves, of Fairmont, welcomed the Convention in the following remarks:

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Convention:

You are, indeed, welcome in Fairmont. By your assembling here to-day, another honorable page of *progress* is added to the history of Fairmont and of West Virginia; and I thank you heartily, gentlemen, for the honor which your presence confers. Again, I say, welcome—thrice welcome! to our peaceful, unpretending Mountain City.

You have come from the different and widely distant sections of the State—not the representatives of any mere party; not in search of formal preferments; not with minds embittered by sectional hatred toward your professional brethren; not the mere reflexes of other men's opinions in matters political and social, and controlled by the promise of dollars and cents. Neither are you here to uphold a "pathy," an "ism" or any exclusive dogma. But *humanity, universality, and liberality*—these are the excellent characteristics which distinguish you from other men; and the field of your operations includes the whole domain of Science.

The history of the human race is the sad record of disease and death—penalties of man's disobedience in the Eden where

———"Stood the tree of life,
High eminent, blooming ambrosial fruit
Of vegetable gold."

To assuage and stay these dread penalties is our exalted vocation. How serious the trust! With what energy, and with what solemn sense of responsibility should we labor for its faithful discharge! In this spirit you come together to-day, to secure the benefits which accrue from singleness of purpose and unity of action. You come to lay the foundation of a State Medical Edifice, whose grand superstructure, though not to be made of granite and marble, will be none the less enduring, and none the less honorable to the profession and to West Virginia. I know you will lay the foundation broad and deep! and let us fondly hope that this temple, when completed, and bearing as an inscription the sentiment uttered by the Delphian Oracle to Cicero: "Go and follow Nature," will become the common *forum* where all matters pertaining to the honor and dignity of medicine and surgery in the State will be heard; that admission to its courts will be esteemed the highest privilege which can be enjoyed by the practitioner; and that none but the worthy will be allowed to enter its lofty portals. Thus the public will be taught the absolute importance and justice of the decisions of fitness for fellowship there made. In a word: let us hope that it will sooner or later come to pass, that, instead of a demurer to this standard of fitness, the public will *demand* of the new candidate for medical practice, the *seal* of the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF WEST VIRGINIA, as security against charlatanism; and that if men calling themselves homœopaths, eclectic, botanics—*id genus omne*; or belonging to that other class of public offenders, (really less respectable than the former,) who, under cover of regularity and a diploma, itinerate the country in search of incurable patients, halt and blind—who strut and strain at the manner of the gentleman—who look wise and talk pedantically to the ignorant whom they meet at common loafing-places—who invite editors of country newspapers to witness their consummate skill in surgery—who boast of unparalleled successes in the cure of consumption, and the diseases peculiar to women and children—who never fail, on the slightest excuse, to exhibit their diploma, if they have one, and cry *cheap doctor!*—if such claim knowledge and skill superior to that possessed by *gentlemen*, who toil unceasingly in the vineyard of science, and to whom holidays

never come, let them be sent to this *forum* of the profession, here to uncover their brazen faces—here to exhibit their claim to respectability and find their proper level.

So long as the Scripture truth remains, that “all that a man hath will he give for his life,” so long will the supply of well educated physicians be in unmeasured demand by the human race. But so long, also, will there be quacks in medicine. The true physician should be cognizable as a well educated man, a gentleman; a man of probity; a humane man. He stands upon a lofty eminence, clothed with the authority of science to interpret nature; and he should be ever able and ready to become the medium by which her unuttered *cries* are made known. The charlatan bears his distinctive marks. He is generally an ignorant, and always an unprincipled man—“ugly all over with the affectation of the gentleman;” a miserable *harpy*, who feeds and fattens upon the gullibility of the people. There is no *alkali* sufficiently powerful to cause these two antagonistic elements to combine. But you propose by your organization to furnish such plain and evident tests as shall discriminate between them, even to the apprehension of the masses of the people. May your success in this important particular be thorough.

We recognize you, gentlemen, as peculiarly the abjurers of effete theories, and as earnest, enterprising practical votaries of the progressive tendency, which is the distinctive characteristic and crowning glory of this age. Indeed, it may be truly said, that no calling represents more fully or honorably than ours, the intellectual tendency of the times in which we live, and a fairer average measure of the advancement which is occurring all around us. A pervading spirit of progress is every where at work in the medical world; and, perhaps, in no period of medical history has there been greater energy in the cultivation of science than during the past ten or twelve years. The Microscope, Ophthalmoscope, Laryngoscope, Stethoscope, and Specula, have become indispensable aids to diagnosis. The advances made in Physiology and Pathology, by aid of the microscope, have rendered almost worthless some of the formerly cherished standards of the theory and practice of medicine. The processes of inflammation, tuberculization, and of morbid growths and degenerations, are now elucidated by the “Cellular Pathology”—a pathology which is sweeping into oblivion a long catalogue of pestiferous ills: indiscriminate blood-letting—excessive purgation—mercurialization—starvation; and horrible fly blisters. Who will not say—amen! In our own country, particularly, progress is leaving these mile-posts of the past far in the distance; and the signs of its onward, glorious march, are to be seen in every direction. Conventions and associations of medical men are now the order of the day; and when the Medical Society of West Virginia shall have been organized, every State, I believe, will have its Medical Society. Representatives of these societies meet annually in National Association, and under the inspiring influence of the exalted motives of organization, both State and National—which are, the elevation of the intellectual *status* of the profession, and the advancement of its social influence—the great body of the profession in the United States has been awakened into new life; a large army of earnest cultivators are at

work exploring every nook and corner of the scientific field: and *this* is the grand moral spectacle exhibited by the American Medical Profession, of which you are a part, and with which you here propose to establish formal organized relations.

In the several departments of the profession at large, American talent and industry have given birth to a multitude of *facts* which have been of infinite value to the medical world and to suffering humanity. I venture the assertion that American Medical authors, during the last decade, have at least done fully as much towards perfecting the present improved knowledge of differential diagnosis, and, as a sequence, towards establishing a rational treatment of disease, as those of any other country. Twenty or thirty years ago, we were very much dependent for supplies of literature in the various branches of the profession upon foreign authors; and our Book publishers reaped an unrestrained harvest from the sale of the *reprints* with which they kept their shelves continually crowded. They became the welcome allies of our trans-atlantic brethren to discourage home authorship; but now, happily, the times have greatly changed. We can boast of a large literature, not surpassed in point of excellence by that of any country; and the steadily increasing demand, both at home and abroad, for American Medical and Surgical works, is abundant proof of their superiority, as well as the capacity of the American profession to supply its own literature, both classic and periodical. Our periodical literature constitutes an immense fund. Its volumes—some of them worth *ten times* the price of subscription, may now annually be counted almost by the hundred, yet there is room for more; and our friends in the "Sunny South"—though crippled and impoverished in a thousand different ways, are again tendering their mediums, and a high order of carefully collected supplies, equal to the demand in all the departments of the profession; which shows that they also were awake to the unusual advantages afforded for the improvement of medicine and surgery during the long and painful period of our isolation. Their invaluable stores of clinical facts and experimental research, accumulated during the last six years, are just beginning to be unlocked; and their mediums of communication have deservedly taken a very high rank in American Medical Journalism.

Then, there are the annual Reports of State Societies; and the transactions of the American Medical Association. All these are of sterling importance, especially the transactions of the National Association, which on account of the number and excellent character of the papers annually published, are invaluable to the profession. As proof of excellence, I need but refer to the last volume of Transactions; and who has not read with interest its papers on "Spotted Fever," so-called—Diphtheria—Pyæmia, and kindred themes of absorbing importance.

And the surgery of the war—what of it? In the recent dreadful civil conflict—when the whole land was enveloped in mourning and lamentation; a period of *woes* almost without a parallel in the world's history; when general literature languished, and many of the arts and sciences—save those employed in the manufacture of implements of death and destruction, as a rule, ceased to flourish;

when inventive genius was taxed to its utmost capacity to invent arms and projectiles which would leave wholesale slaughter in their trail; when morality and the christian virtues perceptibly waned among the masses under the fury of passion and the cry for blood!—our surgeons, like angels of mercy, were upon the ensanguined fields in the midst of shot and shell, protected by the *ægis* of science, affording succor alike to friends and foes. The surgeons of the contending hosts, in the discharge of their high missions, knew no North—no South; and because of their large humanity, they were *first* in the hearts of the soldiery. Go visit the hundreds of thousands of little hillocks that mark the last resting place of the heroic dead—victims of the war! Examine the pension rolls at the Capital of the Nation—look all over the land at the maimed! These tell in unmistakable language the surgical history of the war through which we have just passed. It was this fiery and bloody ordeal which gave the impetus to American Surgery that has quickened into activity the entire surgical world, and stamped American Surgery confessedly the highest of the age. Not only in military surgery have American surgeons been triumphant; but also in other branches of the science. While they have cultivated *conservatism* in the true and largest sense of the term, they have also *legitimized* certain operations in spite of European prejudice. This is particularly true as relates to the operation of Ovariectomy, which, even yet, some foreign surgeons persist in denouncing as a “a surgical temerity.” The proud monuments of its success in the United States alone, may now be counted by the hundred. Even in Fairmont, gentlemen, we possess one of the proudest and richest of those monuments.

Finally, what part shall the profession in West Virginia take in moving forward the already well-freighted car of medical progress—in enlarging the boundaries of American medical literature? We have before us, truly, a rich and abundant harvest that, as yet, has scarcely been touched by the sickle. Gentlemen, I beseech you, suffer it no longer to be said that the laborers are few! But, provided with the implements of our toils, let us, individually and collectively, go manfully forward in the discharge of the duties which we owe to humanity, to ourselves, and to West Virginia.

“What constitutes a State?

Not high rais'd battlements, nor labor'd mound,
Thick wall, nor moated gate;

Not cities proud, with spires and turrets crown'd;

Not bays and broad arm'd ports,

Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies ride,

No: *men, high minded men.*”

Be it the pride of our profession to give such a contribution to our promising young State, in hope that, in addition to the common blessings always returned for patriotism, we may rescue and save from the perils of *charlatanism* this beautiful region of

“Fair hills, sweet dales and ever laughing streams.”

Gentlemen, again I extend to you the cordial welcome of the people of Fairmont.

Dr. Reeves, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, read a letter from that courteous and excellent gentleman, L. M. Cole, Esq., General Ticket Agent of the B. & O. R. R. Co.,—written by authority of His Honor, John W. Garrett, President of the Company, who, in keeping with his reputation for the largest liberality, and respect for the legitimate profession of Medicine and Surgery, was pleased to encourage the objects of the Convention, by authorizing the return of members of the Convention from Fairmont, *free of charge*.

Communications from Drs. Elias S. Bronson, of Buckhannon, and M. C. Dougherty and Thos. Kennedy, of Grafton, were also read by Dr. Reeves.

On motion of Dr. Frissell, a committee, consisting of Drs. Hupp, Brock, Lazzell, Campbell, and Brownfield, was appointed on permanent organization. The Committee reported, as permanent President of the Convention, Dr. W. J. Bates, of Wheeling, and Drs. J. W. Ramsey and Jas. E. Reeves, Secretaries, which report was adopted.

Dr. Lazzell moved that the Secretary be instructed to add the name of Dr. J. K. Berkebile to the list of members of the Convention.

Dr. Reeves rose to a personal explanation. He said he was responsible for the non-appearance of Dr. Berkebile's name on the list of members present; that he had failed to send Dr. Berkebile a formal invitation to participate in the proceedings of the Convention, for the reason that he—Dr. Reeves—was not well assured of Dr. Berkebile's regularity as a physician, and preferred that the Convention should settle the question of his admittance. He thought there should be a committee appointed to investigate Dr. Berkebile's claim to recognition by the Convention, as well as the claims of others who might be present without invitation: that, by the little delay which such proceeding should cause, Dr. Berkebile could certainly suffer no damage, if he was truly worthy of fellowship; and he trusted that the gentleman would be able to so prove himself. Dr. Reeves, therefore, moved, as an amendment to the motion of Dr. Lazzell, the appointment of a committee of three, to investigate Dr. Berkebile's claim, as well as the claims of other gentlemen who might be proposed for membership.

Dr. Lazzell vouched for Dr. Berkebile's legitimacy, in positive terms, and thought the amendment offered by Dr. Reeves unnecessary. The amendment was lost, and the original motion prevailed; whereupon, the name of Dr. J. K. Berkebile was duly enrolled.

On motion of Dr. Hupp, it was

Resolved, That it be expedient to establish and organize a permanent Medical Society for the State of West Virginia.

On motion of Dr. Brock, a Committee of seven was appointed to report a Constitution and By-laws for the government of the Society; whereupon, Drs. Brock, Reeves, Hupp, Frissell, Dent, Lazzell, and Campbell, were appointed by the President. The Committee retired, and after several hours' labor, reported a Constitution and By-laws, which were unanimously adopted.*

On motion of Dr. Reeves, a Committee of seven, in conformity with the 7th section of the 10th Article of the Constitution, was appointed to nominate Permanent Officers of the Society, and to discharge all the functions appertaining to the Committee on Nominations; whereupon, the President appointed Drs. Brock, Frissell, Campbell, Hall, Manown, Charter, and Ramsey.

The following gentlemen were then proposed for membership, and were unanimously elected: Drs. M. C. Dougherty, A. H. Thayer, and W. H. Sharp, of Grafton.

EVENING SESSION.

The Medical Society convened pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Dr. Bates, the President.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows, and their action was ratified by the Society:

For President—Dr. John Frissell, of Wheeling.

Vice-Presidents—Drs. Jesse Flowers, U. N. Mackey, and James M. Lazzell.

Secretary—Dr. James E. Reeves, of Fairmont.

Treasurer—Dr. J. C. Hupp, of Wheeling.

Committee of Publication—The Secretary and Treasurer, with Drs. Jas. H. Brownfield, of Fairmont; Henry J. Weisel, of Wheeling, and F. C. Shepherd, of Bruceton.

Essayists—Drs. H. W. Brock, of Morgantown, and James M. Lazzell, of Fairmont.

The next Place of Meeting—Wheeling, the 1st Wednesday in October, 1867.

The Secretary—Dr. Reeves, was requested to enter at once upon the labors of his office, and, at his earliest convenience, prepare the proceedings of this meeting for publication.

The Committee of Arrangements for the Wheeling Meeting—Was filled by the appointment of Drs. J. C. Hupp, R. H. Cummins, A. S. Todd, Jas. Cummins, Richard Blum, H. J. Weisel, E. A. Hildreth, and B. W. Allen.

On motion, Drs. H. W. Brock, M. Campbell, and J. W. Ramsey, were elected delegates from this Society to the eighteenth annual

*The Constitution is now undergoing revision, and will soon follow this publication.

meeting of the American Medical Association, to be held in Cincinnati on Tuesday, May 7th, 1867.

On motion of Dr. Mackey, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be most cordially tendered to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for their liberality and kindness in passing the members of this Society over their road, free of charge.

On motion of Dr. Hupp, it was

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Society be, and are hereby tendered to the Trustees of the M. P. Church, in Fairmont, for the use of their Sanctuary during the sittings of this Society.

On motion of Dr. Hupp,

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the citizens of Fairmont for their kind hospitality so generously extended to the members of this Society.

On motion of Dr. Frissell, the Committee on Publication was instructed to have published, in pamphlet form, the proceedings of this meeting, together with the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association; and, also, to have printed certificates of Membership of this Society.

On motion of Dr. Brownfield, Dr. Jas. E. Reeves' account for \$3,50, for printing, was allowed and ordered to be paid. Also, account of Dr. Jno. C. Hupp for \$4,50, was allowed and ordered to be paid.

Dr. Campbell moved that the question, "*Is the disease called Progressive Locomotive Ataxy a distinct disease from General Paralysis?*" be made the subject for discussion at the next meeting of the Society.

On motion, the Society adjourned, to meet at Wheeling the first Wednesday in October, 1867.

W. J. BATES, *President.*

J. W. RAMSEY, }
JAMES E. REEVES, } *Secretaries.*

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF WEST VIRGINIA.

Proceedings of the Medical Society of West Virginia—First Semi-Annual Session.

The Medical Society of West Virginia began its first semi-annual session in the city of Wheeling, Wednesday, October 2d, 1867. The members assembled according to announcement, in the hall of the House of Delegates, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at which hour Dr. John Frissell, of Wheeling, President of the Society, took the Chair, and Dr. James E. Reeves, of Fairmont, assumed his duties as Secretary.

Rev. D. W. Fisher, of the First Presbyterian Church, by request of the President, addressed a fervent petition to the Throne of Grace.

The roll was then called by the Secretary, and the following gentlemen responded as present:

Hancock County—W. E. Allison.

Wheeling—B. W. Allen, Richard Blum, E. W. Bingell, James Cummins, R. H. Cummins, John Frissell (President,) J. C. Hupp, E. A. Hildreth, A. S. Todd, H. J. Weisel.

Fairmont—J. H. Brownfield, J. M. Lazzell, J. K. Berkebile, and James E. Reeves (Secretary.)

Morgantown—H. W. Brock.

West Liberty—J. M. Cooper.

Preston County—Wm. M. Dent, Wm. Frey, and F. C. Shepherd.

Monongalia County—G. W. Dent.

Mannington—Jesse Flowers.

Marshall County—Thomas F. Marshman.

Tyler County—I. T. Nicklan.

Moundsville—John W. Ney.

Cameron—B. Parkinson, J. W. Pipes, and S. B. Stidger.

Clarksburg—J. W. Ramsey.

Triadelphia—J. H. Storer.

Wetzel County—Jacob Young.

Grafton—M. C. Dougherty.

Dr. John C. Hupp, of Wheeling, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, being called upon by the President, said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—I feel extremely gratified in meeting you on this occasion. As Chairman of your Committee of Arrangements, it is my pleasure, as well as my duty, in behalf of the profession and citizens, to tender to you their respectful salutations.

We are happy in being honored with this your first semi-annual meeting.

You have come up here from the mountains' slopes, and from the valleys of our young and prosperous State, as conservators and administrators of all our sanitary knowledge.

You are each individually commissioned and set apart for the exercise of medical skill, humanity, and a life of self-denial—*commissioned to stay the pestilence, to go and "heal the sick."*

Governed by the principle that the "association of persons engaged in the same pursuit facilitates the attainment of their common object," you have *organized* a society for the promotion of mutual improvement and the cultivation of good fellowship.

This Society, with its officers and members, is the beginning of a perpetual succession, instituted by the Medical Profession of West Virginia, "for the protection of their interests, for the maintenance of their honor and respectability, for the advancement of their knowledge and the extension of their usefulness."

Laudable purposes these when inspired, as you are, by the purest of motives and having views of the widest range of beneficence. The State has vouchsafed this Society no power to execute its mandates, *nor will it ask for any*; but on the contrary, it *must and will* "rely on the union, enthusiasm and scientific labors of its members."

Trusting that your deliberations will be characterized with that true spirit of harmoniousness, and "taking the liveliest interest in that great cause in which we are all embarked, I greet you with a welcome, warm, cordial and sincere."

I am directed by the Committee of Arrangements to make the following announcements:

The meetings of the Society will be held in the House of Delegates in the Capitol building, commencing Wednesday, October 2, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Committees of this Society will meet in the Senate Chamber in the Capitol building, on the floor below.

Wednesday, October 2, 7 o'clock, P. M., Governor Boreman, on behalf of the State, and Mayor Sweeney, on behalf of the city, will address the Society words of greeting.

Excursion to the Fair on Wheeling Island, Thursday, October 3, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Private reception by Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Cummins, on Thursday evening, from 8 to 10 o'clock—Market street.

The President then delivered his address—Dr. Jesse Flowers, first Vice-President, in the Chair.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Medical Society of West Virginia:

It affords me great pleasure to welcome you on this occasion to our city. It is a source of personal gratification that I have, by your kindness, the privilege of addressing you at this first regular meeting of the Society since its organization. I trust, as we from time to time meet for consultation, for mutual improvement and free professional intercourse, we shall find the interest in the meetings

increasing, its numbers gradually becoming larger, and everything in the interest of this Society moving on prosperously and to the satisfaction of all.

This is truly a world of *wonders*, and an age of *progress*. The mariner's compass opened the gates of the Great Waters, and with it for a guide, the mariner steers his course, through the fogs and storms of the ocean, to distant lands, with the same certainty and safety that the landsman travels from place to place on dry land.

The steam engine of Watt, applied by Fulton to the propulsion of boats, to machinery on land, and finally to the movement of railroad cars, is triumphing over distance and establishing intimate connections between distant sections of the same country and of the globe. The spirit of enterprise, once so limited, now ranges over all the earth, carrying with it religion, commerce, civilization, the refinements of literature and of the arts.

By telegraph, thought is conveyed with the speed of lightning! We can now converse with friends in distant cities, and even across the Atlantic Ocean, with the same facility that we can talk with persons in adjoining rooms in our own houses! In a business point of view, time and distance are almost annihilated. A merchant in New York can order goods from London in the morning—have them shipped on their way to this country in the evening!

Yes, this is an age of progress,

“ The world is breaking from its iron chains,
And like a giant, struggling to be free.”

Freedom is the watch-word all over the earth. Abraham Lincoln, by his proclamation, gave freedom to four millions of bondmen. It was the crowning glory of his administration, and history will record it as the great philanthropic act, as the great achievement of the nineteenth century. Russia and Brazil are following in his footsteps, and all nations will try to imitate his example.

Who can tell what our children will behold in this new, mountainous and thinly populated State of West Virginia? Thrown into existence by the fiery ebullitions of the war of the rebellion, she is now a free State, and capital, and a new people, with industry and enterprise, are finding their way to it.

Emigrants from the old world are flocking in to fill up the waste places, and develop with their money and their labor the resources of our new State. We now have all the advantages of the free States, and we shall increase and prosper in the same manner as the free States are prospering and have prospered in former times. The incubus of the bondman no longer hangs over our State—no longer retards her progress.

What will be the condition of West Virginia a century hence? The old residents of New York remember when New York and Brooklyn contained less than forty thousand inhabitants. Now, they contain, with their surroundings, one million and a half. They remember, too, when this country (the United States) contained only three or four millions of people. Now they behold near forty millions. Although not a very old man, yet I can remember when a journey from Massachusetts to Ohio and return, was the work of a

season. In those days travelers would start on their journey with their one and two-horse covered wagons, as soon as the mud was dried up and the roads settled in the Spring, and return at the close of the season for travel—late in the Fall. The parting of friends and acquaintances at home, was then a matter of as much formality, solemnity, fear and sorrow, (for they hardly expected in the providence of God to meet again,) as the parting now with friends who are about to make a voyage around the world, or start on an exploring expedition to the North pole! Now, a week is sufficient to make a trip from Boston to St. Louis, visit friends, do business, and return. When that great enterprise—the Pacific Railroad—is completed, we shall be able to pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, spend a day or two in that far-off region, and return inside of two weeks.

We are a part of a great country, and we are destined to become a great State and a great people; and we, who are the pioneers in medicine, (as well as those who are pioneers in other great interests of the State,) should look well to it, that the plans we now lay for the high standing and usefulness of the profession, *are well laid*; that the work in the commencement is performed in a manner that will meet the wants of those who come after us, to fill our places, take charge of our sons, our daughters, our kindred, our friends, and all those we leave behind us. It should be done in a manner to meet fully the wants of the progress and development of our glorious and thriving new State.

I trust that this Society will be the means of advancing largely our noble science, and greatly ameliorating the sufferings of those afflicted by accident or disease, and I trust it will prove a powerful arm in elevating our State to a level with her older and more favored sisters.

Again, I extend to you a hearty welcome to our city, the city which is now the chief city and capital of our new State. What the chief city will be, or where the *capital* will be a century hence, no one can tell.

This Society is intended to represent, and as far as practicable embrace, all the members of the regular profession of this State who are properly qualified to practice medicine; and whose professional character, professional standing, and professional rectitude is such as to make them honorable and worthy members of the profession. We do not propose to admit into this Society, those with whom we cannot consistently and honorably act or hold professional intercourse. We do not propose to admit irregular practitioners or those associated with them. We do not propose to admit those who have attached themselves, for the sake of gain, to some vision of the imagination, or some fanciful theory of smooth sounding words that may please the weak and credulous, because they carry with them an air of mysterious wisdom which they cannot comprehend.

We do not propose to admit those who have been nominally educated as regular practitioners, and have straggled off, with various excuses, into some form of quackery, for the purpose of making money faster, or living easier, more pleasant and indolent lives, or

cause, which is probably the most common reason, they lack the talent, the energy and the honesty to succeed in making a living in the practice of regular scientific medicine.

The question is sometimes asked, "Why the regular profession are so stiff, why they do not seek out and cultivate the acquaintance and friendship of those outside, irregular doctors—men of wide-spread reputation who are so often noticed in newspapers and handbills, and whom so many rich and respectable people follow after and employ?" We do not take them into our confidence and treat them as professional brothers, for the same reason that we would not advise a young lady to take a drunken man into her confidence, and marry him with the expectation that she could make a good husband out of him after she got him in her possession. We expect, in these cases, though there may be exceptions to the general rule, to find, somewhere, a screw loose that should hold the moral machinery together, that we cannot fasten. Besides, if we have a friend and fellow traveler, we desire him to travel the same road and under the same colors that we do, and not straggle off upon strange roads, into strange places and strange company that we know nothing about, for we may find ourselves in trouble when we least expect it. Still, some of our respectable ladies will marry drunken men, some of our professional brothers will be caught in bad company and get into difficulties, and some of our rich, respectable and leading citizens will follow after and patronize empirics who travel through the land hunting fools to give them money.

We often meet with men who seem to have good sense about some things, but exhibit an almost entire lack of it in others. We know men who are wise enough not to call on a blacksmith to repair a valuable watch, or a sailor to make a suit of fine clothes, who will travel the country over hunting old women, Indian doctors, spiritualists, cancer curers, and such as make great pretensions and promises, to repair some real or imaginary ailments of their own bodies, which, they fear, are hurrying them to that country where money and worldly power are of no avail.

We often see men in high positions, occupying places of power—places which give them control, so far as public cares are concerned, over the lives and health of a community, who are ill-fitted to fill those places of public trust and responsibility. We see them placed in these positions, too, by men who, judging from their acts, are entirely incompetent to institute scientific regulations for health; who, in proportion as they are incompetent, become self-willed and presumptuous, and will not allow themselves to be advised or influenced by those competent to give them valuable information and correct advice.

We see many instances which illustrate the fact, that position will never make a man great, or competent, or honest, or faithful.

It is no certain indication, unfortunately, if a man occupies a high position, that he should be trusted; or that he has any claim, whatever, to the position he occupies, except that the incompetent, or dishonest, who had the power, placed him there.

These things we must tolerate; time, better education, and better morals are the only remedies against the evil. The profession, how-

ever, should always keep watch over such men and such influences, and be at all times ready to remedy, so far as in their power, all public evils, as well as private ills, which their business and their education enable them to understand better than any other class of men.

Medical men who continue steadily in active, laborious practice, have a short and hard life to live. Of all the medical men who were here when I came to this city in June, 1836, only one now remains, and I wish he occupied my place on this occasion. Not one of those who have passed away died an old man, and neither of us would have been here to-day, except that we took warning from those who had gone before us, and curtailed largely our professional labors.

No profession so tires the patience of man, or brings such sorrowful trials of mind, or such irksome fatigue of the body. No profession brings with it so many dreary, sleepless nights, or days of vexatious care and toil. No profession receives so few thanks for labors performed, or benefits bestowed, as that of medicine. Still, with all the toils, with all the sorrows of professional life, there are bright spots that illumine her pathway. There are many kind hearts that meet her with warm tears of gratitude for life preserved and health restored. Such spots are like pleasant sunshine after long periods of darkness and gloom; they cheer us in our anxious watchings over the sick, while fearing lest something had been done wrong, or that something had been omitted that might have been useful.

No profession has the power of doing so much good to man as medicine. Humanity is the broad field in which she is called to labor—every nation, people, sect, and condition of man, throughout the world, requires her aid. She comes to us in the first cries of helpless infancy, she watches over us as we advance from childhood to maturity, when sick and in distress; she attends us in the feebleness of declining years, she sits by and smooths the pillow in the dying hour, and leaves us only when the spirit has gone to its God.

Her origin was with the first ailments of Adam and Eve after the creation, and ever since that time, for near six thousand years, she has been ministering to the sick and the afflicted her kindly aid and influences, not to one, not to a few, *but to all*.

In society she promotes sympathy and kind feeling; she enlightens and elevates the social condition of mothers; she teaches sound doctrine in regard to the moral and physical education of children; she inculcates the most important truths in regard to our physical well-being; she teaches us how to possess and how to enjoy the blessings of a sound body and a sound mind; she teaches us further, this great truth, that the *lowest* in society is a man, that the *highest* is nothing more.

“Take away the profession of medicine, and the whole face of society would be darkened; the light of science would be shorn of one of its brightest rays, and imposture, empiricism and fanaticism would lose their most potent check.”

Of the early history of medicine but little is known; of medicine before the flood, no reliable accounts are handed down to us, and even for a long period after the flood but little is recorded that is

worthy of note. Some are mentioned as being skilled in medicine, but we find no reliable history of their medical career. Æsculapius was one of the early physicians of whom favorable mention is made, but the accounts given of him are so much involved with fable, and mixed up with the mythology of the age in which he lived, that we cannot determine, with certainty, his true history. He was a Greek, and lived thirteen centuries before the Christian era. He lived before the days of letters and of writing—before the days when knowledge could be handed down to posterity in any other way than by tradition, hieroglyphics and such tedious methods as were used to preserve history in the early ages of the world. Hence, the fable and mythology of the ancients—hence, so little accurate information in regard to the early periods of the world—hence, so little progress in science and literature. If a great man died, his knowledge died with him; the generations which followed him did not receive the benefit of his learning. Æsculapius may have been a great man, but we only know that he had a great name. The fabled history of the age deified him and made him a god. He was recorded as physician of the famous expedition of the Argonauts, who started out under Jason, 1263 years before Christ, to recover the golden fleece. He was said to be greatly skilled in the medical uses of plants, and was called the inventor and the god of medicine. He was represented as wearing a long beard, and as carrying a cane, around which was entwined a serpent. In those days serpents were regarded as sacred, and looked upon as symbols of prudence and forethought. Serpents were often used as medicine by the ancient physicians.

Æsculapius had two sons, celebrated as physicians, who were surgeons in the Greek army at the siege of Troy; and one of them was surgeon in the famous expedition of the great Wooden Horse; built by the order of Ulysses, and by treachery allowed to enter the gates of ancient Troy, filled with armed men, who, in the night, rushed out, opened the gates of the city and conducted in the Greek army, which put the inhabitants to the sword and burned the city to ashes.

We cannot learn that Æsculapius did much to advance the science of medicine, but his name reigned supreme some 800 or 900 years, when Hippocrates, the father of ancient medicine came upon the stage. He was said to be the eighteenth lineal descendant of Æsculapius, and was born on the Island of Cos, 460 years before Christ. He studied medicine with his grand-father Nebris, a distinguished physician of that age.

Hippocrates knew but little of the anatomy, physiology or pathology of the human body, for the study of those sciences were not allowed in that age of the world; but he was a close observer of symptoms, and marked, with great accuracy, the origin, progress and termination of disease. He studied closely the nature of disease, and the application of remedies for its cure. He wrote extensive works on medicine, which were beacon-lights to the profession for many ages—even at the present time many of his descriptions of diseases have not been improved.

Hippocrates lived after the age of letters and of writing, and his works were written and preserved in manuscript form. He is said to have written seventy-two volumes.

The burning of the great manuscript libraries at Alexandria, Constantinople and Rome, destroyed nearly all the writings of the then known nations of the world. Had these libraries not been destroyed, we should have ancient works on science and literature—enough to keep the admirers of ancient lore reading for ages.

Leaving many distinguished names unnoticed, we pass on to another great land-mark in the profession, Galen, who was born in Pergamos, Asia Minor, A. D. 131. He commenced the study of medicine at the age of seventeen, and pursued it, together with other branches of science, with great zeal.

He traveled in Greece, Italy, and Egypt; visited the distinguished schools and professors in the pursuit of knowledge, and especially to obtain information from the celebrated physicians in regard to medicines and disease. Galen was a great admirer of the writings of Hippocrates, and said that his words and his opinions were as reliable as the voice of an oracle. It is said that Galen wrote about seven hundred and fifty volumes or essays; a large portion of which were encomiums on the works of Hippocrates. Most of the works of Galen were consumed by fire at the Temple of Peace in Rome.

Galen seems not to have had the practical matter-of-fact mind of Hippocrates. He dwelt largely upon minute distinctions and abstract speculations. His writings were not practical; but they were so intermingled with the writings of Hippocrates, and so idolized by the profession and people at large, that they held sway over the medical world for about fifteen hundred years—which carries us on to about the middle of the seventeenth century.

But, as we are passing along, we will stop a short time to notice Paracelsus, who was a native of Switzerland, born A. D. 1493. He commenced his career at the close of the middle ages, a period of time extending from the eighth to the fifteenth century of the Christian era. I do not speak of him because he was a great man, but because he was a *peculiar man*, a kind or style of man met with in all ages, a kind of man also that we meet with not very unfrequently within our own circle of acquaintance, and, perhaps, occasionally one may be found even among ourselves. He was a bold, dashing practitioner, without much skill or prudence, who boasted largely of his marvelous cures, and made a short-lived reputation by the bold use of active remedies, such as mercury, antimony and opium. He made a great display of cases cured, and, perhaps, in some instances, of cases that recovered in spite of his cures, but those that did not recover—either from the nature of the disease or from the injurious action of his remedies—he kept in the background.

He showed the profession, however, that active remedies, boldly administered, were in many cases of great value.

Paracelsus first cured syphilis by the use of mercury, which disease the disciples of Galen had not been able to cure with their remedies. He published several works on medicine, and at one time was professor in the medical school at Basil, in Switzerland. He traveled much in search of medical knowledge, and obtained his information from physicians, chemists, barbers, old women and conjurers. He professed, among other things, to have found the

Philosopher's Stone, and to have invented an Elixir that would preserve life to the age of Methuselah. He professed, also, that there was a planetary arrangement with the different parts of the human body; and many other things which showed that, with all his medical knowledge and reputation, he was by nature a vain boaster and a quack. That kind of boasting and bragging, in the practice of medicine, was much more excusable in the days of Paracelsus than at the present time; for we possess a vast amount of medical knowledge that was not dreamed of in the age in which he lived. Now, I wish to say a few words, which I may as well say while speaking of Paracelsus, as in any other place. It has been stated that physicians of this Society are given to exaggeration and vain boasting; that they magnify their cases and their cures; that they profess to have done many things which they have not done, and that they consult and attend cases with quacks, and treat them professionally with the same consideration as they would members of the regular profession. I hear reports and complaints of this kind, and am asked, "What is to be done with members of this Society who are guilty of such undignified and unprofessional conduct?" It has been suggested that the Society take action upon such cases. The Society, of course, cannot act without specific charges are presented in the regular form for action. I suggest that it is better to get along, if possible, without having such cases come before the Society for investigation. The members complained of, will, in most cases, bring in the plea of persecution, and every man will have his friends and sympathizers. All such cases will be disagreeable and troublesome, and, if possible, should be rectified in some way without coming before the Society. Now, I do not wish any member to ask me if I mean him, for I shall not answer any question of that kind, and I do not wish to see any of the members, by their inquisitiveness or complaints, place themselves in a position that would put their friends in mind of the old adage, that

"None can feel the pinching shoe,
Save those who wear it."

If any member is wearing a pinching shoe, my advice to him is, say nothing about it, but bear it patiently till an opportunity offers to make some change that will relieve the pain. Nothing will be gained by an exhibition of ill-feeling, or an effort at self-defence. I trust that these few hints, if they apply to any member of this Society, which I hope they do not, will be a warning for them to keep, as near as possible, within the limits of the requirements of the Constitution and Code of Ethics. I suggest further, that those who live in glass houses should be very careful not to throw stones, for there are but few houses built in these days that have not some glass windows in them. These professional irregularities cannot be controlled except by time, prudent management and careful education.

The mariner cannot quell the storm, but he may guide the vessel into port and anchor her safely. The physician may not be able to control a fever, but by patience and judicious management he may

conduct it to a harmless issue. The Medical Society of West Virginia may not be able to control all the heavings, expansions and irregularities of the profession of this new State. It may not control the tendency to boast of terrible cases of disease, marvelous cures and wonderful operations. It may not at once control the habit of practising with quacks, or of using their remedies.

Many imitators of Paracelsus may be found roaming over our State, distributing their life-saving elixirs, their home and stomach bitters, their hair restoratives, and cures for all manner of diseases; or, in other words, to make of the credulous and weak minded the Philosopher's Stone, which shall convert, at fabulous prices, all their nostrums and base material into gold. In her mountains and valleys there is abundant room for expansion, and for the development of all kinds of professional pretenders and irregular practitioners. The doctors and the people have been brought up and educated in the midst of that kind of professional irregularity, and, perhaps, have never stopped to think that it was not all right.

It will require time and more accurate knowledge before all will settle down and act strictly in accordance with the regulations of this Society, which, when fully established, the Constitution and Code of Ethics published, and in the hands of the members, will be able, in a short time, to so regulate all these matters, that no harm will result from them to the profession, or to those who seek its aid.

The standing of our profession must depend, substantially, upon the character of the men who represent it. The terms, character and reputation are used often as synonymous terms, but they are widely different in their meaning: a man's character is a part of himself; it is something good or bad that he has acquired by his own acts and course in life; his reputation is what others may choose to give him.

We should seek to establish a high professional character, by an honorable and high-minded course in business; by devoting all our talent, energy and skill to the welfare of those under our professional care. The desire for the reputation and the fame that follows good character and the effort to be useful in our calling, is honorable, and should be cared for by the profession.

We should not seek to gain capital from the reputation of the profession; but we should endeavor to add to it, importance, dignity and worth, by our own good works.

The great mass of reputation that we meet with, is not acquired as the result of good character and an effort to be honest and useful, but is acquired by management, for some selfish purpose, that deceives the people.

The merchant or banker may manage to gain a reputation for wealth, get large credits, be entrusted with large sums of money, and, in the winding up of his business, it is discovered that the reputation for wealth is without foundation, that it was procured for popularity, display, or dishonest gain.

Men often make great pretensions to science and learning; their names are circulated in newspapers, and trumpeted abroad by paid servants adapted to the business, and they look large in the distance; but when they come near enough to be distinctly seen, are found to

be ignorant deceivers, without good character, and to have no claim whatever to the reputation they have acquired through their own vain boasting and the menials in their employ.

The politician is seen using many and various ingenious devices to place himself before the public eye, to create a reputation for great political sagacity and wisdom, to which he is in no way entitled. You will hear him talk loud and long to gain a reputation that will procure him office or power, and boast largely of his devoted love of pure patriotism, and his most ardent affection for the dear people, which affection is sure to continue and wax stronger till his desired ends are accomplished.

We see any number of mountebanks and outside practitioners, who call themselves physicians, and follow in the trail of the regular profession, shine by its light, and become, sometimes, so mixed up with it, that the public do not distinguish those who are capable, and labor to save life, from those who are mere empirics, and labor only for the dollar.

We see them boasting through the press, and advertising in every part of the country, their wonderful skill, and their life-saving remedies which none but themselves possess.

We see them on the streets with their servants and fine livery, riding to and fro in hot haste, while astonished crowds gaze with wonder and amazement.

We see them in their private rooms at hotels, dressed in accordance with the latest fashions, with instruments and glasses distributed in places to catch the eye.

We see them in large cities, living in palaces which they do not and probably cannot own, with collections of minerals, birds, paintings, statuary, and such things as attract attention and excite wonder, to catch the eye of visitors and give the impression that they are men of science and learning. We see them using every device to deceive the people in regard to their real merits, in order to procure from them a wide-spread reputation, wonderful praise and exorbitant fees.

After this long digression, let us return to our more proper subject. From Paracelsus we pass along the successors of Hippocrates and Galen to the sixteenth century, which brings us to a new era, to a new epoch in philosophy, in medicine and in literature. We there, after a bondage of over two thousand years, cast aside the old dogmas and tenets of Socrates, of Plato, of Aristotle and their contemporaries—we leave the false theories and false doctrines of Hippocrates and Galen. We there leave the dark ages, when printing was unknown, and all written matter was preserved in manuscript form.

We there leave the astrologer with his face turned to the East, giving the history and the fortune of his customer, by consulting the sign in the zodiac that was visible in the eastern horizon at the precise moment the individual under consideration was born.

We there leave the Alchemist searching for the Philosopher's Stone, and the universal panacea for the cure of disease.

We there leave the conjurers with their secret and supernatural powers. We there leave the lead of the philosophers, who taught

that the earth stood still, and the sun, moon and stars revolved around it. We there leave the trail of medical men who taught that the arteries carried air, and that the pineal gland was the seat of the soul. At that period philosophers threw aside the adoration they had for so many ages entertained for great names—turned their backs on the frowns of a bigoted world, and adopted new principles and struck out on a new track of their own. Copernicus set forth the true system of planetary motions.—Galileo proved the correctness of the Copernican system, and was the first to discover that air had weight. He also explained the doctrine of motion. He exploded the dogmas of the old school, one by one, and left nothing standing of them that would not bear the test of strict experiment.

Bacon, whose name is connected with whatever is great in science, or dignified in intellect, taught the world that it was not the province of philosophy to form theories, and make the course of nature bend to them, but to examine facts as they present themselves in nature, and proceed, step by step, from the less to the more general, from the proximate to the remote, till at length some general law in nature terminated the inquiry.

This, in fact, is the only sure method of reasoning. This is the compass and the chart that modern philosophers have used with so much success, in directing their course through the rounds of scientific investigation, to the true and unerring laws of nature.

It was this that guided Copernicus to the discovery of the true theory of the planetary motions. It was this that conducted Newton to such magnificent discoveries in optics and astronomy. It was this that led Franklin to the development of such wonderful truths in electricity, and Davy and Lavoisier in chemistry. It was this that enabled Sydenham, Børhaave, Harvey, Haller, Hunter, Bichat and a host of others to make such progress in anatomy, pathology and medicine.

Since the days of these men who instituted and put in practice these new principles of reasoning, the science of Medicine has been advancing with most rapid strides.

A host of good workers are all the time in the field, and engaged in every department of the profession.

Anatomy, the foundation stone of medical science, which teaches us the complicated structure of the human body, the mechanism of the machine we are called upon to repair and keep in order, is now pursued with every facility for success. In early times, superstition and prejudice prevented almost entirely the study of the human body.

Physiology learns us the uses of all the different parts of the human body; it teaches how the machine should run in a state of perfect health.

Pathology points out the changes that take place in the different structures and secretions of the human body, from the action of the disease.

Materia Medica gives us a knowledge of all the different substances and agents used as medicines.

Pharmacy, aided by chemistry, instructs us how to combine, compound and preserve medicines and prepare them for the use of the sick.

Therapeutics teaches how to apply these remedial agents, these prepared medicines, in the prevention and cure of disease.

Philosophy, chemistry, geology, mineralogy, botany, paleontology, zoology and comparative anatomy, all give their aid to medicine as collateral sciences.

The practice of medicine, and hygiene, is the combination of the knowledge of all these different sciences, or departments in medicine, together with a thorough knowledge of disease, as derived from bedside observation, and from careful experience with the sick, and the use of that combined knowledge in the treatment and prevention of disease.

No man can be master of his profession who does not understand all these different branches of medical science, and is able to combine and make use of them in his practice.

When we leave the schools we have only commenced our education—we have only laid the foundation on which to go forward and build, we have only reached a point where we can study under our own guidance, and be our own pupils.

We must not remain idle—nor can we stand still; science is advancing, and if we do not advance with it, we shall be left in the rear.

We must beware, too, of false lights, which may lead us into wrong paths.

We should be slow and cautious in making up opinions, and in arriving at conclusions on medical subjects.

A false doctrine may not only exclude a sound one, but stamps its influence on the whole mass. The most unsafe practitioners are those whose practice is the least settled and uniform. They follow the varied fancies of their own imaginations, and end their career without adding to their knowledge, or deriving benefit from their experience.

The science of Medicine is progressive. More has been learned of medicine in the last century than in the six thousand years before.

Since the days of Bacon, and the adoption of his principles of reasoning, a great amount of material, of facts, have been collected. Many valuable general principles have been deduced from them, and the practice of medicine vastly improved.

Aside from the committees in the different departments in medicine, I should like to see every member of this society regard himself a special committee of one to collect, from whatever source he can, facts of practical interest to the profession. Facts must first be collected, for from them our general principles of practice must be derived; and upon them all our improvements must be founded.

We look to the profession mostly for facts in regard to the cause, pathology and symptoms of disease, but we are glad to receive them from any source.

Many facts in medicine are discovered by accident. Many remedies are discovered by persons in no way connected with the profession.

Indians, old women, persons in the common walks of life, all grades and classes of irregular practitioners, in their efforts to relieve suffering, sometimes stumble upon valuable remedies, as well as good practical modes of applying them.

We are glad to receive facts useful to the profession from any source—we care not from where or from whom they come—if they come well substantiated, and in a shape to be relied upon.

If the old Indian woman comes forward with her *Saracenia Purpurea*, and can prove that its use will so neutralize or destroy the virus of small pox, as to render that frightful disease harmless, we are as thankful for it as though it came from some learned professor.

If the Hydropath will come forward and prove that sick patients can be cured and made new, by some complicated application of water,—if the Chronothermal can prove that electricity and change of temperature are the great regulators of the action of remedies in the cure of disease;—if the Thomsonian can prove that heat is life and cold is death, and that lobelia, red pepper and steam are the great remedial agents necessary to cure disease, and insure the preservation of health;—if our neighbors, who practice on the beautiful little theory, "*Similia Similibus Curantur*," which, one would think, originated in the days of the Greeks and Chaldeans, when theories were made first, and the facts to prove them were collected up afterwards; if they can prove that Iodide of Potassium will produce, as well as cure, inflammatory nodes on the bones; if they can prove that Quinine will produce, as well as cure chills and fever; if they can prove that Sulphur will produce, as well as cure the Itch; if they can prove that Camphor will both produce and cure Cholera; if they can prove that the various dilutions and pills, which contain nothing, will produce, as well as cure, the most formidable and vexatious diseases—they are the very things, the very kind of facts we most wish to know. For it is thrown up to the profession at every corner, by the uncharitable and unfriendly, that it can't cure consumption, that cancer kills people the same as it did three thousand years ago, that gout, dyspepsia and palsy, still follow those who eat, drink, sleep and use tobacco with unlimited license; that men grow old and die, and the women grow ugly, which is worse than death, and the doctors can't do anything to prevent it. Now these complaints and accusations are in a measure true, and the profession is exceedingly anxious to be able to treat, satisfactorily, all these hitherto uncontrolled diseases, ailments and misfortunes of frail humanity. And any person, or persons, either in or out of the profession, who will furnish remedies which will cure them—or information that will enable the profession, if they cannot avert a fatal termination, to mitigate the sufferings in these, and many other terrible maladies that afflict the human family—will be met with the warmest feelings of gratitude, not only by the profession, but by the many sufferers under its care, for whom it feels the greatest anxiety, as well as the warmest interest.

There is a sect of physicians called Eclectics. Eclectic is a word of Greek origin, and two thousand years ago the term designated a class of physicians who selected opinions and medicines from other physicians, and practiced on those opinions, and used the medicines selected, as though they were their own.

They followed in the wake of the disciples of Hippocrates and Galen, who were in those days, and on to the middle of the seventeenth century, the representatives and acknowledged heads of the regular profession throughout the world.

At the present time the Eclectics comprise a class of physicians made up largely of Botanic doctors, with occasional stragglers from the regular profession, and the odds and ends from all the irregular schools of practice. They call themselves Eclectics because they select their remedies from those used by the regular profession; and they take great credit to themselves for being able to pick out and select from the multitude of remedies before them, such as will answer their purposes. They boast largely of their skill, of their wonderful cures, and of their great superiority over the regular profession. They use in their journals of medicine the epithets, "Old Physic, Old School, Old Fogy," and all the slang phrases of low-minded and illiterate quacks.

But they are Eclectics only in a small and insignificant way; for any man, if a little practiced and aided, can select a valuable animal from a drove, a good apple from an orchard, or a choice medicine from a general drug store. But to buy the drove, grow the orchard, or to study out and gather together the multitude of medicines in a drug store, are not things so easily accomplished.

The regular profession are the great, the true Eclectics. They do not give out that they will use no mineral, no animal, or no vegetable medicine. They use medicines from every source, from every part of God's domain, which they find valuable in the treatment of disease.

They call on the three great kingdoms of nature for their contribution of medicines. They procure remedial agents from the bowels of the earth, from the depths of the sea, from the mountains, the plains and the valleys.

They make use of light, heat, electricity, and of the air we breathe.

They send their patients to the pure, bracing air of the mountains, to the even and warm climate of the South, to the cold, dry atmosphere of the North. They send them to springs where gush forth from nature's laboratories, medicines ready prepared for use. They send them to view scenery that is beautiful or grand, and to places where sweet music is discoursed. Even the mind they use as a remedial agent to cure, not only bodily diseases, but diseases of itself.

It is told of the celebrated Dr. Rush, that when he had been in practice many years, he was sent for from a distance to visit a lady who, in early childhood, was one of his playmates at school.

She was prostrated with fever, and her life was despaired of, and as a last resort, the great Dr. Rush was sent for, as it were, to sign her passport to another world.

When he entered the room, he found her prostrate, pale and apparently unconscious of things around her. He approached her bedside, took her by the hand, and all was still as the chamber of death.

After watching her a few moments, he said: "Do you remember the bird's nest?" She slowly turned her head—opened her sunken eyes; they sparkled as from an electric shock—she looked up, smiled and spoke! They talked over together the scenes of early years, their plays and sports of childhood and of school.

The currents of her mind were turned, new thoughts coursed along the nerves, a new stimulus aroused her sinking powers, and from that moment she began to recover, and was restored to health.

Here the mind was the great remedial agent aroused to action from the mention, by an old school-day friend, of an incident in childhood.

Had Dr. Rush, with his great name, prescribed a few homœopathic globules, and ascribed the cure to their great potency, it would have given homœopathy a reputation worth millions to its disciples.

I am imposing, I fear, too much upon the patience of the Society, but I wish to say a few words in regard to education preliminary to the study of medicine, and also in regard to general medical education.

It has been a great fault that so many students have commenced the study of medicine with so little general education. It is a matter, I know, difficult to regulate; that is, it is hard to bring students from the different sections of the country to the same standard.

The whole subject has been left too much to private preceptors, many of whom recommend, and but few exact from the student of medicine, an elevated standard of preliminary education—leaving the amount of education to the judgment of the students themselves or their parents.

We, in fact, too often see parents who are well able to educate their sons and have them properly prepared to enter professional life, in a manner that would be honorable to themselves, and safe for the community in which they locate, who, for the sake of saving a little expense, encourage them, with very limited general education, to stay about some physician's office a few months, and attend, perhaps, one course of lectures at some medical school, and then commence practice as though fully competent to perform all the duties required of a physician.

The principle will answer much better (and it seems a pity that so few can appreciate the fact) in any other profession or branch of business than in medicine; for life and death are directly in the hands of the physician, and the question of living or dying, in a given case, may depend upon the fact, whether the physician is poorly or well educated for his business.

Medicine, like every other science, is imperfect, but the more a man knows of his profession, the more likely will he be, other things being equal, to save life in every curable case.

There is a general feeling with the profession, that a high standard of preliminary education should be adopted, but how high that standard should be, is a question about which there is a wide difference of opinion; and that difference varies much with the standing and character of the profession in the different cities and sections of the country from which these various opinions proceed.

Some regard common school education as sufficient, while others claim that the highest collegiate education is necessary to prepare a student to enter upon the study of medicine. In our State, the standard should be placed far above that of common school education. But we, perhaps, are not just now prepared to place our

standard so as to require, in every case, a collegiate education. I do not speak of the matter here for the purpose of making suggestions, but to call the attention of the Society to it, hoping that they will, at some convenient time, give it such attention as the subject deserves. To make the profession useful and respected in the State—by those competent to judge of its character—it must adopt a high standard of professional merit, and it must be persistent in supporting that standard. It may be well to appoint a committee to investigate the whole subject of medical education in this State, who shall report at some future meeting of the Society.

I will trespass upon your patience no longer.

I trust that nothing but harmony and good feeling will prevail at this meeting, and that when we separate we shall all be able to say that this has been a happy and a useful meeting, and one which we shall remember with pleasure all the balance of our lives.

Dr. Hupp presented a letter from Dr. William B. Atkinson, of Philadelphia, permanent Secretary of the American Medical Association, congratulating the profession of West Virginia on their successful organization.

On motion of Dr. Stidger, leave was given to Dr. Young to introduce to the Society, the next morning, the case of a gentleman from Wetzel county, Mr. Springer, who is suffering from an affection of the eyes, which Dr. Young thought would afford an inquiry of some interest to the medical gentlemen present.

Dr. Bates offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, with Dr. Brock as Chairman, to report to this Society on the expediency of petitioning the Legislature to enact a law for the compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages.

Dr. Reeves moved as an amendment that the petition also ask the law to include compulsory vaccination.

Amendment agreed to, and resolution as amended adopted.

This Committee was filled by the appointment of William J. Bates, of Wheeling, and E. D. Safford, of Parkersburg.

On motion of Dr. Hupp, it was

Resolved, That when the Society adjourn, it be to 7 o'clock in the evening, and that the hour of meeting to-morrow morning be 9 o'clock.

Dr. Hupp said it was understood that Governor Boreman, on behalf of the State, and Mayor Sweeney, on behalf of the city, would address the Society, in the way of welcome, at the evening session.

The Society then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The Society re-assembled in the evening.

The President introduced to the Society, Mayor Sweeney and Governor Boreman.

His Honor, the Mayor, responding to the introduction, said his words would have to be few. He had no speech to make, and no one, indeed, he was sure, expected one. It afforded him very great pleasure, however, to welcome them to the city, in his capacity as chief magistrate of the city, and to say to them that in their laudable undertaking he wished them every success. He understood the object of the Society to be the collection of statistics and such general information in reference to matters connected with the medical profession within the State, as well as of general value, importance and benefit to themselves, to the public, and to humanity. In this, of course, all must unite in wishing them God speed. If it should at any time be in his power to afford the members of the Society, either collectively or individually, any assistance or facilities which might be acceptable to them, it would afford him very great pleasure to do so; and he had no doubt he expressed the sentiments of the people of this city when he said the same for them.

Hoping, as he said before, that the Society would be successful in accomplishing all the purposes for which it had been organized and assembled, he again welcomed them most heartily to the city.

The President introduced Governor Boreman, with the remark that His Excellency was quite unwell, and they had probably been expecting more from him than he would be able to give them.

The Governor said he had intended to make some remarks to the Society, in the way of welcome on behalf of the State, if that was necessary, though they were all citizens of the State, and any of them had as much right to welcome this body as himself. But he was very unwell, and his condition would not admit of any speech at all. He would, however, return them his thanks for the invitation he had received from the President of the Society, and express the pleasure which he had experienced in knowing the fact that there is an organization of this sort in the State. Every such organization for the advancement of our people, intellectually, morally, and materially, ought to cheer every friend of the State, and all the people should do what they could to promote organizations of this character. He was not physically able to speak to them further, and begged the Society would accept the will for the deed, and excuse him.

Dr. Young moved that the thanks of the Society be returned to

His Excellency, the Governor, and His Honor, the Mayor, for their presence, for their expressed sympathy for the Society, and for their kindly words that had cheered them. Agreed to.

Governor Boreman, rising to acknowledge this compliment, remarked that it was only the great respect he had for this organization that brought him here this evening. He had been quite unwell the last three or four days, and it was only the respect he felt for the Society and the interest he felt in its objects, that constrained him to be present under the circumstances.

Mayor Sweeney also returned his thanks for the complimentary vote, and with the Governor, asking to be excused, retired.

The President said that, although it had not been contemplated to transact any business this evening, he thought, since they had some time on their hands, it might be occupied with reading of papers, if any were prepared.

Dr. Nicklin, of Tyler, read an interesting paper on the subject of fracture of the thigh bone, and followed it with observations on various medical subjects.

A paper on sanitary science was read by Dr. Blum, of Wheeling, which was deemed of so much value that the Society adopted a resolution requesting the city papers to publish it, and the papers throughout the State to copy it.

Dr. Hupp moved the appointment of a committee, to report at the next meeting of the Society, on the subject of sanitary science. Agreed to.

The President appointed the following Committee: Dr. Blum, of Wheeling, (Chairman,) Dr. Nicklin, of Middlebourne, and Dr. Wilson, of Martinsburg.

Dr. Bates gave an outline of a very interesting case he had recently treated, in which diphtheria had been accompanied with croupy symptoms, and the patient had thrown off extraordinary amounts of pseudo-membrane. The case terminated fatally with paralysis gradually extending to the heart. The patient had been treated by inhalation of lime, which had evidently given great relief.

Dr. Reeves referred to a case which occurred in his practice in 1859, published in volume I of the *Proceedings of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia*, pp. 239-246, in which there was *Expectoration of Bronchial Casts*. He reported the case to the Pathological Society through Professor S. D. Gross, and the specimen furnished was regarded as quite remarkable for its size and perfectness; the subject of this case is still living and in excellent health.

Dr. R. H. Cummins said, everything connected with that frequent and fearful disease—diphtheria—was worthy of attentive consideration and study, and thought Dr. Bates' case one of unusual interest to the profession. He verbally reported a case in which the disease attacked the scrotum.

Dr. Reeves had seen *three* fatal cases of cutaneous diphtheria in his practice in Barbour county, during the year 1858. In these, the disease attacked the feet and ankles, without any well marked development of fibrinous exudation about the throat. He had seen also a few cases of vaginal diphtheria; and in one instance had observed the pudenda of a little girl covered with the characteristic exudation, without any apparent trouble in the throat. This patient recovered. He claimed that paralysis, to a greater or less extent, was by no means infrequent, both as an accompaniment and sequel of diphtheria—e. g., the difficulty in swallowing liquids, and the nasal tone of the voice during the course of the disease; and after seeming convalescence, weakness of vision or absolute loss of sight—loss of power to use the limbs. He reported the case of a law student, *æt.* 20, who, after a severe attack of diphtheria, and so far recovering as to be able to be out of doors, suddenly became weak-sighted—unable even to read *large print*, and during the next twenty-four hours lost the use of his lower limbs. The patient was put upon the use of large doses of *tr. Mur. Ferri* with Quinine; *tr. Quassia*, *Chinchonæ* and *Nux Vomica*, under which treatment, aided by galvanism, he recovered in twelve months.

Concerning the use and value of inhalations of the vapor of lime in diphtheria, and croupous forms of disease, Drs. R. H. Cummins, Hildreth, Brock and Hupp engaged in discussion.

Dr. Hupp said he had recently employed the vapor of lime in a case of pseudo-membranous croup, with the greatest benefit to his patient, and he was disposed to give it further trial.

Dr. Weisel inquired if any of the members had had experience with hyposulphite of soda in the treatment of diphtheria.

On motion, the Society adjourned, to meet at the hour before agreed to.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Society reassembled agreeably to adjournment at nine o'clock this morning—the President, Dr. John Frissell, in the chair.

After reading the minutes, Dr. Bates nominated for membership Dr. George Baird, of Wheeling.

Dr. Pipes nominated Dr. J. M. Curtis, of Marshall county.

Both of which gentlemen being balloted for, were elected *mem.*

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Dr. Lazzell then read his essay, entitled "Stimulants in the Treatment of Acute Diseases."

Dr. Brock was called and reported progress with his essay, and he had leave to make his report at the next meeting. To atone, in part, for the absence of his report, he read notes of a case of cystic tumor, occupying the locality of the left ureter, which was tapped through the vagina. There was no *post mortem* report, and the merits of the case were fully discussed by Drs. R. H. Cummins, Hildreth, and Reeves.

Dr. Brock presented a paper showing the various disabilities and diseases under which the members of a militia regiment in Monongalia county had been exempted from militia duty in 1863. He remarked that this paper possessed no special interest now, but suggested that similar compilations, if systematically made, would prove interesting and useful.

Dr. Bingell exhibited a very remarkable human fœtus of three months, having two heads, two legs, three arms, and one cord.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. James E. Kendall, an absent member of the Society; also, one from Halley McCoy, begging permission to be heard before the Society, with the view of explaining his professional status.

The letter did not indicate the nature of the proposed statement; but the President said he understood that Dr. McCoy, having fallen into some irregularities in his practice, desired to explain the reasons and circumstances under which the irregularities were committed.

On motion of Dr. Lazzell, a committee of three was appointed to report upon the claims of Dr. McCoy—whereupon the Chairman appointed Drs. Lazzell, Bates and Nicklin.

Dr. Bates, before the committee retired, desired to make a suggestion respecting their Constitution. He said the time and circumstances of its adoption precluded a careful analysis and consideration of its various provisions at the Fairmont session. There were some provisions in it that did not meet his approbation. The eighth clause of the first section provided for semi-annual meetings. He thought these too frequent to be of much service to the profession. It would be difficult to get full meetings so often, and the Association would gradually languish. The second section provided that five members should constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. That seemed to him to be exceedingly lax. No two successive meetings were to be held in the same place. That was very well; but a succession of meetings might be held in localities not so easy of access for a large proportion, who might not be able to at-

tend, so that gradually the direction and control of the Society would fall into the hands of five or six men; which he thought would be very objectionable.

Dr. Lazzell concurred in the views of Dr. Bates. He thought, further, that there was too much of the Constitution. The Constitutions of the Medical Societies of Philadelphia and Baltimore were about one-third as long.

Dr. L. proceeded to remark that some dissatisfaction had arisen in the Society from the manner in which a portion of the members had been admitted. At the close of the meeting at Fairmont, and after the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws, the Society numbered but twenty-two or twenty-four members. The Constitution and By-Laws prescribed that members could be admitted only upon their election by ballot. There had been no meeting of the Society from then until now, but they had about double the number of members mentioned on the roll now. How did they get in? The Secretary told them that an arrangement had been made with the President and other members of the Society, that prominent members of the profession—who had failed to be present at Fairmont—might be received as members in the interim, by paying the fee of membership. That was all very well. These members who had been taken in, were as worthy members as any in the Society; but their admission was irregular, and it was necessary to give it the sanction of the Society in some way.

He moved that this action of the Secretary and President be ratified by the Society, and that in compliance with the Constitution, the question be taken by ballot.

Dr. Bates said when the conference in reference to organizing this Society, took place here last winter, it was first proposed that a call be issued in the press of the State. Objection was made that the call would be too broad, and embrace too many persons, and that many claiming to be regular physicians, (who were not,) would come forward and take part in organizing the Society. The next best and the safest method was to issue the call in the form of a circular, and after obtaining, by the best means practicable, the names of the most reputable regular physicians in each county, to send circulars to them. That was done. It might be possible, that among the names furnished, were some persons not worthy, but he was not aware of any such. Only a part of the persons who received this circular attended at Fairmont. Those who did attend, adopted a Constitution and By-Laws. If those who failed to attend had done so, they would have been members of the Society just as the rest. He did not think, however, that the course now proposed

by Dr. Lazzell would cast any censure on the Secretary of the Society, or others, who sent out these certificates of membership. It was, in a sense, irregular, though not improper, and in order to prevent any future difficulty, it would be well to take a vote, and in a bulk ratify the membership.

Dr. Reeves, the Secretary, said that at the Fairmont meeting, twenty-one responded to the call for the purpose of organizing the Society. In the haste of adjournment, many things were forgotten. After the adjournment, Dr. Bates suggested the names of Drs. Cummins and Baird, and others who were not present, and were, therefore, not members *de facto*, but, as he maintained, were members *de jure*; and a tacit understanding was had, that the same privilege which Dr. B. wished extended to the Wheeling profession, should be extended to the profession throughout the State. He, therefore, addressed a letter to those to whom the circular had been sent, informing them that their certificate of membership would be forwarded on receipt of the admission fee. This was responded to by twenty-five or thirty gentlemen. In doing this, he had no doubt of the propriety and correctness of his action. He was actuated solely by a desire to promote the welfare of the Society, for it had engaged his whole heart and feeling; and it was the proudest reflection of his life that he had something to do with organizing it.

Dr. Lazzell's motion was agreed to upon a ballot, and the action of the Secretary, in forwarding certificates of membership to those to whom the circular of organization had been addressed, was unanimously ratified.

Dr. Bates moved, and it was agreed to, that when the Society adjourn it be to half-past six this evening.

Dr. Reeves exhibited a cystic mammary tumor or colloid cancer, removed by Dr. Stidger and himself, on the 16th of last August, from a patient residing near Cameron, on the B. & O. R. R. and gave the following verbal history of the case:

Mrs. C., æt. 49; average weight 135 lbs.; dark hair and eyes: married at the age of 20; without children, never having been pregnant; menstruated regularly and without difficulty up to December, 1866, since which time she has not been *unwell*; no hereditary taint in her family; has always enjoyed excellent general health. When quite a girl, she noticed a small tumor, the size of an almond, in the left breast, which she attributed to a bruise of the breast while engaged at a weaver's loom. The tumor was painless, and did not increase in size perceptibly until within the last four years. During the early part of the year 1863, she "found a *new born babe* in the woods," placed within her walk, no doubt, by the mother,

knowing it would be kindly cared for by this humane lady. Curiosity led Mrs. C. to put the babe to her breasts, and soon an abundant supply of milk was the result; and she continued thus to nurse the child until it was three years of age. But before the child was *weaned*, she noticed that the size of the tumor had markedly increased, and that the entire left breast was considerably larger than the right. She now consulted Dr. Stidger, of Cameron, who gave her the benefit of paintings of iodine, alteratives, compression of the tumor, etc., but which failed to diminish the size of the tumor, or arrest the rapid growth of the entire gland; and by January, 1867, the breast was so large and troublesome, because of its great weight, that she was compelled to wear suspensory support. At this date the tumor was slightly nodulated to the feel, and movable; and throughout its entire course there was no retraction of the nipple—no unnatural appearance of the skin—not the least tenderness on pressure, nor on handling the breast in any manner; no pain complained of at any time—axillary glands and lymphatics not affected—no constitutional disturbance—sleep undisturbed and appetite good. Six months later, and six weeks previous to the removal of the tumor, an abscess made its appearance a little below and to the right of the nipple—the skin gave way at this point, and the tumor thrust itself through the opening to the size of a half orange, from which there was constantly a slight oozing of blood. The operation was performed in the usual manner for removal of the breast, with but little loss of blood—but six ligatures required to arrest hemorrhage; and in four weeks thereafter, the patient was entirely well.

The tumor—weighing *six pounds and a half*—was submitted to Messrs. Allen and Bocking, of Wheeling, for microscopic examination. On laying open the tumor, it was found to contain cysts of various sizes, filled with a jelly-like substance—some of them *milk*. Dr. Allen furnished *three* microscopic drawings, which were presented to the Society for inspection. The first, showing the ordinary oil globules, and large granular *colostral* corpuscles, which are said to be found only in cases of recent delivery, or where there is some organic lesion in the gland. The second, exhibiting the *cells* found in a jelly-like substance, and enclosed in little sacs, the sacs themselves being collected in bunches like grapes, and having all the characteristics of *colloid cancer*. The third, showing the cells found inside of the tumor.

Dr. Reeves referred to the rarity of colloid cancer of the breast, and quoted from Gross, Fergusson and Erichsen, during his remarks.

On motion of Dr. Reeves, the following was adopted:

WHEREAS, The study of Microscopy has become absolutely essential to a correct understanding of Pathology, and the proper appreciation of disease; and that all attempts to cultivate this science should receive the encouragement of medical men; therefore,

Resolved, That we welcome the assistance tendered by Messrs. Allen and Bocking, of the city of Wheeling, in the study of Microscopy, and we heartily commend them to the attention of the profession of the State.

On motion of Dr. Todd, it was

Resolved, That Dr. B. W. Allen be requested to submit, at the next meeting of this Society, a paper on the use and importance of the microscope to the medical profession.

The President remarked that the hour had almost arrived when the City Railway Cars, according to appointment, would be in waiting in front of the *McLure House*, to convey the members of the Society to the Fair Ground on Wheeling Island; and he hoped they would be in readiness at the *McLure House* promptly at two o'clock, P. M.

On motion of Dr. Brownfield, the Society adjourned till evening.

EVENING SESSION.

The Society re-assembled at six and a half o'clock, P. M.

The President stated the first business in order to be the discussion of the question proposed at the Fairmont Convention, "Is progressive locomotor ataxy a distinct disease from general paralysis?"

Dr. Weisel moved that the discussion be postponed until the next meeting. Agreed.

The President announced that a committee of one from each county represented would be appointed on climatology and epidemic diseases, with Dr. Hildreth as chairman.

This committee was subsequently filled as follows: Elias S. Bronson, Buckhannon; U. N. Mackay, Morgantown; James H. Brownfield, Fairmont; A. G. Clark, Parkersburg; James H. Manoun, Kingwood; J. M. Cooper, Wellsburg; L. K. Charter, West Union; Wm. H. Sharp, Grafton; J. E. Kendall, Wirt Court House; John G. Wilson, Martinsburg; Jacob Young, New Martinsville; B. Parkinson, Cameron; James Putney, Kanawha Salines; William E. Allison, New Cumberland.

The President appointed the following committee on medical necrology: Drs. R. H. Cummins, Ney, Safford and Young.

On motion of Dr. Hildreth, it was ordered that a special committee of one from each county represented, on the subject of the medical botany of the State, be constituted.

Of this committee Dr. Todd was appointed chairman, with M. C. Dougherty, Grafton; Jas. H. Brownfield, Fairmont; William Frey, Brandonville; G. W. Dent, Monongalia county; M. Campbell, Parkersburg; W. E. Allison, New Cumberland; J. W. Ramsay, Clarksburg; John G. Wilson, Martinsburg; Jacob Young, New Martinsville; J. M. Cooper, Wellsburg; James Putney, Kanawha; J. T. Nicklin, Middlebourne; G. W. Bruce, Moundsville; Elias S. Bronson, Buckhannon; L. K. Charter, West Union; and, on motion, the President, John Frissell, Wheeling, was added to the committee.

Dr. Lazzell, from the special committee on Dr. Halley McCoy, reported that the committee had had an interview with that gentleman; that he confesses very frankly that he has been guilty of irregularities in medicine, and, in fact, been pretty quackish in times past, but says he is satisfied he has been wrong, expresses a good deal of penitence on the subject, and promises to "sin no more;" promises to stick to legitimate medicine hereafter, and be governed by the code of ethics of the profession. The committee suggested that Dr. McC. be allowed to make a statement to the Society.

Report adopted. [Dr. McCoy did not appear during the evening.]

On motion of Dr. Hildreth, it was resolved that all the proper bills against the Society be audited and paid by the Treasurer.

On motion of Dr. Young, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five, of whom Dr. Bates shall be chairman, shall be appointed to alter or amend the constitution and by-laws of the Society, and that they shall report at the next meeting.

The chairman filled the committee by the appointment of Drs. R. H. Cummins, John H. Storer, James M. Lazzell, and James E. Reeves.

Dr. R. H. Cummins nominated Dr. R. W. Hazlett for membership, and on ballot he was elected.

Dr. Ney nominated Drs. G. W. Bruce and E. H. Thomas for membership, and they were elected.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. R. H. Cummins, and unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are due and hereby tendered to its officers, and to the officers of the Convention at Fairmont, for the satisfactory discharge of their duties.

Responding to this compliment, on behalf of the officers, Dr. Reeves said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—As one of the officers of the Society whose services are recognized in the resolution offered by my

friend, Dr. R. H. Cummins, and which you have just supported so heartily, I feel that you will allow me a few words in response.

I am very sensible of the value of your good opinion of my services in the cause of legitimate medicine and surgery in West Virginia. To know that my services are approved and valued by those whom I have accepted to serve, furnishes the surest incentive to continued industry. But, sirs, it required not this positive assurance of yours to encourage a continuation of my interest in the welfare of the Medical Society of West Virginia, whose origin and progress I have watched with so much solicitude, so much heartfelt anxiety.

A few months since, I beheld our honorable and adorable profession in West Virginia, unorganized, working at random—without the privileges of the highest professional respect and public esteem—without the intellectual and social advantages within its reach, and I determined that, if possible, this state of things should no longer exist—that the charge of *slothfulness* should no longer attach to its record. The better and more surely to accomplish this good end, I begged the co-operation of several gentlemen at different points in the State, as the call sent out to the profession on the 28th day of last February, for a State Medical Convention will show; and from no place did I receive so much valuable assistance as from the city of Wheeling; and without which I should probably have failed in my effort. At every step I received the willing and active aid of the Wheeling brotherhood, whose large minds, willing hands—and I might add, liberal pockets—engaged heartily in the work of separating the *true* from the *false*—thus elevating the standard of medical and surgical science in West Virginia. To them, therefore, belongs most of the credit of our present improved *status*; and posterity will gratefully remember them.

The Medical Society of West Virginia is now one of the permanent institutions of the State, and must wield an influence in the highest degree beneficial upon the profession and the public at large. Already the fruits of organization are most encouraging. Our membership now numbers over sixty names, among which are to be found a majority of the best men in the State; and the number will continue to enlarge, until every man claiming respectability in the profession in the State, will be included. An enlightened public sentiment will *command* him to this *forum*, where his talents will receive a just premium, and from whence his honors, if he possess them, will shine all the more brightly.

Gentlemen, the future of the Medical Society of West Virginia is full of rich promise; and the present harmonious and profitable meeting will be but the beginning of even better things in store for us, if we continue to discharge our duty faithfully; if we remain true to ourselves and to the profession whose keeping is in our own hands. I know you will guard well its fair escutcheon. I know you will work earnestly to uphold its honor. The little craft which was hewn out at Fairmont, and cut loose from that quiet mooring on the 10th of April, I think is worthy of your highest confidence and best energies to keep her afloat, for she bears the *seal* of the Ship of State, and will prove no less enduring. She has been borne to this hospitable port by pleasant breezes, where she has completed

her first semi-annual voyage, and cast anchor for a few days in order to obtain a renewal of supplies. During her successful voyage she touched at Cincinnati, and was there recognized and welcomed by the master builders of the profession in America, and some of her crew were not only handsomely and profitably entertained, but through them West Virginia was honorably and permanently niched in the American medical temple. Soon she will set sail for an annual port, freighted with many anxious wishes for a successful voyage, and I know, gentlemen, you will continue to aid your humble Secretary in keeping her sails set fairly, squarely, and prosperously to the breeze.

On motion of Dr. Hupp, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and the Hempfield Railroad Companies, for their commutation of fares to the members attending this session of the Society.

Also, on motion of Dr. Hupp, it was

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Society be and are hereby tendered to Granville D. Hall, Phonographer, for the full and faithful report he has voluntarily made of its transactions during its sessions, and to the editors of the *Intelligencer* and *Register*, newspapers of this city, for their characteristic liberality in publishing the proceedings of this meeting of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Stidger, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be and are hereby tendered to the citizens of Wheeling for their kindly appreciation of legitimate medicine and surgery, as shown by their presence at our meetings.

On motion of Dr. J. H. Storer, it was

Resolved, That every proposition for amending the constitution, shall, on being seconded, be handed up in writing to the chair. It shall then be audibly read by the Secretary, after which the Society shall, at its next regular meeting, take a vote on the proposed amendment, and it shall require for its adoption the votes of three-fourths of the members present.

Drs. Storer and Baird were appointed essayists, to report at the next meeting.

On motion, it was voted that Grafton be the next place of meeting.

Committee of Arrangements for the next meeting—Drs. Dougherty, Kennedy, Thayer and Sharp.

The President announced that it was now half past eight o'clock, and that Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Cummins were, no doubt, in readiness to receive the Society; whereupon, on motion of Dr. Bates, the Society adjourned to meet at Grafton on the first Wednesday in April, 1868.

JOHN FRISSELL, *President*.

JAMES E. REEVES, *Secretary*.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

- Oct'r. 2, 1867....Allison, W. E.....New Cumberland, Hancock Co.
 " " ...Allen B. W.....Wheeling.
 April 10, 1867...Bates, W. J....."
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Blum, Richard....."
 April 10, 1867...Brownfield, Jas. H.....Fairmont.
 " " ...Brock, H. W.....Morgantown.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Bronson, Elias S.....Buckhannon.
 " " ...Blair, J. R....."
 April 10, 1867...Bekebile, J. K.....Fairmont.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Bingell, Ed. W.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Baird, George....."
 " " ...Bruce, G. W.....Moundsville.
 " " ...Curtis, J. M.....Marshall County.
 " " ...Cooper, J. M.....West Liberty.
 " " ...Cummins, Jas.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Cummins, R. H....."
 April 10, 1867...Campbell, M.....Parkersburg.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Clark, Andrew G....."
 April 10, 1867...Charter, L. K.....West Union.
 " " ...Dent, W. M.....Newburg.
 " " ...Dent, Geo. W.....Grandville.
 " " ...Dougherty, M. C.....Grafton.
 " " ...Frissell, John.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Flowers, Jesse.....Mannington.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Frey, William.....Brandonville.
 " " ...Forney, D. S.....Ohio County.
 " " ...Ford, Sample....." "
 " " ...Hollis, Wm. B.....Berkeley Springs.
 April 10, 1867...Hupp, J. C.....Wheeling.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Hildreth, E. A....."
 " " ...Hazlett, R. W.....Ritchietown.
 April 10, 1867...Kendall, J. E.....Wirt Court House.
 " " ...Kennedy, Thos.....Grafton.
 " " ...Lazzell, James M.....Fairmont.

- April 10, 1867...Mackay, U. N.....Morgantown.
 " " ...Manouñ, Jas. H.....Kingwood.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...McLane, C. H.....Braxton Court House.
 " " ...Marshman, Thos. F.....Dallas, Marshall Co.
 " " ...Moore, E. S.....Ohio County.
 " " ...Nicklin, J. T.....Middlebourne.
 " " ...Ney, J. W.....Moundsville.
 " " ...Ogden, P. B.....Worthington.
 " " ...Putney, James.....Kanawha Salines.
 " " ...Parkinson, B.....Cameron.
 " " ...Pipes, J. W..... "
- April 10, 1867...Reeves, James E.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Ramsey, J. W.....Clarksburg.
 Oct'r. 2, 1867...Storer, John H.....Triadelphia.
 " " ...Shumaker, H. K.....Spencer.
 " " ...Safford, E. D.....Parkersburg.
 " " ...Stidger, S. B.....Cameron.
- April 10, 1867...Shepherd, F. C.....Bruceeton.
 " " ...Sharp, W. H.....Grafton.
 " " ...Thayer, A. H..... "
- Oct'r. 2, 1867...Todd, A. S.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Thomas, E. H.....Moundsville.
 " " ...Williamson, Wm. S.....Sistersville.
 " " ...Wilson, John G.....Martinsburg.
 " " ...Wilson, John S.....Burlington.
- April 10, 1867...Weisel, Henry J.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Warder, A. S.....Pruntytown.
- Oct'r. 2, 1867...Young, Jacob.....New Martinsville.

CODE OF ETHICS.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO THEIR PATIENTS, AND OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF PATIENTS TO THEIR PHYSICIANS.

ART. I.—*Duties of Physicians to their Patients.*

§ 1. A physician should not only be ever ready to obey the calls of the sick, but his mind ought also to be imbued with the greatness of his mission and the responsibility he habitually incurs in its discharge. Those obligations are the more deep and enduring, because there is no tribunal other than his own conscience to adjudge penalties for carelessness or neglect. Physicians should, therefore, minister to the sick with due impressions of the importance of their office; reflecting that the ease, the health and the lives of those committed to their charge, depend on their skill, attention and fidelity. They should study, also, in their department, so to unite *tenderness* with *firmness*, and *condescension* with *authority*, as to inspire the minds of their patients with gratitude, respect and confidence.

§ 2. Every case committed to the charge of a physician should be treated with attention, steadiness and humanity. Reasonable indulgence should be granted to the mental imbecility and caprices of the sick. Secrecy and delicacy, when required by peculiar circumstances, should be strictly observed; and the familiar and confidential intercourse to which physicians are admitted in their professional visits, should be used with discretion, and with the most scrupulous regard to fidelity and honor. The obligation of secrecy extends beyond the period of professional services;—none of the privacies of personal and domestic life, no infirmity of disposition or flaw of character observed during professional attendance, should ever be divulged by him, except when he is imperatively required to do so. The force and necessity of this obligation are indeed great, that professional men have, under certain circumstances, been protected in their observance of secrecy by courts of justice.

§ 3. Frequent visits to the sick are in general requisite, since they enable the physician to arrive at a more perfect knowledge of the

disease—to meet promptly every change which may occur, and also, tend to preserve the confidence of the patient. But unnecessary visits are to be avoided, as they give useless anxiety to the patient, tend to diminish the authority of the physician and render him liable to be suspected of interested motives.

§ 4. A physician should not be forward to make gloomy prognostications, because they savour of empiricism, by magnifying the importance of his services in the treatment or cure of the disease. But he should not fail, on proper occasions, to give to the friends of the patient timely notice of danger, when it really occurs; and even to the patient himself, if absolutely necessary. This office, however, is so peculiarly alarming, when executed by him, that it ought to be declined whenever it can be assigned to any other person of sufficient judgment and delicacy. For the physician should be the minister of hope and comfort to the sick; that, by such cordials to the drooping spirit, he may smooth the bed of death, revive expiring life, and counteract the depressing influence of those maladies which often disturb the tranquility of the most resigned in their last moments. The life of a sick person can be shortened not only by the acts, but also by the words or the manner of a physician. It is, therefore, a sacred duty to guard himself carefully in this respect, and to avoid all things which have a tendency to discourage the patient and to depress his spirits.

§ 5. A physician ought not to abandon a patient because the case is deemed incurable; for his attendance may continue to be highly useful to the patient and comforting to the relatives around him, even in the last period of a fatal malady, by alleviating pain and other symptoms, and by soothing mental anguish. To decline attendance, under such circumstances, would be sacrificing to fanciful delicacy and mistaken liberality, that moral duty, which is independent of and far superior to all pecuniary consideration.

§ 6. Consultations should be promoted in difficult or protracted cases, as they give rise to confidence, energy and more enlarged views in practice.

§ 7. The opportunity which a physician not unfrequently enjoys of promoting and strengthening the good resolutions of his patients, suffering under the consequences of vicious conduct, ought never to be neglected. His counsels, or even remonstrances, will give satisfaction, not offence, if they be proffered with politeness and evince a genuine love of virtue, accompanied by a sincere interest in the welfare of the person to whom they are addressed.

ART. II.—*Obligations of Patients to their Physicians.*

§ 1. The members of the medical profession, upon whom are enjoined the performance of so many important and arduous duties towards the community, and who are required to make so many sacrifices of comfort, ease, and health, for the welfare of those who avail themselves of their services, certainly have a right to expect and require, that their patients should entertain a just sense of the duties which they owe to their medical attendants.

§ 2. The first duty of a patient is, to select as his medical adviser one who has received a regular professional education. In no trade or occupation, do mankind rely on the skill of an untaught artist; and in medicine, confessedly the most difficult and intricate of the sciences, the world ought not to suppose that knowledge is intuitive.

§ 3. Patients should prefer a physician whose habits of life are regular, and who is not devoted to company, pleasure, or to any pursuit incompatible with his professional obligations. A patient should, also, confide the care of himself and family, as much as possible, to one physician, for a medical man who has become acquainted with the peculiarities of constitution, habits, and predispositions of those he attends, is more likely to be successful in his treatment, than one who does not possess that knowledge.

A patient who has thus selected his physician, should always apply for advice in what may appear to him trivial cases, for the most fatal results often supervene on the slightest accidents. It is of still more importance that he should apply for assistance in the forming stage of violent diseases; it is to a neglect of this precept that medicine owes much of the uncertainty and imperfection with which it has been reproached.

§ 4. Patients should faithfully and unreservedly communicate to their physician the supposed cause of their disease. This is the more important, as many diseases of a mental origin stimulate those depending on external causes, and yet are only to be cured by ministering to the mind diseased. A patient should never be afraid of thus making his physician his friend and adviser; he should always bear in mind that a medical man is under the strongest obligations of secrecy. Even the female sex should never allow feelings of shame or delicacy to prevent their disclosing the seat, symptoms and causes of complaints peculiar to them. However commendable a modest reserve may be in the common occurrences of life, its strict observance in medicine is often attended with the most serious consequences, and a patient may sink under a painful and loathsome

disease, which might have been readily prevented had timely intimation been given to the physician.

§ 5. A patient should never weary his physician with a tedious detail of events or matters not appertaining to his disease. Even as relates to his actual symptoms, he will convey much more real information by giving clear answers to interrogatories, than by the most minute account of his own framing. Neither should he obtrude the details of his business nor the history of his family concerns.

§ 6. The obedience of a patient to the prescriptions of his physician, should be prompt and implicit. He should never permit his own crude opinions as to their fitness, to influence his attention to them. A failure in one particular may render an otherwise judicious treatment dangerous, and even fatal. This remark is equally applicable to diet, drink, and exercise. As patients become convalescent, they are very apt to suppose that the rules prescribed for them may be disregarded, and the consequence, but too often, is a relapse. Patients should never allow themselves to be persuaded to take any medicine whatever, that may be recommended to them by the self-constituted doctors and doctresses, who are so frequently met with, and who pretend to possess infallible remedies for the cure of every disease. However simple some of their prescriptions may appear to be, it often happens that they are productive of much mischief, and in all cases they are injurious, by contravening the plan of treatment adopted by the physician.

§ 7. A patient should, if possible, avoid even the *friendly visits* of a physician who is not attending him; and when he does receive them, he should never converse on the subject of his disease, as an observation may be made, without any intention of interference, which may destroy his confidence in the course he is pursuing, and induce him to neglect the directions prescribed to him. A patient should never send for a consulting physician without the express consent of his own medical attendant. It is of great importance that physicians should act in concert; for, although their modes of treatment may be attended with equal success when employed singly, yet conjointly they are very likely to be productive of disastrous results.

§ 8. When a patient wishes to dismiss his physician, justice and common courtesy require that he should declare his reasons for so doing.

§ 9. Patients should always, when practicable, send for their physician in the morning, before his usual hour of going out; for,

by being early aware of the visits he has to pay during the day, the physician is able to apportion his time in such a manner as to prevent an interference of engagements. Patients should also avoid calling on their medical adviser unnecessarily during the hours devoted to meals or sleep. They should always be in readiness to receive the visits of their physician, as the detention of a few minutes is often of serious inconvenience to him.

§ 10. A patient should, after his recovery, entertain a just and enduring sense of the value of the services rendered him by his physician ; for these are of such a character, that no mere pecuniary acknowledgment can repay or cancel them.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO EACH OTHER, AND TO THE PROFESSION AT LARGE.

ART. I.—*Duties for the Support of Professional Character.*

§ 1. Every individual, on entering the profession, as he becomes thereby entitled to all its privileges and immunities, incurs an obligation to exert his best abilities to maintain its dignity and honor, to exalt its standing, and to extend the bounds of its usefulness. He should, therefore, observe strictly such laws as are instituted for the government of its members—should avoid all contumelious and sarcastic remarks relative to the faculty, as a body; and while, by unwearied diligence, he resorts to every honorable means of enriching the science, he should entertain a due respect for his seniors, who have, by their labors, brought it to the elevated condition in which he finds it.

§ 2. There is no profession, from the members of which greater purity of character and a higher standard of moral excellence are required than the medical; and to attain such eminence, is a duty every physician owes alike to his profession and to his patients. It is due to the latter, as without it he cannot command their respect and confidence, and to both, because no scientific attainments can compensate for the want of correct moral principles. It is also incumbent upon the faculty to be temperate in all things, for the practice of physic requires the unremitting exercise of a clear and vigorous understanding; and, on emergencies for which no profes-

sional man should be unprepared, a steady hand, an acute eye, and an unclouded head, may be essential to the well-being, and even to the life, of a fellow creature.

§ 3. It is derogatory to the dignity of the profession to resort to public advertisements, or private cards, or handbills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases—publicly offering advice and medicine to the poor gratis, or promising radical cures; or to publish cases and operations in the daily prints, or suffer such publications to be made—to invite laymen to be present at operations—to boast of cures and remedies—to adduce certificates of skill and success, or to perform any other similar acts. These are the ordinary practices of empirics, and are highly reprehensible in a regular physician.

§ 4. Equally derogatory to professional character is it, for a physician to hold a patent for any surgical instrument, or medicine; or to dispense a secret *nostrum*, whether it be the composition or exclusive property of himself, or of others. For, if such nostrum be of real efficacy, any concealment regarding it is inconsistent with beneficence and professional liberality; and, if mystery alone give it value or importance, such craft implies either disgraceful ignorance, or fraudulent avarice. It is also reprehensible for physicians to give certificates attesting the efficacy of patent or secret medicines, or in any way to promote the use of them.

ART. II.—*Professional Services of Physicians to Each Other.*

§ 1. All practitioners of medicine, their wives, and their children while under the paternal care, are entitled to the gratuitous services of any one or more of the faculty residing near them, whose assistance may be desired. A physician afflicted with disease is usually an incompetent judge of his own case; and the natural anxiety and solicitude which he experiences at the sickness of a wife, a child, or any one who by the ties of consanguinity is rendered peculiarly dear to him, tend to obscure his judgment, and produce timidity and irresolution in his practice. Under such circumstances, medical men are peculiarly dependent upon each other, and kind offices and professional aid should always be cheerfully and gratuitously afforded. Visits ought not, however, to be obtruded officiously; as such unasked civility may give rise to embarrassment, or interfere with that choice, on which confidence depends. But, if a distant member of the faculty, whose circumstances are affluent, request attendance, and an honorarium be offered, it should not be declined; for no

pecuniary obligation ought to be imposed, which the party receiving it would wish not to incur.

ART. III.—*Of the Duties of Physicians as respects Vicarious Offices.*

§ 1. The affairs of life, the pursuit of health, and the various accidents and contingencies to which a medical man is peculiarly exposed, sometimes require him temporarily to withdraw from his duties to his patients, and to request some of his professional brethren to officiate for him. Compliance with this request is an act of courtesy, which should always be performed with the utmost consideration for the interest and character of the family physician, and when exercised for a short period, all the pecuniary obligations for such service should be awarded to him. But if a member of the profession neglect his business in quest of pleasure and amusement, he cannot be considered as entitled to the advantages of the frequent and long-continued exercise of this fraternal courtesy, without awarding to the physician who officiates, the fees arising from the discharge of his professional duties.

In obstetrical and important surgical cases, which give rise to unusual fatigue, anxiety and responsibility, it is just that the fees accruing therefrom should be awarded to the physician who officiates.

ART. IV.—*Of the Duties of Physicians in regard to Consultations.*

§ 1. A regular medical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements, and ought to be the only acknowledged right of an individual to the exercise and honors of his profession. Nevertheless, as in consultations the good of the patient is the sole object in view, and this is often dependent on personal confidence, no intelligent, regular practitioner, who has a license to practice from some Medical Board of known and acknowledged respectability, recognized by this Association, and who is in good moral and professional standing in the place in which he resides, should be fastidiously excluded from fellowship, or his aid refused in consultation when it is requested by the patient. But no one can be considered as a regular practitioner, or a fit associate in consultation, whose practice is based on an exclusive dogma, to the rejection of the accumulated experience of the profession, and of the aids actually furnished by anatomy, physiology, pathology and organic chemistry.

§ 2. In consultations no rivalry or jealousy should be indulged; candor, probity, and all due respect should be exercised towards the physician having charge of the case.

§ 3. In consultations the attending physician should be the first to propose the necessary questions to the sick ; after which the consulting physician should have the opportunity to make such farther inquiries of the patient as may be necessary to satisfy him of the true character of the case. Both physicians should then retire to a private place for deliberation ; and the one first in attendance should communicate the directions agreed upon to the patient or his friends, as well as any opinions which it may be thought proper to express. But no statement or discussion of it should take place before the patient or his friends, except in the presence of all the faculty attending, and by their common consent ; and no *opinions* or *prognostications* should be delivered which are not the result of previous deliberation and concurrence.

§ 4. In consultations the physician in attendance should deliver his opinion first ; and when there are several consulting, they should deliver their opinions in the order in which they have been called in. No decision, however, should restrain the attending physician from making such variations in the mode of treatment as any subsequent unexpected change in the character of the case may demand. But such variation, and the reasons for it, ought to be carefully detailed at the next meeting in consultation. The same privilege belongs, also, to the consulting physician, if he is sent for in an emergency, when the regular attendant is out of the way, and similar explanations must be made by him at the next consultation.

§ 5. The utmost punctuality should be observed in the visits of physicians when they are to hold consultation together, and this is generally practicable, for society has been considerate enough to allow the plea of a professional engagement to take precedence of all others, and to be an ample reason for the relinquishment of any present occupation. But as professional engagements may sometimes interfere and delay one of the parties, the physician who first arrives should wait for his associate a reasonable period, after which the consultation should be considered as postponed to a new appointment. If it be the attending physician who is present, he will, of course, see the patient and prescribe ; but if it be the consulting one, he should retire, except in case of emergency, or when he has been called from a considerable distance, in which latter case he may examine the patient and give his opinion in *writing* and *under seal*, to be delivered to his associate.

§ 6. In consultations theoretical discussions should be avoided, as occasioning perplexity and loss of time. For there may be much diversity of opinion concerning speculative points, with perfect

agreement in those modes of practice which are founded, not on hypothesis, but on experience and observation.

§ 7. All discussions in consultation should be held as secret and confidential. Neither by words nor manner should any of the parties to a consultation assert or insinuate that any part of the treatment pursued did not receive his assent. The responsibility must be equally divided between the medical attendants—they must equally share the credit of success as well as the blame of failure.

§ 8. Should an irreconcilable diversity of opinion occur when several physicians are called upon to consult together, the opinion of the majority should be considered as decisive; but if the numbers be equal on each side, then the decision should rest with the attending physician. It may, moreover, sometimes happen that two physicians cannot agree in their views of the nature of a case, and the treatment to be pursued. This is a circumstance much to be deplored, and should always be avoided, if possible, by mutual concessions, as far as they can be justified by a conscientious regard for the dictates of judgment. But, in the event of its occurrence, a third physician should, if practicable, be called to act as umpire, and if circumstances prevent the adoption of this course, it must be left to the patient to select the physician in whom he is most willing to confide. But as every physician relies upon the rectitude of his judgment, he should, when left in the minority, politely and consistently retire from any further deliberation in the consultation, or participate in the management of the case.

§ 9. As circumstances sometimes occur to render a *special consultation* desirable, when the continued attendance of two physicians might be objectionable to the patient, the member of the faculty whose assistance is required in such cases should sedulously guard against all future unsolicited attendance. As such consultations require an extraordinary portion both of time and attention, at least a double honorarium may be reasonably expected.

§ 10. A physician who is called upon to consult, should observe the most honorable and scrupulous regard for the character and standing of the practitioner in attendance: the practice of the latter, if necessary, should be justified as far as it can be, consistently with a conscientious regard for truth, and no hint or insinuation should be thrown out which could impair the confidence reposed in him, or affect his reputation. The consulting physician should also carefully refrain from any of those extraordinary attentions or assiduities which are too often practiced by the dishonest for the base

purpose of gaining applause, or ingratiating themselves into the favor of families and individuals.

ART. V.—*Duties of Physicians in Cases of Interference.*

§ 1. Medicine is a liberal profession, and those admitted into its ranks should found their expectations of practice upon the extent of their qualifications, not on intrigue or artifice.

§ 2. A physician in his intercourse with a patient under the care of another practitioner, should observe the strictest caution and reserve. No meddling inquiries should be made; no disingenuous hints given relative to the nature and treatment of his disorder; nor any course of conduct pursued that may directly or indirectly tend to diminish the trust reposed in the physician employed.

§ 3. The same circumspection and reserve should be observed when, from motives of business or friendship, a physician is prompted to visit an individual who is under the direction of another practitioner. Indeed, such visits should be avoided, except under peculiar circumstances, and when they are made, no particular inquiries should be instituted relative to the nature of the disease or the remedies employed, but the topics of conversation should be as foreign to the case as circumstances will admit.

§ 4. A physician ought not to take charge of, or prescribe for, a patient who has recently been under the care of another member of the faculty in the same illness, except in cases of sudden emergency, or in consultation with the physician previously in attendance, or when the latter has relinquished the case or been regularly notified that his services are no longer desired. Under such circumstances, no unjust and illiberal insinuations should be thrown out in relation to the conduct or practice previously pursued, which should be justified as far as candor and regard for truth and probity will permit; for it often happens, that patients become dissatisfied when they do not experience immediate relief, and, as many diseases are naturally protracted, the want of success, in the first stage of treatment, affords no evidence of a lack of professional knowledge and skill.

§ 5. When a physician is called to an urgent case, because the family attendant is not at hand, he ought, unless his assistance in consultation be desired, to resign the care of the patient to the latter immediately on his arrival.

§ 6. It often happens, in cases of sudden illness, or of recent accidents and injuries, owing to the alarm and anxiety of friends, that a

number of physicians are simultaneously sent for. Under these circumstances, courtesy should assign the patient to the first who arrives, who should select from those present, any additional assistance that he may deem necessary. In all such cases, however, the practitioner who officiates, should request the family physician, if there be one, to be called, and, unless his further attendance be requested, should resign the case to the latter on his arrival.

§ 7. When a physician is called to the patient of another practitioner, in consequence of the sickness or absence of the latter, he ought, on the return or recovery of the regular attendant, and with the consent of the patient, to surrender the case.

§ 8. A physician, when visiting a sick person in the country, may be desired to see a neighboring patient, who is under the regular direction of another physician, in consequence of some sudden change or aggravation of symptoms. The conduct to be pursued on such an occasion is to give advice adapted to present circumstances; to interfere no farther than is absolutely necessary with the general plan of treatment; to assume no future direction, unless it be expressly desired; and, in this last case, to request an immediate consultation with the practitioner previously employed.

§ 9. A wealthy physician should not give advice *gratis* to the affluent; because his so doing is an injury to his professional brethren. The office of a physician can never be supported as an exclusively beneficent one; and it is defrauding, in some degree, the common funds for its support, when fees are dispensed with, which might justly be claimed.

§ 10. When a physician who has been engaged to attend a case of midwifery is absent, and another is sent for, if delivery is accomplished during the attendance of the latter, he is entitled to the fee, but should resign the patient to the practitioner first engaged.

ART. VI.—Of Differences Between Physicians.

§ 1. Diversity of opinion, and opposition of interest, may, in the medical, as in other professions, sometimes occasion controversy and even contention. Whenever such cases unfortunately occur, and cannot be immediately terminated, they should be referred to the arbitration of a sufficient number of physicians, or a *court-medical*.

As peculiar reserve must be maintained by physicians towards the public, in regard to professional matters, and as there exist numerous points in medical ethics and etiquette through which the feelings of medical men may be painfully assailed in their inter-

course with each other, and which cannot be understood or appreciated by general society, neither the subject matter of such differences nor the adjudication of the arbitrators should be made public, as publicity in a case of this nature, may be personally injurious to the individuals concerned, and can hardly fail to bring discredit on the faculty.

ART. VII.—*Of Pecuniary Acknowledgments.*

§ 1. Some general rules should be adopted by the faculty, in every town or district, relative to *pecuniary acknowledgments* from their patients; and it should be deemed a point of honor to adhere to these rules with as much uniformity as varying circumstances will admit.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE DUTIES OF THE PROFESSION TO THE PUBLIC, AND OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE PUBLIC TO THE PROFESSION.

ART. I.—*Duties of the Profession to the Public.*

§ 1. As good citizens, it is the duty of physicians to be ever vigilant for the welfare of the community, and to bear their part in sustaining its institutions and burdens: they should also be ever ready to give counsel to the public in relation to matters especially appertaining to their profession, as on subjects of medical police, public hygiene and legal medicine. It is their province to enlighten the public in regard to quarantine regulations—the location, arrangement and dietaries of hospitals, asylums, schools, prisons and similar institutions; [in relation to the medical police of towns, as drainage, ventilation, &c., and in regard to measures for the prevention of epidemic and contagious diseases; and when pestilence prevails, it is their duty to face the danger, and continue their labors for the alleviation of the suffering, even at the jeopardy of their own lives.

§ 2. Medical men should also be always ready, when called on by the legally constituted authorities, to enlighten coroners' inquests and courts of justice, on subjects strictly medical—such as involve questions relating to sanity, legitimacy, murder by poisons or other

violent means, and in regard to the various other subjects embraced in the science of medical jurisprudence. But in these cases, and especially where they are required to make a *post mortem* examination, it is just, in consequence of the time, labor and skill required, and the responsibility and risk they incur, that the public should award them a proper honorarium.

§ 3. There is no profession, by the members of which eleemosynary services are more liberally dispensed than the medical, but justice requires that some limits should be placed to the performance of such good offices. Poverty, professional brotherhood, and certain public duties referred to in section one of this chapter, should always be recognised as presenting valid claims for gratuitous services; but neither institutions endowed by the public or by rich individuals; societies for mutual benefit, for the insurance of lives or for analogous purposes; nor any profession or occupation, can be admitted to possess such privilege. Nor can it be justly expected of physicians to furnish certificates of inability to serve on juries, to perform militia duty, or to testify to the state of health of persons wishing to insure their lives, obtain pensions, or the like, without a pecuniary acknowledgment. But to individuals in indigent circumstances, such professional services should always be cheerfully and freely accorded.

§ 4. It is the duty of physicians who are frequent witnesses of the enormities committed by quackery, and the injury to health, and even destruction of life, caused by the use of quack medicines, to enlighten the public on these subjects, to expose the injuries sustained by the unwary from the devices and pretensions of artful empirics and impostors. Physicians ought to use all the influence which they may possess, as professors in colleges of pharmacy, and by exercising their option in regard to the shops to which their prescriptions shall be sent, to discourage druggists and apothecaries from vending quack or secret medicines, or from being in any way engaged in their manufacture and sale.

ART. II.—*Obligations of the Public to Physicians.*

§ 1. The benefits accruing to the public directly and indirectly from the active and unwearied beneficence of the profession, are so numerous and important, that physicians are justly entitled to the utmost consideration and respect from the community. The public ought likewise to entertain a just appreciation of medical qualifications—to make a proper discrimination between true science and the

assumptions of ignorance and empiricism—to afford every encouragement and facility for the acquisition of medical education—and no longer to allow the statute books to exhibit the anomaly of exacting knowledge from physicians, under liability to heavy penalties, and of making them obnoxious to punishment for resorting to the only means of obtaining it.

MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Medical Society of the State of West Virginia,

Held at Grafton, April 1st and 2nd, 1868.

The MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA began its first annual session in Grafton, Wednesday, April 1st, 1868. The members assembled in the Presbyterian Church, at 3 o'clock, P. M., at which hour Dr. John Frissell, of Wheeling, President of the Society, took the Chair, and Dr. James E. Reeves, of Wheeling, assumed his duties as Secretary. Rev. A. B. Rohrbough, of the M. E. Church, by request of the President, opened the Society with prayer.

The roll was then called by the Secretary and the following gentlemen responded as present:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|
| B. W. Allen, | ..... | Wheeling. |
| W. J. Bates, | ..... | " |
| Richard Blum, | ..... | " |
| H. W. Brock, | ..... | Morgantown. |
| G. W. Bruce, | ..... | Moundsville. |
| R. H. Cummins, | ..... | Wheeling, |
| L. R. Charter, | ..... | West Union. |
| W. M. Dent, | ..... | Newburg. |
| M. C. Dougherty, | ..... | Grafton. |
| John Frissell, | ..... | Wheeling. |
| Sample Ford, | ..... | " |
| J. C. Hupp, | ..... | " |
| J. E. Kendall, | ..... | Wirt C. H. |
| Thomas Kennedy, | ..... | Grafton. |
| James M. Lazzell, | | Fairmont. |
| Thomas F. Marshman, | | Dallas. |
| J. W. Ney, | | Moundsville. |
| James E. Reeves, | | Wheeling. |

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|-----------------|--------------|
| J. W. Ramsey, | Clarksburg. |
| John H. Storer, | Triadelphia. |
| S. B. Stidger, | Cameron. |
| W. H. Sharp, | Grafton. |
| A. H. Thayer, | “ |
| H. J. Weisel, | Wheeling. |
| A. S. Warder, | Pruntytown. |

Dr. M. C. Dougherty, of Grafton, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, welcomed the Society in the following address :

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the
Medical Society of West Virginia :*

It is my pleasing duty to tender to you a cordial welcome, at this your first annual assembly in the town of Grafton.

I could wish that upon an older and more experienced head had fallen that duty. But I tender it to you as the unworthy appointee of the Committee of Arrangements; and I tender it also in the name of the good citizens of the town of Grafton, for whom my own residence here, during a number of years, perhaps, fully authorize me to speak.

I regret very much, gentlemen, that during your stay in Grafton, it will not be possible for you to alternate the sessions of scientific deliberations with pleasant rambles through interesting thoroughfares, and visits to Museums of science and arts—for Grafton, as yet, can boast of no such advantages.

But nevertheless, it seems appropriate that you should hold your first annual assembly here. Like your society, our town is in its infancy. It has been comparatively but a few years since the place where we are now assembled, was one of those wild nooks in the mountains of West Virginia, where nature, indeed, was grand, but by reason of her very grandeur, rendered the existence of man exceedingly difficult. There were rapid rivers and rugged mountains. Contrary to any anticipations that the population had ventured to entertain, the great thoroughfare between the East and West, crossed the mountains and threaded the valleys, and reached this spot, where it established homes for men and shops for their employment.

This was a prodigious triumph of the business interest. Would science see her material interest advance with such giant strides, and not make an effort on its part at least to keep pace with it? Would medical science not come forward and exhibit itself in its usefulness and inherent dignity? Could it consent to strip itself of its nobility, and be condemned to a hurtful obscurity in this State when everywhere else it had its colleges, and associations, and faculties? No. The science of medicine could not consent to this, and accordingly we now behold a State Medical Association which from the small number of seven members has, during the period of one short year, increased to nearly one hundred, with the hope, of course, of a still larger accession.

Material interests can, therefore, no longer gibe science in its slower march. With the rattling of machinery and the whistling and thunder-

ing of locomotives it has started in the race, and it will be our duty, gentlemen, to see that it maintains itself creditably.

The organization of the State Medical Society has procured a benefit for the medical profession in our own State to which I cannot help adverting before concluding my remarks.

The manner in which the medical faculty has hitherto been represented in this State had the appearance rather of a trade than of a science. With no bond connecting the medical men, it looked as if each one was endeavoring to draw the greatest amount of gain from his profession, to use an ordinary phrase "to make it pay," whilst the real love of the profession, the desire to see it scientifically successful and to make it useful as possible to humanity seemed to be of secondary consideration with practitioners.

But the Society gives every one of its members a different attitude before the world. There is now an evident sympathy with the healing art manifested,—a desire to develop it to its highest degree—a love for it, not merely as a means of getting bread and meat, but as one of those great departments of human knowledge through which man can become the benefactor of his fellow man. The medical profession is thus purified and elevated above all suspicion or sordidness that may have been attached to it either by those in or those outside of its ranks.

I think, gentlemen, we may all feel a pride and pleasure in assembling here to-day. We are professedly and really associated for one of the most philanthropic purposes that man can propose to himself, and therefore we have every reason to believe that all the population dependent on our ministrations feel an interest in this Convention.

I am glad to think that this interest is felt particularly by the citizens of this town, who consider themselves honored by your presence in their midst.

Please to accept the heartfelt welcome which I can only tender you in feeble language. May the Convention prove highly useful to the cause of the science of medicine and agreeable also to every member whom I have the pleasure of welcoming.

The following gentlemen were severally nominated and chosen additional members: Dr. A. H. Kunst, Pruntytown; Dr. J. M. Lee, Clarksburg; Dr. W. H. Vankirk, Parkersburg; Dr. W. H. Ravenscraft, Grafton; Dr. R. R. Frey, Brandonville, and Dr. J. H. Legge, German Settlement.

The President then delivered his address, Dr. J. M. Lazzell, Vice President, in the Chair.

On motion of Dr. J. W. Ramsey, of Clarksburg, it was

Resolved, That the President be requested to furnish a copy of his address for publication.

Dr. H. W. Brock, of Morgantown, Chairman of the Committee on the expediency of petitioning the Legislature for the enactment of a law for the subject of compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages, &c., explained that the Committee had not yet prepared a bill on

this subject for the action of the Legislature, but expected to have one ready by the next meeting of that body, if the Committee should be continued.

On motion of Dr. Hupp the time of the Committee was extended.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Hildreth, of Wheeling, Chairman of the Committee on Climatology and Epidemic Diseases of West Virginia. The Doctor explained that although the Committee had made their best efforts, they had not been able to prepare a report. Such materials as he had obtained were bulky and have to be greatly condensed. Time and labor were necessary to the accomplishment of the work. In the division of the labor designated by the appointment of one member of the Committee from each county, he had received but two letters on the subject. It would doubtless be better for the Committee to report on each county separately, so as to have one paper read at each meeting of the Society. If the Society should be pleased to continue the Committee, he would endeavor, at least, to report on Ohio county, at the next meeting.

On motion, the time of the Committee was extended.

The report of the Committee on Medical Necrology was passed over, Dr. Cummins, Chairman of the Committee, not yet having arrived.

The President explained that Dr. Todd, Chairman of the Committee on Medical Botany, who was not present, had not been able to prepare a report, but hoped he would be able to do so at the next meeting, if the Committee be continued.

On motion, the time of the Committee was extended.

Dr. Bates stated that Dr. Baird, one of the Essayists, was prevented by unavoidable business from attending the meeting, and desired further time for the discharge of the duty assigned him, which on motion, was granted.

The Essays were called for. Drs. Allen and Brock explained that not expecting to be called on during the afternoon, their essays had been left at their hotel.

Dr. Storer explained that his business had been so pressing and laborious during the winter, that he had not been able to devote the necessary time to the preparation of an Essay to be presented to this meeting, but promised to have one in readiness for the next meeting, if the Society would extend the time.

On motion, Dr. Storer was granted further time to report as Essayist.

The President observed that he regretted that any member should be so pressed with professional labors, that he could not in the course of six months obtain sufficient time to write an essay for the benefit of the Society. He feared that such arduous labors would prove injurious to the health and longevity of the profession. He recommended strict

punctuality in fulfilling all appointments made by the Society and suggested that every member should make it a standing rule, to get up from cases in his own practice, or from practice under his immediate observation, either the report of cases and treatment, or short essays on subjects that had been of special interest, and have them ready to report to the Society, whenever called for, during the regular order of business, or where an opening occurs during the meeting, between the more important proceedings of the Society. In that way every member will have something to do that will interest himself and be useful to the Society. That will be one of the best means, too, of collecting the valuable medical statistics of the State.

The report of the Committee appointed at the last meeting to revise the Constitution and By-Laws, being called for, Dr. Bates, Chairman of the Committee, submitted their report. He said it would be remembered that at the Fairmont meeting, a year ago, when the present Constitution was adopted, the time was so short that a close examination of the various provisions of the instrument could not be made. Many members then expressed the opinion that the Constitution was not exactly according to the wants of the Society. At the October meeting, held at Wheeling, these objections took a more definite shape. The Committee were not restricted by the resolution creating it, to any particular part of the Constitution, and upon examination of it, they believed, in the first place, the Constitution was too long, and that some of its provisions were objectionable; and in the next place, that some things had been omitted, which would have been beneficial, if included. The Committee had, therefore, gone over the whole, using the present Constitution and By-Laws as their basis.

After various suggestions and motions as to the mode of procedure, on motion of Dr. Ramsey, the Society took up the report *seriatim*, and adopted it in detail, and then, on motion of Dr. Hupp, the Constitution and By-Laws as a whole were adopted unanimously.

On motion of Dr. Bates it was ordered that the Constitution and By-Laws, as adopted, be printed with the minutes of the meeting as soon after adjournment as possible.

On motion the Society adjourned to meet at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

The Society re-assembled at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Dr. Allen read a paper on the "Use and Importance of the Microscope to the Medical Profession."

Dr. Ramsey reported a case of *caries* of the bones of the face, with extensive sloughing, where the patient had recovered perfectly. He also

reported a case of internal strabismus, for the relief of which a novel operation was performed with entire success.

Dr. Lazzell reported a case of *caries* of the *os calsis*, for which an operation was performed, followed by recovery.

Dr. Ramsey suggested that uniform rates of fees ought to be established; and on motion of Dr. Bates the following committee was appointed to prepare a fee bill for the profession throughout the State: Drs. Ramsey, Bates, Brock, Lazzell and Bruce.

The President appointed as Essayists for the next meeting, Drs. Ramsey and Reeves.

Dr. Hupp, Treasurer of the Society, submitted a report, showing total receipts \$319 00, and a balance in the Treasury of \$82 00, referred under the Constitution for examination and report. The Committee subsequently reported the report and vouchers to be correct. Adopted.

The Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the balloting resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen:

President,

Dr. H. W. BROCK, of Morgantown.

Vice Presidents,

1st, Dr. JACOB YOUNG, of New Martinsville.

2d, Dr. THOMAS KENNEDY, of Grafton.

3d, Dr. G. W. BRUCE, of Moundsville,

Secretary,

Dr. A. H. THAYER, of Grafton.

Treasurer.

Dr. JOHN C. HUPP, of Wheeling.

Board of Censors,

Drs. E. A. HILDRETH, of Wheeling.

G. W. BRUCE, of Moundsville.

J. M. LAZZELL, of Fairmont.

F. C. SHEPHERD, of Bruceton.

R. H. CUMMINS, of Wheeling.

M. C. DOUGHERTY, of Grafton.

W. J. BATES, of Wheeling.

On motion, the Society adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1868.

The Society re-assembled agreeably to adjournment, at 9 o'clock this morning.

The President, Dr. John Frissell, in the chair.

In the absence of Dr. J. E. Reeves, Dr. A. H. Thayer, Secretary elect performed the duties of Secretary.

Dr. Richard Blum read a paper on the subject of "Sanitary Science," which was on motion referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. W. H. Sharp offered the following which was adopted:

Since at this time of great activity in the medical world new remedies are being daily offered to the notice of the faculty,

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to report at the next meeting on new remedies and their value. The President appointed the following committee: Drs. W. H. Sharp, (Chairman), B. W. Allen and M. Campbell.

The President announced the following Committee of Publication.

DRS. W. J. BATES, Chairman,
A. H. THAYER,
J. C. HUPP,
J. W. NEY,
R. W. HAZLETT.

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the American Medical Association, which meets at Washington City, on the first Tuesday in May, 1868:

Drs. Thomas Kennedy, R. H. Cummins, J. G. Wilson, F. C. Shepherd, J. M. Lazzell, E. D. Safford, and M. C. Dougherty.

On motion of Dr. Bruce the Committee on Fee Bill was granted further time to report.

Dr. Brock read an essay on "Hasty and Imperfect Reasoning in regard to the influence of Medicines in the cure of Disease, reviewed as one of the sources of error in Practical Medicine," which was, on motion, accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

As the next place of meeting Dr. Bates put in nomination Clarksburg, and Dr. Hupp nominated Parkersburg. Dr. Cummins, in view of the fact that the hour of adjournment was rapidly approaching, moved that the next meeting be held at Clarksburg, which was adopted.

The Committee of Arrangements for the next meeting was constituted by appointing Dr. J. W. Ramsey, of Clarksburg, as Chairman, with Dr. J. M. Lee and all the other physicians of Clarksburg, who are members of the Society.

Dr. Dougherty offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay John King, trustee, ten dollars for lights, fuel and cleaning the Presbyterian Church, which was so kindly and generously given for the use of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Stidger the Publication Committee was instructed to cause the proceedings of the meeting to be published in the *Daily Wheeling Intelligencer*, and one copy forwarded to each member. Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Lazzell, a resolution was adopted thanking the representatives of the press in attendance for attentions.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be most cordially tendered to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for their proverbial kindness in furnishing return transportation gratis to the members of this Society.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are hereby tendered to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Grafton, for the use of their church during the sittings of the Society.

Dr. Hupp suggested the appointment of delegates to the American Medical Association for 1869, as that body would hold its annual meeting prior to the next meeting of this Society. Whereupon, Dr. Bates moved, that the President appoint delegates to that meeting, so that they may receive notice of their appointment at least six months prior to the meeting of the Association in 1869, which was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Bates the Society adjourned to meet at Clarksburg, on the first Wednesday of June, 1869.

JOHN FRISSELL, *President*.

A. H. THAYER, *Secretary*.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, the Medical Convention, which, pursuant to notice, convened at Fairmont, the 10th of April, 1867, declared it "expedient to establish a permanent Medical Society for the State of West Virginia," therefore,

Resolved, That the members of the Medical Convention aforesaid, together with those who may be hereafter associated with them, be and are hereby constituted a State Medical Society; and that for its organization and government, the following constitution and by-laws be adopted, viz:

ARTICLE I.

Title of the Society.

The name and title of the Society, shall be "The Medical Society of the State of West Virginia."

ARTICLE II.

Objects of the Society.

The objects of the Society, shall be the cultivation of medical knowledge; the elevation of professional character; the protection of the interests of its members, and the promotion of social intercourse among the medical men of the State

ARTICLE III.

Of the Admission of Members.

SEC. 1. Every application for membership must be presented and seconded by members having a competent knowledge of the applicant; and the approving votes of *three-fourths* of the members present, shall be necessary to his admission.

SEC. 2. In each county in the State, Associate Medical Societies may formed, the members of which may become members of this society upon the payment of the required fee, *provided*, the rules of such societies do not contravene those of this society; and where the qualifications for membership are such as are prescribed in the following section.

SEC. 3. But, previously to a candidate being balloted for, his qualifications shall be duly ascertained, and shall be as follows: *a* He shall have received in regular course, from some respectable school of medicine legally authorized, the degree of Doctor of Medicine and Surgery; or, *b* where such degree has not been obtained, he shall submit to a satisfactory examination by the *Board of Censors* of this society, on all the branches required for graduation by the best medical colleges; and shall furnish proper evidence of having maintained a respectable standing as a practitioner for *five years*. But, in cases where the Board of Censors shall report the candidate as possessing special merit, the society may, by a vote of *three-fourths* of the members present, dispense with so much of this requirement as relates to the length of time the candidate shall have been engaged in practice.

And it is moreover required in every case, that the candidate shall satisfy the society, that he is of good moral character, and is known to his most worthy professional acquaintances, for his strict observance of the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association.

ARTICLE IV.

Of Honorary Members.

Medical men in this or other States, who have acquired honorable distinction in the profession, may be proposed as honorary members of this Society. Their election shall be by ballot, the approving votes of *three-fourths* of the members present being necessary to an election; and they shall be exempt from all pecuniary contributions to the society.

ARTICLE V.

Of the Duties of Members.

All members of this Society (honorary members excepted) shall, at the time of their admission, pay to the Society a *fee of five dollars*, and shall also pay once a year (to fall due on the 1st of January) such contribution as the Society may, from time to time, prescribe.

ARTICLE VI.

Of the Resignation of Membership.

Any member wishing to withdraw from this Society, shall be permitted to do so on his written resignation, or the written request of the Secretary of the Associate Society to which he belongs, after he shall have presented the Treasurer's receipt for all monies due.

ARTICLE VII.

Of Certificates of Membership.

Every member of the Society shall be entitled to a certificate of his membership, after he shall have complied with the requirements of the fifth article.

ARTICLE VIII.

Of the forfeiture of Membership, or other censure.

SEC. 1. Any member who shall be guilty of gross misconduct, either as a member or citizen, or shall be wilfully negligent of his duty, as a member or officer, or shall recognize or meet in consultation, an expelled member, an irregular practitioner, or one who has been refused admission into this Society, shall be liable to expulsion, or such other censure as the Society may determine.

SEC. 2. But no judgment of suspension, expulsion or other censure, shall be passed against a member, until after at least *three months notice*. And no member shall be expelled, or other censure imposed, unless by the votes of *three-fourths* of the members present. And should such member come forward at the meeting next succeeding his expulsion, and offer a sufficient explanation, he may be reinstated without expense: *provided, three-fourths* of the members present, agree thereto.

ARTICLE IX.

Of the meetings of the Society.

SEC. 1. The meetings of the Society shall be held annually, on the 1st Wednesday in June. The place shall be determined for each succeeding year, by a vote of the Society.

SEC. 2. At each meeting, any number *not less than fifteen*, shall constitute a quorum. And any number less than this, may adjourn from day to day, until a quorum shall have convened.

ARTICLE X.

Of the election of Officers.

SEC. 1. The officers of this Society, shall be a *President, three Vice Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Censors* to consist of seven members.

SEC. 2. Each officer shall be elected by ballot on a general ticket, and shall serve one year, or until another is elected to succeed him.

SEC. 3. In case of the death, resignation, removal out of the State, or other disqualification of any officer of the Society, the President shall appoint a member to discharge the duties of the office until the next regular election.

ARTICLE XI.

Of the duties of Officers.

SEC. 1. The *President* shall preside at the meetings, preserve order and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage require; and he shall open the meeting with an address. He shall not be eligible two terms in succession.

SEC. 2. In the absence of the President, the *Vice Presidents*, in the order of their election, shall officiate in his place. They shall not be eligible two terms in succession.

SEC. 3. The *Secretary* shall keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the meetings, and when approved, shall fairly transcribe them into a book to be kept for the purpose. He shall also preserve an accurate list of the names and residences of the members; shall have in charge all books and papers (other than those belonging to the Treasurer) and whatever may constitute any part of the literary or scientific stock of the Society; shall notify all absent members and officers of their election; give due notice of the time and place of the meetings; conduct the correspondence, and perform such other duties as usually appertain to that office.

SEC. 4. The *Treasurer* shall receive all monies belonging to the Society, and pay the same agreeably to the orders of the Society, certified by the presiding officer. He shall keep regular accounts with the Society and the members thereof, and shall annually present a detailed statement of the finances, which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose. He shall deliver to his successor all books, papers, money or other property of the Society remaining in his hands. He shall also give security for the faithful performance of his duties whenever the Society shall judge it requisite.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the *Board of Censors*, to examine and report upon the qualifications of all applicants for membership. They shall also take cognizance of any breach of the Constitution, By-laws or Code of Ethics of the Society; or of any immoralities, or differences between members, whether made known to them by the complaints of others, or occurring within their own observation; and in case they find it impossible to adjust them, they shall then report them for the adjudication of the Society.

SEC. 6. Three Censors shall constitute a quorum, and be competent to transact business.

ARTICLE XII.

Code of Ethics.

This Society adopts as part of its regulations, the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association.

ARTICLE XIII.

Of amending the Constitution.

Every proposition for amending the constitution shall be made in writing, and if it receive the *unanimous* votes of the members present it shall be adopted; but if objections be made, it shall lie over until the next regular meeting, when it shall be decided; the votes of *two-thirds* of the members present being necessary to its adoption.

BY-LAWS.

1. Six weeks previous to each meeting of the Society, the Secretary shall give notice in writing to each member of the Society, of the time and place of meeting.

2. Each member of the Society after paying his admission fee, shall be furnished by the Secretary with a certificate of his membership, which shall read as follows, viz:

“MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA.”

“*Auspicium melioris aevi,*”

This is to certify that Dr. having been found worthy of fellowship in the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia, is entitled to the recognition which the Society confers, and that his name is enrolled among its numbers.

Given under my hand at this ... day of in the year of our Lord 18...

.....Secretary.

3. A copy of every communication read to the Society, shall be delivered to the Secretary.

4. Associated societies shall transmit to this Society a copy of their rules and regulations, and they shall also report annually any new rules

they may have made, together with a list of their members and officers, and such other matters as they may deem interesting.

5. No member who has been appointed on any special committee and who fails to report at the meeting next succeeding his appointment, shall be continued on such committee or appointed on any other, unless a satisfactory excuse is offered.

6. The sum of *one dollar* shall be annually assessed on each member to defray the expenses of the Society ; but if this sum prove insufficient, an increased assessment equal to the wants of the Society shall be made.

7. Two members shall be appointed annually, each of whom shall prepare and read at the next meeting an *essay* on some medical subject.

8. Any subject relevant to the profession may be proposed for debate, and the discussion of it shall take place at the meeting next succeeding that at which it was proposed.

9. There shall be appointed each year a *Committee of Publication*, to consist of *five* members, of which the Secretary and Treasurer shall form a part. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare for publication the proceedings of each meeting. They shall also select and arrange such essays, reports and communications as they may judge worthy of publication ; and when the Society shall deem it expedient, the committee shall publish them under the title of "*Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia*."

10. A committee on *Climatology and Epidemic Diseases*, shall be appointed annually; consisting, if possible, of *one* member from *each county* in the State, who shall report upon its medical topography and epidemic diseases, and the most successful treatment thereof.

11. A committee on *Medical Necrology* shall be appointed annually, to consist of *five* members, representing the different sections of the State, to collect and report to the next meeting of the Society, memorials of the worthy dead among the Physicians of the State.

12. A *Committee of Arrangements* shall be appointed, and unless otherwise ordered shall consist of all the members of the Society residing at the place in which the Society is to hold its next meeting. They shall provide suitable accommodations for the meeting, and verify and report upon the credentials of delegates from Associate Societies.

13. Any By-law may be altered, amended or suspended at any meeting of the Society, by the assent of *two-thirds* of the members present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. The calling of the meeting to order by the President or one of the Vice Presidents.
2. Report of the Committee of Arrangements.
3. Address of the President.
4. Any business requiring early attention, may, by permission be introduced.
5. Receiving and referring applications for membership.
6. Reports of committees and the reading of essays and voluntary communications.
7. Call of the question for discussion.
8. Report of the Board of Censors, and election of members.
9. Resolutions introducing new business.
10. Appointment of Essayists, Representatives and Committees on Publication, Climatology and Epidemic Diseases and Medical Necrology.
11. Election of officers and fixing the next place of meeting.
12. Appointment of Committee of Arrangements.
13. Reading the Minutes.
14. Adjournment.

CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Medical Society of the State of West Virginia.

OFFICERS FOR 1868-69.

President,

Dr. H. W. BROCK, Morgantown.

Vice Presidents,

1st, Dr. JACOB YOUNG, New Martinsville.

2d, Dr. THOMAS KENNEDY, Grafton.

3d, Dr. G. W. BRUCE, Moundsville,

Secretary,

Dr. A. H. THAYER, Grafton.

Treasurer.

Dr. JOHN C. HUPP, Wheeling.

Committee of Publication,

Dr. W. J. BATES, (Chairman),

“ A. H. THAYER,

“ J. C. HUPP,

“ J. W. NEX,

“ R. W. HAZLETT.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| October 2, 1867... | Allison, W. E..... | New Cumberland. |
| “ “ | ...Allen, B. W..... | Wheeling. |
| April 10, 1867... | Bates, W. J..... | “ |
| October 2, 1867... | Blum, Richard..... | “ |
| April 10, 1867... | Brownfield, Jas. H..... | Fairmont. |
| “ “ | ...Brock, H. W..... | Morgantown. |
| October 2, 1867... | Bronson, Elias S..... | Buckhannon. |
| “ “ | ...Blair, J. R..... | “ |
| April 10, 1867... | Berkebile, J. K..... | Fairmont. |
| October 2, 1867... | Bingell, Ed. W..... | Wheeling. |
| “ “ | ...Baird, George..... | “ |
| “ “ | ...Bruce, G. W..... | Moundsville. |
| “ “ | ...Curtis, J. M..... | Beeler's Station. |
| “ “ | ...Cooper, J. M..... | Wellsburg. |
| “ “ | ...Cummins, Jas..... | Wheeling. |
| “ “ | ...Cummins, R. H..... | “ |
| April 10, 1867... | Campbell, M..... | Parkersburg. |
| October 2, 1867... | Clark, Andrew G..... | “ |
| April 10, 1867... | Charter, L. R..... | West Union. |
| “ “ | ...Dent, W. M..... | Newburg. |
| “ “ | ...Dent, Geo. W..... | Granville. |
| “ “ | ...Dougherty, M. C..... | Grafton. |
| “ “ | ...Frissell, John..... | Wheeling. |
| “ “ | ...Flowers, Jesse..... | Mannington. |
| October 2, 1867... | Frey, William..... | Brandonville. |
| April 1, 1868... | Frey, R. R..... | “ |
| October 2, 1867... | Forney, D. S..... | Bethany. |
| “ “ | ...Ford, Sample..... | Wheeling. |
| “ “ | ...Hollis, W. B..... | Berkeley Springs. |
| April 10, 1867... | Hupp, Jno. C..... | Wheeling. |
| October 2, 1867... | Hildreth, E. A..... | “ |
| “ “ | ...Hazlett, R. W..... | South Wheeling. |
| April 10, 1867... | Kendall, J. E..... | Wirt Court House. |
| “ “ | ...Kennedy, Thos..... | Grafton. |
| “ 1, 1868... | Kunst, A. H..... | Pruntytown. |
| “ 10, 1867... | Lazzell, Jas. M..... | Fairmont. |

- April 1, 1868...Lee, J. M.....Clarksburg.
 " " ...Legge, J. H.....German Settlement.
 " 10, 1867...Mackey, U. N.....Morgantown.
 " " ...Manown, Jas. H.....Kingwood.
 October 2, 1867...McLane, C. H.....Braxton Court House
 " " ...Marshman, Thos. F.....Dallas.
 " " ...Moore, E. S.....Wellsburg.
 " " ...Nicklin, J. T.....Middlebourne.
 " " ...Ney, J. W.....Moundsville.
 " " ...Ogden, P. B.....Worthington.
 " " ...Putney, James.....Kanawha Salines.
 " " ...Parkinson, B.....Cameron.
 " " ...Pipes, J. W....."
 April 10, 1867...Reeves, Jas. E.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Ramsey, J. W.....Clarksburg.
 " 1, 1868...Ravenscraft, W. H.....Grafton.
 October 2, 1867...Storer, John H.....Triadelphia.
 " " ...Shumaker, H. K.....Spencer.
 " " ...Safford, E. D.....Parkersburg.
 " " ...Stidger, S. B.....Cameron.
 April 10, 1867...Shepherd, F. C.....Bruceton.
 " " ...Sharp, W. H.....Grafton.
 " " ...Thayer, A. H....."
 October 2, 1867...Todd, A. S.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Thomas, E. C.....Moundsville.
 April 1, 1868...Vankirk, W. F.Parkersburg.
 October 2, 1867...Williamson, Wm. S.....Sistersville.
 " " ...Wilson, John G.....Martinsburg.
 " " ...Wilson, John S.....Burlington.
 April 10, 1867...Weisel, Henry J.....Wheeling.
 " " ...Warder, A. S.....Pruntytown.
 October 2, 1867...Young, Jacob.....New Martinsville.



