posit, some transparent masses of a cellular structure (as examined by the microscope), serum, sebaceous matter, and granular fat ; which were contained in numerous small cysts. Teeth were found in all parts of the tumor, and were counted to the number of forty-three ; some were contained in cysts, others imbedded in the semi-transparent masses, and two or three were growing from the walls of the parent cyst. In one part a few were imbedded in a mass of bone, bearing a strong resemblance to an upper jaw ununited in the mesial line.

The teeth consisted of molars, canine and incisors, but in some parts two or three were united together, and one bore no resemblance to a human tooth. The bony deposit existed for the most part in small irregular portions and plates, without any definite form. The teeth and hair were examined by the microscope, and presented the normal appearance, except that the bulbs of the latter were imperfect. The sebaceous matter melted on the application of heat, and partially dissolved in ether. The uterus was of the size of a small pear, and, with the left ovary and its appendages, of healthy appearance.

The preparation is preserved in the museum of the Hospital.—*London Medical Gazette*.

SKETCHES OF EMINENT LIVING PHYSICIANS.—NO. XIII.

GEORGE E. WOOD, M.D., PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

“ Honors best thrive
When rather from our acts we them derive,
Than our fore-goers : the mere word's a slave
Debauched on every tomb, on every grave ;
A lying trophy, and oft as dumb,
Where dust and d—d oblivion is the tomb
Of honor'd bones indeed.”—*Shakspeare*.
“ Learning, if deep, if useful, and refined,
Communicates its polish to the mind.”—*Ovid*.

THE “destiny” of Napoleon and the accompanying “genius” of Socrates were undoubtedly their own clear thoughts and powerful minds. It is well known that Socrates considered himself accompanied by his good genius, whose promptings, if *listened* to, directed him into the paths of truth and rectitude : and Napoleon pretended to be a fatalist—a star presided over his destiny ; he was the child of destiny. All this, in the opinion of Cato, is nothing more than the conscious workings of their own active imaginations. Luther was so much occupied with his controversies with sin and the devil, as he supposed, that he conceived his satanical majesty appeared to him in *propria persona*, and using some unfairness in the argument with Luther, the latter, following the example of some other zealous defenders of the faith,

“ Proved his doctrine orthodox
By apostolic blows and knocks,”

and sent at the caput of his sooty highness his inkstand and contents ; some of the latter of which is still shown to the admiring tourist on the wall of the cell of the great reformer. It is pretty evident that our

greatness comes from within. As moral purity or impurity has its seat in the heart, so intellectual pre-eminence and the accompanying distinction originate in the head. It is very true that a jewel set in brilliants will attract more forcibly the attention of beholders, and be admired more, than one which does not enjoy that advantage. Bacon, and even Newton, felt and acknowledged this, by their efforts to retain what the "greatest, wisest, meanest of mankind" termed "his feathers." Lord Bacon, the Duke of St. Albans, &c. &c., was a very different personage from the author of the "Organon," and the public eye was filled by the spectacle of the learned Judge and noble Duke, when he went about attended by horses and out-riders, or at home feasted both lords and princes in a style at once lordly and princely.

No man, perhaps, would feel more keenly the loss of his feathers, than Dr. G. B. WOOD. A youth passed in comparative poverty, a poor Jersey boy, elevated to rank and wealth in a few years, he doubtless feels how much his personal consideration depends upon the trappings of external show. His preceptor, Dr. Parrish, as he very willingly and at all times acknowledges, was his true friend and helper. The Quakers at that time were more united than at present, and a medical man, with even ordinary talents, among them, was sure to succeed. Dr. Parrish had himself risen rapidly, under the fostering care of his "old master, Dr. Wistar," and felt for the quiet, young, and poor Quaker student, a sympathy, which those only who have as large a heart as Dr. P., can feel. It is, however, astonishing how much this sympathy and kindness depends upon the subject being a Quaker—"one of us." But those days have gone by. The division in this sect has introduced family bitterness, for we can look upon their organization and so called principles, only as those of a well-conducted but selfish family.

Having graduated in 1818, in the University, Dr. W. was invited by the ladies of Dr. P.'s family, to deliver lectures (popular) on chemistry, to a class of young persons invited from among neighboring families. In these little efforts, the young doctor exhibited a propriety and precision of manner and matter, which delighted his older patrons and friends, and edified the junior auditors much. From this he was soon transplanted to the chair of chemistry, in the young and humble College of Pharmacy, where the popular feature of his lectures still continued; having distinct tickets for the non-medical public. It seems that the doctor was quite popular with the female portion of his preceptor's family, and enjoyed the advantages of female influence in his favor. Many years had not passed when a young and accomplished woman, only daughter to an indulgent and wealthy parent, presented, *in presento* and *in futuro*, a proper personage to become the partner of so promising a young man. It will be recollected that formerly, and even now among the more orthodox of the Quakers, matrimonial alliances are (very properly) conducted by the senior members of the family, and no dutiful child is expected to thwart the wishes of his parents and friends by refusing an eligible match. Dr. W. was no exception to the rule: a dutiful life heretofore, would lead us to expect obedience in this matter, especially under the circumstances, and the union took place accordingly. Dr. W. has no children.

We turn to Dr. Wood as an author, teacher and practitioner. His first great effort, and one which placed his name and reputation in the hands and mouths of the whole medical profession of our country, was the "United States Dispensatory," which in conjunction with his friend, Dr. Franklin Bache, he edited, in a manner to show a ripe reader and terse writer. His department was that which treated of the vegetable medicines, while Dr. B., in *his* usual accurate style, wrote the chemical or mineral portions of the work. Dr. W.'s removal from the chemical chair to that of materia medica and pharmacy in the above college, prepared him for this part of the undertaking. Bringing the work up at once to the advanced condition of the profession, it immediately superseded all others, and edition after edition, at from five to seven dollars per copy, was struck off and sold, greatly to the profit of both editors and publishers. Associated with his venerable preceptor and several fellow students, he continued, from 1830 to 1836, to lecture in a summer association, until he was transferred to the same chair in the University, vacated by Dr. Coxe. The interest of Dr. Parrish was all in his favor in this step, and no doubt exercised considerable influence in obtaining for Dr. W. the appointment. Within a short period of time three important events occurred in the life of Dr. W. The first in the series, was the death of his father-in-law, and the consequent inheritance of a handsome fortune by Dr. W. The second was his appointment of physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital; and the third, which seemed to follow very naturally, was his transfer to the chair of materia medica in the University. A splendid mansion arose, as if by magic, with a fine hot-house for plants, native and exotic, and all the usual *et ceteras* of wealth and station.

The next important work which he has issued, is his "Practice of Medicine," which is now running rapidly through a second edition. It is estimated that he will pocket, from this work, the neat sum of \$50,000. His introductions and valedictions are the chief productions, besides the above two works, which have been published of his writings. These are characterized by plainness of style, ingenuity of argument (always written for a purpose), and freedom from *ad captandum* flights of fancy, which, by the by, the Doctor seems not to understand or practice.

But what are we to say about Dr. W.'s writings? Are they brilliant gems of composition, like those of Chapman and Darwin? or are they a plain statement of facts, like those of Bell, Stokes, Thomas and the like? Style, in a man's writings, is of course but the reflection of his genius; and a man naturally writes as he talks or thinks. The school in which Dr. W.'s early training took place, is one that is peculiarly practical; and nothing which is not absolutely necessary to the end in view, is tolerated. Who can imagine any thing plainer than a Quaker? This training, upon a naturally well-balanced mind, has had its usual effect; and Dr. W. does not pretend to great originality. A London reviewer is no doubt correct when he considers Dr. W.'s mind as belonging to the middle class—something like a small, well-tempered Damascus blade: while that of Chapman is an old broad sword, now rusting somewhat in its scabbard. "The Practice of Medicine" doubtless has this advan-

tage—it is American; and although the affectation for French medicine which is continually infused into our periodical and some of the more permanent literature by the whipsters at the pen, young men who have “seen the world,” has tinged some of the articles in the “Practice,” yet it must be considered both as a modern work; and one that does some justice at least to American writers. This fact makes it popular with American physicians. Tact has been exhibited here, also—for who but our own doctors will probably read the work, except the reviewers and a few of the learned of Europe?

As a teacher, Prof. W. is clear, emphatic, and to the point—demonstrating his facts with an *air* of precision which makes the student feel that he is getting the pith of the matter. Every thing must, however, be arranged before hand—and we know not what would happen should the lecturer unfortunately leave his notes at home.

Dr. W. seldom wanders into the by-paths of pure literature or science, unconnected with his immediate duties. These do not pay, and are apt to distract the mind from more important (profitable) pursuits. One thing at a time, is the motto of such minds as that of Dr. W.; unlike Dr. Clarke, who, we all know, carried on numerous studies at one and the same time.

As a practitioner, Dr. Wood is vigorous and decided. Far from being homœopathic, he deals out calomel, opium, the lancet, cathartics, &c., with the vigor of a true believer in the value of drugs. At the same time he walks in the footsteps of his preceptor in the treatment of many of the chronic diseases, and with Hippocrates, “waits.” Where he knows not what to do, he will do nothing—is a strong mercurialist in syphilis, and fights hard for the proper use of this medicine in many other diseases. His wealth has long relieved him from the necessity of practice, but not until he had gone through a short ordeal of the junior practitioner’s labors; and his professorial duties, with those of the author, now occupy his time, to the exclusion of almost every thing else.

Dr. Wood’s moral character is unblemished with all classes of men—except, perhaps, the temperance men; these, however, he defies, and says he would give wine at his mis-called Wistar parties, if no one else on earth gave it.

Personally, Dr. W. is tall and thin—perhaps five feet ten or eleven inches. His skin is almost of an olive brown—the face long, and lined up and down with furrows. His chin has the curve of a warrior, and his nose the true Roman shape, that of the eagle’s beak. Hairless eyebrows overhang a clear and lively eye, and a fine black or brown wig covers his head. His long arms and bony fingers correspond with the inferior extremities. He evidently does not make or retain much flesh. His walk is generally perpendicular and stately; and when accompanied by his friend, Prof. Bache, whose movements are still more precise, one can almost fancy that he sees the United States Dispensatory personified and promenading down the street. The students not unfrequently complain of the marked difference in the treatment received from Prof. W. in the beginning and at the termination of their studies. They say that a first course student gets his whole hand; a second course, three fingers;

and the candidate is told to sit down without any manual address, except perhaps one, or at most two digits. An examination, they say, is a *dissection*, and the poor culprit winces as if undergoing a surgical operation; now and then, however, one of more spirit than the rest turns upon the operator, and gives him "a piece of his mind."

Dr. W. will probably succeed to the chair of Practice of Medicine in *his* school, and this would be an excellent appointment. As President of the old College of Physicians, Professor in the old school, and the possessor of considerable wealth, with a will to do what his mind decides should be done, he exercises a large influence upon the doctors of Philadelphia.

A short time since, Dr. W. had the gratification, for the first time, to visit England. He has made the best use of his time there, in investigating the condition of his own profession, and reports that he thinks, as a whole, it stands better in this country than there. True, sometimes he met with one who was mayor of a provincial town, &c.; but we know very well, that from Rush to Lin and Edwards, the members of our calling in this country, occupy seats in Congress and elsewhere. He will probably soon visit Europe again, and we may expect his impressions on France, Germany or Italy. Wealth certainly does confer very many advantages on its possessor; not the least of which, is the power of doing what you please. Dr. W., we are told, takes occasionally land tours over the United States—to Saratoga, the Falls, Mississippi, &c. in a carriage and four, with out-riders and extra horses. Sir Astley Cooper's visits to Wales, the native country of his wife's relatives, were generally professional, and the Welsh to this day speak of the great London surgeon and his operations among them. Prof. W., we opine, does not trouble himself much with practice in these pleasure excursions.

Our second quotation at the head of this "Sketch," speaks of the effect of learning upon the mind. Dr. W. is no exception to Ovid's remarks; and is one of the most polished and finished gentlemen in our city. His dress is neat to the extreme, and his address is polished and studiously polite. He can appreciate a joke, and smiles very pleasantly, exhibiting some beautiful (artificial) teeth; but it seems rather out of compliment to the perpetrator of the joke than as the indication of the value of the latter. The strong mark in Prof. W.'s "*personnel*" is his professional and social propriety. The greatest sin that could be committed against Dr. W. would be, especially in any public place, to throw him off his guard in this respect. Education, natural character and habit, no doubt cause this. If our leaders generally would be as circumspect, in this respect, as Dr. W., it would have a good effect upon the rising medical generation.

CATO.

CORNS, BUNIONS, AND CURVED NAILS.

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FIRST, Their Cause.—The shoe manufacturer is not altogether to blame for these complaints, as sometimes the stocking produces them, and re-