Brain.—A slight effusion in the several ventricles of this organ. The arachnoid presented a turgid condition of its bloodvessels, and was adherent to a small space on the right hemisphere of the cerebrum, under which was a slight softening of its substance. Portions of the cerebellum were rigid and fibrous. The cerebrum, with the exception stated, was also rigid, and its substance somewhat exsanguinated throughout.

Bowels normal in their external appearance—but much distended with flatus, and studded with small scybalous deposits.

New York, October 18, 1849.

SKETCHES OF EMINENT LIVING PHYSICIANS.—NO. XIV.

SAMUEL JACKSON, M.D., PROF. OF INSTITUTES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

“You then, whose judgment the right course would steer,
Know well each *modern's* proper character:
His fable, subject, scope in every page;
Without all these, at once, before your eyes,
Cavil you may, but never criticize.”—*Pope*.

“Of manners gentle, of affections mild;
In wit, a man; simplicity, a child;
With native *honor* tempering virtuous rage,
Formed to delight at once, and lash the age;
Above temptation in a low estate,
And uncorrupted e'en among the great:
A safe companion and an easy friend,
Unblamed through life.”—*Pope*.

How very naturally do men of superior intelligence take their position “in line,” and command that attention which power of any kind always can. It is true, that many years passed, in a hard and protracted struggle, ere Dr. Samuel Jackson rose above the waters of tribulation, and steered his ship, with all her sails set, into the current of popularity and full success: yet he ultimately did, and *how* he did, he to this day hardly knows.

A poor apothecary-boy, left at an early age, to carry on and control an extensive business, and at the same time to support an aged, beloved mother, educate himself, and lay the foundation for future distinction; these were the circumstances which surrounded the youth of Dr. Jackson. “The gods,” says the Greek proverb, “when they endow an individual with genius, accompany that genius with poverty; in order that the pressure of circumstances, like the crushing of the rose-leaf, may bring out the sweet spirit within.” A sad heritage; and how many does the physician, of a few years’ practice, see sink, irretrievably, to the grave, from this “pressure of circumstances.” Here, a fine painter, whose noble soul scorns the petty means of gaining gold, which mere worldly men stoop to—or rather practise (they are too low to stoop)—here, I say, a fine painter sweetly and silently sinks, from a dark, damp garret, into a lonely grave, “unseen, unknown, and unlamented.” There, a noble poet, whose sweet and bewitching numbers, had they but been wafted upon the breezes of prosperity, had enchained and purified the hearts and souls of men. See him; disappointment has done its work,

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and the bowl, grasped with convulsive hand, finishes the dreadful suicide. Then, again, a long life is passed in dreary poverty, and existence merely tolerated, from habit, until, after a life, or rather a slow death, protracted to a most dreary and comfortless extent, the noble sufferer "wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and *gives*, not *yields*, his breath."

Oh my country, couldst thou but see the crushed hearts, and blighted minds, which are yearly sent to their own and last account, "unappointed with the oil of their existence, fame and competency," thou wouldst feel that although in thy breast thou nourishest many noble children, yet many, many more, die prematurely, and sink to an unhonored grave. But enough—let us to our "sketch."

Doubtless the studies connected with the profession of an apothecary turned the inquisitive mind of the young, nervous, and excitable Jackson, to a more extended research into the mysteries of nature, and induced him, regularly, to commence the study of the healing art. We have heard him remark, that, "armed with the diploma, and the prevailing doctrines of the day," the sanguine youth set out, expecting to vanquish every disease, "with more than the skill and valor of a Don Quixotte." But, like the first case of fever, so graphically described by Dr. Meigs, in which, *secundum artem*, he "gave calomel;" and the next day, the fever continuing, by the same rule, he "gave calomel," and so on, until, to the astonishment of the young doctor, his patient died; like this first case, the early practice of Dr. J. and some few of his personal friends of the same day, was so unsuccessful, that a revulsion of feeling took place, and all confidence in the profession was lost, and its practice abandoned in despair. Returning to the pestle and mortar—his father having, in the meantime, died—the young doctor spent "fifteen years" in attending to the sale of drugs; and honorably settling up his parent's unsettled accounts, meanwhile reading more in the book of nature and of medical science. He in fact verified Pope's lines—

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep, or touch not the puerian spring."

Having armed himself with additional, extensive reading, and settled his father's accounts, our hero again felt like trying the *ars medendi*. He did so, and took an office, which, when Cato began to look about, was on the corner of 8th and George streets. Very soon, by the aid of the many acquaintances made at his late business, with the amiable and intelligent character of the doctor, he was enabled to enter into an extensive practice. Dr. Chapman, who has always been a patron to real merit, encouraged him, got him to lecture in the Philadelphia Institute on *Materia Medica*, and, not long afterwards, succeeded in having him appointed adjunct to himself—in which latter office Dr. J. lectured on Institutes.

As a lecturer on *Materia Medica*, Dr. J. was *very* popular—his winning manners, peculiar chirping voice, quick, nervous, and enthusiastic mode of speaking, made him at once loved and respected. Cato remembers well the occasional visits he used to make to hear Dr. Jackson lecture on *Materia Medica*. His long familiarity with practical Pharmacy, his extensive reading, and a natural turn for the *natural*

sciences, made him very successful as a teacher of this branch. His suggestions were bold and ingenious, and his speculations are doubtless remembered by many a practitioner, in various parts of the United States, to this day.

When, by the vacancy of the chair of *Materia Medica*, caused by the removal of Dr. Cox, it became necessary to fill it, all eyes were turned to Dr. Jackson, and all his admirers hoped that he would get the chair. The Trustees, however, re-organized the school, by creating the adjunctship occupied by Dr. J. into a chair, and appointing him the professor. He has continued since that time, 1836, to hold this chair.

As a clinical teacher, in the Old Almshouse, Dr. J. was most effective and popular; and in the distribution of cases, he was very happy. Clinical Instruction was by him conducted scientifically.

Dr. J., we believe, is originally of our city; and has spent nearly all his life in Philadelphia. Captain of a Company of Cavalry in the late war, the country had well nigh secured to itself a soldier, instead of Medical Science a most able and successful champion, had not fortune changed the scene of his operations.

In private life, Dr. J. is one of the most amiable and sociable of men. Long a bachelor, he was sent, previous to the advent of the cholera in 1832, to Canada, in company with Drs. Meigs and Harlan, to investigate the nature and treatment of this fell disease. The daughter of a British officer, with whom he became acquainted during this visit, shortly afterwards became his wife. We believe he has no children.

Dr. Jackson's medical productions are characterized by close observation, and ingenious reasoning. The last article in our Journals, and which was read before the American Medical Association, of which he is a member, is on the use of tea, coffee, &c. &c., and bears the stamp of his original and discriminating mind. His "Essays on Cholera" are deservedly popular. Many papers on fevers, &c., are scattered through the Medical Journals of our country. Always up to the day in which he lectures, or writes, he verifies the proverb, that "Genius is always young."

About five feet six and a half inches in height, with a long head, low in the region of self-esteem, full in that of amateness; all the perceptive faculties, benevolence, and the semi-intellectual organs, full; with long, light hair, now become quite grey; in person, formerly quite thin, but now becoming (since his marriage) more full, and *embonpoint*; a small *twinkling* grey, or light blue eye; a sweet smile always on his mouth; his arm, in speaking, moving occasionally up and down, and the head doing *likewise*; dressed in anything, scarcely ever in sober black—and we may see Dr. Jackson. He walks, and moves, with a peculiar halt, indicative of debility in one leg; in both of which he formerly suffered much and long-continued neuralgia. We well remember hearing him lecture on the latter subject, shortly after his marriage; and after enumerating quite a number of remedies, for this disease, stating very *naively*, that one of the best remedies was the soft hand of a lady, moved gently over the surface. The class, by their plaudits, seemed to understand the allusion.

As a practitioner of medicine, he is highly esteemed ; has a large and respectable practice, which he attends to, in a carriage, drawn by two black horses. The advocate of no general, or special, system in our science, Dr. J. is really eclectic ; and although when Broussaism first came up, he was a strenuous advocate of many of its doctrines, yet he was always discriminating and careful. So also of other improvements in medicine, all of which find in Dr. J. a warm but judicious friend.

His manners, especially in a sick room, are peculiarly kind and conciliatory ; fond of conversation, and capable of adapting himself to all grades of society, there is perhaps no man in our city more popular, personally, both in the profession and out of it, than Dr. J. Time, it is true, is gradually "hewing him down," with the rest of us ; but he bears his age—"frosty but kindly." Long may he live to adorn the profession which he practises and teaches with so much enthusiasm and success ; and when dead,

Bless'd be his dust, and let eternal fame
Attend his manes, and preserve his name.—*Thebais*.

CATO.

SPONTANEOUS CURE OF A WOUNDED TRACHEA.

BY Z. HOWE, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In the early part of last March an Irish woman, about 50 years of age, dissatisfied with this country, applied a razor to her throat, divided the trachea at the thyroid cartilage, and opened the œsophagus. The hæmorrhage had subsided when she was found, and she managed to conceal the affair for two days, and let it pass for "*a great nose bleed and a bad cold.*"

I saw her on the third day, with the attending physician. When in a horizontal position, the ends of the divided trachea were about an inch apart, with considerable tendency to ossification. The greatest part of what she attempted to swallow gushed out at the opening, and the wound was exceedingly foul and offensive. This was a short visit ; recommended clean rags, gave a fatal prognosis, and departed.

Not hearing of her death, as I expected, I called occasionally and watched the progress of the case as a matter of curiosity. In about three or four weeks the opening in the œsophagus closed, and the swallowing became free. The wound filled with healthy granulations, attended with a profuse and long-continued discharge of pus and mucus. At one period the nose and lips might be compressed, and the respiration would go on through the wound ; or the wound might be closed and she would breathe in the natural way. She was repeatedly distressed with detached portions of cartilage, for she says she cut more than once, and these pieces of cartilage were from time to time forced out of the wound by severe coughing. At the end of five months the wound was closed, and has remained perfectly sound ever since. She enjoys good health, with the exception of a degree of hoarseness, which she always attributes to a temporary cold.