

## Address.

### ADDRESS AT DEDICATORY EXERCISES OF THE FREE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

BOSTON, JANUARY 1, 1895.

BY W. H. BAKER, M.D.

It seems appropriate on this occasion, which marks an era in our hospital life, to review the work of the past nineteen years, with a view to establish in our minds what has been accomplished by our efforts, as well as to serve as a guide to direct us in the larger field of work upon which we have now entered. We began in the small house No. 16 East Springfield Street, with a capacity for the treatment of five patients. We were able within two years to increase the number of patients to fifteen, because the financial aid of our early friends supplied us with the necessary means.

But in 1877 we had outgrown these accommodations and moved to the larger house No. 60 East Springfield Street, where we very soon increased our number of resident patients to twenty. Two years later the Out-Patient Department was established, and we became again crowded for room, when the adjoining house was added to the hospital. The growth of the work during these years is well shown by the fact that during the first two or three of them, one surgeon was able to attend to all the active work of the hospital. Of late, fourteen surgeons and physicians have been in constant attendance throughout the hospital year.

The adaptation of the principles of asepsis to gynecological surgery wrought a great change in the work of our hospital. It became more essentially a surgical institution; and under the influence of this method of treatment, we find that the number of operations quadrupled. The safety in the performance of this work offered the patient a more speedy relief with less risk than by the older methods. This fact is conclusively shown, when we consider that our capacity of twenty beds has not changed in the past fifteen years, yet the number of patients admitted and treated during that time doubled, and this without the death-rate increasing. The whole number of patients treated in the wards of our institution since its organization has been 2,309, while in the out-patient department in fifteen years there has been 46,655.

Although these figures would seem to justly indicate a cause for encouragement in our work for the relief of suffering, yet it is really but a small part of the work accomplished. I refer to the extension of knowledge in the special class of disease treated which has resulted from it. Take, for instance, the young men who have served us in the capacity of house-surgeons. Of these, two are acknowledged leaders in the department of diseases of women in New York City, having services in the Woman's Hospital, the Cancer Hospital and the Maternity Hospital. One is at the head of a hospital for women in Denver, Colo. One organized and presides over the department of gynecology in the hospital at Grand Rapids, Mich. Another established and is doing an excellent work in a hospital for women in Detroit, Mich. Still another has lately started a hospital for the treatment of women in Providence, and is attached to the staff of the Rhode Island Hospital. Three others have services in the department

for women in general hospitals in this city. Thus, when we think of the hundreds of women who are being relieved at their hands and add to these the thousands that are relieved by the great number of physicians who have been instructed in this department in this institution, we can begin to realize the amount of good accomplished by the hospital as an educational organization.

The hospital, born in 1875, has already passed through the trying ordeal of youthful existence, and will obtain its majority this coming year. May we not expect that in the next decade the full strength of its manhood will be established, and the success which has crowned our labors in the past not only be continued but increased in a manifold degree? We cannot, however, imagine our work ever passing into a worthless dotage, for the ever-present call to relieve poor suffering women is constantly before us. Our best and most zealous effort will ever be demanded to meet this necessity.

As we look about us to-day and see the faces of those who have grown familiar in the unity of our work, we miss from our number some that we had hoped would be with us on this occasion. We mourn the wise counsel of Dr. Storer and the skilled touch of Dr. Strong in the active work of the hospital. But even this sorrow is turned to joy as we recall the good work for which they labored, for which we still labor, and for which others will continue to labor who succeed us. For we are united with them in carrying on this great work of relieving the suffering of the sick, of extending hope and courage to the poor, and giving of our abundance to the needy, and so fulfilling this great and noble purpose of life.

## Original Articles.

### ON SOME OF THE CLINICAL FEATURES OF PRIMARY TUBERCULOSIS OF THE GENITO- URINARY ORGANS.<sup>1</sup>

BY FRANCIS S. WATSON, M.D., BOSTON.

THIS communication does not aim at treating the subject at all completely, but is intended merely to call attention to some of the more suggestive symptoms of this disease as it occurs in the urinary organs, and especially as it affects the bladder and kidneys, and is prompted by the belief that the disease is frequently overlooked. I have recently asked six or eight general practitioners of fifteen or twenty years' standing, with opportunities for wide observation, how often they had seen cases of primary tuberculosis of the urinary organs. The answers varied from "four or five times," to "practically never." In some cases I have been asked to see, in consultation, patients with "obstinate cystitis," which have proved to be examples of tuberculosis, generally renal, which had not been suspected.

Since reporting a case of tuberculosis of the kidneys and bladder, and showing the specimens obtained at the autopsy, at a meeting of this Society six years ago, I have had twenty others, in which the nature of the disease was demonstrated by autopsies, or by the discovery during life of the characteristic bacilli, and four or five more which although such proof was

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Suffolk District Medical Society, April 28, 1894.