

NOTICE OF THE LATE

JAMES LLOYD, M. D.

DOCTOR JAMES LLOYD was for more than half a century a medical practitioner in the town of Boston; during which period he was at all times highly distinguished, whether we judge from the extent of his business, the respectability of his patrons, or the merit and success of his practice.

Dr. Lloyd was descended from a very respectable family. His father was Mr. Henry Lloyd, a merchant in Boston, but who retired to his estate on Long Island (N. Y.) before the birth of James, his youngest son. This son received his education at some private seminary in Connecticut. He commenced the study of medicine at seventeen years of age under Dr. Samuel Clark, at that time an eminent practitioner in Boston.

In his twenty second year Mr. Lloyd visited London, where he spent two years. During this period he was first dresser to Mr. Warner, a very respectable surgeon in Guy's hospital, and of course had access to all the patients in that and St. Thomas's hospital. He there saw the practice of the most distinguished surgeons of the age, among whom were Cheselden and Sharp. He likewise had an opportunity of studying all the elementary branches of his profession under the first masters. He attended the anatomical lectures of that accomplished scholar, anatomist and physician Dr. Wm. Hunter, the elder brother and the master of the celebrated John Hunter. He also attended the lectures of Dr. William Smellie, the father of scientific midwifery among the English. How diligent Mr. Lloyd was in the pursuit of knowledge, may be judged from an anecdote which is so flattering to our country as well as to him, that we cannot forbear relating it.

In the year 1800, the venerable Mr. Warner, formerly the surgeon at Guy's Hospital, was on a committee of the Royal College of Surgeons of London to examine candidates. Among these was Mr. Horace Senter, afterwards physician in Newport,

Rhode Island, the place of his nativity. After Mr. Senter's examination was closed, Mr. Warner acquainted him with the satisfaction and approbation of the Committee, and added in substance as follows, "that he was extremely pleased in finding that the young gentleman had maintained the character of New-England; for that he had uniformly noticed that the medical pupils from New-England had been remarkable for their industry and acquirements, from the time of his most excellent pupil, Mr. Lloyd of Boston."

Dr. Lloyd returned to his native country and commenced the practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery in the town of Boston, about the year 1730. The uncommon advantages he had enjoyed, gave him a just claim to the attention of his fellow citizens, and the services which he rendered them, obtained for him their confidence and respect. His practice very soon became extensive, and continued so until his age forbade him to undergo the severe and constant labour which belongs to the medical profession.

As few men have enjoyed, through a long life, the affection and the respect of the most judicious members of the community, in so high a degree and with so much constancy as did Dr. Lloyd, it may be useful to consider his character, with a view to ascertain what are the qualities, by which he obtained so rich a reward.

It may first be noticed, that he had not the advantages of a regular academic education, and never acquired the habits of a student. He appeared to have read the medical works in most esteem during the early period of his life, and was by no means ignorant of the essential improvements in practice published after this time. But he never made any pretensions to the character of a scholar. Yet, on the other hand, he appears to have spent much more time in his professional education than has ever been customary in this country, and his mode of education was such as to give him the best practical knowledge of the age. In the middle of the last century, London was undoubtedly the best school in the world for anatomy, surgery, and midwifery. If, even then, the Edinburgh professors had

begun to teach the science of medicine more regularly, the opportunities in the Borough Hospitals, to which Dr. Lloyd had access, far surpassed any which most physicians in this country had enjoyed.

With such opportunities, with so much time, and with the diligence for which it appears Dr. Lloyd was remarkable during his pupillage, he laid a most solid foundation and went far toward erecting a stable edifice, before he exhibited the result of his labours to the public. We can scarcely refrain from dwelling on the great importance of giving sufficient time to the business of professional education, and on the powerful effect it has on a man's future character and success; because these are circumstances, which we believe to be too little regarded among us. In a medical education, there is much, very much to be learnt, and it ought to be learnt in detail, and have time to make a full impression on the mind, especially every thing which relates to practice.

But we mean not to rely on these circumstances alone, to resolve the question before us. Dr. Lloyd owed much to his education; but he owed much also to the kindness of nature, to an excellent disposition, and to a correct deportment. He was endowed with senses which were remarkably accurate and acute, and with a faculty of perception unusually prompt; and as he thought not of words but of things, his combinations were rapid.

He thought not of words, but of things; he was not, therefore, prepared to engage in the disquisitions of the book-learned, nor to combat the notions of the stiff and dogmatical speculatist; but he read the language of nature with the eye of watchful intelligence, and ministered to her aid with the skillful hand of a master.

Dr. Lloyd had a benevolent heart, he possessed the principles of a Christian, and he had been accustomed from early life to polished society. Hence he could not fail to have true politeness. In fact, his manners, which were frank and open, were remarkably urbane and polished. As a man and a citizen, his conduct was as seldom the subject of just reproach as happens with almost any among mortals. In his profession, he

was distinguished by his kindness and humanity, as much as by his skill. Toward his brethren, his deportment was peculiarly worthy of commendation. The effect of this was seen in the great readiness and pleasure with which, after he had passed the middle line of life, young practitioners consented and sought to consult with him. He met them in consultation, to give to them all the aid of his long and careful observation and experience; and while he benefitted them by his instructions, he did it with a modesty and an honest distrust of human knowledge, which taught youth a most valuable lesson. On these occasions he was especially careful to treat the feelings of young men with a delicacy, which his own sensibility taught him to value.

Dr. Lloyd was elected president of the Massachusetts Medical Society at an early period after its formation. He was an honorary member of the American Philosophical Society, and was one of the first who received the honorary degree of M. D. in our University.

This excellent physician enjoyed great vigour of both body and mind, until within a year of his death. In the spring of 1809, he began to spit up bloody mucus, and felt occasionally a soreness and uneasiness at the breast. He did not mistake the import of these symptoms, but he chose not to make his family uneasy by communicating them. After some months, the stomach began to fail; and in August he grew sick suddenly, found himself affected with nausea and giddiness, while visiting a patient; went home in haste, and threw himself on a bed, from which he never rose to pursue his ordinary worldly occupations. He underwent occasional amendments and relapses, but was on the whole declining until March, 1810, when he gradually sunk under the irritation of a pulmonary affection, which did not seem to be formidable either in degree or in extent, but which the diminished vitality of eighty-four was unable to resist.