

**Addresses.****OPENING OF THE GARRETT MEMORIAL CLINICAL HALL AND RECEPTION WARD.<sup>1</sup>**

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It is difficult for any one intimately connected with an institution so old and renowned as the Pennsylvania Hospital to estimate fully the influence on thought and action of its very antiquity and renown. From the rooms that preceded the one we inaugurate, from the old rotunda, from the newer building in which until now successive generations of eager students assembled, have gone forth lessons that stamped themselves into the professional mind: lessons that stood by the listener in many a trial; lessons of readiness, of expertness, of cool determination in the surgeon; of profound analysis, of keen detection, of skill in meeting untoward symptoms, in the physician.

In the rooms that were anterior to this, have stood and taught those who were not unworthy successors to Rush, who for thirty years was the most conspicuous medical figure in this hospital — as, indeed, by his learning, captivating eloquence, and ardent zeal, he was the most conspicuous figure in the profession in the United States; and to Physic, the disguised surgeon, who, bringing with him into our century the appearance and manner of another time, stood before his class, with his hair powdered and clubbed, their idol, as in the tones of his cultivated voice he gave admirable illustrations of the conservative surgery of which he was the great exponent.

In those rooms taught John K. Mitchell, the versatile and gifted, with the eye of genius foreseeing the part minute organisms play in the production of disease; George B. Wood, as methodical and accurate in his statements at the bedside as everywhere in his respected career; William Pepper, clear in his descriptions and consummate in unravelling obscure processes; William Gerhard, take him for all in all, the greatest observer and clinician America has produced; John F. Meigs, inheriting with his famous name an interest in this hospital from the illustrious and inimitable teacher, whom also it is our boast to have had on our list, and showing here the same skill and kindness that made him the most sought-after physician in the community. In the old rooms also has been heard the voice of Barton, the pride of his colleagues, whose wonderful skill and ingenuity remained a tradition for long years, joined to regret for the early retirement from a profession in which, still young, he attained the first rank; of Norris, the truthful, honest, conscientious gentleman and teacher; of Joseph Pancoast, the brilliant surgical artist, devising processes that seemed to be the result of intuition, and practising, long before it was taught, a kind of antiseptic surgery, of which he himself did not recognize the importance or wider application; and of Agnew, the most esteemed man of our day in the American profession, cool, skilful, daring, yet of the soundest judgment, and a clear, concise, admirable teacher.

Thus, from the days one hundred and thirty years ago, when Bond enthusiastically, with the full appro-

bation of the managers, introduced clinical teaching into the Pennsylvania Hospital, and therefore on this continent — for it was in this hospital that the first bedside instruction in medicine was given — up to our time, there has been a succession of men bestowing publicly their best thought and experience without reward, or thought of reward, on those who were to come after them. It is scarcely possible for one who has long been associated with this hospital, and watched its workings with the eye of affection, to abstain from mentioning the present and his colleagues.

But if I may not speak of the living, I know and feel the influence they exert; I am aware of the love they bear this ancient and renowned institution; I see and hear in many ways how worthily they strive to emulate and equal the best records of the past, and to let the teachings of the Pennsylvania Hospital be distinguished, as in the past, for truthful exposition, sound practice, for enlightened, not blind, conservatism, for earnest wish and endeavor to contribute to medical progress.

The traits of the many distinguished teachers that have been connected with the hospital, and the influence of the character of the hospital itself, have formed indeed a great school of both practical medicine and surgery developing on rational lines. The men have formed part of the hospital; the hospital has formed part of the men. Nor is it only by oral teaching that the Pennsylvania Hospital has been helping to mould and guide the generations that have come here for instruction. It has also done its part in addressing the wider audiences to be reached through writings. It has given many an enduring gift to the profession at large. From this hospital have emanated or been chiefly promulgated the simplest, most direct and most successful treatment of fractures recognized and commended the world over; the method of manipulation in the reduction of dislocations; the use of animal ligatures in surgery; the distinction of typhoid fever as a separate form of fever in America, and as pre-eminently the fever of this country; some of the earliest, and to this day the best, descriptions of remittent fever and its consequences; the connections of joint affections with spinal diseases; the now universally adopted treatment of sunstroke by ice, and other forms of treatment that have become standard. To this — and it is but a partial list — may be added the description of many new operative processes by such masters in the art as Barton, Pancoast, Agnew, Levis; essays and clinical lectures innumerable by observers like Gerhard, Stewardson, Pepper and Hutchinson. And all have the same stamp of directness, truthfulness, careful observation and practical value. It is greatly to be regretted that so much of this literature is scattered, and has not been collected in the way Guy's Hospital and other great hospitals bring together the work of their men. Some years ago the attempt was made, and two volumes were issued; but the undertaking had to be abandoned with reluctance on account of the expense, with all the greater reluctance because the volumes were most warmly received and lauded.

But to return to the clinical teaching of the hospital. It has taken a profound hold on the medical mind of the county, more profound, perhaps, than we who live in large centres realize. If I may be pardoned for speaking of what has happened to me personally, and of what is, I know, equally the experi-

<sup>1</sup> An Address delivered at the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, April 23, 1897.

ence of my colleagues, I have often, when summoned out of town into a remote region, met a physician who, as soon as the immediate cause of our conference had been attended to, would ask me about some case he had heard expounded ten, fifteen or twenty years before at the Pennsylvania Hospital; or quote, in support of his view of the malady before us, a case there seen, and describe it so vividly that it seemed as if it had been but yesterday met with. And once, in the wilds of Colorado, encountering a middle-aged man who introduced himself to me, he asked, almost as his first remark, "Did the patient brought before us at a clinic," the date of which he mentioned "recover?" "What were the subsequent symptoms?" "And did all turn out as supposed?" I am ashamed to say his memory of all the circumstances was better than mine, and I could only give him a general answer, which, I fear, lowered me greatly in his estimation.

This wide diffusion of knowledge, this living interest in the doings of a hospital, is one of the advantages of clinical teaching, and it is certain that the hospital that neglects it, neglects a great means of doing widespread good. Moreover, it shuts itself off from the world; it has no ardent friends everywhere with its name on their tongues; it becomes purely local in its character and aims. It never takes rank with the first institutions of its kind, and must be content with a second or third-rate reputation.

Establishments for the sick existed in the time of the Romans. Hospitals, as we understand the term, have been founded since the fourth century. They were spoken of in the Council of Nicaea in 325, as institutions well-known and deserving support and encouragement. The *Hôtel Dieu*, with its motto, "*Medicus et Hospes*," began to receive the sick and destitute about the year 600. The Grand Hospital of Milan, with its several thousand patients, occupies the same building it did in 1466. But who has heard or knows anything of these hospitals, unless from their walls has gone forth something that has taught and been made use of to others; something that, in the minds of regardful men, has become identified with the progress of investigation and of ideas; something that, thrown on the billows of thought, has been carried far onward in the ocean of knowledge?

Clinical teaching, rightly conducted, is a benefit to the sick. There is an opinion that it is only of use to the medical profession, and especially to those about to enter it. To them, indeed it is invaluable, and through them to whole communities. But it is valuable, too, to the patients themselves. The very publicity of it, the hundreds of critical eyes with which it is watched, ensures that the best thought is given to the helpless and the sick. There must be accuracy, there must be the most strenuous effort for relief, where there are many eager watchers; and the influence of all this is, that the habit thus acquired is transferred to ward work, which in its turn becomes more exact. There is very rarely any objection on the part of the patient to having his case publicly investigated. On the contrary, he likes it, and is apt to seek it; he regards it as a mark of interest. To most teachers it has happened to see offended women bursting into tears, because, owing to inability to do so in the time allotted, they had not been taken to the clinic room after being spoken to about it; they were provoked at the favoritism thought to have been shown. Then it must be always remembered that the

very ill, or any whom it might possibly injure, are not taken before the class. No one with a spark of humanity thinks of such a thing. Certainly in this hospital the claims of patients have never been subordinated to bedside teaching, and, judging by the past, and the record to which we hold, never will be. We recognize, indeed, that we bring to this new room much from the time gone by. We are sensible that the old memories, the old traditions, the old spirit, are moving with us into this admirably arranged edifice. We feel their power, and no member of this ancient hospital can be unmindful of the strength of their hold on his fullest exertions and truest sympathies.

But the splendid room in which we are assembled has other uses than merely those connected with teaching. It is but a part of this Garrett Memorial Building that it will be alike a lasting monument to the generous philanthropists that endowed it, and to the forethought, the sagacity, the advanced knowledge, of those that planned it. Here is seen in a completeness nowhere, I believe, as yet equalled, an operating pavilion in which to make modern surgical treatment with its marvellous antiseptic results even more than ordinarily successful. The most minute details are attended to; years of professional experience have contributed to their elaboration. It is the perfection of mechanical ingenuity, the apotheosis of cleanliness, and, with its numerous attractive appliances, its movable tables, its large brass instruments, its adjacent tiled and marble dressing-rooms, would be fascinating, if one could only prevent a thought of the grim purpose of all this beauty from entering the mind.

Then, in this building with its combinations of means, other most valuable arrangements are manifest. There is a room devoted exclusively to operations upon those with infectious diseases that can be filled with live steam at a slight pressure; a room for the employ of the x-rays; there is electro apparatus for resuscitation and treatment; there are rooms for etherization. Then, in the other parts of the building—for it is more than a mere structure for lecturing and operating purposes—are rooms with every facility for immediate treatment of those brought here too ill or too severely injured to be moved further; there are "quiet" or recovery wards for those whom noise might injure, or who have passed the worst stages; and receiving wards for the reception and distribution to the appropriate places of all patients who are not too ill to be at once assigned to the main medical or surgical hospital. Here, then, is a building of wide interest and beneficial purpose, planned to meet what years of thought and experience have shown to be the most desirable, and executed in a manner that makes it not only a credit to the Pennsylvania Hospital, but to the city, and the country.

This building, too, is only one of the improvements that the present Board of Managers has gradually effected. They have step by step transformed the hospital. An admirable School for Nurses, with a separate building erected by the generosity of the Misses Blanchard; a Surgical Hospital, due to the munificence of the family of their former President, Wistar Morris, whose memory it worthily celebrates; an endowed Out-door Department, with every facility, the gift of William E. Garrett, Jr., one of the same family that gives this Memorial Building; the reconstruction of the old building in a manner that makes it the equal of any modern hospital,—all this surely

shows careful thought, far-sighted action. The community which believes in them has, little by little, occasionally in large sums, supplied them with the means, and, as it is seen how they are used, the springs of benevolence are expanding into broad streams. But they never can be too broad; the need is still great. This hospital, once to a considerable extent supported by those who entered it, is now almost entirely a free hospital, open at all times to those of every nationality and every creed. It still spends more than its income in their support; but, owing to the feeling of affection and pride which the community has for it, and the trust in a management which one of my former colleagues in an address has described as an active, intelligent body which never wastes, never misappropriates, it meets all demands, and increases steadily. It instinctively attracts to it, both in its managers and warm friends, those who love their fellow-men, who have a genius for philanthropy, and calls forth the large bequests that, in virtue of the affection and trust it has inspired, have alone made possible the changes in this hospital, which are so splendidly transforming it. If it continue to grow on these broad lines, it will not be long before, in addition to its antiquity and renown, it will be cited as being one of the foremost developments of the hospital idea in its best form among the modern hospitals anywhere. How all this would have delighted the benevolent souls who founded it! How gladly would Bond be with us to-day, viewing the growth of what his humanity suggested; and if, at the first meeting of the managers in December, 1756, to inspect the new wards before the sick were admitted, they could have foreseen to what the hospital would attain, what would have been their gratification. Perhaps the then President of the Board, the great American, Benjamin Franklin, did; and we can see in the pleasure in his benign face, in the light in his large gray eyes, that there has come to him the vision of what, through the natural sciences so dear to him, through the intelligent care of successors as worthy and as true to their trust as the friends that there surround him, had grown to be structures as complete as his imagination could have pictured, and as full of such appliances as his genius would have delighted in, and have surely added to. If there could come to us from that vision into the unseen world an expression of the appreciation it occasioned, warm words of approbation would surely reach those whose crowned efforts we are to-day inspecting.

But in all the changes, you, the Directors of this great charity, are effecting, one appeal we still make to you for action in a matter we know you are contemplating, and the importance of which our daily work forces on us. Give us a laboratory commensurate with the dignity and reputation of this hospital. It will be one more claim to gratitude, not only of the profession, but of the ill and injured, and, in its far-reaching results, of science and of posterity. It is no longer possible, it is becoming scarcely conceivable, that physician or surgeon can recognize disease as completely, or treat it as well as it can be treated, without the aid of laboratory facilities. Good work he may still do; but it will not be his best, and very far from the best that can be done. The time has passed for mere bedside labor, and in justice to the sick and injured, in justice to those exposed to possible contagion, laboratory work must supplement or guide

professional effort. Crown, then, your work with what is a recognized need of the day! Crown it with what will have the beginnings in it to develop with the wants a portentous future: crown it with a laboratory that now and in times to come will gladden those who look for guidance to this famed institution.

But we well know that for the great plan of which the completed structure we are now in is but a part, neither means nor opportunity exists to accomplish everything at once. For all that has been done already there is true appreciation and gratitude. For the building which is formally opened to-day, let us here express it. It stands as a monument of generosity, of enlightenment, and of ideas carried to perfect conclusion. Noble was the thought that conceived it; noble the thought in one who bore the name of a family that was already among the great benefactors of this hospital to add to a large bequest all that was needed to make the ardently desired beneficent plans a reality. In this Garrett Memorial Building, with an equipment in which nothing that the most advanced science can suggest is absent, pain is to be abolished, the best possible results ensured to the injured and distressed. From here lessons will go forth that will penetrate into every hamlet. Men now, men in years to come, will, during many an arduous struggle of a long career, turn to it with a sense of gratitude to the generous donor, through whose aid many of their difficulties are smoothed, by giving them an opportunity of witnessing how difficulties could be best overcome. And, further, he who is brought to these emergency wards, stricken or so injured that he cannot be moved another step without the gravest risk, the most destitute, the most wealthy, will be treated with appliances and in a manner that not many years ago the most powerful of the earth could not have commanded, and will learn to give thanks reverently, that there were noble-minded souls that so splendidly and thoughtfully provided for his dire necessities.

## THE INFLUENCE OF ANESTHESIA ON THE SURGERY OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.<sup>1</sup>

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President of the American Surgical Association.

GENTLEMEN: In selecting a topic for the annual address before such a body as this, it seemed to me desirable that the opportunity should not be lost to refer to the great event—the fiftieth anniversary of which has so recently been celebrated—an event which is so indelibly associated with American Surgery, but one in the commemoration of which the whole world joined with us.

As one of the staff of surgeons whose predecessors played so prominent a part in the introduction of anesthesia, I feel it incumbent on me to recall to you to-day some of the great changes which it helped to bring about. Let me turn your attention first to the century which preceded anesthesia.

It is difficult to realize the crude state of surgical knowledge and technique, and the relation it still bore to medicine even so late as the eighteenth century. In the previous century it was quite beneath the dignity of a medical man of standing to do any surgical

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at Washington, D.C., May 4, 1897, before the American Surgical Association.