

ization of Local Health Regulations," and by Mr. Seymour H. Stone of Boston on "The Incurable Consumptive."

AESCULAPIAN MIDWINTER MEETING.—The eleventh annual midwinter meeting of the Aesculapian Club of Boston was held at the Harvard Club on Saturday evening, January 8, 1916, at 9 p.m. One hundred members and 150 invited guests were present. The principal address was by Major Noble of the United States Army Medical Corps, who spoke of the great inadequacy of the present medical corps of the United States Army and Navy, and illustrated by figures and comparisons from the Civil War and present European conflict. He outlined the needs of the service and functions which should be fulfilled by civil physicians. He emphasized the need of filling the United States Medical Reserve Corps to its fullest capacity and referred to the course on military medicine which is to be given at the Harvard Medical School by Major Chamberlain.

WORK OF WORCESTER BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.—The Health Department announces to the physicians of Worcester that its Bacteriological Laboratory, after January 1, 1916, will be prepared to do the Wassermann test for syphilis and the so-called complement-fixation test for gonorrhea. This gonorrheal test is especially for the more hidden manifestations of this disease, such as "rheumatism," pyosalpingitis, etc.

These tests and the outfits for collecting the specimens will be furnished free of charge to physicians of Worcester. The tests will be made on Tuesdays and Fridays at the City Hospital laboratory, under the supervision of Dr. F. H. Baker, bacteriologist, and Dr. E. B. Bigelow, assistant bacteriologist, of this Department.

The history blank accompanying the outfit must be filled out completely with the exception that for name and address letters or numbers may be substituted.

It is to be distinctly understood that these examinations are only for bona fide residents of Worcester.

The Bacteriological Laboratory was opened August 1, 1894, and below is a list of diseases in which diagnostic work is undertaken, with the date of its inception.

1894 Diphtheria
1902 Tuberculosis
1908 Typhoid Fever
1908 Malaria
1916 Syphilis
1916 Gonorrhoea

The Laboratory has examined in all about 80,000 specimens.

Obituary.

DAVID WILLIAMS CHEEVER, M.D.

DAVID WILLIAMS CHEEVER, A.B., M.D., LL.D. (Harv.), was born in Portsmouth, N. H., November 30, 1831, and died in Boston, December 27, 1915, aged 84. He was the son of Dr. Charles Augustus and Adeline (Haven) Cheever, and the grandson of Dr. Abijah Cheever. He was a lineal descendant in the seventh generation from Ezekiel Cheever, who came from Canterbury, England, in 1637, was the first master of the Boston Latin School and eminent as a teacher for 70 years. Of the seven generations, four were graduated at Harvard and five were professional men.

Dr. Cheever graduated from Harvard in 1852 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1858. He at once began practice in Boston and continued therein for 56 years. In the early years of his professional life he saw a variety of service. He wrote for the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *North American Review*, and many papers for the medical journals. He was editor of the *BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL* a year and had charge of a hospital for smallpox for a time. He was acting assistant surgeon in the Judiciary Square Hospital, in Washington, for two months in 1862.

When Dr. Cheever began practice there were no specialists. All were general practitioners, a few paying more or less attention to surgery. In ten years the subject of this sketch had built up a large practice, including obstetrics. Heredity and other influences led him to pay especial attention to surgery. His grandfather was a surgeon in the Revolution and his father did the surgery in his vicinity. Doubtless the doctor's philosophical mind had most to do in his choice of a specialty. As he has well said, surgery is plain work compared to medicine. Its results are to be seen. The conditions are more controllable and hence the work is more satisfactory.

Dr. Cheever's appointment as demonstrator of anatomy at the Harvard Medical School in 1860, and that of surgeon at the Boston City Hospital upon its inauguration in 1864, gave him ample opportunities to fit himself for his brilliant career as a surgeon. His work at the Hospital and his teaching at the Harvard Medical School continued all his active professional life. In 1868 he was appointed adjunct professor of clinical surgery, professor of clinical surgery in 1875, professor of surgery in 1882, and professor emeritus in 1893. At this time he was made surgeon emeritus at the City Hospital.

In his opinion it was the duty of those holding hospital appointments "to give personal oversight to their patients, to teach, to write, to publish, to support and harmonize the staff, the trustees, the administration." He did all this and more. His sound judgment and wise counsel were always at the service of his fellows. As

a teacher he was clear, concise and practical. "Predigestion, terseness and extemporaneous speaking," in his opinion, were the chief factors of his success in teaching.

Aside from his "Lectures on Surgery," dedicated to 33 classes that had received his instruction, and five volumes of Medical and Surgical Reports of the Boston City Hospital, which he edited and for the publication of which he was chiefly responsible, he wrote and published more than sixty papers and addresses relating generally to professional topics.

Of his many miscellaneous papers, attention may be called to the following: Variola: The value and fallacy of statistics in the observation of disease (a Boylston prize essay, 1860, of lasting interest); Radical cures of hernia; Natural labor in phthisis; Leucocythemic tumors; Spontaneous fractures; Obstruction of the bowels; Dangers from anesthesia; Is the study of medicine a liberal education?; Medicine as a trade and as a profession; Shattuck Lecture on the new surgery; Does medicine advance?; Evolution checked; Mental condition before operation; Privileged medical communication; The ideal doctor; Medicine and religion; Reminiscences of his professional life; and several others that will appear later. The character of his writings, however, is of far more importance than their number. As many of them have a lasting interest and value, it is to be hoped that a collection of them in a convenient form may be available in the near future.

For many years Dr. Cheever was a leader in the surgical world. He was deliberate and careful in diagnosis and treatment, bold in emergencies, thorough in his operations, and most assiduous in the after-care of his patients, their welfare taking precedence of everything else. His hospital patients were treated with the same consideration as his private patients,—kindly, thoughtful, painstaking. In his practice and in his teachings he insisted upon the importance of paying personal attention to details. Nothing escaped his notice. When possible, he kept his patients in bed a few days prior to subjecting them to a serious operation. After the operation was performed, he usually applied the dressings himself and often saw his patients placed comfortably in bed. He usually saw them a few hours later to assure himself that all was going well. Furthermore, his interest did not cease with the operation; the after-care was most faithful and efficient. The important details of his serious cases were never forgotten, thus serving as a sure foundation of his sound judgment.

The doctor performed many original, or unusual operations, such as esophagotomy (6 cases) for foreign bodies; the first Caesarean section in this vicinity; depression and replacing the upper jaw for the removal of pharyngeal tumors; removal of malignant tonsils through an external incision; Cock's operation for perineal section; excision of hip; removal

of the Gasserian ganglion for inveterate neuralgia; Wood's operation for the radical cure of hernia; transfusion, etc. He reported over 1200 major hospital operations, with a recovery of 85%, a wonderful record considering the character of the cases and the risks of surgery in those days,—mainly pre-aseptic,—when sepsis, erysipelas, pyemia, etc., were rife and practically all wounds suppurated.

Medical charity always interested the doctor, as he devoted no small portion of his active life to its service both in hospital and in private practice. He was emphatic in his opinion that the well-to-do in our hospitals should pay for the professional services received therein. The staff willingly cares for the poor without fees, but it is unjust to ask them to give their services to the rich upon the same conditions, as is the custom in some of our institutions.

Upon the occasion of receiving a loving cup from the staff of the City Hospital some years ago, Dr. Cheever spoke as follows: "In private life and in public life I can honestly say that I have tried to advance our profession. I have given whatever I could afford to give away solely to medical purposes and objects: the School, the Hospital, the Medical Library, the Medical Benevolent Society. The welfare of my medical brethren has been in my thoughts prominently and permanently." Every one at all familiar with his life can attest the truth of these statements. His life was consistent therewith.

Many years ago he established a scholarship in the Harvard Medical School for the benefit of first-year students, the first one of that order in the school, all the others being for the advanced classes. He also established a fund at the City Hospital for the purpose of presenting a case of surgical instruments to each graduate of the surgical department of that institution. While, as a rule, his charities were not large, yet they were numerous. As might be expected, they were judicious. He gave unfailing interest and help to the needs of many individuals who came to his knowledge.

Dr. Cheever belonged to several associations, chiefly medical, at which he was a constant attendant, frequently speaking and presenting papers. He had been president of the American Surgical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston Medical Library and the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society. He was Associate Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Hon. Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Hon. Mem. N. H. Medical Society, and Associate Member of the Surgical Society of Paris. He was an Overseer of Harvard University twelve years. He was trustee of Mt. Auburn Cemetery for the same period. He took much interest in cremation and was consistent therein. It was established during his service there. He was a member of St. Botolph and Boston Athletic Clubs. He be-

longed to what was known as the "old men's class in gymnastics" at the latter, and for 17 years, when in town, attended it regularly five days in the week! The doctor was always much interested in the Latin classics, having received a thorough drill therein in his youth, and reading them readily in the original. His favorite English novelist was Thackeray. Of late years he had spent as much time as possible in the open air, riding horseback, walking and supervising his farm in Dedham, in which he took the greatest interest. His long life was due in no slight degree to his calm temperament, his philosophical mind, his sensible habits, and the wise regulation of his daily activities. Many might well learn a lesson therefrom.

In 1861 Dr. Cheever married Miss Annie C., daughter of Thaddeus and Sarah (Chamberlain) Nichols of Boston, who survives him, as do four of the six children: Dr. David Cheever of the Harvard Medical School and of the surgical staff of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, now in charge of the second Harvard Unit at a British hospital in France; Adeline, wife of Dr. George S. Whiteside of Portland, Oregon, and Misses Alice and Helen Cheever of Boston, the latter well known for her interest in charitable work in this vicinity.

The prominent features of Dr. Cheever's life were character and service. His ideals were sane and noble, his tastes refined, his standards were high, and his daily life consistent therewith. He was truth and justice personified. His devotion to duty was limited only by his time and strength. Swayed less by impulse than most men, his judgment was sound and his advice dependable. He was a tower of strength and comfort in time of trouble. Kindly in his feelings, lenient in his criticism, just in his estimates of people, he was ready at all times to help his fellow men. For half a century he has been a guide and an inspiration to his fellows. His life has been a benison to his family, to his patients and to his friends. A fine type of man, a public spirited citizen, an eminent surgeon, an honor to his profession and to his alma mater, an occupant of many important positions and never found wanting, he will be missed in the community, and the void in the hearts of his family and his friends will never be filled.

GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.

SUMNER EDWARDS, M.D.

The death of SUMNER EDWARDS, which occurred on January 6, 1916, ended suddenly a life of much promise. Edwards was twenty-six years of age and so just entering upon his life's work when the summons came. After spending his boyhood in Bethel, Maine, he entered Bowdoin College for his collegiate training. There he entered very keenly into the college life; he

was a member of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity; he was prominent in track athletics, and in his senior year he was president of his class. He was an excellent student, as shown by his election to the Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from Bowdoin in 1910 with the A.B. degree. He then spent a year at Hebron Academy, Maine, before entering upon the study of medicine at Harvard. At Harvard, as at Bowdoin, he was active in the student life, being a member of the Innominate, Aesculapian and Boylston Societies and the Phi Rho Sigma Fraternity, and one year president of his class. He graduated in 1915, receiving the M.D. degree *cum laude*. In a competitive examination in January, 1915, he won a place as medical house-officer at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. About the middle of October, 1915, he came on duty for this work.

In his term at the hospital he was efficient, doing his work exceedingly well. His bearing was modest; he was pleasant in his relations to all of his associates on the hospital staff and to the patients, and so he came to be greatly liked by all in the hospital. His illness began, as did many of the cases of the recent epidemic of grippe, with a high fever and great prostration. In a few days lobar pneumonia developed in one lower lobe of his lung and shortly the other lower lobe became involved. The infecting organism was type No. 1 pneumococcus and from the early days of his illness he was very sick. His illness and death cast gloom over the entire institution. The medical staff has lost a very well liked member whose presence will be missed for a long time to come.

On January ninth his funeral services were held in his old home at Bethel, Maine, and he was buried in the cemetery on a low knoll by the river with a distant view of that lovely range of hills which he doubtless loved to look upon when at Bethel.

At a recent meeting of the governing board of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital the following resolution was adopted:

"The Board of Incorporators learns with deep regret of the death of Dr. Sumner Edwards, House Officer of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

"We deplore the loss to the hospital of his efficient and faithful services, and realize that still greater is the ultimate loss of a man of his promise to his profession and the public. We offer our deep sympathy to his mother."

HENRY A. CHRISTIAN.

JOSEPH HENDLEY TOWNSEND, M.D.

DR. JOSEPH HENDLEY TOWNSEND, for the past ten years secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Health and a prominent physician of New Haven, died at his home in that city on January 7 of influenza, culminating in pneu-