

subsequently closing the external opening. The attachment of the gall-bladder to the abdominal wall gives rise to no discomfort after a few weeks, and during the first few weeks it is very slight. In my own case I have fenced, sparred, swum and rowed without the slightest discomfort and without harm.

In a paper read before the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, in September, 1890 (*New York Medical Record*), I advocated as a result of an observation in one of my own cases, the attempt, in cases of contracted or friable gall bladder, instead of extirpation of the organ, to make out of the omentum an artificial sac and to stitch it into the abdominal walls, with drainage. Very pleased was I subsequently to learn that this had already been successfully put in operation by Mayo Robson.

My conclusions are:

1. That it is as hopeless to expect to dissolve gallstones as to dissolve stone in the bladder.
2. Protracted medical treatment should give way to operative measures in face of increasing frequency and severity of attacks.
3. Operation should be done early and not delayed until a forlorn hope.
4. Better a late operation than none at all where death is otherwise inevitable.
5. Cholecystotomy should be the operation of election, cholecystectomy never.
6. The mortality in the hands of expert abdominal surgeons is very small, probably less than 5 per cent.
7. In doubtful cases exploratory incision ought to be much more frequent, especially as the risk is infinitely less than the probable benefit.
8. A post-mortem diagnosis is no help to the patient, and but little satisfaction to the friends.

My views may seem dogmatic to many, but they are the result of the observation of many cases, of the disasters of dawdling, and of much reflection over my own operations, and especially the daily weighing of the merits of operative measures when my own life was in the balance, and the ever present apprehension and unutterable torture led me to accept for myself the operation which has given me the health and strength which I now enjoy.

THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT BERLIN, AS I SAW IT.

Read before the Kings County Medical Association, March 10, 1891.

BY E. J. CHAPIN MINARD, M.D.,
OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.

I saw the capital city of Imperial Germany in the early morning from an elevated railroad depot, on Friedrich-Strasse. After having washed the dust from my eyes, and given twenty-five cents for so doing, I took a look at my strange surroundings.

To see this city had been a dream of childhood. The roofs decorated with statuary and symbols, the clean asphalt pavement, the peculiar architecture of the buildings, the silent way of doing the city work, and the subdued, even tread of companies of soldiers going to morning parade, keenly excited my curiosity. I was satisfied even to *look over* the city which held the greatest ruler and the grandest man—Virchow—the father of cellular pathology.

The unexpected greetings of long ago friends, known as college chums, and the reminiscences of college life, made me feel kindly towards the whole German nation and at home at once. The friendly reception of the Secretary, Dr. Lassar, the acceptance of credentials as delegate, the presentation of the queer little badge, the assignment to the Gynecological Section, without fuss or blunder, were very agreeable.

The building in the Ausstellungs Park was the place assigned to the Sections of the Congress. It was noisy and close, there being no corridors, and much glass and skylight. The three general sessions of the Congress were held in the Circus-ring. It reminded me of the descriptions of a Roman amphitheatre, when Rome was in her glory. It was bright and gay with light and color. Its magnificence was enhanced by the presence of army officers and surgeons, who wore imperial decorations upon their gay uniforms, which were marks of fidelity in the service of a worshiped Emperor. Others wore badges sparkling with jewels, for work done in laboratories and societies. These gay trappings seemed a fitting framework for the eight or ten thousand scientists and scholars from all parts of the globe, who had come to submit to a tribunal of the noblest criticism, the results of their truest thoughts and most patient labors. It was an event to enrich a lifetime.

To hear and see Virchow, who, crowned with the knowledge of three-quarters of a century of research, has lived to verify and rectify his own investigations, and whom his countrymen have honored, idolized and *outgrown*, but who to-day, in his waning life, is *the one* scientist who can measure arms with the younger giant, Koch; to touch the hand of Apostoli, and hear him defend "galvanism" as only a master can; to return the smile of recognition on the broad, good-natured face of Martin; to look with reverence approaching awe upon the faces of Koch, Pasteur, Lister, Esmarch, Tait, Billroth, Oppenheim, Sir Spencer Wells, and a host of others, with more or less unpronounceable names; to find Lusk, Parvin, Senn, Wood, Billings and many others of my countrymen in their midst; to hear ten tongues and twice as many dialects spoken, yet to understand the universal language of science, and to be an accepted member of this great body of investigators and thinkers—is an honor to be

worn with fidelity that only those who wear the motto, "*Guard the Faith*," can fully understand.

Mexico met Russia; Great Britain met Italy; Spain met Japan; Holland and Sweden met Asia and the Islands of the Sea; France, shy and sullen, met Germany, and grew cheerful under the kindly greetings; and America, with her 657 delegates, had no favors to ask, nor had she need to blush for lack of talent.

But the extreme modesty which marked the demeanor of Americans was not pleasing. Perhaps our national nervousness develops self-consciousness—or is it a lack of university training?

Our papers were fine, and some led in the departments to which they were assigned. Brooklyn had her place. Dr. French led in his specialty—the throat. His paper was *sui generis*, as you all know. Dr. Parvin's paper equalled anything in its line; and Dr. Wood's address on "Anæsthetics" was a State paper, and was assigned a place of honor—that of the closing session.

To give an idea of the subject-matter of even a few papers is impossible. The most advanced ideas were treated respectfully and discussed fairly. Apostoli was hissed a little; but as it came from the French, we all smiled and applauded louder.

The whole line of antiseptic treatment culminated in one word—"cleanliness." There were new instruments, which Americans bought to bring home and improve upon. We are ahead in the use of the drugs (the new remedies) which bear the German trademark.

While listening to the papers of these intellectual giants, one could divine that a great tidal wave in science was imminent—and that it centred upon the discovery of Koch.

Every delegate will remember so long as reason remains, the scene when Koch stepped forward to read his "Researches." His deep-set eyes, so true and steady; his gentle, yet decided bearing, said so plainly that he was giving us the "truth" as he had found it; and scientists accepted it without question. When the greetings had subsided, it was far more interesting to watch the faces of the listeners than to follow his reading with the dull ear of my American German. The lines and shadows on the faces of those listeners from the ends of civilization quivered like the needle of the milliamperemeter, when the current is near. I have heard from forum and pulpit passionate orations, which have made my countrymen famous throughout the world; but this man who stood here giving to dying humanity a respite, would have been made a god in the days of Greece.

The social resources for festivities which a gay capital city has at its command were called into play, and the delegates were wined and dined and amused to satiety. The banquet at Kroll's Garden—"the good-bye feast"—"a hotel on a pic-

nic excursion," were things undescrivable to an American. How from ten to fifteen thousand people were fed and wined without fee, and how each coterie and table mixed without mingling, is incomprehensible.

Some one has said, "To learn at the fountain head of the masters, and to love historic Germany, is only scholarly."

We have all the facilities in our great cities for scientific investigations, except, perhaps, the deplorable class to practice upon—and may that never exist!—but we work too fast and are not yet painstaking enough. Few of us so far have had the patience to work up clinical material.

But the woman's side of this tidal wave of medical science may not be ignored. The furore with which Germany has received Koch's investigations, compared with the reception of Jenner's mighty discovery, points to the growth that has taken place in this great Empire in ten decades, and is suggestive.

When the Congress was younger and smaller than it is to day, it met in Amsterdam. A woman physician of unusual ability was put upon the programme with a paper on pathological studies made in Syria. Objections were made to her and her paper; but parliamentary rules were stronger than German barbaric usages, and she read. In august executive session this Congress voted that no woman should be admitted into its ranks so long as Germans held control. The Congress grew in knowledge and in numbers, and met now in one country, now in another, till it reached London. Titled and diplomaed ladies sought admission to it, now that Germans did not control. Surely their Queen would decide in their favor! but the Empress of India said, No! American women smiled, "for are we not all princesses in America?"—and turned their attention to work, fully believing in the "survival of the fittest."

The Congress grew, till it covered the whole earth, and came to Washington. Americans surprised it and taught it to respect Western medical work. Women physicians had become so absorbed in the work of "surviving" that it was entirely forgotten. A few captured the giants from abroad, taking them to our hospitals to show them our working material.

The re-instatement of woman in medicine has not yet exceeded a half century. This re-instatement began in New York, and was re-inforced by Berlin. England and Germany have the honor of the nationality of the first two regularly diplomaed women doctors in the world. One graduated from the College of Geneva, N. Y., the other from Cleveland, O. But only in America could this have been done; and only women from the Old World, well grounded in literature and midwifery, could have laid such a foundation as to-day underlies the structure of woman's education in medicine.

The result of her work has been to increase our number from eight to thousands within the past twenty-five years; to build two medical colleges equal to the best male colleges; and to graduate doctors with as high a degree of scholarship and preparation for work as male colleges have done, with a hundred years of experience, and a thousand of culture. There are now forty-seven colleges to which women are admitted in the United States and Canada, fifteen of which have been built for her alone.

Women doctors in America had now become sure of surviving, and when at last the Congress decided to hold its tenth triennial meeting in Berlin, they were reasonably sure of being fellow-shipped. One thing an American will not brook without resenting—that is being snubbed—so great caution was observed among a few, and quietly every line sent out from the executive committee at Berlin was scanned with great care. When a male delegate was asked how he thought Americans would be received he said, “They will be snubbed, of course; the German knows he has it all his own way.” The result proved otherwise. Americans were honored as much as they deserved. If there were individual heart-burns it must have been from lack of knowledge of local customs, or of the language. As for woman—without premeditated effort there were more than twenty women in these sessions. There were chemists, biologists, physiologists, botanists, dentists, and among these were fourteen women physicians, one being an honored delegate from the New York State Medical Association, and admitted as such.

Germany is now the only civilized Government where women are not allowed to practice medicine as physicians. Women here obtain their diplomas, usually, from Zürich, and are admitted to all the rights of midwives (which are many), but are not allowed to use the forceps, write a death certificate, or one of vaccination.

The admission of women delegates to this Congress in the face of the decisions of former sessions, was hailed with enthusiasm by the women of Berlin. “How did you do it? You do more in America in twenty years than we do here in a hundred,” was the greeting. “Meet us in Rome in '93, where *coeducation* has existed since Agnes of *Coronna* captivated with her mathematics and her beauty,” was the parting word.

Right upon the heels of this innovation comes the Johns Hopkins College, where post-graduate medical education of the highest order is assured woman; but she will have to do it herself. Then the Brooklyn Board of Health, through its successful health officer, has appointed from its civil service list, two of our number upon its sanitary work. Surely 1890 has been propitious!

There will never be more women in medicine than will be needed. The great advance made

in gynecology owes more to her entrance into medicine than will ever be told. None of you would be willing to return to the time of the untrained nurse, with her snuffbox, catnip tea and gin.

The first intelligent nurse at Bellevue was a medical woman student, who entered as a nurse to obtain the knowledge otherwise inaccessible to her. The cruel neglect and want of delicacy found in this institution, where help was taken from the workhouse paupers, suggested the necessity for reforms, which have culminated in the enlightened system for the education and training of nurses, which is one of the blessings of the age.

We might say that the work in this line in Germany is done by the Lutheran Sisterhood, who do through religious duty what our trained nurses do for the large remunerations which we pay them. And the success of surgery is due to the cleanliness and care given by this class, whether from duty or fee.

The woman physician stands to-day, side by side, not as a rival, but as a helper, to her brothers in the profession. Then open wide every avenue of learning to her! Only the best will satisfy her now. It is such a pity that so much vital force should be expended in hewing out new roads for learning. I returned from that great gathering at Berlin, fully believing that only upon the foundation of a university training, with ancient and modern languages, may the Western student hope to cope in knowledge with the scholars of the Old World, in scientific and medical researches in the future, without regard to sex.

THE CHAIR OF SURGERY IN RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE.

Introductory Address delivered before the Class, April 17, 1891.

BY N. SENN, M.D., Ph.D.,
OF CHICAGO.

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY IN RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE; ATTENDING SURGEON PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL.

Within the short space of four years ruthless death has twice vacated the Chair of Surgery in this college. On both of these sad occasions the faculty, students and alumnæ felt that an irreparable loss had been sustained. To fill the Chair of Surgery made vacant by the death of men who have distinguished themselves in their profession by honest scientific work, and have endeared themselves to their colleagues and students as exemplary and masterly teachers is by no means an easy task, hence the anxious inquiries from all sides and everywhere: Who shall be the successor? Who shall continue the work left unfinished? Rush Medical College has always been justly proud of its Chair of Surgery. Its founder was a surgeon of world-wide repute, and there can be no doubt that from its very beginning the