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JOHN REDMAN*

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MADISON, WISCONSIN



COLONIAL life in Philadelphia was established on a lofty intellectual plane, which found expression in several organizations having as their primary purpose the improvement of the members or of humanity at large. To Benjamin Franklin the Junto owed its inception and from this exclusive group of the leathern apron whose favor became widely sought, arose the Philadelphia Library Company (1731) and The American Society for Promoting and Propagating Useful Knowledge (1766). Both of these organizations have continued to function to the present day. In the case of the latter, an amalgamation with a younger group to

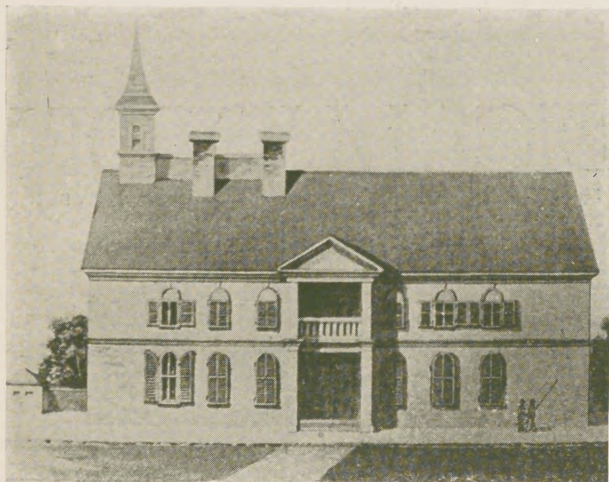
form the American Philosophical Society was effected in 1769 with Dr. Franklin as president and with two of its three vice-presidents physicians: Thomas Cadwalader and Thomas Bond. An appreciation of the part that physicians and medicine were to play in its transactions was foretold by this election. It was furthermore to be anticipated that as the several independent, but component, interests in the vast field of science should grow, daughter organizations would come into being for the development of their specialized fields of knowledge.

Thus it was that from the parent Philosophical Society, a College of Physicians arose in Philadelphia in 1787. Twenty-two years previously the Philadelphia Medical Society had taken its place as the pioneer medical society in the Colonies. In November, 1768, this group joined forces with the American Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge and in passing out of existence left no trace of its proceedings. The New Jersey and Massachusetts societies, inclu-

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NOTE. Sincere appreciation is herewith expressed to Mr. Charles Perry Fisher of the Library of the College of Physicians and to Mr. Bunford Samuel of the Ridgway Library for the photographs and photostatic reproductions included in this sketch.

sive in their membership and organization, were established in 1766 and 1781, respectively. It may then be asserted that the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has enjoyed the longest uninterrupted existence of any similar medical body in this country. Her roll call includes names of undying luster in service to medicine and mankind. Indeed, the brilliant past of the College is written in her Redman, Morgan,



THE OLD ACADEMY.

Rush, Jones, Shippen, Kuhn, Wistar, Barton, Chapman, Wood, Pancoast, Gerhard, McClellan, Norris, Stillé, Leidy, Mitchell, Gross, Agnew, Pepper and a host of other names high in medical attainment.

Naturally, the College of Physicians did not come into being spontaneously or through the efforts of a single interested individual. Doubtless, its organization had been for many years the subject of discussion among physicians of the city. The crystallization of the plan in all probability depended on the dynamic Benjamin Rush. At least from the Rush manuscripts there may be gleaned in several sources references to his expression of such a plan. On June 25, 1783, Dr. Francis Rigby Brodbelt of Spanish Town, Jamaica, in a letter to Rush implied the existence of such an institution: "I wish much to belong to your Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, and to be an honorary or ordinary fellow of your College of Physicians." A fellow Philadelphian, Samuel Powel Griffiths, thus

addressed Rush from London in August of the same year: "Your idea of an American College of Physicians is what has several times occurred to me." Furthermore John C. Lettsom, an English patron of medicine in this country, encouraged Rush in his plan.

The interested parties probably met to organize in the old Academy at Fourth and Arch Streets in September, 1786, but it was not until January 2, 1787, that the proceedings of the College began. This date is established by the minutes. In its constitution published in *The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser*, February 1, 1787, a high ideal was set for its existence:

The objects of this College, are, to advance the Science of Medicine, and thereby to lessen human misery by investigating the diseases and remedies which are peculiar to our country, by observing the effects of different seasons, climates, and situations upon the Human Body, by recording the changes that are produced by diseases by the progress of Agriculture, Arts, Population and manners, by searching for medicines in our woods, Waters and the bowels of the Earth, by enlarging our avenues to knowledge; from the discoveries and publications of foreign countries, by appointing stated times for Literary intercourse and communications, and by cultivating order and uniformity in the practice of Physick.

S. Weir Mitchell has described the first gathering in his inimitable style:

By the dim light of candles, for which I have found the modest bill, clad after the fashion of the day, some in Quaker dress and some in knee breeches, silk stockings, and low shoes with buckles, most of them carrying, I fancy, the gold-headed cane and the meditative snuff-box, some with queues or powdered wigs, a fading fashion, were John Jones, William Shippen, Jr., Adam Kuhn, Benjamin Rush, Thomas Parke, Gerardus Clarkson, Samuel Duffield, James Hutchinson, William W. Smith, Andrew Ross, William Clarkson, James Hall, William Currie.

John Redman, John Morgan, George Glentworth, Abraham Chovet, Benjamin Say, Samuel Powel Griffiths, Benjamin Duffield, John Morris, John Carson, John Foulke and

Robert Harris had been added to the roll of Fellows and Junior Fellows by the birthday of the College, January 2, 1787.

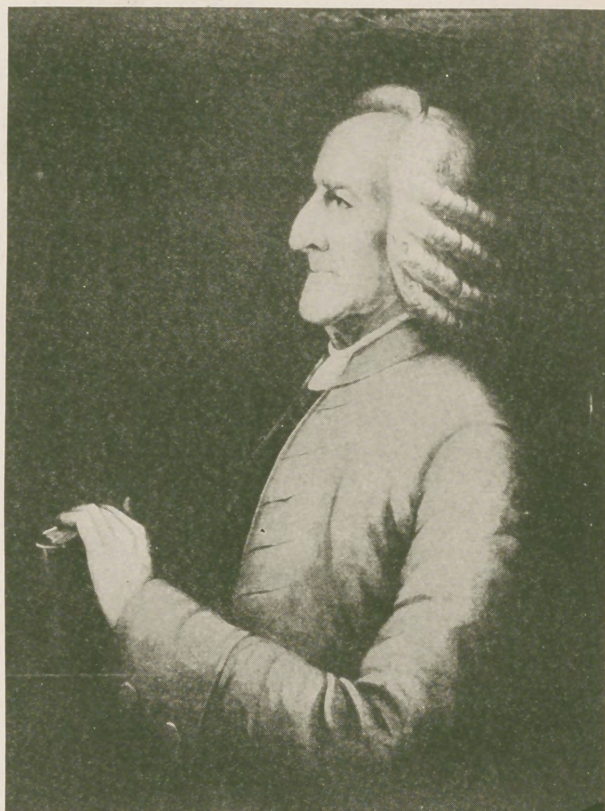
The first election of officers of the College was held in October, 1786, however, and to the presidency was elected John Redman, ripe in years and high in the esteem of his fellow-practitioners and fellow-citizens. His Inaugural Address was postponed until December, 1786, by reason of his inability to attend the preceding meeting. In accepting the high honor bestowed upon him, Redman expressed his profound gratitude and his sense of inadequacy. His habitual self-abnegation is typified by his words:

[I] look within myself and consider my powers . . . and also that line of life which I have walked in from choice, having in my constitutional frame no great desires of exaltation above the middle state, or high ambition than to conduct therein rather with integrity and usefulness than *éclat*. After such a view I say it would be vanity or Arrogance in me, not to suppose that my Election was more owing to the generous benevolence of your own minds, as a mark of respect to my age and longer Standing in the profession, and as a kind of disinterested testimony of your Approbation of my general Conduct in life and regularity in the practice of our art, Than to any peculiar merit of mine.

True, John Redman was the Nestor of the Fellows of the College, being sixty-five years of age, whereas the next oldest Fellow was John Jones, fifty-eight years old. Redman, in this address, voiced his regret that by death the honor conferred on him had been denied two worthy contemporaries, Thomas Cadwalader and Thomas Bond. He bespoke the assistance of those "whom I have the honor to call my professional children." The inaugural was concluded by invoking divine aid and guidance in the affairs of the College.

The physician who had arisen to this position of honor and trust in the first presidency of this new organization was a Philadelphian by birth, having first seen

the light of day in the city of his later professional achievement, on February 27, 1722. John Redman received his early education in the Reverend Mr. Tennent's Academy at Neshaminy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Greek and Latin were the favored studies in this boarding school and young Redman gained considerable facility in the classical languages. The subsequent clerical careers of his schoolmates, Gilbert



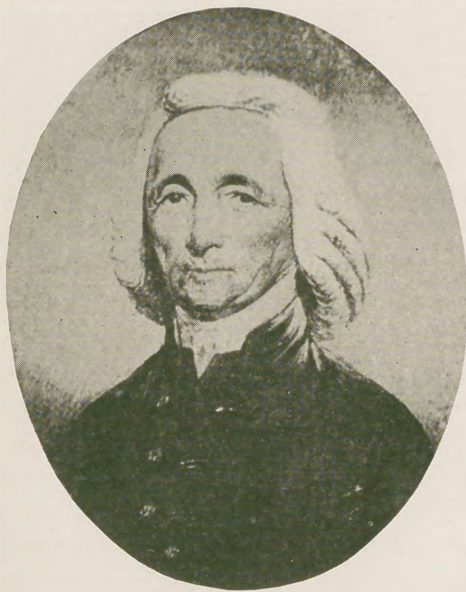
JOHN REDMAN [1722-1808].

Tennent, Daniel Lawrence and Rogers, undoubtedly influenced his religious devotions later in life, since these men corresponded with him regularly.

Redman's medical education began in the difficult apprenticeship under Dr. John Kearsley, Sr., of Philadelphia, of whom John Bard wrote that he had "a morose and churlish temper, which banished all cheerfulness and social converse from his pupils and rendered him an unpleasant companion." S. Weir Mitchell has enumerated among the functions of Kearsley's apprentices: "servant, coachman, messenger-boy, prescription clerk, nurse and assist-

ant surgeon." The Bond brothers, Lloyd Zachary, Thomas Cadwalader, William Shippen, Sr., Cadwalader Evans, John Kearsley, Jr., and John Bard complete the roll of familiar names of distinguished physicians who survived the rigorous preceptorship of John Kearsley, Sr.

In that day of sailing vessels the tide of commerce followed the trade winds and commercial intercourse between the Atlan-



JOHN REDMAN.

tic seaboard and the West Indies formed a larger share of the life of the English colonies than in the later days of steamships. The natural outcome of this relationship was the more common transplantation of young medical men from North America to that field. John Redman practiced medicine in Bermuda for several years. The opportune financial support of his father, supplemented by a loan from Judge Allen, enabled him to seek his finishing touches in Europe.

Edinburgh was in its heyday and it was but natural that Redman should find his way to the feet of *Monro primus*. Indeed, thither were to go practically all of the men who molded early medical education in America. So far as can be ascertained, a year was spent in Edinburgh under *Monro*, *Sinclair*, *Alston*, *Plummer* and *Rutherford*. Painsstaking notes of the young medical

student in Edinburgh, copied in turn by *B. Duffield*, one of his later students in Philadelphia, are preserved in the College of Physicians. Those from *Monro* constitute in effect a brief history of anatomy, whereas the *Alston* lectures on *materia medica* are much more comprehensive. The title page to the latter is interesting: "A Course of Publick Lectures on *Materia Medica* by *Charles Alston*, Professor of the *Mat. Med.* and *Bottany* In the Colledge of Edinburgh Taken from his mouth during the time of Lecturing By *John Redman* Student of *Physick* and *Surgery* in the same Colledge in proprium usum—Anno Domini—1746." Some confusion exists in the records of the sequence of events succeeding the Edinburgh sojourn. It is at least certain that Redman studied under *Albinus*, *Gaubius* and *Musschenbrock* in *Leyden*. Here he was graduated July 15, 1748, defending his thesis, "*De Abortu*." Redman concluded his essay thus: "*Faxit Deus Ter Opt. Max. ut Haecce mea studia et conamina dirigantur in nominis sui gloriam, proximorumque salutem.*" (God grant that my studies and labors may be directed to the glory of his name, and to the welfare of my neighbors.)

Completing his medical course in *Leyden*, Redman sought to further his training in the medical centers of *Paris* and *London*. Of the *Paris* period no record is extant. In *London* he attended lectures and further pursued his anatomical studies by dissection. His activities apparently centered in *Guy's Hospital*, from whose staff the following testimonial was obtained:

We think the character of *Dr. John Redman* so much deserves our approbation, that it is with pleasure we can say, that after having spent a considerable time in the universities of *Edinburgh* and *Leyden*, in which last he had the degree of doctor of physic conferred on him, and made all the improvements necessary to the knowledge of physic, he has with great application attended the practice of this hospital, by which means he has so well qualified himself that we doubt not his future success will

answer to the care and pains he has taken to deserve it.

Signed

—CLARKE, M.D.

CHAS. FEAKE, M.D.

N. MUNCKLEY, M.D.

Guy's Hospital

Feb. 21, 1748-9.

With a medical training far surpassing his most favored townsmen, Redman returned to Philadelphia. His professional success was early assured. Indeed, so great was the demand on his time and strength that he found it necessary to limit his activity to medicine. It has been stated that he eschewed surgery and obstetrics from a desire to specialize in medicine, but unquestionably the limitations set by his delicate constitution decided this issue. In keeping with the therapeutic principles of the time, Redman believed that more strenuous treatment and dosage were indicated for the American than for his English cousin. This curious fancy held sway for several generations longer, as the vitriolic Charles Caldwell bore witness. The principles of Boerhaave tempered by the British influence of Sydenham marked his early practice. It was characteristic of his adaptability that he should late in life absorb the teachings of Cullen and indeed adopt the essentials of the dissolute Brown. Throughout his life he stood ready to revamp his theory and practice of medicine with the changing tide of time. A phlebotomist of the old school, he measured lances with the most able of its opponents in Philadelphia, a position which found him at the side of Benjamin Rush in spirit if not in person in the trying days of 1793. Always punctual in his appointments, Redman held his clientele through faithful attention to their needs. Of his bedside manner a charming description is preserved:

In a sick room he possessed virtues and talents of a specific kind. He suspended pain by his soothing manner, or chased it away by his conversation, which was occasionally facetious

and full of anecdotes, or serious and instructing according to the nature of his patients' diseases, or the state of their minds. A lady, whom he attended in a fatal consumption, said to one of his friends, that "death had nothing terrible in it when Dr. Redman spoke to her about it."

Weir Mitchell was the spokesman for the medical profession when he stated that "one would like to possess the secret of this anaesthetic kindness."

A letter to one of his patients, a Mrs. Ferguson, dated May 3, 1773, is to be found in the Library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

Dear Madam:

I should have answered your favor before, but still waited to do it by my wife who tho very desirous of going, has been hindered by weather or some other particular circumstance till now. I am sorry that you feel discouraged at my saying I thought the case not wholly nervous, by which I only meant that there was probably some local debility, or impediments to the urine, besides what might arise from the general disorders of the nerves, and perhaps will be full as likely (if not more so) to be remedied, than if it was wholly in the nerves; however we shall be able to judge better after taking these medicines which I hope you continue steadily to use; Thus far I wrote when yours by Mr. Ferguson informs me that you are rather better, but not yet begun the pills, so that we must still wait for their conjunct Effects. I am sorry you are more costive under them, They generally have the contrary Effect. Let me know by the return of my wife, more particularly respecting the urine since you have used.

With due respects, I am Dr. Mad'm

Your affectionate friend & Hble Sevt

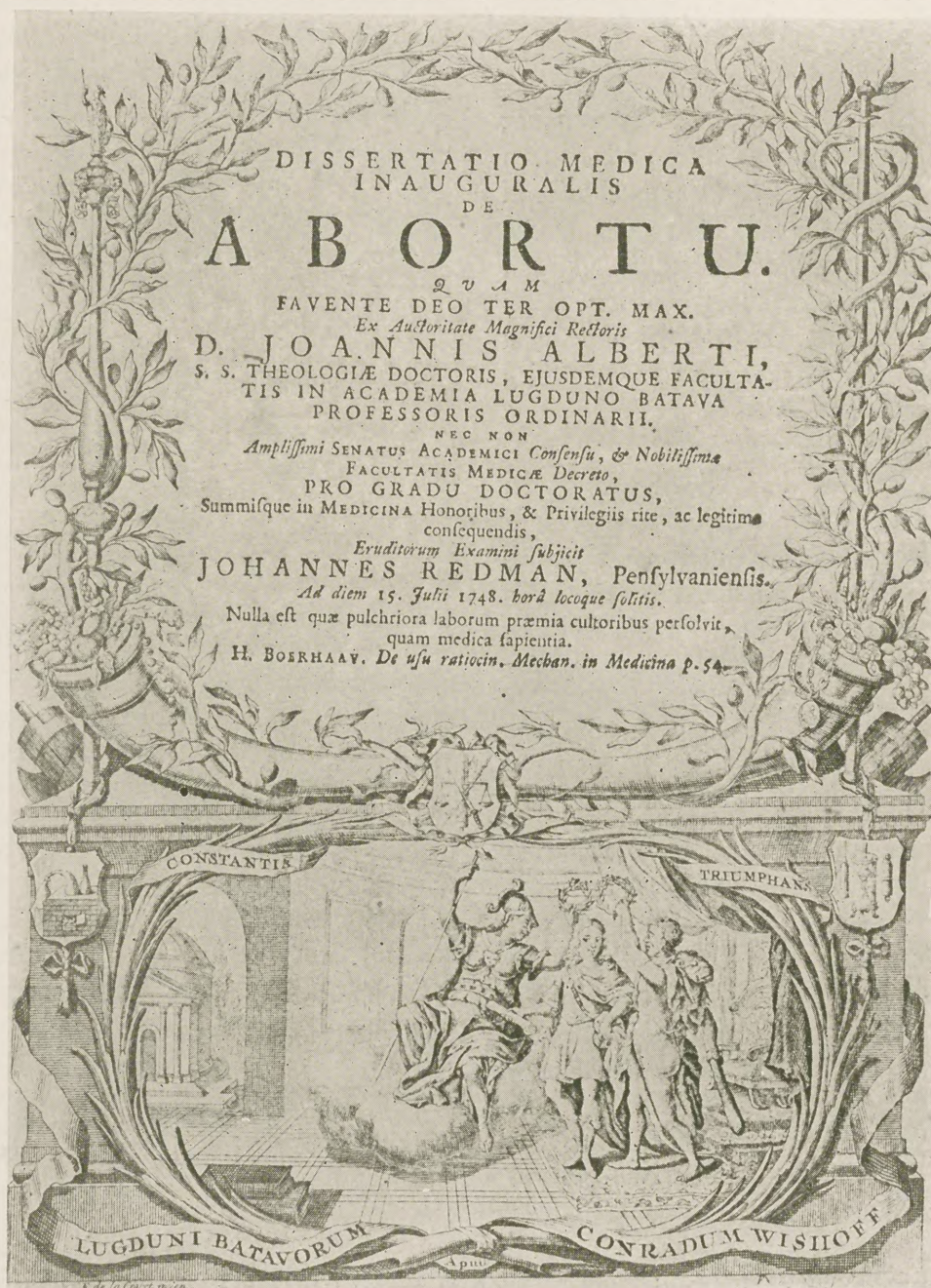
John Redman

Certainly no clinician would gainsay Dr. Redman's wisdom and prudence in medical advice on this account.

Watson has preserved an amusing episode of Redman's rebuttal of a seeker for gratuitous medical advice: Following his accustomed habit the doctor had entered a public house to do some writing. Whereupon the ubiquitous leech accosted him. Redman feigned deafness and the questioner repeated:

"Doctor! what would you advise as the best thing for a pain in the chest?" Dr. Redman meditated for a moment after replacing his tilted wig and replied, "Oh! ay—I will tell you, my good friend, the

extensive influence over the practice of medicine in this country than Dr. Redman." This reputation depended less on his medical practice, which could in that period have exerted only a very local influence, than on



TITLE PAGE OF REDMAN'S THESIS.

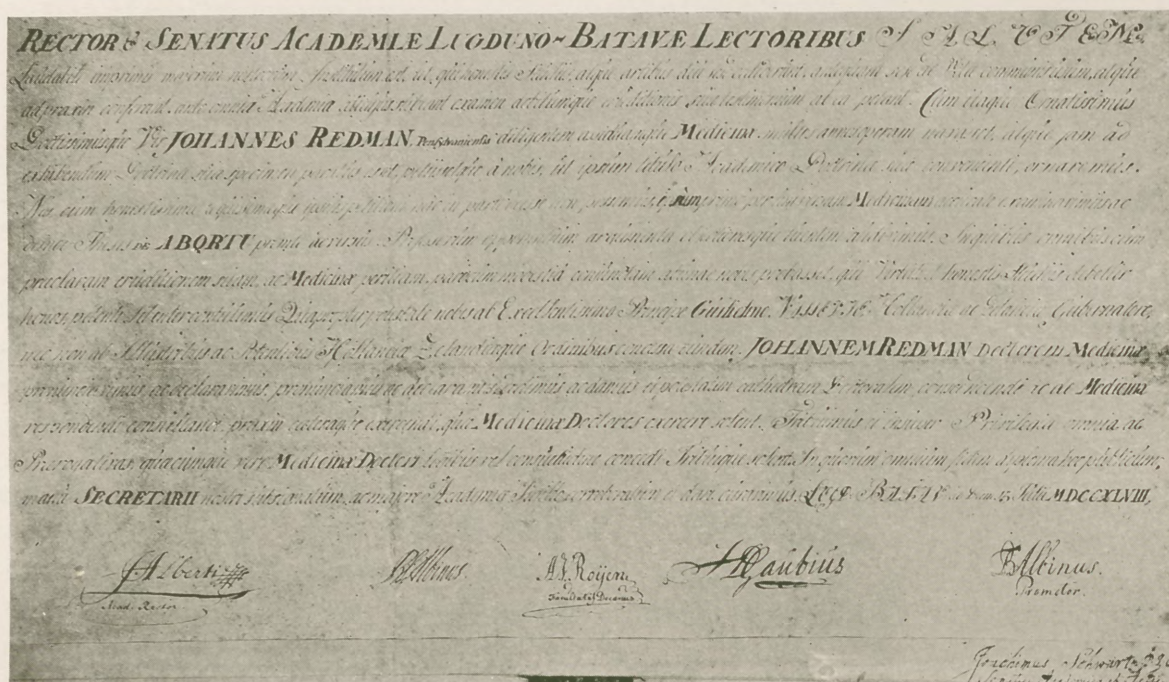
very best thing I could advise you to do for a pain in the breast is to consult your physician!"

To his patients he was the soul of devotion, and it came to pass that "no physician of his day exerted a more powerful and

his services as a preceptor and his active participation in every good work in the medical and civic community of Philadelphia. Redman was not a prolific contributor to medical literature. His graduation thesis, "De Abortu," was a creditable

performance, but obviously without bearing on the practice of midwifery, in which he was said to have excelled, but which he early forsook from ill health. As early as 1759 Redman published a defense of inocu-

imported from Savannah in the person of a sailor, stricken by the disease on ship-board, whose friends secretly brought him to the house of one Leadbetter, living close by the "new" market. For this short-



REDMAN'S DIPLOMA.

lation and urged the use of mercury as a "preparative" for smallpox. This pamphlet was addressed to the public and its convincing yet kindly tone won many adherents to the practice.

His account of the epidemic of yellow fever of 1762, prepared at the request of his "professional children" and read before the College in 1793, was deemed worthy of preservation for its medical and historical interest by that body as late as 1865. The chronology of this account was derived in a large measure from Redman's day book. The epidemic began August 28, 1762, reached its peak in the fourth week of September and ceased in the fourth week of October. This outbreak was virtually confined to an area bounded by Pine Street to the north, thence three or four squares south and from Water Street on the east (Delaware River) to Third or Fourth Street on the west. Redman subscribed to the belief that the first case was

sighted act Leadbetter paid dearly with his own life and with those of a number of his immediate family.

Redman devoted the great share of his presentation to the treatment of yellow fever. For the prevention of the fever he advised temperance in all things. He urged that the physician pay no visit to a sick patient on an empty stomach. An inevitable quid of tobacco in the mouth possessed peculiar virtue, since it prevented the swallowing of saliva. The danger of contagion was, in his opinion, much reduced through the fumes evolved by plunging a hot iron into a bowl of vinegar. The manifold prophylactic measures then in vogue were, with the exceptions stated, disapproved by Redman as affecting the mind, "with such fears as I thought were likely to render me more susceptible of infection than the omission of them." While an active bloodletter in many other conditions, he reserved the lancet in this fever for those

with a full pulse or attendant pregnancy. His active therapy was influenced by his old preceptor, Dr. John Kearsley, Sr., and partook most decisively of the polytherapeutic demands of the time. After the practice of Kearsley he purged his yellow fever patients with Glauber's salt, using one dram every hour or two for upward of four doses or until the "bilious matter was turned downwards and plenti-



CARICATURE OF REDMAN. (FROM A PICTURE IN THE RIDGWAY LIBRARY.)

fully discharged." To counteract the depressing action of such depletion, he administered "wine, vinegar, whey, thin gruel or Barley and raisin drink with a little wine in it." The saline laxative was repeated on the second day, but only two or three doses were given. Tartar vitriolate was exhibited as an anti-emetic. Carminatives in the form of mint or cinnamon water and decoctions of snake root were deemed useful.

A significant passage reveals Redman's conception of the disease and his reaction toward its therapy:

But a plain inference from our manner of encountering it is, that whatever might be the specific quality of the morbid cause, its effects were a stagnation and corruption of the bile and the contents of all the abdominal glands, dissolving the blood and other fluids, and thereby depraving and debilitating all the functions of life, and rendering them unfit and unable to preserve it, and that our chief curative intentions were to discharge the morbid matter as fast as possible, first by the *prima viae*, and then by the pores of the skin and the urinary passages, and at the same time using such medicines as tended to correct any acrimony in

the fluids, resist their effects, and strengthen the whole habit for their expulsion, and with such kind of nutriment as was adapted to the same purpose, or to restore strength to the debilitated powers after the disease was terminated.

This exposition of the rationale of the depletion therapy of yellow fever at that period is particularly lucid.

Whatever honor may be Redman's due in the world of medicine by reason of his scant medical publications or his preeminence in practice, it is far outweighed by his contributions to medical education. The physical isolation of the Colonies and their total lack of facilities for medical instruction afforded ideal conditions for the growth of the preceptor system. Indeed, only the favored sons of the well-to-do were granted the coveted opportunity for foreign training. Probably the inherent sense of the inadequacy of their local education impelled the more fortunate of the apprentices to follow their master's footsteps to Edinburgh, London and the Continent. On the other hand it was especially fitting that those individuals who had been so favored, should open their offices to "house pupils" and apprentices on their return. To share the board and in turn to reflect the glory of John Redman, came a most notable group of young men, including John Morgan, founder of the first medical school in North America, Benjamin Rush, the most brilliant American clinician of all times, termed by Lettsom the American Sydenham, Caspar Wistar, the first American contributor to anatomical science and author of the first American treatise on this subject, and John Redman Coxe, the founder of medical journalism in Pennsylvania.

Nor were Redman's collateral efforts confined to medical preceptorship; for on February 10, 1752, he was appointed to serve as a consultant to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Serving with him were Drs. Graeme, Cadwalader and Moore. With the managers of the hospital, several fellow consultants and some thirty students, he

attended Dr. Thomas Bond's introductory lecture at the latter's home on November 26, 1766, which preceded the first clinical courses at the Pennsylvania Hospital by one week. Redman's interest in this ancient institution of mercy did not wane until, by reason of ill health, he withdrew from participation in its active affairs after twenty-nine years of service. He, likewise, served as trustee of the College of Philadelphia and of the College of New Jersey. In the former capacity he acted from 1762 until the union of the College of Philadelphia with the University of the State of Pennsylvania to form the University of Pennsylvania in 1791. Whether or not his resignation was in the nature of a protest is not recorded. From 1784 Redman was active as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

His interest in medical organizations found an early expression in his membership in the short-lived Philadelphia Medical Society, the priority of whose foundation (February, 1765) has been established. At the time of its amalgamation with the American Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge (November 11, 1768), Graeme, Cadwalader, Redman, Morgan, Kearsley, Clarkson, Bayard, Harris, Rush, Souman, Glentworth and Potts, presumably the entire membership of the medical society, were constituted a committee on physic. Until his death, Redman maintained his membership in the American Philosophical Society, which succeeded the American Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge.

As has been indicated, Redman was one of the founders and the first president of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. In his relations to this organization he was most faithful. He was rarely absent from the stated meetings and his counsel was sought on frequent occasions. Thus we find him on the committees for forming a pharmacopoeia and for presenting the College charter to the legislature in 1788. The proposed general illumination on the occasion of Washington's passage through the city

on his journey from Mt. Vernon to New York in 1789 was strenuously opposed by the College because of a prevailing epidemic of influenza. Hence a committee, including Redman in its membership, was appointed on April 16 to advise the civil authorities of the danger. In November of the same year he served on a committee from the College advising the Legislature as to measures of prevention against the introduction of contagious diseases into the state. Singularly on this committee served James Hutchinson, who was to be a martyr in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. In his official position as president of the College, Dr. Redman advised Governor Thomas Mifflin in September, 1799, that it would not be safe to hold elections in Commissioners Hall, Southwark or in the State House on account of the fever, but that Town Hall in Northern Liberties would be an acceptable polling place. In November, 1793, the College rejected the Rush report to Governor Mifflin and adopted a substitute incorporating the theory of the foreign origin of yellow fever. On November 28, 1799, Redman, contrary to his own opinion and to that of his distinguished student, Benjamin Rush, then withdrawn from the College, affixed his signature to a majority report of the College reaffirming its belief in the foreign origin of yellow fever. The controversy which waged over this point threatened to disrupt the College and indeed had driven from its fold such representative men as Rush, Caldwell, Dewees, Coxe and Physick. It is a matter of some historical interest that with few exceptions the supporters of the theory of the foreign origin of yellow fever had been deserters from their posts of professional duty during the several epidemics.

Ill health deprived Rush of the active support of his preceptor in the appalling epidemics of yellow fever, beginning with that of 1793. Apparently his continued presence in Philadelphia, as related to Reverend Ashbell Green, during the epidemic of 1798 was contingent on the promise of

medical inactivity made to his wife. Redman had retired from practice at a relatively early age because of ill health, which had for years limited his activities. At forty years of age, Redman suffered from a subphrenic abscess, which, rupturing intrathoracically, was discharged through the bronchi. Subsequent to this primary illness there were frequent periods of incapacity throughout his long life. His famous report on the yellow fever epidemic of 1762 contains references to the infirmities of age, superinduced by rheumatism and influenza, and there is evidence that he suffered two attacks of yellow fever. Withal the feeling gathers that this old master marshalled his forces well to exceed the Biblical span by some sixteen years.

John Redman, the physical man, lives to posterity through several interesting word pictures. He was somewhat below average height. His eyes were black and unusually animated. His complexion was swarthy. The mental vigor was stamped by his active speech and gesture. Dr. James Rush wrote thus of his perennial visits on a fat pony mare to his old friends, subsequent to his retirement:

I remember him well hitching her to the turnbuckle of the mansion shutter, so that she always stood on the foot-pavement, when he visited my father which he made it a point to do once or twice a year. In the rough cutting of his likeness, which was given to me by a member of his family, the hat, wig, nose, mouth, chin, eye, dress, person, expression, and character are admirably true. The mare is not so well done. The doctor retired from practice about 1785, and was known to the public as an antiquated looking old gentleman. He was usually habited in a broadskirted dark coat, with long pocket-flaps, buttoned across his under dress, and wearing, in strict conformity to the cut of his coat, a pair of Baron Steuben's military shaped boots, coming above the knees.

Watson continues the description thus:

His hat flapped before, and cocked up smartly behind, covering a full bottomed powdered wig—in the front of which might be seen an eagle-pointed nose, separating a pair of piercing black eyes—his lips, exhibiting (but only now and

then) a quick motion, as though at the moment he was endeavoring to extract the essence of a small quid.

Another noted:

The Doctor was hard of hearing; but brisk and lively in his movement and address to any one having business with him, and pleasant to a degree. When spoken to, he usually lifted with a finger the corner of his wig from one ear, in listening attitude. While on the street, every one seemed pleased on observing the light elastic step of the very respectable old gentleman.

In the matter of personality, posterity likewise fares well in the vivid description of Redman. Weir Mitchell summarizes him thus: "A man gentle without lacking force, religious without a trace of bigotry, and finding in his faith only larger reasons for cheerfulness. Quick of temper and as quick to regret it; punctual, charitable, exact, a type of what the practice of our profession makes of the best characters, he constantly declined political place." Redman apparently mellowed with years. At least Christian forbearance and tolerance superseded hasty judgment and angry expression in his declining years.

Of the old home in Second Street near Arch, next to Dr. Ustick's Baptist meeting-house, only one room is preserved, through the medium of a descriptive word-picture in Poulson's *American Daily Advertiser* of September 26, 1828. Fortunately it concerns the Doctor's work-shop:

His antique study, in the middle back room, now merged in part of a China Store, then exhibited the remains of consultation and practice, in bygone times. Being kept there, one day, waiting as was thought an undue length of time for his coming downstairs, the writer could not otherwise than note the ancient Franklin open stove, placed within, and under the chimney as far as possible,—the labelled vials of various sizes paraded along the mantle piece and suspended over all, in a black and gilt edged frame, now soiled by dust and age, upon the spacious old-fashioned ornamented wood work an engraved likeness of "Horace," with mottos, almost illegible beneath;—old musty papers folded away, and old Books here and there; an old great coat also folded carefully

across the leather bottomed chair, near the fire. In the center of the room stood a small hoary looking round table, covered with faded green baize, and resting upon it, an old folio, closed;—a queer looking standish for writing, and a pen with untrimmed feather sticking therein.

Soon after establishing himself in Philadelphia John Redman was married to Mary Sobers, an accomplished woman, who bore him two sons and two daughters. The boys did not survive infancy, so that the name of Redman as derived by direct lineage was interrupted in the John Redman branch of the family. The elder daughter married Daniel Coxe, the King's counsel for New Jersey, in 1770. Maintaining his allegiance to the crown, he returned to England during the Revolution and his wife and children followed him in 1785. This detachment was especially trying to one of John Redman's sincere devotion. Nor did this daughter return until 1806, when the death of her sister, who had made her home with the parents, left the old folks isolated from kin. Mrs. Redman died, in the succeeding November, at the ripe age of eighty-four, after a married life covering almost sixty years.

John Redman did not long survive his wife. On Friday, the eighteenth of March, 1808, he walked to the home of his grandson for tea. As he attempted to light the candles it was remarked that he staggered. A stroke of apoplexy succeeded and Redman succumbed the following day.

Contemporary judgment and obituary notices are notoriously uncritical of the dead, and eulogistic effusions imply a verbal bias in favor of the deceased. With these reservations, the following notice from Poulson's *American Advertiser* of March 23, 1808, may be considered:

Died, suddenly, on Saturday afternoon in the 87th year of his age, Dr. John Redman.

This venerable physician finished his education in Europe, and graduated as Doctor of Medicine in the University of Leyden; for more than half a century he exercised his profession in this city with singular reputation, integrity and humanity, always and affectionately preferring the health and lives of his patients to

every other consideration. He served as one of the Physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and presided in the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, until his declining strength obliged him to resign those situations.

In the early and middle stages of his life, he did homage to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; but the evening of his life, was distinguished in a peculiar manner by the humility, patience, cheerfulness, and benevolence which characterize the Christian. His whole business for many years before he died, was to do good and to diffuse pleasure and instruction by his animated and pious conversation, to an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances. His remains were interred on Tuesday following, in the Presbyterian Church Yard, in Arch Street, attended by a large concourse of respectable citizens.

Thus passed from the scene of medical life in Philadelphia a worthy master of the old school. His type, with its superior training and lofty ideals of medical practice, acted as a stop-gap in a period of American history when medical schools and training were unknown. Indeed, the first medical school in America was not founded until fifteen or sixteen years after John Redman entered the practice of medicine in Philadelphia. Singularly John Morgan, one of its founders, and Benjamin Rush, one of the most brilliant teachers in its history, were his students. Still more significant is the present tendency of medical instruction to revert to the preceptor plan in the hope of regaining in a measure the lost art of medicine. John Redman did not live in vain.

Rush has preserved for posterity a toast once proposed to the medical profession by John Redman:

The dignity and success of the healing art; and long health, competent wealth, and exquisite happiness to the individual practitioner, who makes the health and comfort and happiness of his fellow mortals one of the chief ends and delights of his life, and acts therein from motives that render him superior to all the difficulties he may have to encounter in the pursuit thereof.

These words are John Redman's benediction to us, his remote "professional children."