

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF
PHILADELPHIA.

THIRD SERIES.
VOLUME THE NINTH.



PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED FOR THE COLLEGE,
AND FOR SALE BY P. BLAKISTON, SON & CO.
1887.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1887, by
THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA,
in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

DORNAN, PRINTER,
N. W. CORNER SEVENTH AND ARCH STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA.

THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, DR. JOHN REDMAN, THANKING THE
COLLEGE FOR HIS REELECTION, AUGUST 2, 1791.¹

GENTLEMEN: Having by indisposition of body been prevented from joining you at your last meeting and annual election, when you honored me with your suffrages, and reelected me to the Presidency of the College, I now take the first opportunity of returning you my hearty thanks for this renewed instance of your respect, the continuance of which, notwithstanding my infirmities, so evidently increasing with my years, leads me to add, that such kind indulgence toward an aged brother, arising chiefly from the benevolence of your own minds, demands my particular acknowledgements, and under that view gratitude obliges my acceptance of the office again at this time, which, otherwise in regard to myself, I should have wished to decline. For, to be candid and tell you the truth, I should not have been easy under the sense I had of my growing infirmities of body and mind for some time past, to have continued to accept the honor you have so repeatedly conferred upon me, but from the consideration that you always joined a colleague with me as Vice-President, whose eminence and reputation in our profession, and whose clearness of judgment, vigor of faculties, and easy manner of conveying his sentiments, together with his friendly disposition to aid me, fully obviated and prevented any ill effects, naturally to be expected from declining age, and rendered my situation more pleasant than otherwise it might have been. But though much and justly respected by us and all connected with him in kindred, friendship, or business, he was mortal, and he has gone—no more to return, to aid by his talents, or gratify us by his presence at our meetings, or cheer us by his affability, agreeable converse, and polite manners. And therefore (though somewhat late, and almost unseasonable), I must indulge myself in sympathising with you, and regretting the real loss which the republic of medicine in general, and our collegiate society in particular, have sustained thereby. Much did I expect, from his being several years younger than myself, and so well and justly esteemed by you, that he would be my next successor; and from a settled resolution, soon to request my dismissal (if not otherwise removed), I sometimes flattered myself with having the pleasure to see him raised to your presidential chair—to which I should most heartily have concurred, as well on account of his own merit and qualifications, as because it would have been highly gratifying to me to be a living witness of our college being headed by one whose eminence in more than one of the material branches of medical science, and reputation among our citizens in general was still very flourishing, and whose connections with and estimation in which he was held by the higher orders and ranks of them, was so conspicuous and intimate, as might contribute to the greater external dignity of the institution, and render its influence more powerful and effectual

¹ The college requested him to accept its thanks for his address, and directed that it be preserved on the minutes.

on any particular occasion of public utility, wherein it might be thought requisite, or be called to exert it.

But that I may not detain you longer on a subject now hopeless, with respect to him, I shall conclude it only with one observation or reflection, which, though partaking of the same gloomy complexion with the circumstance which occasions it, yet may be useful in application, and I doubt not may have occurred to many of you, as well as myself, that though our loss in members since the commencement of our institution may not have exceeded the usual proportion, yet I think it a little remarkable that the lot has hitherto only fallen on our officers (except one who had previously resigned his membership), though no certain, or even plausible inference can be drawn from it, respecting those in that capacity more than others, still I thought it a remark worth noticing, as it may be of use to them, as well as all, if duly and seasonably attended to and improved; and to none is application more proper than to him who makes it, and is the oldest among you.

And now, gentlemen, as it doth not become us to murmur at, and much less to arraign, any of the dispensations of that Providence, which we believe is ever conducted in its arrangements by infinite wisdom and goodness, and always for the best on the whole, or be so absorbed in regretting our losses, as not to remember and thankfully improve the blessings we still enjoy—leaving the mournful scene we have just been contemplating. I now feel myself equally incited by duty and inclination to congratulate you on the judicious and prudent measure you have taken to fill up the vacancy which the death of our late worthy Vice-President had made, by electing to the office a gentleman so properly qualified for it; who being born and educated among us, and after considerable expense of time and fortune had completed his studies abroad, was one of the first of those whose liberal minds and patriotic regards for their native country, led them to concert the plan for a complete medical instruction among ourselves; and was the very first who stepped forth with manly firmness and becoming confidence in the utility and dignity of the plan, in the execution of it—and whose steady perseverance and judicious prosecution of the particular and important branch he first engaged in, in conjunction with those who followed him, and his example, in the several departments which, by mutual agreement, they undertook, have not only accomplished their design completely, but in such a manner as doth them much credit, and gained them great approbation and applause, both at home and abroad, and to the great emoluments of our country and the students of medicine, who may now, under their tuition, be as regularly instructed in medical science, and as fully and honorably qualified for practice, as in any of those foreign seminaries which are much older, many instances of which have been exhibited much to the honor of the professors of our medical school. All which considerations pointed him out as the proper object of our choice on the late occasion. And, therefore, as I had not the pleasure to be present and join my suffrage, I now think myself bound to express my

hearty concurrence, and sincerely congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the Vice-Presidency of the first College of Physicians in America, and thus receiving in the midtime of life, and while your faculties are still vigorous and animated, this further reward of your merit and labors for the public good; as well as on that of your late election into another institution founded on the principles of humanity and charity for the pious purpose of affording relief to the indigent sick and deranged; where you will have the heart-affecting opportunity of exercising the virtues of the man, the physician, and Christian, and thereby insure and enhance the comforts of your declining years.

Nor can I omit congratulating myself on the well-grounded hope I entertain of receiving from the abilities of our new Vice-President (and from the goodwill and politeness I have always experience when conjoined with him on other occasions), that aid and support in my office which my advanced age, and debilitated powers and defective senses make requisite; and which may render my situation the more easy and pleasant while I remain in it, which cannot now be long, as I am persuaded I must soon recede either from prudential choice, or from necessity of another kind, needless here to mention: but which puts me in mind to conclude with declaring (as possibly this may be the last opportunity I may have of so doing on such an occasion), my hearty goodwill to and wishes for the prosperity and success of the College of Physicians in everything that may render it honorable and useful to our native country, now risen into empire, and rising in fame, and to the relief and solace of our suffering fellow mortals, and also for the peace and happiness of each of you its members in your several stations and relations, civil and social, both here and hereafter.

MEMORABLE DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE.

Institution of the College	Jan, 2, 1787.
Institution of the library	March 3, 1788.
Incorporation of the College	March 26, 1789.
Institution of the pathological museum	June 5, 1849.
Institution of the building fund	Nov. 2, 1849.
Institution of the Mütter Museum	Dec. 11, 1858.
Institution of the second building fund	April 7, 1875.

BUILDING FUND.

1849.

After it had been determined to continue the building-fund trust, Drs. Francis West, T. Hewson Bache, Edward Hartshorne, S. Weir Mitchell, Wm. Byrd Page, James J. Levick, and Robert P. Thomas were appointed March 2, 1859, "to solicit from the fellows additional contributions to the building fund of the college." They were authorized, April 6, 1859, "to