The Esculapian
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Published temporarily by two students of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania

The Esculapian extends its greeting to the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

It has waited long and patiently for admittance, and trusts to receive a cordial welcome and staunch support of the College staff and student body.

The Esculapian wishes to be a worthy representative of the most renowned and oldest "Medical College for Women in the World." It aims to promote the spirit of good fellowship; to furnish the several associations, societies, fraternities, as well as individuals, a means of communication; to call attention to current events of professional interest, and to be a storehouse for the little things and anecdotes, which, in future years, belong to the sweetest recollections of the "Good Old College Days."

To the Faculty, it respectfully offers its columns, to such services as the members may deem opportune. It desires to be especially instrumental in strengthening the relationship between the Faculty and the student body.

To the Alumnæ, who perform their duties in this and other lands, it offers means for maintaining and strengthening the union with their Alma Mater.

So, the Esculapian hopes that through the support and interest of all connected with the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, that its first appearance may be a small beginning of a long and illustrious career.

—The Editors.

The Doctor in Fiction

Henry Leffmann

The practice of medicine as an organized profession dates from a remote period. The Hippocratic oath is more than two thousand years old. Notwithstanding this antiquity and notwithstanding the gravity of the services rendered to suffering humanity, writers in all ages and countries incline to present the doctor in an unfavorable aspect. Plutarch, who lived in the first century of the present era, and who has done a most valuable service for moderns in collecting the anecdotes that were current concerning great men and women of his day and preceding times, scatters among his allusions to poets, philosophers, soldiers and rulers a few observations on doctors. The following is a fair sample of his sentiment: A physician felt the pulse of Pausianias and considered his constitution, saying: "He ails nothing." "It is," replied Pausianias, "because I use none of your physic."

Perhaps among the great writers of fiction who have been least unkind to doctors is Shakespeare. In Macbeth the physician is exhibited as acting with dignity and sincerity. Even in comedy, as in the Merry Wives of Windsor, Dr. Caius, although a somewhat eccentric character, is not held up to ridicule. In French plays and novels, on the other hand, doctors are almost always exhibited as pompous, affected, pedantic or jealous of their professional associates. Even in a re-
cent play intended for children—"The Poisoning of Pierrot"—this spirit is exhibited.

When we come to English fiction of comparatively recent date, we find a disposition to give more credit to the doctor. It must, however, be borne in mind that in England itself class consciousness has reached a high degree of development. The several strata of society are clearly marked, and each stratum is aware of its position in the scale, and is in the main content to remain in it. Now, the general mass of the medical profession is not on a high social plane. It stands below the professions of law and divinity (at least, the Anglican Church divines), the officers of the army and navy, and, of course, below the titled aristocracy. I think this is due very largely to the fact that the work of the doctor is a personal service, which is always, in the general estimation of the upper classes, more or less degrading. Another reason is that the medical profession arose in England directly from the personal service to the monarch. The Royal College of Surgeons of England is historically a development from the Company of Barbers, and was originally incorporated as "The Company of Barbers and Surgeons." Note especially that the title "Barber" is first, as apparently the more important. The fact is that while promotion to the titled nobility has been for many years in England open to many classes of the community (for some valuable consideration), brewers, grocers, lawyers, soldiers, very few such honors have been bestowed on doctors. Now and then, the humblest of such distinctions—the title of "Sir"—is given, but very rarely is a doctor made a peer of the realm. Lord Lister is a conspicuous example. In the case of Dr. Conan Doyle, who is now Sir Conan Doyle, the honor was not given for service in medicine, nor, indeed, for his creation of Sherlock Holmes, but for his ingenious and somewhat disingenuous defense of the attitude of England in the Boer War. Charles Reade has presented some worthy physicians, and Thackeray has given one of the most flattering descriptions of the function of the doctor when, in *Pendennis*, he says that "it is not alone to the sick man, but to the sick man's friends, that the doctor comes."

In modern English fiction, Charles Dickens still stands supreme, and his novels, dealing with the middle class almost exclusively, offer an interesting and extensive field for the presentation of the doctor. Dickens took advantage of this, and accordingly we find that the novels contain a numerous college of physicians. His first novel, commonly known as "Pickwick" (in truth not a novel, but a series of episodes), presents us with the two medical students, who will be remembered as long as English is a living language. It is not possible within the limits of this article to present even a fair proportion of Dickens' doctors for critical examination, but the entire series may be summed up by the statement that they fall mostly into one of two classes: the pompous and selfish, and the simple-hearted and unselfish. Very few of them are presented as men of strong character and yet of high professional principles. Mr. Chillip of *David Copperfield* and Dr. Losberne of *Oliver Twist* are good-natured creatures, with no important knowledge of the world. On the other hand, Mr. Bayham Badger of *Bleak House* and Mr. Jobling of *Martin Chuzzlewit* are presented in a light that cannot serve to raise the medical profession to any degree of respect before the community. In *Little Dorrit*, Dickens gives us views of the medical profession under a rather unusual form, namely as a type rather than as an individual. He has a character whom he simply designates as "Physician," and whose association with "Bar" and "Bishop" at Mr. Merdle's functions enables him to express views on the several learned professions. Not anywhere in the novels is a greater degree of favorable judgment expressed as to the
physician, and it will be worth while to quote a few lines:

"The dinner party was at the great Physician's. * * * Few ways of life were hidden from Physician, and he was oftener in its darkest places than even Bishop. * * * But Physician was a composed man, who performed neither on his own trumpet nor on the trumpets of other people. * * * Where he was, something real was. * * * It came to pass, therefore, that Physician's little dinners always presented people in their least conventional lights. The guests said to themselves, whether they were conscious of it or not, 'Here is a man who really has an acquaintance with us as we are, who is admitted to some of us every day with our wigs and paint off, who hears the wandering of our minds and who sees the undisguised expressions of our faces when both are past our control; we may as well make an approach to reality with him, for the man has got the better of us and is too strong for us.' Therefore, Physician's guests came out so surprisingly at his round table that they were almost natural."

In judging of the attitude of the great writers of English fiction of the middle of the last century toward medical men and women, we must not overlook the different status of medical science at that time compared with its present status.

Antisepsis and anesthesia have changed surgery from uncertainty to reasonable certainty. Preventive medicine and the developments of bacteriology and chemistry have enlarged the functions of the doctor and shown that the prescribing of pills and plasters, cough mixtures and oysters are but a small part of his duties, and thus have raised the profession considerably in the estimation of the public. Moreover, the thorough organization of the profession in all important countries, the power exerted through its numerous journals, and the recognition by the governing classes of the economic value of good health, both in peace and war, have done a great deal to give the doctor an opportunity to demand better estimation from the "intellectuals."

If another Dickens was to arise in England it is likely that we would read more about "Physician" and "Dr. Allen Woodcourt" than about Dr. Wosky, Mr. Jobling and Mr. Bayham Badger.

* * *

The Phipps Institute Reorganization.—Plans are being formulated for the construction, at an early date, of the new building for Phipps Institute for the study, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis, which is now under the control of the University of Pennsylvania. A board of managers for the new department has been appointed, with the following members: Dr. Chas. H. Frazier, Dr. John H. Musser, Dr. David L. Edsall and Dr. A. C. Abbott.—N. Y. Medical Journal.

* * *

The sneer, "Physician, heal thyself," has persisted from Biblical days to our own. Persons who unhesitatingly dose themselves when feeling out of sorts are unable to understand why a physician invites a colleague to advise and prescribe for him or members of his family. The comparative worthlessness of subjective symptoms is one of the last lessons learned by the unscientific; introspection is the most fallacious of guides to truth.—N. Y. Medical Journal.

* * *

I was a rhizopod,
A protoplasmic cell,
I had a little nucleus,
That same I loved so well.
And now I am a man,
By evolution's power,
But, oh, my little nucleus
I miss thee every hour.

(College Songs)
ABSTRACT

from

"The Real Function of the Tonsils and Their Relation to Immunity." By Bryan D. Sheedy, M.D., in Medical Record.

It is found that all the tonsillar tissue is derived from the hypoblast, and that "Waldyer's ring" is really the surplus portion of that membrane left over where it joins the membrane of the anterior portion of the nose, the epiblast.

The hypoblastic membrane extends from the oropharynx to the anal opening. In early fetal life this membrane is filled with lymphoid structures of a uniform thickness, but later certain portions become absorbed, while others develop and go to make the glandular structures which, in the oropharynx, are known as tonsils.

In the embryo the faucial tonsils are not developed until the fourth or fifth month, and therefore we must keep in mind that prior development does not depend upon the tonsillar function, and that when tonsils are enucleated after three years of age the child suffers no apparent loss.

In considering the early functions of the tonsil and their relation to immunity, we must carefully study the teachings of Goodal, Wood and Wright. They all agree (1) that the tonsils possess phagocytic properties; (2) that the lymph currents from the mouth and nose converge toward the tonsil; (3) that the lymph passes into the cervical lymphatics through the vessels. Some observers have noted that foreign particles pass with the lymph current through the epithelium lining the crypts, but that living bacteria remain in the crypts.

Consideration of the location of Waldyer's ring shows that the circular fortification of secreting tissue serves a good purpose. "All roads at one time led to Rome," so all channels, whether over or under the mucous membrane, lead toward the tonsil. Food, on its way to the stomach, laden with bacteria, is forced against some portion of the ring by deglutition. Food ejected from the stomach is also forced against it, and the millions of bacteria passing into or out of the body through the nose and mouth come in contact with it.

It has been shown that bacteria entering the crypts remain, while their toxins are passed into the blood. In the tissues, or by their presence in the circulation, these toxins stimulate opsonins, thus developing immunity. It is quite conclusively shown that all, except inherent immunity, may be produced by processes in the tonsils. Children of tender years are not thoroughly immunized, and during that time the normal tonsil, associated by other masses of lymphoid tissue in the digestive tract, show their greatest value.

It thus appears that in the young the tonsils serve an important purpose, and should not be removed unless they are so diseased that their functions are interrupted, when they may, and often do, become the portal by which the enemies of health gain admittance.

PERSONALS

Miss Rabinoff, ’12, who was recently in the College Hospital, is convalescing at her home in New York.

Little John has two teeth. Do they hit or miss?

Miss Elizabeth E. Clark, ’11, has been appointed assistant to Dr. Edward Tyson Reichert, professor of physiology at U. of Pa., who is doing special research work for the Carnegie Institute at Washington.

Miss Carrie Weaver Smith, ’10, has received appointment at Memorial Hospital, Worcester, Mass.

The following appointments to the internship in the Woman's Hospital have been announced: Misses Beaty, Morris, Updyke, Whaland, Mrs. Deland and Mrs. Kinney.
Miss Sassen, ’13, has discovered that ice is slippery. Since then she has made an exhausting study of Pennsylvania fracture boxes and plaster casts.

Under the good treatment received at the College Hospital, Miss Nellie Runan made a rapid recovery, and is again able to attend her college duties.

Miss Bauer is unable to resume her studies this year, owing to the death of her mother.

Miss Alice Cook, ’13, recently entertained her sister, brother and two cousins.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

All who turned out to hear the reports of our delegates to the Rochester Convention, January 15th, were given a treat. Miss Alice H. Cook, ’13, presented the “Origin, Growth and Purpose of the Student Volunteer Movement”; Miss Elizabeth E. Clark, ’11, discussed the “Conditions in non-Christian Countries Which Demand This Movement,” while our faculty delegate, Dr. Tracy, brought out “Our Relation to the Student Volunteer Movement.” Dr. Potter made things hum behind the scenes, and, after the reports had been given, sent out delicious coffee, sandwiches and cake.

The annual election of officers of the Students’ Association will take place in the near future. Have you decided who is to be what?

Arrangements are being made to have Miss Lydia Stokes Adams address the student body on the subject of “Suffrage for Women.”

The chicken and waffle supper and entertainment arranged for March 4th is for the benefit of the College Hospital. Our hospital is doing its utmost to meet the requirements of our curriculum, so we trust that a large sum will be realized.

THE ANNUAL RECEPTION

The College building of the Woman’s Medical College was the scene of a very pleasant social function on the evening of February 4th, when the Students’ Association held its annual reception.

It was a gala evening, and everything was planned in such a way as to contribute to the pleasure of all.

The guests were received in the Dean’s parlor by members of the faculty, the president of the Students’ Association and the presidents of the four classes. After the reception, the guests were escorted to the gymnasium, where, under soft, shaded lights and to delightful music, dancing continued until midnight.

The gymnasium was decorated very artistically with yellow streamers, each streamer being caught to the wall by a fancy yellow butterfly. College pennants decorated all four walls, while cushions, conch covers and potted palms helped to make the room extremely attractive.

The adjoining hall was also prettily arranged with couch-covers, rugs and cushions as a promenade for the dancers, and incidentally for serving punch.

Ice cream and fancy cakes were served by the Refreshment Committee.

The following members of the faculty and auxiliary instructors were present: Dr. Clara Marshall, Dean; Dr. Ella B. Everitt, Dr. Ruth W. Lathrop, Dr. Alice W. Tallant, Dr. Theodore Le Boutillier, Dr. Harriet L. Hartley, Dr. Martha Tracy, Dr. Ellen C. Potter and Dr. Sarah Lichtenwalner Myers.

Several alumnae were also present.

Among the guests were medical students and graduates of several of the colleges of the city.

Great credit is due to the committees who helped to make the evening such a success, and especially to Miss Whaland, president of the Students Association, who so wisely appointed the committees and their efficient chairmen.
Dr. Judson Daland, professor of internal medicine at the Medico-Chirurgical College, delivered a lecture on "Intestinal Toxemia" to the Students' Association, February 11th.

Dr. Ellen Potter and Dr. Martha Tracy entertained on the evening of January 28th, in honor of their guests, Miss Mary Tracy, of Japan, and Dr. Mary R. Noble, of India, who have been visiting them while on their furloughs. The guests were received by Dr. Potter, who introduced them to Dr. Noble and to two quaint little foreign ladies—Miss Tracy costumed as a Japanese and Dr. Tracy as a Brahman woman. Then the evening passed all too quickly for the guests while they listened to fascinating stories of Japan and to the indescribable beauties of a visit to Cashmere and to the wonderful adaptability and application of Indian women to the study of medicine. It was indeed a most unique reception and exceedingly enjoyable.

ALUMNAE

Dr. Jessie Canton, '86, and Dr. Mary R. Noble, '01, are home on furlough from India, where they have been actively and successfully engaged in medical mission work.

Dr. Elizabeth C. Spencer, '03, has recently assumed the duties of Chief Resident Physician, Department for Women, Norristown State Hospital.

Dr. Edith T. Waldie, '04, has entered upon a most successful practice in Pittsburg, her special line of work being diseases of the nose, throat and ear.

* * *

"The term achyia was used by Aristotle and Theophrastus in the fourth century, B. C."
Dr. C. A. R. Janvier, of Holland Memorial Presbyterian Church, is leading a mission class, Fridays, at 1 P. M., in Brinton Hall, on the most interesting of subjects, and one today of world-wide significance—Mohammedanism. Dr. Janvier, by his residence for many years in a Mohammedan country, is personally acquainted with Islam and its tenets and thus is unusually well fitted to teach the class authoritatively as well as attractively.

At the annual election of the Y. W. C. A., Wednesday evening, Feb 23d, the following officers were elected: President, Miss Love; Vice-President, Miss Kinzie; Recording Secretary, Miss C. A. Clark; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Huse; Treasurer, Miss Dayton; Librarian, Mrs. Welbourne.

BASKET BALL

The Sophomore team recently, in a hard-fought game with the College team, won by a score of 20-13, and with it the right to put up their pennant in the “gym.” Said pennant is in process of construction.

In the near future the same teams will play a series of three games—for some trophy to be decided upon later.

New recruits received at any time.

If you have any athletic ability, apply for a job.

Those owning automobiles will kindly leave them at the College Hospital for the convenience of patients wishing to take “joy rides!”

Some of our kind advisers seem to be in doubt as to the ability of our readers to understand the significance of the title that overshadows our joke corner. If any one has to consult Leffmann’s Compend. keep it dark from Dr. Tracy.

A Junior suffering from Boulimia is rapidly convalescing and gaining weight under the following prescription:

\[
\text{R Chocolatis Bonbonis. lb. iv. Signa. Four ounces every hour.}
\]

No more frogs and turtles for the sophomores.

The strike has proved to be a good muscle developer, but—a boom to the shoe-man.

Have you, at last, discovered the meaning of the mysterious posters?

What about the Histological Contest, Freshmen?

THE COLLEGE BOOK ROOM

will supply you with Instruments, Stethoscopes, Reference Books, College Supplies, State Board Questions

*: GIVE US A TRIAL *

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