

By George Washington Story
- 1824 - 1900 - 1910 -

Born - Bedford Cnty, Shelbyville,
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Dedicated,
To the Medical faculty
Of the Nashville University
Section 53 & 54

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Throughout the great arena of space up
which we have the high prerogative to move, and
contemplate and exercise our judgement according
to the dictates of our own consciences and with
the aid of thousands of literary characters and the
works placed before us and the circumstances in-
dependent of what has been said, we might it seem
through our own instrumentality gather laurels
from the highest hill of fame.

But with the narrow conception which some of
us possess, we are not capable of reaching out and
laying hold of that which would enrich our minds
and make us more eligible to fill the high station
which our pride or love of fame dictates to us.
Sometimes this eligibility does not depend upon the
mental faculties but it may be attributed to causes
more remote.

It is within the grasp of some whose susceptibilities
are blinded by something of minor import and he is
thus led by its bright fancy (as he thinks) until the
point which he might have attained is passed

there is left remaining an impassible gulf which he
in his wild fancy may cross! but he is left upon
its banks to mourn over the course which he brood
upon his own head.

Others again for a want of self esteem or rather
selfish modesty failed to do that which would not only
give to them a lasting fame but would through
halo of light around by which future generations
might be guided. Poverty in its various forms rear
monster head to obstruct the youth from grasping
bright star of light which by an eye of faith
beholds through the dim rapid vista of the future.
But alas! he finds his arm too short.

(1) When penury is felt the thought is chained

And sweet colloquial pleasures are but few,,

But with a mind susceptible of light and knowledge
with the advantage by which we are now surrounded
let the circumstances be as they may, we are bound to
triumph, ever bearing in mind the three great points
-viz. Prudence & Perseverance.

The world is becoming more wise every day. The Phil

-per and, chemist are revealing the hidden mysteries of nature and making complex things plain

They are digging down into the bowels of the earth and finding rich treasures; the stars are counted and their distance measured. And new born substances are being found daily which not only go to prove that men are becoming more scientific; but also to add to the great store house of knowledge

From the time of Hippocrates down to the present age this spirit revealed to us the rise and progress of medical science. When we contemplate the science of medical literature from the time it made its first blush or while in its embryonic state, almost invisible and incomprehensible, that spark however small like the christian religion was pure, Yea! as pure as the limped waters that flow from the virgin rock.

From its first beam onward its progress has been rising higher and higher and spreading wider and wider until, like the snow cliff starting from the top of some tall mountain gathering strength in its descent, increasing in velocity and spread

wider and wider until like a vast luminary it has filled the whole world with its shining light. At first but ~~few~~^{few} of the great facts respecting the mechanism of man was understood.

The circulation of the blood at first was not known to exist; and various theories were entertained, and after it was clearly demonstrated by Harvey in 1620 that there was a circulating fluid called the blood, then ~~it was~~ the cause of inflammation became a question of deep interest.

Boorhave believed that it was brought on by strong effort of the heart throwing the blood into the capillary system, not being a receptacle for it. And Cullen's theory was that the extremities of the arteries took on a spasmodic action.

But his theory like Boorhave's were mere conjectures. Hunter concurs with writers of more recent times in his opinion that there was an increase of action in the circulation which was not before. And he also believed that the arteries enlarged.

and that inflammation was a salutary process which nature intended to relieve disease. Such were the opinions of these writers respecting the blood.

The anatomical character of man up to the time of Hunter was merely a theoretical and speculative question, independent of the true physiology and pathology of the parts.

The human body was not made a subject of dissection prior to Hunter's time and the experiments were only on the inferior animals.

* The therapeutical agents for the different diseases to which the human family are incident have been greatly abridged. Specifics of various kinds for the diseases have been found out and are adopted daily. But there are some remedies which Hippocrates mentioned, which have outstripped those of succeeding ages and we now only begin to recognize their value.

With regard to his description of the phenomena of some diseases, I may assert that even at

* The sick and weak the healing plant shall aid,
From storm a shelter, and from heat a shade. — Pope

late date there cannot be any new light to
own upon them. In his principles and prac
are now taught to some extent.

From the fact that his knowledge was deriv
from personal observation and his principles
never founded on vague hypothesis.

His skill in medicines and his adherence to
great and true principles of the science and his
writings which have been handed down through the
lapse of ages, show that, he took great pains in
work to inculcate the necessity of attention to
-rep and apparel and he gave particular directio
to assist in forming a correct diagnosis.

He always exacted an oath from those who en
-ered on the profession or a solemn promise, not
to indulge in libertine practice, nor to degra
there profession by applying it to any criminal
purpose. His skill as a phisician being so com
-ete in some diseases that the lapse of two tho
years have not been capable of improving up
his practice.

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In acute anasarca the practice is almost the same, but hertofore great and unfounded prejudice has existed. Surgery if practiced at all in his age did not come under his province.

Yet he has given accounts of fracture and dislocation. He also treated of wounds and ulcers in which some American authors are more apt, that some might learn an important lesson also on the use of the actual cautery there is something of interest together with various other observations connected with his life.

I mention these things to show to the world that the foundation of our science is based upon a true ground and not a whimsical supposition.

Since I have spoken something of the knowledge and power of Hippocrates, he being the father and founder of the great Science, we propose to practice, I think it proper to say something as respecting his origin and birth.

He was born in the Island of Cos and but little is left to us as respects the man himself. The particulars of his early life are few in number; so far as our knowledge is concerned.

The Greek writer under the name of Soranus transmitted some biographical information concerning this eminent physician.

He relates that his father was named Heraclides and deduced his descent through a long line of progenitors from Aesculapius himself.

On the side of his mother who was named Praxithea, she was fabled to be a descendant of Hercules and he (Hercules) belonged to the family of Asclepiades, who from time immemorial, devoted themselves exclusively to the science of ~~the~~ the god of medicine.

The birth of Hippocrates the great is fixed by Soranus in the first year of the eighteenth Olympiad or in the first year B.C. 460.

He lived cotemporary with Socrates and Plato, according to Charles Anthon, a little younger than

the former and older than the latter. His name
 become illustrious about the time of the Pelopon-
 nesian war. He received his first professional in-
 struction in his own native Island (Cephalonia), from
 his father he afterwards completed his course
 at Athens under Herodotus, and the sophist Georgias.
 Some authors say he was a pupil of Democritus.
 With these remarks on his pupilage life and ac-
 tings, we will go on to the further consideration
 of the science

I am aware that some persons entertain an opinion
 and those too of high standing in society, that
 the science of medicine is a humbug.

That it is merely an experimental series, and
 there is no true basis upon which we build
 our science, and their opinions are not al-
 together groundless from the fact, that there
 is a class of demagogues who set themselves up
 before the world professing to cure every thing
 they are as void of the light of the sciences
 as midnight is of Aurora's ray

Such men can humbug a community for a while and they will experiment with their fellow men and tamper with their lives, until the community becoming disgusted with ill bred & wanton conduct condemns them which should be the reward of all such.

But the true scientific practitioner has a halo of light about him that will of itself ~~to~~ exclude such men after a while, and will prove to the community and the world that there is virtue and science in his department.

In tracing out the history of the ancient and more modern scientific medical lights, after that of Hippocrates and of later date, we find Galen was considered the most profound of the science.

His doctrines and theories compared with those of Hippocrates seem to run parallel he did not commence where Hippocrates left off, but at the same time he

to throw more light on some of the important branches of his theory. Take for instance anatomy and Physiology and you will find quite an improvement. He was more faithful on these two branches than any of his contemporaries. But his anatomy was much lucid than his Physiology.

So in this department of his science, he was left to follow the bent of his speculative genius.

He adopted as the foundation of his theory the doctrines of the four elements and Hippocrates he supposed that the fluids were the foundation of disease, or at least the primary seat. His course was of a high and noble bearing - His education was of a superior character and his talent and gift for work was superlatively great.

The number of treatises of different kinds he left behind amounted too nearly Two hundred Embracing every department of Medical Science.

Owing to his brilliancy of intellect and his profound knowledge of medicine, he was expressly called to Rome by the emperor Aurelius to make that city his home so that he (the King) might receive the benefit of his great Medical Knowledge. To attempt an analogy of all his works would be superfluous. And a learned critic has said "His own map and modern improvements have now in a great measure consigned his writings to neglect. But his fame can only perish with the science its-self."

And the remarks which was formerly made of Hippocrates is equally applicable to Galen.

The great superiority which Galen acquired over his contemporaries appeared to repress further attempts of future investigation. And for twelve long Centuries after Galen had assumed the prerogative, there was nothing done or said to advance the great labors which he had espoused. Then it was

sorrow was treading heaviest, and leaving a print
 Time can scarcely wash away; while I lay triped by
 with steps so light and soft that the next wave

And then it was that the world was wiser
and man the hermit sat till Vesalius came.
This period was call the dark age of the
profession.

The other sciences felt its paralysing influence,
but not so great as that of medicine.
After the lapse of over a thousand years
Vesalius a celebrated anatomist succeeded
in publishing an anatomical work, in
which, he attempted to sustain the
prieroqrative over that of Galen; and
in which he succeeded in a great measure.
But owing to Galens great
celebracy and the veneration of his
doctrines, some of which were
Achius and Galopius. To all of whom the
asserted that Galens works were perfect
and none save him was true.

But during the period of the seventeenth
century, the investigation of anatomy
extended far beyond any developement

Made before that period, and the advocates of Galen acknowledged that his works would admit of improvement.

And it was about this period, when the investigation of anatomy extended to every part and structure of the human body. The form and texture of the bones, Muscles, nerves, blood vessels, and the various vessels of which the human body is composed. All were made the subjects of minute investigation by some of the most eminent men of the age.

And the fruits of their labour, were amply rewarded, by the great discovery of the circulation by the immortal Harvey, and of the absorbent system by Apelli, Rudbeck and Bartholine.

While the structure and office of the lungs, and the relations which they bore to the heart, was explained by Melpigi.

Now since we have found out the Structure and organism of man. It becomes necessary for us to trace out the cause for which these organs are diseased, and the best remedial means by which they should be relieved.

And in attempting to give a general view of the most important changes of doctrines and improvements of the practice of Medicine which has been made since that time down to the present, it would seem to us superfluous, sufficient to say, that various theories have been deposed, old ones have passed away, and new ones taken their stead.

But from the revival of letters to the commencement of the eighteenth century, including a period of three hundred years, the great object was to apply medicine in the same manner as other things were applied in the other departments of philosophy. But since the commencement of the eighteenth century experiments well contrived

and particularly have been performed in every department of physiological and Medical Science. Observations have been made with more minuteness and recorded with more accuracy. Our improved knowledge of chemistry has enabled us to introduce the most important into pharmacy, while the discovery of various new articles of the materia medica, has given us additional and powerful means of opposing the progress of disease.

The age and the season, seem to present to us, new phenomena of disease which did formerly exist.

And with the new diseases, new remedies and a deeper and more profound scientific research, has been the consequence.

As the history of Medicine approaches near to our time; we find the path encumbered with almost insurmountable obstacles.

Instead of the writers and lecturers on the various branches of the Science trying

to simplify and make plain his or their particular branch; They institute a Theory of their own, and condemn all others on the Subject, and the result is thousands and thousands of volumes are written and may sit down and read untill he becomes g and then not be able to find out the true light.

I am aware that the science is a progressive one; but that need's not have such an improper bearing to the concert of feeling acting and w on the various theories.

This Subject differs from any other branch of science. Our information does not increase in proportion to our experience.

There our material rather retards than promotes us in our progress, and it is on account of the quantity and not the quality.

In other sciences when we propose to ourselves any subject to experiment we are able to say whether the result has been satisfactory.

But this is not the case in medicine.

The history of this science in all its parts, especially materia medica, afford ample testimony of this truth. Remedies for certain diseases have sprung up, run their course, and falling into utter disrepute, new remedies contrary in their action have taken the place of the former (for the same disease) have lived for a season then fallen like their predecessor into disrepute.

Apply the remarks to a case of fever, a disease styled the touchstone for medical theory, and it may be pronounced to be its opprobrium.

Cullen taught it to be a case of debility, and was treated with tonicks and stimulants.

To this treatment succeeded that of cold effusion. But this was doomed to the ordinary process of disappointment.

It was supplanted by the lancet, and this more short lived than either of the others.

Thus you see that the practice is undergoing change daily, and various theories are

doctrines bud and blossom like the rose they wither and decay and fall into utter insignificance.

And now are we to conclude, that all medical treatment is of no avail, that it is all imaginary or deceptive theory, most assuredly not. We should feel unwilling to be compelled to form such a conclusion.

Nor do we conceive that it necessarily follows from the premises.

But we think that the facts prove the importance of extreme caution in forming our conclusions, and still more than mere experiment without the due combination well regulated theory, is a most falacious guide.

What objections can the man of mere experience the rejecter of all theoretical deductions - argue against the multiplied testimonies which is now presented to us in favour of the Homoeopathic doctrines.

What answer can be made to the report that has been brought forward, by the Medical Commissioners of Paris on the subject of animal Magnetism.

The conclusion that forces itself irresistibly on the mind is, that, no medical testimony is sufficient to establish a law or a fact which is in itself incredible, and that a previous incredulity can only be ascertained by an extensive and accurate knowledge of the functions and proportions of the human body, both mental and corporeal, in all its modifications and under all circumstances, and by a correct and careful generalization of the knowledge thus obtained.

Art is long, and time is fleeting
And our hearts though stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches, to ^{the}grave - long fellow -

In conclusion, it is not necessary, for me to confine myself, to any particular treatment

unless I specify the time when a peculiar treat-
 ment had the prerogative; for you must know
 that one treatment will not answer for the same
 always, for what will cure a man to day may kill
 him tomorrow. Take up the treatments on the
 different diseases as far back as Galen, their works
 were written in different periods not one will
 agree as regards the therapeutical agents. Then
 at we conclude that they were all wrong, and
 not competent to judge, most assuredly not, and
 it only goes to show that what is the meet to do
 is the poison tomorrow. Each age Yea! Each sea-
 son is pregnant with new phenomenon. And we
 must be up and doing to keep pace with its
 march, And this we will try to do with your con-

'Tis liberty alone that gives the flower
 Of fleeting life its luster and perfume;
 And we are weeds without it. — Cowper