

the most minute account of the symptoms and lesions produced by each kind of poison. Thus, for example, we find twenty-three cases of poisoning by phosphorus recorded at great length and with the most accurate attention to the clinical history of each from day to day, and fifty pages of the closest print devoted to similar observations in connection with arsenic. In addition we find in the introductory portion of the book a treatise on poisoning in its general relations to legal medicine and public hygiene, such as could only emanate from so distinguished an authority on these subjects.

The third volume on our list is quite an elaborate manual of the chemical reactions of the most important poisons with the tests usually employed in their examination, to which is appended an atlas of their microscopic appearances. Unlike the beautiful copying after nature, however, by the delicate hand of a lady, we have here the outlines and shadings as caught directly by the sensitive plate without the intervention of the artist. Although wanting somewhat in the distinctness which marks the illustrations in Prof. Wormley's book, we feel on examining these photographs that we are looking at the crystals themselves as they appear in the microscope, and that there is no possibility of inaccuracy in the figures, which is of course of the utmost importance in the purpose of comparison for which they are designed. The subjects are better chosen too, we think, being chiefly representations of the alkaloids uncombined in most instances with reagents, as in the plates just alluded to. Thus we have 12 microscopic photographs of morphine, 16 of strychnine, 4 of brucine, 4 of veratrine, 4 of atropine, 2 of aconitine, 2 of solanine, 4 of digitaline, 2 of coniine, and 2 of nicotine. It is a valuable contribution to Toxicology.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1867.

DR. JAMES JACKSON.

DR. JAMES JACKSON, the revered head of the medical profession in Boston, whose decease we briefly announced in our last week's issue, was born in Newburyport in this State, October 3d, 1777, and graduated at Harvard College in 1796. He took his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1809. He became at once distinguished as a devoted and faithful practitioner, and a zealous student of medical science, and in 1812 he was appointed Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Medical School of Harvard University, which office he held for twenty-four years. In 1817, on the 6th of April, he was chosen the first physician of the Massachusetts General Hospital, which office he held with an honor to himself and an advantage to the institution and the interests of the medical profession too well known to need any eulogy from us, until October 13th, 1837. He was several times elected President of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Dr. Jackson's opinion was preëminent authority during the many active years of his life. His name is known and honored in Europe as well as in this coun-

try. Although not a voluminous writer, his contributions to medical literature are valued, and will be treasured up as the utterances of one of the law-givers of the profession. His constitution was naturally feeble, and he preserved a tolerable share of health only by the most constant watchfulness, and the strictest method in everything which pertained to his mode of life. A professional friend remarked to us recently, that he considered his length of days the best evidence that could be quoted of his skill and sagacity as a physician. During the last year and a half his powers gradually failed, and for many months life had been a weary burden to both body and spirit; he was worn out. He leaves five children and numerous grandchildren, and several great grandchildren.

By special direction of the deceased, no public honors were paid at his funeral, else the whole medical profession would gladly have come forward to testify their reverence and love for one who had been their sure reliance for many years in questions of perplexity and trial, and whose genial courtesy always made those who called him in consultation regard him as a personal friend. His remains were deposited at Mount Auburn. The injunction which made his funeral a private one has prevented any formal meeting of our Medical Societies to take notice of his death. The spoken eulogy, however, for which they would have furnished an opportunity, has found utterance in the columns of the daily press; and no words of ours can so fitly do him justice. We therefore feel no hesitation in transferring to our pages the following notices, by Dr. Jacob Bigelow and Dr. Holmes, the philosopher and the poet of our medical community.

Our acquiescence in the just order of Providence alone tempers the solemnity and sorrow with which we regard the departure from life, even at its latest and maturest period, of one whom we have loved and honored. It is the fate of most men to fall prematurely by the wayside of an unfinished career. A few having reached the goal of ordinary old age, sink gradually into the shade of infirmity and seclusion. The end of the most protracted life is at best labor and sorrow. Yet we may esteem as fortunate the lot of one whose physical and intellectual strength have been so nearly commensurate with his great length of days; who has associated his own history with the hopes and fears, the affections, the joys and sorrows of more than one generation; whose intellect during more than fourscore years was never crossed by a cloud; whose energies during that long period never shrunk from the performance of all active duty; whose presence has been invoked as a blessing by the afflicted, and whose words of wisdom and experience have been oracles to his professional brethren.

When some of us first knew Dr. Jackson, now gratefully remembered as our earliest and longest professional friend, he had been at least ten years engaged in active practice, and was then almost at the zenith of his professional reputation. He had rapidly risen to this point by the possession of qualities not common at that day, when medicine was less a liberal science than it now is; when the community were perhaps more exacting, while they were less discriminating, and when the judgment of a man's own peers could not always be depended on for impartiality, if, indeed, for competency. The qualities that distinguished him then, as since, were habits of unsparing application, a power of rapid acquirement, and of ready adaptation of knowledge to use. To these were superadded the high moral attributes of an uncompromising love of truth, of justice to the claims of others, of a deep sense of the responsibilities of his profession, and a devotion amounting almost to parental love towards those who had become the objects of his professional care. Excelling his contemporaries in the extent of his professional erudition; vigilant in observing the yearly progress of his science, as it tended to good or to evil; studious and retentive of the peculiar features of each succeeding case that passed under his observation; cheerful,

hopeful, courageous and buoyant in the presence of the sick—he received during his extended life, more than any man among us, the deference of his compeers, and the ardent, grateful, and almost filial reliance of those who in sickness leaned on him for succor, or in danger looked to him for rescue.

The character of Dr. Jackson was naturally impulsive and sanguine. Coming in his early life from the schools of European erudition, he brought with him a deep respect for the labor and learning, the authority and conventional prestige of the then accepted luminaries of medical science. His methods of practice during the first half of his professional life were in a high degree energetic and decisive. He believed, in common with many others at that day, that most diseases were susceptible of control and even of removal, by the active forms of medical interference then generally in use. These opinions and habits were greatly modified, if not subdued, in the subsequent portions, perhaps the last half, of his long and observing life; so that although he never lost his professional fondness for the forms and implements of his art, and sometimes carried their use to a scrupulous degree of exactness, yet he became more tolerant of nature, more humble in his expectations from art, and more distrustful of reckless interference whenever certain harm was to be balanced against doubtful good.

Of his moral and affectional attributes it is difficult fitly to speak. Alike in the prosperous and adverse conditions of life, we have never seen his kindly heart give way to an unjust or ungenerous impulse. Under afflictions which might have prostrated a mind less disciplined by Christian energy and faith, we have known him cheerful, self-controlling and unrepining. When in a momentous period of his life, his parental hope was abruptly blighted, and an idol which he had fondly cherished until solicitude was lost in gratification, suddenly fell from his grasp, he did not sink, nor for a moment forget that duty remained to be done. With an endurance exemplary as it was exalted, he stepped to the post made vacant by the death of his son, and for long succeeding years, reversing the apparent order of nature, carried out in his own person the career which had seemed destined to another of his race. He became the biographer, and as it were the continuer, of his son. Who could so fitly eulogize the virtues which he himself had helped to form? Who could so well sustain the character which was but a reproduction of his own?

It is now a third of a century since this great affliction was thus received and thus sustained. He sought for and found consolation in his communings with the memory of the dead, and the conscientious pursuit of his duty to the living. He resumed his professional activity, his interest in life, his relations with society and his influence in the harmonious organizations of his own profession. For many years, and even up to a late period, he carried with him the respect, the attachment and the tender regard of the many friends who had cultivated and loved him. Who does not even now remember his quiet step, his benignant smile and his friendly greeting, long familiar in our streets, as they were welcome in our dwellings?

At length the light of his gifted intellect slowly and fitfully faded out in the advancing shadows of physical decay. And now the light of his earthly presence is forever withdrawn, leaving his memory alone to console and direct us. It is well that he has lived, to complete in his character a model of social and professional excellence; it is well that he has died, leaving in the history of his life the record of a task well finished, and a memory on which there is no stain.

The time has not yet arrived for doing justice to the character and services of Dr. James Jackson. The first expressions of love and honor which follow him to his resting place, are only such as have been long on the lips of all who knew him, mingled with the natural regrets which seem almost selfish when we remember his age and its infirmities. The general verdict of his contemporaries among us would doubtless have been that he was the model practitioner of their generation. The voice of the profession would assuredly assign him the same position among the teachers of the art of healing.

He himself would have been so unwilling to be over-estimated that those who

knew him best cannot help feeling as if they were restrained by the memory of his own serene and tempered judgment in using the terms which at once suggest themselves when speaking of his gifts and virtues. Yet an intelligence so lucid, a knowledge so practical, a skill so consummate, a devotion to his duties so entire, a spirit so cheerful, a benevolence so thoughtful, a character so truly balanced, a long life so filled with noble service can hardly be spoken of as they deserve without our seeming to use the rhetoric of eulogy. Keeping close to the truth, as known and acknowledged in the community where he has lived so long, we find that we have drawn what looks like an ideal portrait.

He would not have claimed for himself any extraordinary intellectual attributes, any more than he would have claimed any special merit for the style of those "Letters to a Young Physician," which were mentioned in these columns a day or two since among those writings by which "literature as well as science and history, gained much more than it would have gained by the arrival of fifty new knights sworn specially to 'letters.'" But sagacious observing instincts, well-adjusted reflecting powers, and practical energy to use them efficiently, are not often found in such large measure, so harmoniously blended. He was a child to learn, a father to teach, a brother to help.

We might perhaps find men in whom single qualities were more developed than any one for which he was distinguished; not easily a man whose outfit for the duties of life was more admirable, and who used all his faculties to greater advantage. He retained his power and his disposition to be useful into some of the last years of his protracted life. When mind and body alike felt the weight of infirmity, his tender affections still drew him to those he loved. There is a story that old men have been kept alive by transfusing the fresh blood from young veins into their own. Many young hearts were tributary through nobler channels to his old age. The love of the second and third and fourth generations gave new light to his eye and fresh color to his cheek, as they gathered around him to look, to listen, to serve, to caress. It was a rare delight to meet in his own home this most beloved of old men, who seemed to have hoarded the sunshine of more than fourscore years to give it back in smiles to those whom he has now left in a world less bright since he is gone.

So passes from us the last of those three brothers whom many of us remember as honors to their several callings, types and patterns of the best class of American citizens. United in the dearest friendship while they lived, we may hope that they are at length re-united among the good and faithful servants who have entered into the joy of their Lord. As the last of them leaves us we seem to look upon them once more as when we used to see them together in their daily walk. Charles, grave, learned, judicial by nature, gentle, unselfish, modest, whom to have known is the most precious legacy of the past to many of the living; Patrick, great-hearted, impetuous, sanguine, constructive, executive, whose footprints were among the first along the opening track of New England's progress; and with them this teacher of teachers, this healer of the sick, this counsellor of the perplexed, this consoler of the sorrowful, this benefactor of the needy, whose sympathies were boundless as the day, and whose priceless labors extended through two thirds of a century. With all gratitude for his beautiful and most useful life, feeling as we do, that he had filled the full measure of his years and of his services, it is yet with sorrowing hearts that we strike from the roll of living men the revered and cherished name of JAMES JACKSON.

Death from Chloroform.—We find the following in the *Union Médicale*:—

"Another death produced by chloroform (and there is scarcely a month that the English journals do not announce one in the most simple and natural manner possible) has just happened at Manchester, under deplorable circumstances. John Arnold, aged 8 years, was operated on for strabismus, at the Hospital for Diseases of the Eye, on the 6th of July; and for this slight operation chloroform was given him. Two hours after, he was dead; and the jury had declared simply that this accident had happened under the influence of the chloroform. Multiplying, as they do, especially among children, these catastrophes should open

the eyes of English surgeons, and render them more reserved in the employment of this anæsthetic in small operations. The responsibility is all the greater that the patient is subjected to the 'chloroformization' without being able to know or understand its dangers. For the mere convenience of facilitating their operations, or to avoid slight pain, the English surgeons should not expose life. Otherwise, they must be subjected to the charge of being incorrigible, and careless of the lives of their fellow-creatures. The question is suggested, how is it that in the presence of these repeated accidents, public opinion—not to say public indignation—does not so lift up its voice against this practice as to proscribe it and put it down?"

We would add, why is chloroform used at all, while there is a safe anæsthetic in sulphuric ether? Suppose, in the above case, the coroner had asked, "Was the death unavoidable? Could the anæsthesia have been produced by any other agent without risk to life?" What sufficient answer could have been given? It really seems to us that a grand jury would be justified in taking this matter in hand.

Extracts from a European Letter to the Medical Record from Prof. F. J. BUMSTREAD.—Personal interviews with the two physicians just named [Kollet and Diday], were most agreeable. Diday I should judge to be about 54 years of age. He looks not unlike our friend, Dr. A. C. Post, and has all the activity and vivacity of the latter. He was much interested to know whether anything was doing in America with regard to the prophylaxis of venereal, a subject which at present is engaging renewed attention, both in France and England. A novel and rather questionable idea advanced by Diday is the parasitic origin of all venereal diseases, including gonorrhœa. His argument is this: It is the prerogative of organized beings to produce their like; venereal and other contagious diseases reproduce themselves, and hence must be of parasitic origin. Diday expects that this view will yet be confirmed by the microscope. * * *

Arriving in Paris a few days afterwards, of course I made it one of my first objects to see Ricord, the Nestor of the syphilitic world, and one of the few bright lights of twenty years ago still remaining. I was told that I should be likely to find him the least occupied at about eleven o'clock in the evening, when his office hours, which commenced at four in the afternoon, were nearly over. Calling at this hour, however, I found his waiting-room still filled with patients, and he afterwards told me that he was rarely through before twelve or one o'clock. Ricord has "aged," as an Englishman would say, since sixteen years ago, but his activity and endurance may be inferred from the amount of work of which he is still capable. If any medical man ever had reason to be satisfied with the well-merited honors that all confer upon him in his green old age, it is certainly he. There was no time to talk over with him any of the mooted questions of syphilis, but there is no doubt (and my friend, Dr. Atlee, of Philadelphia, will please notice the fact) that Ricord now admits in full the recent doctrines upon venereal diseases, including the duality of virus, the contagiousness of the secretions of secondary lesions and the blood, and also vaccinal syphilis. Such was the universal testimony of his friends in Paris, and I afterwards heard the same from Mr. Acton, in London, who had recently spent several days with Ricord, and had freely conversed with him upon these topics. * * *

From Fournier's lecture-room I went into Maissonneuve's wards, where I found him making his visit and surrounded by a crowd of students. On being introduced to him, he stopped to compliment the success of American Surgery, and, among several instances, mentioned the remarkable results obtained in ovariectomy as compared with the results of the operation in Paris. I suggested that the atmosphere of hospitals was peculiarly unfavorable to this operation, but I soon found that I had touched him in a tender spot, for he immediately began a lecture lasting at least twenty minutes, in which he attempted to show that atmospheric and local influences have nothing whatever to do with the success or failure of any operation, and that everything depends upon the skill of the surgeon! "When we know how to operate in cases of ovariectomy as

well as American surgeons," said he, "we shall have equally as good results." One of the internes whispered to me that this was a favorite idea of Maissonneuve, and that I had better not reply to his arguments if I wanted to see anything of his service, since he would keep on talking all day. Maissonneuve is as fond of using the *écraseur* and his *urethrotome* as ever.

Heart Disease in the British Army.—Nearly three years ago Lord De Grey appointed a Committee, of which a most able soldier, General Eyre, is president, to report on the influence on health of the accoutrements and knapsack, and to recommend alterations in equipment. This Committee has presented two reports, and has been busy in carrying on experiments and trials with different equipments for the last three years. * * * * *

The objects which the Committee appear to have contemplated were, to reduce to the utmost the weight carried by the infantry soldier, and to distribute this weight on the best mechanical principles. They have gained six pounds by lessening the weight of the belts and pouch, and by substituting a bag for the framed knapsack. They have then lessened the articles in the kit, which the soldier carries himself, to the smallest number consistent with his comfort and health; in this way they have lightened his load some three or four pounds more. They have then so arranged this weight that every part of the body on which weight can be put takes some share, though the greater part is brought by the yoke fairly on the shoulder-blades, directly over the centre of gravity. The straps are so placed as not to press unduly anywhere, and the general result is to give a man as much freedom as can ever be hoped for when a heavy weight must necessarily be borne.

The Committee has also arranged for an immense amount of ammunition (ninety rounds, we believe) being carried on emergency, though they are careful to explain that this is only intended for special occasions.—*London Lancet.*

Alcoholic Treatment of Disease.—In an article on this subject in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, the experience of Mr. Higginbottom of Nottingham is quoted, who for thirty years has never prescribed stimulants, and finds his results perfectly satisfactory; of Dr. Collenette, of Germany, who says:

"For twenty-one years I have banished all intoxicants from my practice, and during that period I have not made fewer than 180,000 medical visits, and I hesitate not to say that the recoveries have been more numerous and more rapid than they were during the five years I followed the usual practice, and administered brandy, wine, and beer."

Mr. Smith, the governor of the Edinburgh jail, states that out of 150,000 criminals who had passed through his hands—many of whom had been great drinkers, and whose liquor was cut off when they crossed the jail door—not one case of injury had occurred by the drink being taken from the person at once.

The Great Salt Lake of Utah.—While in the Territory I visited that vast natural deposit of chloride of sodium, Salt Lake, and with several friends tried the experiment of bathing in it. We waded out from the shore until the water reached our arm-pits, when our feet were raised from the bottom and we remained suspended. The specific gravity of the water is so great that we were enabled to float upon the surface without moving hand or foot. We folded our arms and sat up in the lake, only sinking to near the arms, and we floated about like corks. The sensation was most novel and peculiar.

The fact is, that the entire volume of the lake is a saturated solution of salt, the water being charged to its maximum capacity; and we were told that four buckets of water, made, when evaporated, one-fourth the volume of pure salt.

The wind was blowing quite fresh while we were in the lake, and the spray fell upon our heads and in our eyes, causing most acute pain. In a very few minutes after we came out of the water our bodies were encrusted with an armor of salt,

and our hair was also frosted over with it, giving us the appearance of very great longevity. We felt exceedingly uncomfortable in this saline covering, and were puzzled as to how we should dispose of it, until some one suggested that we should go to a fresh water spring near by, and dissolve the salt, which we did. We did not see a fish or other living animal or reptile in the lake, and I doubt if animal life could be sustained there.

As is very generally known, this vast body of water (something like eighty by thirty miles in extent) receives several quite large fresh-water streams, but has no visible outlet.

Ever since it was first discovered it has been constantly contracting, and the water receding from the shores. The water of the Salt Lake has a greater specific gravity, and a greater amount of solid matter than any other known, with the exception of that of the Dead Sea.

One hundred parts of the water by weight were found to contain, after evaporation, 22.422 of solid matter, in which were the following constituents :

Chloride of Sodium,	20.196
Sulphate of Soda,	1.834
Chloride of Magnesium,	0.252

22.282

a trace of chloride of calcium; or within 2.298 of the amount of solid matter found in the water of the Dead Sea.—*Col. Murcy's Army Life on the Border.*

DR. BUMSTEAD has resigned his post of Lecturer upon Materia Medica at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Dr. James W. McLane has been appointed in his place. Dr. Bumstead has accepted the appointment of Professor of Venereal Diseases at the same College.

It is stated that nine Surgeons of the United States Army have recently died in Texas from yellow fever.

Four surgeons of the U. S. Volunteers are ordered to be honorably mustered out of the service. This leaves but one surgeon, U.S.V., in service.

VITAL STATISTICS OF BOSTON.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1867.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths during the week - - - - -	53	53	106
Ave. mortality of corresponding weeks for ten years, 1856-1866	53.6	54.0	107.6
Average corrected to increased population - - - - -	00	00	118.67
Deaths of persons above 90 - - - - -	1	0	1

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.—Ninth Annual Report of the Chicago Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, for the year ending May 1, 1867.—Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Directors for Public Institutions of the City of Boston, for the Financial Year 1866-67.

MARRIED.—At Pepperell, 28th ult., Ellery C. Clarke, M.D., of Holliston, to Mrs. Carrie L. McCannnon, of Cincinnati, Ohio, daughter of John Loring, Esq., of P.

DIED.—At Bucksfield, Me., Aug. 4, Dr. A. A. Child, 34.—In New York, Aug. 4, Charles E. Morgan, M.D., in the 34th year of his age.

DEATHS IN BOSTON for the week ending Saturday noon, August 31st, 106. Males, 53—Females, 53. Accident, 3—apoplexy, 2—inflammation of the bowels, 3—congestion of the brain, 1—disease of the brain, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—bronchitis, 2—burns, 1—cancer, 2—cholera infantum, 23—consumption, 8—convulsions, 2—croup, 1—debility, 2—diarrhœa, 4—dropsy, 2—dropsy of the brain, 4—drowned, 1—dysentery, 5—scarlet fever, 3—typhoid fever, 3—disease of the heart, 1—infantile disease, 2—inflammation, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—marasmus, 6—old age, 3—paralysis, 1—puerperal disease, 2—scrofula, 1—smallpox, 1—suicide, 1—sunstroke, 1—unknown, 9—whooping cough, 1.

Under 5 years of age, 56—between 5 and 20 years, 7—between 20 and 40 years, 17—between 40 and 60 years, 13—above 60 years, 13. Born in the United States, 81—Ireland, 21—other places, 4.