By George Washington Story
- 1824 - 1900 - 1910 -

Born - Bedford City, Shelbyville, IN
died - Delta County, Texas

Dedicated,
To the Medical faculty
Of the Nashville University
Session 53 & 54
Throughout the great arena of space up
which we have the high prerogative to move, to
contemplate and exercise our judgment according
to the dictates of our own consciences and with
the aid of thousands of literary characters and to
works placed before us and the circumstances in
dependent of what has been said, we might it be
through our own instrumentality gather laurel
from the highest hill of fame.
But with the narrow conception which some of
us possess, we are not capable of reaching out a
laying hold of that which would enrich our soul
and make us more eligible to fill the high seat
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 oth-
ese more remote.
It is within the grasp of some whose suscepti-
are blinded by something of minor import and i
thus led by its bright fancy (as he thinks) until the
point which he might have attained is passed
there is left remaining an insuperable 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 in give to them a lasting fame but would through halo of light around by which future general might be guided. Poverty in its various forms near monster head to obstruct the youth from grasping bright star of light which by an eye of faith beholds through the dim n' rapt vista of the ful

But alas! he finds his arm too short.

How joyous is felt the Thought is chained!

And sweet, colloquial pleasures are but few,

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

The world is becoming more wise every day. The Phi
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 treasure; the stars are counted, and their distance
measured. And new-born substances are being for
daily which not only go to prove that men are become
more scientific, but also to add to the great storehouse
of knowledge.
From the time of Hippocrates down to the present age
this spirit revealed to us the rise and progress of medici
science. When we contemplate the science of medical lite
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 re
c was pure; yea, as pure as the limpid waters the
flow from the virgin rock.
From its first beam onward its progress has a
rising higher and higher and spreading wider
wider untill, like the snow-cliff starting
the top of some tall mountain gathering sled
in its decent, increasing in velocity and spread
wider and wider, until like a past luminary it has filled the whole world with its shining light.

At first but little 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 circulation fluid called the blood, then it was the case of inflammation became a question of deep interest.

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

But his theory, like Boerhaave's were mere conjectures. Hunter concurs with writers of more recent date and his opinion was that there was an increase action in the circulation which was no help, and he also believed that the arteries encar.
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, pathology, and materia medica 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 therapeutic agents for the different diseases to which the human family are exposed 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 the 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 stony aoller, and from heat a shade. — Pope
late date there cannot be any new light in
own upon them. In his principles and prac-
are now brought to some extent.
From the fact that his knowledge was deri-
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 a
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 directi-
to assist in forming a correct diagnosis.
He always exacted an oath from those who e-
ered in the profession to a solemn promise, not
to indulge in libertine practice, nor to degra-
d there profession by applying it to any crim-
purpose. His skill as a physician being so con-
ete in some diseases that the lapse of two the
years have not been capable of improving up
his practice.
In acute anasarca the practice is almost the same, but hereford great and unfounded prejudice did not exist. Surgery, if practiced at all in his day, 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 have been at a loss, that some might learn an important lesson also on the use of the actual case. 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 upon 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 respecting his origin and birth.
He was born in the Island of Kea, and 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 Sosamus transmitted some biographical information concerning this eminent physician.

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

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

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

He lived contemporaneously with Socrates and Plato, according to Charles Anthon, a little younger.
the former and older than the latter. This he
became illustrious about the time of the Ptole-
maic war. He received his first professional in-
tuition in his own native island (Cef), from
his father he afterwards completed his course
Athens under Herodicus, and the sophist Geor-
gy. Some authors say he was a pupil of Demo-
cratus.
With these remarks on his pupillage life and
ings, we will go on to the further considera-
tion of the science.
I am aware that some persons entertain an op-
ification of and those too of high standing in society, that
the science of medicine is a humbug.
That it is merely an experimental series, a
there is no true basis upon which we build
our science, and their opinions are not al-
either groundless from the fact, that, there
a clump of demagogos who set themselves up
the world professing to cure every thing.
they are as void of the light of the sun
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 and the wanton conduct condemns them which shall be the reward of all such.

But the true scientific practitioner has a name of right about him that will be accepted to exclude such men after a while. And will prove to the community and the world that there is virtue and science in the department.

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

The number of treaties of different kinds he left behind amounted to nearly two hundred, embracing nearly department of medicine.
Owing to his brilliancy of intellect and his profound knowledge of medicine, he was expressly called to Rome by the emperor Aurelius to make 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 could 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 itself."

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

The great superiority which Galen acquired over his contemporaries appeared to repel further attempts of future investigators. And for twelve long centuries after Galen had assumed the prerogatives, there was nothing done or said to advance the great law which he had espoused. Then it was

"Sorrow was treading heaviest, and leaving a print. Time can scarcely wash away; while joy hipp'd by

the steps of light and set that it most wore..."
And then it was that the world was in a state of stagnation, and man the hermit sat till Vesalius was born. This period was called the dark age of medicine.

The other sciences felt its paralyzing influence, but not so great as that of the art. 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 prerogative over that of Galen, and in which he succeeded in a great measure. But owing to Galen's great authority and the ponderers of his doctrines, some of which were in conflict with his views, and Fallopius, to all of whom he ascribed that Galen's 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 development
made before that period, and the advocate
of Galen acknowledged that his work
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,
nerve, blood vessels, and the various veins
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 labours were
amply rewarded, by the great discovery
of the circulation by the immortal
Harvey, and of the absorbant system
Apelle, Rudebeck and Bartholine.
While the structure and office of the
lungs, and the relations which the
bore to the heart, was explained
by Melpigli
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 measures by which they should be relieved. And in attempting to give a general view 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 inferious, suggested to say, that various theses have been proposed, 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 sixteenth century experiments well conti
and particularly have been performed in every department of physiological and medical science. Observations have been made with more minute and recorded with more accuracy. Our improved knowledge of chemistry 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 science, research, has been the consequence.

As the history of medicine approaches us 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 of thousands of volumes are written and many sit down and read until he becomes g and then not be able to find out the light.

I am aware that the science is a progress one; but that need not have such an impor bearing to the concert of feeling acting and 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 pro- cures 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, this the result has been satisfactory.
But this is not the case in medicine. The history of this science in all its parts, e.g., materia medica, afford ample testimony of this truth. Remedies for certain diseases have sprung up, run their course, and falling into utter disuse, 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 predecessors 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 approbrium. Cullen taught it to be a case of debility, and cured with tonics and stimulants. To this treatment succeeded that of cold infusions. 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 bloom like the rose the
wither and decay and fall into utter insignificance.

And how are we to conclude that all medical
treatment is of no avail, that it is all
imaginary or deceptive theory, most absurd
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 the
experiment without the due combination
well regulated theory, is a most fallacious
guide.

What objections can the man of more experi-
the rejector of all theoretical deduction
argue against the multiplied testimonies
is now presented to us in favour of the
Homœopathic 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 conclusions that force itself irresistibly on the mind is, that, no medical testimony is sufficient to establish a law on a fact which is in itself incredible, and that previous incredulity can only be accertained by an extensive and accurate knowledge of the functions and proportions of the body, both mental and corporal, in all its modifications and under all circumstances and by a correct and careful generalization of the knowledge thus obtained.

"Tis long, and time is fleeting
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches, to the grave — longfellow

In conclusion, it is not necessary, for me to confine myself, to any particular treatm
unless I specify the time when a peculiar treatment 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 shall we conclude that they were all wrong, and not competent to judge, most assuredly not, it only goes to show that what is the meet to do is the poison tomorrow. Each age yes! Each sea is pregnant with new phenomenon. And we to be up and doing to keep pace with its bound. 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 dead without it. — Cooper.