Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

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The Independent Republican.

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J. H. Smith,

MANUFACTURER of HARNESS, SADDLES, and TRUNKS, New Milford, Susquehanna County, Pa.
New Milford, January 19, 1859.-1y

William N. Grover,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, St Louis, Missouri. Practices only in the Civil Courts of Missouri, and devotes himself chiefly to COMMERCIAL CASES. Business from abroad will receive prompt attention. OFFICE No. 66 Chestnut Street.
St Louis, December 22, 1858.-1y

Francis B. Davison, M. D.,

WILL practice MEDICINE and SURGERY, in Montrose and adjacent parts of Susquehanna County. OFFICE in the store of C. W. Mott, Esq. RESIDENCE, corner opposite Methodist Church.
Montrose, Pa., November 17, 1858.

C. Winkler,

TAILOR, New Milford, Susq. Co., Pa., opposite E. A. & O. Pratt's office.
New Milford, Nov. 24, 1858.-6m

E. H. Rogers,

STILL continues the MANUFACTURE of all descriptions of CARRIAGES, WAGONS, SLEIGHS, &c., in the best style of Workmanship and of the best materials, at the well known stand, a few rods east of Searle's Hotel, in Montrose, where he will be happy to receive the calls of all who want anything in his line.
Montrose, September 12, 1858.-1y

H. D. Bennett.

BOOK-BINDER, Smiley, Susquehanna County, Pa., respectfully informs the people of Susquehanna and neighboring counties that he is prepared to bind Periodicals and Books, and Repair old Books. E. W. FRAZER will receive Periodicals, Books, &c., for H. D. Bennett.
Gibson, Sept. 8, 1858.-tf

William B. Simpson,

WATCH REPAIRER, having worked for the past nine years with the most skillful workmen, he feels confident that he can do the most difficult jobs on short notice. All work warranted to give satisfaction. Jewelry repaired neatly and on reasonable terms. Shop in Boyd & Webster's new Store, corner of Main and Turnpike Streets, below Searle's Hotel, Montrose, Pa.

W. B. Simpson has worked for me for some time, and I can recommend him as a careful and skillful workman, competent to do as good work as can be done in the country, and worthy of confidence.
Towanda, June 10, 1858. WM. A. CRAWFORD.

Express to Wm. Elwell, E. W. Baird, E. D. Montanye, E. O. Goodrich, H. Kingsbery, Towanda; H. S. Bentley, L. Searle, C. D. Lathrop, J. Wittenberg, Montrose.
Montrose, Sept. 15, 1858.-tf

Wm. W. Smith & Co.,

CABINET AND CHAIR MANUFACTURERS, Keep constantly on hand all kinds of CABINET FURNITURE, or furnished at short notice. Shop and Ware Rooms foot of Main Street.
Montrose, Pa., May 28, 1858.-tf

Hayden Brothers,

WHOLESALE DEALERS in YANKEE NOTIONS, Watches, Jewelry, &c., New Milford, Susq. Co., Pa.
☞ Merchants and Pedlers supplied at New York Jobbing Prices.
New Milford, May, 1858.-1y

WM. H. HOYT. A. L. WEBSTER.

Boyd & Webster,

DEALERS in Stoves, Stove Pipe, Tin, Copper, and Sheet Iron Ware; also, Window Sash, Panel Doors, Window Blinds, Lath, Pine Lumber, and all kinds of Building Materials. Tin Shop South of Searle's Hotel, and Carpenter Shop near Methodist Church.
Montrose, Pa., April 14, 1858.-tf

Dr. G. Z. Dimock,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, has permanently located himself at Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pa. OFFICE over Wilson & Son's Store. Lodgings at Searle's Hotel.
Montrose, March 10, 1858.

Dr. Wm. L. Richardson

WOULD respectfully tender his professional services to the inhabitants of Montrose and its vicinity. OFFICE over Mulford's Store. LODGINGS at the Keystone Hotel.
Montrose, Oct. 15, 1858.-1yp

Dr. E. F. Wilmot,

GRADUATE of the Allopathic and Homeopathic Colleges of Medicine, is now permanently located in Great Bend, Pa., office, corner of Maine and Elizabeth Sts., nearly opposite the M. E. Church.
May 16, 1857.-1y

Dr. H. Smith,

SURGEON DENTIST. Residence and office, opposite the Baptist church, (North side,) in Montrose. Particular attention will be given to inserting teeth on Gold and Silver plate, and to filling decaying teeth.
Montrose, January 15, 1858.-tf

C. D. Virgil,

RESIDENT DENTIST, MONTROSE, PA. Office at the Franklin Hotel, Room No. 2. Inserting teeth on Gold or Silver plate done in the highest style of the Art. All jobs warranted.
Montrose, April 7, 1858.-tod

Dr. A. Gifford,

SURGEON DENTIST. Office with Dr. Dimock, over Wilson's Store. Particular attention will be given to inserting Teeth on Gold or Silver plate—also on a new plan. All operations warranted.
Montrose, Sept. 8, 1858.-tf

R. Thayer,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, MONTROSE, PA. Office in the Farmer's store. 1-2m22

A. Bushnell,

ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW. Office over S. R. West's Drug Store, SUSQUEHANNA DEPOT, Pa.-1ly1

Keeler & Stoddard.

DEALERS IN BOOTS & SHOES, Leather and Findings, on Maine st., first door below Searle's Hotel, Montrose, Pa.-2m1
JAMES KEELER. G. K. STODDARD

William H. Jessup,

ATTORNEY AT LAW & NOTARY PUBLIC. Office on Public Square, MONTROSE, Pa.

Bentley & Fitch,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, AND BOUNTY LAND AGENTS.—Office west of the Court House, Montrose, Pa.
H. S. BENTLEY. L. F. FITCH.

Albert Chamberlin,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.—Office over I. L. Post & Co.'s Store, MONTROSE, PA.

Wm. H. Jessup,

ATTORNEY AT LAW AND COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS, for the State of New York, will attend to all business entrusted to him with promptness and fidelity. Office on Public Square, occupied by Hon. William Jessup.

Abel Turrell,

DEALER IN DRUGS, MEDICINES, CHEMICALS, Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Groceries, Dry Goods, Hardware, Stoneware Glassware, Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, Silver Spoons, Spectacles, Musical Instruments, Trusses, Surgical Instruments, Liquors, Perfumery, Mirrors, Stationery, Brushes, Shoes, Yankee Notions, &c.

F. B. Chandler,

DEALER IN DRY GOODS, Ready Made Clothing, Groceries Books and Stationery, etc., Public Avenue, MONTROSE, Pa.

Post Brothers,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware Leather, Flour, etc., corner of Turnpike street and Public Ave nue, MONTROSE, Pa.

J. Lyons & Son.,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Tinware, Books, Melodeons, and Sheet Music, &c.; also, carry on the Book Binding business.—Public Avenue, MONTROSE, Pa.
J. LYONS. T. A. LYONS.

Read & Co.,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Iron, Glass, Watches, Jewelry, Silver Spoons, Perfumery, &c. Brick Block, MONTROSE.
C. P. W. READ, with C. P. READ.

William & William H. Jessup,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, MONTROSE, Pa. Practice in Susquehanna, Bradford Wayne, Wyoming and Luzerne counties.

Rockwell & Winton.

MANUFACTURERS and Dealers in Straw Goods, Hats, Caps, Furs, Umbrellas, Parasols, Bibbons, &c., &c., No. 40 Courtland street, New York. (up-stairs.)
S. D. ROCKWELL. W. W. WINTON.

Baldwin & Allen,

WHOLESALE and Retail Dealers in Flour, Salt, Pork, Fish, Lard, Grain, Feed, Candles, Clover and Timothy seed. Also GROCERIES, such as Sugars, Molasses, Syrups, Tea, Coffee, &c. West side of Public Avenue, one door below J. Etheridge's.
MONTROSE, Oct. 20, 1858.-tf

Cobb & Rogers,

DEALERS IN GROCERIES, &c., at the store recently occupied by Crane & Rogers, Montrose, Pa.
Also have opened a BUTCHER SHOP in the basement of Boyd & Webster's new Store, corner of Main and Turnpike Streets.
MONTROSE, Nov. 22, 1857.-tf

AN ACROSTIC.

COME see me, MY OFFICE is grand and SUPERB,
HEADSTRONG Hals, OH, come, and see me, come ha! HA,
ALL Spanish BEREAVED, (less the discount,) at PAR,
REST in my ROCKER, where pain will set DISTURB,
LOCATION IS PLEASANT, and low is the FARE,
YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT Morris, Dresser of HAIR.

Shop No. 3, Basement of Searle's Hotel, on Turnpike Street
MONTROSE, August 11, 1857.-1y

Banking House of Post, Cooper, & Co.

HENRY DRINKER,
WM. HUNTTING COOPER.
ISAAC L. POST.
} MONTROSE, November 12, 1855.

DRAFTS on New York City and Philadelphia.—Collections promptly made and remitted.
Office hours from 10 A. M. to 3.

REFERENCE, { Messrs. Allen & Paxton, N. York. Samuel C. Morton, Esq., Phil'a. Hon. William Jessup, Montrose.

News Office!

NEW YORK CITY ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, &c., for sale at the Montrose Book Store by A. F. BULLARD.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

BY ALFRED DOMETT.

It was the calm and silent night!
Seven hundred years and fifty-three
Had Rome been growing up to might,
And now was queen of land and sea.
No sound was heard of clashing wars—
Peace brooded o'er the hush'd domain:
Apollo, Pallas, Jove, and Mars,
Held undisturbed their ancient reign,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago.

'Twas in the calm and silent night,
The senator of haughty Rome
Impatient urged his chariot's flight,
From lordly revel rolling home:
Triumphal arches gleaming swell
His breast with thoughts of boundless sway;
What recked the Roman what befell
A paltry province far away,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago?

Within that province far away,
Went plodding home a weary boor;
A streak of light before him lay,
Fallen through a half-shut stable-door
Across his path. He passed—for naught
Told what was going on within;
How keen the stars, his only thought—
The air, how calm, and cold, and thin,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

Oh, strange indifference! low and high
Drowsed over common joys and cares;
The earth was still—but knew not why
The world was listening unawares.
How calm a moment may precede
One that shall thrill the world forever!
To that still moment, none would heed,
Man's doom was linked no more to sever,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

It is the calm and solemn night!
A thousand bells ting out, and throw
Their joyous peals abroad, and smite
The darkness—charmed and holy now!
The night that erst no shame had worn,
To it a happy name is given;
For in that stable lay, new-born,
The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago!

ANNUAL ADDRESS,

Read before the Medical Society of Susquehanna County, January, 1859, by

G. Z. DIMOCK, M. D.

In complying with the appointment with which I am honored, Mr. President, I shall endeavor to bring to your recollection something of the early history of the Society over which you are called this day to preside. It is needless to remind you that its records were burned four years ago in the office of the Secretary, and that the date of its formation, the names of its originators, and the minutes of its proceedings were thus lost.—To remedy this loss, as far as possible, I resorted to a file of the county newspaper, and, turning it over leaf by leaf, found a notice of the first medical meeting held in the county. With data thus obtained, I refreshed the memories of the older members, and from their recollections have gathered facts enough to save the early history of this Society from entire forgetfulness.

On the 19th day of November, in the year 1838, six physicians, residents of Susquehanna County, met in the office of Dr. Asa Park, in the village of Montrose, and formed themselves into an association under "the name and denomination of the Susquehanna County Medical Society."

In reading this notice we are surprised at the age of this Society—more than twenty years old! Twenty years ago there was no National Medical Association, sending its able discussions and erudite monographs into every part of the country, stimulating the physicians to reading and study, and infusing new energy into the entire profession.—Twenty years ago Pennsylvania had no State Medical Society to which the local organizations could send an annual delegate to report the health statistics of the county, and to bring back the history and treatment of any epidemic or any new disease occurring in other parts of the State. Had it been to-day this Society was formed, it would have been simply to carry out the suggestions of the National Association, or merely to comply with the urgent requests of the State Society, or only to follow the example of physicians in every county around us. But it was formed years before the idea of a National Medical Association was conceived, years before the State Society was proposed, and when there were no outside influences of any kind to aid and encourage the undertaking. Whatever credit there is in the formation of this Society, is due entirely to the six physicians who gave it existence.

The place of its formation is noticeable. Montrose was then a small obscure village, situated somewhere among the bleak and rugged hills of Northern Pennsylvania.—There were no navigable waters, no canals then, no railroads, and no telegraphs, as now, to put it in communication with the rest of the world. It was off in the "Beech Woods" by itself, far from the business marts of the country and far from any of its great thoroughfares. Susquehanna County was yet half wilderness. Its hillsides were everywhere dotted with new choppings. New clearings were being made on many of its oldest roads. Comfortable and commodious framed houses were just beginning to displace the log huts of the first pioneers. Only here and there the large and elegant residence and well cleared lands of some able farmer exhibited an air of wealth and independence.

Such was the condition of the county when her physicians, isolated physically and professionally from the great seats of enterprise and learning, united themselves together for the noble purposes set forth in the following resolution which organized them into an association: "The objects of this Society are, and ever shall be, the improvement of the various branches of the medical science, and the development of honorable and friendly conduct and feeling among ourselves." The two objects set forth in that resolution are indeed noble, from whatever point we view them; but the philanthropic and unselfish motives which incited the movement are best seen in the preamble, to wit: "Whereas, *the greatest amount of benefit to our patients* cannot be achieved without a unity of feeling, a reciprocal interchange of views, and a unanimous determination to lend our aid towards elucidating, establishing, and promulgating those principles and practices of the profession which science has pointed out," &c. Nothing of self or of sordid interest is manifested. It exhibits an ardent desire for an increase of professional knowledge and usefulness, in order that they might be able to achieve the greatest amount of benefit to the patient. The organization of this society, for such objects and from such motives, evinces on the part of its originators an honorable determination to make themselves of the greatest possible benefit to the community, not only by perfecting their knowledge and skill in the divine art of healing, but also by promulgating, establishing, and elucidating correct medical and hygienic principles and practices among the people. It manifests a devotion to that profession from high and philanthropic motives.

In this early movement of our physicians, they recognized and reduced to practice these important principles: 1st. That the best interests of the patient require an honorable and friendly conduct and feeling between neighboring physicians. 2d. That the knowledge and usefulness of the physician are increased by a reciprocal interchange of views and opinions with his fellow practitioners.—3d. That the improvement of the various branches of the medical science is better accomplished by associated, than by individual action. These principles are now the life and spirit of the National Medical Association, and are the source of its immense usefulness. They are also the life and vigor of the State Medical Society. It is not supposed that these principles originated with this society; but it is claimed that they were practically applied years before the National and State organizations had existence. Indeed, so well satisfied was the society with the practical workings of those principles, after a ten years' experience, that it sent a delegate to a State Medical Convention held in Lancaster in 1848, for the purpose of forming a State Medical Society upon the same principles; and it was honored by having its youthful delegate elected Secretary of the Convention. The early formation of this society is therefore a credit to the physicians of the county, and the names of those who took part in its organization should not be forgotten. They should be again placed upon the records of the society and saved to those who come after us.

Who were the six physicians who proved themselves so much in advance of the profession in larger towns and more populous districts? As a class, (and it is a pleasure to speak of them as a class) they were REGULAR PRACTITIONERS OF MEDICINE. They belonged to that ancient and honorable school which was founded more than two thousand years ago by Hippocrates, the venerated Father of Medical Science, and which has come down to us through the lapse of ages with its fundamental principles unchanged and unchangeable. In every age of its long existence, it has witnessed the rise and as well the fall of new and rival systems, while itself progressed and improved in every changing period. "The theories which ruled the world successively in former years have disappeared, one after another, like the succeeding fashions in dress and equipage, while facts recorded more than two centuries before the Christian Era, recur in the daily walks of our profession just as the Father of Medicine recorded them on his tablets. Systems of medicine which were popular and world renowned in their day, are now less honored than the memories of their inventors. No other destiny awaits the hypotheses which have more recently arisen and flourished. The theories of Brown, and Thompson, and Hahnemann, and Priessnitz, and all other fruits of a luxuriant fancy, must descend the inevitable slope to oblivion: but the vast collection of truths established by the observation of nature, are as immutable as herself." Theories and systems shift and change with the veering wind of popular favor, while the regular practice goes steadily on through every age, growing and improving with the march of time, and adding new lustre to its glories in every succeeding year. Its perpetuity and renown are the results of inevitable necessity; for its practices are not sustained by theories but by facts. They are not formed on mutable doctrines, but on the immutable laws of nature. It must continue to withstand, in all time to come, as it has in all times past, the assaults of every wind and wave of doctrine; for its deep and strong foundation is built upon a rock of *medical truths*.

Medical truths do not force themselves upon the understanding, like the truths of an axiom, nor are they demonstrable like the propositions of mathematics. They are found only by slow, careful, and patient investigation. Every fact in medicine is not regarded as a medical truth. Before a fact can attain to that high dignity it is necessary that it be observed in numerous cases by competent observers; and not observed only, but it is fundamental and essential that those cases be recorded fully, minutely, and honestly, and with all the accompanying circumstances carefully written out. A fact that will stand the test of numerous recorded observations, attains the dignity and importance of a medical truth, and becomes the basis of regular medical practice. And it makes no difference from what source the fact comes. It matters not if it be a Homeopathic, Hydropathic, Eclectic, or Botanic fact; if it will but stand the test of carefully and minutely recorded observation, it is gathered in and placed among the choice collection of medical truths. It was well said by an eminent teacher that "our system, humble in its origin, has grown and improved by the contributions of vulgar ignorance, by fortuitous discoveries, by empirical experiments, and sometimes by well regulated inquiries." And so it will continue to grow and improve not only by its own scientific investigations, but also by gathering in everything valuable and true from every possible source. Whatever there may be valuable and true in Homeopathy, Hydropathy, or any other *pathy*, the regular system is sure to find and absorb, and leave the false system with its volumes of false theories and false facts to slide down the "inevitable slope to oblivion."

A high regard for the great truths which science has developed, and a disregard for theories and systems, is the characteristic which in all ages has distinguished the regular practitioner from the quack and empiric. When he goes forth to combat disease in all its Protean forms he wants *facts*, cold, stubborn, unyielding, uncompromising, unmistakable facts, to guide him in his practice.—But the quack comes out flauntingly with some new system, by which all manner of diseases shall be certainly healed. One makes his practice conform to the well-established truths of his profession; the other bases his upon the unsettled and uncertain principles of a new system. One has a sure and certain guide to rational treatment; the other follows an *ignis fatuus* whose bright and truthful appearance raises false hopes, and lures to disappointment.

The qualification which admits the candidate to membership in this ancient school, is a thorough medical education. Not that he shall be versed in theories and doctrines, but that he shall be thoroughly learned in medical truths. His mind must be stored with the fruits of close and unremitted study. Year after year must he pore over the pages of medical books; and month after month must he sit in close attention to medical lectures, before he may present himself for an admission into that learned body. Medical education is the *qualification*, and this is the *disqualification*—"Any physician who procures a patent for a remedy or instrument of surgery, is disqualified for membership in this body." The regular physician holds that any remedy or instrument of surgery that can benefit the sick or the injured, belongs not to the discoverer but to suffering humanity. He will not keep secret for his own personal interest a remedy which can be of general benefit to the sick. If he discovers a remedy or instrument of surgery, he publishes the discovery in the medical journals, for the benefit of the whole profession. He places his remedy in the hands of educated men, to be used with skill and judgment. But if a quack discovers a remedy, he gets it patented, and places it in the hands of the ignorant, to cure hundreds and destroy thousands. The one gets rich, surely; the other gets thanks,—perhaps.

To a school so ancient and learned and honorable, belonged the six physicians who formed the Susquehanna Co. Medical Society. They were all *Regular Practitioners of Medicine*; and it is with no small degree of pride that I record the fact. It is a high honor to them, and I am glad that their long professional lives have never been sullied with any species of quackery.

Of the six physicians who were present at the first meeting, twenty years ago, five are still living. One only has ceased from his professional labors and gone to that happy realm where pain and sickness and death, the subjects of his life-long study, are unknown. Dr. Asa Park, the Chairman of the first meeting, is that one. Death found him a weak, palsied old man—prematurely old and weak from excessive toils and privations.—Before the measure of his days was full, and while he yet retained the confidence of the community, he was obliged to retire from an extensive practice, and drag out the remainder of his days in weakness and infirmity.—Such is too often the brief history of the life of the country physician. Long rides, frequent fastings, night-watchings, and intense anxieties, soon undermine the strongest constitution. Not wealth and honor, but infirmities and premature old age are the reward of his labors.

Two of the original six have lost their membership in the Society by removal from the county. Dr. E. S. Park, the youngest of the number, recently left the county and located in Iowa. Dr. John L. Kite, of Choconut, the one who suggested the call for the first meeting, and to whom the Society probably owes its existence, is now a resident of Philadelphia. Three, just one-half the original number, still retain their membership, and manifest as much zeal, to-day, in carrying out the objects of the Society as they did twenty years ago. Dr. B. Richardson, of Brooklyn, the first President, Dr. Josiah Blackman, of Montrose, the first Secretary, and Dr. L. W. Bingham, of New Milford, the Chairman of the Committee to draft a Constitution, are present at this meeting;—and I doubt not they will find the reminiscences of to-day pleasurable. Their minds will naturally revert to the condition of the county and of the profession when they first started in life. Each one will recall the changes and improvements which have taken place in his particular locality; and will, perhaps, be able to point out the precise spot on some well cultivated farm where he once diverged from the obscure bridle path and became lost in the wide forests, or will point to some fine residence erected upon the site of a log cabin where he has lain all night upon the floor with nothing to cover him but his overcoat. Many such hard and trying scenes, dimmed and softened in the distance of time, will come crowding in upon their memories, and will add, like rugged mountain scenery in the background of a landscape, beauty and pleasure to the retrospective view. One of them will think of the time he lost his way in the wilderness, and lay all night in a laurel thicket, while a pack of hungry wolves howled and gnashed their teeth within a few feet of him, kept from a luscious repast of human flesh by the threatening growl of a faithful mastiff. We can all remember when the steam car first went whistling through our valleys, and when the quick lightning, submissive to the guidance of man, first sped through the country, carrying intelligence with the speed of thought to distant cities. But on an occasion like this, their minds will dwell with more pleasure upon the changes and improvements which have taken place in the medical sciences. As their thoughts run back over their profession during the brief period of their recollections, they will see progress and improvement written everywhere and all over every page of its history. They will see improvement in their instruments, in their books, and in their remedies. They will see it in the Asylums, in the Hospitals, and in the Colleges; and more especially will they see it in Surgery, in Midwifery, and in the Practice of Medicine. Every branch of the medical science is on the march toward perfection. Research and investigation is the characteristic of the age; but in no department of human knowledge have they produced results more splendid or brought out truths more brilliant and important than in the sciences connected with our profession.—The three original members here present are living witnesses to the fact before mentioned, that the regular practice of medicine is progressing and improving with every succeeding year. They can also witness to that other fact mentioned, that rival systems appear and disappear like succeeding changes in dress and equipage. They remember when Thompson came out with his absurd theory—"The human body is composed of four elements; and these elements are Earth, Air, Fire, and Water." Notwithstanding this theory betrayed the grossest ignorance of the human system, it took amazingly with the credulous. In 1840 no less than thirty-six thousand persons petitioned the Legislature of New York in favor of the practice he established. After Thompsonianism, and growing out of its fossil remains, came the Botanic Practice, formed upon two lucid principles—"Metals and Minerals are in the Earth, and, being extracted from the earth, have a tendency to draw all men down into the earth who use them. That vegetables spring up from the earth, and their tendency is to uphold all men from the earth." Botanic Doctors talk largely and knowingly about the deleterious and poisonous effects of all mineral and metallic substances upon the human system, but they do not hesitate to take Soda, Cream of Tartar, and Saleratus in half their food, nor to devour Salt in everything they eat. The ignorant creatures do not know that these are all metallic compounds. They do not even know that there are at least a dozen mineral substances entering into the composition of their own bodies, all of which are necessary to perfect health, and some of them essential to life. Next came the Eclectic Doctor, a species of the Botanic, only a little better educated. They have not sufficient medical knowledge to enter the regular ranks, or have not honor enough to conform to its rules of professional etiquette.

The Magnetic Doctors, who promised to cure all manner of diseases by Electro-Magnetism, and the Mesmerising Doctors, who were to cure every species of disease by a simple effort of their own will, have strutted across the stage and disappeared. Along with this ignoble crowd, travelling to the same destination, came Homeopathy, another new system, and like all new systems has a new theory for its foundation. "The efficacy of medicines depends upon the minuteness of the dose." This, the most absurd and ridiculous of all theories, has been the most popular. Its followers were numbered by thousands and tens of thousands. Its very absurdity commended it to the faith of the credulous. Every body went crazy after "*little sugar pills*." But the Homeopathic Doctors are abandoning "the sugar pills," and are resorting to "*Tinctures*." They have lost confidence in their "*Infinitesimals*," and are "exhibiting medicines in *sensible* and *appreciable* doses." In other words, they have taken the first step down that "inevitable slope."

So much, and more, have the originators of this Society witnessed; and as they sit here to-day, noting the progress of the regular practice on one hand, and the decline of rival systems on the other, and perhaps congratulating themselves upon the success of the Society they organized, it will be well for them to pause and inquire, has the Society done any good in all the twenty years of its existence? Has it been able to accomplish even one of the objects contemplated in its formation?

Twenty years ago the physicians of Susquehanna County stood each with his elbows out, ready to thrust the side of his professional neighbor. When they met, to disagree was the rule, to quarrel was not an exception. Each endeavored to build himself up by destroying his neighbor. If called in council, the life and health of the patient was quite forgotten in the anxiety to injure the reputation of the physician in attendance.—If they met, as two once did, in this village, on a plank over a mud-hole, they fought for the right of way. When they met on their professional rounds, they often stopped to quarrel, and on one occasion, at least, did not part until they knocked off hats and bestowed other "amiable attentions" upon each other. To this there were honorable exceptions. There were physicians in the county who would not violate their honor to injure a rival. But among them all was a feeling of jealousy and distrust which was a shame to them and an injury to the profession.—Now, through the kindly influence of this Society, the physicians of the county meet each other as brothers. They council and advise with each other without an effort or a desire to take undue advantage. The patient can get the honest opinions of consulting physicians, and have the benefit of their united judgment and skill. By adopting a code of Medical Ethics, and a uniform Fee Bill, the Society has removed the two most frequent causes of jealousy and ill-feeling.—It has accomplished its primary object, and "developed an honorable and friendly conduct and feeling among its members."

The semi-annual meetings of the Society have been profitable. The members have not failed to benefit each other by a reciprocal interchange of views and opinions. The conversations and discussions have called out the results of observation and experience, and medical facts of a local character have been established. The Society has most assuredly been a success. It has accomplished two of its principal objects. It is true that it has not done much toward the improvement of the various branches of the medical sciences, nor is it expected that it should. But, by increasing their own knowledge and skill, they have contributed to the elevation of the entire profession. Little more can be expected of the country physician. They have also endeavored to protect the health and lives of their patients, by promulgating sound medical and hygienic principles. They have not failed, on all proper occasions, to teach the laws of health and to warn against the causes of disease.

As I am about to close, do I hear any one ask, what good it does to teach the principles and practices by which health is preserved and life prolonged? Does any one doubt whether humanity is a whit the better for all the progress and improvement in the medical sciences of which we have been boasting? Does anyone point to the thousands of invalids who go groaning through life, or to the thickly peopled graveyards whose marble slabs may be seen from every hill-top, and sneeringly ask, where now is your boasted skill? To all such let me say, we do not profess to cure every disease; but let me assure you, the list of incurable diseases is growing less every day. We do not profess to save from death. The fiat has gone forth, "*Thou shalt surely die.*" From that decree we make no appeal. All that we can do is to put off the day of death: and that we have done, ten and twenty years. By statistics, carefully prepared, it is demonstrated beyond a doubt, that the average duration of human life has more than doubled in the last two hundred years, in which the regular practice has triumphed over every species of empiricism. Previous to the sixteenth century, the medical world was ruled by a succession of theories and systems, while the regular practice had only here and there a follower. In 1648 came the illustrious Sydenham, who rejected theories and systems and all the productions of a too fertile imagination, and, returning to the principles of Hippocrates, based his practice upon facts established by the observation of nature.—He sat down by the bedside of his patient and watched the progress of disease and noted the effect of medicines, and in all cases followed the suggestions of nature. By his great talent and influence the regular practice was revived, and it became the popular and principal school of medicine. From that day, the average duration of life has steadily increased, as may be seen from the following summing up of a table of Vital Statistics:

"In the latter part of the sixteenth century one half of all who were born died under five years of age; the average longevity of the whole population was but eighteen years. In the seventeenth century one-half of the whole population died under twelve years of age. But in the first sixty years of the eighteenth century one half of the population lived over twenty-seven years. In the latter forty years one-half exceeded thirty-four years of age. At the beginning of the present century one-half exceeded over forty years; and from 1838 to 1845 one-half exceeded forty-three years. The average longevity at these successive periods has been increased from 18 years in the sixteenth century up to 43 7-10 by the last reports."

The achievements of the Regular Practice will not end here. Before the close of another century the average duration of human life will be brought up to the Bible standard of three score years and ten.

It is a great thing, worthy the study and labor of life, to relieve the sufferings of fallen humanity, but it is greater and far nobler to lengthen the days of man upon this earth.—That is the business of our profession, and that is its greatest achievement. It is well that our profession is called the "*divine art of healing*;" for its accomplishments are almost superhuman. God breathed the breath of life into man, and then so surrounded him with the causes of disease and death that he could survive upon the earth upon an average of only eighteen years. Our profession came in and sought out those causes of early death, and by removing them one after another, has lengthened his days from eighteen to twenty-seven, to thirty-four, to forty-three years. And we promise still more. If men will continue to place themselves in our care and follow our directions, we promise them that their days shall go on increasing from forty-three to forty-five, to fifty, to sixty, and on up to that standard fixed by divine will at three score years and ten. More than that we dare not promise. Be it our effort, and our ambition to hasten the time when man shall live out the full measure of his days.

To the three original members let me say, you have done well. Your efforts have been successful. You have benefitted the community and the profession. Allow me to congratulate you upon this desirable result, and to pledge to you, anew, the cooperation of the younger members of the Society, in any effort to improve or elevate our glorious profession.

For the Independent Republican.

A VALENTINE.

To A. G.

VERY soft and sweet should the low strain be,
That I weave for one who's so dear to me;
And little of melody though it impart,
'Twould waft the warm breathings of love to thy heart.

Thou mayst prize lightly the lay that I sing,
But I know thou wilt cherish the off'ring I bring—
No costly jewel, no em'rald I bear,
O, mine is a boon more precious, more rare—

An Angel went forth from elysian bowers,
In kindness she passed through this world of ours;
She saw all its anguish, its sorrow, its woe,
In pity she wept, and bowed her head low.

And as she bowed, there fell to the ground,
A brilliant gem from her heav'nly crown—
O, *this* is the gift that I bring to thee,
The gem of love, in its purity!

Feb. 14th, 1859. G. A. D. M.

A Great Newspaper Enterprise.

THE *Buffalo Republic* hits off the puffing of the New York papers in the following, which purports to be called "The Milky Way,"—a very good name, though the Milk *and Watery* Way would be better. But hear the prospectus:

It will be issued on a sheet twelve times as large as the *Constellation*, each sheet of paper covering an area of 30,000 square feet which being reduced to acres, is one acre and five rods, so that every subscriber will obtain at every issue of the *Milky Way* nearly a "quarter section"—or, at least, a homestead, of reading matter. Thus each subscriber will get at least a furlong of good substantial literature for one cent.

To work this immense edition, Hoe & Co., Taylor & Co., and half a dozen other companies, have been engaged for the last two years in building us an eighty cylinder press, throwing off eighty of our acre and-a-half sheets in one-tenth of a second, folding, mailing, and receiving pay for them at one and the same operation. The types used up at each edition of this mammoth behemoth is sixty-three tons: keeping two foundries in Philadelphia, five in New York, and one in Buffalo, running constantly to supply us.

Our eighty cylinder press of course could not be placed in any known edifice, and no engine can be built sufficiently powerful to run it. Consequently we have arranged to have it placed at the foot of the Horse-shoe Fall, at Niagara Falls, and have it worked by water. To get our type from this city to that point in time, we shall be necessitated to build a railroad to the Falls. (Books of subscription to this road are now open at this office, where all who wish, can take stock at once.)

The following gentlemen are mentioned as contributors to "*The Milky Way*:"

James Gordon Bennett, Wm. Cullen Bryant, James Geo. Bryan, Brooks, Seaver, Cooper, Butts Clapp, Jewett, Andrews, Pope, Sydney Smith, Griswold, Fairfield, Halleck, Green, of the Boston Post, Sherwood, Charlotte Bronte, Bremer, Brougham, D'Israeli, Longfellow, Bulwer, Mrs. Grundy, (author of "What will they say?") Dr. Squills, Wendell Holmes, Ritchie, Kendall, Gray and Brown, of the Plaindealer, Doesticks, Chopsticks, Old Dow, Jr., Dayton, H. W. Beecher, Sargent, Sentinel, Sut Lovengood, Iota, On dit, Inspeter, Occasional, Leveln, Weed, Anonymous, Ibid, Channing, Cheever, Pierpont, Saxe, Chapin, Lieut. Maurey, De Santy (telegraph sketches,) Hucker, Jones, Terrance, Smith, (not John but Elbert Herring,) Park Benjamin, George Roberts, Dana of the Tribune, Raymond, and one or two others.

LOVE SONG.

BY JAMES R. LOWELL.

O, moonlight, deep and tender,
A year, and more agone,
Your mist of golden splendor,
Round my betrothal shone!

O, elm leaves dark and dewy,
The very same ye seem,
The low wind trembles through ye,
Ye murmur in my dream.

O, river, dim with distance,
Flow thus forever by,
A part of my existence
Within your heart doth lie!

O, stars, ye saw our meeting,
Two beings and one soul,
Two hearts so madly beating
To mingle and be whole!

O, happy night, deliver
Her kisses back to me,
Or keep them all and give her
A blissful dream of me!

Migration of Birds.

THE study of the migration of birds is particularly interesting. Many of our land birds probably are guided instinctively in their journeys by the course of our great rivers and mountain ranges, and our water birds by the trending of our coast line. But it is difficult to conceive of the instinct that directs some of our birds, which do not appear to heed the directions supposed to be apparent on the face of the country, but carelessly pass along, intent only in feeding as they slowly progress in their journey, taking no landmarks, and heedless little creatures, as they not even so much as take a *bird's-eye* view of the country over which they pass. For instance, there is the little ruby crowned wren, that little atom of ornithology, not larger than one's thumb, which passes from Hudson's Bay, where in summer it breeds, to Florida in winter, and back again to its northern home in spring. In its migration in autumn, it passes through Massachusetts in October, gleaning its food, principally consisting of the larvæ of insects. This little timid bird does not for a moment appear to lose its way, or, as we say, get its head turned round, but uniformly enters an orchard or garden on its northern side, and passing through it, from tree to tree, leaves it from its southern border, and thus pursues its journey, silently and quietly along, for months, until it at last reaches the most southern portion of the Union. In February, it leaves Florida in its journey north, and arrives around Hudson's Bay by the first of June, and after rearing its young, leaves these northern regions for the south about the middle or last of August.

Although most of our small birds migrate to the south in winter, the swallow tribe, under peculiar circumstances, do not always conform to the great migratory law of their nature, but provide themselves with winter quarters in hollow trees, sand banks and the bottoms of ponds. The parts visited by our birds in autumn and winter are Mexico and the southern portions of the Union. Mr. Nuttall, who has given considerable attention to the migration of our birds, remarks that the greater number of birds travel in the night; some species, however, proceed only by day, as the diurnal birds of prey—crows, pies, wrens, creepers, cross-bills, larks, blue-birds, swallows, and some others. Those which trav