1848 Charge to the Graduates of Jefferson Medical College

Joseph Pancoast, MD

Follow this and additional works at: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/skmccommencement

Part of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine Commons, and the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Recommended Citation
Pancoast, MD, Joseph, "1848 Charge to the Graduates of Jefferson Medical College" (1848). Sidney Kimmel Medical College Commencements. Video 138.
https://jdc.jefferson.edu/skmccommencement/138

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Sidney Kimmel Medical College Commencements by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.
PROFESSOR PANCOAST'S

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

OF

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PHILADELPHIA,

March 29, 1848.

WITH A LIST OF THE GRADUATES.
CHARGE

to

THE GRADUATES

of

Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia,

delivered March 29, 1848,

by

JOSEPH PANCOAST, M. D.

with

A LIST OF THE GRADUATES.

Published by the graduating class.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed by Frick, Kelly and Co., 170 North Third Street.

1848.
Prof. Pancoast,

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Graduating Class, the undersigned were appointed a committee to request, for publication, a copy of your Valedictory Address to be delivered at the ensuing Commencement.

Yours Respectfully,

P. J. Reilly, Mo.
R. B. Wallace, Ala.
J. Buck, Miss.
B. H. Rand, Penn.
A. H. Todd, Md.
T. L. Kelly, N. C.
S. A. Gresham, Ga.
J. N. Folwell, Ky.
W. W. Carr, Florida.
G. T. Taylor, N. J.
F. B. Ayer, N. H.
W. H. Tharp, Del.
P. H. Hayes, Vt.
E. H. Parker, Mass.
J. J. Gauthreaux, La.
J. C. Cable, Ohio.

E. S. T. Arnold, Eng.
L. Taylor, Texas.
N. W. Howard, N. Y.
P. F. Jenkins, S. C.
H. L. Blain, Ind.
J. P. Harper, Ill.
J. W. Bowen, Maine.
S. A. Peters, Can.
P. D. Neff, R. I.
R. E. Toombs, Iowa.
J. A. Murphy, Ak.
J. W. Nash, D. C.
W. H. Hillsman, Wis.
R. R. Harden, Canada.
T. A. McNail, Tenn., President.

C. E. Davidson, Va. Secretary.

Philadelphia, March 25th, 1848.

Gentlemen,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, purporting that you were appointed a Committee from the Graduating Class of Jefferson Medical College, to request a copy of my forthcoming Address for publication. I know not how Gentlemen, to decline with any propriety this additional mark of respect on the part of the Class, and shall therefore be ready to hand you over on Monday, a Copy of the Address for publication.

With sincere feelings of respect and attachment,

I remain your friend,

J. Pancoast.

To Messrs. P. J. Reilly, R. B. Wallace,
J. Buck, B. H. Rand,
A. H. Todd, T. L. Kelly, and others.

T. A. McNail, Pres.
C. E. Davidson, Sec.
CHARGE.

If there be any one justified in indulging in feelings of self-gratulation, it is surely the Student of Medicine, at the successful close of his collegiate studies.

He has, at this period, reaped the crowning result of many years of anxious preparation, and completed a course of study, more arduous, and attended with a greater sacrifice of health and comfort, than the public is generally apprised of.

He is conscious of the merit of having exerted himself in the attainment of an honorable distinction; and of having realised, by so doing, the desires of his relatives and friends,—of his parents, who have cast possibly, from his youth upwards, long anxious wishes into the future, to see their son creditably inducted into the profession of his choice.

To him, therefore, this must needs be a proud occasion, and it is fit that it should be ushered in with music and rejoicing.

Sympathising with you in these justifiable feelings of excitement, it is with peculiar pleasure that I offer you, Gentlemen Graduates, my congratulations, and welcome you, in the name and on behalf of the Trustees and Faculty of Jefferson Medical College, most heartily welcome you into the ranks of our profession. On your return to the homes of your youth, the still more pleasing congratulations of your anxious kindred await you,—who are now probably busied in preparations for your future establishment in life,—and of the members of the communities in which you are hereafter to dwell, who, it is natural to believe, will soon take a deeper interest than ever in all your proceedings.

The certificate of medical rank, which you have just now received from venerated hands, is an evidence that your relations with the public, as well as with us, have undergone a change. You have
stepped, as it were, this day, from one platform of existence, to
another and a higher—an elevation which presents you with a much
wider field for usefulness and exertion, and a vastly greater weight
of responsibility. For, disguise it as your modesty may incline you
to do, the profession which has now thrown its mantle over you, has
conferred a powerful influence upon you for future good or evil. It is
a profession that carries with it, in the minds of all, the presump-
tion that you have acquired a knowledge of the means of being
greatly useful hereafter, in remedying the physical ills of life, which
prevail alike wherever sickness rages or wounds are inflicted, and
as well among those that dwell in marble halls as those that inhabit
the hovels of the poor. The change, however, which has been
effected by this day's ceremonial, is, after all, only a sign that you
have been successful in fully completing your preparations for the
greater voyage of life which you have but now, as it were, fairly
begun; and the notes of music swelling forth to-day may be com-
pared as the morning reveilliez, which should rouse you up anew
to exertion, after having made your first stage in the long march of
existence.

To your young eyes, the wide ocean of the future must now be
seen stretching out endlessly and mistily before you. To us you
seem like so many goodly barks about to depart from a quiet
haven, each one on his separate track over the wide—wide sea, exposed to
shoal and rock and tempest, with no compass but your will, no chart
but your diploma; filled with zeal and knowledge, generous feel-
ings and noble impulses: a freight in value incomparably greater
than ever was floated by the argosies of Ind. Can we then see
you depart, perhaps most of you never again to greet
us with your presence; we who have been so long associated with you that your
countenances have grown to be unto us like those of our familiar
friends, without the most anxious solicitude for your welfare, and a
desire to supply you with some parting admonition.

Your teachers, if I may be allowed to refer to them, have enea-
vored, most anxiously, in all their previous intercourse with you,
to fit you, so far as it was in their power, for this great enterprise,
on the success of which is staked so much of your future happiness
and reputation. You have been noted as among the most attentive
and laborious of one of the largest classes of pupils ever assembled
in this country, where almost all have been attentive, and your ac-
quirements have been tested by, what may have appeared to you, a rigorous and painful ordeal.

You have enjoyed, during the past session, unusual opportunities of becoming personally and practically familiar with disease, both in the Hospital of this City, and in the extensive Clinic attached to the Jefferson Medical College, in which more than thirteen hundred patients, and over four hundred different medical and surgical diseases, attracted from the City and from an extensive district of the surrounding country, have been carefully treated before you. In view of all this, some—the least thinking among you—may possibly be led to beguile themselves with the belief, that their days of study and their nights of watching and meditation, are now gone by, and that they stand prepared, at the present moment, to keep the field against all the difficulties that may be encountered in practice. But let such, if there be any among you, beware how they yield to so great a delusion. In truth, Gentlemen, the time in which you should feel a double incentive to study, and the acquisition and ripening of experience, has now arrived. For though you have passed out of our hands, to take equal rank with us in the profession, the public is soon to form another tribunal which will sit in judgment on your merits:—A public that will, in the first instance, be predisposed in your favor;—will weigh favorably your present attainments, especially if they find you active and studious; but will exact from you more and more, as your opportunities for practice and experience increase. In a mercantile sense of the word, you now go forth with a certain available amount of credit, which by proper industrious attention to the study and practice of your profession you may extend almost at will.

We are, therefore, exceedingly solicitous that you may start right in your professional career, and so lay down your plans for continuous study and improvement, as to increase day by day in your medical attainments, and in the confidence of an observing public. By so doing you will be sure to make the outset of your career a pleasant back-ground to the filling up of the scheme of your after life. And to this course you should be strongly incited, not only for the present advantages attainable by it, but also for the retrospective gratification it will afford you, when time may have brought you to fill the places of those to whom you have heretofore looked up for instruction. For advancing age, like the winter of the seasons, which clears the landscape by stripping away the fo-
liage of spring and summer, will seemingly, as you grow older, bring your youth the nearer, and hold always in vivid recollection the earlier events of your Medical career.

There are none of you now before me, of birth so humble or station so lowly, as to have reason to dread, in this free land of ours, the injurious influence of prejudice or power on your future life.—If the res angusta domi should, for a time, debar any one from starting in a career as fair and full as others, the mind which knows no artificial restraints, whose kingdom is as large in the brain of the poor as the rich, may still be actively employed in hiving up wisdom and knowledge, in readiness for an opportunity for its display, which will sooner or later come, and make all the disadvantages of rank and station as nothing.—For it is told us on more than human authority, that

"Wisdom lifteth up the head of him that is of low degree, and maketh him to sit among great men. The skill of the Physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration."

In successfully carrying out, under whatever circumstances you may be placed, a strenuous effort for self-improvement, you must be instigated by high motives, by a sense of the important duties that you will have to discharge, more than by any objects of personal or pecuniary interests.

For what is henceforward to be the business of your lives?—Is it that which too many, at the outset of their career, deem the great object of existence, the sordid accumulation of wealth? If there be any that think so, let him go delve in the mine—attach himself to the rotating wheel of commerce, or break up all social ties to court the fickle goddess beneath the sun of the Equator. The practice of your profession, while it is less subject to the reverses of fortune that often overtake the merchant, and forms a source of support and a chance of distinction that cannot readily be taken from you, holds out in prospect no El Dorado, no Aladdin’s lamp, no “open sesame” to the sudden acquisition of wealth. But it proffers you opportunities for obtaining that, which is, when rightly considered, a richer inducement to exertion, the respect, the confidence and the affection of the good, the learned and the wise.

Your business is to be the care of lives: of human lives—an office second in importance to none, save that of the ministers of our holy religion;—of the parent, around whose sick-bed are gathered so many dependant and sorrowing spirits,—of the son, the future hope
and stay,—of the daughter, just blooming into womanhood, to form an atmosphere of light and life to all around her,—of the infant, the object of so much present affection, the nucleus about which revolves so much future hope and expectation. The lives of these it is to be your duty hereafter, so far as is in your power, to protect and guard, and by so doing preserve unbroken that chain which binds life to life, whose links are formed by love, duty, and all other blessed feelings—those jewels of the soul which constitute the wealth of the affections; a wealth, to find the equal of which in value, Potosi or Golconda, or the sands of all the rivers that ever flowed beneath the burning sun may be searched in vain.

Keep yourselves ready then and able to discharge so important a trust, to the best of the abilities with which God has endowed you.

The path which you are to follow in its accomplishment is a plain one. It is simply the path of duty and honor. The leisure hours that may be afforded you before your time becomes fully engrossed in the practice of your profession you must not therefore idle away in listless inactivity, but embrace them as a precious opportunity for maturing your minds and increasing your professional efficiency by reading and reflection.

In no one pursuit is there, at the present time, a greater force of intellect or more indefatigable industry exerted, than in our own. Europe, from one extreme to the other, is a busy hive, where men, emulous of excellence, strive to outvie each other in the improvement of the healing art. Books of great value, the fruits of such exertions both at home and abroad, lie open before you and invite to their perusal. Scattered over the broad surface of our own glorious land, are likewise found hundreds of physicians, whose lives it will be well for you to imitate, fully equal in point of sagacity, clear judgment and successful practice, to the best of those that loom somewhat largely beyond the Atlantic. We have given to Europe, in our indigenous plants, some of her richest medical treasures; and when the scales of prejudice shall have fallen more completely from the vision of her writers, they will find much in the shrewd observation and direct good sense of American practitioners that it will be advantageous for them to study. We may look soon to have, in this respect, better justice done us; for the attention of the Old World is now directed more earnestly upon us, in order to watch the progress of our social and political triumphs, the fame of which seems to be stirring there like the sound of a trumpet, in the breasts of the
millions who have for ages been trodden down with the iron heel of prejudice and power.

In the selection of books I would advise you, at first, to choose those of the latest production, which teach you the existing state of the science, and afterwards, at your leisure, trace backwards the stream of knowledge, gleaning what is valuable from the experience of the past. Cultivate with equal care, at your outset, the various branches of your profession. Stop not in this course because you see not the opportunity of applying immediately the information you gain. You know not which branch in the end will most redound to your reputation; and you can study nothing directly connected with your profession, that will not repay you for the trouble, and come some future day into useful application. You will most certainly, likewise, find great advantage as well as agreeable relaxation in many of the auxiliary branches. The study of polite literature, as it is called, has a tendency to refine the feelings and enlarge the mind, and thus render you the more acceptable companions to the literary and accomplished. All the branches of natural science will have great charms, especially to such of you as dwell in the country, where you may diffuse great good by rendering such noble studies popular by the force of your example. The study of mental philosophy, to some extent, becomes absolutely necessary to enable you to manage to the best advantage the various strange moral affections that present themselves as the consequence of disease.

Be not, however, terrified at the extensiveness of the field of study before you. What the intelligent of other professions cultivate for pleasure and general information, you should be the more strongly impelled to undertake, in consequence of its usefulness in your calling. You will find the task attractive, and in fact, the very amplitude of the field it presents for investigation constitutes one of the great charms of Medical life. When you come to establish yourselves in practice, you will of necessity be brought into very delicate relations with many of your older medical brethren, and must of course expect to have your qualifications, your temper and your principles closely scrutinised, before you can attain the unbounded confidence of the prudent and the good. It will be incumbent on you, therefore, to take especial heed to your steps, in order to avoid giving justifiable grounds to the breath even of suspicion. Keep yourselves ready on every occasion to do justice to the claims of all your professional brethren, and never indulge that weakness common
to feeble and ignoble minds, of looking upon the praises bestowed upon competitors as so much wrong done to your reputation. All invidious feeling displayed towards rivals, either by sly insinuation, unfriendly statements of their practice, or the grosser vaunting of one's own superiority, will be found but bad policy, apart from every other consideration. It would serve to show so bad a heart as to prejudice you in the minds of all the honorable and good.—Emulate and excel, if you can, your competitors, by every just and proper means. If you should not succeed in this honest and noble aim, show, at least, the disposition to excel them, and the public will not long remain blind to your merits, or backward in promoting your fortunes.

It is not every one, however, who proves himself sufficiently strong and high-minded to pay, in unceasing diligence and upright demeanor, the price of all honorable distinction in science. Some are occasionally met with who are turned aside from the path of honor by the hope of gain, or some equally unworthy motive, engage in the selfish practices of empiricism and imposture, and make, before they learn its proper value, shipwreck of all professional reputation. All such are certain to find, in the end, how grievously they have been mistaken. For although experience has shown us that empirical delusions of some sort will always be, to more or less extent, prevalent; it is equally apparent that they are short lived; spring up, one after another, like waves upon the sea shore, and as surely break each other to pieces; and that they who embrace them will be able but for a short time to disturb the fair course of science, and soon, if they sink not altogether, will flounder on, unheeded and despised. But I will not dwell on a subject so distasteful to me, as among you I trust there is not one who would so far forget the proper objects of his noble mission. Is not your mission a noble one? Is not health a blessing, existence desirable, and a knowledge of the means of relieving its ills and pains most valuable in the estimation of all? And is it not, also, to this great purpose of relieving suffering, that you are about to devote yourselves; and which you are to endeavor to accomplish, not merely by the administration of medicines and the performance of surgical operations, but by giving, likewise, close attention to the regulation of the diet, regimen, and every thing that interests the well being of your patient. Your duties are not even to terminate with the cure of the disease. Your counsels are still to be continued, in the hope of being able to lay down such rules for his observance after recovery as to enable him to avoid the recurrence of his malady. The singu-
far disinterestedness of our profession in this respect, so apparently in direct opposition to its pecuniary interests, and in general but imperfectly appreciated by the public, is manifested, not by a few members only, but, we may almost say, by the whole body of the profession.

Philanthropic feelings seem so naturally to be imbibed by the student along with his medical doctrines, that it is rare to meet with—I, at least, have never seen, and can scarcely conceive the existence of—any well educated member of our profession becoming so great a monster of iniquity as to have his conduct and opinions knowingly influenced by mere pecuniary considerations in opposition to public or private good. Such a being, if he should be met with, would soon have his infamy detected, and be compelled to crawl along, the scorn of all the good, and if he managed to thrive at all, he will do so by preying as a charlatan on the ignorant and the weak.

Whilst I would inspire you, Gentlemen, with a desire for the high minded and generous exercise of your profession, I would also have you to make up your minds, even if you should not meet for a time with all the encouragement that you merit, never to abandon it.—Let it grow old with you. Live on such good terms with it while you are young that as you get older you will feel inclined to cherish it the more. Now, you will need it for your support, and when you get older and more experienced, your services will in all probability be held in such high estimation, that the satisfaction with which they are received, will serve in a good degree, to compensate for the attendant toil. Even though the value of your increased experience should not seem to be duly appreciated, you will yourselves be conscious of it; and if you feel rightly, you will be almost inclined to doubt, unless sickness or infirmity came upon you, whether morally you would be right in withholding it from the public.

By a similar train of reasoning, I believe you will also find it to be your duty to communicate such valuable materials as you may gather from observation, in the way in which they will be most useful, through the authorised medical channels, and not by the medium of the public prints, which might lay you open to the suspicion of ignoble motives.

Favorable opportunities may lead you to discover valuable remedial agents among our indigenous plants, and you will directly enhance your reputation, and possibly do honor to your country by making them generally known.

You may also be enabled to contrive some great improvements in the apparatus for the treatment of surgical diseases, and if such im-
provements should prove, on trial, particularly advantageous, self
interest, in its ignoble promptings, might possibly suggest to some of
you the securing of the exclusive advantage of their sale.

But recollect that no one man really invents much, and seldom
even brings to much useful perfection the little that he does really
invent. His efforts are usually restricted to the borrowing, directly
or indirectly, from others, and to the improvement or new application
of that which he has borrowed. This is especially the case in refer­
cence to our profession. If you search into the history of the secret
or patented articles which encumber our shops, you will perceive
that their self-styled inventors have obtained all the valuable know­
ledge they possess, and which is often but very little, from the free,
benevolent, broad cast dispensation of it by the liberal members of
our profession, of which all are expected to be liberal if they desire
to be esteemed; and it is, at least in my estimation, a questionable
point whether any one has, in this respect, the moral right so to per­
vert the labors of others for his own selfish advantage. The ad­
ding of the little that the best of us are enabled to do, in the way of
invention, observation or improvement to the common stock of know­
ledge for the alleviation of human suffering, is to make but an in­
significant return, for the precious privilege we all enjoy, of feasting
freely at the public table of science, upon which for more than 2000
years the wisest and the noblest of our profession have laid with
open hands the fruits of their labors and experience.

Self-interest, even if it were not too short-sighted to look beyond the
momentary expedient, should give to every one a higher aim.—
By assiduously struggling on in the acquisition of knowledge, and in
the maintenance of liberal views and a fair reputation, you must as­
suredly, if your lives are protracted, reach a point of high consid­
eration with the public; for persons in general are too sensitive to
suffering not to learn to appreciate, rightly, high medical attainments,
and too wise not to know that learning worth and talent, cannot long
be retained in any situation, in which they do not meet with adequate
respect and reward.

In such a position, there will be much that you will find gratifying,
high social rank, warm and valuable friendships, and ample bestowal
of confidence on the part of the worthiest and wisest. It has, how­
ever, like all sublunary stations, its penalties and its pains; and
these, too, are of such a character, as will render it necessary for
you, more than for most men, to learn to practice the christian
virtue of forbearance—and on all occasions, on account of the deli­
cate matters that will necessarily be confided to you, to sustain in its
nicest points the sense of honor. In respect to the latter duty, however,
it is unnecessary that I should dwell, as the whole tenor of your medical education has proved the necessity of its observance, if you would prosper as physicians, even if you were not incited to it as right-feeling men.

The embarrassments and vexations that chequer the physician's career, most of you are already apprized of. If time was allowed me, I would like to parade them all before you now, in their strongest colors, in order to avoid any future disappointment on the part of those who deem the greatest difficulty in a medical life is passed with the trying ordeal preparatory to graduation. As men who purpose to pursue a manly and elevated course, to know the difficulties in the path is in part to conquer them. They are not, perhaps, to be so deeply regretted, inasmuch as they serve to brighten other scenes by contrast, and life itself would be insipid without some vicissitudes of pain and pleasure, those ups and downs of the feelings, for the halcyon weather always comes after the storm.

You may frequently be pained to find your advice even when formally solicited, disrespected, at least, if not disregarded, on the part of patients whose own lives involve deeply the interests of many others, over whom you see impending some mortal affection, yet one susceptible of being averted, especially when that advice clashes, as it often must, with the pursuits of business or pleasure.

In cases where sudden and nearly hopeless sickness has fallen like a blight upon some valuable life, you must often be pained by the necessity of replying to importunate inquiries, in respect to the risks of the attack—and be tempted, a mistake which too many are apt to commit, from your native amiability and an instinctive desire to soothe anxiety and allay excessive distress, to wrong yourselves by making, for the time, lighter of the disease than your judgment warrants. This would be a great error, for the public is not, in general, generous enough to give you credit for so amiable a weakness, and will remember an incorrect opinion thus given, to your future disadvantage.

You must occasionally be placed under still more painful circumstances, when, in spite of all your care, you find your patient, from the severity of the disease, or from native feebleness of constitution, balancing, as it were, between life and death, or, perchance, with little hopes of recovery, and he solicits from you a candid opinion in reference to his state. As men of truth and honor, you cannot fail but reply; but as physicians, sensible how much any increased moral depression may weaken the already attenuated thread of existence, and knowing, likewise, how often the recuperative
energies, when properly aided, triumph over desperate disease, you should so couch your reply, that you may not shock your patient, and yet allow him by inference to perceive your anxiety as to the result. But as moralists and christians you should, through one of his nearest and most judicious friends, have him in the gentlest manner, and at the most propitious season, made acquainted with his evanescent hold on human things.

Having thus placed yourselves in a right position with all, you will still be looked to by the patient as the source of his earthly relief, can inspire hope by your attentions, so as occasionally to rouse the dormant energies of his system, and if it be impossible to cure, have, at least, the sad satisfaction of assuaging suffering and lengthening life.

You must expect, at times, to be called to patients suffering from severe injury, or protracted disease, and be placed under the painful necessity of having to determine whether he is to continue to risk, perhaps lose his life, or submit as the surest means of saving it to some fearful operation. In whatever way or however conscientiously you decide a question of such moment, you must not expect but that there will be some so uninformed or so unreasonable as to believe and to state, that the course which they have seen pursued to the end was less appropriate than some other which they have not seen tested. The very best of our profession, the most humane and the most skilful have thus suffered. It is the way the weak and the wavering review their own conduct, and you must expect to meet with and to bear it.

It is not necessary, Gentlemen, that I should dwell farther on this dark side of the picture—these difficulties and anxieties attendant on Medical career—or the line of conduct in which they are to be overcome or averted. It will be sufficient for me to say, in all cases of trial or embarrassment deal openly and high-mindedly with those about you, following the golden rule, to act as you would wish, were you and your patient to change positions. But never shrink from the responsibility which science, justice or humanity imposes upon you; for, be assured, a firm and manly course will prove, in the end, most advantageous for those under your care, and most successful in winning for yourselves the esteem and the confidence of the noble and the good.

Gentlemen, you will perceive that I have not drawn upon my imagination to paint your prospective career, with the seductive allurements of fancy. I have endeavored to set forth the difficulties, the advantages, and the importance of your mission in true colors. And
such as your mission is, it is worthy of, it demands from you, the unceasing exertion of all your energies. I would that I had the power to fire you with the intensest zeal in making these exertions, and to stimulate you to strive to gain if it be possible the topmast round in the ladder of fame. If you aim to be anything beyond mediocrity you have even now no time to waste. You should determine to commence the effort at once, this day, this hour; for in the beautiful language of one of our own poets:

Lives of great men all remind us,
   We can make ourselves sublime,
   And departing leave behind us,
   Footsteps on the sand of time.

Let us then be up and doing,
   With a heart for every fate,
   Still relieving, still pursuing,
   Learn to labor and to wait.

That we urge you so strongly in the direction in which we think your best interests will be subserved, is partly from the anxiety with which we shall seek to hear good tidings from you hereafter, and partly on account of your parents and sisters, whose hearts have, while watching patiently afar by their household gods, throbbed for your safety here, and are already warming with the glow of hope, in the prospect of your future advancement. It is partly also on the account of others who, not allied to you by blood or official station, are now looking with interest on you. The distinguished men who occupy these seats, with the memory of their own early outset into life revived through the long vista of years all fresh and green, on this occasion survey you with the anxious hope that you may, each one of you, realise our wishes and indeed become the "good physician."

The beauty, fashion and elegance assembled here to-day, strangers to you though they may be, attracted by this ceremonial, have, I make no doubt, from their hearts, those rich store-houses of all kindly feelings, put up their orisons, that you who go out from us here, to battle for the lives of others, with sickness, pestilence and death, may be protected by an over-ruling Providence, and stimulated to acquire such a mastery of your art, that the sick and the suffering may not appeal to you in vain. Let me then say to you, Gentlemen, you for whose prosperity there are so many anxious wishes, so much teeming expectation, to you who are the heroes of this occasion; you who have been the cynosures of all eyes to-day—disappoint them not—disappoint them not.
GRADUATES
OF
JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA,
MARCH, 1848.

At a Public Commencement held on the 29th of March, 1848, the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the following gentlemen by the REV. EZRA STILES ELY, D. D., President pro tempore in the absence of the REV. ASHEEL GREEN, D. D., L. L. D., President of the Institution, after which a charge to the Graduates was delivered by PROFESSOR PANCOAST.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Subject of Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Gerard</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Syphilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, John B.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Hypertrophy of the Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnold, Edmund S. F.</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Pneumothorax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayer, Francis B.</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Typhoid Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baer, Caleb D.</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Hydrocele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bainbridge, Ensebius C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks, William</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baxley, Jabez B.</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, Trumbull L.</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benson, Wirt F.</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibb, William E.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch, David</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdsell, Sylvester</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blain, Hamilton L.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolling, Lenzus</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton, James N.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourn, Richard W.</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bournonville, A., M.D.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowen, James W.</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brogden, Robert</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookbank, John W.</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Henry James, M.D.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass, Andrew J.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, John T.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruner, William H.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck, Jonathan</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable, Josiah C.</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caball, Thomas</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron, J. Walton</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carr, William W.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chambers, John M. Duncan</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chancellor, James E.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchman, Vincent T.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark, George W.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clements, L. Morgan</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subject of Thesis:
- Syphilis
- Hypertrophy of the Heart
- Pneumothorax
- Typhoid Fever
- Hydrocele
- Prolapsus Uteri
- Cold Stage of Intermittent Fever
- Typhus Fever
- Phthisis Pulmonalis
- Physiology of Respiration
- Opium
- Nutriment of Fetus
- Cardiac Dropsy
- Dysesthesia
- Acute Gastritis
- Typhoid Fever
- Datura Stramonium
- (Ad eundem)
- Bilious Remittent Fever
- Circulation of the Blood
- Intermittent Fever
- Tetanus
- Eclampsia Infantum
- Acute Dysesthesia
- Glands of Brunner
- Fever
Collet, Mark Wilkes
Connalley, Reps
Crouse, George Jackson
Davidson, Charles Edward
Davis, John, Jr.
Dennis, William H.
Deupree, William J.
Dixon, Lucius
Dodd, Robert J., Jr.
Doxey, John L.
Drayton, Edward F.
Fitzgerald, Edmund
Foard, Andrew Jackson
Folwell, Joseph N.
Fort, Moses T.
Frick, William S.
Fram, Joseph M.
Garnett, James H.
Gauthreaux, Joseph Justin
Gilbert, Julius Caesar
Glass, Samuel
Green, James S.
Gresham, Sterling A.
Guild, La Fayette
Gwyn, James D.
Habersham, Stephen Elliott
Halley, Samuel H.
Hamilton, James
Harden, Robert Raymond
Harper, John P.
Harris, Marcus A.
Hayes, Pliny H.
Henderson, William J.
Herr, Henry F.
Hill, Alonzo A. F.
Hillman, William H.
Hobson, Samuel A.
Hore, Walter
Hottenstein, Cyrus D.
Houtz, Abraham
Howard, Nelson W.
Howell, George H.
Humphreys, Benjamin W.
Hunter, William R.
Isbell, Abner C.
Jackson, Samuel
Jenkins, Paul F.
Jenkins, Robert C.
Jessup, John J.
Jeter, John W.
Jones, Daniel W.

Pennsylvania.
Virginia.
Pennsylvania.
Virginia.
Virginia.
Mississippi.
Virginia.
Virginia.
Pennsylvania.
Mississippi.
Pennsylvania.
Georgia.
Georgia.
Kentucky.
Georgia.
Pennsylvania.
Pennsylvania.
South Carolina.
Virginia.
Pennsylvania.
Georgia.
Missouri.
Virginia.
New York.
Pennsylvania.
Pennsylvania.
Georgia.
Virginia.
Virginia.
Virginia.
Pennsylvania.
Ohio.
New York.
Pennsylvania.
Tennessee.
Maine.
Virginia.
Pennsylvania.
South Carolina.
Virginia.
New Jersey.
Virginia.
Maryland.

Changes of the Blood in disease.
Acute Hydrocephalus.
Febria Remittens.
Puerperal Fever.
Hematology.
Cholera Infantum.
Congestive Fever.
Acute Endo-gastritis.
Diseases of the Urinary bladder.
Process of Digestion.
Gonorrhoea.
Curvatures of the Spine.
Pathology of Inflammation.
Rheumatism.
Acute Dysentery.
Moral prophylaxis and treatment of diseases.
Pharmaceutical Inconsistencies.
Conception.
Differential Diagnosis of Typhus and Typhoid Fever.
Yellow Fever.
Pneumonia.
Constipation and its effects.
Cholera Infantum.
Healing of wounds.
Vis Medicatrix Naturae.
Inguinal Hernia.
Scarlatina.
Pathology of the Human Solids.
Acute Gastritis.
Acute Peritonitis.
Diagnosis.
Physiological Anatomy of the skin
Hepatitis.
Peculation.
Hereditary Transmission.
Pneumonia.
Inguinal and Femoral Hernia.
Dysentery.
Menorrhoea.
Typhoid Fever.
Quackery.
Pneumonia.
Natural Indications.
Sulphuric Ether.
Acute Articular Rheumatism.
Opium.
Gastritis.
Scarlatina.
The Tampon.
Hysteria.
Cutaneous System.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Disease/Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Robert Lewis</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Animal Calorification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan, Watson P.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Bilious Remittent Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendrick, Oscar C.</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Action of Ergot on the vitality of the Blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knapp, Franklin A.</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Menstruation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koontz, George H. H.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Tic Douloureux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladd, Horace</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Acute Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leake, Virginius</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Vis Medicatrix Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherbury, Edward R.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis, Richard J.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Influence of the mind on Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey, Hugh N.</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Chylosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn, William H.</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Menstruation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long, John Wesley</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Asphyxia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long, Reuben K.</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothrop, James E.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Acute Peritonitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luther, Martin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McClure, Henry</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Intermittent Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLlvaine, Robert H.</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Qualifications of a Physician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNeill, Thomas A.</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Acute Hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackenzie, Thomas G.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Use of Sulphuric Ether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsden, John H.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Management of Lying-in Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall, Theophilus O.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Cathartics and their Therapeutical Effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason, Edmunds</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merina, William H.</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, William I.</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moss, George W.</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moultrie, Alonzo C.</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy, Cornelius T.</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy, John A.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nash, John W.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neblett, Sterling, Jr.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neff, Peter D.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Acute and Chronic Peritonitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas, John Thomas</td>
<td>South Wales</td>
<td>Asphyxia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O'Donnell, William</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Lithuria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham, Robert H.</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Abortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osborne, Edward A.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Typhus Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen, Edward</td>
<td></td>
<td>Typhoid Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer, Charles</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Apoplexy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker, Edward H.</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson, Theophilus</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peters, Samuel Adams</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Amenorrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pettus, Luther C.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Chlrosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips, Thomas A.</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Medical Empiricism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philbrick, Samuel R.</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Principles of Diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston, Alexander R., M.D.</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>(Ad eundem.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince, William E.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Typhoid Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puryear, Richard R.</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Carbonic Acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsay, G. Randolph</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsay, James Graham</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Animal Charcoal as an Antidote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rand, B. Howard</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Duties of the Accoucheur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reilly, Paul Jones</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Richardson, William L.  Pennsylvania.  Scarlet Fever.
Robb, John P.  Virginia.  Dysentery.
Robertson, Edwin I.  Virginia.  Therapeutical Agency of Sul-
Robson, George T.  Virginia.  phate of Quinia.  Remittent Fever.
Sample, John  Pennsylvania.  Pathology of Scarlatina.
Scott, Samuel  Pennsylvania.  Cyananche Trachealis.
Selzler, John Horace  Pennsylvania.  Adaptation of the Hand to the
Service, Lecky M.  Pennsylvania.  Arts and Sciences.
Smith, Elliott Iverson  Georgia.  Emansio Mensium.
Taylor, George T.  New Jersey.  Scarlatina.
Taylor, James M.  Pennsylvania.  Continued Fever.
Tharp, Jonathan  Delaware.  Pneumonia.
Thomas, John R.  Pennsylvania.  Pneumonia.  (Ad eundem.)
Timberlake, Phillip  Virginia.  Acute Peritonitis.
Todd, Alexander H.  Maryland.  Gastritis.
Toombs, Robert E.  Georgia.  Acute Hepatitis.

Wallace, Robert B.  Alabama.  Endo-gastritis.
Walton, Lewis I.  Virginia.  Carbonic Acid Gas.
Welch, William A.  Alabama.  Peripneumony.
White, G. Jefferson  Virginia.  Scarlatina.  Epidemic Fever that prevailed in
Williams, Jr., William Virginia.  Virginia, during the Autumn of
Wilson, Andrew J.  Virginia.  1845.
Wimbish, James A.  Virginia.  Scarlatina.
Wright, John  Virginia.  Measles.
Zimmerman, Reuben P.  Pennsylvania  Puerperal Fever.

Missouri.  Medicine.

Total, 178.

R. M. HUSTON, M. D., Dean.

Mar. 30, 1848.