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Dr. Franklin West, Clinical Clerk, now dead.

Prof. S. D. Gross, Operating, Dr. Charles S. Briggs.

Dr. W. Joseph Hearn, Assistant.
Dr. Sam'l W. Gross, son of S. D. Gross.
Dr. James M. Barton, Assistant.
Dr. Daniel Apple.

Dr. Samuel D. Gross operating. Reproduced by permission of Thomas Eakins, N. A., who made the painting from which it is taken, while studying anatomy as an art student in Jefferson Medical College in 1873. It was exhibited in the Centennial Exposition of 1876, and is now on exhibition at the World’s Fair in St. Louis.
CHAPTER IX.


In 1856 Dr. Samuel D. Gross was appointed to the chair of Institutes and Practice of Surgery, as successor to Professor Thomas D. Mütter, who had recently resigned and was made Emeritus Professor. This was the first change in the Faculty of Jefferson since 1841.

By a fortunate coincidence, these reminiscences begin with mention of Gross. Nothing could be more appropriate, for in the life of the College, from the time of its founding, no name in American medical history is more prominent and honored. He was one of the older sons of Jefferson, of the class of 1828, and after the lapse of twenty-eight years he returned again, in a new capacity, and, by his work and teaching and noble example, he added to his own fame and much to the reputation of the school which always proudly acknowledged him as an alumnus.

Samuel David Gross was born near Easton, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1805, and died in Philadelphia, May 6, 1884, at the ripe old age of almost four-score years. His early life was spent on his father’s farm, and a naturally strong constitution, combined with his health-giving outdoor life, was a fine preparation for the immense amount of work he was destined to accomplish in his long professional career. Very early in life he had the idea of being a “doctor” firmly in his mind, and at seventeen he began the study of medicine as a private pupil of a country practitioner, but soon found that his limited general knowledge made his progress very unsatisfactory.

In his Autobiography, Gross says: “This was the turning point in my life. I had made a great discovery—a knowledge of my ignorance, and with it came a solemn determination to remedy it.” So he dropped his
medical studies for the time, and went to an academy at Wilkes-Barre governed by Joel (afterward Judge) Jones. The next year he attended Mr. Shea's classical school, in the Bowery, New York, and later for a time was in the Lawrenceville high school, New Jersey. "I was nineteen years of age when I commenced in earnest the study of medicine," he says. This was in the office of Dr. Joseph K. Swift, of Easton. He read extensively, from anatomy to practice and midwifery, and his preceptor examined him every Saturday for an hour or so. During his school life, and also at this time, he had been acquiring a knowledge of Latin, English, French and some Italian. German was his native tongue.

In the fall of 1826 he became a student in the new and struggling Jefferson Medical College. The Faculty at that time consisted of McClellan, Professor of Surgery; N. R. Smith, Anatomy; John Eberle, Practice of Medicine; William B. C. Barton, Materia Medica; Jacob Green, Chemistry; John Barnes, Obstetrics, and Benjamin Rush Rhees, Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence. Of these men Gross gives short sketches in his autobiography. He himself was a private student of George McClellan. He graduated, with twenty-six others, in the third class from the College, in 1828, and presented as his final thesis a paper on "The Nature and Treatment of Cataract."

For a time he practiced in Philadelphia, and then returned to Easton. During these early years he translated a number of books, and in 1830 he published a treatise on "Pathological Anatomy and Diseases of the Bones and Joints." In 1833 he went to Cincinnati as Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical College of Ohio, and two years later accepted the chair of Pathological Anatomy in the same institution. In 1839 he published "Elements of Pathological Anatomy" in two octavo volumes, of more than five hundred pages each, which attracted widespread interest as the first book of its kind.

In 1840 Dr. Gross accepted the chair of Surgery in the University of Louisville, where he remained sixteen years, with the exception of the winter
Dr. Samuel David Gross.

(From painting in room of Trustees of Jefferson Medical College. By S. B. Waugh, 1874.)
of 1850-51, when he held the chair of Surgery in the University of New York. He published a treatise on "Diseases of the Urinary Organs" in 1851, and on "Foreign Bodies in the Air Passages" three years later. He was a voluminous writer for the press, and wrote several biographical works at different times. In 1856, twenty-eight years after his graduation, Dr. Gross came once more into the life of the College, now grown strong and prosperous, where he was to add much to its fame and reputation. Here he remained as Professor of Surgery until 1882, when age and failing health caused him to resign. In 1854, two years before he returned to Jefferson, his "System of Surgery" was first published, and it ran through six editions, the last appearing in 1882.

The end of a long and useful life finally came. On May 6, 1884, Dr. Gross died, and five days later his remains were cremated at Washington, Pennsylvania, according to his previous request. The urn containing the ashes was placed by the coffin of his wife in Woodlands cemetery.

On May 5, 1897, a life-sized bronze statue of Gross was unveiled in Washington, D. C., near the Army Medical Museum. This statue was erected by the American Surgical Association and the Alumni Association of the Jefferson Medical College, the granite pedestal being erected by a special appropriation of Congress for that purpose. At the unveiling the statue was presented by Dr. Claudius H. Mastin, of Mobile, Alabama, and was received on behalf of the government by Surgeon General George H. Sternberg. The principal address of the occasion was delivered by Professor W. W. Keen.

Dr. Gross's direct connection with the Faculty staff of the Jefferson Medical College covered a period of twenty-six years, but from the time of his matriculation in 1826 to the day of his death he was the firm friend of that institution, and by his life and work and example he contributed largely to its popularity and prosperity. He was the first President of the Alumni Association, and on the occasion of its first anniversary meeting in 1871 he delivered an address in which he commented at some length on the
lives and character of the first Faculty; and incidentally he made allusion to his own early experiences in the College. Among other things he said:

“I entered the College as a regularly matriculated student in October, 1826, in the second year of its existence, forming one of a class of a few over one hundred. My first preceptor, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, was naturally desirous that I should attend the lectures in that institution, and with that view gave me letters of introduction to two of its Professors, which, however, I never delivered, having long before my arrival in the city determined to become a private pupil of Dr. George McClellan, then rising into distinction as a great surgeon and a brilliant teacher. I well recollect my first interview with him; the cordial pressure of his hand; his kind manner, and the warm interest he manifested in my welfare. There was a magnetism about him that at once put me at my ease, and made me feel at home in his presence. I remained in his office until my graduation in this hall in April, 1828, witnessing his practice and operations, and profiting by his instructions, private and public.”

In writing of the personal and professional characteristics of Dr. Gross, his biographer, Professor W. Joseph Hearn, who for fourteen years was closely connected with him as assistant and associate in the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, gives a clear insight into the life of the great physician and surgeon: “Those who, as his assistants and aids came into daily contact with him, all to a man loved and revered him. The students who had to face the ordeal of the old ‘green room,’ held him in the highest esteem and respect, mingled with healthy fear which acted as an incentive to their preparation for the final examinations.”

Dr. Gross held most of his examinations orally; his questions were fair, and always practical and to the point. He had a habit of asking such unexpected questions as the process of making a milk punch, or a flaxseed poultice, and was much more apt to drop a man for inability to answer such questions as these than many a harder one. Punctuality and method were two marked characteristics, and he would never allow anything to interfere with his work. He was clean in his habits, not, of course, with surgical cleanliness as we understand the term to-day, but careful as to his dress and hands in the operating room. He was very particular that his assistants should be clean and neat; woe to him who allowed a blood spot to soil a clean white
shirt. As an operator Dr. Gross was slow, steady and fearless; considerably slower than Pancoast the elder. He rarely did more than one big operation at a clinic, and operations did not take so much time then as now. As a diagnostician he had no superior. He was careful in forming his opinion, and in no hurry to take up new theories until they had been well substantiated. He accepted the antiseptic theories in his later days, especially in abdominal cases, when he used the then popular acid spray and atomizer.

In the amphitheater and College he was a brilliant orator. He lectured from head-lines in his didactic course, and carried in his mind the names and dates of famous operations and their details. He was always exceedingly fond of pathology, and wrote his “Elements of Pathology” in 1839, which was the first book on pathological anatomy written in the English language. Of his “System of Surgery” he was especially proud. He always attended the sessions of the American Medical Association, and his influence was noteworthy in that organization. He organized the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and the American Surgical Association, and was the first president of both bodies. In appearance Professor Austin Flint, in his “Memoir,” thus describes him: “The personal appearance of Professor Gross in the lecture room was most prepossessing. His tall, commanding figure, his clear voice, his features beaming with intelligence and animation, and his zealous manner, all contributed to make his teaching very effective. He had that magnetism which is a gift invaluable to a speaker.”

Mitchell. After the session of 1857, Dr. Huston retired from the chair of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics, and was appointed Emeritus Professor. Then the Trustees and Faculty once more turned to the south, and chose from the Medical Department of Transylvania University one Thomas D. Mitchell, a lecturer and writer of sufficient renown to take up the arduous work which formerly devolved on Huston. In this selection no mistake was made, and for the next eight years Mitchell was a factor in Jefferson history.

Eight years later, not long after the close of the session of 1864-65,
the Faculty heard with profound regret of the death of Professor Mitchell, and in the annual Commencement of the following year, they expressed their regard for him in these words: "For eight successive sessions he executed zealously and efficiently the responsible duties that devolved upon him as Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics; ever present at his accustomed hours, and always exerting his best endeavors for the good of the numerous pupils who annually constituted his classes. As a member of the Faculty he was in all respects conscientious and estimable, ever acting with his colleagues in the greatest harmony; and it is to record these qualifications and virtues that the Faculty direct that this minute shall be entered in their proceedings."

Dr. Mitchell was of an old Philadelphia family, and was educated in the Carson Academy, the Friends' Academy, and the University of Pennsylvania, in the days when Rush was the dominant figure. Intending to study medicine, his preceptor, Dr. Parrish, advised him to spend six months in the drug store and chemical laboratory of Dr. Adam Seybert. This he did, and in 1809 began his chemical studies, being graduated in 1812. Soon afterward he was appointed Instructor in Physiology in St. John's College, in Race street, where he gained a reputation as a writer on medical subjects. Later he was made Lazaretto Physician, and in 1819 he published an excellent work on medical chemistry. In the meantime he gave attention to practice, and acquired a fair practice. He was honored by Princeton with the master's degree. In 1831 he joined Drake and Eberle in their college project in Cincinnati, where he held the chair of Chemistry. While there he published other standard works on chemistry, and also was associated with Eberle in conducting a medical journal. In 1837 he was appointed to the Faculty of Transylvania University, and two years later was transferred to the chair of Materia Medica, which he filled with marked success for two years. Soon after the organization of the Philadelphia College of Medicine, he was called to its chair of Theory and Practice, and in 1857 was appointed to the chair
of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in Jefferson, where he remained until his death.

Dickson. "In 1858," says Dr. Henry, in speaking of Dr. Dickson, "Dr. J. K. Mitchell was succeeded by another southern man, sixty years of age, who had been trained under Wistar, Physic, Dorsey, and Chapman, and had been, with Ramsay, one of the founders of the Medical College of South Carolina." Samuel H. Dickson was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1798, and was graduated from Yale in 1814, at the age of sixteen. In 1819 he was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and five years later (1824) joined with Ramsay and Frost in founding the Medical College of South Carolina, he taking the chair of Institutes and Practice. After twenty-two years of experience and faithful service in this institution, he was called, in 1847, to the University of New York, to succeed John Revere, but in 1850 he returned to his former position, and remained there eight years more. His degree of L.L. D. was conferred by the University of New York, in appreciation of his splendid character and service while a member of the Faculty of that institution.

In 1858 Professor Dickson was called to the chair of Practice in the Jefferson Medical College, and he spent the remaining fourteen years of his life in that position. He died in 1872, at the age of seventy-four years. During his long service in the school he had founded, Dr. Dickson was an influential figure in South Carolina medical, literary, social, and philanthropic circles. In the field of medical literature he gained an enviable reputation, his "Elements of Pathology and Practice" being regarded as a standard work.

Both Dickson and Thomas D. Mitchell were well advanced in years when they accepted the chairs of members of the Faculty of '41. Dickson's office during this period must be associated with his successor, Da Costa, who had been for several years an influential teacher in the school, and who during the four closing years of this period (1872-1876) gave abundant evidence of the exceptional ability that always marked his teachings. When
Dickson joined the Faculty, in the last of the antebellum years, it was characterized by men of marked ability, while the number of students, on account of the secession of those from the south led by Dr. Hunter McGuire, was exceedingly small.

When Professor Charles D. Meigs left the chair of Obstetrics, William V. Keating was chosen as his successor. Keating was a physician of high reputation, and a medical writer of known ability. His incumbency of the chair, however, was of short duration, and within a year after his appointment he was compelled by ill health to sever his connection with the school. He was born in Philadelphia, April 4, 1824. His father, Jerome Keating, a knight of St. Dennis, emigrated to this country from France, and afterward married an American lady. William was educated at St. Mary's College, Baltimore, and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1842. He practiced in Philadelphia. In connection with his work he edited "Ramsbotham's Midwifery," and also "Churchill on Diseases of Women." He gave particular attention to diseases of women, and early gained a reputation as a gynecologist. For two years he taught in a summer medical school, and in 1860 was appointed to the chair of Obstetrics. For three years, beginning in 1862, he was Medical Director of the United States Army Hospital in Philadelphia.

In 1846 Dr. Ellerslie Wallace resigned the office of Resident Physician at the Pennsylvania Hospital in order to become Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College. For the next sixteen years he was an efficient teacher, and when it was found that Professor Keating would not be able to perform the arduous duties of the chair of Obstetrics, Wallace was called upon to take his place for the remainder of the session. He was then appointed to succeed him in the actual professorship, and for more than twenty years afterward was recognized as one of the leading men of the Faculty. The chair of Obstetrics always had been well filled, and Wallace upheld the reputation established for it by Samuel McClellan and Professor Meigs. With his ability as a teacher he combined excellent business qualities,
as was shown by his four years’ incumbency of the Deanship, from 1879 to 1883. In the latter year he resigned his chair, and was immediately made Emeritus Professor, serving as such until the session of 1884-85, when death ended his useful career. Dr. Wallace was a native of Philadelphia, born in 1813, and was of Scotch ancestry. He was educated at Bristol for civil engineering, but was attracted to medicine by his brother, Dr. Joshua Wallace, who then was Demonstrator of Anatomy in Jefferson. He matriculated at that school in 1841, and received his degree in 1843. His professional career was begun in Philadelphia in active practice, and he was soon appointed Resident Physician at the Pennsylvania Hospital. Professor Wallace’s death was a serious blow to the College. Parvin succeeded him and filled the chair most acceptably, but Wallace had been so long a part of the College life and history that his absence was noticeable. In speaking of his retirement and subsequent death, the Faculty records say: “Increasing infirmities had compelled his retirement from the Faculty two years before, but his long and valuable services to the school, and his personal worth, demand from us this final tribute to his character and abilities.”

When Bache died and it became necessary to choose a successor in the chair of Chemistry, it was with considerable satisfaction that the Faculty announced the appointment of B. Howard Rand, and published him to the profession as “a practical lecturer on chemistry, general and medical, in different medical and other institutions.” It was conceded that Bache’s successor must be a teacher of unquestioned strength, for he was to replace one of the model Faculty of 1841. Rand’s selection was not an experiment; he had been tried and proved; he had studied medicine under Huston, and for two years before his graduation he had been clinical assistant to Mütter and Pancoast. This itself was a warrant of fitness, but after leaving this school at graduation in 1848, Rand was connected with the Academy of Natural Sciences, at one time its secretary, and also was Lecturer on Chemistry to the Franklin Institute. Still later he held a similar position in the Philadelphia College of Medicine until that institution passed out of existence
just at the outbreak of the war of 1861-65. Rand was elected in 1864, and was one of the Faculty for thirteen years, until 1877, when ill health compelled him to resign. He was succeeded by Professor Robert E. Rogers, and the chair was designated as that of Chemistry and Toxicology. Having good business ability he was appointed Dean of the Faculty, and served creditably in that capacity four years. There were many changes during this time, and responsible duties devolved upon the Dean. He was born in Philadelphia in 1827, and died in that city in 1883. "Rand's Medical Chemistry," published in 1865, was for several years a popular reference and text work with the profession.

After the death of Thomas D. Mitchell, the chair of Materia Medica was filled by the appointment of Dr. John Barclay Biddle, to whom the Faculty refer by the way of introduction to the profession as "an accomplished and practical lecturer, having formerly occupied the chair of Materia Medica in the Franklin Medical College, and afterwards in the Pennsylvania Medical College of Philadelphia." The schools with which he had been connected were ranking institutions, and served as an excellent training ground for professorships in colleges of a more enduring character. John Barclay Biddle was born in Philadelphia in 1815. He received an excellent elementary and classical education, having been graduated from St. Mary's College, Baltimore. He took up the study of law, but changed his determination and became a student of medicine under Chapman. He was graduated from the University Medical School in 1836. Then he spent a year or more in Europe, chiefly in France, pursuing his medical studies, and upon his return began his professional career in Philadelphia. In 1838, with Dr. Meredith Clymer, he founded "The Medical Examiner," an early, popular, and very successful medical publication. In 1846 he joined with Rogers, Van Wick, Tucker, Clymer, and Leidy, and founded the Franklin Medical College, he taking the chair of Materia Medica, and holding it until the institution closed its doors.

Biddle was a graceful and forceful writer, especially on medical topics,
Dr. John B. Biddle.

(From painting in Library of Jefferson Medical College. By S. B. Waugh, 1880.)
but he excelled as a teacher. His address was pleasing, his language clear, and pertinent. His monographs won him popularity with the profession, and when he issued "Biddle's Materia Medica," the work was regarded as authoritative. It was published in 1852, and was a reference book in the Jefferson library and also in the class-rooms for several years. His success as a teacher and writer made Biddle the natural successor to Mitchell, and he was elected to the Faculty in 1865, holding the chair of Materia Medica thirteen years, when failing health made it necessary that he retire from further active service. During the last six years of that period (1873-1878) he served as Dean of the Faculty, and he was one of the most earnest friends and supporters of the hospital, which was erected during his time. Dr. Biddle died in January, 1879, aged sixty-four years.

The life, the teachings, the mental, social, and professional qualities of Da Costa have been extolled by many writers. It is impossible to compress a fitting account of his work and life within the narrow limits of a chapter of reminiscences. His biographers agree as to the leading events of his career; it is as a factor in the history of Jefferson that he will be mentioned in this work, and largely in the words of Wilson,* who was his associate and successor in the chair of Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine in this school.

Jacob Mendez Da Costa, M. D., LL. D., one of the most honorable and honored of the Jefferson Medical College alumni, and one of the most distinguished physicians of the United States, was a native of the island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, born February 7, 1833. He was descended from an ancient Portuguese family long resident in London. His early education was acquired chiefly in Dresden, and he became proficient in Latin, Greek, French, and German, and subsequently in English, so that when he came to Philadelphia in 1849 his speech gave no trace of alien accent, and was remarkably accurate, graceful, and resourceful.

* The writings of other biographers than Professor Wilson are drawn upon in the preparation of Da Costa's sketch, and the rule relating to the use of quotation marks has not always been carefully observed.
Soon after he came to live with his mother in Philadelphia, young Da Costa entered the Jefferson Medical College, and at the same time placed himself under the preceptorship of Professor Mütter, thus combining his theoretical studies in the institution with the practical work of a physician's office. In March, 1852, having just entered upon his twentieth year, he was graduated in medicine, the title of his thesis being "Cancer and Epithelial Growth of the Face," a subject which he treated in a manner that attracted favorable notice from the Faculty and the profession. Indeed, throughout the period of his studies in the College, Da Costa's interest in the study of pathological anatomy had attracted the attention of his instructors, and in the second year of his course he was appointed, with John H. Brinton, his friend and fellow student, to demonstrate to members of his class the tumors and other specimens removed by Professor Mütter at his clinics.

After his graduation, Dr. Da Costa went to Europe and devoted another year to medical studies, chiefly clinical, in the great hospitals of Paris, and at Prague, where he enjoyed clinical advantages of an unusual character. He then visited Vienna and passed several months in the study of general pathology and diseases of the heart and lungs, after which he returned to Paris for a short time, and came thence to Philadelphia to begin in earnest his active professional career. He was invited to take part in the Summer Association for Medical Instruction, an organization having its location in Chance street, a place of historical interest in the medical life of Philadelphia, long famous for all kinds of extramural teaching. In this work he was associated with men somewhat older than himself, but still young, who had already attracted attention as teachers and practitioners. Prominent among them were John Forsyth Meigs, Frank West, the Wallace brothers, Robert Bridges, John H. Brinton, and Addinell Hewson. To Da Costa was assigned the subject of physical diagnosis, in teaching which he achieved immediate success. His method of teaching and ability as a lecturer attracted great attention, and the courses were continued for a number of years; in fact, until a growing
Dr. Jacob M. Da Costa.

(From painting in Library of Jefferson Medical College. By Robert Vonnoh.)
practice and the increasing demands upon his time through his appointment at the Jefferson Medical College brought them to a close.

After the death of John Kearsley Mitchell, in 1858, Da Costa became more closely identified with the history and life of the College, first as an instructor in connection with the chair of Medicine, later as clinical lecturer, and finally, in 1872, as successor to Dickson in the chair of Practice. He was then thirty-nine years old, and had already established himself as a successful practitioner, a teacher of the highest order, and a trusted consultant. He had manifested from the beginning of his career a deep interest in the welfare of the organized profession, an interest which he maintained throughout his life. He early became a member of the American Medical Association. In 1852 he became a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and in 1866 a fellow of the American Philosophical Society. In 1857 he took an active part in the organization of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia, and was its President from 1864 to 1867. He was corresponding member of the Pathological Society of New York, and of the Medical Society of London. In 1858 he became a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and served as its President in 1884-1885, and again from 1895 to 1898. He was one of the original members of the Association of American Physicians, and its President in 1877. He also was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the New England Historical Society, and other organizations. He served as Physician to the Episcopal Hospital, to the Philadelphia Hospital, and to the Hospital of the Jefferson Medical College, and was for many years Consulting Surgeon to the Children's Hospital. He was a member of the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital from 1865 to the time of his death, a period of thirty-five years.

Many of Da Costa's important contributions to medical literature were based on his observations and experiences in the wards of Pennsylvania Hospital, and his clinics were models of the finest methods of medical instruction—clear, systematic, and impressive. Sometimes they were telling
presentations of familiar phases of diseases; often keen studies of rare maladies; frequently opportune demonstrations of new facts in diagnosis or treatment, but always interesting and instructive. They were held, in accordance with the time-honored usage of the place, at the busiest hour of the morning, but the amphitheater never failed of its full audience of eager and attentive students and practitioners. His opinion was of great weight in the councils of the managers, and of the staff, and his advice was constantly sought in matters of administration and professional policy. But the most important influence was that which he exerted upon the long line of resident physicians whose good fortune it was to serve with him.

Da Costa was not a voluminous writer, but he wrote when he had something to say, and always said it well, in a style that was plain, natural, lucid, and emphatic; his addresses were graceful and learned; his conversation was agreeable and showed a wide range of intellectual resource outside of professional topics, and a lively interest in general events. His earlier medical papers were pathological, and among them may be mentioned an "Inquiry into the Pathological Anatomy of Acute Pneumonia," 1855; "Cancer of the Pancreas," 1858. His later papers related to clinical subjects, and covered a wide range of observation, showing the rapid development of his intellect and its constant outreaching tendency into new and comparatively unknown medical subjects, but his clinical studies and theses relating to derangements of the heart, based largely upon his careful observations of the heart in recruits conducted during the war of 1861-65, constituted a most important addition to the previous knowledge of functional diseases of the heart, and have been very properly spoken of as epoch-making. They attracted wide attention both in this country and in Europe.

Da Costa was the author of only one systematic treatise, although his contributions to the literature of the profession were numerous, and were published as lectures and articles. His "Medical Diagnosis," which appeared in 1864, was a remarkable work, unique at the time of its publication, and was, in design and execution, a masterpiece among text-books, and served to
establish his growing reputation. Its success was immediate, and nine large editions, each carefully revised, were issued during the author's lifetime. The work was translated into several foreign languages.

Da Costa's mental qualities and his distinguished professional attainments were everywhere recognized, and the honorary degree of LL. D. was conferred on him by the Jefferson Medical College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard University, besides which he was made an honorary and corresponding member of many learned and distinguished organizations. But, says Dr. Wilson, "among those who came within the sphere of his direct personal influence there was a feeling for him much deeper than the admiration inspired by his intellectual superiority and splendid professional gifts. The man was greater than the physician or the teacher. In his punctilious regard for duty, directness of purpose, the integrity and refinement of his daily life, a delicacy of feeling that sometimes seemed carried to an extreme, and the modesty with which he bore unusual honors, were traits that won for him respect, confidence, and affection. The great classes of the Jefferson Medical College as students and afterward as practitioners held him in the highest honor. As a consultant his position in Philadelphia was supreme. He has been well spoken of as the physician's physician—a title that means much. To his patients he was the ideal doctor. He brought to them the finest personal qualities and the highest professional skill, and they repaid him with love.

At the close of the session of 1890-1891, Professor Da Costa resigned the chair of Practice in the Jefferson Medical College, and was thereupon elected Professor Emeritus. During the following winter he held the usual clinics, but before the end of the term he withdrew from all other teaching, except the short course of clinics at the Pennsylvania Hospital. These he continued to hold until his death. His interest in medical teaching, however, remained active, and in the course of a few years he accepted a trusteeship in the University of Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, his untiring devotion to his profession did not abate, and he worked on to the end. He died Septem-
November 11, 1900, at his country seat, Ashwood, near Villa Nova. The fatal attack was the last of a series that had extended over several months, and at the very end, just as the vital spark was almost gone, the voice of the great clinician was heard to say: "Just as I expected."

Among the several Faculty changes made during the period referred to in the preceding chapter—the period in the history of the College which closed with the forty-eighth session—was the succession of Dr. James Aitkin Meigs to the chair of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence in 1868, which for many years had been filled by Dunglison. In his commentary on the life and character of Professor Meigs, Dr. Henry's "History of Medicine in Philadelphia,"* says: "He was one of the younger men, indeed the youngest, in the Faculty, excepting Rand. He was also one of those who were promoted from other local colleges, Jefferson or the University being the goal of every young and ambitious medical instructor.

Dr. Meigs was a native of Philadelphia, born in 1829, of a family of Scotch, English, and German ancestry. He was one of the most learned men of the Faculty, indeed, of the profession, and, although he died at the comparatively early age of fifty, he left behind him a permanent fame, both as a physician and an ethnologist. At the age of nineteen he graduated from the Central High School and soon began the study of medicine under Dr. Francis Gurney Smith. He was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in 1851, at once began practice, and soon became a lecturer in the Franklin Institute, and a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences. In the latter institution he long served as librarian. His favorite subjects of investigation were physiology and ethnology, and he acquired an enviable reputation as a lecturer on those topics. In 1857 he was elected to the chair of Institutes of Medicine in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, and in 1859 succeeded Dr. Smith in the chair of Physiology in the Medical Department of the Pennsylvania College, into which the former school was merged. This

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* Dr. Henry's work has been freely drawn upon in the preparation of these reminiscences of the Jefferson Faculty.
Dr. J. Aitken Meigs.

(From painting in Library of Jefferson Medical College. By G. W. Pettit, 1879.)
latter college was closed at the beginning of the war of 1861-65, and from that time until 1866 Dr. Meigs was occupied with his private practice and hospital duties. In the year last mentioned he was engaged as teacher and lecturer for the Jefferson summer course, his subject being physiology. In 1868 he succeeded to the chair of Institutes of Medicine, which had been long and well filled by Robley Dunglison.

From 1868 to near the end of the session of 1879-80, Professor Meigs held the chair of Institutes in this school. His somewhat untimely death was a serious blow to Jefferson, and was especially felt by his colleagues of the Faculty, and also by the students, who held him in high regard. He was succeeded by Dr. Henry C. Chapman, who knew him through close association and friendship, and whose estimate of Meigs's qualities as a teacher is thus stated: "As a lecturer, Dr. Meigs was most eloquent, always interesting and holding the attention of his class. Speaking without notes—his excellent memory never failing him—and gifted with great command of language, he invariably succeeded in inspiring his students with his own enthusiasm."

Further, he says: "Dr. Meigs' knowledge of physiology, as shown in his lectures, was encyclopedical, as far as that expression may be applicable to any one person." Professor Meigs was widely known, both at home and abroad, among men of science, and more than a dozen professional and scientific societies in all parts of the world claimed him as a member.