

## AUSTIN FLINT, M.D., LL.D.

We regret to announce the decease of this eminent physician and pathologist. On the day previous to his death he had attended to his ordinary professional duties. About midnight of March 12th he uttered a cry and fell on his bed unconscious. He remained in this unconscious state for fourteen hours, when he died. Austin Flint was born at Peterston, Mass., in the year 1812. His literary education he received at Amherst, and graduated in Medicine at Harvard when he was twenty-one years of age. He spent the first three years of his professional life in Northampton and Boston. He then went to Buffalo and remained there eight years, from 1836 to 1844. In the latter year he was appointed to the chair of Institute and Practice of Medicine in Rush Medical College, Chicago, which he occupied for one year. He then returned to Buffalo, where he established the *Medical Journal* in 1846, and conducted it for ten years. In 1847 he and two others founded the Buffalo Medical College, and he occupied the chair of Practice of Medicine in it until 1852. He then went to Louisville University, where he held the same position as in Buffalo. In 1856 he returned to Buffalo and was made Professor of Pathology and Clinical Medicine. While holding this position he spent the winters of 1858, '59 and '60 in New Orleans, where he was Professor of Clinical Medical School and visiting physician to Charity Hospital. About the close of 1860 he went to New York, and the next year he became visiting physician to Bellevue Hospital and was appointed to two professorships, one in Bellevue Hospital Medical College and the other in the Long Island College, Brooklyn. The latter he resigned after a few years, but the former he occupied until the time of his death.

In 1876 he was one of the members of the International Medical Congress in Philadelphia, where he delivered the address on Medicine, and was chosen President of the next International Congress, to be held in Washington in 1877. He was also invited to deliver the address on Medicine at the next meeting of the British Medical Association, an unprecedented honor. Dr. Flint is best known as an author. There are very few practitioners throughout this pro-

vince who have not read his book on Practice of Medicine. It has been the standard textbook for years. This work was first published in 1866, and has run through seven editions. It would be superfluous for us to speak of the excellence of this book. Among the other writings of Dr. Flint might be mentioned "Clinical Study on Heart Sounds in Health and Disease," "Phthisis," "Manual of Percussion," etc.

Dr. Flint was a very successful teacher. Some of the older practitioners of this province, who had the privilege of attending his classes in the Buffalo Medical College, speak in the highest terms of the able and clear manner in which he demonstrated the various physical signs of chest disease. He was also an excellent practitioner. His freedom from narrowness of all kinds was, no doubt, partly due to his excellent training, and his having lived in so many cities where he had the advantage of seeing disease in all its phases.

The history of his life presents many lessons. It demonstrates how, by careful economy of time, a large amount of literary work may be done by one engaged in active practice. His life also shows that in order to make a world-wide reputation in medicine it is necessary to live to a good old age. If Dr. Flint had died when fifty years of age, his "Practice of Medicine" would never have been published, and his reputation would only have had a very limited area. This is a truth which ambitious young men ought to ponder. They may, by excessive work and by over-anxiety to rapidly mount the ladder of fame, injure their health and thus completely destroy every prospect of attaining the coveted position. The highest prizes in the medical profession are nearly always obtained by those who work regularly, honestly and steadily, giving the proper time to rest and recreation. It must be remembered, too, that there is a great difference in capacity for work in different individuals, and that one person may endure an amount of labor which would destroy the health of another.

Dr. Robert Barnes, of London, claims to have been the first to perform Emmet's operation, or trachelorrhaphy, in England.