

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE DR. JOHN MORGAN.

Delivered before the Trustees and Students of Medicine in the College of Philadelphia, on the 24 of November, 1789, by Benjamin Rush, M. D.

GENTLEMEN,

IT would be unpardonable to enter upon the duties of the chair of the late Professor of the theory and practice of Medicine, without paying a tribute of respect to his memory.

Dr. John Morgan, whose place I have been called upon to fill, was born in the city of Philadelphia. He discovered in early life a strong propensity for learning, and an uncommon application to books. He acquired the rudiments of his classical learning at the Rev. Dr. Findley's Academy, in Nottingham, and finished his studies in this College under the present Provost, and the late Rev. Dr. Allison. In both of these seminaries, he acquired the esteem and affection of his Preceptors, by his singular diligence and proficiency in his studies. In the year 1757, he was admitted to the first literary honours that were conferred by the college of Philadelphia.

During the last years of his attendance upon the College, he began the study of physic, under the direction of Dr. John Redman, of this city. His conduct, as an apprentice, was such as gained him the esteem and confidence of his master, and the affections of all his patients. After he had finished his studies under Dr. John Redman, he entered into the service of his country, as a surgeon and lieutenant in the provincial troops of Pennsylvania, in the last war which Britain and America carried on against the French nation. As a surgeon, in which capacity only, he acted in the army, he acquired both knowledge and reputation. He was respected by the officers, and beloved by the soldiers of the army; and so great was his diligence and humanity in attending the sick and wounded, who were the subjects of his care, that I well remember to have heard it said, 'that if it were possible for any man to merit heaven by his good works, Dr. Morgan would deserve it for his faithful attendance on his patients.'

In the year 1760, he left the army, and sailed for Europe, with a view of prosecuting his studies in medicine.

He attended the lectures and dissections of the late celebrated Dr. William Hunter, and afterwards spent two years in attending the lectures of the professors in Edinburgh. Here, both the Monroes, Cullen, Rutherford, Whyt, and Hope, were his masters, with each of whom he

lived in the most familiar intercourse, all of whom spoke of him with affection and respect. At the end of two years, he published an elaborate thesis upon the formation of pus, and after publicly defending it, was admitted to the honour of Doctor of Medicine in the University.

From Edinburgh he went to Paris, where he spent a winter in attending the anatomical lectures and dissections of Mr. Sue. In this city he injected a kidney in so curious and elegant a manner, that it procured his admission into the Academy of Surgery at Paris. While on the continent of Europe he visited Holland and Italy. In both these countries he was introduced to the first medical and literary characters. He spent several hours in company with Voltaire, at Geneva, and he had the honour of a long conference with the celebrated Morgagni, at Padua, when he was in the 36th year of his age. This venerable physician, who was the light and ornament of two or three successive generations of physicians, was so pleased with him, from the resemblance of their names and on the blank leaf of a copy of his works, which he presented to him, he inscribed with his own hand the following words, '*Affini suo medico praeclarissimo, Johanni Morgan, donat auctor.*' Upon the Doctor's return to London, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. He was likewise admitted as a licentiate of the College of Physicians in London, and a member of the College of Physicians in Edinburgh.

It was during his absence from home, that he concerted with Dr. Shippen, the plan of establishing a medical school in this city. He returned to Philadelphia, in the year 1765, loaded with literary honours, and was received with open arms by his fellow-citizens. They felt an interest for him, for having advanced in every part of Europe the honour of the American name. Immediately after his arrival, he was elected Professor of the theory and practice of Medicine, and delivered, soon afterwards, at a public commencement, his plan for connecting a Medical School with the College of this city. This discourse was composed with taste and judgment, and contained many of the true principles of medical science.

In the year 1769, he had the pleasure of seeing the first fruits of his labours for the advancement