

ment; consequently he could make no promise to the outcome: By his manly presence and honest words he planted a new hope in the heart of despair. Thus, "he unlaced the bosom of confidence with the key of personal magnetism."

The now historic patient gave her assent to the operation, which was performed as before mentioned, at Danville, Kentucky, in December, 1809. History, or tradition rather, says that McDowell, before beginning his operation, offered up a prayer. Whether or not this is true, will perhaps never be positively known, as McDowell has been at rest seventy-two (72) years, and the oldest citizen now living in Danville could have only been a small boy at the time of the interment. This prayer, in literary merit and fervency, it is claimed by scholars has never been surpassed and seldom equalled by mortal man. What an example of true courage and resolute devotion was exhibited by this heroic, good, kind, gracious, loving and lovable man! No truer heroism has been or ever will be recorded on the never ending pages of immortal history. True courage must be deliberate, must be premeditated, must be actuated by a high, a holy and beneficent motive. It was not a maddening pseudo-heroism stirred up by the rattle of the drum and the shriek of the fife, a dash on battlefields, where man seeks to slay his fellow man. The heroism of Hannibal, Alexander, Xerxes or Napoleon, can never be compared with this cool, calculating man.

In 1817 "Three Cases of Extirpation of Diseased Ovaria," the first publication of ovariectomy, was made known to the world. It was long before Europe could believe that such a brilliant, original and magnificent improvement could originate in what was then known as the "backwoods" of America, but she has been apprised many times since of the genius of America's physicians and surgeons. In 1827, Dr. Johnson, editor of the *London Medico-Chirurgical Review*, after announcing the results of five cases of ovariectomy, four of whom had recovered, says: "There were circumstances in the narrative of the first cases that raised misgiving in our minds for which uncharitableness we ask pardon of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Danville, Kentucky, and of God." What a noble confession! This gracious man now rests in the "Silences," but his work abides and thus will it continue to live on and on, down through the ringing grooves of endless time, as a benediction to "countless thousands" yet unborn.

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