

In every case bleeding had been arrested. (2) Pain had been removed. (3) The symptoms of pressure on the bladder and rectum had ceased. He admitted that the treatment was tedious in fibroids, and was only worth the trouble on account of the danger of operative procedure.

He then spoke of the value of the continuous current in dysmenorrhœa without fibroid, in cases of stenosis of the uterine os, in which he recommended the passing of a series of silver-plated graduated-bulb electrodes, by means of which the canal could so be brought up to any size. He cited several cases of severe dysmenorrhœa which had been permanently cured by this method.

The address of the President of the Congress, Dr. John S. Billings, was delivered on the last evening of the session. He took for his subject Medical Museums. He referred to the fact that the members of the Congress were for the most part those who had made valuable contributions in aid of the advancement of medical science, and were therefore interested in the subject of medical museums as a means of public instruction. He referred to the establishment of a medical library by the Government twenty-five years ago, and then traced briefly the origin of medical museums. This origin was principally due to the custom of keeping curiosities. No collections of this kind were made previous to the seventeenth century, and prior to that time the use of alcohol as a preservative and the circulation of the blood were unknown.

The Medical Museum of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of London, is the oldest in existence. The best medical museum in America connected with a medical school is the Warren Museum, of Boston. The Army Medical Museum in Washington owes its inception to Dr. William A. Hammond. It is now placed in a fire-proof building, and contains over fifteen thousand specimens. At first it was to embrace only military subjects, but its scope has been widened. It now includes nearly all the branches of medicine except hygiene and materia medica, and these only as they relate to military subjects. He then referred to the kind of specimens most valuable to the museum. Specimens of rare abnormalities, and dried and varnished specimens of blood-vessels, in use years ago, are now

practically useless. The museum now possesses many valuable specimens illustrating anatomy and physiology. The ideal museum has many things, the full value of which is at present unknown. The main feature of the Army Medical Museum was that relating to pathology. The doctor then discussed at length the comparative value of this branch of medicine, and said that specimens of pathology were of little use unless combined with others. As far as actual practice was known, the museum was valuable in diagnosis and therapeutics. The army museum did not include hygiene and materia medica, the former being under the control of the Navy Medical Department.

The Army Medical Museum was an exception to the general rule, in that it was open to the general public. Largely the reason for this was the fact that it was first placed in the old Ford's Theatre, where President Lincoln was assassinated. Many wanted to see this historic spot, and of course had to see the museum. The Army Medical Museum was one of the sights of the capital, and, next to the National Museum, is shown to visitors as a place of public interest. Since its removal its collection has been increased, and it has become necessary to consider its relations with the general public. That an educated man should take an interest in the study of his own structure is quite natural, but in many instances the desire to visit such a museum was a desire for the sensational and emotional. The skeleton framework of the hand of an ordinary person would be passed by most persons as devoid of interest, while, if it were that of a noted criminal or statesman, it would receive the closest attention. This being the case, it was thought best not to attach names to human specimens until at least a century had elapsed.

A number of farewell speeches were then made in the happiest possible manner by Sir Wm. McCormac, Drs. Pepper, of Philadelphia, and Busey, of Washington.

After the adjournment the company resorted to the reception in the Army Medical Museum.

The officers of the Congress will be elected by the members of the Executive Committee, the members of which will be elected by the several societies next year. *Amer. Pract. and. News.*