

a taste for physiology and chemistry, as well as for medicine. It is stated that he was the only student of the university who had a microscope of his own. Notwithstanding the fact that he possessed rather poor health, he made marked progress in his studies, and carried on many important researches on the circulation of the blood in the arteries, veins and capillaries, especially as to their independent contractile power.

He was appointed clinical clerk to Dr. Home. The conditions of the Royal Infirmary in those days were very bad, and he induced Dr. Sims, a fellow-student, to ask for an investigation. As a result of this action a committee was appointed with Jeffrey, the first editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, as chairman. Many important improvements resulted from these efforts. He was elected president of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh. His thesis for the degree in medicine was on the contractile power of the vessels. In 1818 he received the appointment of physician to the Worcester Infirmary. Two years later he published his work on the "Inflammation of the Mucous Membranes of the Lungs," in which he elaborated his teachings on the blood vessels and the nature of inflammation.

His reputation in Worcester and the surrounding country soon rose and his practice became a very extensive one. He realized the danger of overlooking the scientific side of the profession in the midst of the many claims upon his time arising from the conduct of a large practice. This induced him, along with a few friends, to start the *Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter*, in 1828. A short time afterwards he entered into correspondence with his friends as to the advisability of organizing a medical society. On the 19th of July, 1832, a meeting was held in Worcester, when it was agreed to form the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. Dr. Hastings was mainly instrumental in formulating the rules for the new association and mapping out its policy in his inaugural address.

Although Hastings had the true prophetic eye, he did not see all the great achievements that were to be accomplished by the association he was instrumental in founding. In 1856, the association changed its name from the Provincial Medical Association to that of the British Medical Association, a name which is honored the world over, and especially throughout the British Empire. As the association has branches in all the British colonies and possessions, might it not now be possible to still further enlarge the name to one of a truly Imperial character?

He acted as secretary of the association until 1843, when he resigned and was elected president of the Council and treasurer. In 1849 he was elected president of the association at the Worcester meeting. The members of the association at the Liverpool meeting, in 1839, presented him with his portrait in oil, by Faulkner. In 1850, on the strong