

memorial volume of the exercises. Dr. Sayre was also called upon to make some remarks in the course of which he said :

"We can scarcely comprehend the greatness of this man's mind, and the truly wonderful genius of McDowell, until we stop to consider who he was, what he did, and when and where he did it. A village doctor in the back-woods frontier, surrounded by Indians and the buffalo, almost beyond the bounds of civilization, with no books to refer to, with no precedent to guide, with no one to consult but his own unaided judgment, with no one to share the responsibility if unsuccessful, unaided and alone assumes the responsibility of removing a disease which up to that time had been considered absolutely incurable. Think for a moment what would have been the result of failure—a coroner's jury and a verdict of wilful murder—which at that time would have been pronounced correct by the entire medical profession throughout the civilized globe. All this he dared and did assume, because his clear intellect had reasoned out his plan of procedure, and his careful dissection had pointed out to him the path to victory. And now every intelligent surgeon in the world is performing the operation as occasion requires, until at the present time, as Dr. Thomas has stated, forty thousand years have already been added to the sum of human life by this one discovery of Ephraim McDowell.

Another fact strikes me very forcibly, Mr. President, and that is, the heroic character of the woman who permitted this experimental operation to be performed upon her. The women of Kentucky in that period of her early history were heroic and courageous, accustomed to brave the dangers of the tomahawk and the scalping-knife, and had more self-reliance and true heroism than is generally found in the more refined society of city life ; and hence the courage of Mrs. Crawford, who, conscious that death was inevitable from the disease with which she suffered, so soon as this village doctor explained to her his plan of affording her relief, and convinced her judgment that it was feasible, immediately replied, "Doctor, I am ready for the operation ; please proceed at once and perform it." All honor to Mrs. Crawford ; let her name and that of Ephraim McDowell pass down in history together as the founders of ovariotomy.

At the close of the exercises Dr. Cowling, as the representative of the Kentucky State Medical Society, presented Prof. Gross with McDowell's door-knocker, as a memento of McDowell, and of the occasion which had brought the former to Kentucky. Dr. Cowling, in the course of his remarks, said :

"I wish that the magician's wand were granted me awhile to weave a fitting legend around this

door-knocker which comes from McDowell to you, Dr. Gross. There is much in the emblem. No one knows better than you how good and how great was the man of whom it speaks. It will tell of many summons upon mercy's mission which did not sound in vain. Oftentimes has it roused to action one whose deeds have filled the world with fame. A sentinel, it stood at the doorway of a happy and an honorable home, whose master, as he had bravely answered its signals to duty here below, so when the greater summons came he as trustfully answered that, and laid down a stainless life

It belongs by right to you, Dr. Gross. This household genius passes most fittingly from the dearest of Kentucky's dead surgeons to the most beloved of her living sons in Medicine. She will ever claim you as her son, Dr. Gross, and will look with jealous eye upon those who would wean you from her dear affection."

STUDY OF DISEASES OF THE EYE AND EAR.

In a recent number of "*Le Progrès Medical*" is an interesting article on this subject from which we make a few extracts. The diseases of the ear, notwithstanding their frequency and gravity, are often neglected by the generality of practitioners, as much as, or even more than diseases of the eye. However, like the latter they have been studied as a specialty by such eminent surgeons as Toynbee, Troltsch, Duplay, &c., who have very greatly improved on their treatment. It is nevertheless a matter of regret to notice that the generality of medical men take little interest in this study which is neither very tedious nor very difficult, and it is very undesirable that students should complete their medical studies without some precise ideas on these ailments.

This important question would appear to occupy the attention of foreign physicians ; thus we see Prof. Troltsch, whose labours on this subject are extensively known, claims for diseases of the ear the position which is due to them in a curriculum of medical study. In a paper on "The importance of understanding the surgery of the ear in the schedule of subjects obligatory at examinations," not only does he seek to demonstrate the utility of this study, but also indicates the means to be employed for forcing students to acquire a practical knowledge of these diseases. In this paper, which is addressed to the Imperial Chancellor, Prof. Von