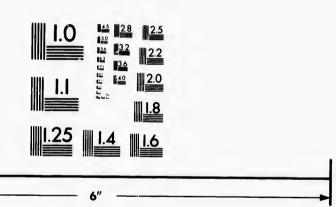
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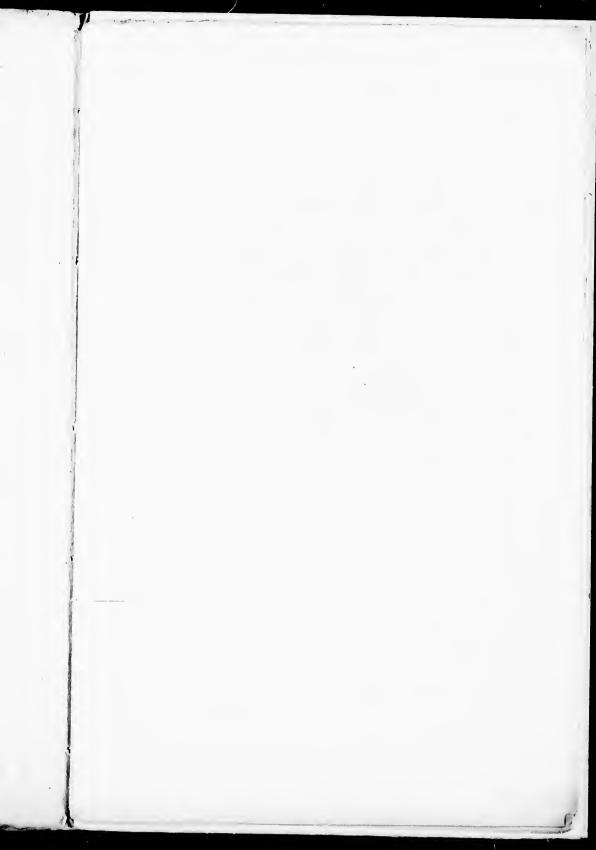
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Published by Request of The Juniors—Class'97. Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery.







H. F. Briggar

## A SHORT LIFE-HISTORY

OF

HAMILTON FISK BIGGAR.

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## 166 Euclid Avenue,

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 13th, 1896.

To the Junior Class of the

Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery:

In reply to your communication of yesterday, requesting the publication of a short authobiography, I will do so with pleasure as soon as my time will permit.

With very kind regards to each member of the class of '97, with the very best wishes for the continued prosperity of the University, a University which is your prospective and my Alma Mater, believe me,

Yours very truly,

H. F. BIGGAR.

Meurs Maryan

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Thamilton Fish Biggar.

AMILTON FISK BIGGAR was born at Oakville, Ont., Canada, March 15th, 1839. A history of his ancestors may be found in a work entitled, "Scottish Queens," in which mention is made of Flamingus, a Fleming who flourished in 1140, commonly called Baldwin De Biggar. The first Biggar recorded in history. Hugh of Biggar was his son. Nicholas de Biggar flourished in 1292. The Lairds of Biggar held offices of great dignity in the Royal Household of Scotland, as Lord High Chamberlain, whose ancestral seat was at Woolmet, four miles west of Edinburg, now the seat of the Earles of Wey-Major Biggar, in the reign of Charles II, was a Royal Commissioner to investigate the charge of witchcraft against certain people.

The etymology of Biggar, according to the learned George Chambers, is to be traced to the Scotch-Irish words, Big, Soft and Thir Land. That is land lying near a river (as Biggar is on the Biggar Burn) or marsh land or moss.

Another author says that Big refers to a coarse kind of barley called Bigg or Bear and Thir land, in Bigg Thir or Barley land. Another definition is the Anglo-Saxon, Big or Bige, a corner of tuming, and that Bigthir (Biggar) was so-called from the remarkable bend which the Clyde takes at that place.

The motto of the Biggar crest is "Giving and Forgiving."

There are eighteen different ways of spelling Biggar, as follows:

Bigger, Biggair, Bigyar, Bigair, Bygair, Bigart, Biggart, Biger, Bigar, Bigaret, Biggar, Bygare, Byger, Beggert, Bigre, Begar, Beggar, O'Bearga.

His grandfather, Robert Biggar, was born in Dumfries, and educated for a minister of the Scottish Church. He was married to Mary Lawder and blest with eleven children. After leaving Scotland, Mr. Biggar settled at Queenston, Ont., Canada, where his son Hamilton, the father of the subject of this personal sketch was born in 1806. Later the family moved to Mt. Pleasant, near Brantford. Rev. Hamilton Biggar was for many years a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist church, and married Eliza Phelps Racey, daughter of James Racey, Esq., of Brantford. They also had a large family of ten children, of which Hamilton Fisk Biggar was the fourth.

Hamilton Fisk Biggar, after attending the public schools until he was eleven years of age, became an apprentice to a merchant. After completing his apprenticeship he left this vocation, entered the grammar school at Brantford, and after two years' attendance, at his father's urgent request, again engaged in mercantile pursuits, but found them so distasteful that he determined to obtain a collegiate education to prepare himself for a professional life. He matriculated at the University of Victoria, where he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1863, and immediately began the study of law in the office of John Cameron, Esq., at Brantford. He passed his primary examination in law at Osgood

Hall, Toronto. A year at law convinced him that the profession of law was not in many respects suited to his trend of mind. He began the study of medicine, came to Cleveland in the year 1864, and registered as a student of the Homeopathic Hospital College, now the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery. After graduation he attended some of the leading hospitals at New York and Philadelphia, returned to Cleveland in July, 1866, and entered upon the practice of the profession in which he has gained eminence, and in which he has been both active and successful for a period of over twenty-five years.

On February 25, 1870, he was married to Miss Sue Miles Brooks, daughter of Mr. W. B. Brooks, of Columbus, O. By this marriage have been born four children: Rachel Racey Biggar, Hamilton Fisk Biggar, William Brooks Biggar and Sue Racey Biggar.

In 1867 the chair of Clinical Surgery was created, which was quite an innovation for a homeopathic college. For seven years Dr. Biggar was Professor of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, then for ten years of Clinical Surgery with Operations, and for the last eight years of Surgical Diseases of Women and Clinical Surgery, in the Cleveland Homeopathic College, now the University of Medicine and Surgery. For many years he was Registrar of the College.

For eleven years the doctor was the physician and surgeon of the Cleveland Workhouse. During his early practice he was for a short period surgeon to the Cleveland Grays.

For two consecutive years he was offered the chair of Surgery in the Homeopathic Department of the University of Michigan. Many former patients now living in New York have frequently and earnestly solicited his removal there, whose patronage and influence would at once insure a commanding practice. For many years he was a member of the Medical Staff of the Huron Street Hospital, and was honored by being the President of the Academy of Medicine and Surgery, of which he was one of the founder members.

Never was the doctor an office seeker. When nominated for the Presidency of the American Institute of Homeopathy in 1881, at Brighton Beach, though the chances for his election were excellent, he declined to be a candidate for this honorable office, preferring the activity of a useful member in the ranks than the attaining of the highest honor which the Institute could confer.

Before the present building of the Huron Street Hospital was begun, the control of Charity Hospital together with all clinics was offered to the doctor by the former Bishop of the Diocese, who was not only a patron but a very warm friend.

This magnatimous offer of the Bishop and Mother Superior was reluctantly, but of necessity, declined, for unfortunately the existing factions in the homeopathic profession prevented the securing of the undivided co-operation of the fraternity.

A few years ago he was entrusted by one of our multi-millionaires with 'he formation of a modern

medical college. A million dollars was promised by this generous benefactor and philanthropist. This seemed to be the crowning point of the doctor's lifelong cherished ambition—the organizing and perfecting of a model medical college. The sudden death of the donor without making any legal provision for the endowment was most unfortunate.

The doctor is an Episcopalian—a member of the Union, Roadside and Country Clubs—a Knight Templar, and an active and honorary member of medical and scientific societies.

As a physician and surgeon he is widely and favorably known, his services being at all times in demand. He has a lucrative practice and a distinguished and wealthy clientelè.

Dr. Biggar's personnel is commanding, dignified and unassuming. He is a man of strong force of character, of marked kindness and sympathy, particularly to the younger members of the profession, always a warm friend to the worthy poor, scrupulously professional to all and conscientious in the performance of his obligations and trusts.

In medical education he has always been an earnest worker in advancing its cause and very liberal in his medical creed—a true physician. Though a busy man in his professional duties he has been a constant writer upon surgical topics. His brochures have been eagerly sought after and treasured as embodiments of thoroughness and practical application.

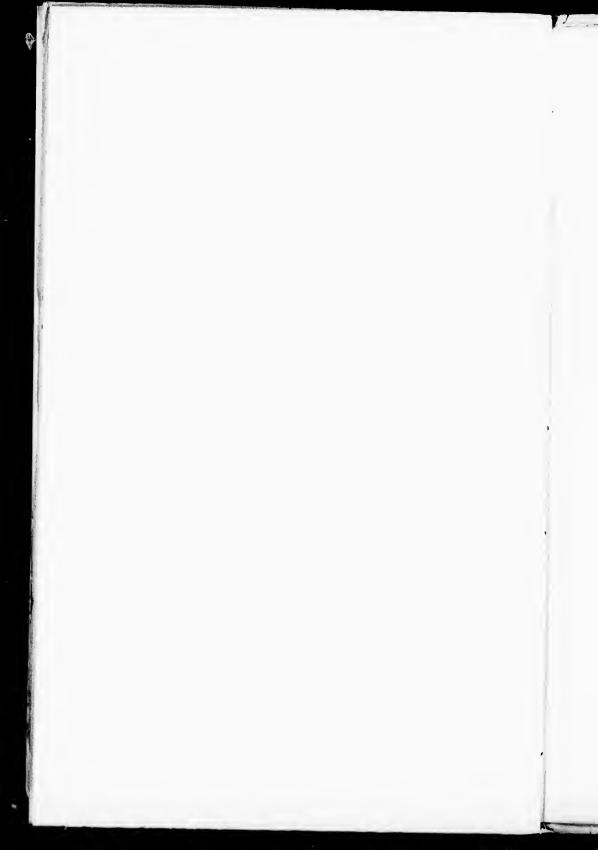
The doctor is an "all round medical man." The desperate neglected pelvic and abdominal cases which have been restored to complete recovery, the successful Cæsarean sections, Porro's operations, hysterectomies, ovarian and tubal diseases, and other major operations in general current have been most small in general current been been most small current been been most small current been mos

in general surgery have been most gratifying.

His laparotomies are creeping into the eighth series of one hundred each, with results very complimentary. He was the first surgeon west of the Eastern cities to operate successfully for the removal of a uterine fibroma by abdominal section. In plastic surgery he has been eminently successful, especially in correcting deformities of the face, nose, lips, mouth, bladder and pelvic floor, by methods new and original. The doctor has enjoyed a very extended clientelè. His services have been in demand from some of the largest cities of the Union. Frequently has he been summoned to the East and the West to care for obstetric patients or perform surgical operations. In the city of New York he attended in acconchement a very distinguished patient -the exultation and joy of the happy parents in the birth of a living babe will ever be held in pleasant remembrance. Their unusual exuberant demonstrations of gratitude may have arisen partly from the fact that Cæsarean section was anticipated, for at a previous birth, though attended by eminent obstetricians of New York, difficulties presented themselves obstructing the delivery, which could be overcome only by performing embryotomy.

The success of the doctor demonstrates the truth of the assertion that a general practiser assures the most





skillful specialist. His work in every detail and minutiæ is painstaking, a true conservative, abandoning the knife when restoration can be attained by other means and not hesitating to resort to the knife when the disease absolutely demands its use. As a clinical instructor his talents are appreciated—his lectures are interesting, instructive and refined—a dexterous, brilliant and skillful operator. The clinic room during his hour for operations is visited by the young and the old of the profession, as well as by the representatives of the different medical schools, "for his surgery is like a beautiful poem."

His relationships by correspondence, socially and professionally, with the eminent surgeons of the day, have been very pleasant and complimentary.

The doctor has been an extensive traveler, having crossed the American continent four times and made ten voyages across the Atlantic.

In 1890 reformatory measures were instituted by the entire board of trustees and the minority of the members of the faculty. The majority seceded and organized another college. The ranks of the seceders were filled with loyal and scholarly instructors, who were determined that medical education should advance. After two years of struggles the old college was very successful in the completion of a new, handsome and commodious college building. The task was arduous and the difficulties almost insurmountable. In 1890 the entire classes numbered only thirty-eight, but they were true and loyal students. At the end of the

fifth year, dating from the beginning of the introduction of the reformatory measures, the old college, now the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery, had registered one hundred and seventy-six students—the largest classes in actual attendance of any of the four medical colleges in Cleveland. The results exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the alumni and friends of the university, for it is now one of the honored and most successful of medical colleges.

Never has the doctor opposed the union upon a proper and just basis of the two homeopathic medical colleges in Cleveland.

Through the doctor's assistance in 1868 the doors of the college were thrown open for the admission of women—the first medical college to adopt co-education.

It is a part of history that in 1874 differences arose in the faculty from jealousies which necessitated an investigation by the Board of Trustees. The committee reported: "At the close of this long investigation your committee take pleasure in saying that they have found nothing derogatory to the character of Professor H. F. Biggar, either as a gentleman, a skillful physician and surgeon, or as an honored professor in our college."

In 1892 his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of M. A., and in 1893, I.I. D. The following is a part of the letter of the Chaucellors informing him of the honor conferred: "I have great pleasure in stating to you that our Senate unanimously tendered you

the degree of LL. D., in recognition of your professional abilities, high social and literary standing, and as a mark of our appreciation of your attachment and loyalty to your Alma Mater."

In 1894, serious charges were preferred by several members of the faculty of the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery, against one of the professors. The Board of Trustees appointed a committee to investigate the complaints. As chairman of the Executive Committee, the Trustees delegated the doctor to present these accusations. After a long and thorough investigation, the report of the Committee sustained the more serious and major number of the charges, and commended the action of the chairman of the Executive Committee for the faithful and impartial performance of his official trusts.

The once flourishing Round Table Club and the successful Training School for Nurses and the organizing of the Maternity Home, are largely the results of his energies. The doctor was, for ten years, Dean of the Training School for Nurses of the Huron Street Hospital. The following was received by the doctor upon his resignation as Dean:

CLEVELAND, O., MARCH 14, 1895.

Dear Dr. Biggar:-

I am instructed by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Huron Street Hospital, to express the deep regret which the committee feel in accepting your resignation as Dean of the Training School for Nurses.

Your resignation is only considered because we understand that you wish it to be final,—but we most

earnestly hope that you will not withdraw your interest.

and that you will continue to lecture.

We feel that the success of the school is due in a great measure to you and to your exertions in its behalf and can only trust that you will still give it time and thought.

With kind regards, I have the honor to be,

Yours most sincerely,

LAURA W. HILLIARD.

Sec. Executive Committee of the Huron St. Hospital.

June 28, 1895, the doctor severed his connection with the University of Medicine and Surgery.

The Board of Trustees of the University and also the Board of Censors, had the following resolutions prepared and sent to the doctor:

CLEVELAND, O., Nov. 22d, 1895.

H. F. BIGGAR, M. D., L.L. D.

Dear Doctor:-For many years as officers and members of the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery we have closely observed your relationship and connection with the University in the trusts confided in you, either as an officer or instructor of the faculty.

By your earnest zeal and untiring energy for the success of the University you have contributed with great ability and learning toward the advancement of medical education, especially in the introduction of proper methods of examination and lectures which have incited and prompted higher teachings.

You have at all times proved yourself a faithful and loving son of your Alma Mater, during trying epochs when the university was assailed by jealous factions and enemies, and its overthrow severely threatened.

By your heroic efforts, indomitable will, upright and just counsels, and by your generous donations and advances of moneys, you have averted the impending exterminations.

We desire to express to you our appreciation and recognition of the benefits derived by the university as a true and honored friend, who, at all times was devoted conscientiously to the faithful performance of every official and professional duty.

We tender you our sincere thanks and assure you of our high esteem of your manly efforts and painstaking industry in behalf of the university and express to you the hope that you may continue in the future, to achieve those successes in the profession for which you are so eminently qualified.

(Signed:) Geo. H. Warmington, President; G. M. Barber, Vice-President; P. M. Spencer, Treasurer; W. H. Burridge, ex-Secretary; Wm. Edwards, C. H. Buckley, R. D. Willard, John C. Sanders, ex-dean, W. B. Sanders.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 23d, 1895.

H. F. BIGGAR, M. A., M. D., LL. D., Dear Doctor:—

"We, the undersigned members of the Board of Censors of the Cleveland University of Medicine and Surgery, take this opportunity of expressing our approval of the action of the board of trustees of the university as mentioned in their published resolutions of esteem and appreciation of Dr. H. F. Biggar. We greatly deplore the fact that Dr. Biggar has severed his connection with the University. We believe that the prosperity and high position that the University now occupies is largely due to his untiring energy and increasing labor. His constant aim to elevate the science of medicine has had its beneficial influence. hereby express our thanks for his aid in the introduction and maintenance of methods which tend to a higher standard of medical teaching: R. B. Rush, M. D. (chairman), Salem; M. C. Terry, M. D., Utica, N. Y.; H. C. Frost, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.; B. L. Cleveland, M. D., Flint, Mich.; R. B. Johnson, M. D., Ravenna; Julia C. Jump, M. D., Oberlin; W. P. Bennett, M. D., Crestline; H. A. Sherwood, M. D., Warren; A. Gleason, M. D., Cleveland; Jacob Schneider, M. D., Cleveland; Kate Parsons, M. D., Cleveland; E. G. Rust, M. D., New York city; W. H. Thompson, M. D., Cleveland; W. B. Carpenter, M. D., Columbus; E. J. Wunderlich, M. D., Cleveland; F. W. Burlingame, M. D., McKeesport, Pa.; O. A. Palmer, M. D., Warren; C. L. Gangloff, M. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.; N. J. Burnham, M. D., Denver, Col.

## An Alumnus writes:

"I deem it a great loss to the University that you should resign, where you have worked so faithfully, zealously, unselfishly and conscientiously for the advancement of medical education, and accomplished so much in giving homeopathy its proper status and recognition, not only among the other homeopathic colleges, but among the colleges of different systems. Is it not true that students from the University are admitted to Allopathic Colleges and classed in the same grade? Surely you must feel proud that your work has been so blessed, and we, as alumni, rejoice at the advanced position which our Alma Mater now holds among the medical colleges of the different systems. We all hope that you may be induced to return to college work-you are too young and too useful to retire from professional duties, especially since you have not yet reached the zenith of your renown. No doubt you will have more time to devote to the perfection of your surgical work, whereby we may in the future, as in the past, be benefited by your valuable counsels and rich experiences. As one of your early assistants, I have always felt proud of my association with you, and so must all of your students, the major number having attained eminence in the profession. I have read with pleasure the well-earned complimentary resolution from the Boards of Trustees and Censors, who have properly estimated your valuable labors."

In February, 1896, the Executive Committee of the Huron Street Hospital expressed their appreciation of the doctor's services rendered the Hospital by sending him resolutions regretting his resignation from all offices of the Hospital, stating that "your valuable services will be missed, and that your long connection with the Institution, your interest in it, your skill and learning had much to do with its success."

M. S. B.



