

INAUGURAL MEETING.

IN response to a summons issued on May 24, a number of gynecologists from various parts of the United States came together at the Hall of the Academy of Medicine, New York, on June 3, 1876, for the purpose of forming a Society for the advancement of the special department of medicine in which they were chiefly interested.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. J. R. Chadwick, of Boston, and at once organized by the election of Dr. E. R. Peaslee, of New York, as Chairman, and Dr. Chadwick as Clerk.

Dr. Peaslee made the following remarks on taking the chair :—

GENTLEMEN, — We have come here to-day from the different States of our Union for a very important purpose, — the organization of a National Association for the promotion of knowledge in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In the name of the profession of New York I welcome you to this city ; and in the name of my city confrères here present I welcome you to this Hall, consecrated by the New York Academy of Medicine to the advancement of all the branches of medical science and art.

Thanking you for the honor conferred upon me in electing me to preside over your deliberations on this occasion, I would beg your attention to the business for which we have met.

It will be, of course, necessary to adopt a name, a constitution, and by-laws for the contemplated association, to which subjects all present have probably given some thought. As preliminary to these topics, I will call for some remarks upon the general plan of organization from Dr. Chadwick.

Dr. Chadwick spoke as follows :—

GENTLEMEN, — The call to which you have responded by your presence here to-day, was addressed to a limited number of recognized gynecologists after consultation with several of the promi-

ment men of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and of the West. It was not intended to include all those whose labors in this field of medicine would fully entitle them to an honored place in our ranks, but simply to form a nucleus round which the gynecologists of the country should cluster.

It seems the most fitting tribute to our national greatness that those who have striven to advance the noble causes of humanity, of science, of art, in any of their departments, should take steps in this Centennial year to prosecute their labors in the coming century with renewed vigor, and under more favorable circumstances. These remarks apply with more than common force to our branch of medicine, in which America can justly claim to stand preëminent.

With the men whose faces I see around me for coöperators, I predict for our projected society a brilliant future.

With regard to the special plan under which we should organize, it has been generally conceded to be better for our Society to have a restricted membership, and to require high qualification in the candidates for admission. By this means membership will come to be coveted, and our discussions be more profitable. The other features of the plan may more properly be considered on presentation of the constitution and by-laws, I will therefore move that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to draw up and present these.

The motion being seconded and passed, the chair appointed Drs. T. G. Thomas, of New York, John Byrne, of Brooklyn, and Theophilus Parvin, of Indianapolis.

While this committee was out, the Secretary called the roll, which was responded to by nineteen gentlemen, as follows : Drs. Fordyce Barker, E. R. Peaslee, T. A. Emmet, T. G. Thomas, J. M. Sims, I. E. Taylor, E. Noeggerath, W. T. Lusk, P. F. Munde, of New York ; John Byrne, A. J. C. Skene, of Brooklyn ; A. D. Sinclair, G. H. Bixby, J. R. Chadwick, of Boston ; W. Goodell, of Philadelphia ; T. Parvin, of Indianapolis ; W. H. Byford, of Chicago, Ill. ; E. W. Jenks, of Detroit, Mich. ; J. D. Trask, of Astoria, N. Y.

Letters were read from Drs. D. H. Storer, C. E. Buckingham, G. H. Lyman, W. L. Richardson, of Boston ; W. L. Atlee, R. A. F. Penrose, E. Wallace, A. H. Smith, T. M. Drysdale, J. V. Ingham, of Philadelphia ; S. C. Busey, of Washington ; E. Van de Warker,

of Syracuse ; J. P. White, of Buffalo ; R. Battey, of Rome, Ga. ; J. C. Reeve, of Dayton, O. ; G. J. Engelmann, of St. Louis, Mo., heartily endorsing the projected society, and promising their co-operation.

On motion of Dr. Taylor, the names of Drs. H. P. C. Wilson and W. T. Howard, of Baltimore, were added to the list of original Fellows.

On motion of Dr. Barker, the names of Drs. J. T. Johnson, of Washington, and H. F. Campbell, of Augusta, Ga., were likewise added, and the total number fixed at thirty-nine Fellows.

A Constitution and By-laws for the society were then reported by the Committee, which, after discussion of the clauses, *seriatim*, were adopted with only a few modifications.

On motion of Dr. Chadwick, a committee of five was then appointed by the chair to nominate a list of officers for the first annual meeting, in accordance with the Constitution. It consisted of Drs. Trask of Astoria, Sinclair of Boston, Jenks of Detroit, Noeggerath and Lusk of New York.

The following list of officers was reported, and unanimously elected by ballot : —

President, FORDYCE BARKER.

Vice-presidents, W. L. ATLEE, W. H. BYFORD.

Council, J. M. SIMS, W. GOODELL, T. PARVIN, G. H. LYMAN.

Secretary, J. R. CHADWICK.

Treasurer, P. F. MUNDE.

The President elect was immediately conducted to the chair by the temporary chairman, Dr. Peaslee, and after calling the meeting to order, made the following remarks : —

“I regret that indisposition from a severe cold renders me physically and mentally incapable of expressing my appreciation of the honor which I have just received at your hands, in such terms as I should desire, or of making any extended remarks appropriate to such an occasion. For myself, this meeting has been a succession of surprises.

“I will confess that I have been surprised to see such a number of representative men brought together for this purpose from other and distant cities. While I heartily approved of the formation of a national society which should have for its object the promotion of knowledge in all that relates to the diseases of women and to obstetrics, I must make the humiliating confession,

that in my inmost heart I did not give my brethren, who have at such cost and sacrifice of time come to this city for this purpose, the credit for such zeal and devotion to that department of science to which they have dedicated their lives, as this gathering demonstrates. This is assuredly a most favorable augury for the future of this society.

“My next surprise was at the perfection and completeness of detail with which all preparation had been made for such a meeting, and the rapidity and harmony of the organization. There has been no diversity of sentiment as to the feasibility and utility of such an organization — no waste of time in the discussion of trivialities in regard to the phraseology of the Constitution — no wrangling in regard to the By-laws. All seem to have been actuated by a common spirit of earnestness to make the society successful and useful.

“I feel greatly embarrassed in speaking of my third surprise.

“Scientific societies seem to be governed in their selection of office-bearers by one of two principles. One is to confer honor upon individuals in their election of officers. The fact that there are others who by their contributions to the literature, science, and art of our department, would have been entitled to this position, to which I can lay no claim, is a demonstration that the principle which I have just enunciated has not governed your choice.

“The other principle is to select such men for office-bearers as will most efficiently perform the duties which pertain to the office. Whether your decision in the present case be wise or not, must be determined by the future.

“With a strong feeling of apprehension that it has not been wise in one instance, I can only engage to do all that earnest zeal and such ability as I possess can effect, to secure you from the conviction that my distrust is but too well founded.

“I must reserve what I have to say in addition, for the address, which, by the Constitution of our Society, I am bound to give at our next meeting.”

At five P. M. the Society adjourned, having voted that the first Annual Meeting should be held in New York, on September 13, 14, and 15, 1876.

JAMES R. CHADWICK, *Secretary.*

OFFICERS FOR 1876.

(Elected June 3, 1876.)

PRESIDENT.

FORDYCE BARKER, OF NEW YORK.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

WASHINGTON L. ATLEE, OF PHILADELPHIA.

WILLIAM H. BYFORD, OF CHICAGO.

SECRETARY.

JAMES R. CHADWICK, OF BOSTON.

TREASURER.

PAUL F. MUNDE, OF NEW YORK.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

J. MARION SIMS, OF NEW YORK.

WILLIAM GOODELL, OF PHILADELPHIA.

THEOPHILUS PARVIN, OF INDIANAPOLIS.

GEORGE H. LYMAN, OF BOSTON.

FELLOWS.

FOUNDERS.

ATLEE, WASHINGTON L., M. D., *Vice-President*, 1876. 1408 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

BARKER, FORDYCE, M. D. Professor of Clinical Midwifery and Diseases of Women, Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital of the State of New York; Consulting Physician to Bellevue Hospital, etc., *President*, 1876. 85 Madison Avenue, New York.

BATTEY, ROBERT, M. D. Formerly Professor of Obstetrics, and Clinical Professor of Gynecological Surgery, Atlanta Medical College. 36 Broad Street, Rome, Georgia.

BIXBY, GEORGE H., M. D. Surgeon to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for Women. 143 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

BUCKINGHAM, CHARLES E., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence, Harvard University; Consulting Physician to the Boston City Hospital, and to the Boston Lying-in Hospital. 53 Worcester Street, Boston, Mass.

BUSEY, SAMUEL C., M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, University of Georgetown; Physician to the Children's Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Columbia Hospital for Women, and Lying-in Asylum, etc. 1517 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

BYFORD, WILLIAM H., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, Chicago Medical College; Gynecologist to the Mercy Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Cook County Hospital, and to the Hospital for Women and Children. *Vice-president*, 1876. 735 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

BYRNE, JOHN, M. D. Formerly Clinical Professor of Uterine Surgery, Long Island College Hospital; Surgeon-in-chief to St. Mary's Hospital for Diseases of Women. 314 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

CAMPBELL, HENRY F., M. D. Professor of Operative Surgery and Gynecology, University of Georgia; Surgeon to the City Hospital, and to the Freedman's Hospital, Augusta. 207 Broad Street, Augusta, Georgia.

CHADWICK, JAMES R., M. D. Formerly Clinical Instructor of the Diseases of Women, Harvard University; Physician to the Out-patient Department for the Diseases of Women, Boston City Hospital. *Secretary*, 1876. Clarendon Street, Boston, Mass.

DRYSDALE, THOMAS M., M. D. President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. 1531 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

EMMET, THOMAS ADDIS, M. D. Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital of the State of New York; Consulting Physician to the Roosevelt Hospital, N. Y.; Consulting Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital for Women, Brooklyn. 87 Madison Avenue, New York.

ENGELMANN, GEORGE J., M. D. Lecturer on Pathological Anatomy, St. Louis Medical College; Consulting Physician to the Female Hospital. 3003 Locust Street, St. Louis, Mo.

GOODELL, WILLIAM, M. D. Clinical Professor of the Diseases of Women and Children, University of Pennsylvania; Physician-in-charge of the Preston Retreat. *Council*, 1876. Twentieth Street, below Spring Garden, Philadelphia, Penn.

HOWARD, WILLIAM T., M. D. Professor of the Diseases of Women and Children, and of Clinical Medicine, University of Maryland. 181 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

INGHAM, JAMES V., M. D. Obstetrician to the State Hospital for Women and Infants. 1342 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

JENKS, EDWARD W., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women, Detroit Medical College; Surgeon to the Department for Diseases of Women in St. Mary's and in St. Luke's Hospitals; Consulting Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital, etc. 84 Lafayette Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

JOHNSON, J. TABER, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Infants, University of Georgetown. 937 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

LUSK, WILLIAM T., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, and of Clinical Midwifery, Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Physician to Bellevue Hospital. 47 East Thirty-fourth Street, New York.

LYMAN, GEORGE H., M. D. Physician to the Boston City Hospital. *Council*, 1876. 131 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

MUNDE, PAUL F., M. D. Assistant Surgeon to the Woman's

Hospital of the State of New York ; Physician to the Out-door Department for the Diseases of Women, Mount Sinai Hospital. *Treasurer*, 1876. 20 West Forty-fifth Street, New York.

NOEGGERATH, EMIL, M. D. Formerly Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women, New York Medical College, Physician to the Female Department of the German Hospital. 42 West Thirty-fifth Street, New York.

PARVIN, THEOPHILUS, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Indiana. *Council*, 1876. 143 North Alabama Street, Indianapolis, Ind.

PEASLEE, E. RANDOLPH, M. D. Professor of Gynecology, Bellevue Hospital Medical College ; Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital of the State of New York. 29 Madison Avenue, New York.

PENROSE, RICHARD A. F., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, University of Pennsylvania ; Consulting Obstetrician to the State Hospital for Women and Infants. Visiting Physician to the Preston Retreat. 1331 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

REEVE, JOHN C., M. D. Formerly Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Medical College of Ohio. Corner of Third and Wilkinson Streets, Dayton, Ohio.

RICHARDSON, WILLIAM L., M. D. Instructor of Clinical Obstetrics, Harvard University ; Physician to the Boston Lying-in Hospital ; and to Out-patients, Massachusetts General Hospital. 76 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

SIMS, J. MARION, M. D. *Council*, 1876. 267 Madison Avenue, New York.

SINCLAIR, ALEXANDER D., M. D. Formerly Physician to the Boston City Hospital. 35 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

SKENE, ALEXANDER J. C., M. D. Professor of the Medical and Surgical Diseases of Women, Long Island College Hospital. 167 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SMITH, ALBERT H., M. D. Lecturer on Obstetrics, and Physician to the Philadelphia Lying-in Charity ; Visiting Physician to the Preston Retreat ; Consulting Surgeon to the Women's Hospital. 1419 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

STORER, D. HUMPHREYS, M. D. 182 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

TAYLOR, ISAAC E., M. D. President and Emeritus Professor

of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Physician to the Maternity Hospital; Consulting Physician to Bellevue Hospital, Charity Hospital, Woman's Hospital of the State of New York, etc. 7 East Thirty-sixth Street, New York.

THOMAS, T. GAILLARD, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Surgeon to the Woman's Hospital of the State of New York; Consulting Physician to the Nursery and Child's Hospital, New York, and to St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y. 294 Fifth Avenue, New York.

TRASK, JAMES D., M. D. Formerly Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, Long Island Hospital Medical College. Remsen Street, Astoria, N. Y.

VAN DE WARKER, ELY, M. D. Professor of Artistic Anatomy, University of Syracuse, N. Y. 45 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

WALLACE, ELLERSLIE, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, Jefferson Medical College; Consulting Physician to the Preston Retreat, and to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. 1130 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

WHITE, JAMES P., M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and of the Diseases of Women and Children, University of Buffalo, N. Y.; Obstetrician to the Buffalo General Hospital. 674 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

WILSON, HENRY P. C., M. D. Surgeon to the Woman's Department of the Union Protestant Infirmary. 146 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Md.