

A DISCOURSE

COMMEMORATIVE OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D.,

LATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES
OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY

R. A. F. PENROSE, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

DELIVERED OCTOBER 6th, 1873,

BEFORE THE

TRUSTEES, PROFESSORS, AND STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA:

COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.

1873.

CORRESPONDENCE.

At a meeting of the Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania, held Oct. 10th, 1873, for the purpose of requesting a copy of Prof. Penrose's Introductory Lecture, Mr. John Ivison, of Philadelphia, was called to the Chair, and Mr. M. Frank Kirkbride, of Philadelphia, appointed Secretary.

On motion it was

Resolved, That a committee consisting of a representative from each State and country be appointed to carry out the intention of the Class.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Philadelphia, Oct. 13th, 1873.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, a special committee, to whom the duty has been delegated of requesting for publication, a copy of your able and eloquent eulogy upon the life and character of our late lamented Professor, Hugh L. Hodge, while communicating the wish of the Class, desire at the same time to add our personal solicitation that you will accede to the request. A compliance with the wish expressed through us will be not only a manifestation of your kindness to us, but a gratification to the relatives and friends of him whose merits have been commemorated by you.

With high esteem we remain
your obedient servants,

JAMES T. PRIESTLEY, Pennsylvania.
H. TURNER BASS, North Carolina.
DAN'L M. GUIERAS, Cuba.
GEO. L. EYSTER, Nebraska.
WM. MCD. MASTIN, Alabama.

DR. PENROSE.

1331 SPRUCE STREET,
Philadelphia, Oct. 20th, 1873.

GENTLEMEN: The Introductory Address which the Class, through you, has requested for publication, was written not only to illustrate the works and virtues of our lamented professor, but also that the instructive and noble lessons they conveyed might not be lost to us. I place the Lecture, therefore, with much pleasure at your disposal. Accept for yourselves as well as for each member of the Class, my kindest wishes, and believe me

Your obedient servant,
R. A. F. PENROSE.

To Messrs. JAS. T. PRIESTLEY, H. TURNER BASS, DAN'L M. GUIERAS, GEO. L. EYSTER, WM. MCD. MASTIN.

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Secretary.

JOHN IVISON,
Chairman.

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania, died at his late residence, 901 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, on Wednesday morning, February 26th, 1873, at half past one o'clock.

His funeral took place from the Second Presbyterian Church, southeast corner of Twenty-first and Walnut Streets, on Saturday, March 1st, at one o'clock, the interment being at Laurel Hill.

Special meetings of the various societies and associations with which he had been connected were held, and resolutions of condolence, sympathy, and eulogy were passed.

At a special meeting of the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, held on February 28th, 1873, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That the Faculty have heard with sincere sorrow of the death of one who stood in the relation either of preceptor or of colleague to all the members of this body, and that it is due to his memory to express their high appreciation of his character as a man, and of his distinction as a professor.

That the pure and elevated principles of Dr. Hodge were illustrated in a life devoted to the service of his fellow men, and to the promotion of all efforts to benefit and ennoble humanity, while his disinterested, gentle, and humane prosecution of his profession placed him as an example before his brethren, and endeared him to the community in which he dwelt, as well as to those who sought his counsel from abroad.

That his efficient services as a teacher of his art, placed him in the front

rank of the eminent men who have shed lustre on the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania.

That, by his lectures and publications, he has contributed to the advancement and improvement of his special branch of medicine, and aided in the dissemination of sound doctrine in medical science, and although for many years retired from the more arduous duties of his profession, his influence has been deeply felt and cordially acknowledged.

That the Faculty, gratefully remembering the many manifestations of his personal kindness and interest, sincerely condole with the family of Dr. Hodge in their bereavement, and feel that consolation for the loss sustained by them and by ourselves is found in the belief of his eternal gain.

R. E. ROGERS, M.D.,

Dean of the Medical Faculty.

At a subsequent meeting of the Medical Faculty it was *Resolved*, that the Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, Dr. Penrose, be requested to prepare an address on "The Life and Character of Dr. Hodge," to be given as the Introductory Lecture at the opening of the school in October next.

A DISCOURSE.

A YEAR ago, to-day, the Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania assembled to listen to the Introductory lecture delivered by my colleague, Professor Carson, commemorative of the life and character of Dr. Samuel Jackson, our late professor of the Institutes of Medicine. There sat with us, at that time, Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, who, as professor, and professor emeritus, for more than a third of a century, had been a tower of strength to our school; who had been a pupil or a colleague of those great men whose names and works we prize as part of our richest inheritance; his name had become a household word throughout the land; his earnest devotion to his profession; his unselfish sacrificings to his patients; his strong faith, munificent liberality and beautiful life had gained for him the love and respect of all men. Alas! gentlemen, *his* place to-day is vacant. Our beloved professor is dead, and I have been appointed, by the medical faculty, to deliver this introductory lecture, commemorative of his life and character.

Dr. Hodge was born in Philadelphia, on June 27th, 1796, at his father's house in Water Street. At that day Philadelphia was comparatively a small place, numbering about 50,000 inhabitants, and Water Street, now occupied solely for commercial purposes, then was considered desirable for residences—indeed, the whole city was built along the Delaware River front, and farm-houses and farms were to be found east of Broad Street.

Dr. Hodge's grandfather was Andrew Hodge, who emigrated to this country in 1730, and became a successful merchant of Philadelphia. Andrew Hodge came of that Scotch-

Irish Presbyterian stock that contributed so large a portion of the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and which has given so many great and good men to our country. This Scotch-Irish Presbyterian stock is so peculiar, and its influence on the earlier development of this country so marked, that it deserves more than mere passing notice. When we consider "that moral and intellectual traits follow down a race from father to son, reappearing often in remote descendants exactly as peculiarities of feature or disease do," we can readily perceive the vast influence of hereditary antecedents. This race came from the Saxon population of the south of Scotland and the north of Ireland. In reflecting on its origin, it would seem as if Providence had subjected it, for generations, to stern treatment and severe discipline, in order that those traits of character, which are so strongly marked in the stock, might be developed to the full measure of vigor and strength necessary for the accomplishment of the great work for which it was designed.

Great races and great men do not come by accident. They are the results of antecedent conditions and circumstances reaching often back for centuries. To adopt a style of expression, which would have well pleased the subject of this notice, we may say that Providence does not, as a rule, appear to work by miracles, but by regular, fixed, well-established physical laws; and one of these physical laws, now universally recognized, is that so admirably and scientifically enunciated and illustrated by Mr. Darwin and Mr. Wallace, called usually the "Law of Natural Selection," or the "Law of the Survival of the Fittest;" that "wise and beneficent law by which the improvement and perfection of the human race alone can be secured; that law in consequence of which the best specimens of a species survive, and become the progenitors of generations more perfect than those preceding them, thus tending to propagate an ever-improving and perfecting type of humanity." I have said that this great principle controlling the development of our race, has been enunciated and illustrated by Mr. Darwin and Mr. Wallace, but the *law* is no discovery of theirs; it was first proclaimed by the inspired pen of the great Jewish lawgiver, who frequently declares, in

the most solemn and emphatic manner, the righteous and beneficent law of the survival of the fittest; a law which visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation, and shows mercy unto thousands that love God and keep his commandments.

The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, for generations, had been subjected to hardships, persecutions, and trials which had tended to secure in their descendants those physical and moral qualities that, pre-eminently, fitted them to be among the best of those hardy pioneers, who flung themselves, in successive waves of immigration, into the unexplored wildernesses of the North American continent. The striking qualities of this race were great powers of physical endurance, with corresponding energy and firmness of purpose; a clear and vigorous intellect; a faith as fixed as the rocks of that land from whence it came, and an all-pervading religious spirit, not always attractive or beautiful (how could it be, when the agent which had made it so strong, was bitter, unrelenting persecution?); but an all-pervading religious spirit, precisely what seemed to be required, to fit the race for the stern work that an All-Wise Providence, for many generations, had been preparing it. Looking back for several hundred years, we can see (I speak with all reverence) how the Most High seems to have prepared, through the formative influence of the law of natural selection, the earlier settlers of our country; the Puritans, the Huguenots, the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, the Quakers, and the Roman Catholics under Lord Baltimore. Trial and persecutions were the sifting of Providence. None but the vigorous, none but the earnest, none but the strong of faith, none but the pure of purpose came in those early days. But these all were the chosen seed—the fit progenitors of the men who, one hundred years ago, founded our government.

Our friend, Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, came then of a vigorous and a godly race; his father, Hugh Hodge, a son of Andrew Hodge, preferring science to the commercial pursuits of his parent, studied medicine, and served as a surgeon in the Continental army during the War for Independence. After peace was declared, Dr. Hugh Hodge practised his profession in

Philadelphia; he married Maria Blanchard, of Boston, a descendant of the French Huguenots, a woman who afterwards proved herself worthy of her ancestral antecedents. In the dreadful epidemics of yellow fever in Philadelphia in 1793 and 1795, Dr. Hugh Hodge was distinguished for his heroism, and like so many other noble men in our profession, he fell a victim to his philanthropy, and died in 1798, leaving a widow and two sons; one of these sons is Professor Charles Hodge, of the Theological Seminary of Princeton; the other was our Professor, Dr. Hugh L. Hodge.

Medical men, as a class, are not rich, but the medical men of '93 and '95 were poor—their sublime self-devotion did not receive, neither did it seek, gold as its reward. Poverty is not, however, always an evil, and, if honorable, is usually the best inheritance a father can leave his sons. The doctor of the American Revolution, the martyr of the yellow fever epidemics, left his children but little of this world's goods, and yet he left them an inheritance more precious than untold thousands. Firm in faith, he left them to the mercies of that God he had served, and the histories of his two sons show how literally true the Mosaic declaration of the righteous law of natural selection is, how the best and noblest inheritance a young man can have, is an honorable descent from a race of good and true men.

I may be addressing some young men who are poor, some, perhaps, who have been compelled to practise the strictest self-denial to secure the means necessary to enable them to pursue their professional studies. To such, let me repeat the remark I have made, that honorable poverty is not an evil, but usually is a great blessing to every young man. When we study the lives of great men, we almost invariably find that, no matter how much they may have differed in other respects, yet they almost all began life poor; in other words, with them all, poverty was that essential school in which were acquired, or were strengthened, those qualities without which they could not have become great. To be a poor young man, then, means to be a young man to whom a kind Providence gives the noble opportunity of becoming great. Such was the school, such the moral and intellectual gym-

nasium that blessed the infancy and youth of our professor, and which, undoubtedly, were the means that made him what he was. His ancestral qualities, those of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and the Huguenot, hardened and strengthened by the wholesome discipline of poverty, moulded and directed by the tender care of a mother, whose only object in life was the education and moral development of her sons, and whose earliest teaching to these young athletes she was rearing, was the sublime answer to the first question of their dead father's confession of faith, that the "chief end of man is to glorify God."

At the age of fourteen, Hugh L. Hodge entered, as a Sophomore, Nassau Hall, Princeton, and graduated at the head of his class two years later. Beginning the study of medicine immediately, he became the private pupil of Dr. Caspar Wistar, and matriculated at the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1818. Anxious to perfect himself in his profession, his great desire was to go to Europe, that he might continue his studies, but his means were not sufficient to accomplish his cherished wish. The young doctor, however, had too much firmness of will and fixedness of purpose to allow himself to be balked by such a trifle (to strong and earnest men) as poverty; he belonged to that favored class who possess the power of compelling fortune to do their bidding. Not having the money, he did not supinely wait, lamenting his hard lot that he was not among the favored ones of this earth, neither did he crave nor accept assistance from his rich friends, nor indulge in rash speculations, as is so much the custom in our day, in hope that some lucky "Flyer" might secure him the money he required. No, not having the money, he set about getting it in the good old-fashioned way of working for it, and honestly and slowly earning it. And this, let me remark, is the only sort of money that is worth possessing; it is that sort of money that sticks to a man, the kind that, like a domestic animal, comes into a man's house and becomes a willing member of his family. Money, acquired in any other way, is too apt to be like a wild and untamable animal, that cannot be domes-

ticated; it is too apt to be that "riches that takes to itself wings and flies away."

Pursuing his manly purpose of conquering fortune, Dr. Hodge now sought and secured the position of surgeon on a vessel about to sail for India, hoping, by the ventures of the voyage, to realize enough money to enable him, on his return, to visit Europe, and there continue his professional studies. He sailed a few months after graduating, and returned safely in 1820. The voyage did not prove a commercial success, and our young doctor failed to bring back with him the means necessary to enable him to carry out his projected plan. His labor, however, was not lost; honest, manly, purposeful labor, even though it do not secure the object hoped for, is never lost. The law of the preservation and conversion of forces appears to be as absolute in morals as in physics. The young doctor came home light in pocket, but rich in a most varied and invaluable experience of men and things, an experience he never could have secured had he remained at home and hoped for success, instead of working hard to obtain it.

One of the most valuable of these experiences was that acquired by the study of the diseases of India, and more particularly by the study of Asiatic cholera, a disease at that time, viz. 1818, unknown both in Europe and America. Dr. Hodge saw and treated many cases of cholera, and thus obtained a knowledge of its symptoms and treatment which proved of inestimable value in the terrible cholera epidemic of 1832. During this fearful visitation, he was most active in the cholera hospitals, and was very successful in the plan of treatment he instituted. In commemoration of his faithful services, after the disappearance of the disease, the City presented him a silver pitcher and a vote of thanks.

On his return from India in 1820, Dr. Hodge, abandoning all hope of European study, began at once the practice of his profession in Philadelphia. He was elected about this time one of the physicians to the Southern Dispensary, and subsequently to the Philadelphia Dispensary. A year later, in 1821, he commenced his career as a teacher of medicine by

taking charge of Dr. Horner's anatomical class while Dr. Horner visited Europe. This anatomical training most probably served to direct his attention more particularly to surgery, a branch for which he soon exhibited decided preference, and two years after, in 1823, he was elected a lecturer on the Principles of Surgery in the Association, which a few years later became the Medical Institute, lecturing in connection with Drs. Chapman, Dewees, Horner, Bell, Mitchell, Jackson, and T. Harris. About this time too he was appointed one of the Physicians to the Philadelphia Almshouse.

There are epochs in every man's history which determine his whole future; and the critical epochs in the life of Dr. Hodge were his marriage and his election as a Professor in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. The most solemn and important event in the life of every man who marries, is his marriage; the assumption of this sacred relation, with its grave and lifelong duties and responsibilities, is the one step on which will hang, in most cases, the whole future happiness of the individual. If this step be taken with wisdom and prudence, and with a due appreciation of all its weighty entailments, the results, other things being equal, almost necessarily will be the greatly increased happiness of the individual. If, however, the step be taken hastily, thoughtlessly, and in levity, the results almost necessarily will be the unhappiness, and often the destruction of both parties.

We could scarcely expect a man of the character and antecedents of our friend, to marry without serious consideration of all the solemn consequences of his act; he did not rashly and hastily, as so many young men do, marry before reaching the age of complete manhood, and before he had secured such a position in his profession as justified him in assuming not only the responsibilities and duties of married life, but also the greatly increased expenditures inevitable upon it. At the age of thirty-two years, after having been established in a rapidly increasing practice for several years, on November 12th, 1828, he married Margaret E. Aspinwall, a daughter of John Aspinwall, a well-known merchant of New York, and a granddaughter of Joseph Howland, of the same city, a de-

scendant of John Howland, one of the May Flower pilgrims. The consequences of a step so wisely and prudently taken were most fortunate and happy. It would not be seemly here, however, to discuss the relations of domestic life; seven sons were born of this union, five of whom survive their father. Mrs. Hodge died several years before her husband.

About the time of, and shortly after his marriage, certain circumstances happened which entirely changed the direction of his efforts, and the character of his practice. These circumstances were the failing health and advanced age of the two prominent obstetricians of Philadelphia, Dr. Thomas C. James, Professor of Obstetrics and of Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Wm. P. Dewees. At the solicitation of these two gentlemen, he abandoned the specialty of surgery, to which he had for some years devoted himself, and began to apply himself to the practice and teaching of obstetrics. In consequence of this change in his plans of professional effort, when Dr. Dewees resigned the lectureship of Obstetrics in the Medical Institute, Dr. Hodge retired from his lectureship on Surgery, and was given that of Obstetrics; and, about the same time, and in furtherance of the same views, he was elected one of the Physicians to the Lying-in Department of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

As I have already remarked, the two great epochs in the life of our friend were his marriage, and his election to the Chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania. This latter event occurred in November, 1835, and it may not be uninteresting, here, to recall some circumstances in the history of the chair to which he was now elevated. In 1810, after a long and animated contest, in which Dr. Dewees and Dr. Nathaniel Chapman were his most active opponents, Dr. Thomas C. James was elected Professor of Obstetrics and of Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania. In 1834, Dr. James resigned his chair, and Dr. Wm. P. Dewees, who had assisted him for nine years, was appointed his successor. Dr. Dewees had aspired to this position for a quarter of a century, but was destined to hold it for a very

short time—an apoplectic attack in 1834 greatly weakened his powers. In the autumn of 1835, he made an attempt to deliver his course of lectures, but found himself unable to continue, and he suddenly resigned his professorship on the 10th of November, 1835. The contest for the vacant chair was very close and exciting, it was decided, however, in favor of our friend, and Dr. Hugh L. Hodge was elected the professor.

At this crisis in his affairs, he was thirty-nine years of age—he had practised his profession for fifteen years, and had taught it for fourteen years; in other words, he was a fully matured man, thoroughly prepared, by study and experience, for the responsible and elevated position in which he had been placed, as well as peculiarly fitted for it by his antecedents and character. He entered now on a career of honor and usefulness, in which he was destined to continue for considerably over the third of a century. The classes of young men to which he lectured were very large, and were drawn from all parts of the United States, and soon his reputation as a teacher and as a practitioner became national. Patients came to him in great numbers from distant places, and these, when added to a very extensive home practice, kept him constantly occupied. Year by year this professional pressure increased, until at last he was obliged to relinquish, almost absolutely, his obstetrical practice, and to devote himself exclusively to the treatment of the diseases of females. In the management of these diseases his success was very great—his cardinal principle was, that the chief cause, not the sole cause, but the chief cause of the so-called diseases peculiar to women, was due to, I quote his own words, “a morbid irritation of the nerves of the parts, with or without congestion, but usually with no inflammation,” that the cause of this morbid irritation, in most cases, was displacement of the uterus and its appendages, and that its rational treatment consisted in obviating the action of this cause by the use of mechanical supports, called pessaries.

Dr. Dewees, Dr. Hodge's predecessor, had done much good, both by his teachings and writings, in directing the attention of the medical profession to the influence of uterine displace-

ments in causing female diseases. Dewees also had made great improvements in the form and material of these instruments, recommending glass and metal instead of the perishable substances then resorted to, as wood and cork. Indeed, the Dewees concavo-convex glass pessary is used even to this day, though now the glass is substituted by hard rubber, as a safer and better material.

A friend has furnished me with some very interesting facts in connection with the mechanical treatment of female disease by Dr. Hodge. The case, which first attracted his attention to the value of mechanical support, occurred in 1830, about the time he began to devote himself to obstetrics and the diseases of females. It was that of a woman, who had been admitted into the medical wards of the almshouse, supposed to be suffering from hepatic disease. This woman was subjected to the usual treatment for such affections, part of which treatment was a course of mercury; but in spite of everything done for her relief, she became rapidly worse. About this time, the resident physician who had charge of the patient, discovered, on making an examination, that there was decided retroversion of the uterus. He introduced one of the, then new, Dewees pessaries, and, to the astonishment of all, the liver complaint was cured, and the woman was speedily restored to health. The results of this case made a great impression on Dr. Hodge, and no doubt served to direct his attention more particularly to the teachings of Dewees, Gooch, and other writers of that day, who maintained the doctrine of distant sympathies long before the discoveries of Marshall Hall and later observers revealed to us the nature and cause of these sympathies. The lessons, taught by this instructive case of the almshouse patient, fell on good ground, and soon bore much fruit.

His opportunities, both public and private, for observing female diseases at this time, were becoming very great, and the results of these observations served only, year by year, to confirm him in the views he had begun to hold, as to the consequences of uterine displacements and their rational treatment.

When Dr. Hodge began, in 1830, the treatment of female

diseases as a specialty, the mechanical appliances in use were of the most limited character; there was no speculum, no uterine sound, no sponge-tent to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of these, in those days, necessarily, very obscure cases. Pessaries, though improved by Dewees, were still very imperfect in shape and arrangement. Dr. Hodge, for years, devoted himself to the discovery of the proper materials and shapes for these instruments. This investigation required not only great intelligence, but the utmost patience and the most unwearied perseverance. Year by year he groped, as it were, in search of these unknown quantities, viz., the size, the shapes, and the material of uterine supports; at last he found them, not all at once or all together, but far apart and at long intervals, and only after a persistent search, the difficulties of which would have balked most men at the outset. He sometimes, to illustrate the character of this search and the nature of these difficulties, exhibited to his friends a number of large drawers containing hundreds, perhaps, thousands, of contrivances of every possible shape and material, which he called his "collection of abortions;" and these were the implements he had used in his gropings after the sought-for unknown quantities.

Dr. Hodge once told a friend how the idea of the lever pessary first came to him. He had been contemplating for a long time the subject of new shapes for pessaries, and, after many experiments, had found nothing satisfactory. One evening, while sitting alone in the room where the meetings of the medical faculty of the University were held, his eyes rested on the upright steel support by the fireplace, designed to hold the shovel and tongs; the shovel and tongs were kept in position by a steel hook; and, as he surveyed the supporting curve of this hook, the longed-for illumination came; the shape, apparently so paradoxical, revealed itself in the glowing light and flickering flame of the burning grate, and the Hodge lever pessary was the result. No discovery has ever been made in the treatment of female diseases which has done more good than this original conception of Dr. Hodge. The lever pessary is now universally recognized, abroad as well as in this country, as *the* instrument for the

treatment, of most forms, of uterine displacement. Like the forceps of Chamberlen, it has received innumerable modifications, none of which, however, are improvements, and the simple open and closed lever pessaries of Hodge must always remain the perfect types of the lever pessary.

Dr. Hodge used at first, as the material for the new pessaries, very thin silver plated with gold, but, after the discovery of hard rubber, this material was found so perfectly adapted to the construction of such instruments that, save in exceptional cases, it is now the only one used. At first the only lever pessary employed was the open lever, but, gradually, he perfected his discovery by giving the instrument its double curve and making it closed, and it is in this latter form that it is now generally used.

The lever pessary, though an inestimable boon to suffering woman, is by no means the only gift of Dr. Hodge to his profession and to humanity. The Hodge eclectic forceps is a most valuable instrument; this instrument does not profess to be an original conception as the lever pessary is, but is rather the result of a sagacious eclecticism, taught by long experience and thorough knowledge of the force and mechanism of parturition. The eclectic forceps is so well known, it is unnecessary I should say of it more than that, in the great number of modifications which the obstetrical forceps has received, none are better and few as good as the Hodge modification.

Dr. Hodge made many other contributions to the surgery of his specialty; among them, I may mention his instruments for embryotomy comprising his modification of Baudelocque's cephalotribe, named by him "compressores cranii," and his craniotomy scissors; also, a modified forceps for extracting retained placenta after abortion, as well as a lever and crochet, in one piece, for use in abortion, and in removing certain forms of pessaries.

No man of his generation, except, perhaps, the late Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh, did so much for his special department of practice as our Professor; and, while we accord to the Edinburgh Professor all the honor due his great originality and his untiring efforts in the advancement of

science, we still turn lovingly and admiringly to our dear friend, Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, and say he had not his peer.

As a teacher of medicine, Dr. Hodge was most widely and favorably known. His style was characterized by great purity, dignity, and earnestness. His intellect was too strong, and his experience too great to permit him to follow, blindly, the theories and teachings of others, and hence his lectures were markedly original, and he never hesitated boldly to differ from doctrines, though almost universally accepted, when he believed them false. His relations with his classes were of the most pleasant character; the students loved and revered him, and the old Alumni of the University will recall, with tender recollections, the benign and intellectual countenance, the deep and manly tones of their beloved Professor, as he earnestly endeavored to impress upon them some point which he deemed of great importance.

His teachings were of the most reliable kind, no crude theories or hastily formed opinions were given to the young men who received their knowledge from his lips. Every one who listened to him felt, from the first sentence they heard, how completely their Professor realized the great responsibility of his position, and how every opinion expressed and direction given had been most carefully, and conscientiously reached, after years of study and experience. His great desire seemed to be to instruct his class, not in what was most new, but in those things which his observation told him were true; hence, the memories of his students were not crowded with ephemeral theories, supported by imaginary facts, but were stored with truth, which, like pure gold, is always treasure, and never becomes old-fashioned.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since I, as a medical student, first had the great advantage of being taught by him. Since then, I have had much to unlearn, but I never had to unlearn what he taught me as true, and to this day, I profess myself, a believer in and an advocate of the views taught by Dr. Hodge twenty-five years ago.

Dr. Hodge possessed an excellent constitution, his health was always extraordinarily good, and I have often heard him

say, that he had not taken a dose of medicine for years, and that the only remedy he ever required or took was plenty of hot water. His uninterrupted good health, undoubtedly, was due to his naturally good constitution, as well as to his mode of life, which was strictly in keeping with the character of a man whose eating, drinking, and doing were always done, not for self-gratification, but with a conscientious regard to the duties and obligations of life. Hence, his personal habits were frugal, and he allowed himself none of those indulgences which most men, especially when engaged in laborious and exacting pursuits, look upon as their right. He was sparing in the use of wine, and totally opposed to tobacco, against which he always expressed a most relentless and vigorous antagonism.

But years of constant labor, grave anxieties, and weighty responsibilities will, at last, tell on the most perfect constitution, and they found their expression in Dr. Hodge through his eyesight. His eyes had been severely taxed by his studious habits as a youth and as a younger man, and now gradually began to fail—the trouble appeared to be a weakness in the optic nerve, and one, therefore, which could not be relieved by surgical skill. With advancing years came increasing feebleness of vision, until at last he was unable to use his eyes for reading or writing, and was compelled to employ an amanuensis to conduct even his business correspondence. This infirmity finally determined him to relinquish his professorial duties, and in April, 1863, he resigned his chair—a position which he had filled for twenty-eight years, with so much credit to himself and so much honor and advantage to this school. The Board of Trustees, on accepting his resignation, elected him the Emeritus Professor.

When Dr. Hodge resigned his professorship, he generously presented to the Trustees of the University his very valuable museum, together with the whole of his collection of material used by him in illustrating his lectures, obtained at great cost, and the accumulations of the twenty-eight years of his incumbency. In making this gift, he coupled it with the request that the collection should be kept distinct from the

general museum of the school, and that it should always be under the curatorship of the Professor of Obstetrics.

During the earlier years of his professional life, Dr. Hodge was so completely engrossed with the cares of practice and teaching, that he had no time to contribute much to the literature of his profession. As a young man, he was one of the editors of the "North American Medical and Surgical Journal," which journal was organized and conducted by the members of the Kappa Lambda Association. His associate editors in this undertaking were Drs. Franklin Bache, Charles D. Meigs, B. H. Coates, and René La Roche, of which distinguished corps, Dr. Coates is now the sole survivor. To this and other journals he contributed, at times, reviews and original articles, among which was a valuable article on Aneurism, which was contributed to the "American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery."

In 1860, he published his work on Diseases Peculiar to Women, including Displacements of the Uterus. The object of the author, and I use as nearly as possible his own language, "was to present more at length and in detail those views on the nervous diseases of women, which he had for so many years taught in the halls of the University." He wished to inculcate "not merely what he deemed a more correct theory and practice in inflammatory disease of the uterus, but to insist that a very large proportion of the so-called cases of metritis are, in reality, but examples of irritation, where inflammation has subsided, or where it actually never existed," indeed, the chief object of the whole work is to exemplify the nature, consequences, and treatment of nervous irritation as distinct from inflammation. Convinced by long experience, the author shows (I still use his own language) that the uterus is involved in most of these complaints, and that its disturbances are very frequently dependent upon displacements of the organ, and hence, the book is largely devoted to the subject of displacements of the uterus, and their mechanical treatment.

Dr. Hodge's opportunities for observing and treating female diseases were unusually great. Large numbers of patients came to Philadelphia to consult him, and these, it must be

remembered, were not ordinary cases of sickness, but in most instances were cases which had been under medical treatment for long periods without benefit. His success in managing these, heretofore, incurable cases, was often very striking, and hundreds of women who came to Philadelphia helpless and hopeless invalids, returned to their homes restored, by our Professor's skill, to health, usefulness, and happiness. After thirty years of this sort of experience, he produced this book—the result of a lifetime of observation, and he tells us in it how he brought about these wonderful recoveries.

The work was not quickly or hastily composed; its material had been thoroughly digested; for thirty years the fire had burned, and when he spoke, it was with a force and originality characteristic of the man. His sight at this time was so imperfect that all of his reading was done by the eyes of another, and this, no doubt, accounts for the almost entire absence in the volume of everything not original with himself. In the introduction he gives the opinions of others; in the book itself he gives his own opinions, and every word and every sentence of it show careful thought.

On resigning the duties of his professorship, Dr. Hodge devoted himself to the completion of a work he had contemplated for years. In this work he proposed giving (I again use his own words) "the results of his experience and reflection on the theory and practice of Obstetrics, fulfilling, by so doing, an imperative duty he owed to the Alumni and Trustees of the University, by presenting in an extended form, the peculiar doctrines and practice inculcated by him while Professor of Obstetrics;" and he deemed this duty, he tells us, "the more binding, because thirty-eight years had elapsed since the first edition of Dr. Dewees's *Midwifery*."

This great work on Obstetrics was completed in a year after relinquishing his professorship, and was published in 1864; it was dedicated to the memory of Thomas C. James and Wm. P. Dewees, the first and second Professors of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. In the preface to this book the writer assures us that, "he does not inculcate the opinions merely of others; that, though the reading of

authors has been of use to him, nature has been of much more;" he gives, therefore, he tells us, without reserve, "his own opinion on all points;" and "consequently, he is often in opposition to the most admired authors."

Dr. Hodge had devoted himself, for a long time, to the careful study of the mechanism of labor; and, in his book, a considerable space is occupied by this important subject, in the discussion of which he displays great originality, both in the singularly excellent illustrations which he has devised, as well as in the new and valuable conclusions which he has reached.

This "System of Obstetrics," whether we estimate it by the learning, research, and care which its pages display, or by its original teachings and illustrations, or by the philosophical character as well as great force and clearness of its instruction, must be ranked among the very first works on Obstetrics ever issued from the American or foreign press. Dr. Hodge, in this book, gives us his teachings as Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania for twenty-eight years; and the thousands of the Alumni of the University, who, during this long period, had the good fortune to be instructed by him, as well as those who have graduated since, will always turn with pride, pleasure, and profit, to this noble work of their old Professor.

After resigning his professorship, in addition to the preparation and supervision of his books, Dr. Hodge contributed valuable papers on obstetrical subjects to the medical journals; and, at the same time, was engaged in a very extensive practice in the treatment of diseases of females. In 1872 the title of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Nassau Hall, Princeton.

A recent and highly esteemed writer on psychology says: "the history of a man is the true revelation of his character; what he has done indicates what he has willed; what he has willed marks what he has thought and felt, or the character of his deliberations; what he has thought and felt has been the result of his nature, then existing, as the developmental products of a certain original constitution, and a definite life experience." In the history of our friend, which I am now

giving you, I have endeavored to trace out the elements, both inherited and accidental, which contributed to form his character. I have tried to show that great men and great deeds are not the results of accident, but are the direct and necessary consequence of certain and numerous antecedent conditions.

That I might be able to exhibit our friend's character in its truest and, therefore, in its best light, so that none of its instructive and noble lessons might be lost, I requested Dr. Caspar Morris, who was his lifelong and most intimate friend, as well as his family physician, and who, if ever man knew his fellow, knew Dr. Hodge, to furnish me with a sketch of his character. This he did, in a letter to me, which is so admirable that I feel I should be doing injustice both to Dr. Morris and to my subject were I not to give it almost verbatim. With Dr. Morris's consent, therefore, omitting mainly a few lines referring to points already discussed, I introduce here his letter as I received it.

"It was through the intervention of Dr. James and Dr. Dewees that I was thrown into the intimate relations with Dr. Hodge, which, thanks to his unvarying character, continued to become more and more close and unreserved to the day of his death. Few outside the sacred precincts of the nearest domestic relations, have ever enjoyed an equally favorable opportunity for knowing the true character of another, and in the clear light of this near approach, I do not hesitate to describe him as more justly entitled to the character of a 'perfect man' than any man I have ever known. Apparently incongruous elements were in him harmoniously blended; perfect integrity in his own dealings was united with the most lenient view of the deviations of others; and unflinching courage in his own adherence to what he believed to be right, with the most delicate recognition of difficulties which turned aside from the path of duty those who did not possess the same inflexible principle. In describing his character, I know no better course than the presentation of the germ from which the whole was developed; the corner-stone on which the edifice reposed. Regarding him in his relations

as a man to his fellow men, a citizen to his fellow countrymen, as a physician to his patients, in all these varied relations of life, he acted under the sense of strict integrity and duty. If it were proper to penetrate into the more sacred precincts of domestic life, we should there find the same influence controlling the most delicate relations of husband and father. Beyond this no one dare intrude, yet the rays of a still deeper life burst through the veil by which the holy of holies was screened from outward observation, and proved that in it was the fountain of light which gave energy to the whole; hence arose the entire harmony of his character. No man was ever more justly entitled to the honor of the description of the perfect man, given by the poet nearly twenty centuries ago, the gem-like purity of which never suffers from the frequency of handling, nor allows it to become trite by repetition. He was 'Propositi tenacem,' well rendered by

'He holds no parley with unmanly fears,
Where duty calls incontinently steers.'

Yet this fixedness of purpose and perseverance in action, which when dissociated from careful circumspection, sound judgment, and high principle degenerates into mere obstinacy, rarely betrayed Dr. Hodge into error. It was his highest merit that he never failed to examine carefully, laboriously, and diligently whatever subject claimed his consideration; and it was not until he had viewed it in all its relations, and examined its bearings with the utmost scrutiny that he adopted his opinion. This once done, that opinion became to him, on that point, the symbol of truth, and as such was built into its appropriate place in the structure of his mind—became an integral part of himself. There were no subsequent questionings on that point; he never incurred the risk of overturning the entire superstructure by removing, or taking out to dress over again, a stone already placed; he would rather doubt the truth of a new observation than that of one already thoroughly examined, carefully tested, and accurately adjusted; and he never laid any one in its position until it had been thus prepared. The success he achieved in his various undertakings was mainly owing to this peculiarity

of his character. If a difficulty presented itself, it was not as an obstacle to arrest, but as an opposition to be overcome. He never knew what it was to be defeated, nor though his feelings were as sensitive, and his sympathies as acute as those of a woman, did he ever shrink or quail before any suffering which was to be encountered by himself or his patient in the conflict with disease.

“As a teacher he had rendered himself perfectly familiar with all the elemental forms, as well as the more complicated connections, of professional knowledge; and, having made them his own, he brought them to bear, for the benefit of his patients, under circumstances where the conviction of the soundness and perfection of his knowledge gave him support. It was not only in the emergencies of unnatural labor, but, in the equally trying difficulties of the gynecologist, that he found the benefit of this support, which enabled him to persevere, in ever-renewed efforts, until he achieved results which fully rewarded his labors, as well as justified the soundness of his principles.

“No better illustration of his character can be presented than that afforded by the history of his treatment of cases of chronic uterine disease. Confident that congestions, inflammations, and so-called ulcerations were more generally, if not always, the results of displacements of the uterus, he early set himself to the discovery of some apparatus to support that organ, and one had but to look at the vast collection of instruments of various material and infinite variety of form, which accumulated in his drawers, to recognize how earnestly and patiently he strove to accomplish his object. Who ever knew Dr. Hodge to abandon a case as hopeless? Who ever knew him to hesitate to make new efforts for relief or cure when disappointed by failure? If one form of pessary was found inappropriate, another was to be tried, and if one instrument was not sufficient, a second, or even a third, would be added to afford the support needed. Day after day he would return; and hour after hour he would spend at the bedside in unwearying efforts to secure the desired adjustment. Hundreds of patients were promptly relieved from chronic ailments and prolonged suffering by his well-adapted

treatment, and many a wretched invalid blesses his memory for the unwearied patience which he gave to that mechanical adjustment, which, when at last secured, brought her health and happiness. The picture would not be complete, however, did it not represent the gentle forbearance with which he met discontented complaints and irritating fretfulness sometimes displayed by patients and friends unable to comprehend the difficulties to be encountered. No one ever witnessed the failure of that forbearance or heard from Dr. Hodge one expression of discontent, even when most unjustly censured. 'As patient as Hodge,' became, among his professional friends, the expression of a degree of possession of that great virtue which was not to be surpassed.

"To Dr. Hodge's well-founded convictions that he designed to do what was right, and, before acting, always endeavored to ascertain what was proper to be done, may be referred his absolute freedom from petty squabbles with his patients, or more serious strife with professional friends or rivals, which was a marked peculiarity of his character. While holding his own views on the doctrines of medical science and the ethics of professional relations, as positively as man can hold opinions, he never failed to recognize the rights of others to be equally positive in holding and acting on their own convictions. In looking back on my long intimacy with Dr. Hodge I can recall no instance of personal quarrel with either professional rival or competitor. This did not arise from any weakness on his part, or failure to express his dissent from what he regarded as erroneous opinions. The dearest friendship never led him to withhold the clearest and simplest expression of his own opinions, widely divergent as they might be, from those of his colleagues or friends, and no one could feel hurt by the clear expression of views so honestly and firmly held. He esteemed truth sacred in all its applications, and neither fear nor hope of favor could influence him to any deviation in his conduct from its clear dictates. An ever-present influence, stimulating to constant effort, was his desire to do what he believed to be right. The following incident will exhibit the extent of its power:—

"Among his college friends were some who attained great

eminence as ministers of the gospel, and with whom he ever maintained the intimacy of early association. On one occasion, when several of these friends were sitting with him, in the abandon of friendship, the subject of the use of tobacco and its effects on the nervous system was brought up; the discussion took a jovial turn—one of the reverend gentlemen present defended its use, and declared his contempt for those who made apologies for it on the score of its medical properties; he said 'he used tobacco, not because it was good for him, but because he liked it.' Dr. Hodge expressed his opinion that tobacco was decidedly depressing to the nerve force, as well as exhausting to the vital energy, and thus its use became an incentive to a resort to alcoholic beverages; and, rising from his seat in the midst of the discussion, he advanced to his friend, laying his hands on his shoulders and looking him solemnly in the face, said, 'I adjure you, in the name of the Saviour you love, to lay aside this indulgence.' The right reverend gentleman, to whom this admonition was addressed, has told me that, at the moment, he felt much hurt by Dr. Hodge's manner, but that the appeal was so solemn and so powerful, he could not get rid of its impression, and he never was able to use tobacco afterwards; and this, he said, was the harder, because he had just received a valuable present of a large supply of excellent quality. This same earnestness and decision marked his relations in domestic life, and gave tone and power to his religious character.

"His faith in the simple fundamental principles of the Christian religion was as firmly fixed as his conviction of the truth of a demonstrated problem in mathematics. He was not in the habit of talking much on the subject, and never about his own feelings or experience. There was nothing obtrusive in his religion; like the light which gives beauty to the foliage, color to the flower, and nutriment to the fruit, it inspired and gave beauty and strength to all his actions, and needed no blowing of trumpets to announce itself. He was a devout attendant on the means of grace, whenever the duties of his profession did not oppose insuperable obstacles, and was profusely liberal in his pecuniary contributions to the support of the ministry of the gospel, while in quiet unostentatious

alms-giving he was most munificent. The claims on Dr. Hodge's charity were great and unceasing, and many a sufferer, poor in this world's goods, who sought relief from his professional skill, found that, instead of thinking he had performed his part in giving his time and labor, he willingly embraced the opportunity, afforded by the intimacy of professional relations, to contribute to their pecuniary necessities, and these contributions, in some instances, he always afterwards kept up.

"Dr. Hodge was a very laborious student, and notwithstanding the loss of his sight, which obliged him to resort to the assistance of an amanuensis and a reader, he continued to the last to devote many hours daily to the revision of his works, and the careful study of those topics which were embraced in them. Few would suspect that his great work on obstetrics was produced under circumstances so disadvantageous. We have been accustomed to think of Milton's blindness as adding to the value of his immortal poem, and that of Prescott, as a serious obstacle to the acquisition of the knowledge displayed in his histories, which have added lustre to American literature, but neither of these encountered difficulties so great as those overcome by Dr. Hodge in the production of his works, marked, as they are, by such minute accuracy in detail, in forms, shapes, and measurements, and illustrated as they are by photographs of subjects and specimens he could not see, and for his acquaintance with which he was dependent on the eyes and descriptions of others. His will, indeed, was indomitable, and led him never to admit any apology for abandoning, neglecting, or escaping from the performance of any duty on account of the difficulties involved in doing it.

"He delighted in the exertion of his powers, and might daily be seen groping his way from his carriage to the doors and chambers of his patients, refusing the proffered arm of those who saw his almost absolute blindness. Within twelve hours of the attack which so abruptly terminated his labors I had earnestly remonstrated with him against his exposing himself on one of the coldest days of a winter of noted severity, only, however, to elicit from him, in playful response, a reproach of my own indulgence in yielding to the influence he

so successfully resisted. No one who knew the man, and who could estimate the value of the principles by which he was actuated in everything he did, could do otherwise than reverence the inflexible perseverance in doing his duty to God and man, which marked his entire life; obstinacy, if it had arisen from any meaner motive, it became sublime self-devotion in his beautiful character."

After this admirable picture of his friend's character, which Dr. Morris has furnished, there is left but little for me to add.

When Dr. Hodge resigned his professorship, he was in the sixty-seventh year of his age; he had reached and passed the period when most men cease to work, and yet, save his infirmity of vision, his faculties were perfect. His form was erect, his step elastic, his hearing acute, while his intellect was as clear and his sympathies as quick as ever. It was my good fortune to meet him in consultation a few weeks before his death; as we went from the parlor to the bed-chamber of our patient he ran lightly up the stairs. I remarked upon his agility, when he playfully replied, "Oh! I am too young to walk up stairs."

He took great interest in all the religious and philanthropic movements of the day, and was active in the affairs of the church, of which he was a member, and was most generous in his benefactions to it, and to other good causes. He gave, however, something of incomparably greater value than money. He enriched the medical profession, and did good to the world, not only by the books which he wrote, and the instruments he devised, but, by a life and an example that will not soon lose their influence. This great doctor—this learned professor—this munificent giver—this man who was looked up to by the community in which he lived, and by the profession which he adorned, was, at the same time, the devout and humble believer, with the spirit and the faith of a little child; and though his praise was in all the churches, yet he esteemed himself among the least of the brethren. It might be imagined, perhaps, that such a man was a stern man—one who viewed with disfavor everything that was bright and cheer-

ful; but, the very reverse was the case; an earnest religious spirit, indeed, was the pervading principle of his life—a spirit entirely incompatible with levity or frivolity, and yet, a spirit which made him uniformly cheerful, serene, and happy. No one approached him who did not see and feel this in his genial and gracious smile, or hear it in his tender and sympathetic, or in his kind and gentle tones. To him life implied work, progress, constant improvement, and he held, as has been well expressed, that “to the brave man this world is full to the brim of happiness, and that the future is as certain as the truthfulness of God.” Thus he lived.

Thus he died. The day preceding his last illness he appeared to be in his usual excellent health, and he was occupied, until late in the afternoon, with his professional engagements. On this very day, too, he spent some hours preparing an article on Cephalotripsy, at which he had been working for several weeks. He retired to rest at his usual bedtime, seeming perfectly well, and in good spirits. Near midnight he was seized with nausea, faintness, failure of the heart's action, and of respiration, and died twenty-six hours after—sustained, to the last, by that faith he had learned at his mother's knee, that strong faith he had inherited from a pious race, which, generations before, had sacrificed country and home for religious freedom.

The setting sun, as he sinks, into apparent oblivion, behind that jealous horizon which receives him after his work is done, illuminates, with an indescribable splendor, the very mists and clouds that help to obscure him, and as his light at last goes out, celestial bodies appear in the heavens, looking down, as it were, upon the field of their departed brother's work and usefulness. The splendor of the sunset is of the earth, and only tells of a passing day; but the celestial forms that come after, speak of the Infinite and the Eternal. Our friend, as he sank into apparent oblivion behind that jealous horizon, which bounds our mortal vision, illumined its dark cloud with a truly heavenly glory, and though they, who lovingly waited and watched, until the light faded and the darkness came, though they did *not* see celestial forms, yet we may feel sure that, if ever, human soul was met by re-

joining throngs as it entered the portals of the blessed, *his was so met.*

The following is a list of the chief articles and books published by Dr. Hodge:—

Observations on Expansibility as a Vital Property, and on the Influence of the Capillary Tissue over the Circulation of the Blood. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Lecturer on the Principles of Surgery in the Medical Institute. North American Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 6, No. xi. 1828.

The Article on Aneurism, in the American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery.

Cases of Peritonitis, with Remarks. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., one of the Physicians to the Almshouse. North American Med. and Surg. Journ., vol. 7, No. xiv. 1829.

Cases and Observations regarding Puerperal Fever, as it prevailed in the Pennsylvania Hospital, in February and March, 1833. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., one of the Physicians of that Charity. Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, August, 1833.

On the Pathology and Therapeutics of Cholera Maligna. By Hugh L. Hodge, one of the Physicians of the Almshouse Infirmary, and late Physician to the City Cholera Hospital, No. 4. Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, August, 1833.

Introductory and Valedictory Addresses. Published 1835, 36, 38, 39, 40, 47, 50, 52, 59.

Memoir of Thomas C. James, M.D., read before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, etc. etc., in the University of Pennsylvania, June, 1841.

An Eulogium on William P. Dewees, M.D., delivered before the medical students of the University of Pennsylvania, November 5, 1842. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, etc. etc.

Diseases Peculiar to Women, including Displacements of the Uterus. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1860.

The Principles and Practice of Obstetrics. Illustrated with one hundred and fifty-nine lithographic figures, from original photographs, and with numerous wood-cuts. By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania, lately one of the Physicians to the Lying-in Department of the Pennsylvania Hospital, lately one of the Physicians to the Philadelphia Almshouse Hospital, Consulting Physician to the Philadelphia Dispensary, Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Member of the American Philosophical Society, etc. etc. Author of a Treatise on "The Peculiar Diseases of Women." Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1864.

"Fœticide" (being a reprint, with some additions, of Introductory Lecture on Criminal Abortion). By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. 1869.

On the "Synclitism of the Fœtal Head in Natural Labor." By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania. Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, October, 1870.

On the "Synclitism of the Equatorial Plane of the Fœtal Head in Pelvic Deliveries." By Hugh L. Hodge, M.D., Emeritus Professor, etc. etc. Amer. Journ. Med. Sciences, July, 1871.

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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

OF

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D.,

LATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND OF THE
DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF

THE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

AND

READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY, APRIL 22, 1874,

BY

WILLIAM GOODELL, M.D.

Printed by Order of the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1874.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, held February 26, 1873, the following resolutions were adopted:—

WHEREAS, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove to a happier sphere one of the most honored members of our Society, who, during a long and useful life, has ever been noted for the purity and benevolence of his character, not only as a physician, but also as a citizen of Philadelphia: Therefore,

Resolved, That the Philadelphia County Medical Society has recently learned, with deep regret, of the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. HUGH L. HODGE, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the oldest members of this Society.

Resolved, That by the death of Dr. Hodge, this Society has lost a highly esteemed member, whose skill and erudition had gained him a world-wide reputation as an accoucheur, and made him an authority in difficult cases that greatly relieved the anxious hours of his juniors, who were often led, by his courtesy and high professional honor, to avail themselves of his valuable assistance.

Resolved, That the members of this Society, most of whom have been his pupils, recall with pride and pleasure the sound and practical precepts inculcated in his teaching.

Resolved, That Dr. William Goodell be requested to prepare a biographical memoir of our late member, to be read before this Society.

Resolved, That the Philadelphia County Medical Society respectfully tender to his family their sympathy in its affliction.

Pursuant to these Resolutions, the following Biographical Memoir of Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, was delivered by Dr. William Goodell before the Society, on the evening of April 22, 1874, which was set apart for this purpose:—

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H.L.H. & W.G.

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

OF

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D.

Fellow-members of the Philadelphia County Medical Society :—

We have come together here to-night, not as mourners, for why should we mourn for one who lives? Not with heads bowed down, for why should we weep for one whom the Great Husbandman has gathered in as a shock of corn fully ripe and ready for the harvest? But we have met, because a great and a good man has been called away from us, and we wish to freshen up in our hearts the image of him as he walked with us in the flesh. Because many of us have been his pupils and we long to pay a tribute of love and of homage to the memory of our beloved teacher. Because he was for many years one of us, and we take pride in transmitting to future members of this Society, who will know us only by name, our keen appreciation of the manifold gifts and graces with which this honored member was dowered. Be theirs and ours to imitate his virtue!

When a man towers above his fellows, and leaves a mark upon the age in which he lived, we instinctively wish to know of what stuff he was made, from what stock he sprang, and what were the accidents and the opportunities of his life which made him what he was. Such are the details of our honored friend's life which I purpose very briefly to lay before you.

In 1730 a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, Andrew Hodge by name, emigrated, with his brother Hugh, from the north of Ireland and settled down in the then small town of Philadelphia. Being a thrifty man of business, he soon accumulated a handsome fortune. In those days it was the custom, as it now is in the city of Amsterdam, for merchants to have their warehouses and dwellings under the same roof. He, therefore, built or bought three houses which fronted both on Delaware Avenue and on the east side of Water Street, below Race. The wharf and dock in front of these build-

ings were also owned by him, and, until 1840, went by his name. He and his sons, Andrew, James, and Hugh, were God-fearing men. The father, and his brother Hugh, were mainly instrumental in founding the Second Presbyterian Church of this city. The sons helped to sustain and strengthen it. To each of these sons the old merchant deeded one of the three houses. Andrew succeeded to his father's business, and James became a sea-captain; but Hugh decided to study medicine. He was accordingly, to use the language of the day, articed as an apprentice in the office of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, a highly educated and prosperous physician, who holds the honor of having delivered the first lectures on anatomy that were ever given in this country. These lectures were delivered in Second Street, above Walnut, in a building whose site was afterwards occupied by the Bank of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cadwalader wrote but little; the only article from his pen extant, is an "Essay on the West India Dry Gripes, with the Method of Curing that Cruel Distemper. To which is added an Extraordinary Case in Physick. Printed and sold by B. Franklin, 1745."¹ After receiving his diploma, Dr. Hugh Hodge served as a surgeon in the army during the War for Independence. When peace was declared he returned to Philadelphia, and in 1790 took to wife Maria Blanchard, a Boston lady of Huguenot descent. The young couple set up housekeeping in a modest way in the northernmost of the three houses left by Andrew Hodge. For Water Street was then the fashionable quarter, one where all the prosperous shipping merchants lived. In this house were born the honored subject of this memoir, and his equally distinguished brother, Prof. Charles Hodge, D.D., of the Theological Seminary of Princeton, N. J. During the fatal epidemic of yellow fever in 1793 and 1795, Water Street was so ravaged, that it got a bad name as a place of residence. The best families, accordingly, began to desert it, and shortly after the birth of Hugh L. Hodge, June 27, 1796, his father deemed it needful to move further up town. He, therefore, rented a house on Arch Street, above 4th, the third door east of Christ Church Burying Ground, where he lived until his death in 1798.

The young widow and mother was left much straitened in this world's goods, but she had warm friends, and what was better, an abiding faith in the God of the widow and of the fatherless. Her sweet and pure religion was the goodly inheritance, which by pre-

¹ For the above facts, and for others contained in this memoir, I am indebted to the "History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania," by Prof. Joseph Carson, M.D. This interesting volume every alumnus of the University should own.

cept and example she conveyed to her sons. Nor, as we well know, were these early lessons of piety lost on these two boys.

Hugh L. Hodge obtained his early education at boarding-schools in Somerville and New Brunswick, N. J. Of his aptitude as a scholar I have no record, but it must have been above the average, for in 1811, when only fifteen years old, he was admitted to the Sophomore class at Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J. Three years later, while our country was at war with Great Britain, he graduated among the four honor-men of his class. He at once began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Caspar Wistar, that celebrated anatomist, then at the height of his fame. He it was, who, while pursuing his studies at Edinburgh, and even at a time when the stigma of rebel was still attached to an American, had the remarkable honor of being elected President of the Royal Medical Society of that city. His pupil matriculated at the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, and walked the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Hospitals. In 1818, at the age of twenty-two, he received, after a four years' course, his diploma of Doctor of Medicine. By a reference to an old catalogue I find that his thesis was on "Digestion," a subject in which he ever after took great interest. Wishing to raise money enough to complete his studies in Europe, and following the example of many other young physicians of his day, he, in the same year, took a voyage to India in the capacity of ship-surgeon. Fourteen years later the knowledge of Asiatic cholera, which he thus acquired in tropical countries, did him good service. For, during the fatal cholera epidemic of 1832, no one was more untiring in administering to the sick, or so successful in their treatment. In recognition of his gratuitous services in the cholera hospitals, the city authorities voted him their thanks, and the more substantial honor of a silver pitcher. This, by the way, was one of seven silver pitchers presented to him at different times during his life. It was familiarly designated by the younger members of his family as the "C. P.," or "Cholera Pitcher," to distinguish it from the others, which were called "G. P.s," or "Grateful Patients."

In 1820 Dr. Hodge returned from India, but with means too limited to carry out the long-cherished prosecution of his studies in Europe. The voyage had proved a commercial failure, but, nothing daunted, he opened an office in Walnut Street opposite Washington Square. Soon after he was elected to the Southern Dispensary, and, a few months later, to the Philadelphia Dispensary. In these rich fields of practice he gained much experience, and acquired those habits of close observation and original research which

ever after characterized him. He soon became a man of mark, for in the summer of 1821 he was selected to teach the anatomical class of Prof. Horner, who was then absent in Europe. So acceptably did he fill this position, that in 1823 he was appointed to the Lectureship on Surgery in Dr. Chapman's Summer School, which, in 1837, became a chartered institution, under the name of the "Medical Institute." Of these lectures he was justly proud, for on them he was then able to spend all his time and strength. Old practitioners still refer to them in terms of high praise.

In September of the same year he gained a long-coveted position on the staff of the Philadelphia Hospital, and his practice began now steadily to increase. In 1828, at the age of thirty-two, he married Margaret E. Aspinwall, the daughter of John Aspinwall, a well-known merchant of New York city. From this union seven sons were born, of whom five are living. One is the well-known surgeon who bears his father's name; the rest are clergymen. After a happy married life of thirty-eight years, in 1866, this good wife and good mother died.

Thus far, Dr. Hodge had concentrated all his energy on anatomy and surgery. His tastes lay in these directions; both these branches he had taught with great acceptance; as a surgeon, he was fast winning his way to fame. But a complete and very unexpected turn now took place in all his plans. The dim oil-lamps of his college days, his habits of late study, had greatly injured his eyesight, and compelled him to wear glasses of very high power. Year by year his vision so surely failed that he was at last warned to direct his ambition into new channels. Other circumstances confirmed him in making this change. The health of Dr. Thomas C. James, the Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania, was beginning to fail. Dr. William P. Dewees, the heir-apparent to his chair, and the most brilliant of American obstetricians, had long passed the noontide of life. For many years the brothers Joseph and Harvey Klapp had enjoyed the pick of the midwifery practice of a rapidly-growing city. But, at this juncture, the one died, and the other retired to his secluded country-seat in the wilds of West Philadelphia. These accidents and opportunities at once determined Dr. Hodge to give up, but with a bitter heart, his long-cherished specialty of surgery for that of obstetrics. Shortly after making this decision, he was enabled to exchange his lectureship of surgery for that of obstetrics, which the resignation of Dr. Dewees had left vacant. He was also the winning candidate in an excited canvass for a position on the staff of the Lying-in Department of the Pennsylvania Hospital. For the information of the younger members

of this Society, let me for a moment digress to say, that this department was established in 1807 "for poor and respectable married women." "Singular as it may appear," remarks Prof. Carson in his History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, "it was founded by the gallant and patriotic young gentlemen of Philadelphia who formed the 'First Troop of City Cavalry.' Their pay for services due them by the government at the end of the Revolutionary War was generously donated for this special purpose. The interest of the sum thus appropriated amounted annually to between five and six hundred dollars." On account of the impossibility of keeping the wards free from puerperal fever, the building was kept closed from 1851 to 1855, when, by a vote of the managers, it was finally abandoned.

We come now to the crowning event of Dr. Hodge's life—the one that brought him fame and wealth—his election to the chair of obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. But, before touching upon this passage of his life, it may not prove unprofitable to give a brief sketch of the state and status of widwifery as it existed in this country.

From the time of the first settlement of America midwifery had, by popular prejudice and professional disesteem, been monopolized by elderly women, whose pretensions were only equalled by their ignorance. In the mother-country a "man-midwife," as he was contemptuously called, was looked down upon both by the profession and the community. Smellie, the founder of English obstetrics, "united the occupation of cloth merchant and practitioner of midwifery at Lanark." At Edinburgh, separate instruction in midwifery was first given in 1726. But so great was the prejudice, even among medical men, that, until 1772, those physicians who practiced this branch of medicine were disqualified from becoming licentiates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Down to a much later period these same prejudices existed among our own countrymen. For forty-five years there was in the University of Pennsylvania no special chair of obstetrics. During this time it had been customary for the professor of anatomy to intercalate his course with a few meagre lectures on midwifery. These were so unsatisfactory, that every young man who wished to perfect his knowledge of midwifery was forced to go to France or to England for that purpose; just as the Israelites, in the days of Saul, "went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his ax, and his mattock." In 1810 a separation was effected between these two branches of medicine, and Dr. Thomas Chalkley James was elected to the chair of mid-

wifery: But even then the equality of this art and science with its sisters was so grudgingly conceded, that, for three years, the first professor of obstetrics was not recognized as a member of the medical faculty, and an attendance upon his lectures was not made obligatory for a degree. Dr. James wrote no original work, but contented himself with annotating "Burns's Principles of Midwifery," and "Merriman's Synopsis," as text-books for his course. Early in the present century Dr. John Bard, of New York city, published a small Compendium of Midwifery, which was republished in 1811. But the first authoritative writer upon obstetrics in this country was Dr. Wm. Potts Dewees, who, in 1826, published his celebrated "Compendious System of Midwifery." Dr. Hodge himself informs us, in his "Eulogium on Wm. P. Dewees," that, before the publication of this work, "the science [of midwifery] was hardly known in America. The physicians who occasionally engaged in its practice had received no instruction, with the exception of a few who, having visited Europe, brought home a general knowledge of the subject; but who, from the prejudice existing against the employment of male practitioners, had few opportunities and fewer inducements to perfect their knowledge. Hence midwifery existed almost universally as an art; the aged and imbecile nurse was preferred to the physician." To obviate the necessity for going abroad, and to supply the demand for intelligent and educated assistance at the lying-in bed, were the crying wants of the day. Dr. Dewees saw his chance, and made himself a master of the science and the art of midwifery. He then collected a few pupils together in his office, and year by year taught them as only a master can teach.

"We find," says Dr. Hodge, in the above-mentioned eulogium, "that he has the high honor of first attempting a full course of lectures on obstetrics in America." But while the personal influence of Dr. Dewees was great, it was limited to a small circle of private students. His numerous and excellent contributions to the medical journals lacked that weight of authority which a chair in a great medical school gives. In 1834 Dr. James resigned the chair which had been created for him, and which he had occupied for twenty-four years. Dr. Dewees, who since 1825 had held the position of Adjunct Professor of Obstetrics, was, without opposition, elected to fill the vacancy. This passage of his life is a very touching one, and deserves a brief sketch, as well for its intrinsic interest as for its bearing on the future career of Dr. Hodge. In 1810 Dr. Dewees was the unsuccessful candidate for this chair. For four-and-twenty long and weary years he had looked forward to it as the goal of

his ambition. He aspired to it, toiled for it; no one better deserved it. The honor at last came, but to a man long past the prime of life. He delivered his first course of lectures with unexampled brilliancy; but hardly was it ended before a stroke of apoplexy laid him low. Unwilling to admit his failing powers, he began, in the autumn of 1835, his second course. After attempting a few lectures he broke down. On the 10th of November he suddenly resigned. Oh friends! how full of sorrows, how big with shattered hopes and wrecked ambitions, is this dear earth to which we cling!

For the possession of the empty chair a battle royal, one of giants, now took place. The struggle lay between two such men as Hugh L. Hodge and Charles D. Meigs, and was, therefore, a very hotly contested one. The strong claims of the rival candidates, and the very equally balanced influence of their respective friends, made the issue doubtful. Dr. Hodge, who was a very modest man, could not be prevailed upon to visit any of the trustees. At last his friends refused to work for him unless he did so. He, therefore, provided himself with a list of their names and residences, and nerved himself up to this imposed and distasteful mission. As luck would have it, the first gentleman on whom he called was an upright but very eccentric Friend, who, upon learning his errand, at once said, "Young man, I should have thought better of thee, hadst thou not come." In great confusion the modest candidate took his leave, tore up his list, and at once returned home. That trustee was the only one on whom he called. No persuasions, no entreaties, could thereafter move him to solicit another vote. But his friends, despite their threats, worked manfully for him. Perhaps this very modesty stood him in good stead. At any rate, he proved the successful candidate, and became a member of a faculty which, after his election, stood as follows:—

Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine	NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M.D.
Chemistry	ROBERT HARE, M.D.
Surgery	WILLIAM GIBSON, M.D.
Anatomy	WILLIAM E. HORNER, M.D.
Institutes of Medicine	SAMUEL JACKSON, M.D.
Materia Medica and Pharmacy	GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children	HUGH L. HODGE, M.D.

In June of the following year, at the earnest solicitations of his friends, but contrary to his own judgment, he purchased the property at the northwest corner of Ninth and Walnut streets. This fine large mansion was built by that classical scholar, Dr. J. Redman Coxe, whose name is known in every hamlet in this land by

his "Hive Syrup." In the financial crisis of 1837 the mortgages on this property were called in by the holders, and, had it not been for the prompt but unsolicited aid of a friend in New York city, would have been foreclosed. The mental anguish through which he passed, and the narrow escape which he then made, led him ever after to inculcate on his sons the maxim of "Never buy what you cannot pay for." This property, however, in the end proved a very handsome investment, for it has more than quadrupled in value. Very fortunately these pecuniary straits were of short duration. Patients began to flock to him from distant portions of this continent, and from every State in the Union. In difficult cases of labor, and in various diseases of women, his brother practitioners soon learned to rely on him. For to consummate skill, he added consummate integrity, and they knew that no one was more rigid in the observance of the letter and spirit of the code of ethics; that no consultant more carefully guarded the reputation of the attending physician.

As Alpine glaciers score their history on abiding rocks, so great men grave enduring marks upon the age in which they live. Now, what are the marks, the deeply channeled grooves which our departed friend and teacher has left behind him? From the time of his election to the chair of obstetrics until his resignation in 1863, no teacher ever gave a more thorough or a more conscientious course of lectures. The strong feature of his teaching was not to display his knowledge, but to impart it. He possessed, in an eminent degree, those essentials of a good teacher—the *subtilitas explicandi*, as well as the *subtilitas intelligendi*. Dependent, as he was, on account of imperfect vision, exclusively upon his memory, he yet delivered his lectures with the utmost neatness and precision. There was no faltering over a demonstration, no omission of a diagram. Although gifted with a fluent delivery, he used no trope or figure, and made no effort at oratorical display. So pure-minded was he, and so far removed from making "points"—as they are technically called—that, when some madcap student distorted an accidental juxtaposition of words into a *double entendre*, his face flushed up with vexation. Over the young men who flocked to hear him, his influence was great and good. At the beginning and the end of each curriculum, they listened, with respectful and often tearful attention, to his happy words of greeting and tender words of parting. What graduate of those days can ever efface from his memory that gracious manner which seemed to convey a benediction, and that halo of goodness which floated about him? Men will come, and men will go, but we shall never see his like again.

Of English-speaking obstetricians Dr. Hodge was the first to urge

the frequent use of the long forceps, as well for the sake of the mother as for that of the child. Upon the value of this instrument as a compressor, he laid so much stress that he regarded with disfavor the operation of version in cases of contracted pelvis. No one before him and no one since has laid down more precise rules for its application. Rules which have wrested this operation from the hands of specialists, and vulgarized it from the Rio Grande to the St. Lawrence. By his eclectic forceps he gave to the profession the best instrument yet devised: an instrument which has served more than any other to make the American physician prompt in giving succor to suffering woman. His improvements to the cephalotribe gave a fresh authentication to the value of this instrument, and a fresh impulse to its use. By showing the value of the vectis in the rectification of malpositions, he rescued it from the oblivion to which it was fast passing. The bold and uncompromising stand which he took against criminal abortion, made a deep impression upon his students. He early taught them to look upon this, alas! growing evil as a crime against God and man. The small book that grew out of these lectures had an extensive circulation, and exerted a wide-spread influence.

His theory of "irritable uterus," which he for many years taught, and finally embodied in his work on "Diseases Peculiar to Women," may not stand before the light of modern research, but it led to important results. Convinced that many female disorders were largely dependent on, or associated with, displacements of the womb, he turned his attention to their mechanical treatment. With this end in view, many were the instruments he devised; many the hours spent in changing their form or their material. This unwearied perseverance finally culminated in the elaboration of his lever-pessary, a pessary which, by its unsurpassed excellence, has been adopted by the whole civilized world, and has made his name familiar as a household word to every practitioner of medicine.

His views with regard to the nature of puerperal fever have now very few supporters, but they were the utterances of an honest conviction, and as such carried much weight with his contemporaries. He held that this disease is not communicable, and published a pamphlet in defence of this opinion. In an appendix to this pamphlet he states that "on three occasions only, in thirty-two years, had he met with two cases of child-bed fever occurring in rapid succession; but, although he never declined practice on these occasions, the women subsequently delivered by him entirely escaped." On one of "these three occasions" an incident of painful interest took place, which made a great impression on his mind, and served

to confirm him in his convictions. His midwifery practice lay largely among the best families of Philadelphia, among people, who being either connected or acquainted with one another, soon heard the particulars of the death of any one belonging to their number. He had been engaged to attend two sisters, who had previously been delivered by him, and who were daily expecting their confinement. On May the 11th and 21st he lost from child-bed fever two patients out of this charmed circle. The news spread like wildfire, and the husbands of the two sisters in great distress called upon the doctor to talk the matter over with him. He firmly announced to them his disbelief in the communicability of this disease, and expressed the utmost willingness to attend their wives in their confinement. But at the same time, pitying their anxiety, he cheerfully gave them the liberty of cancelling their engagement with him. These gentlemen were his warm personal friends, and it was, therefore, only after a sharp inward struggle that the one decided to call in another practitioner, the other to retain his family physician. Dr. Hodge safely delivered his patient; but we may rest assured, not without misgivings, and not without many an earnest prayer. The other lady was transferred from his care to that of a distinguished physician, who for two years had not seen a case of puerperal fever. She died from the dreaded disease.

During a large portion of Dr. Hodge's life, the pressure of his professional engagements was so great as to prevent him from writing anything besides his early lectures on surgery and those on obstetrics. But during his early professional career he was one of the editors of the "North American Medical and Surgical Journal," to which he contributed many reviews and original papers. His co-laborers in this work were Drs. Franklin Bache, Charles D. Meigs, René La Roche, John Bell, George B. Wood, D. F. Condie, and B. H. Coates. This journal ceased with its twelfth volume, April, 1831. The editors then resolved themselves into a club which met weekly at each other's houses, and partook of a very modest collation. In 1853 it was my privilege to be the only guest at one of these reunions. It was held at the house of the late Dr. Henry Bond, who, besides Dr. S. H. Dickson, was the only member ever admitted to the club. I shall not soon forget the kind attention shown to me by these Nestors of the profession, and my youthful amazement at the familiarity with which they treated one another.

Later in life imperfect vision hindered Dr. Hodge from becoming a prolific writer. Besides several articles written for various medical journals, he published a memoir of Dr. James, a eulogium on Dr.

Dewees, and a number of introductory lectures. One of these on criminal abortion, after being reprinted several times, was published with some additions under the title of "Fœticide." In 1860 he published his work on "Diseases Peculiar to Women," and in 1863 his great work on Obstetrics. In editing the latter, few of my hearers are aware of the difficulties he had to encounter; difficulties from which most men would have shrunk. From title-page to colophon this large work was written by an amanuensis at his dictation. The beautiful and original lithographs which enrich its pages gave him a world of trouble and anxiety. He knew that to a student a work on obstetrics without illustrations is practically valueless. But how were illustrations to be made whose accuracy a blind man could verify! This was a problem of difficult solution, one to which he devoted many anxious thoughts and sleepless nights. At last his son, Dr. H. Lenox Hodge, suggested the use of photography. Here, indeed, was the means presented, by which nature could be faithfully copied; here, the prospect of making stepping stones of the very obstacles which lay in his way. With a thrill of pleasure, he jumped at the idea, and fairly laughed aloud with joy. From the noble collection which he afterwards gave to the unrivalled museum of the University, a typical pelvis and fetal head were selected. The former was placed upon an appropriate stand, the latter he held in the proper position within the pelvic cavity to illustrate the various positions and presentations. In this manner they were photographed, but in the lithographic plates copied from these originals, the sustaining fingers and hand of the author were of course left out. In graceful recognition of this and other literary labors, and of his distinguished reputation, he was in 1871 honored by his Alma Mater with the degree of LL.D.

As an author, the writings of Dr. Hodge are characterized by clearness, by conscientious accuracy, and by great originality. He contemplated the soul of a subject, and not its mere habiliments. In proof of this, witness his remarkable papers on "Synclitism," and his careful study of the "Mechanism of Labor." Although aggressive when needful, his mind was strongly constructive, and not destructive. He pulled down to build up, but never for the mere sake of pulling down. Of too rugged an individuality to fashion himself to the modes and opinions of others, he thought out for himself with intense convictions of truth. These convictions he defended with rigid and drastic logic. To them he was always true; from them he never swerved. Like the builders of Jerusalem, he worked with a spear in one hand and a trowel in the

other. But while clinging tenaciously to what he had elaborated, he dissented from the opinions of others with a courteous hospitality of thought, with perfect fair play. Such encounters never kindled into angry controversy, for it was not *his* system that he defended, but truth—the truth as he interpreted it. In this respect he satisfied Schiller's definition of a true philosopher. By his loss a great gap is left in medical literature—a gap felt in other lands as well; for the community of thought, the brotherhood of science, is not limited to race, nor restricted by geographical boundaries.

Thus far I have spoken of Dr. Hodge as a physician, but great injustice would be done to his memory were this memoir to take note simply of the services he rendered to our common profession. In the sacred relations of kindred and of friendship his love never chilled. By his kindness he won the affection of all who knew him; by his inflexible integrity he gained the respect of those who came in contact with him. In 1830 he became a member of the Second Presbyterian Church, a church born of the fervor of his ancestors. His after life proved the sincerity of this step. He ever after walked as if he felt that "the Christian is the world's Bible." The calamity of his blindness, and that still more grievous one of the death of his beloved wife, took sunlight from his eye and sunshine from his heart, but he bore each with Christian fortitude. As a church-member no one showed a greater consistency, a broader philanthropy, a more unstinted liberality, or set a brighter example of loyal Christian faith. Never once did this faith waver before the rude assaults and aggressive ventures of human thought. Two years before his death, when the congregation of his church decided to move further up town, he was unanimously chosen the Chairman of the Building Committee. On this new work he now bent all his strength. To it he subscribed munificently, and to it he was active in raising contributions. Since he could not see, the various plans of the new church were carefully explained to him by the architect. None of them wholly pleased him, and yet he found himself unable to make his criticisms in technical, and therefore in intelligible language. With characteristic ingenuity he took the books lying on his desk, and with them built up a structure which conveyed the idea of the plan ultimately adopted. In his death that church has lost a friend, a counsellor, and a faithful servant.

The last years of this strong-headed and strong-hearted man were not spent in idleness. His sight grew more and more dim, but his natural force did not abate, his brain did not grow weary, his hand lost not its cunning. Apart from giving much of his time and

strength to church matters, he continued to visit some old patients, and to keep up a lively interest in everything pertaining to his profession. All papers bearing on the branches which he had taught were read to him by some member of his family, or by some person regularly employed for this purpose. He dictated several papers for the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences." Two of them on "Synclitism" attracted much attention. Deeply impressed with the conviction that a lack of proper clinical instruction is the crying evil of our medical schools, he subscribed liberally towards the endowment of the noble Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, which is soon to inaugurate a new and important departure in the medical education of this country.

My first acquaintance with Dr. Hodge was made at this time of his life. We met in the library of the College of Physicians, where he was collecting material for some essay. I shall never forget his warm grasp and hearty shake as he took my hand in both of his. His kind words of encouragement are indelibly fixed in my memory; and so is the playful manner in which he took me to task—"scolded" me, as he termed it—for some of my published writings which did not accord with his views. His noble but sightless face lighted up with pleasure when I told him that I had twice read his work on "Obstetrics" from beginning to end, and that it was the means of first awakening in me a love for his chosen branch of medicine. Other very pleasant interviews I had with him, for like pursuits and congenial tastes drew us together. On these occasions obstetric matters were always discussed. On this favorite topic he spoke so fluently, and was so much at home that, in order to follow him intelligently, the closest attention on my part was needed. A happier man I never saw; his face beamed with smiles; his days seemed hymns of thanksgiving. Some natures, like vitreous bodies, become iridescent with age. But why, I often asked myself, why should he be otherwise? Why should he repine? Surrounded by devoted friends and loving children; with much grain stored away in the garner of his brain; with the consciousness of never having wasted the prerogatives of life; with a noble history behind him, and a glorious immortality before him, could earthly estate be more princely?

At this time his strength was vigorous, his health robust. Little did he or we think that his end was near. When a noble life is about to be rounded off, we love to think that the closing scene was typical; that last words and last acts were befitting of the man; that death was in keeping with life. Thus it was with our beloved

friend and teacher; his last act on earth was one of charity; his last words were about his work.

On Monday, February 24th, 1873, Dr. Hodge arose apparently well, and, at the usual hour, started out to visit his patients. At three o'clock P. M. he returned, as was his custom, to lunch, and immediately after began to work with his amanuensis over a paper on "Cephalotripsy." In this occupation he was for two hours closely engaged. He then went out to see a sick lady at the Girard House, and at six returned to dinner. From seven to eight o'clock the daily papers were read to him, but he seemed drowsy and dropped asleep. Over this very unusual circumstance he made merry, and playfully threatened to have the news of the day read over to him. With this sally on his lips he went into his office, and until ten o'clock was there occupied with his son in various business matters. After this hour he joined the family circle, and asked to have a letter read to him. It was written by the widow of a physician in Virginia, who had no claim on him other than that her husband had sat under his teaching, but who, in her poverty, had sent to him a touching appeal for aid. The cry of the widow did not go by unheeded. Late as was the hour he called for his check-book, and signed a check for her relief. Fit ending to a life of unceasing charity. This was the last time he ever wrote his name.

For many years it was his habit to stay up long after the rest of his family had gone to bed. He liked to be alone, and to sit before the open fireplace, musing over the memories of the past, and holding sweet commune with the world that is unseen and holy. Humoring this fancy, his children usually left him for the night at eleven o'clock, and this they did upon this night. Shortly after midnight his son was aroused by sounds of distress, and, upon going to his father's room, found him speechless and deathly sick. He soon rallied, but only to relapse, after brief intervals of relief, into repeated fits of apparent insensibility, in which all efforts at respiration ceased. At his own request Dr. J. Forsyth Meigs, the son of his old friend and rival, was summoned, who pronounced the disease to be angina pectoris. Under appropriate remedies, and the action of artificial respiration, the flickering flame of life was kept from going out until all his children had gathered around his bed. In the intervals of these attacks he was perfectly lucid, and comforted the grief of those around him with many loving words. He sent for his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Beadle, and the face of the dying man lighted up as he bore testimony to his stanch faith in the Great Master, whom for so many years he had served. From this

gentleman he exacted a promise that no eulogy should be pronounced over his body. Between ten and eleven on Tuesday night he asked what day it was, and, on being told, said: "I thought I should have died on Wednesday," and then specified by name several members of his family who had died on that day of the week. Turning shortly afterwards to the son who bears his name, he gave him directions about the treatment of some of his patients, and charged him to complete and publish his article on "Cephalotripsy." These were his last words. Half an hour later, at two o'clock on Wednesday morning, he gently "fell on sleep." Thus calmly passed away a man whose whole life bespoke one who was conscious of a mission, and was fulfilling it—a mission of love to God and good to man. "Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D., 1796-1874.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, held February 26, 1873, the following resolutions were adopted:—

WHEREAS, it has pleased Divine Providence to remove to a happier sphere one of the most honored members of our Society, who, during a long and useful life, has ever been noted for the purity and benevolence of his character, not only as a physician, but also as a citizen of Philadelphia: Therefore,

Resolved, That the Philadelphia County Medical Society has recently learned, with deep regret, of the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. HUGH L. HODGE, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the oldest members of this Society.

Resolved, That by the death of Dr. Hodge, this Society has lost a highly esteemed member, whose skill and erudition had gained him a world-wide reputation as an accoucheur, and made him an authority in difficult cases that greatly relieved the anxious hours of his juniors, who were often led, by his courtesy and high professional honor, to avail themselves of his valuable assistance.

Resolved, That the members of this Society, most of whom have been his pupils, recall with pride and pleasure the sound and practical precepts inculcated in his teaching.

Resolved, That Dr. William Goodell be requested to prepare a biographical memoir of our late member, to be read before this Society.

Resolved, That the Philadelphia County Medical Society respectfully tender to his family their sympathy in its affliction.

Pursuant to these Resolutions, the following Biographical Memoir of Dr. Hugh L. Hodge, was delivered by Dr. William Goodell before the Society, on the evening of April 22, 1874, which was set apart for this purpose:—

Fellow-members of the Philadelphia County Medical Society:—

We have come together here to-night, not as mourners, for why should we mourn for one who lives? Not with heads bowed down, for why should we weep for one whom the Great Husbandman has gathered in as a shock of corn fully ripe and ready for the harvest? But we have met, because a great and a good man has been called away from us, and we wish to freshen up in our hearts the image of him as he walked with us in the flesh. Because many of us have been his pupils and we long to pay a tribute of love and of homage to the memory of our beloved teacher. Because he was for many years one of us, and we take pride in transmitting to future members of this Society, who will know us only by name, our keen appreciation of the manifold gifts and graces with which this honored member was dowered. Be theirs and ours to imitate his virtue!

When a man towers above his fellows, and leaves a mark upon the age in which he lived, we instinctively wish to know of what

stuff he was made, from what stock he sprang, and what were the accidents and the opportunities of his life which made him what he was. Such are the details of our honored friend's life which I purpose very briefly to lay before you.

In 1730 a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, Andrew Hodge by name, emigrated, with his brother Hugh, from the north of Ireland and settled down in the then small town of Philadelphia. Being a thrifty man of business, he soon accumulated a handsome fortune. In those days it was the custom, as it now is in the city of Amsterdam, for merchants to have their warehouses and dwellings under the same roof. He, therefore, built or bought three houses which fronted both on Delaware Avenue and on the east side of Water Street, below Race. The wharf and dock in front of these buildings were also owned by him, and, until 1840, went by his name. He and his sons, Andrew, James, and Hugh, were God-fearing men. The father, and his brother Hugh, were mainly instrumental in founding the Second Presbyterian Church of this city. The sons helped to sustain and strengthen it. To each of these sons the old merchant deeded one of the three houses. Andrew succeeded to his father's business, and James became a sea-captain; but Hugh decided to study medicine. He was accordingly, to use the language of the day, articulated as an apprentice in the office of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, a highly educated and prosperous physician, who holds the honor of having delivered the first lectures on anatomy that were ever given in this country. These lectures were delivered in Second Street, above Walnut, in a building whose site was afterwards occupied by the Bank of Pennsylvania. Dr. Cadwalader wrote but little; the only article from his pen extant, is an "Essay on the West India Dry Gripes, with the Method of Curing that Cruel Distemper. To which is added an Extraordinary Case in Physick. Printed and sold by B. Franklin, 1745."¹ After receiving his diploma, Dr. Hugh Hodge served as a surgeon in the army during the War for Independence. When peace was declared he returned to Philadelphia, and in 1790 took to wife Maria Blanchard, a Boston lady of Huguenot descent. The young couple set up housekeeping in a modest way in the northernmost of the three houses left by Andrew Hodge. For Water Street was then the fashionable quarter, one where all the prosperous shipping merchants lived. In this house were born the honored subject of this memoir, and his equally distinguished brother, Prof. Charles Hodge, D.D., of the Theological Seminary of Princeton, N. J. During the fatal epidemic of yellow fever in 1793 and 1795, Water Street was so ravaged, that it got a bad name as a place of residence. The best families, accordingly, began to desert it, and shortly after the birth of Hugh L. Hodge, June 27, 1796, his father deemed it needful to move further up town. He, therefore, rented a house on Arch Street, above 4th, the third door east of Christ Church Burying Ground, where he lived until his death in 1798.

¹ For the above facts, and for others contained in this memoir, I am indebted to the "History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania," by Prof. Joseph Carson, M.D. This interesting volume every alumnus of the University should own.

The young widow and mother was left much straitened in this world's goods, but she had warm friends, and what was better, an abiding faith in the God of the widow and of the fatherless. Her sweet and pure religion was the goodly inheritance, which by precept and example she conveyed to her sons. Nor, as we well know, were these early lessons of piety lost on these two boys.

Hugh L. Hodge obtained his early education at boarding-schools in Somerville and New Brunswick, N. J. Of his aptitude as a scholar I have no record, but it must have been above the average, for in 1811, when only fifteen years old, he was admitted to the Sophomore class at Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J. Three years later, while our country was at war with Great Britain, he graduated among the four honor-men of his class. He at once began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Caspar Wistar, that celebrated anatomist, then at the height of his fame. He it was, who, while pursuing his studies at Edinburgh, and even at a time when the stigma of rebel was still attached to an American, had the remarkable honor of being elected President of the Royal Medical Society of that city. His pupil matriculated at the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, and walked the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Hospitals. In 1818, at the age of twenty-two, he received, after a four years' course, his diploma of Doctor of Medicine. By a reference to an old catalogue I find that his thesis was on "Digestion," a subject in which he ever after took great interest. Wishing to raise money enough to complete his studies in Europe, and following the example of many other young physicians of his day, he, in the same year, took a voyage to India in the capacity of ship-surgeon. Fourteen years later the knowledge of Asiatic cholera, which he thus acquired in tropical countries, did him good service. For, during the fatal cholera epidemic of 1832, no one was more untiring in administering to the sick, or so successful in their treatment. In recognition of his gratuitous services in the cholera hospitals, the city authorities voted him their thanks, and the more substantial honor of a silver pitcher. This, by the way, was one of seven silver pitchers presented to him at different times during his life. It was familiarly designated by the younger members of his family as the "C. P.," or "Cholera Pitcher," to distinguish it from the others, which were called "G. P.s," or "Grateful Patients."

In 1820 Dr. Hodge returned from India, but with means too limited to carry out the long-cherished prosecution of his studies in Europe. The voyage had proved a commercial failure, but, nothing daunted, he opened an office in Walnut Street opposite Washington Square. Soon after he was elected to the Southern Dispensary, and, a few months later, to the Philadelphia Dispensary. In these rich fields of practice he gained much experience, and acquired those habits of close observation and original research which ever after characterized him. He soon became a man of mark, for in the summer of 1821 he was selected to teach the anatomical class of Prof. Horner, who was then absent in Europe. So acceptably did he fill this position, that in 1823 he was appointed to the Lectureship on Surgery in Dr. Chapman's Summer School, which, in

1837, became a chartered institution, under the name of the "Medical Institute." Of these lectures he was justly proud, for on them he was then able to spend all his time and strength. Old practitioners still refer to them in terms of high praise.

In September of the same year he gained a long-coveted position on the staff of the Philadelphia Hospital, and his practice began now steadily to increase. In 1828, at the age of thirty-two, he married Margaret E. Aspinwall, the daughter of John Aspinwall, a well-known merchant of New York city. From this union seven sons were born, of whom five are living. One is the well-known surgeon who bears his father's name; the rest are clergymen. After a happy married life of thirty-eight years, in 1866, this good wife and good mother died.

Thus far, Dr. Hodge had concentrated all his energy on anatomy and surgery. His tastes lay in these directions; both these branches he had taught with great acceptance; as a surgeon, he was fast winning his way to fame. But a complete and very unexpected turn now took place in all his plans. The dim oil-lamps of his college days, his habits of late study, had greatly injured his eyesight, and compelled him to wear glasses of very high power. Year by year his vision so surely failed that he was at last warned to direct his ambition into new channels. Other circumstances confirmed him in making this change. The health of Dr. Thomas C. James, the Professor of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania, was beginning to fail. Dr. William P. Dewees, the heir-apparent to his chair, and the most brilliant of American obstetricians, had long passed the noontide of life. For many years the brothers Joseph and Harvey Klapp had enjoyed the pick of the midwifery practice of a rapidly-growing city. But, at this juncture, the one died, and the other retired to his secluded country-seat in the wilds of West Philadelphia. These accidents and opportunities at once determined Dr. Hodge to give up, but with a bitter heart, his long-cherished specialty of surgery for that of obstetrics. Shortly after making this decision, he was enabled to exchange his lectureship of surgery for that of obstetrics, which the resignation of Dr. Dewees had left vacant. He was also the winning candidate in an excited canvass for a position on the staff of the Lying-in Department of the Pennsylvania Hospital. For the information of the younger members of this Society, let me for a moment digress to say, that this department was established in 1807 "for poor and respectable married women." "Singular as it may appear," remarks Prof. Carson in his History of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, "it was founded by the gallant and patriotic young gentlemen of Philadelphia who formed the 'First Troop of City Cavalry.' Their pay for services due them by the government at the end of the Revolutionary War was generously donated for this special purpose. The interest of the sum thus appropriated amounted annually to between five and six hundred dollars." On account of the impossibility of keeping the wards free from puerperal fever, the building was kept closed from 1851 to 1855, when, by a vote of the managers, it was finally abandoned.

We come now to the crowning event of Dr. Hodge's life—

the one that brought him fame and wealth—his election to the chair of obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. But, before touching upon this passage of his life, it may not prove unprofitable to give a brief sketch of the state and status of midwifery as it existed in this country.

From the time of the first settlement of America midwifery had, by popular prejudice and professional disesteem, been monopolized by elderly women, whose pretensions were only equalled by their ignorance. In the mother-country a "man-midwife," as he was contemptuously called, was looked down upon both by the profession and the community. Smellie, the founder of English obstetrics, "united the occupation of cloth merchant and practitioner of midwifery at Lanark." At Edinburgh, separate instruction in midwifery was first given in 1726. But so great was the prejudice, even among medical men, that, until 1772, those physicians who practiced this branch of medicine were disqualified from becoming licentiates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Down to a much later period these same prejudices existed among our own countrymen. For forty-five years there was in the University of Pennsylvania no special chair of obstetrics. During this time it had been customary for the professor of anatomy to intercalate his course with a few meagre lectures on midwifery. These were so unsatisfactory, that every young man who wished to perfect his knowledge of midwifery was forced to go to France or to England for that purpose; just as the Israelites, in the days of Saul, "went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his ax, and his mattock." In 1810 a separation was effected between these two branches of medicine, and Dr. Thomas Chalkley James was elected to the chair of midwifery. But even then the equality of this art and science with its sisters was so grudgingly conceded, that, for three years, the first professor of obstetrics was not recognized as a member of the medical faculty, and an attendance upon his lectures was not made obligatory for a degree. Dr. James wrote no original work, but contented himself with annotating "Burns's Principles of Midwifery," and "Merriman's Synopsis," as text-books for his course. Early in the present century Dr. John Bard, of New York city, published a small Compendium of Midwifery, which was republished in 1811. But the first authoritative writer upon obstetrics in this country was Dr. Wm. Potts Dewees, who, in 1826, published his celebrated "Compendious System of Midwifery." Dr. Hodge himself informs us, in his "Eulogium on Wm. P. Dewees," that, before the publication of this work, "the science [of midwifery] was hardly known in America. The physicians who occasionally engaged in its practice had received no instruction, with the exception of a few who, having visited Europe, brought home a general knowledge of the subject; but who, from the prejudice existing against the employment of male practitioners, had few opportunities and fewer inducements to perfect their knowledge. Hence midwifery existed almost universally as an art; the aged and imbecile nurse was preferred to the physician." To obviate the necessity for going abroad, and to supply the demand for intelligent and

educated assistance at the lying-in bed, were the crying wants of the day. Dr. Dewees saw his chance, and made himself a master of the science and the art of midwifery. He then collected a few pupils together in his office, and year by year taught them as only a master can teach.

"We find," says Dr. Hodge, in the above-mentioned eulogium, "that he has the high honor of first attempting a full course of lectures on obstetrics in America." But while the personal influence of Dr. Dewees was great, it was limited to a small circle of private students. His numerous and excellent contributions to the medical journals lacked that weight of authority which a chair in a great medical school gives. In 1834 Dr. James resigned the chair which had been created for him, and which he had occupied for twenty-four years. Dr. Dewees, who since 1825 had held the position of Adjunct Professor of Obstetrics, was, without opposition, elected to fill the vacancy. This passage of his life is a very touching one, and deserves a brief sketch, as well for its intrinsic interest as for its bearing on the future career of Dr. Hodge. In 1810 Dr. Dewees was the unsuccessful candidate for this chair. For four-and-twenty long and weary years he had looked forward to it as the goal of his ambition. He aspired to it, toiled for it; no one better deserved it. The honor at last came, but to a man long past the prime of life. He delivered his first course of lectures with unexampled brilliancy; but hardly was it ended before a stroke of apoplexy laid him low. Unwilling to admit his failing powers, he began, in the autumn of 1835, his second course. After attempting a few lectures he broke down. On the 10th of November he suddenly resigned. Oh friends! how full of sorrows, how big with shattered hopes and wrecked ambitions, is this dear earth to which we cling!

For the possession of the empty chair a battle royal, one of giants, now took place. The struggle lay between two such men as Hugh L. Hodge and Charles D. Meigs, and was, therefore, a very hotly contested one. The strong claims of the rival candidates, and the very equally balanced influence of their respective friends, made the issue doubtful. Dr. Hodge, who was a very modest man, could not be prevailed upon to visit any of the trustees. At last his friends refused to work for him unless he did so. He, therefore, provided himself with a list of their names and residences, and nerved himself up to this imposed and distasteful mission. As luck would have it, the first gentleman on whom he called was an upright but very eccentric Friend, who, upon learning his errand, at once said, "Young man, I should have thought better of thee, hadst thou not come." In great confusion the modest candidate took his leave, tore up his list, and at once returned home. That trustee was the only one on whom he called. No persuasions, no entreaties, could thereafter move him to solicit another vote. But his friends, despite their threats, worked manfully for him. Perhaps this very modesty stood him in good stead. At any rate, he proved the successful candidate, and became a member of a faculty which, after his election, stood as follows:—

Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine.	NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M.D.
Chemistry	ROBERT HARR, M.D.
Surgery	WILLIAM GIBSON, M.D.
Anatomy	WILLIAM E. HORNER, M.D.
Institutes of Medicine	SAMUEL JACKSON, M.D.
Materia Medica and Pharmacy	GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D.
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children .	HUGH L. HODGE, M.D.

In June of the following year, at the earnest solicitations of his friends, but contrary to his own judgment, he purchased the property at the northwest corner of Ninth and Walnut streets. This fine large mansion was built by that classical scholar, Dr. J. Redman Coxe, whose name is known in every hamlet in this land by his "Hive Syrup." In the financial crisis of 1837 the mortgages on this property were called in by the holders, and, had it not been for the prompt but unsolicited aid of a friend in New York city, would have been foreclosed. The mental anguish through which he passed, and the narrow escape which he then made, led him ever after to inculcate on his sons the maxim of "Never buy what you cannot pay for." This property, however, in the end proved a very handsome investment, for it has more than quadrupled in value. Very fortunately these pecuniary straits were of short duration. Patients began to flock to him from distant portions of this continent, and from every State in the Union. In difficult cases of labor, and in various diseases of women, his brother practitioners soon learned to rely on him. For to consummate skill, he added consummate integrity, and they knew that no one was more rigid in the observance of the letter and spirit of the code of ethics; that no consultant more carefully guarded the reputation of the attending physician.

As Alpine glaciers score their history on abiding rocks, so great men grave enduring marks upon the age in which they live. Now, what are the marks, the deeply channeled grooves which our departed friend and teacher has left behind him? From the time of his election to the chair of obstetrics until his resignation in 1863, no teacher ever gave a more thorough or a more conscientious course of lectures. The strong feature of his teaching was not to display his knowledge, but to impart it. He possessed, in an eminent degree, those essentials of a good teacher—the *subtilitas explicandi*, as well as the *subtilitas intelligendi*. Dependent, as he was, on account of imperfect vision, exclusively upon his memory, he yet delivered his lectures with the utmost neatness and precision. There was no faltering over a demonstration, no omission of a diagram. Although gifted with a fluent delivery, he used no tropé or figure, and made no effort at oratorical display. So pure-minded was he, and so far removed from making "points"—as they are technically called—that, when some madcap student distorted an accidental juxtaposition of words into a *double entendre*, his face flushed up with vexation. Over the young men who flocked to hear him, his influence was great and good. At the beginning and the end of each curriculum, they listened, with respectful and often tearful attention, to his happy words of greeting and tender words of parting. What graduate of those days can ever efface from his memory that gracious manner which seemed to convey a benediction, and that

halo of goodness which floated about him? Men will come, and men will go, but we shall never see his like again.

Of English-speaking obstetricians Dr. Hodge was the first to urge the frequent use of the long forceps, as well for the sake of the mother as for that of the child. Upon the value of this instrument as a compressor, he laid so much stress that he regarded with disfavor the operation of version in cases of contracted pelvis. No one before him and no one since has laid down more precise rules for its application. Rules which have wrested this operation from the hands of specialists, and vulgarized it from the Rio Grande to the St. Lawrence. By his eclectic forceps he gave to the profession the best instrument yet devised: an instrument which has served more than any other to make the American physician prompt in giving succor to suffering woman. His improvements to the cephalotribe gave a fresh authentication to the value of this instrument, and a fresh impulse to its use. By showing the value of the vectis in the rectification of malpositions, he rescued it from the oblivion to which it was fast passing. The bold and uncompromising stand which he took against criminal abortion, made a deep impression upon his students. He early taught them to look upon this, alas! growing evil as a crime against God and man. The small book that grew out of these lectures had an extensive circulation, and exerted a wide-spread influence.

His theory of "irritable uterus," which he for many years taught, and finally embodied in his work on "Diseases Peculiar to Women," may not stand before the light of modern research, but it led to important results. Convinced that many female disorders were largely dependent on, or associated with, displacements of the womb, he turned his attention to their mechanical treatment. With this end in view, many were the instruments he devised; many the hours spent in changing their form or their material. This unwearied perseverance finally culminated in the elaboration of his lever-pessary, a pessary which, by its unsurpassed excellence, has been adopted by the whole civilized world, and has made his name familiar as a household word to every practitioner of medicine.

His views with regard to the nature of puerperal fever have now very few supporters, but they were the utterances of an honest conviction, and as such carried much weight with his contemporaries. He held that this disease is not communicable, and published a pamphlet in defence of this opinion. In an appendix to this pamphlet he states that "on three occasions only, in thirty-two years, had he met with two cases of child-bed fever occurring in rapid succession; but, although he never declined practice on these occasions, the women subsequently delivered by him entirely escaped." On one of "these three occasions" an incident of painful interest took place, which made a great impression on his mind, and served to confirm him in his convictions. His midwifery practice lay largely among the best families of Philadelphia, among people, who being either connected or acquainted with one another, soon heard the particulars of the death of any one belonging to their number. He had been engaged to attend two sisters, who had previously been delivered by him, and who were daily expecting their confine-

ment. On May the 11th and 21st he lost from child-bed fever two patients out of this charmed circle. The news spread like wildfire, and the husbands of the two sisters in great distress called upon the doctor to talk the matter over with him. He firmly announced to them his disbelief in the communicability of this disease, and expressed the utmost willingness to attend their wives in their confinement. But at the same time, pitying their anxiety, he cheerfully gave them the liberty of cancelling their engagement with him. These gentlemen were his warm personal friends, and it was, therefore, only after a sharp inward struggle that the one decided to call in another practitioner, the other to retain his family physician. Dr. Hodge safely delivered his patient; but we may rest assured, not without misgivings, and not without many an earnest prayer. The other lady was transferred from his care to that of a distinguished physician, who for two years had not seen a case of puerperal fever. She died from the dreaded disease.

During a large portion of Dr. Hodge's life, the pressure of his professional engagements was so great as to prevent him from writing anything besides his early lectures on surgery and those on obstetrics. But during his early professional career he was one of the editors of the "North American Medical and Surgical Journal," to which he contributed many reviews and original papers. His co-laborers in this work were Drs. Franklin Bache, Charles D. Meigs, René La Roche, John Bell, George B. Wood, D. F. Condie, and B. H. Coates. This journal ceased with its twelfth volume, April, 1831. The editors then resolved themselves into a club which met weekly at each other's houses, and partook of a very modest collation. In 1853 it was my privilege to be the only guest at one of these reunions. It was held at the house of the late Dr. Henry Bond, who, besides Dr. S. H. Dickson, was the only member ever admitted to the club. I shall not soon forget the kind attention shown to me by these Nestors of the profession, and my youthful amazement at the familiarity with which they treated one another.

Later in life imperfect vision hindered Dr. Hodge from becoming a prolific writer. Besides several articles written for various medical journals, he published a memoir of Dr. James, a eulogium on Dr. Dewees, and a number of introductory lectures. One of these on criminal abortion, after being reprinted several times, was published with some additions under the title of "Fœticide." In 1860 he published his work on "Diseases Peculiar to Women," and in 1863 his great work on Obstetrics. In editing the latter, few of my hearers are aware of the difficulties he had to encounter; difficulties from which most men would have shrunk. From title-page to colophon this large work was written by an amanuensis at his dictation. The beautiful and original lithographs which enrich its pages gave him a world of trouble and anxiety. He knew that to a student a work on obstetrics without illustrations is practically valueless. But how were illustrations to be made whose accuracy a blind man could verify! This was a problem of difficult solution, one to which he devoted many anxious thoughts and sleepless nights. At last his son, Dr. H. Lenox Hodge, suggested the use of photography.

Here, indeed, was the means presented, by which nature could be faithfully copied; here, the prospect of making stepping stones of the very obstacles which lay in his way. With a thrill of pleasure, he jumped at the idea, and fairly laughed aloud with joy. From the noble collection which he afterwards gave to the unrivalled museum of the University, a typical pelvis and foetal head were selected. The former was placed upon an appropriate stand, the latter he held in the proper position within the pelvic cavity to illustrate the various positions and presentations. In this manner they were photographed, but in the lithographic plates copied from these originals, the sustaining fingers and hand of the author were of course left out. In graceful recognition of this and other literary labors, and of his distinguished reputation, he was in 1871 honored by his Alma Mater with the degree of LL.D.

As an author, the writings of Dr. Hodge are characterized by clearness, by conscientious accuracy, and by great originality. He contemplated the soul of a subject, and not its mere habiliments. In proof of this, witness his remarkable papers on "Synclitism," and his careful study of the "Mechanism of Labor." Although aggressive when needful, his mind was strongly constructive, and not destructive. He pulled down to build up, but never for the mere sake of pulling down. Of too rugged an individuality to fashion himself to the modes and opinions of others, he thought out for himself with intense convictions of truth. These convictions he defended with rigid and drastic logic. To them he was always true; from them he never swerved. Like the builders of Jerusalem, he worked with a spear in one hand and a trowel in the other. But while clinging tenaciously to what he had elaborated, he dissented from the opinions of others with a courteous hospitality of thought, with perfect fair play. Such encounters never kindled into angry controversy, for it was not *his* system that he defended, but truth—the truth as he interpreted it. In this respect he satisfied Schiller's definition of a true philosopher. By his loss a great gap is left in medical literature—a gap felt in other lands as well; for the community of thought, the brotherhood of science, is not limited to race, nor restricted by geographical boundaries.

Thus far I have spoken of Dr. Hodge as a physician, but great injustice would be done to his memory were this memoir to take note simply of the services he rendered to our common profession. In the sacred relations of kindred and of friendship his love never chilled. By his kindness he won the affection of all who knew him; by his inflexible integrity he gained the respect of those who came in contact with him. In 1830 he became a member of the Second Presbyterian Church, a church born of the fervor of his ancestors. His after life proved the sincerity of this step. He ever after walked as if he felt that "the Christian is the world's Bible." The calamity of his blindness, and that still more grievous one of the death of his beloved wife, took sunlight from his eye and sunshine from his heart, but he bore each with Christian fortitude. As a church-member no one showed a greater consistency, a broader philanthropy, a more unstinted liberality, or set a brighter example of loyal Christian faith. Never once did this faith waver before the

rude assaults and aggressive ventures of human thought. Two years before his death, when the congregation of his church decided to move further up town, he was unanimously chosen the Chairman of the Building Committee. On this new work he now bent all his strength. To it he subscribed munificently, and to it he was active in raising contributions. Since he could not see, the various plans of the new church were carefully explained to him by the architect. None of them wholly pleased him, and yet he found himself unable to make his criticisms in technical, and therefore in intelligible language. With characteristic ingenuity he took the books lying on his desk, and with them built up a structure which conveyed the idea of the plan ultimately adopted. In his death that church has lost a friend, a counsellor, and a faithful servant.

The last years of this strong-headed and strong-hearted man were not spent in idleness. His sight grew more and more dim, but his natural force did not abate, his brain did not grow weary, his hand lost not its cunning. Apart from giving much of his time and strength to church matters, he continued to visit some old patients, and to keep up a lively interest in everything pertaining to his profession. All papers bearing on the branches which he had taught were read to him by some member of his family, or by some person regularly employed for this purpose. He dictated several papers for the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences." Two of them on "Synclitism" attracted much attention. Deeply impressed with the conviction that a lack of proper clinical instruction is the crying evil of our medical schools, he subscribed liberally towards the endowment of the noble Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, which is soon to inaugurate a new and important departure in the medical education of this country.

My first acquaintance with Dr. Hodge was made at this time of his life. We met in the library of the College of Physicians, where he was collecting material for some essay. I shall never forget his warm grasp and hearty shake as he took my hand in both of his. His kind words of encouragement are indelibly fixed in my memory; and so is the playful manner in which he took me to task—"scolded" me, as he termed it—for some of my published writings which did not accord with his views. His noble but sightless face lighted up with pleasure when I told him that I had twice read his work on "Obstetrics" from beginning to end, and that it was the means of first awakening in me a love for his chosen branch of medicine. Other very pleasant interviews I had with him, for like pursuits and congenial tastes drew us together. On these occasions obstetric matters were always discussed. On this favorite topic he spoke so fluently, and was so much at home that, in order to follow him intelligently, the closest attention on my part was needed. A happier man I never saw; his face beamed with smiles; his days seemed hymns of thanksgiving. Some natures, like vitreous bodies, become iridescent with age. But why, I often asked myself, why should he be otherwise? Why should he repine? Surrounded by devoted friends and loving children; with much grain stored away in the garner of his brain; with the conscious-

ness of never having wasted the prerogatives of life; with a noble history behind him, and a glorious immortality before him, could earthly estate be more princely?

At this time his strength was vigorous, his health robust. Little did he or we think that his end was near. When a noble life is about to be rounded off, we love to think that the closing scene was typical; that last words and last acts were befitting of the man; that death was in keeping with life. Thus it was with our beloved friend and teacher; his last act on earth was one of charity; his last words were about his work.

On Monday, February 24th, 1873, Dr. Hodge arose apparently well, and, at the usual hour, started out to visit his patients. At three o'clock P. M. he returned, as was his custom, to lunch, and immediately after began to work with his amanuensis over a paper on "Cephalotripsy." In this occupation he was for two hours closely engaged. He then went out to see a sick lady at the Girard House, and at six returned to dinner. From seven to eight o'clock the daily papers were read to him, but he seemed drowsy and dropped asleep. Over this very unusual circumstance he made merry, and playfully threatened to have the news of the day read over to him. With this sally on his lips he went into his office, and until ten o'clock was there occupied with his son in various business matters. After this hour he joined the family circle, and asked to have a letter read to him. It was written by the widow of a physician in Virginia, who had no claim on him other than that her husband had sat under his teaching, but who, in her poverty, had sent to him a touching appeal for aid. The cry of the widow did not go by unheeded. Late as was the hour he called for his check-book, and signed a check for her relief. Fit ending to a life of unceasing charity. This was the last time he ever wrote his name.

For many years it was his habit to stay up long after the rest of his family had gone to bed. He liked to be alone, and to sit before the open fireplace, musing over the memories of the past, and holding sweet commune with the world that is unseen and holy. Humoring this fancy, his children usually left him for the night at eleven o'clock, and this they did upon this night. Shortly after midnight his son was aroused by sounds of distress, and, upon going to his father's room, found him speechless and deathly sick. He soon rallied, but only to relapse, after brief intervals of relief, into repeated fits of apparent insensibility, in which all efforts at respiration ceased. At his own request Dr. J. Forsyth Meigs, the son of his old friend and rival, was summoned, who pronounced the disease to be angina pectoris. Under appropriate remedies, and the action of artificial respiration, the flickering flame of life was kept from going out until all his children had gathered around his bed. In the intervals of these attacks he was perfectly lucid, and comforted the grief of those around him with many loving words. He sent for his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Beadle, and the face of the dying man lighted up as he bore testimony to his stanch faith in the Great Master, whom for so many years he had served. From this

gentleman he exacted a promise that no eulogy should be pronounced over his body. Between ten and eleven on Tuesday night he asked what day it was, and, on being told, said: "I thought I should have died on Wednesday," and then specified by name several members of his family who had died on that day of the week. Turning shortly afterwards to the son who bears his name, he gave him directions about the treatment of some of his patients, and charged him to complete and publish his article on "Cephalotripsy." These were his last words. Half an hour later, at two o'clock on Wednesday morning, he gently "fell on sleep." Thus calmly passed away a man whose whole life bespoke one who was conscious of a mission, and was fulfilling it—a mission of love to God and good to man. "Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."