

## IN MEMORIAM.

ABRAHAM REEVES JACKSON, A. M., M. D.

Born June 17, 1827.

Died November 12, 1892.

DOCTOR A. REEVES JACKSON was a rare man, well beloved by all who knew him; esteemed and respected alike as physician, counsellor, citizen and friend. By his death the medical profession has sustained the loss of an able, progressive and yet conservative leader, and the State of a noble and worthy citizen. His unfailing geniality, courtesy and kindness endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

As a specialist in gynæcology he was a most accurate diagnostician and a skillful and conservative operator. His practice was largely consultation and he was invariably courteous and considerate in his relations with his professional brethren.

He was one of the most forceful and admirable lecturers of these times. He possessed in a rare degree the faculty of imparting knowledge and of impressing upon his audience the salient points of the subject under consideration. His diction was always elegant and his delivery unaffected but full of strength. He was eloquent, epigrammatic and always interesting. He was also one of the very few clinicians who could operate and lecture at the same time. He was an acknowledged authority upon his specialty and upon medical jurisprudence.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Medicine, Chicago Medical Society, Chicago Medico-Legal Society; a fellow of the Chicago Gynæcological Society, a member of the British Gynæcological Society; an honorary member of the Detroit Gynæcological Society and a corresponding member of the Boston Gynæcological Society.

Doctor Jackson was connected with the *Chicago Medical Register*, the *Western Medical Reporter of Chicago*, and the *Independent Practitioner of New York*, as editor or associate editor. He was also a liberal contributor to medical literature and his articles were always welcome on account of their intrinsic worth and their exceptional grace and ease of style.

Upon looking over his papers several unfinished articles were found

A list of his contributions to medical literature is appended to this notice.

and also a great mass of material for a work on gynæcology upon which he had been engaged for several years.

Abraham Reeves Jackson was born on June 17, 1827, at Philadelphia. He received his early education in the public schools of that city, and was graduated from the Central High School in 1846. He immediately took up the study of marine engineering with the intention of entering the United States Navy. After a few months, however, he decided that engineering was not congenial, and commenced the study of medicine and was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1848. Immediately after his graduation he removed to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and there resided and practised medicine for twenty-two years. In 1850 he married Harriet Hollinshead of Stroudsburg, who died in 1865, leaving two daughters, who still survive.

In 1862 he entered the United States Army as Acting Assistant Surgeon, but was soon promoted to the position of Assistant Medical Director of the Army of Virginia. At the close of the Civil War he returned to Stroudsburg and resumed the practice of his profession until 1867 when he accompanied the now famous "Quaker City" excursion to the Mediterranean in the capacity of Ship's Surgeon. In the records of that trip, so entertainingly written by Mark Twain, Doctor Jackson figures as "my friend, the Doctor," and the picture there drawn is true to life. On his return from Europe he remained in Stroudsburg for two years and then removed to Chicago.

From this time he limited his practice to gynæcology, and soon became famous in that specialty.

He appreciated the urgent necessity of a hospital exclusively for women, and with his characteristic energy at once set about securing such an institution for Chicago. In September, 1871, as a result of his own labors and of the aid of influential friends, the Woman's Hospital of the State of Illinois was incorporated. Doctor Jackson was appointed surgeon-in-chief to the hospital and retained this position for several years.

In 1871 he was married to Julia Newell of Janesville, Wisconsin, who was a devoted and faithful helpmate and an able assistant in his professional work, and who survives him. As a result of a discourse at Rush Medical College, in 1872, he was elected lecturer on diseases of women in that institution; and a year later, in appreciation of his services and high attainments, the college conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.D. In 1874 he was elected by the Chicago

Medical Society, editor of its official organ, the *Chicago Medical Register*.

Three years later, while performing an operation, he received an infective wound from which he never fully recovered, and which, in fact, was responsible for his death. In 1877 he resigned his position in Rush Medical College and two years later severed his connection with the Woman's Hospital of the State of Illinois.

Dr. Jackson was a strong advocate of a higher standard of medical education, and in 1882, after long thought and much arduous labor he with two associates secured the incorporation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, of which he was President and Professor of Gynæcology from its incorporation until his death. The college stands as a most fitting monument to his genius, persistence and foresight. His one aim in the management of the college was ever to increase the standard, and to graduate men whose attainments should be second to none among the medical graduates of the country. In this desire he was ably seconded by his colleagues.

In 1883 he was elected President of the Chicago Gynæcological Society of which he was a charter member. In 1889, he was elected President of the Association of Acting Assistant Surgeons of the United States Army, and this position he held at the time of his death.

He had a severe attack of illness in 1889, arising from the old infected wound and similar in symptoms to the attack which caused his death. As soon as he was able, he, in company with Mrs. Jackson, made a trip around the world, during which he visited some of the most important hospitals and was an honored guest of many of the most celebrated surgeons and gynæcologists of Europe. During the first six months of this trip he suffered from the effects of his late serious illness, but during the last half of his journey he enjoyed robust health. On his return to Chicago in 1890, he at once resumed active practice, and appeared as active, as energetic and in as good health as usual. He was elected President of the American Gynæcological Society in 1891.

Doctor Jackson's last appearance before a medical audience was on September 12, 1892, when he read before the Chicago Medical Society a paper entitled: "*Electricity vs. Surgery in Gynecology, a Charge to the Jury*," and in the discussion defended his position with his old-time ease of style and eloquence.

On November 1, 1892 he began to feel numbness in the left side, a symptom of his previous attack and one whose gravity he thoroughly understood. The following day he was stricken with apoplexy and Dr.

James H. Stowell, his most intimate friend in the profession, was called to attend him and was in constant attendance upon him until his death. Dr. Stowell immediately recognized the seriousness of Doctor Jackson's condition and called Dr. W. E. Quine in consultation. On the evening of November 3, the attending physicians decided to call in consultation Drs. N. S. Davis Sr. and Henry M. Lyman, that they might fortify their opinion by that of men of national reputation. On November 10, it was decided to ask Drs. Christian Fenger and Archibald Church to see the patient in consultation, but all skill was unavailing to stay the progress of the disease.

Dr. Jackson did not lose consciousness until the evening before he died. He was somnolent, but could always be aroused and would answer questions clearly and intelligently, and he greeted the friends who were allowed to see him in his old, genial, hearty manner. On the morning of November 12 at half past ten he died quietly and peacefully.

The cause of death was cerebral apoplexy due to thrombus, probably of the left middle cerebral artery.

The funeral services were held at the Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago, on November 14 and the interment took place on the following day at Janesville, Wisconsin.

*S. C. Stanton, M. D.*

Dr. Jackson's works:

1875. Remarks on Intra-Uterine Polypi, with Special Reference to their Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment. *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*. 1876. The Ovulation Theory of Menstruation. Will it Stand? *American Journal of Obstetrics*. 1878. Vascular Tumors of the Female Urethra, with the Description of a Speculum Devised to Facilitate their Removal. *Gynecological Transactions*, vol. II. 1879. Laceration of the Cervix Uteri. *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*. On Some Points in Connection with the Treatment of Sterility. *Gynecological Transactions*, vol. III. Note on the Use of the Hot Vaginal Douche. *St. Louis Clinical Record*. 1880. Lacerations of the Neck of the Uterus. *American Practitioner*. A Case of Enormous Dilatation of the Stomach, Simulating Ovarian Cystoma and Ascites. *Detroit Lancet*. 1881. Is Craniotomy ever Justifiable? *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*. The Present Status of Specialism in the United States. *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*. Uterine Massage as a Means of Treating Certain Forms of

Enlargement of the Womb. *Gynæcological Transactions*, vol. V. 1882. Carbolized Catgut Sutures for Laceration of the Cervix Uteri. *Medical Record*. 1882. A Globe Pessary worn thirty-five years without removal. *Independent Practitioner*. An Unsuccessful Case of Extirpation of the Cancerous Uterus by Freund's Method. *Western Medical Reporter*. 1883. Is the Extirpation of the Cancerous Uterus a Justifiable Operation. *Gynæcological Transactions*, vol. VIII. 1884. A Contribution to the Relations of Ovulation and Menstruation. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Double Oöphorectomy for Dysmenorrhœa; Recovery; Persistence of Menstruation without Relief from Pain. *Weekly Medical Review*. Fatal Pelvic Hemorrhage Following the Use of the Aspirator Needle. *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*. 1885. Vaginal Hysterectomy for Cancer. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1886. Laparotomy for Pelvic Abscess. *Medical News*. The Ethics of Female Sterility. *Physicians' Magazine*. The Intra-Uterine Stem in the Treatment of Flexions. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1887. Vaginal Pressure in the Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Disease. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Two Dermoid Cysts of the Ovary. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1887. Carcinoma of the Uterus. *Western Medical Reporter*. Laceration of the Cervix with Pregnancy. *Western Medical Reporter*. Uterine Polypus. *Western Medical Reporter*. Rectocele. *Western Medical Reporter*. 1888. Conservatism in Gynæcology. *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*. Report of Two Cases of Death following Curettement of the Uterus. *American Gynæcologist*. The Modern Treatment of Cancer of the Uterus. *Transactions International Medical Congress*, vol. II. Infantile Leucorrhœa. *Medical and Surgical Reporter*. Polypus of the Uterus. *American Gynæcologist*. Stenosis of the Cervix Uteri. *American Gynæcologist*. 1889. Some Uncured Cases of Uterine Hemorrhage. *Medical News*. An Easy and Simple Method for Narrowing the Vagina. *Practice*. Epithelioma of the Uterus; Atresia with an Undeveloped Uterus; Sub-Peritoneal Tumor of the Uterus. *Pittsburg Medical Review*. Artificial Menstrual Suppression. *Medical News*. 1890. A Further Contribution to the Use of the Intra-Uterine Stem in the Treatment of Flexions; with a description of a New Instrument. *North American Practitioner*. Injuries of the Bladder during Laparotomy; including a Report of sixty seven Cases. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1892. Electricity vs. Surgery in Gynæcology. A Charge to the Jury. *Chicago Medical Recorder*.



ABRAHAM REEVES JACKSON, M. D.

## OBITUARY.

DR. A. REEVES JACKSON.

Abraham Reeves Jackson, A. M., M. D., was born in Philadelphia June 17, 1827. He graduated from the Central High School in 1846 and from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1848. Soon after he began his professional career in Stroudsburg, Pa., where he remained twenty-two years. In 1862 he entered the United States Army as Acting Assistant Surgeon and after a brief period was advanced to the position of Assistant Medical Director of the Army of Virginia. In 1870 he removed to Chicago, and was prominently instrumental in securing the incorporation of the "Woman's Hospital of the State of Illinois" Sept. 1, 1871, and for several years he was surgeon-in-chief of this institution. In 1872 he was elected Lecturer on Diseases of Women in Rush Medical College and, in the following year, the trustees, as a testimonial to his services, conferred upon him the honorary degree of M. D.

In 1877 Dr. Jackson resigned his position in Rush Medical College and in 1879 that of surgeon-in-chief of the Woman's Hospital. In 1882 he became one of the founders of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, of which institution he was President and Professor of Gynæcology to the time of his death, Nov. 12, 1892. In 1889 Dr. Jackson was elected President of the Association of Acting Assistant Surgeons of the United States Army and held this position, also, at the time of his death. In 1891 he was elected President of the American Gynæcological Society. He was a member of the American Medical Association, American Academy of Medicine, Chicago Medical Society,

Chicago Medico-Legal Society, the Chicago Gynæcological Society, British Gynæcological Society, an Honorary Member of the Detroit Gynæcological Society and a corresponding member of the Boston Gynæcological Society.

Dr. Jackson was twice married. First, in 1850, to Harriet Hollinshead, of Stroudsburg, Pa., and, in 1871, to Julia Newell, of Janesville, Wis. His wife and two daughters survive him.

—The foregoing details have been gleaned from a published authorized biographical sketch of the deceased.—

The cause of his death was apoplexy, due, probably, to thrombosis of the left middle cerebral artery. There was no autopsy.

On settling in Chicago in 1870 Dr. Jackson limited himself to the practice of gynæcology and soon attained honorable distinction. His practice was very lucrative but not very laborious; for he purposely limited it by keeping his fees so high as to discourage the patronage of any but well-to-do patients. His *clientele* was drawn, in part, from the wealthier families of the city, but chiefly from the practice of his professional brethren in this and neighboring states.

Probably no gynæcologist in Chicago enjoyed and merited in higher degree than Dr. Jackson the confidence and patronage of the medical profession, and no one could be more courteous and complimentary to the family physician than he. The reputation of any colleague, friend or foe, was safe in his keeping. He easily ranked as one of the most accurate diagnosticians, and as one of the most skillful—and yet conservative—operators, in his chosen specialty among the many eminent men of this city.

As a medical teacher Dr. Jackson was beloved and respected by students and colleagues alike. He possessed in rare degree the faculty of imparting knowledge. In the lecture-room his manner was unaffected, and likewise his



speech. He never attempted oratory and yet never failed to be ready and even elegant in diction and forceful in delivery. He was not often eloquent but he was never tiresome. He was never declamatory in style but was always interesting and instructive and, at times, indescribably droll. He was clean of mouth as a woman and his personal influence over his students was wholesome and exercised in the most gentle and friendly way. His humor—for which he was so delightfully known—was always refined in expression and without the sting of personal application; and it was never led up to by labored preparation but it was unexpected, and as spontaneous as the laugh of a child. His manner of speech—now, an inappropriate affectation of sadness or discouragement, and then, an absurdly uncalled-for show of alarm—or some other ridiculous contrast between manner and speech, was often quite as amusing as the speech itself. He was always gentle and courteous, even under circumstances of extreme provocation. He was patient under unmerited criticism, and even under vulgar abuse, and never seemed to harbor resentment against an assailant.

As a writer on medical and other topics Dr. Jackson was well and favorably known, and was always sure of respectful attention. He was an uncommonly liberal contributor to the highest grades of current literature and the sharpness of his pen, no less than the sharpness of his scalpel, contributed to the development of his enviable reputation.

He was a man of much social prominence and his social life was clean and strong while his domestic life was one of ideal peacefulness. He was fond of fun, but not of coarseness; of jest, but not of vulgarity; of repartee, but not of biting personality. He was a charming converser and on all occasions shone as a refined gentleman—courteous, but not offensive; dignified, but not forbidding; scholarly but not

pedantic; ready to be agreeable but not to the extent of smiling at obscenity or profanity. He was a gentleman.

Colleague and Friend, Farewell! A few more unimportant chores done and the rest of us, too, will be laid away, all unconscious that our places of activity have been filled, and that the world goes on laughing and weeping as before. Peace be thine and happiness, forevermore! Q.



RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRACTITIONERS' CLUB.

*Whereas:*—

It has pleased Divine Providence to call from our midst our honored and beloved associate and friend, Dr. A. Reeves Jackson, and

*Whereas:*—

He has exemplified so great ability and originality as an instructor, such faithfulness and zeal as a practitioner, so much enthusiasm, broad-mindedness and patriotism as a citizen that his personal life and character, his professional career and success, have become an inspiration to old and young alike to the highest attainments: Therefore, be it

*Resolved:*—

That we express the deep regret and sense of loss we feel because of his decease, and

*Resolved:*—

That we tender to his family our consolation and sincere sympathy in this their greatest loss and time of greatest sorrow.

CASSIUS D. WESCOTT, <i>Chairman</i> , TRUMAN W. MILLER, E. J. DOERING, ELMORE S. PETTYJOHN, FRANK B. EARLE, GEO. HENRY CLEVELAND, <i>Sec'y.</i>	}	Executive Board of the Practitioners' Club.
--	---	---