

diseases, with which most if not all of the teachers were connected. Dr. Stedman was connected with the Marine Hospital at Chelsea, and the students went there regularly. Dr. Bowditch, in addition to his duties as admitting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital, made the autopsies. These the students of his private school were permitted to witness. About 1843, Drs. Wiley, Perry, and Stedman were succeeded by Drs. George C. Shattuck, William E. Coale, and Samuel Parkman. Dr. Bowditch retained the position of admitting physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital from 1838 to 1845. Exactly how long the private school was continued I do not know.

Dr. Bowditch's first publication was a revision and alteration of Cowan's translation of Louis's "Pathological Researches on Phthisis," in 1836. His second was in 1838, a translation of Louis on "The Proper Method of Examining a Patient, and Arriving at Facts of a General Nature." His next was a long and spirited reply to some animadversions of Dr. Martyn Paine, of New York, on the writings of M. Louis. In 1842 he published probably the first case of trichina spiralis ever reported in this country. This was illustrated by excellent steel cuts, the drawings for which were made by his young wife from his own microscopic preparations.

From the moment of his settling in Boston, Dr. Bowditch interested himself in all that concerned the welfare of his fellow-men. With Charles F. Barnard, John L. Emmons, and others, he founded the Warren Street Chapel for the education and elevation of the young. He was superintendent of its Sunday-school, and endeared himself to every one in it. The children went to his office every Saturday afternoon for books, and the young men used to meet him on the Common at five o'clock in the morning to play cricket, they being clerks in stores and not able to go at any other time. One of them, however, says in a recent letter that he used to steal time from his dinner hour to call for a talk with Dr. Bowditch, who at that time was not oppressed with patients, and was always glad to see him. He well remembers that Dr. Bowditch was quite elated that his first year's income equalled that of Dr. John Ware's first year, namely, seventy-five dollars. Dr. Bowditch kept up his interest in the children of the Chapel long after they left it. One of them writes me that some years after leaving she received the present of a book from him, with a note saying he had intended to buy her a nice one, but on consulting his purse he found he could not do so and pay honest tradesmen, so he sent her a book called "Best Hours," which he for a long time had kept by his own bedside.

Dr. Bowditch had but just settled in Boston when the mobbing of

Garrison occurred, and henceforth till the proclamation of emancipation he was an active, zealous, uncompromising anti-slavery man. He was the intimate friend of Sumner, Andrew, Bird, May, and the other leaders of this at that time unpopular cause.

In 1846 the visiting medical staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital, which at that time consisted of three physicians, namely, Drs. Jacob Bigelow, Enoch Hale, and J. B. S. Jackson, was augmented by the addition of three more, namely, Drs. Henry I. Bowditch, John D. Fisher, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. He served here eighteen years. Any one who ever made a visit with him knows how thoroughly he did his duty both to the hospital and to the patient.

In this year (1846), Drs. Henry I. Bowditch, Charles E. Buckingham, George Derby, John D. Fisher, Samuel Kneeland, Jr., Fitch E. Oliver, Wm. H. Thayer, and John B. Walker revived the Society for Medical Observation. This society in its early days approximated more nearly to Dr. Bowditch's ideal of what a medical society should be than any we have had since. The members were accustomed to sit around a table with pencil and paper taking notes, and when the reader of a paper had finished, they were called upon to criticise. "The criticism," as one of the original members, Dr. Wm. H. Thayer, of Brooklyn, writes me, "was courteous, but unsparing, and from time to time some member resigned, being unable to stand it." Dr. Thayer also allows me to quote from a letter written to him, while temporarily absent from Boston, by Dr. Bowditch. The date of the letter is April 26, 1846. In it he says, "We have had one meeting of the Society for Medical Observation. Doctor, I have fears of that society falling into the common routine of talking societies. At this meeting we burst away constantly into a general, very desultory conversation; and when I took hold of the presented case, and said everything about it that was in my heart, whether severely critical or blandly complimentary, I saw the members were unprepared for such plain speaking. Now the doctor (that is, one of us) does not want another society for that purpose. He can get enough of *social conversation* at the other society; and many other things of great importance he learns there; but he does not get sterling, true criticism, a perfectly transparent truthful criticism on every paper presented, such as he *hoped* to get at the Observation Society. In our society we must get over *desultory conversation*; read strict papers, and stick closely to them, and let mere opinions and guesses go elsewhere. Each member must not only submit to the severest criticism, but he must be *thankful for getting it*. Otherwise I would not give one farthing for our society, and, for one,

I frankly confess that I shall leave it, and attend the '*conversazioni*' at Tremont Street."

Dr. Bowditch's contributions to medical literature now became more important. It is sometimes said that a man does his best work before forty years of age, but that could hardly be said of medical men of that time, certainly not of Dr. Bowditch. They did not rush into print prematurely, but waited till experience gave them the right to speak with authority. He published "The Young Stethoscopist" in 1848, when he was just forty, and his first communication on "Paracentesis Thoracis" in 1851. Probably his communications on this subject, appearing at intervals during the remainder of his active professional life, are more widely known, and have done more to extend his reputation, than anything else he has written. While Dr. Bowditch never thought of claiming the discovery of the method of removing fluid from the chest by suction, he appreciated at once the value of the method, and made such practical use of it as finally, after constant iteration and reiteration in societies and medical journals, to compel the profession not only of this country but also of the whole civilized world to the same appreciation of it.

In 1852 and afterwards, Dr. Bowditch gave courses of instruction in auscultation and percussion in the Boylston Medical School. This school, as some of my hearers will remember, was a private school, which, however, gave a complete course of medical education, had its own dissecting-room, infirmary, etc., but did not confer degrees. Dr. Wm. H. Thayer, who was one of the founders and a teacher in this school till he left the city, says that it was established for the purpose of getting more thorough hard work out of medical students than was the fashion of the time, and to encourage the graded system of study. If the Faculty had held together, the right to confer degrees would undoubtedly have been granted them by the Legislature. They did not hold together, and the school was discontinued in 1855. A school whose Faculty consisted of such men as Charles E. Buckingham, Edward H. Clarke, John Bacon, Jr., George H. Gay, Henry W. Williams, Henry G. Clark, and John C. Dalton, Jr., would surely have been a formidable rival of the Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Bowditch was appointed to the Jackson Professorship of Clinical Medicine in 1859, succeeding Dr. George C. Shattuck, who was transferred to the Hersey Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, vacant by the resignation of Dr. John Ware. He continued in this chair eight years. As a teacher he had as little capability for oratorical display as his master, Louis, but his careful exami-

nation of patients and analysis of symptoms rendered his exercises very attractive and highly valued by students. He continued and took great interest in the clinical conference, which had been introduced by Dr. Shattuck, and which became and has remained to this day a highly esteemed feature of clinical instruction at the school.

More than by his teaching, however, by his utterly unselfish zeal in his search after truth and the welfare of his patients, has Dr. Bowditch influenced those who came near him, and to-day hundreds are working on a higher level in consequence of their having known him.

In 1852, Dr. Bowditch wounded his hand in an obstetric operation. Septicæmia and a long illness followed. This caused him to give up midwifery, and as years went on, although he did not call himself a specialist, and although he continued to see all kinds of medical cases, especially in consultation, his practice became more and more limited to thoracic diseases, on which he had now become an authority.

In 1862 he published his exhaustive investigations on soil-moisture as a cause of consumption in Massachusetts, which, with the subsequent work of Buchanan, in England, in the same field, have proved beyond question that soil-moisture may be an important factor in the production of the disease.

During the Civil War he did everything in his power for the cause of the government and good of the soldier. Especially did he labor hard for the adoption of a proper ambulance system in our army, which was finally accomplished, largely through his efforts. He gave his first-born to the army, and bore his death in battle with heroic resignation.

My personal acquaintance with Dr. Bowditch began in 1863, when I joined the Harvard Medical School. I saw him especially at the clinical conferences which he held, assisted by Drs. Ellis, Minot, and others. Here was first exhibited to me one of the many fine qualities of Dr. Bowditch's character,—magnanimity to an opponent. A medical student, able but precocious and impudent, who was a candidate for the position of house-pupil, had taken upon himself to criticise Dr. Bowditch in a very contemptuous manner in the conference, and to continue his animadversions after leaving the conference, in a way which came directly to Dr. Bowditch's ears. It was thought by all that he would not get a vote from the staff for the position. He got one, and that was from Dr. Bowditch! who said that he considered him the most capable of the applicants.

The next year, feeling that I would like an opportunity to learn something more of auscultation than I was getting in the wards of the

hospital, and having heard that Dr. Bowditch had at times taken students as clinical clerks in his office, I went one afternoon to his house on Boylston Street, where he had been established since 1859, and found the waiting-room full of patients and the doctor rather "in a mess." As soon as I made known my errand he put a record-book in my hand, and set me at work getting histories of cases. There are others here to-night who have held this position in Dr. Bowditch's office, and who can testify how instructive it was. We took the histories of all the men and many of the women, and when it came to the physical examination in the inner office, from how few were we excluded! He would call us in and ask us to examine, as if for consultation, except in cases of some very few ladies. Dr. Bowditch thoroughly recognized a mutual obligation in this arrangement, and never begrudged the time to discuss and explain anything which was of interest. Not the least of the advantages gained by a student from being present in the office of a successful practitioner was the knowledge of how to deal with and talk to patients. In the latter part of March, 1867, I began private practice in Dr. Bowditch's office, to take charge of patients requiring laryngoscopic examination and treatment, and of other patients during his absence. During the twelve years I was thus associated with him there was never, to my recollection, an unpleasant word passed between us!

From this time on Dr. Bowditch devoted himself to private practice and State medicine, excepting a short service as visiting physician at the City Hospital. He was largely instrumental in the establishment of the State Board of Health in Massachusetts (the first one in the country), and was its chairman for ten years. During this time many reforms were carried through against determined opposition, the greatest of these being the abolition of private slaughter-houses in our neighborhood, and the establishment of the abattoir at Brighton. He was also for a short time a member of the National Board of Health, established after the yellow-fever epidemic of 1878. He contributed valuable papers in this domain, notably the address on "Hygiene and Preventive Medicine," at Philadelphia, in 1876, and on "The Sanitary Organization of Nations," in 1880.

For many years he was a regular attendant at the meetings of the American Medical Association, and one of the most respected and beloved of its members. He was president of the society in 1877, the meeting being held in Chicago.

His spirit of reform led him in these later years to warmly espouse the cause of the admission of women to the Massachusetts Medical

Society, which was accomplished in 1884, and to advocate a more liberal attitude towards educated medical men who may profess doctrines to which we cannot subscribe. (The past, present, and future treatment of homœopathy, eclecticism, and kindred delusions which may hereafter arise in the medical profession, as viewed from the standpoint of the history of medicine and of personal experience. A paper read before the Rhode Island Medical Society in 1887.)

Dr. Bowditch, besides holding the principal positions which have already been mentioned, was consulting physician to the Massachusetts General, City, Carney, and New England Hospitals, a member of the principal medical societies in Boston, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the Paris Obstetrical Society, of the Paris Society of Public Hygiene; and honorary member of the Royal Italian Society of Hygiene, of the New York Academy of Medicine, of the Philadelphia College of Physicians, and of the New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut State Medical Societies.

In 1879 Dr. Bowditch met with an accident to his knee, which ever after gave to him an appearance of general infirmity which did not belong to him. With this exception, he maintained his vigor to a remarkable degree until the last year of his life. Increasing deafness rendered his attendance at society meetings less frequent, but he maintained an intense interest in all that was going on in the profession. Within a very short time of his death, the last time but one when he was able to see me, he slapped me on the shoulder and said, "Come, doctor, tell me, aren't they going to make something out of this lymph business?" referring, of course, to the labors of Koch with tuberculin.

Dr. Bowditch revisited Europe three times, namely, in 1859, 1867, and 1870. These trips gave him an opportunity of renewing old acquaintances and making new ones among the profession abroad. He wrote home very full, interesting letters, which he afterwards claimed as his diary. Such vacations were enjoyed by Dr. Bowditch more than by most professional men, for he was a man of much general culture, who read and re-read his classics, was exceedingly fond and appreciative of art and of the best music, though, as I have before mentioned, this part of his education was purposely neglected by his father.

After the death of his wife, which occurred in December, 1890, his own life began to flicker; and, although he struggled heroically against the loss for the first six months, it was then evident that the beginning of the end had come to him also. After six months' tedious illness he died January 14, 1892, in his eighty-fourth year.

Dr. Bowditch's life was a very full one, distinguished, whether we consider him as a physician, teacher, citizen, or simply as a man, by courage, simplicity, zeal, industry, and an intense interest in progress. There never was a man who more completely disregarded consequences when he felt that duty dictated action; whether this was a criticism of current medical practice, or of the selfish motives of obstructors of sanitary legislation, the defence of a runaway slave, or the branding of a deserter from the army.

His simplicity of character was such that on acquaintance his bitterest enemies became his best friends. How true was this with regard to our Southern brethren! When the war was over, it was *ended* as far as he was concerned; and he was one of the first to welcome the grandsons of John C. Calhoun to his own hospitable fireside. Members of our profession in the South, who had regarded him as an arch-enemy, soon became his dearest friends.

As a natural result of his transparent simplicity, there was a playfulness in him which, as in his father, continued to the last.

It is unnecessary to dwell upon the earnestness of Dr. Bowditch's character before such an assembly as this. There was a reality in it which none of us will ever forget, and which never ceased till his object was accomplished, whether it was compelling the world to adopt paracentesis for the relief of pleural effusion, or the emancipation of the slaves, securing a lock of Highland Mary's hair, or disproving the authenticity of the so-called portrait of Ambrose Paré.

That his industry was remarkable is testified by the large number of pamphlets and almost innumerable scrap-books and manuscript notes upon all subjects left by him. This trait may have been inherited, and certainly was taught by his father, who once seeing some idlers lounging about in Salem said, "I wish I could have the time of those men."

Up to his very last years Dr. Bowditch's interest in progress of every kind was most enthusiastic. Nothing could dampen his zeal in the search of new truths. This led him to sympathy and association with the youngest of our profession. He would welcome promises of good to come from this and that new method of practice, as if he had not been already disappointed a thousand times. When they were a little past sixty years of age a classmate came in one morning and said mournfully, "We are all dying." "Hang it," retorted the doctor, "*we* are still *alive*: go to work;" and he himself continued always to act up to the well-known proverb, "*Work* as if you were going to live forever, *live* as if you were going to die to-morrow."

Of Dr. Bowditch's religious belief a word is certainly proper, but others may know more of this than I. He indignantly repelled for himself and the medical profession the charge of atheism so often made against it. When the news of his mother's death reached him in Milan, in 1834, his whole nature at first seemed to revolt against the loss, but on entering the beautiful cathedral this feeling was succeeded by a calm belief in God and his goodness, and his direction of all things for the best, which continued with him through life. On his return to Boston he diligently followed the preaching of Dr. Channing, taking copious notes, which are still extant with something like this endorsement made on them years after: "I do not destroy these notes, as they are evidence of what interested me at the time, but these things (meaning theological problems) have long ago ceased to interest me." He was always a reader and lover of the Psalms and other books of the Bible, but he "did not believe in creeds made by men."

Many here to-night will express their admiration of Dr. Bowditch's character more fittingly than I, but none feel it more deeply. "He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."