

HISTORY
OF THE
MEDICAL PROFESSION
OF THE
CITY OF BROOKLYN,

1822—1884.

BY *Frank B. Green, M.D.*

IN pages 414 to 418, we recorded the History of the Medical Profession in Kings County, from its earliest known beginnings to the formation, in 1822, of the *Kings County Medical Society*. We now proceed to trace the history of this Society, and the profession generally, down to the present time.*

Kings County Medical Society.—In 1837 the society ordered three hundred copies of their by-laws printed. It may be stated, in passing, that evidence exists indicating that in 1822, and again in 1829, the society had its constitution printed. At this last date there were thirty-six active members belonging to the society. In 1836 the Code of Ethics of the State Society was adopted, and in 1848 the code of Ethics of the American Medical Association. From its formation, in 1822, till the repeal of that power by the Legislature in 1881, the Kings County Society conferred sixteen licenses to practice medicine.

Among the many men who have belonged, and now belong, to the profession, there are but very few who have violated their faith as physicians and their honor as men. The vast majority have followed their calling in the full spirit of its nobility; have met and combated disease and death without fear and without presumption; and many, far more than can be estimated, have not only given their time and strength in work, in medical charities, but have contributed as well the hard-earned fees obtained from wealthier patients for the relief of pain and suffering in the homes of poverty and woe. Faithfully working in their chosen fields of labor till the hour came for their departure,

they have left but small record of their toll behind them as individuals. In a profession where disease and death are the enemies that must be met, many have contracted the contagion which they were seeking to overcome, and have died in harness. In a business that is not over lucrative, most of its followers have reached their end poor, and left their families without competence. While their individual records are not voluminous, their work in the abstract has small need of a historiographer. The limits of this work render it impossible to mention more than the few of those who, by their abilities either in discovery or by their contributions to medical literature, have become leaders in the profession; but leaders in any cause are useless, unless sustained by the rank and file; while *leaders* direct, *armies* fight battles. Among the few names that may be mentioned is that of

DR. MATHEW WENDELL, first Vice-President and sixth President of the Society. He came to Brooklyn, from his birthplace, Albany; having been a student with Dr. Hyde, of Bethlehem, N. Y. He became a licentiate in 1804, and, entering into partnership with Dr. Charles Ball, in, or about 1806, he opened an office at the corner of Sands and Fulton streets. The Doctor was a practitioner in the days when Calomel, Jalap and blood-letting prevailed; and, when it is said that he was a conscientious man, a statement that he believed in the efficacy of that treatment is unnecessary. Dignified, courteous, and with great natural ability, to which he had added by study, he obtained and retained a large practice. For many years he was Health Officer of the city, and, in hours of pestilence, as well as quiet, displayed keen executive ability. The end of his life was somewhat sad. He exceeded the allotted age of man by some eleven years. Under the long-continued strain, his mind had weakened, and he became a devotee to the form of gambling known as "policy." His end came from cancer of the stomach, in July, 1860.

DR. ADRIAN VANDERVEER, born in Flatbush, December 31, 1796, was the great-grandson of Cornelis Vanderveer, who settled in the village in 1683. At an early age he was sent to Erasmus Hall Academy, where he was prepared for college; and, when 16, entered Columbia College, graduating with a very creditable record in 1816. He studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, being also an

* MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS.—*Officers and committees for 1883:* G. G. Hopkins, M. D., 283 Lafayette avenue, *President*; F. L. Colton, M. D., 136 Montague street, *Vice-President*; R. M. Wyckoff, M. D., 52 Clinton avenue, *Secretary*; E. H. Squibb, M. D., 33 Doughty street, *Assistant Secretary*; J. R. Vanderveer, M. D., 301 Carlton avenue, *Treasurer*; T. R. French, M. D., 469 Clinton avenue, *Librarian*. *Censors:* A. Hutchins, M. D.; C. Jewett, M. D., J. S. Wight, M. D.; G. R. Fowler, M. D.; B. F. Westbrook, M. D. *Delegates to the Medical Society of the State of New York (1882 to 1885):* Drs. J. C. Shaw, C. Jewett, T. R. French, E. N. Chapman, G. G. Hopkins, J. A. McCorkle, S. Sherwell, J. H. Hunt, J. Byrne, B. F. Westbrook, G. W. Baker, L. S. Pilcher.

office student of the late eminent surgeon, Dr. Wright Post. In 1819, at the age of twenty-three, he graduated as M. D., and entered upon a practice which ere long extended over the whole of Kings county. At the organization of the Medical Society, he was elected secretary of that body, and became its seventh president, holding that office during the years 1837-38. It is not unworthy of note that he and Dr. T. W. Henry were the only members of the society, at its organization, who were graduates from a medical college, the other members being licentiates. In the epidemic of Asiatic cholera in 1832, Dr. Vanderveer was appointed Health Officer of Flatbush. In 1838, he abandoned general practice and confined himself to a special branch of the profession, contemporaneously with Dr. Sabine, of New York. This, of course, aroused some opposition from his medical brethren; but, persevering in his ideas, he eventually accomplished great success, patients visiting him from all over the country and from abroad. He also received a large number of letters from distinguished English and Continental surgeons and physicians, seeking advice in his speciality, and informing him of the marked success of his method in the cases they had sent to him for treatment. His success was, indeed, remarkable; and it is to be regretted that no record of his cases was kept, and that he never published anything on the subject. With an office at Flatbush and another in Brooklyn, it was almost impossible for him to attend to all who applied to him. Long before office hours, a line of carriages was in waiting in front of his office; and from his Brooklyn office he was seldom able to return until long after midnight. Had he not been possessed of an iron constitution, as well as untiring energy and an indomitable will, he could not have accomplished his work. But twelve years of this labor ended in an attack of paralysis in 1850; and, though he rallied from it, and associated with him his nephew and student, Dr. John R. Vanderveer, yet he was ultimately compelled to relinquish practice entirely. He died July 5, 1857, in his sixty-first year. In 1832, he was medical adviser to the village Board of Health; in 1825, with Rev. Dr. Strong, he organized the Reformed Church Sabbath School; was its superintendent for nearly thirty years, and an elder for many years. He was a thorough Bible student, well versed in theological lore; and especially interested in horticulture, his garden being filled with rare and beautiful plants from all climes. He was a man of remarkable decision, clear intellect and sound judgment.*

Contemporary with Dr. Vanderveer, for many years, was

DR. JOHN BARREA ZABRISKIE, son of Rev. John L. Zabriskie and Sarah Barrea de la Montagnie, born at Greenbush, N. Y., April 20, 1805; removed with his parents, at the age of six, to Millstone, N. J. He was prepared for college by a private tutor; and, when sixteen, entered, as junior, Union College, where his father had been a member of the first class which graduated in 1797. At college he became intimately acquainted with Hon. John A. Lott; and, at the close of his college course, began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Wm. McKeesick, attending two courses of lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He became a licentiate of the New Jersey Medical Society in 1827, but not being satisfied with this license, he took a final course of lectures and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, April 6th, 1827. He began practice in New York city; but, in 1830, when Dr. Isaac I. Rapelyea moved to Brooklyn, Zabriskie took his place in New Lots, where his peculiar talents, affable manners and remarkable professional skill soon brought him into an extensive practice in the county, although the field was already occupied by eminent physicians.

In 1829, he became a member of the Kings County Medical Society. He held at different times the office of secretary, censor (1832), delegate to the State Medical Society (1830), and president of the County Society in 1839. Deeply engaged as he was in professional duties, he found time to devote to the public weal. In 1847, he was superintendent of the Flatbush School District, which at that time, and till 1852, included the present New Lots; and it was one of his acts that created School District No. 3, embracing the territory of Cypress Hills and East New York. He was a man of peculiarly diversified talent, and his hours of relaxation were devoted to the scientific pursuits of music, botany, horticulture, etc. He was interested in photography, and took pictures by the camera long before it came into general use; he experimented with electricity and galvanism, and left many plaster casts of groups and medallions of his own modelling. He was a frequent contributor to the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* (vol. xii., 1846); early discovered the virtues of *Sanicula Marilandica* in the treatment of chorea (St. Vitus' Dance); was appointed by the Kings County Medical Society to prepare a paper on the "Medical Topography of Kings County" (see *Trans. N. Y. State Med. Soc.*, 1832); was physician in charge of the Kings County Alms-house; member of the Flatbush Board of Health, and a trustee of the Erasmus Hall Academy; an elder in the Reformed Church, and at one time surgeon of the 241st Regiment, N. Y. State Militia. No man in the town was wider known, more generally respected and deeply lamented. He died in his forty-third year (1850), from contagious disease, which he had contracted in his professional labors.*

We have already spoken of Dr. FRANCIS H. DUBOIS, of New Utrecht. In 1832, his son, James E. Dubois, graduated from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons and joined the father in practice. After his father's death in 1834, James' practice was too large for the attention of one physician, but he continued alone till 1848, when he took Dr. BERIER in partnership. This arrangement lasted but two years, when Dr. Berier's health broke down. In 1850, Dr. JOHN LUDLOW CRANE took the place left vacant, and this last partnership was continued till September, 1856, when it was dissolved by the death of both Dr. Dubois and Dr. Crane, within a few hours of each other, from yellow fever contracted at the bedside of patients in the epidemic of that year. Then followed Dr. CARPENTER, who had removed from Fort Hamilton to New Utrecht. Dr. HUBBARD was the first resident physician of Gravesend, from about 1855 to 1865, when he removed to Red Bank, N. J. Dr. R. L. VAN KLEEK settled at Gravesend in 1863, a recent graduate of the L. I. College Hospital, and has secured the entire confidence of the community. In 1880, Dr. JAMES F. MORGAN came from Jersey City and settled at Sheepshead Bay, and is doing well there. In 1877 or '78 a Dr. GALLUP settled in Gravesend for about two years.

In the name of Dr. GEORGE GILFILLAN, the older residents of Brooklyn will recognize one who was known to all by reputation, and endeared to many by friendship.

* In these sketches we have been indebted to Rev. R. G. STRONG, of Flatbush; and to Dr. P. T. SCIENCE'S "Zabriskie Homestead."

GEORGE GILFILLAN, born in Ireland in 1797, early chose medicine as his field of labor, and began preparation for that study by acquiring a thorough classical education. Ere he could enter the Medical School at Glasgow, however, his father met with such severe business reverses as changed all the family plans. George, with an elder brother, came to America to begin the struggle for sustenance. Still following his predilection for the medical profession, George became a clerk in a drug store, situated on the corner of Sands and Jay streets, determining to remain there until he had accumulated sufficient means to permit study and graduation from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. During the cholera epidemic of 1832 the physicians of Brooklyn were too few in number to hopefully combat the disease. Dr. George Gilfillan left the drug store, and though not yet a graduate, joined in the attempt to stay the plague. For his voluntary risk of life in this labor for others he received the public thanks of Drs. Wendell and Ball. His conduct brought him into prominence, and when he graduated two years later he at once entered upon a large practice. At first he located on the corner of Sands and Jay streets, later moving to the corner of Main and York streets, where he continued in practice almost till the close of his life. Dr. Gilfillan was a member of the Kings County Medical Society, and a life member of the Long Island Historical Society. He never married. He died in 1879 at the ripe age of 82 years.

It may not be amiss to pause for a moment and view the field and conditions of medical practice in the Brooklyn of 1841. Remsen street was not open beyond Henry, and but two houses stood near its termination. From the junction of Henry and Remsen streets an unbroken view over cultivated fields could be had as far as Washington street. The settled sections of the city were about Fulton and Catherine ferries. Within this small area the First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Cox's, on Orange street; Second Presbyterian, Dr. Spencer's, on Clinton street; the First Baptist Church, in Nassau street; the First Reformed Church, a little west of the present location; the East Baptist, Dr. E. E. L. Taylor's, then at the corner of Barbarin (Lawrence) and Tillary, and a German church in Henry street, furnished spiritual consolation to the inhabitants; while their physical ills were attended to by Drs. Wendell, George Gilfillan, Rowland Willsher, Van Sinderen, Rapelye, Garrison, Fanning, Hyde, F. W. Ostrander, W. G. Hunt, King, Marvine, Mason, Cooke, McClellan and Benjamin. Not a single public building existed, and the total population reached but five and twenty thousand.

CHARLES S. GODDRICH was born in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1802; graduated from the Pittsfield Medical College in 1827, and began practice in Troy, N. Y. Some years later he removed to Brooklyn. In 1847-'48-'49, and again in 1858-'59, he was connected with the Health Department, either as Health Officer or President. In 1852 he was appointed United States Consul at Lyons, France, by President Fillmore. On his return to America he again resumed active practice in Brooklyn, and remained engaged in his professional work till the outbreak of the war. He then went to the front as surgeon of 102d Regiment, New York Volunteers, and remained till the close of hostilities. After the war Dr. Goodrich never

resumed practice, but lived quietly in Brooklyn till his death in 1888. He was a member and at one time vice-president of the New York State Medical Society, but never joined the County Society.

CHARLES E. ISAACS, born in 1811, graduated from the University of Maryland in 1832. Almost his first labor in professional life was the medical oversight of the Cherokee tribe of Indians in their transfer across the Mississippi, a duty to which he was assigned by President Jackson. In 1841 he formed one of fifty candidates who sought admission into the United States Army Medical Staff. Of this number but six passed the examination, and Dr. Isaacs stood first among the six. He resigned from the service in 1845, and joined with Dr. Wm. H. Van Buren in establishing a private medical school in New York city. In 1847, he began private practice in Youngstown, N. Y., with Dr. T. G. Catlin. Six months later he was appointed Deputy Health Officer of Staten Island, but resigned the position within a month and returned to Dr. Catlin. In 1848 he was chosen Demonstrator of Anatomy to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, a position which he filled to his own honor and the great benefit of the school. In 1857 Dr. Isaacs removed to Brooklyn and there remained till his death in 1860. Shortly thereafter he delivered, by request, a course of lectures on surgical anatomy, at the Brooklyn City Hospital, which was received with great favor. He contributed many articles to medical and a few to general literature; one on the "*Structure and Function of the Kidneys*" being translated and republished in France and Germany. He was an active member of the Kings County Medical Society; one of the founders and successively president and vice-president of the N. Y. Pathological Society; an active member of the N. Y. Academy of Medicine, and Consulting Surgeon to the Kings County Hospital. By the profession he was considered "the first living anatomist in the world." Malaria, the seeds of which were sown in his system during his army service, constantly crippled the energy and dimmed the brightness of what would otherwise have been a splendid professional life; but it did not diminish the sweetness of his most lovable disposition, nor the charms of a cultivated and refined mind.

DE WITT CLINTON ENOS was born in Madison county, N. Y., in 1820. Obtaining his preliminary education at the De Ruyter Institute, he began the study of medicine with Dr. James Whitford, of De Ruyter, and graduated from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1845. For a time he practiced in New York City, but removed to Brooklyn in 1849. Dr. Enos was one of the Visiting Surgeons to the Brooklyn City Hospital and held the chair of Anatomy at the Long Island College Hospital. He was a member of the Kings County Medical Society, and was president of that body in 1863. He was also a member of the New York Academy of Medicine and of the N. Y. Pathological Society. He wrote a number of monographs, chiefly on surgical topics. His death occurred December 14, 1868, from obstruction of the coronary arteries.

RICHARD CRESSON STILES was born in Philadelphia, in 1830; took the degree of A. B. at Yale, in 1851, and three years later that of M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. In Europe he continued his studies for three years longer. On his return to this country he was elected to the chair of Physiology in the University of Vermont, and shortly after to the same chair in the Berkshire Medical College at Pittsfield, Mass. In the term of 1861, '62, he was lecturer on Physiology

at the N. Y. College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1862 he entered the army as a surgical volunteer, and was assigned to the charge of the military general hospital at Pittsburg, Penn. The next year he joined Hancock's corps in the Army of the Potomac as Surgeon-in-Chief of Caldwell's Division. In 1864 he came to Brooklyn and was appointed Resident Physician to the Kings County Hospital, which position he held till 1866, when he was appointed at first Registrar of Vital Statistics, and, later, Sanitary Superintendent for the Brooklyn District of the Metropolitan Health Department. He remained in the Health Office till the Metropolitan Board was abolished by the Legislature of 1870. While there he called public attention particularly to the defective ventilation of Public buildings, such as schools, theaters, etc., and especially to the condition of tenement house hygiene, uniting with Rev. Dr. Bellows, Dr. Elisha Harris, and Dr. Stephen Smith, of New York, in the agitation of this subject. Entering with his usual ability into the investigation of the Texas cattle disease, his discovery of the parasite which caused that malady gave him a widespread scientific reputation; and Professor Hallier, of Jena, named the fungus *Coniothecium Stilesianum*, in honor of the discoverer. Like many others, Dr. Stiles overworked himself, and shortly after leaving the Health Department his constitution yielded to the undue strain which had been put upon it. Efforts to relieve his ills proved fruitless, and he died at Chester, in his native State, in 1873, at the untimely age of forty-three years.

N. GERHARD HUTCHISON, M. D., was born in Marshall, Saline county, Mo., June 3d, 1853. He was the son of Dr. Joseph C. Hutchison and Mrs. Susan B. Hutchison of Brooklyn, N. Y. His grandfather, on his father's side, was Dr. Nathaniel Hutchison, of Booneville, Mo., and on his mother's side, the Rev. Amzi Benedict, whose wife was the daughter of Gen. Solomon Cowles, of Farmington, Conn. His preparatory studies were pursued in the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and at Stuttgart, in Germany, where he was fitted for, and entered into, the Real Schule. After his return, in 1871, he was a private pupil of Prof. Plympton, of the Polytechnic Institute, and in 1872 he began the study of medicine in his father's office.

In the spring of 1873, he attended the course of lectures given in the Long Island College, and in the autumn of that year entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, where he graduated in 1875, and received his diploma of Doctor of Medicine. After graduation he was for a short period one of the Assistant Physicians in Kings County Hospital, at Flatbush, L. I. He, also, in 1874, made two voyages, as an assistant surgeon, on board of one of the steamers of the White Star Line, from New York to Liverpool.

In the summer of 1875, he opened an office in Brooklyn, and began the practice of medicine. He was soon appointed Attending Surgeon to the Brooklyn Orthopedic Infirmary, Assistant Surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital, and also Assistant Surgeon to the Twenty-third Regiment.

His success as a practitioner was speedily assured. He evinced great enthusiasm for the profession of his choice; gave himself to the study of his cases; published a very creditable essay upon one of them, and was distinguishing himself by energy and fidelity.

His last patient was a child suffering from diphtheria, upon whom he performed the operation of tracheotomy. He bestowed upon the case constant attention, and was unremitting in his watchfulness night and day. Contracting the disease, however, himself, he experienced it in its most aggravated form; and after four days of intense

suffering, he died on the 10th day of April, 1877. Just before the last, he called for tracheotomy, in the last words he ever spoke, and it was performed for him by Dr. Rushmore, in the hope of affording him temporary relief.

The funeral services, held at his father's residence, on the 12th of April, were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Wm. Ives Budington, D. D.; and the interment took place in Greenwood on the same day.

His grave is on Southwood avenue, at the intersection of Oakwood and Dell avenues. The headstone bears the inscription, "Faithful unto death."

CHARLES H. GIBERSON was born at Bath, New Brunswick, in 1833. He studied at the country school at his home; later at the Florence school at Woodstock, the Seminary at Fredericton, and the training school at St. Johns. At the age of sixteen years he was engaged in teaching, and continued that occupation at intervals during his studies. In 1857, he began the study of dentistry, and received a diploma from a Boston dental college.

Having long been interested in medical science, he began the study of that subject with Dr. Hiram Dow, of Fredericton, and graduated from the University of Vermont in the spring of 1861. On coming to New York to continue his studies, he was appointed one of the staff of Charity Hospital, and served in that institution till his appointment as Assistant Surgeon in the United States Navy in October, 1861. Dr. Giberson remained in the navy seven years, serving through the civil war, during three years of which he was with Farragut's squadron on the Mississippi.

In November, 1868, he resigned his position and began the practice of his profession in Brooklyn. For a time, Dr. Giberson served in the out-door department of the Long Island College Hospital, and subsequently, for several years, on the surgical staff of St. Mary's Hospital for Women. In 1876, he was appointed Attending Surgeon to the Brooklyn City Hospital, and held that position till his death. He was one of the founders, the first president, and many years Secretary of the Brooklyn Pathological Society, and the first meeting of that body was held in his office.

In 1872, he was orator of the Kings County Medical Society at its semi-centennial anniversary. For four years he was delegate from the Kings County Medical Society to the New York State Medical Society, and in 1878 was elected a permanent member of the latter. He contributed many articles to medical literature, on both surgical and medical topics.

On the evening of April 14, 1879, he was stricken with peritonitis, and died from that disease five days later.

It is not alone, however, by the labors of its individual members that the Kings County Society has progressed in the nobler duties of an advancing profession. As a body, it has accomplished much for the furtherance of scientific aims and charitable deeds.

The Society's Medical Library and Publications.—In September 1867, a committee, composed of Drs. C. L. Mitchell, J. C. Hutchison, J. T. Conkling, S. Fleet Speir and W. W. Reese, reported a resolution favoring the creation of a public reference library of medical literature, by the purchase of standard medical works, on condition that the Long Island Historical Society add a similar amount to the fund and assume the charge of the nucleus thus formed—physicians desirous of availing themselves of its benefits

to become members of the society. Through the efforts mainly of Drs. Enos, Mitchell and Reese, this plan was adopted. \$1,000 was collected and, with a similar amount from the Historical Society, expended in the purchase of medical works. In 1869, Mrs. D. C. Enos, the widow of Dr. De Witt C. Enos, who had died suddenly at the close of 1868, gave her late husband's library, consisting of 815 bound and 74 unbound volumes, together with a number of pamphlets, to the Medical Department of the library, which by 1870, had increased to 1570 volumes. Apart from this collection, the Society had for years held some books as the nucleus of a free medical library; but the effort to increase the number was not pushed with vigor, till four or five years ago. At that time the work was begun in earnest; subscription lists were circulated among the members for their aid; the appeal was generously answered, and a goodly number of books and journals were bought. In 1878, Dr. Samuel Hart gave his library to the Society, and added materially to the collection. The exchange list of the *Proceedings* is also of excellent aid; the most valuable medical journals are constantly on file and open for reference to members of the society, and are in constantly increasing use by a large number of readers.

Another of the Society's methods of advancing medical thought is the monthly publication of the papers read and discussed in that body. This work was agitated by some of the most active members as early as 1875, and took form by the issue of the first number of the *Proceedings* in March, 1879. From the start, its circulation has been 1,000 copies, and its exchange list now numbers 122 journals. On March 3d, 1870, a party of medical men met at the office of one of their number, to consider the advisability of organizing a Pathological Society. With the idea of securing the co-operation of the Kings County Medical Society, the then President of that organization, Dr. R. C. Stiles, was requested to announce the intention at the next regular meeting and to invite all interested to join in a meeting to be held in the rooms of the Board of Health, then in the County Court-house on March 22, 1870. Eleven physicians met on the 22d, and resolved to organize as the *Pathological Section of the Medical Society*. The meetings of the Society were held in various places; at the office of Dr. Charles Giberson, one of its founders, at Dr. R. C. Stiles' office, and later at the Eye and Ear Hospital. Its transactions were at first published in the *N. Y. Medical Journal*; for a time after its origin they were published in the *Proceedings*; then for a time they had no regular publication; but at present are again published in the *Proceedings*. The section now has a membership of eighty and a fine pathological museum which is stored in the Long Island College Hospital. The *Annals of Anatomy and Surgery* is a monthly journal, devoted to Surgery and Surgical Anatomy, edited and published by Drs. L. S. Pilcher

and G. R. Fowler. It was established under the title of *The Annals of the Anatomical and Surgical Society*, in January, 1880, for the purpose of recording the scientific work of the Anatomical and Surgical Society of Brooklyn, an association then active but now nearly defunct; but in 1881 it was transferred to its present editors.

While thus steadily advancing the scientific study of medicine, the Society had found time for other good deeds. On the 24th of April, 1861, it resolved to render gratuitous professional services to the families of volunteers in the service during their absence, and this duty was faithfully observed during the four years that followed, and; to the widows and orphans of volunteers, for a still longer period. After the second battle of Bull Run, a number of the most eminent members of the profession volunteered to go to the front and render the professional services so much needed at that time. When Chicago was swept by the fire of 1871, the Kings County Medical Society raised \$1,338 for the relief of the medical men of that afflicted city, by the voluntary subscriptions of its members; again, in 1878, when many of our southern cities were stricken by the yellow fever epidemic, the society raised \$547 for the relief of the families of medical men who were among its victims. At its foundation, the society had nine members; at the last annual meeting, three hundred and sixty active members, and now nearly four hundred.

The Epidemics which have visited Kings County.—Brief mention has already been made of the early epidemics that brought death to some of the inhabitants and terror to all residents in the County; it remains to dwell more fully on the topic. As early as 1680, small-pox was introduced into the province of New York and swept off many colonists. Time and time again it re-appeared, till, in 1739, the disease was so prevalent that the Provincial Assembly adjourned, first to Greenwich village, and later *sine die*, to avoid spreading the contagion. In 1702 a new disease, described as similar to the plague and believed to have been yellow fever, was brought to New York in a vessel from St. Thomas, and this malady gained such a firm hold, that official action by Governor Geo. Clinton, placing vessels from southern ports in quarantine became necessary in 1743. In 1755 and 1769 a disease called Angina, was prevalent on Long Island. It was not until 1804, however, that a systematic record was kept of epidemic diseases. In that year, yellow fever was introduced into Kings county, the first case occurring on August 22d. Seventeen were stricken with the disease, and of these six died. Again yellow fever gained a hold in the county in 1809. The population of Brooklyn, when its force was spent at that time, was 4,500. The disease lasted during the greater part of three months; twenty-eight died from the fever and none of these exceeded thirty years of age.

As early as 1822, the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn village passed an ordinance imposing a fine of \$25 upon any one who should bring a sick person into the city limits, without a written permit from the President of the Board; or who failed to report to him within six hours of its outbreak any sickness of a transient guest, within Brooklyn, from August 1st to November 1st. In spite of this, the summer of 1823 brought another outbreak of yellow fever; and, in the population of some 8,000, nineteen were taken sick, and ten died of the disease. The year following (1824), the Legislature passed an act establishing a Health Department, and under it, as has already been mentioned, J. G. T. Hunt was appointed Health Officer, at an annual salary of \$200. No epidemic attacked the city from 1823 till 1832. In the latter year, Asiatic cholera made its appearance in the early part of July, and lasted for fourteen weeks, reaching its climax during the third week. The number of deaths from the disease was 274 in a population of 17,000. Cholera occurred again during the summer of 1849, beginning early in June. It lasted seventeen weeks, reaching its climax during the tenth week, and swept off 650, out of a population of 90,000. Once again in 1854, this dread epidemic made its periodical appearance in Brooklyn, the first case occurring on May 29th, in the 5th Ward, at 255 John street. It lasted three and twenty weeks, reached its height on the ninth week, and swept away 678 people out of a population of 150,000. During this epidemic a cholera hospital was opened on Lafayette Avenue, under the charge of Dr. J. C. Hutchison; 170 patients were admitted to it, and of these 97 died. In all these epidemics of cholera, the highest death rate was in adults, between thirty and forty years of age. In 1856, yellow fever again appeared in Kings county, brought probably by infected material thrown overboard from the fever-stricken ships lying at anchor in quarantine, from within a few yards of Long Island, across to the Staten Island shore. Its ravages were confined almost entirely to the 8th Ward and the Bay Ridge Shore to Fort Hamilton; seventy-four people were attacked within the limits of Brooklyn, and of these thirty-nine died. It was in combatting this epidemic, that Drs. Dubois and Crane of New Utrecht lost their lives.

From 1824 to 1866, the Department of Health existed as created by the legislative act of the former year. In 1866, the Metropolitan Health Department was created and Brooklyn was made a district; but this system was too cumbersome to be effective, and it was abolished by the Legislature of 1870. Since that time, the city of Brooklyn has been under the care of its own Health Department in all sanitary matters.

Among the medical men connected with the Health Department since the time of Dr. Hunt, have been Drs. Chas. S. Goodrich, Matthew Wendell, T. L. Mason, J. T. Conkling, R. Cresson Stiles, Henry R. Stiles, James Crane, Andrew Otterson, and J. H. Raymond.

Of the *living* physicians who have aided medical progress in this county, only brief mention can be made; and in selecting from the many eminent names the few that can be noticed, we must be guided entirely by the services they have rendered, and the honors they have received.

SAMUEL G. ARMOUR, was born in Washington county, Pa. He graduated from Franklin College, Ohio, in 1839, winning a distinguished competitive honor in that institution, while quite young. He received the title of LL. D., from that institution in 1872. He completed his medical studies at the Missouri Medical College of St. Louis. In 1847, soon after his graduation, he delivered a special course of lectures on Physiology, at the Rush Medical College in Chicago; and, since then has been a professor in the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, the Missouri Medical College, the University of Michigan, and now holds the chair of "Principles and Practice of Medicine" at the Long Island College Hospital, of which he is Dean of Faculty. In the course of a busy professional life, Dr. Armour has found leisure to contribute many valuable papers to medical literature, and ranks very high both as a writer, lecturer and practitioner.

DANIEL AYRES, a native of New York, after taking the degree of A. B. at Princeton College, graduated from the Medical Department of the New York University in 1843. After serving a term on the house staff of Bellevue Hospital, he removed to Brooklyn in 1845. He was one of the founders of the Brooklyn City Hospital, and was a visiting surgeon at that institution, from 1846 to 1853. With others he joined in the organization of the Long Island College Hospital, and was, until 1882, Professor of Surgical Pathology and Clinical Surgery there. During the Civil War, Dr. Ayres served as a medical director or corps surgeon. In 1870, he was appointed consulting surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital; and is, at present, one of the incorporators of the Seney Hospital. In 1856, the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by Wesleyan University.

ALEXANDER J. C. SKENE was born in Scotland; studied medicine; graduated from the Long Island College Hospital in 1863, and served in the army during the Civil War, and, at its close, returned to Brooklyn and began private practice. Entering upon the field of Gynecology as his special study, he has added much to the literature of that subject, both by monographs and more extended works; and, as one of the visiting physicians and Professor of Gynecology in the Long Island College Hospital, he has given both theoretical and clinical instruction. He was President of the Kings County Medical Society, 1874-'76; he is a member of the New York Academy of Medicine.

CHARLES JEWETT was born in Maine. He was educated at Bowdoin College, receiving his first degree in 1864, and A. M. in 1867. For several years after his graduation, he was engaged in teaching the Physical Sciences at Cooperstown, N. Y. In 1871, he graduated M. D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y., and settled in Brooklyn. He was Professor of Physical Sciences in the Adelphi Academy; has been a large contributor to medical periodicals; President of Kings County Medical Society, 1880-1883; since 1880, Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Children, in the Long Island College Hospital, and in charge of the Department of Obstetrics in the same institution; Physician-in-Chief of Department of Children's Diseases in St. Mary's Hospital, and a member of the New York Academy of Medicine.

LEWIS S. PILCHER was born in Michigan. He took the degree of A.B. from the Michigan University, in 1862. Entering the army, he served through the war; and, at its close, entered the Medical Department of the Michigan University, from which he graduated in 1866. The following year, he became an assistant surgeon in the U. S. Navy, remaining in the service till 1872, when he resigned, and settled in Brooklyn in private practice. From that time till 1882, he lectured on Anatomy at the Long Island College Hospital. Dr. Pilcher has contributed several monographs to medical literature, his most important articles being on Fractures at the Wrist Joint, Croup and Tracheotomy, and a "Treatise on the Treatment of Wounds." He was appointed, with Dr. Purdy, of New York, to superintend the building of the Senee Hospital, and is one of the Board of Managers of that institution.

JARVIS S. WIGHT was born in New York. After taking his degree in Arts at Tuft's College, Mass., in 1861, he graduated M.D. from the Long Island College Hospital, in 1864. Till the close of the war, he served as an assistant surgeon in the army. Returning to Brooklyn, in 1865, he held, for some time, the chair of *Materia Medica* in the Long Island College Hospital. Later, he became one of the Visiting Surgeons to that institution, and occupied the chair of Surgery and Clinical Surgery. He has contributed many articles to medical journals.

Among the older physicians who have gained prominence in the profession, but of whom space forbids an extended notice, stand the names of JOHN BALL, WM. H. THAYER, C. R. McCLELLAN, I. H. BARBER, and ALEX. COCHRAN, of Brooklyn; J. L. ANDREWS, of East New York; H. L. BARTLETT and J. L. ZABRISKIE, of Flatbush; S. J. BRADY, C. H. SCHUPPS, and L. W. PALMER, of the Eastern District, and R. E. VAN GIESON, of Greenpoint. Of these, Dr. Bartlett is Attending Physician to the Penitentiary, and a Consulting Surgeon to the Kings County Hospital; Dr. Brady, a Visiting Surgeon to the Eastern District and St. Catherine's Hospitals, and Dr. Zabriskie, Consulting Physician to the Kings County Hospital. Among those who have been prominent in the Department of Health, stand the names of B. A. SEGUR, ANDREW OTTERSON, J. T. CONKLING, JAS. CRANE, and J. H. RAYMOND, as Commissioners, and JAMES WATT, F. H. STUART, and R. M. WYCKOFF, as Registrars.

Dr. A. N. BELL graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, in Philadelphia, in 1842. For many years he was in the Medical Department of the United States Navy. After settling in Brooklyn, he was for a long time a Visiting Physician to the Brooklyn City Hospital. He has been one of the State Quarantine Commissioners, and for some years the editor of the *Sanitarian*.

Among the younger members of the profession who have gained prominence in special work, stand the names of Drs. FRANK W. ROCKWELL and GEO. R. FOWLER, in Surgery. The former is Visiting Surgeon to St. John's, and Chief of Department of Genito-Urinary Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital; the latter Chief of Department of Fractures and Dislocations at St. Mary's Hospital, and the most earnest advocate of antiseptic Surgery among our surgeons. In the

field of Nervous Diseases, Drs. L. C. GRAY and JOHN C. SHAW are eminent. Dr. Gray for a long time lectured on this subject at the Long Island College Hospital, and is now Professor of Nervous Diseases at the New York Polyclinic, and Chief of the Department of Mental and Nervous Diseases and Electro-Therapy, at St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Shaw is Superintendent of the Kings County Insane Asylum.

Drs. SAMUEL SHERWELL and T. R. FRENCH have devoted their attention to Diseases of the Throat and Nose. The former is Visiting Physician to the Brooklyn City and Eye and Ear Hospitals; the latter Consulting Laryngotomist to St. Mary's Hospital.

Drs. J. S. PROUT and A. MATHEWSON were both largely instrumental in founding the Eye and Ear Hospital, and both are Attending Surgeons to that institution. Dr. Prout was President of the County Medical Society in 1879. Dr. Mathewson is Chief of the Department of Diseases of the Eye and Ear at St. Mary's Hospital. Among those who have taught medical classes, or are still engaged in that work, are Drs. B. F. WESTBROOK, J. A. McCORKLE, and J. D. RUSHMORE. Dr. Westbrook, for many years, taught Anatomy at the Long Island College Hospital, and is now Chief of Department of Diseases of the Thorax in St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. McCorkle was for many years chemist to the Board of Health, and is now Professor of *Materia Medica* and a Visiting Physician to, the Long Island College Hospital; while Dr. Rushmore holds the Chair of Surgery in the Long Island College Hospital, and is Attending Surgeon to the Brooklyn City, St. Peter's, and the Eye and Ear Hospitals. All of these men have contributed many articles on their specialties to medical literature.

GEORGE G. HOPKINS graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, 1868. He is Visiting Surgeon to St. John's, and has been recently elected one of the Council, and a Consulting Surgeon to the Long Island College Hospital, and is now President of the Kings County Medical Society.

The following authorities have been consulted: STILES' *History of Brooklyn*; *Early Settlers of Kings County*, by T. G. BERGEN; *Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, and *Documentary History of the State of New York*, by E. B. O'CALLAGHAN; THOMPSON'S *History of Long Island*; *Minutes of Common Council of Brooklyn*; *Revolutionary Incidents of Suffolk and Kings Counties*, by HENRY ONDERDONK, Jr.; *Proceedings of the Kings County Medical Society*; *The Biographical Dictionary of Physicians*; papers by Drs. TONER, HUTCHISON, SCHENCK, and others. Dr. LEWIS S. PILCHER has also rendered us much valuable assistance. Above all, we are under obligations to Dr. R. M. WYCKOFF, who cheerfully gave the use of his valuable notes on the Medical History of the County to assist in this work.