


to say, his vibrating, indestructible part was still manifesting itself in another instrument that was giving me certain information his lips, earlier in the day, might have given me. The hands of the clock he wound up told me the hour, in fact, in another language, and he, although dead, was still speaking.

To treat the animal body as the instrument of a superior power is reasonable; is in accordance with speculation, and with the fate of everything that has been, is, and is to be. The power is eternal; the instrument, through which it displays itself, mutable, so that seven ages of the instrument would mean seven men. The endowed instrument may make the race better, raising all that is below the common towards the highest. We civilise the earth in this way, and construct out of it many things that before were practically dead.

As instruments we are everything, so long as we are endowed with the power that animates us; but when we cease to be endowed and are dead, we are no more than matter waiting to be resolved, recast, and filled with life.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## UNIVERSITY ECHOES.

N the borders of the northern sea there lies a city, the university of which has, until recent years, been almost forgotten. The university I refer to is that of St. Andrews. This, the oldest university in Scotland, was once the light of learning of the country. A pope organised it. It was the seat of much commotion in the Reforming period; and one of the leaders of the Church, Cardinal Beaton, was killed there. John Knox, a leader of the reforming Church, preached there, and his pulpit still remains. It is said that the cap which the Principal puts on the head of a candidate for a doctorship as he pronounces the ancient Declaration is made out of a remnant of the nether garments of the Reforming hero. Dr. Samuel Johnson and Boswell visited this venerable city, and the first of them made the anglicised grace delivered at dinner the subject of critical remark. The university, full of history, unfortunately did not at all times retain its fame or its magnitude. The more active living centres of Edinburgh,

Glasgow, and Aberdeen shot before it; it still held its rights, and was able to confer degrees as it willed. There was a custom in Scotland that its universities could confer medical degrees on receipt of the necessary fees, and men of eminence, such as Arbuthnott and Jenner, availed themselves of the privilege at St. Andrews. As time advanced the proceeding, though not confined to one centre of learning, was modified; the introduction of an examination for degrees of medicine was instituted, and numbers of men who held medical or surgical diplomas of practice took advantage of the privilege and flocked to the northern city to be examined and to obtain their title. Useful as this was in meeting the wants of a large community that had been duly educated, but were not students of a regular university, it fell under censure. The universities of London, Durham, and that of Ireland, followed out the method with success as well as St. Andrews; but the latter was the most popular and the most unduly criticised. After the year 1868, therefore, the number of its medical graduates was reduced to ten annually, each of them to be men in practice who had reached forty years of age.

In the year 1854, the new rule not having been introduced, I and many more qualified men went to St. Andrews to undergo the requisite examination, and nothing could have been more fairly conducted. The written examination, prepared by Professor Day,

M.D., F.R.S., the professor of medicine, was a model of its kind, and was supplemented by verbal examinations by himself, Professor Andrew Anderson of Glasgow, Dr. Connor, and other distinguished men. The examination lasted altogether two days. The strictest impartiality prevailed; the rejected candidates were as well known as the accepted, and there was no shadow of complaint. I was one of the legally constituted new doctors of medicine, and on my return to England took my place as such.

A considerable number of medical men were brought together as graduates of the ancient university, and became a powerful medical body. It included some who had been in general practice for several years, and who were ready either to expand their practice by means of their degree; to accept some local office; to accept the membership or fellowship of the colleges; to become local consultants, or to retire from the labours of public work. It included also younger men, who, having missed the teachings of a university, were ambitious of taking honours by examination.

For a few years no change took place in the organisation; and it might have continued, but comment was made upon it, not by the older universities of Oxford and Cambridge, nor by the private and external schools of any city; not by London, Durham, or Dublin, but by the other universities of Scotland. It was the most absurd opposition

even for themselves; for when once a man had graduated at St. Andrews he theoretically became a Scotch physician, proud of the Scotch universities, and ambitious that all the young students under his care should, if they qualified for medicine, enter the Scottish universities, which taught as well as graduated. We were all of one mind in this particular; but when once a thorough-going blunder is set afloat there is no checking it.

In course of time a blunder was set afloat. It was agreed that St. Andrews, not being a leading school in medicine, ought not to be considered a place fitted for examining and conferring degrees, and a Bill was brought into the House of Commons to which the names of the Right Honourable Mr. Cowper and of Mr. Brady were attached, giving the powers of graduation to the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, but withholding such power from their more ancient and venerable colleague. Mr. Cowper, in commenting on this proceeding, urged that St. Andrews was omitted because, practically, it was not a university; it existed as such only in name; "it was now merely a fishing station." I thereupon summoned a number of graduates to consider the matter. We had all passed a meritorious examination; we were by law doctors of medicine; we had duly paid the money we were called upon to pay, both to the Government, for the stamp, and to the university; we knew and felt the advantage we had gained, both

by money and labour, and was it possible that we were to be the last persons who would share the benefit?

We agreed that the public should also be considered, for the public were benefited as much as we were. Medicine is a progressive science, and, in view of its professors, was year by year making new advances which its representatives were forced to follow and practise for the public good. It was well, therefore, that practitioners should be obliged to pass through the new trial as they endeavoured to acquire new qualifications—and how better could they do this than by passing through a new ordeal bearing on professional activity and knowledge? Further, we considered that it was positively advisable that they should prove themselves advanced men, not in an institution that was a school possessing prejudices of its own, but in one that was free and independent, and only represented in science and medicine by those who were appointed to test the candidate.

We were ourselves singularly happy in regard to the examining Board we possessed. The Board of Examiners was, in fact, complete, and in the method of its examinations was as strict as it could be, framing its course by the light of the other examining bodies, such as the Royal College of Physicians of London.

Appreciating these facts, we graduates of the University of St. Andrews found that in Fellows

of the Royal Society, in Fellows of the Royal Colleges, and in various public positions, as in magistracies, and in the institutions of the nation, we were as soundly represented as were the members of any other body, while in our own profession we were as much trusted as we could possibly expect.

All these points considered, we made up our minds to institute an organisation, to be called "The St. Andrews Medical Graduates' Association," and in this determination we were warmly supported by Professor Day and his colleagues. The new central committee did me the honour of electing me as their president, and from then until now they have annually repeated that honour—a space of thirty-eight years—a repetition which I look upon as one of the eventful features of my life. Dr. J. H. Paul was soon afterwards elected treasurer, and a large council was formed. Names of members came in from all parts of the world, and we were soon constituted into one of the strongest associations of medical men.

We naturally, being of one mind, made ourselves felt, and although we did not carry all we desired, we changed the aspect of things. The first step we took was to see Mr. Cowper and Mr. Brady. Mr. Brady was himself a medical man as well as a member of Parliament, representing Leitrim; he sympathised with us warmly, and quickly arranged a consultation with his colleague. We met at

Mr. Cowper's residence in Hertford Street, Mayfair, and I, having at my fingers' ends all the facts about St. Andrews University, was soon able to show that we were infinitely more than a "fishing station," and that we had legal rights, learning, and numbers. Mr. Cowper, who afterwards became Lord Mount-Temple, confessed himself wrong as to the statement he had made, and promised to help us, but did not see his way to suggest the appointment of a member of Parliament for each of the four universities of Scotland: indeed, he was of opinion that even three were too many. I saw the point, and suggested two: one to be a member for Edinburgh and St. Andrews; the other for Glasgow and Aberdeen. No proposition could have been more readily received, and, giving me a pen, he begged me to put it upon paper, and so I drew out the clause that is embodied in the Act giving the two universities, Edinburgh and St. Andrews, the seat filled first by Lord Playfair and now by Sir William Priestley.

Organised as an association, we went on our way with energy. We took an active part in the formation of the new Medical Council, in which we were this time elected to take a representative part in combination with Glasgow, and which prevented the extinction of the university as a medical examining body, although unfortunately the graduates admitted were reduced to ten a year—a most illogical compromise.

Notwithstanding all opposition we held together



and maintained our views by starting the publication of a series of *Transactions*, which lasted for many years, most ably edited by our learned honorary secretary, Dr. Leonard Sedgwick. To those *Transactions* a large number of the members contributed. I wrote several essays, including addresses given at our annual meetings; but that one which gave me most satisfaction, in a practical sense, was on "The Treatment of Wounds by the Second Intention," in which I indicated what method ought to be pursued when the treatment of wounds by the "first intention" failed.

In addition to our other work we held our regular meetings for scientific discussion, and gave our annual public dinners and conversaziones. They, from first to last, have been attended by eminent men, well-known to the world, such as Professor Allen Thomson, Sir Richard Owen, Dean Stanley, Principal Tulloch, Sir Sterndale Bennett, Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, Sir Andrew Clark, Thomas Woolner, R.A., the Marquis of Bute, Lord Elgin, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Charles Cameron, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Professor Bell Pettigrew, Professor Donaldson, and others, who charmed us with their eloquence. The best post-prandial speech Professor Owen ever made came to us from his lips in response for "Science."

After a few years the University graduates elected me as one of the members of the University Court in place of Lord Jerviswoode, who had resigned.

was elected as General Assessor; represented the graduates—graduates of Divinity, Arts, Medicine—and held that distinguished post, with one short break, for no less than sixteen years. The Court, which had in its hands the governance of the University in all supreme measures, and which owned the University Chest, in my time, comprised the Lord Chancellor—His Grace the Duke of Argyll; Principal Tulloch; Mr. Whyte Melville—the father of the author of that name, and one of the best golf-players in the United Kingdom—with the Lord Rector. Mr. Stuart Mill, Lord Selborne, Dean Stanley, Mr. Froude, and Sir Theodore Martin served in turn as Lord Rectors; their Assessors being Mr. Skipworth and the Earl of Elgin; the Assessors of the Senatus were Principal Shairp and Professor Fischer.

The University Court is now a little modified, every faculty having its Assessor, but its power and functions remain unchanged.

The position of Assessor to the University for a long series of years brought me, of necessity, into communion with many men of learning, besides affording me the most interesting sights of travel and facilities of communication. I journeyed to Scotland from England frequently, and when in Scotland was invited to lecture at the great centres—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Stirling, and Forfar. I was also led to make good friends, such as the late Sir William Collins, who

took me on pleasure trips down the Clyde, or on yachting expeditions along the western coast, in which many incidents occurred which could not possibly escape the memory, and, as impressions, are still alive—pictures retained in the organ of the mind.

Since the days already referred to some changes have taken place. An attempt has been made to unite Dundee with St. Andrews, but the effort has not succeeded, and at the present moment St. Andrews stands as an independent school with three additional chairs; one of Botany, another of Materia Medica, and a third of History. Anatomy has also taken its position there, and in addition to the red-gown male students, ladies have entered its colleges, and in very considerable numbers have taken the degree of LL.A. and even M.A. As an Association we graduates remain the same except that our numbers are smaller.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### REVOLUTIONS IN PHYSIC.

#### *Blood-letting.*

**T**HERE is no greater revolution of a medical kind I can recall than that relating to the treatment of disease by the letting of blood from the body. It is the rarest thing in these days to see a doctor carefully carrying about him the means for instantly producing venesection, and I have lately seen two who thought it necessary in bleeding a man to proceed by exposing a vein with forceps and scalpel, neglecting, at the same time, the old-fashioned fillet which we were accustomed invariably to use, and which everyone knew how to apply. The transformation is astounding. I have in my waistcoat pocket a pretty tortoiseshell case holding two bright little instruments called lancets, which were presented to me on Christmas Day, 1844, as a first necessity in medical practice. The people went with us heart and soul by their commendation, and thought nothing of our drawing off even a pint of blood. Nor was the doctor alone in this ancient art, for although the writer of *Gil Blas* had