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THE

MEDICAL HISTORY

OF

ATLANTIC COUNTY, N. J.

BY

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An Address read before the Atlantic County Medical Association,  
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## ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:

For the purpose of establishing a precedent on such occasions, I have concluded to address you in retiring from the office of President of this Society.

Partly from the fact that during the past year we have been formulating an epoch in the medical history of Atlantic County, thus forming a connecting link between the past and the future, and partly from my personal love of historic research, I have chosen to take a retrospective view, and glance at the medical fraternity who have preceded us, whose forms are vanishing from the chambers of memory and whose voices are hushed into everlasting silence. In order to do so, we are obliged to antedate the history of the county itself, as, previously to 1837, our territory constituted the eastern portion of Gloucester County, and might with greater propriety be accounted as belonging thereunto, still, with the territory, we claim those who have developed it as a part of our moiety.

It is exceedingly difficult to obtain bold and distinct outlines of very many of our predecessors, their forms and appearances; the lives they lived; the labors which they performed; and the several relations which they sustained to society, and to the regular profession of medicine. All these have been engraven only upon the perishable tablets of memory; and there are at present but few of these that have not crumbled to dust; whilst over those that remain, the pillar of cloud that gathers with the evening-tide of life, casts its sombre shadows. Through these mists and fogs led on by various traditions we are therefore compelled to wend our way backward, finding here a name, there a few

dates, or a reminiscence—in fact, a mere valley of bones, “so very dry” we are disposed to question as to whether they may ever live again.

Lying contiguous to the earlier settled counties of Cape May and Cumberland on our southern border, the physicians of those counties have ridden over this territory from the earliest colonial times. “In January, 1775,” says Dr. Wickes, in his ‘History of New Jersey Medicine,’ “Dr. Ebenezer Elmer, of Bridgeton, and Lewis Howel, a fellow-student, made a tour to Great Egg Harbor to inoculate for smallpox, and in March they went there again, being absent several weeks.” A Dr. Drake, who lived in Cape May County, I have been informed, made frequent incursions throughout this sparsely settled region.

RICHARD COLLINS, as far as I am able to discover, was the pioneer *resident* physician in what is now known as Atlantic County. He was a native of Ireland, and his emigration to this country must have been as early as 1765. He was married prior to his coming, but thought it expedient to leave his wife at home until such times as he could make provision for her comfort. Once here, he purchased a tract of land in Galloway township, and settled; the location has since been known as Collins’ Mills. His wife was then sent for to share with him the fortunes of the New World; but, alas! no tidings came. After repeated efforts to communicate with her had failed, supposing her to be dead, he was married to a Miss Griffin, of Pennsylvania, a lady said to have been either of Welsh or Swedish descent. This occurrence did not, however, bring the doctor unalloyed happiness, as he soon afterward learned that his earlier choice was still living, the mother of a daughter, the fruit of their union; and the circumstances were rendered still more painful from the fact that the child was hopelessly blind.

The doctor made what reparation he could. He sent for them, and ever afterward provided for their comfort. The daughter (Elizabeth) grew to womanhood and married John Holmes, and subsequently Christopher Ludlum, both of Cape May County, and her posterity has ever been included among the respectability of that section. By the wife of the second

marriage he had three sons and two daughters. The eldest, John Collins, was born November 1, 1769, and became the apostle of Methodism through the Northwestern Territory, or what is now known as Ohio—being the founder of that sect in the city of Cincinnati, in Dayton, and in many adjacent places. His second son, Levi, was born in 1772, and died of typhus in 1813, and has numerous posterity throughout the county; as has also Matthew, the youngest son. The latter was the collector of customs for the District of Great Egg Harbor from 1807 to 1809.

Dr. Collins's religious proclivities were Roman Catholic. A copy of the Douay Version of the Scriptures has been transmitted to his grandson, Daniel L. Collins. Settling as he did in the midst of Quakers, he assumed their mode of dress and speech. Speaking of his sons, he was wont to say, "that he had raised one Methodist, one Quaker, and one Universalist; but that one of these days he would take a short cut, and beat the whole of them to heaven." It would ~~seem, however, from the life of the Rev. John Collins that~~ the doctor, after a tour through Catholicism and Quakerism ended in Methodism. After being some time in the West, the said divine became solicitous for the spiritual welfare of his father and came home on a religious mission. "He talked much of religion, and prayed with the family. Some days after his return, his father observed to him, 'John, we are all glad to see thee; but I don't like thy religion.' This was unexpected, and greatly depressed him. After some reflection he resolved to spend the whole of the ensuing night in prayer for his father. Accordingly, at nightfall after supper, he retired to the barn, that he might not be interrupted. Here he engaged in fervent prayer until near ten o'clock. Some one knocked at the barn door; but he made no answer. In a short time another messenger came, and opening the door discovered him. This messenger was his sister, who had experienced religion, and who informed him that he had been sought for in his room, at his brother's, near by, and at other places, and that he was supposed to be in the barn. She told him that their father was suffering the greatest mental agony, and wished to see him. With

joyful heart Mr. Collins hurried to the room of his father, and, embracing him, wept and prayed with him. The struggle continued until near daylight, when deliverance came. His father was filled with peace, with joy, and triumph."<sup>1</sup>

Not long before the doctor's death he invited home all his accessible children and grandchildren. Andrew Scull, Sr., one of the latter, then aged about ten years, says of him, that "he had provided immense quantities of bread and honey for the children;" and he remembers him as alternately laughing to see them make way with it, and weeping because that in all probability he should see their faces no more. Even though great age burdened the pioneer, his form was erect, and his step was quick and elastic. One of his daughters married and lived at Upper English Creek. One day in the year 1800, whilst the two eldest sons were in the woods, where a slave was chopping, a tree fell upon one of them, and his femur was broken. A messenger was at once dispatched for Grandfather Collins, then the nearest doctor, a distance of forty-four miles to and fro. The weariness of waiting was enhanced by the messenger stopping, when about half-way there, and spending the night with his ladylove before proceeding to his destination.

Dr. Collins died in 1808, and was buried on his farm at Collins' Mills.

Contemporary with the latter years of Dr. Collins was Dr. EZRA BAKER, originally from Saybrook, Conn. He first came to Tuckerton, Burlington County. Dr. Wickes says he "was the most ancient physician of Tuckerton. We find neither record nor memoir of him any further than that he married the sister of Ebenezer Tucker, who has the credit of giving the name to the town in which Dr. Baker exercised his skill in the art of healing." The doctor also married a second sister of Judge Tucker, by whom he had three sons and a daughter. In about 1799 he came into this county, and established himself in Absecon. Two of his sons became practitioners. The eldest, Reuben, was a surgeon in the navy in the War of 1812, and Ezra, Jr., located at Somers' Point. Dr. Ezra Baker, Sr., then entered the political

<sup>1</sup> Life of John Collins.

field; represented the district in Congress; and was afterward appointed collector of customs for the District of Great Egg Harbor September 24, 1813, and held the office until 1817. During his term of service the archives shared the fate of the city of Washington in 1814, and a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury is still extant giving him instructions how to proceed in the emergency. It is said that the father secured for the third son an appointment at the Academy at West Point, but that the scamp was expelled in disgrace, and ever afterward followed a seafaring life.

In 1818 the three Drs. Baker moved west into what was called at that time the "Wabash Country," and engaged in culture of castor bean, and supplied, it is said, the entire New Orleans market. The business was very remunerative, and the parties became quite affluent in circumstances.

The father and sons are said to have borne a striking resemblance to each other. In 1858 the writer saw Dr. Ezra Baker, Jr., at Somers' Point, then an old man, yet a man of noble bearing, hale and portly, and who would weigh at least two hundred pounds. He visited the elderly people along the entire shore after an absence of forty years, and died shortly after he reached his home in the West.

THOMAS RENARD also practised in Absecon in the latter part of the eighteenth century. He was a native of England, and a man of talent and great wealth. Leaving no heirs-at-law in this country, his fortune at his death was returned to his native country.

Somewhere near the year 1800 Dr. EPHRAIM SAWYER located in Absecon. He remained but a short time, and then removed to Burlington County. Mrs. Leah Blackman, in her History of Little Egg Harbor Township, says of him, that he "was a native of Connecticut, from where he emigrated to Absecon, N. J., and from thence to Tuckerton, where he ended his days. He was a skillful physician, and commanded the respect, confidence, and patronage of the people of the place in which he was located. He was a man of sound principle, a gentleman in his deportment, and was also considered a very handsome man, having an agreeable countenance, handsome features, beautiful black eyes, and a

head of hair whose ringlets could not be excelled. His wife was Sabra Church, of Connecticut. She was a very amiable lady, and had the love and respect of all who knew her." The doctor had eleven children, whose several generations are traced by the authoress above quoted.<sup>1</sup>

Succeeding Drs. Renard and Sawyer were Drs. LEVI RODGERS in 1862, and in 1807 THOMAS W. PECK. In 1813 there was an epidemic typhus of a most malignant character that spread over the eastern portion of Gloucester, in the treatment of which Dr. Rodgers, but more especially Dr. Peck, won laurels. These physicians are held in the highest estimation by the aged of to-day. I know not the dates when they rested from their labors.

On a bright May morning in 1819 Dr. JONATHAN PITNEY rode into Absecon on horseback, and for the space of fifty years thereafter he was probably the most influential physician of the county. He was the son of Shubal and Jane Pitney, and was born in Mendham, Morris County, N. J., October 29, 1797. Possibly I can do no better justice to his memory than to quote from a *Memoriam*, published in a local paper at the time of his death.

"After enjoying such advantages for education as his home afforded, he turned his aim to the profession of medicine. He studied medicine in New York, attending lectures in the medical school of Columbia College, where the late Dr. Valentine Mott was their professor, and also studying in the office of Dr. Woodruff. After graduating he spent two years in the hospital on Staten Island. He practised a short time in and around his native place, and about the year 1819 came down to the shore and located in Absecon. Here he entered upon a practice extensive and arduous. Not only was he called from one Egg Harbor River to the other, but oftentimes were his services required in the regions beyond. He was a skilful and most successful physician, and one who was greatly beloved by his patients. In or about the year 1848 he was nominated by the Democratic party, of which he was a lifelong advocate, as Representative from

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Blackman informs me further, that Dr. Sawyer was a descendant of Miles Standish of the Plymouth Colony, and that he was born in 1774, and died in 1829.

the First Congressional District. He failed of election, however; and among the causes of this failure was the reluctance of the people of the county to part with his services. Many voted against him simply because they would rather have him at home as a physician than at Washington as a legislator.

“He had much to do with the division of the county in 1837; and in 1844 he was the delegate of Atlantic County in the Constitutional Convention. In all the deliberations of this body, he exerted an important influence, serving upon the Committee on the Executive Department with Messrs. Hornblower, Kennedy, Parsons, and Reyerson. He was one of the originators of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad, working with all his power for its successful completion. In all its affairs, including the development of Atlantic City, he took a deep interest, and was a Director from the first election until his death.

“In 1835, he endeavored to awaken the attention of Congress to the pressing need of a light-house on this beach, submitting plans for light, which were original with himself, but which are now known as the ‘Fresnel Light.’ But it was not until the completion of the railroad that the light-house was built.

“Dr. Pitney was a prominent man in all the interests of the county. His plans for its agricultural and material development were wide and far-seeing. He took a warm interest in education, and had been for many years trustee of his school district. The cause of religion found in him ever a prompt and liberal supporter. His doors ever stood open to the minister of the Gospel. As a man, he was benevolent and kind, hospitable and social. He was possessed of indomitable will and energy, acuteness of intellect, and originality and depth of thought. His knowledge was wide and extensive in various branches of science, although medicine was his favorite study, which never lost attraction while life lasted. In all the recent advances in the theory or practice of medicine he was well versed.

“For two years past, declining health confined him to his house, and after the gradual decline of consumption, he died



on Saturday morning, August 7, 1869, in his seventy-second year, leaving a widow and two sons. The funeral services, which were held in the Presbyterian church, were attended by a large crowd of the residents of the county, who thus showed their respect and esteem for one whose life had been spent in their service, and whose name for fifty years had been honored and beloved."

Dr. Pitney's method of diagnosis was chiefly by *inspection*. Having studied medicine prior to the days of auscultation and percussion, he placed but little reliance upon them, but every feature or expression that appealed to the eye had its significance with him, and he rarely gave it a wrong interpretation. Those of us who knew him remember the incessant jog of his horses through sand and mud—up hill and down alike; one horse, as the doctor was wont to remark, "willing to do all the work, and the other just as willing that he should."

The doctor, occupying for so many years such an extensive domain, regarded with rather a jealous eye any encroachments upon his territory. This of course made him rather exclusive of other physicians who might trespass thereon. His hatred of quackery or any semblance thereof was intense, and sometimes his expressions against it were more expressive than polite. He was his own Code of Ethics.

At the instigation of Dr. Pitney, whose practice was very extensive, MAHLON CANFIELD was induced to come in 1824 and share his practice. Dr. Canfield was a native of Suckasunny, Morris County, N. J., and a nephew of Gov. Mahlon Dickerson. About the year 1826 he married Miss Caroline Seward, a sister of ex-Secretary William H. Seward. This marriage gave great offence to her father; who regarded her husband as a fortune seeker; and the aversion was never fully overcome. A rupture occurring between Drs. Pitney and Canfield, the latter, in about 1827, located at Smith's Landing at James English's. After the lapse of about two years he removed to Bargaintown, where he held the office of Collector of the Port. His wife acted as deputy during his absence on professional duties, and she is said to have displayed much more business tact than her husband.

January 5, 1839, Mrs. Canfield died of quinsy, and the loss was an irreparable one for the doctor. She was a woman of rare ability and of unrelenting devotion to her husband. It, however, proved the means of a partial reconciliation with her family. The issue of this union consisted of two sons and three daughters. Two lie buried in Zion churchyard at Bargaintown. One son (Augustus) was appointed Minister to Hong Kong. But all are now dead save one, Caroline. About a year after the death of his wife, the doctor moved to May's Landing, and shortly afterward married a Miss Renelope Lincoln of Boston, whose aristocratic notions overcame her attachment for her husband. "The Pines" presented to her rather a dreary aspect, and, like Lot's wife, she turned back, "and let the doctor pursue his pilgrimage alone." He subsequently returned to his native county, and engaged with his uncle Governor Dickerson in the mining business, and died in the possession of an abundance of earthly treasure.

Contemporary with Canfield was Dr. LEWIS S. SOMERS. The subject of this sketch was the son of John and Rachel Somers. He was born at Somers' Point June 14, 1810. In 1828 he was placed under the instruction of Prof. Samuel Jackson of Philadelphia, and graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1831. It was requisite, at that time, in order to practise medicine in the State of New Jersey, that the applicant, no matter what were his qualifications, should first pass the State board of examiners. In compliance with this Medo-Persian law, the doctor was duly licensed in the year 1832, and at once commenced the practice of his profession in his native place. In 1833 he married Miss Margaretta Hood of Philadelphia, by whom he had several children. By several considerations which it is unnecessary to detail he was induced to leave a large practice and numerous friends, and removed to Philadelphia in 1839. Here he rapidly grew into favor and acquired an extensive practice. He ever manifested the deepest concern for the welfare of his native place and kept himself informed in regard to the numerous families who had been his patrons. Dr. Somers died April 30, 1869, and was buried in Laurel

Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. His wife and five children survive him. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church and a man of the strictest integrity. Of him it could with truth be said—that which is the most that can be said of any man—"he was a Christian gentleman."

Succeeding Dr. Lewis S. Somers was JOSEPH ANDERSON STOUT. He was the son of Benjamin and Grace Stout of Attleborough, Bucks County, Pa. (now called Langhorn). Here he was born in 1807. He studied medicine under Dr. Boil, and graduated in New York in 1831. He commenced the practice of medicine in Berlin, N. J. His eminent success caused his practice to extend over a very large scope of territory, including Winslow, Waterford, Jackson, and the surrounding country. About the year 1838 he came to Tuckahoe, and in 1839 married Miss M. S. Godfrey of that place. Dr. Somers removing to Philadelphia left a vacancy along the shore. Dr. Stout availed himself of the privilege of filling it, and at once removed to Somers' Point. Here he remained until the time of his death, April 11, 1848. He was buried in Zion churchyard at Bargaintown. He had four sons; only one lives, and bears his father's name. His widow, a sister of Hon. John Godfrey of this county, subsequently married a Mr. Ogden, and is still living. Dr. Stout was a believer in the doctrine of universal salvation, and died in that faith. His loss was regarded as a public calamity, as the popular testimony is largely in his favor as a skilful physician.

Dr. EPHRAIM BEE, son of Thomas and Rebecca Bee, of Union Cross Roads, was a naval surgeon. During a period of inactivity for about two years, from 1846 to 1848, he had a leave of absence, and located in Bakersville at Daniel Baker's, Esq. At the end of that time he was called upon duty, and went to California in 1849. On the homeward passage, on board the flagship Falmouth, he died of yellow fever, and was buried at sea.

The true successor of Dr. Stout was a native of Blue Anchor, JOHN J. JESSUP, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College in 1848. In 1849 he located at Somers' Point. During his medical career an epidemic dysentery made havoc

with the people of the village wherein he was located, and puerperal fever carried off a number of females. These inopportune maladies, so fatal at all times, caused our young physician to lose prestige. A deformity in one of his hands rendered him incapable of operating in obstetrical and surgical cases. The anxieties, labors, and mental depressions incident to the profession, and his apparent lack of success, soon completely broke down his health, that was never fair from the beginning. In 1852, prostrated by phthisis, he was taken home, where he shortly afterward died. He was a young man of excellent character, and greatly beloved by all who knew him. There was a striking inconsistency between his physical and his mental and moral powers—the former feeble to the extreme, the latter strong, active, and pure.

Dr. — Brooks, son of Jonathan Brooks of Bridgeton, located in the village of Leedsville. He stayed there a short period, and was generally well received; but being thrown from his carriage he was crippled, and through his father's persuasions, who was a man of wealth, he was constrained to abandon the practice of medicine. He died soon after leaving the vicinity. He is said to have been a jovial fellow, with an inexhaustible supply of wit and humor.

The Drs. Fislser were natives of what is now called Clayton, then known as Fislerville.

JACOB FISLER located in May's Landing, and remained there for about six months. He then gave place to his cousin, LORENZO FISLER. This gentleman had previously practised medicine at Port Elizabeth. It was in the early days of Methodism in this county, and the doctor served the people in the double capacity of doctor and preacher very acceptably. He boarded for two years (1814–16) with Col. Westcott, and then moved to Camden, N. J. He was somewhat of a literary turn of mind, and published articles on medical subjects, notably one on scarlet fever. His name is held in veneration by the people as a man of mental and moral attainments.

Dr. Fislser was succeeded by JOHN BUDD, who came from near Woodbury, in about the year 1816, and lived in what

was known as the Norcross House. He is remembered as a tall, slender, dark-complexioned man, and as being quite a pedestrian—whether from necessity or not I cannot tell, but the supposition is in the affirmative, as I have been credibly informed that he would walk to Estellville and back—a distance of seven or eight miles—for fifty cents per visit. It is to be hoped the pay did not consist of promises. Dr. Budd died in 1832, and his widow subsequently married a Mr. Freeborn. He was buried in the Methodist churchyard in May's Landing. The grave is unmarked, but is pointed out as lying near that of Col. Wescott, close by the present church building.

Dr. RODGER WALES was his successor. He was the son of Timothy Wales, of Bolton, Conn., and was born July 19, 1768. He remained in May's Landing for about two years, and then removed to Cold Spring, Cape May County, where he died September 30, 1835. Dr. Wales is spoken of as having been a man of the greatest energy and of the strongest impulses. By way of illustration, on one occasion he was called in haste to a patient. Unfortunately his horse balked. The doctor sprang from his carriage and dispatched the beast at once. Such a man knows no barriers that are insurmountable, no obstacles that cannot be overcome. He was the father of the venerable Dr. Edmund L. B. Wales, of Tuckahoe, and the grandfather of Dr. Eli B. Wales of Cold Spring.

JULIUS S. TAYLOR was a native of New York State. He graduated in Jefferson Medical College in 1835. His father had settled at Gibsons' Creek previously to his son's graduation. The doctor occupied the field made vacant by the removal of Dr. Wales, and married Margaretta Gray of Tuckahoe. In about the year 1838 he left the county, and if still living is thought to reside at Kankakees, Ill. Dr. Taylor was the immediate predecessor of Dr. Charles Gill, who still "holds the fort."

May's Landing claims the birthplace of two eminent physicians, Drs. Myles and Martin Synott; they were the sons of Martin and Hannah Synott.

Dr. MYLES SYNOTT was born in 1806; studied medicine with Dr. Jacob Fisher (who, by the way, married the doctor's mother at a subsequent date); and graduated in Jefferson Medical College in 1831. He commenced the practice of medicine at Chew's Landing, and removed thence to Glassboro, where he died February 9, 1867. Dr. Heritage writes me concerning him: "Dr. Myles Synott was one of the most unassuming, yet successful practitioners of his day. He was so straight in regularity, that he leaned backward a little, and abhorred quackery both in and out of the profession; was dogmatic in his instructions, and, whenever they were departed from, left the case. He was of a humorous disposition; and the scene of his labors is full of his dry jokes and numerous witty sayings. He once blistered the soles of a man's feet because he wouldn't stay in the house when he had ordered it. He was generous in his encouragements of the younger members of the profession, and was ever ready to assist by counsel or consultation those who were struggling for recognition. They must only be *regular*. He was an inveterate smoker, and always carried a hatful of cigars."

Dr. MARTIN SYNOTT was born April 8, 1812. Studied medicine with his brother, and graduated in Jefferson Medical College in 1839. He commenced practice in Chew's Landing in connection with his brother, but subsequently removed to Blackwoodtown, where he died of consumption in 1877. He is said to have been a man of excellent tact and skill in his profession.

CHARLES M. GILL, a youth of great promise, the son of Dr. Charles Gill, who is yet with us, studied medicine with his father, and graduated at Jefferson Medical College in 1869. Shortly after he entered upon the active duties of the profession in his native town, he was attacked with softening of the brain. All that medical skill could do was invoked by anxious hearts to stay the ravages of the destroyer in vain. August 27, 1877, the life buddings that gave so much of promise withered before the blast from the arbiter of human destiny.

GEORGE BARROWS, an Englishman, landed in the city of New York with wife and one child—a stranger and penniless—in the year 1838. Occasionally trifling incidents shape the destiny of a man and divert the whole current of his life in a direction he could have least imagined. Accidentally meeting with Mr. Sooy Thompson of Pleasant Mills, he was invited by that gentleman to go to his place and locate. He consented. Mr. Thompson boarded him until he was able to procure a home. Here for six years he diligently applied himself to his profession and commended himself to the people by his skill. In 1844 he removed to Philadelphia, and died there in 1852.

CHARLES RIDGWAY, the son of Job and Rachel Ridgway, was born August 21, 1824, in Sharptown, Salem County. He graduated in Jefferson Medical College in 1845, and immediately commenced practice in Pleasant Mills, and continued to follow his profession until ill health caused him to abandon it a few years before his death. In 1858 he married Miss Sarah J. Weeks of this county. The doctor died of heart disease May 14, 1862, and his wife followed him to the land of the dead during the present year. Two children survive their parents.

RICHARD SHERMAN PARKER formerly practised medicine at Williamstown, N. J.; settled at Port Republic in 1834. Shortly after he came to this county he had the misfortune to have two of his sons perish with cold upon the oyster grounds, whither they had gone without the precaution of taking the necessary clothing to meet those emergencies that so frequently arise in our sounds and bays by the sudden changes of winds and tides. Dr. Parker was highly esteemed. He died twenty years ago of cancer in the stomach, after a protracted and painful illness, and was buried in the Methodist churchyard at Port Republic. When in health he was a man of dignified appearance and address. He was succeeded by

STACY B. KIRKBRIDE, who was a native of Medford, N. J., and born July 13, 1828. He was educated in his native town, and commenced in early life to teach school; teaching classes

in penmanship and geography, the latter from Pelton's Outline Maps. At the age of twenty-one years he published 'Kirkbride's New Jersey Business Directory.' He was so unfortunate as to have a large number of the volumes burned, which caused him large pecuniary loss. This had such a discouraging effect upon him that he could not be induced to continue the publication. He resumed his former profession until the age of twenty-five years, when he commenced reading medicine with Dr. John Stokes, of Moorestown. He graduated in 1856 at the Philadelphia College, and commenced practice at Evesboro, Burlington County, thence he removed to Port Republic in 1858, and married Miss Caroline Higbee, daughter of Richard Higbee of that place. In 1872 Mrs. Kirkbride died, and the doctor removed from the county. Dr. Kirkbride died March 2, 1875, at the age of forty-six years, of inflammation of the bowels, and was buried in the Episcopal churchyard at Moorestown, of which church he was a member at the time of his decease. Two daughters survive their parents. During his whole professional career in this county, he was a confirmed asthmatic. The disease was brought on, as he told the writer, by the fumes of sulphur which he inhaled during some chemical experiments. Most of you will remember his tall, erect form, with long flowing beard. He ever maintained a radical position in regard to legitimate medicine, and was an earnest advocate for the observance of the Code of Medical Ethics.

CHARLES A. OGDEN was a native of Camden, N. J. He studied medicine with Drs. Clapp and Horner, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania. He came into this county in 1847, and located at Smithville. Shortly after commencing his professional duties, fevers of a bilious character seemed to predominate, and it is said to his credit that out of thirty-two cases he lost but one, whilst a neighboring physician, much older in years and of greater experience, lost seven out of nine cases. The doctor was a tall, slender man, with light hair and blue eyes. He removed to Philadelphia a few years ago, and died at the Raritan House. When the summons of the pale visitant came, some one sug-



gested a minister of the Gospel to counsel with the dying man. He raised his hand in token of dissent and declared himself to be in the hands of his Maker to do with him as He chose, and—expired.

One who seldom indulges in adulation remarked in our hearing one day, that “Dr. Ogden used but few remedies,—had but few to use; but those he had, he used well.” He could scarcely have said more in favor of the doctor’s skill and therapeutic knowledge, had he designed to, instead of his *lapsus linguæ*, and yet, that the testimony was true, none who knew the doctor will be likely to question.

These gentlemen, with others who are still living and have in years ago practised in the county, notably Dr. Ed. North of Hammonton, T. A. Schlitz of Egg Harbor City,—Sheppard, Dunn, Rothrock, Reeves, and Abbott of May’s Landing, J. F. Leaming of Somers’ Point, and Jesse Steelman of English’s Creek, with those who are actively engaged in the duties of the profession, make up the medical fraternity of Atlantic County. I have purposely left those behind whom I have been satisfied were outside of the pale of the regular profession. Of a few enumerated, there are some doubts, but I have generously given them the benefit of it. There is much that is told illustrative of the peculiarities of these professional men, but neither time nor space will permit of amplification in these matters. The *one thing* that has most deeply impressed me in searching the material for this essay is, that there is not a single instance of failure to do well, either pecuniarily or professionally, that was not justly attributable to the vice of intemperance. How true it is that “*wine is a mocker*,” and that “*at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder*.”

I cannot adequately portray the labors of these early physicians. They were obliged to keep relays of horses and travel from morning until night, and oftentimes from dusk until dawn—through summer’s melting heat and the chilling blasts of winter—fasting or feasting as occasion afforded—onward through the lonely pines, choked by dust and

harassed by swarms of mosquitoes, that are said to have *worked in three gangs of eight hours each*. They never faltered where duty called them. No one, we are persuaded, can have any just conception of the life of toil and self-sacrifice which these earlier physicians endured until in some measure they have experienced it. At present each town of any considerable size has its physician, and the days of medical pioneer life in Atlantic County may be considered as having ended. Railroads now skirt the county in nearly every direction; physicians jostle one another on every side; the friction polishes them; and we shall henceforth have an exemplification of the law of the "survival of the fittest."