

AN
INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,

AT A MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, IN NEW MEXICO, ON THE 28TH JUNE, 1850, TO DELIVERED BY DR. JAMES YOUNG, PHYSICIENAL PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BEFORE THE CLASS,
AT THE OPENING OF THE

FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE,

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

BY W. R. MOSEREA, M. D.,
HARRIET P. WEBB,
ANGELINA A. HUNT, COMMITTEE.

J. S. LONGSHORE, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,
COLLEGE BUILDING, NO. 350 NORTH SIXTH, PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 4, 1850.

October 12th., 1850.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

W. R. MOSEREA, M. D.,
H. P. WEBB,
A. A. HUNT,
COMMITTEE.

PHILADELPHIA:

JAMES YOUNG, PRINTER, 21 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

1850.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE
To the Faculty of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN :

At a meeting of the class held on Monday the 28th inst., it was unanimously resolved, that each of you be respectfully requested to publish your Introductory Lectures, and the undersigned were appointed a committee to carry the resolutions into effect.

Feeling a deep interest in the success and prosperity of the Institution, they are impressed with the conviction that no better means could be adopted to promote its advancement, than to spread before the world just such matter, arguments and appeals, as were presented to those in attendance during the week, devoted to the delivery of those Lectures.

The impressions made on the audiences in attendance, was of the most salutary kind. The ability of the incumbents of the respective chairs was fully established, and all that is required to extend and deepen that impression, is to disseminate proper information in regard to the school, and a knowledge of the entire competency of the professors.

Yours, most respectfully,

PHOEBE WAY,
ANGENETTE A. HUNT, } Committee.
HARRIET P. WEBB, }

To N. R. MOSELEY. M. D., Dean.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN
College Building, No. 229 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Nov. 4, 1850.

LADIES :

I am in receipt of your kind letter of the 29th ult., and in answer would say that for my own part, as my Lecture was not written with a view for publication, I must decline your kind request. Dr. Longshore will comply with your wishes; as for the other members of the Faculty, I cannot answer, but should they think favorably, you will hear from them individually. Believe me, however, when I say for them and myself, that we appreciate, to the fullest extent, your approbation of our humble endeavors to communicate to you from our several chairs the subjects which we have the honor to teach in this Institution.

Yours respectfully,

N. R. MOSELEY, M. D., Dean.

To PHOEBE WAY,
A. A. HUNT,
H. P. WEBB. } Committee.

most favored Medical School in the country.

Under these favorable auspices, then, do we commence the labors of the first course of Medical Instruction.

Called from the exercise of a private country practice, to teach Obstetrics, and the diseases of Women and Children, in the first REGULARLY AUTHORIZED Female Medical School in the world, while I deeply appreciate the honor conferred on me, in assigning me this distinguished position, I at the same time too sensibly feel the vast importance and responsibility of the post; while it will be my duty to induct you step by step into an acquaintance with this exceedingly delicate, yet deeply interesting branch of medical science, it will also give me pleasure to afford you every opportunity to facilitate your studies, that can be made available in the opening of a new institution, where the means of instruction must necessarily be less abundant than in those of greater age.

If there can be one branch of medicine of more consequence to females than another, it must be that in which they are individually interested, the one that applies immediately to their wants, their necessities and their sufferings. Where is the female who has passed through the trying season of gestation, harrassed with sufferings, innumerable and indescribable, and the more painful and perilous process of parturition, that has not longed for more knowledge of her own formation, and a better acquaintance with the functions, and physiological relations and offices of the various organs connected with this most important and interesting part of nature's work, the procreation of our species? or where is the woman thus situated, that would not have esteemed it a high favor to have had an accomplished, educated female attendant, who from her very nature was capable of feeling for and sympathising with her, and into whose bosom she could, in confidence, have poured her sorrows, her afflictions and her sufferings?

At this moment, far the most important and peculiar in all its bearings and relations of any other, during her whole existence, a period when all restraint, both mental and physical, except so far as her safety is involved, should be removed, and she be permitted to enjoy the largest liberty in responding to the various promotings of nature, to be aided by a thoroughly qualified attendant of her own sex, could not but be more desirable, more consistent with her comfort, more safe, and abundantly more in accordance with the requirements of genuine refinement, and female delicacy.

That there is a melancholy deficiency of a knowledge of the anatomy

and physiology of their own bodies, amongst the females of our country, is too strikingly apparent every where.

Moreover an ignorance of the proper management of children is also the source of incalculable suffering to the infant, and consequently much trouble and anxiety to the mother. Dr. Hodge, the present distinguished Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania, in an introductory lecture delivered ten years ago, held the following language:

"Hundreds and thousands of mothers inflict great sufferings on their children from ignorance, actuated as they usually are, by the strongest feelings of love and devotion to their children, and having never been properly instructed in the duties of maternity, they become exceedingly anxious for the safety and welfare of their offspring."

"They listen to every friend or visiter, however ignorant or unskilful; they imbibe all the floating prejudices of society, and prompted by the kindest feelings, and by anxious desires to benefit their infant, they rashly enter upon a train of experiment in diet, clothing, exposure, &c., which too often is pregnant with the most direful consequences to the health of the child and the happiness of the mother."

It is, however, an exceedingly gratifying relief to the dark picture, to perceive here and there some bold spirits, who are unwilling longer to be trammelled by the prevailing customs that sanction ignorance, and esteem the study of their own system, as taught from this chair, too indelicate for pure minds to engage in, but who rush forward and seize upon every available opportunity, at ever so great a sacrifice of time, comfort and means, to aid them in the prosecution of this very desirable pursuit.

Were this knowledge more generally diffused amongst our female population the amount of maternal and infantile suffering that might be prevented, no mortal can estimate. Much of the intolerable suffering incident to gestation, and many of the dangers of child-bearing result directly from irregularities and violations of the laws of health in earlier years, and inasmuch as during uterine existence the fœtus is wholly dependant upon the maternal secretions for its support, its health must be, to a greater or less extent, influenced by her own. Nay, frequently mothers are required to sit whole days and nights anxiously and painfully watching the writhing and agonies of their infants, the cause of which was inherited from themselves, the result of former ignorance and early imprudence.

Many, very many, of the female diseases that make existence irksome, and life a burthen, originate in this fruitful source of evil; and how many "long, tedious days" of suffering, both mental and physical, and "wearisome, sleepless nights" of anguish and despair, and unrestrained

exposure to male observation, not unfrequently for the mere gratification of impure curiosity, chilling and revolting to every sense of female refinement, might be avoided, and lives otherwise doomed to affliction and sorrow, rendered healthful and happy, by imparting proper physiological instruction to females.

Let the *boudoir* and the *toilet* give place to the *studio* and *drawing*, and the *trashy* works of *fiction*, to the expositions of *substantial science*; then will begin to dawn the era of better and happier times for *poor suffering woman*, and those engaged in the praise-worthy work, instead of being mere cyphers on the stage of life, will be hailed as the benefactors of their sex and race.

Society, in obedience to the great law of progress, is rapidly tending to a radical change in this important particular; *woman* is beginning to awake to a true sense of her position, and instead of remaining content with being the mere doll and puppet, only designed for the amusement and pleasure of the opposite sex, she is beginning to see that she has highly important *duties* to perform in the great drama of life, in which not only her own happiness and comfort are involved, but also those of her whole race, and in order to fill this high and holy office agreeably to the great design that instituted it, she is now setting about making the necessary preparations; and as the best and most efficient means of carrying out this great work, the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania was instituted.

The instructions given within these walls, will be highly beneficial to every one who attends them; and no female, whether mother, wife, daughter, or sister, who has the leisure and *means* should fail to avail herself of them. At the head of her family, *woman's jurisdiction* extends to the *hygienic* as well as to the domestic regulations of those over whom it is her province to preside; and every one acknowledges the utility of proper qualifications for the *latter duty*, how much more imperative is the necessity for *equal* qualifications, at least, for the *former*, how few are there who assume this honorable and dignified position, that possess a solitary prerequisite, for the important station?

To the wife and mother is consigned mainly the guardianship of the health of the household. What higher trust could be dedicated to her? and what weal or woe depends upon its faithful or deficient fulfilment?

Were females generally better instructed in the duties pertaining to the *sick room*, and more familiar with the *symptoms*, *causes*, and *diagnosis* of disease, they would be abundantly better prepared to assume the responsible duties universally imposed upon them by the organization of society, viz. *taking care of the sick*; it matters but little how skilful or devoted the medical attendants may be, unless their efforts be seconded by

judicious, intelligent, well qualified assistants, the chance for a favorable termination of a critical case is greatly diminished, and the prospects of a speedy recovery, consequently, vastly lessened.

To those, then, who do not desire to make medicine a profession, but would wish to possess a greater amount of medical information than they have hitherto had an opportunity of acquiring, this Institution affords them opportunities never before proffered, and which should not be allowed to go unimproved, whether as a branch of polite education, as an accomplishment, or a means of rendering its possessor useful in her own family, and the community, where her lot may be cast, the science of medicine as taught in this school, should be made the subject of earnest pursuit.

That the exercise of the *healing art*, should be monopolized solely by the male practitioner, as is the case at the present time in this country can be neither sanctioned by humanity, justified by reason, more approved by ordinary intelligence; prejudice, bigotry and selfishness may dispute woman's claim to the high calling, but an enlightened liberty, and intelligent sense of justice, never.

That woman, from the acuteness of her perception, correctness of her observation, her cautiousness, gentleness, kindness, endurance in emergencies, conscientiousness and faithfulness to duty, is not equally, nay, by nature abundantly better qualified for most of the offices of the sick room, than man, very few will venture to contradict, and so far as the management of the ailments, and peculiar necessities of her own sex, and the disease of children are concerned, woman, by virtue of her superior natural qualifications should be vested with the entire prerogative.

The science of obstetrics, in this country and in England, to the disgrace of the profession, and the shame of man, is almost exclusively in the hands of the male practitioner, and it would require more sagacity and ingenuity than most of them are in possession of, to adduce one valid reason why this should be the case.

From the earliest history of the art, down to 1663, it was practiced by females, almost, if not entirely to the exclusion of the opposite sex, sacred and profane history supplies us with abundant evidence on this point.

The distinguished individual, first to make the innovation on the ancient, time sanctified custom was "no less a personage, than a court prostitute, the Duchess of Villiers, a favorite mistress of Louis XIV. of France, and the *hero* in the disgraceful scene, "the fortunate attendant," was Julien Clement, who was soon afterwards translated to the "novel and lucrative office of midwife to the princess of France;" "here," says a late writer on the subject of female obstetricians, "then we have the origin and

it is worthy of the corruption and iniquity which have attended its progress." Our females, it appears, are following a fashion first set up by a Parisian concubine one hundred and eighty years ago; and too many physicians seem to have uppermost in their minds the "fortunate attendant" and the "lucrative office."

It seems that even this "favorite mistress" had some modest scruples, for as Dr. Kendrick remarks, in his Edinburgh Medical Dictionary, "she desired it might be kept a profound secret: she sent for Julien Clement, a surgeon of reputation, and he was conducted with the greatest secrecy into the house where the lady was, with her head covered with a hood."

The same surgeon was employed in subsequent labors of the same lady, and the princesses made use of surgeons on similar occasions: and as soon as it became fashionable, the name of *accoucheur* was invented to signify that class of surgeons. Foreign countries soon adopted the custom, and likewise the name of *accoucheur*: for they had no such term in their own language."

Professor Davis of London, thinks that "great advantages have been realized since the ordinary business of obstetrics has ceased to be a monopoly in the hands of women." In obedience to the universal law of progress, the theory and practice of Midwifery, as well as everthing else, has been developed and improved within the last two centuries. But is it to be inferred, that this advanced state of the art, is attributable to male interference? What evidence has the Professor given us, that the same, nay even greater, and more beneficial results might not have been attained, had the science remained in the possession of its legitimate patrons. While the illustrious names of Madame Boivin, and Madame La Chapelle, names so often referred to, during the past week, stand at the head of this department of medical philosophy, names that *men*, in their superior wisdom and mighty cunning, are proud to quote and admire, any argument to prove woman's capacity and woman's fitness for *all* the, high and sacred duties of the puerperal chamber, are vain, and all the twaddle in favor of man's superior fitness, his greater mental and physical abilities, &c. &c., dwindles into the narrowness of unmitigated selfishness, or swells into an unwieldy mass of vague absurdities.

These names peer high above the customs and selfishness of the times, and stand like beacon lights, amid the dark sea of oppression and outrage, inviting their own sex onward in the cause of usefulness and mercy.

But let it be even admitted, that woman was incapable of effecting the great improvements that have been made in the art of obstetrics, does that argue, that she is disqualified from using them for the benefit of her sex? Does it follow that because man has made improvements in culinary implements, cooking stoves for instance, and kitchen ranges, that woman

is not to use them, the former position is about as preposterous as the latter.

"Put woman in possession of all knowledge upon the subject of midwifery, and let her use it for the relief of her sex and the good of the race. If woman could manage these matters so exclusively before the dawnings of science, how much more with the light it has afforded. Having, I trust, fully established the fact of the ability of females to practice this highly important art, I now proceed, to notice briefly the propriety and safety of the measure.

If there be one appropriate sphere of more consequence than another, within the scope of woman's duty, it is at the bed-side of a suffering sister, at the trying yet deeply interesting period of parturition. "Now, as formerly, woman is most willing to enter and most reluctant to leave the abodes of suffering and sorrow," it has *always* been her office to administer to the necessities of the afflicted, and most nobly has she sustained it. It is woman that cheers the drooping spirits, that stays the aching head, and wipes from the brow the "chill dews of death,"—and the privilege should be acceded to her, of presiding over the duties of the parturient room.

If there be either meaning or truth in the expression, "female delicacy," then, indeed, is man's superintendence on those occasions highly inappropriate, indelicate and degrading; for in no position in woman's whole existance are there presented occurrences so sacred to delicacy and refinement as those of the lying-in chamber. If these can be disregarded with impunity, then the door is opened for other improprieties; and cases are not wanting where the impure and unprincipled have been known to gratify the wanton gaze, under the spacious pretext of its being necessary, the attendant himself being the sole judge of the necessity. Were females aware of advantages taken of their sufferings, to practice this and similar impositions upon them, many would risk the issue of their perilous and painful travail, unassisted, rather than submit to the possibility of such outrages upon their feelings and sense of propriety.

The *safety* of the parturient female is doubly enhanced by the attendance of a competent medical adviser of her own sex. The shock that is given to every delicate and sensitive female, as the male practitioner enters her room, particularly for the first time, is always attended with more or less mischief; and there is scarcely a teacher that has written or lectured on the subject of obstetrics, that has not lamented the results of this occurrence, unavoidable under the present arrangements of society, amongst whom may be mentioned the distinguished names of a Dewees, a Meigs, and many others. Convulsions, hemorrhage, and even a suspension of the process, have resulted from this source, to say nothing of the minor evils attendant upon the unnatural and barbarous custom.

Dr. Dewees, in his work on Midwifery, says, that he was once called to attend a lady whose midwife was absent, and the moment he entered the room, her labor pains ceased, and did not re-commence until a fortnight afterwards. He continues; "Every accoucheur has witnessed a temporary suspension of pain on his first appearance in the sick chamber." Who, that has ever experienced the tortures of the tooth-ache, have not been relieved of their pain by the sight of the dentist? The same mental impressions operate on the puerperal patient at the sight of the physician.

"The Princess Charlotte, of England, young and accomplished, lost her life in confinement with her first child, in 1817. She was attended by the usual parade of royal physicians and distinguished friends, with ministers of state and others assembled in adjoining apartments. 'All this brought on,' as a medical author writes, 'anxiety of mind and excessive fatigue, followed by hemorrhage and convulsions, terminating in a fatal syncope, which all their united skill could neither prevent nor cure.'

"This event cast a cloud of sorrow over the whole nation—it was the theme of every tongue, and the burthen of every heart. Mr. Hume, member from Scotland, declared, in his place in Parliament, that it was his candid conviction that if she had been spared the useless parade, and attended by a Scotch midwife, she would have been a living woman."

It is not an unfrequent occurrence that the emotions experienced at this moment continue for years; and the patient cannot see her physician without feeling a renewal of the sensations of horror peculiar to the occasion.

The extent to which this fearful calamity occurred, in the experience of Madame Boivin, was vastly less, in proportion to the number of cases attended by her, than those that have taken place in the practice of male obstetricians anywhere recorded. This, and various similar instances that might be cited, go directly to show the safety, nay, the decided advantage, in this particular, possessed by the female over male practitioners.

But, when we come to take into consideration the immoral tendencies growing out of the practice of initiating males into the *privacies* of the parturient chamber, compared with these, the most terrific physical evils dwindle into utter insignificance. There could possibly be no means adopted, nor any plan conceived of, better calculated to sap the foundation of social and domestic happiness, than the matter under discussion. Accustomed to placing implicit reliance in the sayings and opinions of the physician, when consulted, and believing that a full and unequivocal divulgment of her situation, together with the almost exclusive resignation of herself, as essential to her safety and well-being woman, in

the hands of the *unprincipled*, but *apparently virtuous* and *conscientious* practitioner, is too often and too shamefully required to submit to impositions, (of which she may happily forever remain in ignorance,) revolting to every feeling of delicacy, and repugnant to every sense of female chastity. Those who have had opportunities of hearing the low jeers, the foul slang, and the obscene descriptions given by those who under the garb of gentlemen, have been permitted to desecrate the sanctity of the lying-in room, will not charge us with speaking thus unadvisedly—or hypothetically.

But were this all,—were the unnecessary and unjustifiable exposures that are too often made, barely for the gratification of an improper curiosity, or the purposes of shameful and reprehensible experiment, of virtuous and respectable, but unsuspecting and confiding females, all we had to complain of, though disgraceful and degrading as they may be, we might here conclude. But, Ladies, unfortunately for the purity of your sex, and the virtue of ours, this is not all.

Repress your indignant emotions while we dwell for a moment, in conclusion, on this most unwelcome theme; gladly would we avoid it, did we not in duty owe it to you, and the reform this Institution is designed to effect. To remedy any great evil, it requires to be exposed. The miseries of the foreign slave trade, and the horrors of the middle passage, might not yet have been corrected, had they not been exposed by a Clarkson and a Wilberforce;—the deep and desolating vice of intemperance might not yet have been arrested, had it not been for the exposures made by the philanthropic labors of the early advocates of the temperance cause.

In the capacity of accoucheur and patient there exists the most intimate connexion—second only to that holy relation sanctioned by the matrimonial vow—a connexion which is calculated, in an eminent degree, to call into action on the part of the patient, the most sublimated feelings of gratitude and respect. Where is the woman that has been safely conducted through this trying and painful operation that has not had her heart to swell with the liveliest emotions towards him who she esteemed as her benefactor and chief friend? emotions amounting almost to affection. And where is the practitioner that has witnessed the outgushings of unrestrained nature, uttered in tones of thankfulness and exclamations of joy, that has not felt a thrill of response pervade every tissue of his nature, and run through his whole being? These feelings, to the pure in heart, are right, honorable, ennobling, elevating—but alas! alas! how often have they been prostituted to the basest of purposes! Instead of permitting them to pass with the occasion that gave rise to them, how often have they been designedly cultivated and fostered on the one hand, and thoughtlessly if not

innocently encouraged on the other, until consequences the most disastrous have been the melancholy result?

It is not upon the low, the uneducated, and unrespected alone that this heavy calamity has fallen, but every grade of society,—clergymen, congressmen, senators, and obscure private citizens, have all felt this withering blight, and been subjects of the unmitigated curse.

Could we but turn back the leaves in the annals of crime, the number that would date their origin from this most unnatural relation, would be wholly incredible.

However strongly may the female be fortified by chastity, an undiminished affection for her husband, by religion and a high sense of propriety, she cannot escape the natural tendency; this very reprehensible custom has towards blunting her moral sensibilities, impairing her high regard for that peculiar delicacy, that makes her character lovely, and degrading herself in her own estimation. But to the honor of the sex be it said, in spite of this barbarous arrangement, the masses maintain their fidelity to virtue and purity, to a most gratifying and ennobling extent. A late writer (Count Buffon) has said, "that every situation which produces an internal blush is a *real* prostitution." This is substantially true, and nothing but an undying constancy, a stern regard for virtue, and a high sense of religious duty, amongst the females of our country, prevent a universal outbreak. The means employed tending to such an occurrence are abundantly sufficient for that end; and many, alas! very many, who are less supported by these holy influences, become victimized to its debasing effects.

While we would be most *reluctant* to concede any other than that the profession in *general* is composed of men possessing a high sense of their moral obligations, and endued with sterling virtue;—who even, like ancient Joseph, turn away from the flaunted charms and proffered caresses of Potiphar's wife, and continue to abide in the consciousness of unsullied purity,—at the same we are called upon to make the melancholy admission, that there are many who hesitate not to induce the ruin of families, and consummate the miseries of husbands, that they may effect their own unholy purposes. Every parturient female is in danger of encountering one of these, especially if she be required frequently to change her physician. The soul-sickening newspaper reports that daily, almost, meet our view, but too sadly assure us that the foregoing picture is not overdrawn;—the jealousies and contentions, murders and butcheries, that are continually occurring from this cause, (and the equally disgraceful and ruinous custom of employing males in the treatment of many of the delicate female diseases,) admonish us to seek a remedy.

Physicians are not superhuman beings endowed with celestial virtues, they are but men, subject to all the frailties of our poor fallen nature, and so long as society continues to place before them temptations to err, to deviate from the path of propriety, community must expect to endure the results of their own folly. While men are permitted to continue this indiscriminate intercourse with the opposite sex, no reformation can be hoped for, until mankind advances towards a proximity with that primeval purity and innocence enjoyed prior to the invention of *fig leaf drapery*.

It affords me no ordinary pleasure to announce to you, that the remedy for this evil, under which you have too long, and too patiently suffered, is at hand. Let those of your own sex be thoroughly instructed in the art of obstetrics, and be prepared to encounter any emergency they may meet with. Let this practice go back again into the hands of those who are in every way better qualified by nature to exercise it. Then will there be an end to these deplorable occurrences, and peace, and happiness, and contentment will be the result. To this end does the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania appeal to you for support. Let that patronage be bestowed upon it that the importance of the occasion demands; let it be enabled to send forth its Boivins, and its La Chapelles, to benefit and bless the whole race.

Connected with this Institution is a Maternity Charity, to which the pupils will have access, and thereby have opportunities of acquiring, in addition to their theoretical education, a practical knowledge of this branch of the profession. No other Medical School in this city possess such advantages for acquiring information in clinical obstetrics. In this particular our school presents facilities unrivaled by any sister institution in this Commonwealth—or perhaps in the country—affording a guarantee, all other things being equal, of the superior practical qualifications of those educated within its precincts.

Then, in the language of Dr. Morgan, one of the founders of the University of Pennsylvania, in an address at the opening of that school, let me say—"Perhaps this medical institution, the first of its kind in America, though small in its beginning, may receive a constant accession of strength, and annually exert new vigor. It may collect a number of pupils, of more than ordinary abilities, and so improve their knowledge as to spread its reputation to distant parts. By sending those abroad duly qualified, or by exciting an emulation among those of parts and literature, it may give birth to other useful institutions of a similar nature, or occasional rise by its example to numerous societies of different kinds, calculated to spread the light of knowledge through the whole American continent wherever inhabited."

Ladies! here conclude the initiatory ceremonies; here terminates the work of introducing you to a course of medical instructions. From each chair you have had presented to your consideration the claims of the several branches, constituting a complete course of education in the god-like art of healing. The difficulties that beset your undertaking have been fully represented; and the asperities in your pathway to the temple of fame have been pointed out. You will not, however, find the road all one continuous series of toil and weariness, but it will be gratefully retrieved by the intervention of pleasure and enjoyment. Roses will be found interspersed among the thistles, and the roughness of the mountain passes will be leveled down to the smoothness of the daisied plain.

This Institution which has been called into existence for your exclusive advantage, is now in your hands. The gentlemanly President, William J. Mullen, Esq., assisted by an energetic and efficient Board of Trustees, has displayed great liberality in arranging and preparing this building for your comfort and convenience. The Faculty have thrown themselves into your cause at no inconsiderable pecuniary and personal sacrifice, and it now remains for you to say whether they shall be sustained or not. Shall the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, upon which is resting the anxious gaze of an admiring world, be doomed to death and annihilation, now in the first days of its being, or shall it succeed. Shall it be enabled, by a timely and generous support, to survive, this its first struggles for life, and by a gradual and speedy development of its latent powers, become a Hercules in strength, defying the combined efforts of its enemies to crush it? Or, like the majestic oak, shall it strike its roots deep in our soil, and rear its towering trunk heaven-wards, scorning alike the angry blasts that whirl about it, and the violence of the rushing tornado, but gracefully bowing before the gentle zephyrs of prosperity, humanely invite the sick and the suffering to repose beneath the shade of its wide-spread branches? Do the women of Pennsylvania, of America, duly appreciate the relation in which they stand to this magnificent enterprize? Can they realize the vastness of the project? Have they yet become impressed with the great truth—that in this Institution is the germ of their emancipation from mental bondage and physical suffering? Do they see here thrown open wide before the portals of the Temple of Medical Science, into which woman is destined to enter, and stand side by side, on terms of perfect equality, with the great, the wise, and the learned of the world? If their minds have not yet become cognizant of these great realities, I desire, then, to impress it upon them, that such are but sublime facts. Here is your position;—herein consists your future destiny;—here your future glory, and that of your posterity forever. Will you accept or reject them? If you elect the former, then gather around us, with your influence and support—strengthen our hands—aid us in our struggle for your redemption and elevation, and millions yet unborn will rise up and call you blessed!