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A. D. Wilson

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HOMŒOPATHY IN NEW-YORK,

AND THE LATE

ABRAHAM D. WILSON, A. M., M. D.

BY HIS EARLY FRIEND

JOHN F. GRAY.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETIES OF THE COUNTY AND STATE OF NEW-YORK.

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AN ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

Homœopathic Medical Society of the County of New-York,

AT ITS ANNIVERSARY OF

HAHNEMAN'S BIRTH-DAY, APRIL 10, 1865.

Mihi amicorum defunctorum cogitatio dulcis ac blanda est; habui enim illos tanquam amissurus; amisi, tanquam habeam.

SENECA.

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ADDRESS.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Society:

TWO years ago to-night, at the request of the societies of New-York and Brooklyn, I had the honor to recite to you the unpublished details of the first epoch of Homœopathy in America. It began with the advent of Dr. GRAM in 1826; during which year he printed and distributed his own correct but infelicitous translation of Hahneman's Spirit of the Homœopathic System of Medicine; and it ended with the appearance of the English versions of the Organon and Jahr's Manual of the Materia Medica, which, revised somewhat by HERING and HULL, were reprinted at Allentown and here about 1837 to 1841. As during this period of twelve years in which Homœopathy could only be studied and tested by German physicians, or by

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Americans of unusual culture, and as it had been my happiness to know Dr. GRAM, the first pioneer, and each of his colleagues, very intimately, and also Dr. HERING and his German associates from the time of their arrival in North America, it gave me profound satisfaction to comply with your request, and, from memory, to review the good traits and characteristic works of such of the founders of our school in this city and its environs as had passed away from our companionship in homœopathy forever. On that pleasant occasion we were prevented, by an imperative professional engagement, from enjoying the presence and listening to the confirmatory testimony of the only one of our number who could aid my recollection of the men and events of that epoch; but, before the Annals went to press, I submitted them to his revision, and they received his most earnest approval and full endorsement.—And now, again I come, my worthy associates and friends, at your command—the last you can possibly feel it necessary to lay upon me—to aid you with those details and elements of that brave and good man's own career which belong to the time

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before you had the happiness to know him, and to join you in paying the tribute which Truth and Love—that is to say, Justice—demands at our hands to the memory of our friend and much loved brother ABRAHAM D. WILSON.

At our former festal celebration of this ever-memorable day, GRAM, CHANNING, HULL, JOSLIN, CURTIS—diligent students of our great art, faithful and intrepid disciples and followers of Truth in all ways and directions—came, in response to our invocation, to pass their review in our midst, and to impress the peculiar but ever-potent word of each one's character and life-work upon each of us their survivors and sometime companions. Let us not obliterate the good legend from either of their signets! *Ad huc stat!*

If to be constantly aware of the health and prosperity of our friends be one of the main-springs of our own content and enjoyment in this lower life, so checkered with inevitable molestations and trials; and if to part company with them by death be an irretrievable loss from these the choicest stores of earth; it is nevertheless fit that we tem-

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per our mourning-sorrows, and compensate at least in some part these irreparable privations, not only by recalling their kindnesses to us and to others around their pathway, but also by so imbuing ourselves with their virtues of life as ever at the beck of memory to feel their moral portraits, and thus to possess without loss their true and eternal presence in our own highest and best nature. This resource, given to each of us His children by the all-good Father, is certainly of growing efficacy as His ceaseless Time bears us on toward the grave, and His holy Providence surrounds us with this class of clouds which must ever multiply and thicken as we approach its portals. Our friend's physical form is with us no longer; it has gone for evermore to mingle in new and other combinations with the elements from which his plastic life-power gathered it; but that sacred life, with the peculiar flowers of love and of wisdom which it bore through the earth-form it created, may be with us still, if we but truly deserve its presence. For God gives us this remedy for mourning the departure of the good companion —that, by living his life in ours, and by re-incarna-

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ting his virtues, we may have him with us again; and that more and more perfectly, from day to day, from stage to stage in our advances toward him, till, by our own death-birth, we re-establish in the better life the companionship of uses with him which he began with and for us here, and in which he awaits our coming.

Let us then, dear friends, review the career of our risen, elder colleague, with reference to the founding and extension of Homœopathy in this city; for this is not only his peculiar and characteristic relation with us, and with this society incorporated by the state for the effecting of our common purpose, but his conduct and work in it, his sacrifices for Truth's sake, or what he deemed such, form an imperishable test and measure of his activity and constitution as an immortal—as a member of that great brotherhood toward which we are trending, and in which we are to take our place, near or remote from him, as our lives and purposes square with or deviate from his. We would utter no prattle of childish panegyric; but in paying our grateful tribute to Wilson's character, strive mainly after a full recog-

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nition of the ways of Providence in the amelioration of the Art of Healing, by which our age and this our noble country have, in some appreciable degree, been released from harsh and devastating errors in its practice. With this view always before us, it is our pleasant duty to look sharply into the record of each man who stood intrepidly in his place in the opening conflict with entrenched wrong, and fairly met the sacrifices and the obloquy which that conflict initiated and entailed upon him. Hereby, in our little measure, we encourage the Future while doing justice to the Past, and thus facilitate the immanence of more divine principles and more auspicious usages, not only in Medicine, but in every other element of human advancement and civilization.

WILSON was already a conspicuous practitioner of Medicine when he adopted Homœopathy. This change took place in 1829, the eighth year after his graduation in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the twelfth after receiving his baccalaureate in Columbia College. His social status and professional standing were such as to make a strong

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sensation respecting the new practice in a wide circle of the community at the time. His father, an eminent Scottish scholar, was Professor of the Greek and Latin languages in Columbia College at the time of his birth, and for many years after. His brother, the late GEORGE WILSON, an accomplished counsellor-at-law in the city, who was twenty years his senior, and therefore able to aid him socially, took unwearied pains in his behalf. Moreover, this brother, as WILSON told me not long before his own death, earnestly interested himself, after their venerable father's departure, in his culture in ancient and modern literatures and philosophy. Whatsoever the elder brother could accomplish for him in society, and in aid of his professional career, was certainly effected with gratifying success.

Dr. WILSON had also the great advantages in that day resulting from the personal friendship and patronage of his illustrious preceptor in Medicine, the late Dr. DAVID HOSACK, in whose private classes he was a diligent pupil throughout. Dr. HOSACK had himself received his classical training, in early life, from WILSON's father, to whose memory he was most

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gratefully attached; and thus it can be imagined, how readily this young man's studious qualities were appreciated, and his aspirations in the outset of life fostered, by his powerful preceptor. And, that WILSON was a keen and prompt student under HOSACK, accepting and using all the advantages afforded by his great master's private and public lectures, and by the large clinique of the New-York Hospital, in which HOSACK occupied the leading position, was abundantly demonstrated by him when, in the capacity of a Censor in the County Society, he officiated as examiner of candidates for the diploma of that body. Moreover, gentlemen, those of you who had the happiness to meet him in council, or in autopsies, or, better still, in the intimacy of private friendship, can fully confirm my testimony.

Dr. WILSON took his doctor's degree in 1822, and very soon settled into his professional work, taking up his residence in Walker-street, where he remained till a very recent date, and where most of us formed our acquaintance with him. In his early manhood he connected himself with the masonic fraternity, a circumstance which seems to have

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greatly increased the circle of his personal friends. Such was the esteem in which that honorable society held him, that, on the occasion of his demise, a Lodge of Mourning for him was convened in Dodworth Hall, in which a eulogy was pronounced and afterwards printed by his lodge, in commemoration of his meritorious relations with that order and with society; the only instance of the kind that has come under my notice. Besides the proofs cited of WILSON's strong social position, I beg to recall to your memories the impressive scene at the church-edifice where his obsequies occurred. We all witnessed with grateful emotions the deep earnestness with which the clergy and the immense concourse of citizens testified, by worshiping-rites and by most touching panegyric, to Dr. WILSON's manifold worth of professional and personal character among the people, and especially in that his hereditary denomination of Christians.

With these his advantages of education, which he nowise neglected in his youth, and this his felicity of social position, greatly enhanced by an early and ever happy marriage, WILSON made the acquaint-

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ance of GRAM and myself, and encountered the great new problem of his life-work, Homœopathy. After a patient study of its principles, and a protracted trial of its art-maxims at the bedside, during all of which study and trial he abstained from expressing a judgment, he decided the question firmly and fully, for himself and for all his future patients, in the affirmative; and, thenceforward, he openly avowed his adhesion to the doctrine and discipline of HAHNEMAN. WILSON came into our circle with all his stores of sound culture, and with all his indomitable courage in defence of the Right and the True, or of whatsoever he so deemed; an accession of manly power, of moral force, which was most cheerfully welcomed by us at the time, and evermore thereafter cherished and venerated by us and by all who came after us.

I have said that the avowal of his change of practice ensued upon a very mature and thorough examination of the questions involved in that change; and I may add, that this was his method in all other philosophical and administrative problems. His powers of analysis were never em-

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barrassed by the perturbations of his emotional nature. Though generous even to a decided fault on some occasions, and full of sympathy at all times and in every fibre of his being, yet could he at all times set his reason to work in the precision and cool steadiness of mathematical logic; and so it was his wont to apply his happily dominant rational power to the largest questions of faith and of practice in ethics and theosophy, as well as in ours of medicine. His characteristic lay in this rare peculiarity of constitution, one which belonged to the old-time philosophers, that he could apply his consciously rational test-processes over all the lines sketched by his intuitions; and his merit as a man consisted in this ever-rare quality, that he openly avowed and sustained whatsoever he found to be true by this his double process of investigation—prolepsis and demonstration.

Wilson took this great step—Homœopathy—as I have said, with a deliberation and courage consonant with his training in letters and science and with his constitution as a man. He was no adventurer in this community, with nothing to lose by the change, and

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perhaps a gain to make by heralding a novelty in medicine. Nor was he, by any view of his constitution, an eager innovator—a reformer of popular mistakes; but, rather, from his harmonic tendencies, (he loved music) and his cordial social rapport with all the good-meaning people of his place and times, he was a conservative; he was indulgent to harmless errors and indisposed to violent uprootings. Nevertheless, he went with his convictions of Truth whensoever these were fully ripe in his soul; like the great apostle to the Gentiles, he consulted not with flesh and blood when beneficent Truth called for volunteers in her divine conflicts, wheresoever and howsoever to be fought.

Bitter were the pangs and sore the costs of this bold change for the accomplished and successful young Wilson. In less than two years after his adoption of the New Method—that is to say, in 1831—when the birth of the last of his children had rendered the demands of family-support strongest upon him, his change had already deprived him of all his family practice save one. Of that goodly broad basis founded by his familiar associates among the

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Masons, in the Dutch Church, of which he was a cherished member, and from among his family adherents, including those of his brother the Counselor, only one stood by him, Mr. THOMAS DUGAN, sexton of St. George's, who happened to have been a mutual friend of WILSON and myself.

But these gloomy attributes of our position, the inevitable acerbities of changing our relations with teachers and professional friends and daily associates, were not without their uses. They gave us cohesion among ourselves; and the losses of practice by which they were accompanied afforded us ample leisure for prosecuting our study of the New Materia Medica, with the language and literature of Homœopathy, which we did with assiduity, zeal and boundless hope, under the ever-patient and loving attention of GRAM. His society, with its rich resources in all other as well as in medical philosophising, was a compensation of no mean weight for the numerous intimacies that were harshly ruptured; and we felt then, as time has since demonstrated, that we were to be repaid for all by the income of a broader and deeper usefulness from these very trials than could

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be reached in any other way. WILSON, HULL and I studied Botany also with GRAM, as stated on the former occasion. In all the floral season of each year from '29 to '33 we found time to make short botanical excursions, not only in search of the homœopathic remedies indigenous in our region, all of which we examined as lessons in botanical dissection, and abundant collections of which we gathered for use, but also of most of the wild plants of distinguished beauty and scientific interest.

It will give me great pleasure, now in my declining years, to lead my young friends once more, nay every year, over the grounds, now hallowed in my heart and memory, where we found the Drosera rotundifolia (after three summers' sharp search) surrounded by bright specimens of Kalmia, Rhododendra, Rhoes, and by that wonderful thing the Saracenia, recently added to our Materia Medica. Such happy pilgrimages would not only renew for me the balmy associations of other days and of friendships now by death conserved beyond all change, but they would furnish me opportunities of placing in your pathway the means of refitting your apparatus with a few of

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our best remedies with your own hands, which our immortal master so stringently commends, and also with a true incarnation in your own experience hereafter of the sentiment I am now endeavoring to portray :

——Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit !

We learnt from GRAM in those days of forced leisure not only the right interpretation of HAHNEMAN'S most abstruse essays touching the principles of our art, and his pains-taking diagnosis of remedies in his Materia Medica, but also practised the preparation of most of the remedies, especially of the more difficult ones ; as, Stannum, Aurum metallicum, Argentum, Cuprum, Silicea, and also of many indigenous plants. Moreover, he taught us to respect MESMER'S great discovery, in which, with other learned Scandinavian and German physicians, he had made very careful and extended researches several years before he came to this country. But of the use of Animal Magnetism in therapeutics, GRAM was very sparing indeed, adopting the maxims of HAHNEMAN in the Organon, and especially his caution against produ-

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cing the profounder shades of trance. In this great topic, which I think will at no very distant day engage the unreserved attention of all scientific bodies, and which ought rather to be called Psycho-Dynamics than Animal Magnetism, GRAM and his coterie were thirty years ago far in advance of the experimenters of REICHENBACH'S school, and of the avowed Spiritualists of the present day.

Although WILSON, HULL and myself did not in latter years fully coincide with GRAM and HAHNEMAN in reference to the number or classes of morbid conditions in which this agency ought to be used, inasmuch as we used it with excellent results in a wider range of cases, and also sometimes to the extent of producing complete anæsthesia, yet we agreed to the last of WILSON'S days that, as it ever is a spiritual force interiorly, it should be applied only for healing the sick, never for pastime or mere amusement, and always under the direction of an enlightened physician. The irresponsible and indiscriminate use of this power, so generally in vogue at the present day, is greatly to be deplored; and I hope the physicians of our school (who certainly all of them ought to

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know something scientifically on the subject, seeing that it was formally treated by HAHNEMAN in the Organon over fifty years ago) will lend their combined influence to the suppression of this dangerous abuse. The zoomagnetic trance certainly challenges investigation and must receive it; but the sooner the medical profession study it, in a truly scientific and orderly method, the sooner will the civilized world be saved from the manifold errors and follies to which it has given rise the world over, and, I may add, in all the ages of human history.

WILSON'S first contribution to Homœopathy was, certainly, a very heavy one. He brought to its altar classical erudition, a felicitous condition in society, and a hopeful and rapidly growing status in his profession. His unusual advantages were, I must believe, diligently appropriated, beginning at Columbia College, where he was born and reared among the students and professors and admitted as early and often as he pleased to all their lectures, libraries, and exercises in the sciences and belles lettres, and ending with the resources of his most liberal and justly distinguished medical pre-

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ceptor Dr. HOSACK. It was also my good fortune to pass the last two years of my professional studies in Dr. HOSACK's office, joining his large private classes just after WILSON's graduation; and I can testify—and with me our noble colleague Dr. W. C. PALMER, also a successor to WILSON in HOSACK's office—to the rigor of the old master's examinations, and the inestimable value of his clinical precepts and instructions. Dr. A. E. HOSACK, our surgeon, recollects WILSON's student-days in his father's office, and speaks of his standing there, and in the College of Physicians, in very high terms. These advantages, so faithfully used, added to his excellent natural endowments for the exercise of our art, while they could not exempt him and his young family from the deep chagrin and hard privations inevitably connected with his change of practice, furnish you to-day and here with testimonials of his worth as a man and of his merit as a physician, which you will not fail to cherish and keep in ever bright remembrance as long as dignity of deportment and strength of character hold their rightful position in your hearts.

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In the third year of this unwelcome trial of WILSON'S fortitude, the Asiatic cholera made its first appearance here, and the success which attended our treatment of it, brought to him and the rest of us some mitigation of our losses and sacrifices. Dr. CHANNING, and many other old-school physicians, visited our offices and met us in practice to witness our results. Very many of them added camphor (the least important and the least homœopathic to cholera of all our remedies) to their own compound prescriptions. Our status with the profession was for a year or two less acerb and troublesome, and we soon after began to receive scanty accessions of patients and families in place of the flocks that had left us.

WILSON'S second contribution to Homœopathy was as severe a test of his uprightness as the first was of his fortitude and perseverance under trials. He felt bound to give all the patients that came to him, after the affluent tide began, the fullest benefit of Homœopathy; and to this end he brought them to GRAM in every case of importance, and also in all other cases when his registration of symptoms did

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not enable GRAM to find the remedy with satisfactory accuracy.

Dr. A. JOHNSON, our good homœopathic dentist, was then a student of Dr. GRAM, in company with CURTIS and VAN BUREN, (now of Louisville, Kentucky) and he well remembers the daily and almost hourly consultations of WILSON and CHANNING with GRAM in those days. WILSON did not study German, and therefore could not hunt a remedy himself, except tentatively in the Latin fragmenta of HAHNEMAN. But he would do his whole duty to his patients; and so his practice failed again, or, rather, grew very languidly indeed for four or five years more—that is to say, till we had the English version of the Materia Medica, such as it was, and (pity and shame to say) still is. By this course of conduct on his part and mine, (until I acquired the German) Homœopathy gained many substantial adherents and a broad basis in this community, long before WILSON recovered his professional status or retrieved his pecuniary losses; for GRAM made many indisputable cures of chronic diseases by his truly Hahnemanean faithfulness in recording the symptoms, and

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his conscientious preparation and administration of the remedies. Such cures establish and extend our therapeutic method far more than all books, lectures, societies and colleges. HAHNEMAN himself, powerful as was his logic, unanswerable as were all his first positions and trenchant as were his early essays in their statement and support, founded his school of practice in the world mainly, I might say solely, by *this class of cures*. Without real and durable cures, oft repeated by him and by his early disciples, his Organon and Materia Medica would have slept forever on the same shelves that hold the elaborate works of Darwin and Cullen, of Broussais and Fordyce, of Mason Good and Martyn Paine.

Our brave friend's third and last contribution to Homœopathy was, the steady devotion of the last thirty years of his grand life to the healing of the sick, the soothing of mourners, and the uplifting by sympathy, by wise counsels and by material aid, of all those whom Providence placed within his peculiar sphere of work and duty. He was no worker in its literature, nor did he formally receive pupils for systematic instruction in the art; nevertheless, as

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those of you well know who saw him officiate as Censor in the examination of Candidates for the License, he had fine qualifications for writing and teaching. His was the unostentatious propagandism of a skillful private practice, joined to a beneficent and ever-active private life. It owed its starting-force to the circumstance of his conversion having occurred, as I have said, from a prosperous position in the old school, and at the very beginning of the movement in America; but its total and permanent value is to be sought for in the general welfare of our school in this metropolis, and in the influences in its favor which flow from our dispensaries, societies, journals, and our college, into other cities and states of the republic.

Without GRAM and HULL, CHANNING and WILSON, you could not have had the basis from which you suddenly developed from an unperceived squadron into a formidable army, within the short space of two or three years after the publication of the text-books of our school in our language. For, among the great cities of the old world, and even of Germany itself, our system has no where such resources,

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influence or numbers, as it possesses here in New-York.

Without these men and their benefactive lives, and without the societies and movements inaugurated in the first or latent epoch here—which, in 1840, culminated in the appearance of the Homœopathic Examiner by HULL, and in the Society, partly lay and partly professional, of which our BRYANT was the last President—the later and apparently more efficacious means of your success could not have been in your hands. Thus, for instance, the American Institute of Homœopathy, founded in 1843 by my personal efforts, the incorporation of County and State Societies by the Legislature, and the founding of Infirmaries and Dispensaries through the action of others among you, could not have occurred. Forget not your beginnings; honor your deceased predecessors; for they were and are worthy of your respect, nay, of your veneration! Our status is with and from the people; and they by hundreds—nay, by many thousands—remember these skillful, good physicians, and receive us with glad confidence on account of the cures they effected in their families a generation ago.

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In my former discourse, I called your attention to the divergence of views respecting doses and dilutions which arose in our little band soon after the accession of Dr. CHANNING, that is to say, about thirty years ago. CHANNING adhered to the later and latest practice of HAHNEMAN in this matter, at all times and in all cases, to the last; whilst the rest of us, after trying the question faithfully in a sufficient number and range of diseases, receded to HAHNEMAN'S first method, *i. e.* to the doses recommended in the first and second editions of the Materia Medica. This difference in the school must, I think, last a very long series of years. I neither arrogate for myself nor claim for my dear departed associates either acumen or merit of any kind in the premises, which I do not heartily recognize in HERING and the other many able and distinguished men of our school, whose observation and experience lead them to conclusions and practice very widely differing from mine, and from those of a very large majority of American Homœopathists. My maxim and rule of life, since the earliest hour of my hard experience with brother physicians in this whole question, has

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been, *in certis unitas ; in dubiis libertas ; in omnibus caritas.* Of the large number of students who have graduated from my office, several of whom I have the happiness to meet at this festive board to-night, each one will testify to the entire freedom accorded to them on the question of doses, dilutions and repetitions. Several of them indeed, especially those who studied HAHNEMAN in the German, left me believers in his posology, and remained so for various periods of time. Of this class of my pupils I now recall Drs. HULL, METCALF and GILBERT, and our present colleague Dr. QUIN. Neither GRAM, WILSON nor myself ever denied the efficiency of highly attenuated drugs, nor were we justified by our school of personal discipline in deriding the sincere convictions of others on any topic, either in medicine, religion or political scicnce ; and, accordingly, the gentlemen who favored higher attenuations than we considered it best for us to use in our practice, were ever as thoroughly and cordially recognized and consulted with by us as to choice of remedies, as were those who agreed with us in regard to doses. There ought to be liberty to differ

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herein, for posology is by no means, as yet, a positive science; he who thinks he has philosophic certitude in it to-day, may find grounds of skepticism before to-morrow's sun rises. Our characteristic of a Homœopathist lies not in the dose, but altogether in this—that he affirm the maxim in therapeutics, *similia similibus curantur;* and that, to enable us to find the needful analogy of likeness between drug-powers and diseased vital powers, we must test the drugs for this purpose on the healthy. We moreover expect him to deny the two fundamental assumptions of Allopathy, namely: 1, that it is possible to *cognize the essence of life*, and to found on such cognition a scientific idea of diseased vital action; and, 2, that it is possible to cognize drug-powers in the same way, *i. e.* by ontologic speculations based upon their physical appearance or chemical properties.

As the whole of Allopathy, excepting its empirical tradita, (alone worthy of attention) is founded on these transcendental bases, these two pure and mere assumptions, equally devoid of possible proofs, we can conceive of no one being at the same time an adherent of the two schools. There can be no

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eclecticism in the elements of these two systems; no middle course between a Method in the Art of Healing founded on purely scientific observation, and one resting *ex professo* on assumptions respecting life and power essences. These views, founded in and accepted from HAHNEMAN's great essay, "Spirit of Homœopathy," came to us in 1826–30; that is to say, to myself first, WILSON next, then to HULL, and lastly to CHANNING in '32, through the translation and commentaries of the good and great pioneer, GRAM; and none of us ever deviated from them, or wavered in supporting true Homœopathy. I have been thus careful to recite the details of convictions and practices in the early days and among the genuine pioneers here in New-York, for reasons which are obvious enough to those who knew the founders, and their merits and sacrifices, but which Time and Justice, through some of my faithful and learned survivors, must disclose and elucidate.

The learned propagandist of Homœopathy in other cities, or in foreign lands, may perhaps feel surprise at your dedicating a considerable share of this Annual Meeting, sacred to its origin and diffusion, to

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the memory of one of your number who contributed nothing to its polemic literature, and who did not even qualify himself to teach it to students by studying the language of that literature. Nevertheless, you are quite right. You should give glad testimony to the great missionary value of his five-and-thirty years clinical work. For though he gave no public lectures in support of Homœopathy, wrote no books and educated no pupils, yet, as your learned and brave predecessor, he bore your standard honorably through the opening conflict against vastly superior numbers, and, by his skill in diagnosis and prognosis, and his assiduity in acquiring the right remedies at the hands of those who could hunt them for him, (maugre the loss of prestige which such dependence entailed upon him for a time) he and his associates of that day made ready for your remunerative and happier occupation here in New-York, a position where you can, if you choose, do great and lasting work for the advacement and expansion of our glorious method of healing. This pioneer merit of WILSON, I may add, is righteously shared, to some extent, by all the well educated gentlemen of our

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school who came over to us in the second stage of its expansion, viz., after the translations were published; I mean especially those of this class who left prosperous positions in the old school and came to us from conviction of our great truths; who were impelled toward us by the irrepressible force of conscience, not allured by the hope of acquiring with us what they could not reach in the old school. You do right, I say, to honor this clinical expounder of Homœopathy, this unostentatious propagandist of our science, and to embalm his memory forever in the deepest recesses of your affections; for he and his associates have bequeathed to you the means for surely rewarding all the diligence in study and all the scientific research you may devote to the Materia Medica and to the enriching of your literature. If you shall develope here, in the metropolis of the New World, an efficient body of experimenters in Pharmacology; of honest and capable translators of the standard literature; of able commentators on the immortal discoveries of Hahneman; as, of late, I have seen some hopeful indications of your doing; you can then rightfully say to the learned and dis-

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tinguished objector, We honor the career and labors of WILSON, not only for the learning he acquired in his youth and for the dignity and benefactive worth of his character, which drew us all toward him in the best bonds of human affinity, but also because, by his cures of the thousands who came to him for relief during his long exercise of our divine art, he greatly aided to make our goodly status possible; because he and his venerated preceptor and associates left us the means of study and useful employment in our system on a broader scale than they can elsewhere be found in the civilized world.

My dear younger friends, you will, I trust, diligently sow and worthily reap the field of divine uses which the early pioneers cleared for you in the wintry months and fallowed for you in the cold and frosty spring of the great year of Homœopathy. Pardon me if, assuming the privilege of age, I implore you to abolish the blatant shams which infest our school and really imperil its existence; namely, mistranslations of the Organon and Materia Medica; false or very defective provings; and the miserable imitation of the old-school monopolies in the teach-

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ing and graduation of students of medicine. Demand and produce from among yourselves lecturers upon the Institutes who can read the learned languages, and also especially the language of the Organon, and who have enough of culture in Philosophy to weigh and expound its Kantian technics and criticisms. You have such men already forming among you. Develope their latent forces; reward their industry; honor their acquirements; and put them quickly to their work. Your Art is menaced, sharply so, by your defective plan of education for those who are to succeed you, and by the very deficient teachers whom that plan too frequently appoints. Can a man teach Homœopathy who cannot read German, or Forensic Medicine who cannot read Latin, the language of that branch of the law?

Away with shams! Allopathy can sustain them and live out her appointed time; but Homœopathy is akin to positive science, and all her methods demand correlative integrity in learning, teaching and practising them; she must perish from the face of the earth, unless we adapt our system of degrees or licenses to her imperative requirements In the

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early time, foreseeing in part these days of pecuniary prosperity to our school, GRAM, WILSON and I worked with great diligence in the Medical Societies of the state and in the Legislature to procure a reformation of the franchise or monopoly system of teaching students and of dispensing degrees, but all our efforts fell to the ground. The College had the advantage of us in the universal prejudice against Homœopathy which the suggesters of the palpably just and needed change professed, and we were compelled to give up our agitation of the question, after almost achieving success in two consecutive sessions of the Legislature; a success which would have filled the profession of the state with fine classical scholars, and, through a limitless competition, have given Homœopathy a chair in every college of teachers, and a just representation in our army and in every hospital in the country. We failed. The profession in general has steadily fallen back instead of advancing in literary and scientific acquirement till the mass has become incompetent to study Homœopathy, and accordingly we receive few or no accessions from it by conversion,

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Now, at last, my colleagues, you have obtained through the liberal action of our state government, plenary powers for securing the advancement of your branch of the profession. Your county societies and your state society, by proper action, can establish such rules for the examination of candidates, the dispensing of diplomas, and the appointment of teachers, as shall accomplish all that the pioneers worked for so long in vain, and all that the future demands at your hands. You cannot need new enactments, for you will seek to erect no monopoly of Professorships; and I earnestly implore you to give us a great School of Medicine here, *on a free basis*, by prompt, strong and thorough organization of your teaching forces under the ample charter-powers you possess. You have the means everywise—the needful numbers of learned Homœopathists, and the beneficence of the opulent friends of our mild and efficient treatment—to found such a School of Medicine. *Macte virtute!*

To conclude the task of love you gave me to do, my friends, I beg to say, that Dr. WILSON's key-note of life was *fraternity*. He loved his family, his

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friends, his country, and his race, each and all, infinitely more than he loved himself. He drew near especially to the weak and defenceless and downtrodden. To such his strong body, his strong powers of sympathy, his copious pecuniary income, were a wall of support, each as its resources were needed. As in the introduction of Homœopathy, so in every other phase and aspect of his benefactive life, and through each day of that whole life, his instinctive rule of action was *well-being for others*, without taking thought for his own self-hood either of to-day or to-morrow. In my long intercourse with him, I knew many, very many, shining instances of his lifting up the children of want and sorrow; and now, since his removal, I come quite frequently upon old cases of the kind from the lips of his benficiaries, which were sealed during his life-time.

Wilson was, by the gift of his Creator, born on that plane of uses which most men attain to only after long conflicts with the composite forms of self-ishness, by sad experiences, and by palpable throes of the inner life. He loved the works of fraternity; and he did them always, and to all who needed

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such works, without stint. Especially was he careful to aid and honor with his sympathy, and effectively aid with his money, the unfortunate physician, and the widows and orphans of such. Over WILSON'S grand record the religion of Jesus writes, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Master." His life's signet-ring imprints for us the wise words of the old Stoic poet:

> Aude, hospes, contemnere opes, et te quoque dignum
> Finge deo!

And his philosophy, which so grandly aided him in all the molestations and sorrows of life, and so perfectly sustained him in the long and precarious twilight of his fatal malady, was the offspring of his ever-abounding and most touching humanity. How resplendently do the words of SENECA concerning the relations of Virtue and Wisdom shine out in the mirror of such a life as was our friend's! "*Philosophia studium virtutis est, sed per ipsam virtutem, nec virtus autem esse sine studio sui potest nec virtutis studium sine ipsa.*"

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AND THE LATE

ABRAHAM D. WILSON, A. M., M. D.

BY HIS EARLY FRIEND

JOHN F. GRAY.

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