

# **NOTES ON MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649659012

Notes on Medical Education by Sir James Sawyer

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Cover @ 2017

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**SIR JAMES SAWYER**

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MEDICAL EDUCATION.

BY

SIR JAMES SAWYER, KNT., M.D.,

F.R.C.P.;

CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL;

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE;

FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE BIRMINGHAM CLINICAL BOARD.

Birmingham :

CORNISH BROTHERS.

London :

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO.

1889.

TO THE MEMORY OF

**William Sands Cox,**

F.R.C.S., F.R.S., D.L.,

(SOMETIME DEAN OF THE FACULTY IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE

AND

CONSULTING SURGEON TO THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL,

WHO ESTABLISHED

THE BIRMINGHAM ROYAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

IN THE YEAR 1838,

AND WHO AFTERWARDS FOUNDED

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL,

THESE PAGES ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY A GRATEFUL APPRENTICE AND COLLEAGUE.



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## PREFACE.

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" \* \* \* \* a virtuous and noble education ; laborious indeed at the first ascent, but else so smooth, so green, so full of goodly prospect, and melodious sounds on every side, that the harp of Orpheus was not more charming."

MILTON : " Tract on Education."

" Vox emissa volat, litera scripta manet."

" And what is writ, is writ.

Would it were worthier ! "

BYRON : " Childe Harold's Pilgrimage."

For the last twenty-eight years, from 1861 until now, I have been engaged in medical education. During that time I have had the good fortune to be occupied continuously, boy and' man, pupil and teacher, in the Birmingham Medical School. Ever since I took my degree, I have had the honour to share in training the students of our

school in some of the sciences and arts which compose the principles and practice of medicine. Since I became a teacher, I have, of necessity, not ceased to continue my own education. In the unbroken happiness of this work, I have sometimes ventured to express my experience upon particular points in medical training, when it has been my office to deliver in public certain formal addresses. While I hope I dealt with these matters in the light of some practical knowledge, I am at least sure I was moved by the keenest sympathy when I spoke of the difficulties and of the dangers, of the risks and of the responsibilities, of the trials and of the triumphs, which belong to those who prepare themselves for the profession of medicine. In hospital and in college I have been permitted, by the confidence of my colleagues, to make addresses upon medical education to large assemblages of members of our School. Lately I have been led to collect these scattered utterances in this little book. In the first leisure of my retirement from hospital teaching, I have examined the papers I have written aforetime, and gathered from them those fragments which have been yielded by my essays in