

**A CENTENNIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED
IN THE SANDERS THEATRE, AT
CAMBRIDGE, JUNE 7, 1881, BEFORE
THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL
SOCIETY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649415229

A Centennial Address Delivered in the Sanders Theatre, at Cambridge, June 7, 1881, Before the Massachusetts Medical Society by Samuel Abbott Green

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN

**A CENTENNIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED
IN THE SANDERS THEATRE, AT
CAMBRIDGE, JUNE 7, 1881, BEFORE
THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL
SOCIETY**

Harvard College Library,
from Samuel A. Green

A

CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN THE

SANDERS THEATRE, AT CAMBRIDGE,

JUNE 7, 1881,

Before the Massachusetts Medical Society.

BY

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, M.D.

5/ GROTON:

1881.

US 12670. 20
V. 1127

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

1881. June 10,
copy of
the Author.

TO

The Memory of my father,

DOCTOR JOSHUA GREEN,
OF GROTON,

WHO WAS, DURING HALF A CENTURY, A MEMBER OF THE

Massachusetts Medical Society,

AND FOR MANY YEARS ONE OF ITS COUNCILLORS,

THIS ADDRESS IS INSCRIBED, WITH FILIAL PIETY,

BY THE WRITER.

This edition of the Address was printed before its delivery, for the convenience of the writer; portions of it, however, were necessarily omitted in the reading.

The Massachusetts Medical Society is in no way responsible for the opinions it contains.

CENTENNIAL ADDRESS.

I.

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY is about to enter upon the second century of its existence. Following the customs of this centennial period, it proposes to celebrate the anniversary of its origin by the story of its life. It was born in troublous times; and its founders were still engaged more or less actively in a political struggle which even to-day, by reflex action, is exerting a powerful influence on the events of the world. It was during the War for Independence that the physicians and surgeons of this Commonwealth were led to feel the need of some association in order to encourage professional studies. A new field was then opened for medical investigations, and the workers were eager to cultivate it. At no previous time had so many medical men of the State been brought into close relations with one another, or in contact with their brethren from other States; and this intercourse necessarily stimulated inquiry and discussion, and produced a community of professional feeling, such as had never before existed. In union there is strength; this was true in war, and it was true in peace. They saw that better results were accom-

plished by concerted action than by individual effort; and they were then ready to associate themselves together for the purpose of improving the practice of medicine and raising the standard of its study. It is a singular fact in the social economy of affairs, that some of the oldest and most learned scientific associations, both in this country and in Europe, have been formed during the clash of arms and the din of war; and this Society is no exception. Nothing happens in this world by chance, though oftentimes it may be difficult to discover the law which underlies a principle.

The Massachusetts Medical Society was incorporated on November 1, 1781, and its charter was signed by Samuel Adams, as president of the Senate, and by John Hancock, as governor of the Commonwealth. These names suggest Revolutionary times and smack of patriotism. It will be noted that the centennial anniversary of the birth of the Society does not occur for some months to come; but it is fair to assume that the preliminary preparation for its organization covers this interval. In the presence of this audience it need not be said that a period of gestation always precedes a birth; and without attempting to fix the limit of this period I shall assume that it is now a century since the conception of the Society took place in the brains of its founders.

There had been before this time a medical society in Boston, which was the first one formed in America. It appears to have been in existence as early as the year 1735, though it did not continue long. Its records are irretrievably lost, and all that is known about it is gathered from fragmentary sources. It is very likely that it included in its list of members some of the ministers, as they were interested in the study and practice