

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY IN
AMERICA, 1800 TO 1870; A CONTRIBUTION TO
OPHTHALMOLOGIC HISTORY AND
BIOGRAPHY: AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN
ABSTRACT BEFORE THE SECTION OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JUNE 4, 1907**

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ALVIN A. HUBBELL

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DR. GEORGE FRICK (1793-1870). THE FATHER OF AMERICAN OPTHALMOLOGY.

The Development of
Ophthalmology in America
1800 to 1870

A CONTRIBUTION TO OPHTHALMOLOGIC
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN
ABSTRACT BEFORE THE SEC-
TION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION, JUNE 4, 1907.
REVISED AND ENLARGED.
ILLUSTRATED BY SELECTED
PORTRAITS AND CUTS.

BY

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PREFACE.

Through the earnest solicitations of numerous esteemed confrères, I have been induced to republish in book form the address which I had the honor to present to the Section of Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City, N. J., June 4, 1907. In doing this I have availed myself of the opportunity to revise the text throughout, to rewrite portions of it, to make several additions to it, and to incorporate a number of cuts and selected portraits. These portraits are of men who have distinguished themselves more or less in ophthalmology during the period which I have reviewed. Some of them have never before been given to the public, and it is only through the extreme courtesy of professional and other friends that I am enabled to publish them now. Those who have been especially helpful to me in this regard are Drs. B. Joy Jeffries, Hasket Derby, Edward Reynolds and Edwin H. Bingham, of Boston; Mr. Charles P. Fisher, librarian of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Mr. John S. Brownne, of the New York Academy of Medicine, and Dr. Herman Knapp, of New York; Dr. Walter S. Steiner, of Hartford, and Drs. Samuel Theobald and Harry Friedenwald, of Baltimore. This collection of portraits, only two of which are of living men, viz., Dr. Derby and Dr. Knapp, adds interest, it seems to

me, to the biographical sketches, and also serves to reveal in their physiogomy something of the character of the men who have been instrumental in establishing, advancing and dignifying ophthalmology as a specialty in America.

I can not let this little volume go forth without warning my readers that it is not intended to embody a complete survey of American ophthalmology from 1800 to 1870. It simply sketches the principal factors of its development—the men who have been most conspicuous in connection with it, and the institutions, in their beginnings, which have become perpetual fountains of ophthalmologic knowledge and experience, as well as harbingers of relief to the suffering and blind. I realize that almost any one subject herein touched upon merits in itself a more detailed consideration—a chapter if not a volume; but I trust that even the outlines and incomplete sketches which I have given will not be entirely devoid of historical interest, and that they may at least serve as landmarks to guide some future historian into a wider field of study.

The story of the progress of ophthalmology from 1870 to the present time is an interesting one, as I know from the material which I have collected and which I had hoped to use when I was first invited to deliver this address. Whether or not it is to be told in the future depends largely on the judgment which is passed upon this first installment.

A. A. H.

212 Franklin Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY IN AMERICA: 1800 TO 1870.*

I.

INTRODUCTION.

In undertaking to indicate the factors that have contributed to the development of ophthalmology in America, I have found it obligatory to limit my study to Canada and the United States. This has been necessary because of lack of time and readily available resources to go farther, and also because our interests in American ophthalmology center in these two great nations.

An important question has also arisen in this connection, viz., who are they, in this restricted sense, that are Americans? Are they those alone who were reared and educated in one of those two countries? Or should those be included who, although foreign born and foreign educated, have come to these lands to live, and who have identified themselves with these peoples, their thought, their work, their purposes and their institutions? America, in the sense above indicated, and in which I shall hereafter use the word, is essentially cosmopolitan, and every man is an American who subscribes to the laws of the country, makes himself an in-

* I have taken the liberty of changing the title which the officers of the Section of Ophthalmology of the A. M. A. assigned to me at the time I was honored by an invitation to deliver this address. The subject suggested was "What America Has Contributed to the Advancement of Ophthalmology."

tegral part of its national life, and labors hand in hand with others for the common weal, whatever may have been his birthplace or in whatever country he may have received his education and scientific training. Herman Knapp and Ferdinand C. Hotz, for example, are to-day as truly American in sentiment and spirit, and through ties of scientific interests and affiliations, as are Hasket Derby or G. C. Savage; and it is both my pleasure, pride and duty to recognize them as Americans, and their labors here, as American, and all who, like them, have adopted America as their own. I thus define what I mean by America and American that there may be no misconception of these terms for the purpose of this occasion.

OPHTHALMOLOGIC ADVANCEMENT.

In its evolution, ophthalmology has advanced at times very slowly and at other times almost by bounds. With the announcement of Maitre-Jan and Brisseau of the true nature of cataract in 1706 to 1709, with Cheselden's operation for artificial pupil in 1728, with Daviel's publication in 1752 of a new method of curing cataract by extracting it, with the discovery of sulphuric ether anesthesia in 1846, with von Helmholtz's invention of the ophthalmoscope in 1851, with von Graefe's newly-found surgical relief for glaucoma in 1857, with Donders' revelations in regard to the refraction of the eye and its anomalies in 1859 to 1864, with Lister's teachings of antiseptis and the protection of operative wounds from the invasion of germs in 1867, with Koller's announcement of ocular anesthesia by cocain in 1884, ophthalmology took tremendous leaps. Other advances, such as those pertaining to anatomy, physiology, path-