Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck, noted early nineteenth century alienist and authority on medical jurisprudence, a member of the class of 1807 at Union College, and a grandson of the Rev. Dr. Direk Romeyn, the Schenectady pastor who inspired the founding of the college, will be the "Union Worthy" to be honored at the Founders Day ceremony on Saturday, February 25, 1950, marking the 155th anniversary of the granting of the New York State charter to the college.

The speakers at the ceremony, to be held at 11 a.m. in the Memorial Chapel, will be: Dr. J. Lewi Donhauser '04, Professor of Surgery at Albany Medical College, who will tell of the life and career of Dr. Beck, long a resident of Albany, and for thirty-one years principal of Albany Academy; Dr. Francis F. Schwentker '25, Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, who will speak on the future of medical research; and Dr. George Packer Berry, Dean of the Harvard Medical School, whose address will deal with the future of medical education and administration.

Especially invited to the observance will be all physicians in the capital district and the student body and faculty of the Albany Medical College, one of the departments of Union University.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, Union 1807, to be honored as the 1950 Union Worthy. From a painting by Adrian Lamb presented to Union College in 1937 by fifty-three members of the faculty of Albany Medical College.
UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

RETURN TO: GRADUATE COUNCIL
UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1. NAME IN FULL: Theadric Rameyn Beck
   Union Degree: Class of 1807

2. Son of (A) Father: Caleb Beck, Lawyer
   (B) Mother: Catherine Theresa Rameyn

3. Born: Aug 11th, 1791 at Schenectady, N. Y.

4. Died: Nov. 18, 1855 at Albany, N. Y.

5. Married: Harriet Caldwell on 1814
   (A) Wife was born: Nov 6, 1792 at
   (B) Wife died: Apr. 16th, 1823 at Albany, N. Y.

6. Children:
   Name: Helen L. (Parmele) Date of Birth: Feb 15, 1821
   Date of Death: Nov 27th, 1863
   Catherine E. (Van Cortlandt) who married
   Preiser Van Cortlandt of Croton, N. Y.

7. Prepared for college at: Schenectady, N. Y.

8. College Life:
   (A) Fraternity Membership
   (B) Literary or Social Organization Membership
   (C) Class Offices
   (D) College Prizes and Honors

9. Other Colleges Attended: Col. Physicians & Surgeons, N.Y., M.D.


11. Profession: M.D. and Teacher


15. Member of professional, literary, scientific, societies.

See annexed paper.


17. Religious denomination.

18. Political preference.


20. Relatives of self or wife at Union. Lewis C. Beck. Union 1815. Sanderson Rev. Berch Ramsay, B.D. one of the founders of Union College.

21. Additional information. (Use this space for any other biographical data or to supplement any of the above answers.)

22. Information supplied by: Lewis Beck Sebree, C.E.

Street Address: 320 Summit Ave.

City: Schenectady, N.Y. Date: Oct 26 32.
JEFFERSON LETTER
GIVEN TO COLLEGE

At 81, the Former President
Encouraged Geographer in
His Studies of Climate

SCHENECTADY, May 2 — A
letter from Thomas Jefferson in
which he displayed, at the age of
81, his unflagging interest in the
development of the West, has been
presented to Union College by a
descendant of the man to whom it
was written.

The document reveals that the
former President generously en-
couraged a younger scientist-geogra-
pher who had differed with Je-
fferson’s own published observa-
tions of the climate of the almost
virgin continent that stretched
westward from the Appalachians.

This was the territory that Jeffer-
son, as President years before, had
secured to the Nation through the
Louisiana Purchase and had caused
to be explored by Lewis and Clark.

The letter is dated at Monticello,
July 16, 1824, two years before
Jefferson’s death. It is addressed
to Dr. Lewis C. Beck of Albany,
who had sent Jefferson a pamphlet
on the climate of the Mississippi
Valley that partly contradicted
Jefferson’s “Notes on Virginia,”
written during the Revolution.

The letter was given to Union
College by Lewis B. Sebring Jr.,
newspaper man and former public
relations director at the college,
who is a great-grandson of Dr.
Beck.

Text of Letter

The text of the letter follows:

Monticello, July 16, 24

I thank you, sir, for your pam-
phlet on the climate of the West,
and have read it with great sat-
isfaction. Altho’ it does not yet
establish a satisfactory theory,
it is an additional step towards it.

Mine was perhaps the first at-
tempt, not to form a theory, but
to bring together the few facts
then known and suggest them to
public attention. They were writ-
ten between 40 & 50 years ago,
before the close of the revolu-
tionary war, when the western coun-
try was a wilderness untrodden
but by the foot of the savage or
the hunter.

It is now flourishing in popula-
 tion and science, and after a few
years more of observation & col-
lection of facts they will doubt-
less furnish a theory of solid
foundation. Years are requisite
for this, steady attention to the
thermometer, to the plants grow-
ing there, the times of their leav-
 ing & flowering, its animal in-
habits, beasts, birds, reptiles
& insects, its prevalent winds,
quantities of rain and snow, tem-
perature of fountains and other
indexes of climate.

We want this indeed for all the
states, and the work should be
repeated once or twice in a cen-
tury to shew the effect of clear-
ing and culture towards changes
of climate. My Notes give a very
imperfect idea of what our cli-
mate was, half a century ago, at
this place, which being nearly
central to the state may be taken
for its medium. Latterly after

seven years of close & exact ob-
servations I have prepared an
estimate of what it is now, which
may some day be added to the
former work, and I hope some-
ting like this is doing in the
other states, which, when all
shall be brought together, may
produce theories meriting con-

dence.

I trust that you will not
be inattentive to this service, and
that to that of the present epoch
you may be able to add a second
at the distance of another half
century. With this wish accept
the assurance of my respectful
consideration.

TH: JEFFERSON.
Graduate Council
AROUND THE TOWN:

The Caldwell Name in History

By Edgar S. Van Olinda

It is not the privilege of everyone to have his name perpetuated by having a community named after him or his family. Singerlands keeps alive the family of the same name: Duanesburg honors the first mayor of New York City and Thacher Park in the Helderbergs, keeps alive the name of several Albany mayors, the last being the beloved John Boyd Thacher. II. James Caldwell gave his name to the settlement at the southernly end of Lake George, but later it was changed to the village of Lake George.

The ruins of Fort George were just a step from Fort William Henry, the site now occupied by the hotel of the same name. Nearby was Prospect Mountain and from the village of Caldwell, there ran an inclined railroad, similar to that which functioned down in the Catskill Mountain, from which a magnificent panorama met the eye.

Caldwell Village was founded in 1810 and named in honor of James Caldwell who seems to have owned nearly all the land in the town of the same name. In 1813, the village contained some 40 houses, stores, a post office and a small church with a steeple and a bell, the gift of James Caldwell. That same year, Warren County was taken from Washington County and Caldwell became the county seat of Warren County. If any of the Caldwell family returned to the original location of the village, they would not recognize their old property on account of the motels and Coney Island-like type of summer resort.

The First Inn

The first inn and gristmill was erected by Mr. Caldwell. He was formerly a successful merchant in Albany. The Court House was built in 1816. The first steamer on Lake George was the “Caldwell.” James Caldwell is buried in the little cemetery on Lake George village, as is his son, William, whose headstone calls attention to the fact that the son was the second proprietor of the Caldwell estate. William was one of the incorporators of the Albany Pier, the construction of which, with the “Basin,” accompanied the building of the Erie Canal.

He was the donor of the Caldwell Mathematical Medal, awarded each year to the pupil in the Albany Academy for proficiency in that particular study during the four year course. The prize, established in 1831 is the oldest of the Albany Boys’ school’s awards.

His Daughters

James Caldwell’s daughter, Harriet, married one of America’s most distinguished physicians, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, a graduate of Union College in 1807. He became Doctor of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Doctor of Laws, Rutgers College, and held the chair of Materia Medica in the Albany Medical College until 1854. Munsell’s Annals of Albany list 45 offices filed by Dr. Beck in his long career.

Their daughter Helen, married William Parmelee, former mayor of Albany. Dr. Beck, after whom the Beck Literary Assn. of the Boys Academy is named, sat under five presidents of that school and himself as president over three principals. For many years his burial place was thought to be in Schenectady. But after a long search, his grave was discovered in the cemetery at Lake George by W. L. L. Petzt. Albany lawyer, from whose interesting historical book, “The Top Flights at Number One, Lafayette Street” (that being the official address of the former Boys Academy, we obtained much of the information concerning the family of James Caldwell.

At one time, members of the Cooper family of “Leather Stocking” fame occupied apartments in the old Boys Academy building when both sides of Elk St. were known as “Quality Row.” When the present Lafayette Park was instituted, the houses on the South side of Elk St. were razed. But the North side of Elk St., although in many respects, “has gone commercial,” it still retains the indefinable quality of gracious living when governors of the state occupied several of the homes before the present Executive Mansion in Eagle St. was secured.
Noted Physician

James Caldwell's daughter, Harriet, married one of America's most distinguished physi-

Prospect Mountain just west of the village still rears its beautiful contour against the horizon. Missing from the picture is the former inclined railroad to the top of the eminence from which one of the most magnificent views of one of the world's most beautiful lakes was obtainable. Now look at the damned pace!

Union Receives Beck Portrait

Fifty-three members of the Albany Medical College faculty contributed to the fund with which an oil portrait of Dr. Theodoric Remsen Beck, one-time student at the college and principal of Albany Academy, was obtained and presented today to Union College at Schenectady by Dr. Arthur W. Ewing of Albany.

The presentation ceremonies were carried out before the students body of Union assembled in memorial Chapel. Dr. Ewing, who accepted the name of Union as the president and pointed to the gift as an expression of unusual "inter-university conformity," was the first instance that individual members of one branch of Union College faculty joined in presenting a gift to another branch.

Dr. Beck was the grandson of Direc Remsen, co-founder of Union. The doctor was a famous 18th century alumnus and medical expert whose book and medical jurisprudence has gone into 12 editions, including German and Swedish.

Born in Schenectady in 1791, Dr. Beck was the son of a daughter of Dr. Theodoric Remsen, principal of the Schenectady academy which became Union College in 1795 by act of the Legislature after petitions to that end had been filed at the capitol for 16 consecutive years.

After study under two physicians at Albany Medical College following graduation at Union, Dr. Beck earned his M.D. degree at the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1811.

Dr. Beck's portrait presented to Union today is from the brush of Adrian Lumb of New York City, who uses as source the oil portrait of Dr. Beck made in the middle of the last century by A. W. Titchell. famous Albany artist, whose portraits of New York State governors have international reputations.

Contributors Include:

The Caldwell Name in History

By Edgar S. Van Olinda

It is not the privilege of everyone to have his name perpetuated by having a community named after him or his family. Slingerlands, the name of the family, keeps alive the name of several Albany mayors, the last being the beloved John Boyd Thacher. II. James Caldwell gave his name to the settlement as the southern end of Lake George, but later it was changed to the village of Lake George.

The ruins of Fort George were just a step from Fort William Henry, the site now occupied by the hotel of the same name. Nearby was Propess Mountain and from the village of Caldwell, there ran an inclined railroad, similar to that which functioned down in the Catskill Mountains, from which a magnificent panorama met the eye.

Caldwell Village was founded in 1810 and named in honor of James Caldwell who seems to have owned nearly all the land in the town of the same name. In 1818, the village contained 40 houses, stores, a post office and a small church with a steeple and a bell, the gift of James Caldwell. That same year, Warren County was taken from Washington County and Caldwell became the county seat of Warren County. If any of the Caldwell family returned to the original location of the village, they would not recognize their old property on account of the motels and Coney Island-like type of summer resort.

The First Inn

The first inn and grist mill was opened by Mr. Caldwell. He was formerly a successful merchant in Albany. The Grist Mill was built in 1818. The first steamboat on Lake George was the "Caldwell." James Caldwell is buried in the little cemetery in Lake George village, as is his son, William, whose headstone calls attention to the fact that the son was the second proprietor of the Caldwell estate. William was one of the incorporators of the Albany Pier, the construction of which, with the "Basin," accompanied the building of the Erie Canal. He was the donor of the Caldwell Mathematical Medal, awarded each year to the pupil in the Albany Academy for proficiency in that particular study during the four year course. The prize, established in 1831, is the oldest of the Albany boys' school's awards.

His Daughters

James Caldwell's daughter, Harriet, married one of America's most distinguished physicians, Dr. T. Romney Beck, a graduate of Union College in 1827. He became Doctor of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Doctor of Laws, Rutgers College, and held the chair of Materia Medica in the Albany Medical College until 1854. Munson's Annals of Albany list 45 offices filled by Dr. Beck in his long career.

Their daughter Helen, married William Parmelee, former mayor of Albany, Dr. Beck, after whom the Beck Literary Association of the Boys' Academy is named, sat under five presidents of that school, and himself, as president, over three principals. For many years his burial place was thought to be in Schenectady. But after a long search, his grave was discovered in the cemetery at Lake George by W. L. L. Pelz, Albany lawyer, from whose interesting historical book, "The Top Night at Number One, Lafayette Street" (that being the official address of the former Boys' Academy), we obtained much of the information concerning the family of James Caldwell.

At one time, members of the Cooper family of "Leather Stocking" fame occupied apartments in the old Boys' Academy building when both sides of Elk St. were known as "Quality Row." When the present Lafayette Park was instituted, the houses on the South side of Elk St. were razed. But in many respects, "as gone commercial," it still retains the indefinable quality of gracious living when governed by the state occupied several of the mansions before the present Executive Mansion in Eagle St. was secured.

Buried in Lake George

James Caldwell's daughter, Harriet, married one of America's most distinguished physicians, Dr. T. Romney Beck, a graduate of Union College in 1827. He became Doctor of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Doctor of Laws, Rutgers College, and held the chair of Materia Medica in the Albany Medical College until 1854. Munson's Annals of Albany list 45 offices filled by Dr. Beck in his long career. Their daughter Helen, married William Parmelee, former mayor of Albany, Dr. Beck, after whom the Beck Literary Association of the Boys' Academy is named, sat under five presidents of that school, and himself, as president, over three principals. For many years his burial place was thought to be in Schenectady. But after a long search, his grave was discovered in the cemetery at Lake George by W. L. L. Pelz, Albany lawyer, from whose interesting historical book, "The Top Night at Number One, Lafayette Street" (that being the official address of the former Boys' Academy), we obtained much of the information concerning the family of James Caldwell.

At one time, members of the Cooper family of "Leather Stocking" fame occupied apartments in the old Boys' Academy building when both sides of Elk St. were known as "Quality Row." When the present Lafayette Park was instituted, the houses on the South side of Elk St. were razed. But in many respects, "as gone commercial," it still retains the indefinable quality of gracious living when governed by the state occupied several of the mansions before the present Executive Mansion in Eagle St. was secured.
Law, Medical Abilities
Proposed for Coroners

New York (Special to The Saratogian) — Dr. Arthur Q. Penta, visiting lecturer, Temple University Medical School, and director of the department of Broncho-Esophagology at St. Clare's and Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, in a prepared speech delivered before the Society of Medical Jurisprudence Monday evening at the Academy of Medicine, New York City, advocated that the coroner of today, if he is to be called by that name, should be a physician who is well versed in the legal and medical procedure required of that office.

Dr. Penta said "the present basic theory behind the coroner system is fallacious; that a local magistrate without special qualifications in law or medicine, can conduct a judicial investigation successfully for the purpose of determining the cause of obscure and violent death."

Dr. Penta delivered a paper on the life of Dr. Theodoric Romeyn Beck, one of Schenectady's leading citizens, who in 1807 wrote the first comprehensive treatise on medical jurisprudence to be published in the English language. Dr. Beck was born in Schenectady in 1741, and was graduated from Union College in the Class of 1769. His maternal grandfather, the Rev. Dr. Derick Romeyn, was one of the founders of Union College in 1765. As far back as 1822, Dr. Beck fought against the system of electing or appointing lay persons to conduct medicolegal investigations. He stated that the system was unreasonable and invariably led to obstruction and miscarriage of justice.

Sch'dy Doctor Gives Talk

Dr. Arthur Q. Penta, director of the department of Broncho-Esophagology at St. Clare's and Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, recently presented a paper at a meeting of the Society of Medical Jurisprudence in New York City.

The subject of the paper was T. Romeyn Beck, an 1807 graduate of Union College, who was president of the society for three terms and published a work considered a model for all subsequent books on forensic medicine.

Union College Alumnus Is Paper Topic

T. Romeyn Beck, Union College class of 1807, was the subject of a paper read by Dr. Arthur Q. Penta, director of the department of Broncho-Esophagology at Ellis and St. Clare hospitals in Schenectady.

THE PAPER, entitled "Theodoric Romeyn Beck, the Father of American Medical Jurisprudence," was read at a meeting of the Society of Medical Jurisprudence in New York City Monday.

Beck, three times president of the society, published in 1807 "The Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," a work considered a model for all subsequent books on forensic medicine.
Historical Society Told Of Stature of Melville

By LARRY HART
Gazette Reporter

More than 100 years ago, Herman Melville found himself famous at the age of 26—the youngest successful American author of the century. Dr. C. H. Davidson, Union College president, told his audience Wednesday at the Schenectady County Historical Society.

DR. DAVIDSON, whose topic was "Herman Melville and Union College," was principal speaker for the monthly evening meeting of the society at 82 Washington avenue. The public is invited to all lectures held the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. and the fourth Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

"New York state can take great pride in the fact that five of the half dozen really major American writers of the 19th century were born or lived in the state," Dr. Davidson said. "They were Walt Whitman and Melville. The greatness of these two writers has become clearer as our 20th century has moved along, and both men now stand in the very front rank of American writers of all times."

He said that while the name of Herman Melville almost disappeared from literary annals between the 1880s and 1920s, in the last 40 years Melville has been firmly established as perhaps the greatest American novelist.

"MELVILLE'S literary success began again in the publishing of his first novel, 'Typee,' in February, 1846, Dr. Davidson said. But his crowning glory came in 1851 when "Moby Dick' came off the presses."

"It has been stated that this was not a novel, but an epic of whaling and whalers. There certainly it is a tremendous amount of extraneous material about whales and philosophy. Certainly it is an allegory of the quest for revenge upon the unattainable, upon fate itself, carried out through the use of symbolism in the sea, the whale, and Captain Ahab," the speaker continued.

During his talk, Dr. Davidson told of Melville's early suffering his family tribulations. But he also brought out the connection between Melville and Schenectady area, specifically with Union College.

The Melvilles once lived in Albany, later moved to New York City. However, one of Melville's uncles, Herman Canseco, ran a lumber mill at the little town of Canseco—halfway between Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls—and the boy spent considerable time visiting there.

IN 1839, MELVILLE attended Albany Academy, the principal of which was Dr. Romeyn Beck, an 1807 graduate of Union College. The other best known teacher was Joseph Henry, who had been awarded an honorary master's degree by Union College the previous June in recognition of his invention of the electromagnet—which was later to make possible the development of the telegraph and the whole electrical industry.

In Melville's family were seven relatives who attended Union.

"Union College therefore must have been very well known to Melville, although we have no evidence that he ever attempted to attend the college. It was a Union College family, however, who exerted perhaps the greatest influence upon Melville's literary career," Dr. Davidson asserted.

SOME FACTS about Melville's visits to this area also were related by the speaker.

"In the winter of 1832, tragedy struck the family, when Herman's father, Allan, loaded down with debts, went insane and died Jan. 28, 1832. One psychoanalytic literary critic has pointed out that Herman Melville spent the rest of his life seeking a father's love," Dr. Davidson said.

"At the age of 13, Herman was therefore forced to leave the Albany school and become an apprentice clerk in the New York State Bank, where he stayed for two years, living through the Albany Cholera epidemic of the summer of 1832," he continued. "It is also reported that the new railroad to Schenectady had been completed, so Herman rode the train to Schenectady, spent the night at Davis' Tavern and had his first drink in a bar in Schenectady."
FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY P.M., OCT. 11, 1961

Union Alumnus Subject of Medical Society Paper

SCHENECTADY, N.Y., Oct. 11--T. Romeyn Beck, Union College Class of 1807, was the subject of a paper read by Dr. Arthur Q. Penta, director of the department of broncho-esophagology at Ellis and St. Clare Hospitals in Schenectady.

The paper, entitled "Theodric Romeyn Beck, The Father of American Medical Jurisprudence," was read at a meeting of the Society of Medical Jurisprudence in New York City Monday.

Beck, three times president of the Society, published in 1823 "The Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," a work considered as a model for all subsequent books on forensic medicine.
1308 Beck (T. R., M.D.) Eulogy on his Life and Character, delivered before the Medical Society of the State of New York, by F. H. Hamilton, M.D., published by Order of the Senate, portrait, 8vo., 90 pp., 6s

Albany, 1856

Sabin 30003.
Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt, son of Major-General Pierre and Anne (Stevenson) Van Courtlandt, was born at Albany, N.Y., April 25, 1815, died at the Van Courtlandt Manor, Croton, N.Y., July 11, 1884. He married at Albany, June 14, 1836, Catherine Elizabeth Beck, born at Albany, August 21, 1818, died at the Van Courtlandt Manor, January 12, 1895. Her father was Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M.D., LL.D., born at Schenectady, N.Y., Aug. 1, 1791, died at Albany, Nov. 19, 1855; celebrated principal of the Albany Academy from 1817 to 1845; married at Caldwell, Lake George, N.Y., Sept. 8, 1814, Harriet Caldwell, born at Albany, 1793, died there, 1823, daughter of James Caldwell of Albany.


Gen. & Fam. Hist. of Southern N.Y. v. 3, p. 1404
Cuyler Reynolds, Ed.
New York 1914.

We have before us, in pamphlet form, a brief biographical sketch of our distinguished fellow-citizen, Dr. Beck, being a republication of an article prepared for the American Journal of Insanity, with reference more particularly to Dr. Beck's connection with the department of medicine to which that periodical is devoted.

Held in high esteem and deserved enthusiasm for his many virtues, as well as for his contributions to the cause of science and education, our community will learn with regret from the following note that there is no prospect of Dr. Beck's recovering from the illness to which he has been for some time subjected.

Mrs. Van Dyck & Cassidy--Gentlemen--It was the wish of Dr. Beck, expressed to me last week, that one of the accompanying pamphlets should be sent to each gentleman, as from him.

In complying with his request, it is with deep sorrow I add that in all probability he cannot survive to see another day.

Yours respectfully,

William Parmelee.

Albany Evening Atlas
November 13, 1856.

Note: This pamphlet printed in the Nov. 20th issue.
On April 20 Union received the gift of a notable portrait of an outstanding graduate, T. Romeyn Beck, M. D., LL. D., Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Beck was, for many years, principal of the Albany Boys’ Academy, an authority on medical jurisprudence, and a member of the Regents of the University of the State of New York. His writings on medical jurisprudence gave him an international reputation.

The portrait of Dr. Beck has an added significance for us, for it was the gift of fifty-two members of the staff of the Albany Medical College, and is thus an expression of the friendliness which we believe is growing each year between the members of the Union University family, an organization we are prone to neglect because of our geographical separation.

Dr. Arthur W. Elting, professor of surgery at the Albany Medical College, was in charge of the fund through which the picture was purchased. The portrait itself, painted by Adrian Lamb from the original by A. W. Twitchell which others, because he is “accessible.”
CLASS OF 1807

THEODORIC ROMEYN BECK

Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M. D., who died at Albany, on Monday last, was formerly President of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Secretary to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, and more recently editor of the American Journal of Insanity, besides holding many other responsible public positions, in all of which he labored indefatigably for the promotion of education, science, and improvement.

Christian Intelligencer       November 29, 1855

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book    p. 427
Theoderic R. Beck, physician and author, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., April 11, 1791. His father was Caleb Beck, and he was of mingled English and Dutch descent. At an early age he was left by the death of his father in the care of a widowed mother who had four other sons. He attended the common schools of Schenectady, and in 1803 entered Union College, where he was graduated at the age of sixteen years. He then went to Albany where he commenced the study of medicine which he completed in New York city, under the eminent Dr. David Hosack. He received the degree of M.D. in 1811, and returned to Albany, where he began the practice of medicine and surgery. In the same year he was appointed physician to the almshouse. Having become a member of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts, in 1812 he began to interest himself in agriculture and manufactures and continued to promote the useful arts during his entire life; in 1813 he read before the society an important report on the mineral wealth of the state of New York. In 1815 Dr. Beck was appointed professor of the institutes of medicine and also lecturer on medical jurisprudence in a new college of physicians and surgeons which had been established at Fairfield, in Herkimer county. He also became principal of the Albany Academy and withdrew from the practice of medicine in 1817, being led to this action by a sensitive organization; revolting at the suffering he was compelled to witness. In 1823 Dr. Beck was elected vice-president of the Albany Lyceum of Natural History, and the same year published with his brother, J. B. Beck, their important work on "The Elements of Medical Jurisprudence." This gave the authors world-wide fame. It was translated into several European languages and became the standard authority on that subject. In 1829 Dr. Beck was elected president of the Medical Society of the State of New York. In 1840 he was elected professor of materia medica in the Albany Medical College, and continued to fill the chair until 1854, when he resigned on account of impaired health. He also filled, from 1841 until his death, the important position of secretary of the board of regents of the state of New York. Dr. Beck was an expert on insanity; published an inaugural dissertation on the subject in 1811, and from 1849 to 1853 edited "The American Journal of Insanity." He contributed to a number of journals of general science, and the papers from his pen which were read before the general societies were valuable contributions to American literature. He died at Utica, N. Y., Nov. 19, 1855.

1807—Theodore Romeyn Beck was the subject of deserved notice in the columns of the Albany Knickerbocker Press for September 8. His distinction as principal of the Albany Boys’ Academy and as professor in the Albany Medical College is still a lively memory in Albany. His fame, however, remains more than local. His treatise on medical jurisprudence, which was published in this country in 1823, republished in London two years later and shortly afterward translated and published in Germany, has passed through ten editions in the English language and is still regarded as standard in its subject. Distinguished also were his services as professor of the institutes of medicine and lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the Fairfield Medical School, as president of the Medical Society of the State of New York, as member of the Society for the Promotion of the Useful Arts and as president of the board of trustees, subsequently to his principalship of the Albany Academy; the Beck Literary Society perpetuates his name in that academy. Theodore Romeyn Beck was born in Schenectady. His maternal grandfather was the Rev. Henry Romeyn, pastor of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady and a living spirit in the founding of Union College.

T. R. BECK HEAD OF ALBANY ACADEMY

Famous Author of the Elements of Medical Jurisprudence Passed Life Here.

TAUGHT MEDICA 39 YEARS

Gave a Practical Insight into the Value of New York’s Minerals in the Development of Industry.

Theodore Romeyn Beck, author of the Elements of Medical Jurisprudence, and for a long time principal of the Albany academy, was born in Schenectady, August 11, 1811. The family was of English origin but long has been identified with the Dutch population. Caleb Beck sailed a vessel from Boston to England. He married at Schenectady and was lost at sea. His son, Caleb Beck, the great-grandfather of T. Romeyn Beck, died in 1733, leaving much property. His son was admitted to practice law in Albany in 1715. Dr. Beck’s father studied law also, but never practiced. He married Catherine Teresa Romeyn, daughter of the Rev. Derick Romeyn of the Reformed Dutch church of Schenectady.

Dr. Beck entered Union college at Schenectady in 1833, was graduated in 1837, and entered medical school in New York with Dr. David Hosack. He attended the lectures of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the eastern district and in 1811 received the degree of doctor of medicine, presenting as his thesis a paper on insanity. It was published in pamphlet form, and received flattering notices.

Married at Caldwell, Lake George.

Returning from New York he was appointed physician to the almshouse and on resigning presented a memorial to the supervisors on the subject of workhouses whose wisdom has been justified since. He married in 1814 at Caldwell on Lake George, Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, a merchant of Albany, whose estate and home were on the lake.

In 1815, at twenty-four, Dr. Beck was appointed professor of medicine and lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the western district at Poughkeepsie, New York. When the term expired in 1814 he delivered an introductory lecture on the advantages of country medical schools, being a reply to an attack by one of the professors in New York which had found its way into the country newspapers.

Principal of the Academy.

In 1817 Dr. Beck accepted the position of principal of the Albany academy. In 1829 he was elected president of the New York State Medical College, and reelected for two years. In 1828 he was made professor of medical jurisprudence instead of lecturer at Pittsfield Medical college and in 1836 he was transferred from the chair of materia medica at his own request and continued to occupy both until the college was abandoned in 1839.

On leaving Pittsfield he was elected to the chair of materia medica in the Albany Medical college, that of medical jurisprudence being already filled by Amos Dean. He resigned in 1834 on account of declining health, having taught medicine for thirty-nine years.

In 1847 he resigned as principal of the Albany academy and on the death of James Stephenson succeeded him as president of the board of trustees.

Gives Attention to Minerals.

The Society for the Cultivation of Agricultural, Arts and Manufacture was incorporated by the legislature on March 12, 1793, with Chancellor Livingston as president. It was dissolved in 1830, its object having been accomplished. Its charter was renewed in 1846 and made perpetual and the name was changed to the Society for the Promotion of the Useful Arts. Among its officers were Simon De Witt, John Street, David Hosack, Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton and Edmund G. Genet. Dr. Beck, although only twenty-five, was made chairman of the standing committee of five, appointed “for the purpose of collecting and arranging such minerals as our state affords.” Two months after he delivered the annual address on February 3, 1817, he noted in his journal as he remarked, “an exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States with their various applications to the art and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures whose materials are derived from this source.”

Aided the Manufacturer.

The result he accomplished seems astonishing. To his elaborate and timely paper the American manufacturer today is indebted in no small degree for his wealth and prosperity.

Dr. Beck was one of the originators of the plan for the geological surveys of the state and under successive governors was entrusted with much of the supervision of the work. He was interested in the state museum and did much to help it start.

His great life work was on Medical jurisprudence, published in 1823 in two volumes octavo. It attracted great attention at the time and has remained a standard work on the subject. It was translated into German and published in London, and everywhere received the highest praise.

He died November 9, 1855, sixty-four years old.
1807  THEODRICK ROMEYN BECK

Born: Schenectady, N.Y., Aug. 11, 1791.
Died: Albany, Nov. 19, 1823

"Elements of Medical Jurisprudence."
2 vols. 1823.
Theodore Rowny Beck.

List of offices which he filled and societies to which he belonged.

Alms House Physician, Albany, N.Y. 1812
Fellow of College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, 1812
Medical Society State of New York 1813
N.Y. Historical Society N.Y. 1813
Member Physical Medical Soc. N.Y. 1815
Trustee Albany Academy Albany, N.Y. 1815
Prof. of Medicine, Fairfield Medical College, Fairfield, N.Y. 1815
Hon. Member Academy Nat. Science, Philadelphia Pa/ 1816
Receiving Officer Antiquarian Soc. Mass. 1816
Hon. Member Am. Geological Soc. New Haven 1819
Hon. Member Medical Soc. London England. 1824
" " Quebec. 1824
Cor., Member Linnaean Soc. Paris. 1826
" " Nat. History Soc. Montreal 1827
Sen. Hon. Member Med. Soc. of Emulation, Charleston. 1828
" " New Hampshire 1828
Assoc. College Physicians, W&M Philadelphia, Pa/ 1829
Hon. Member Ethica Lyceum 1830
" " West Point Lyceum. 1830
" " Albany Co. Agricultural Soc. Albany, N.Y. 1830
" " Royal Medical Soc. Edinburgh. 1833
Philosophical Soc. Rutgers College 1833
Prof. Mederica Medicus, and Medical Jurisprudence, Fairfield Med. College/ 3
" " Amer. Philosophical Soc. Phil. Pa/ 1839
" " Medical Soc. Rhode Island. 1840
" " Nat. Institute of Promotion of Science, Washington. 1841
" " American Ethnological Soc. N.Y. 1842
" " Nat. Acad. of Advancement of Arts and Sciences, Hartford, 1843
Cor. Fellow W.Y. Acad. of Medicine, 1847
L.I.D. N. Mercersburgh, Pa.
L.I.D. Rutgers College 1843
Pres. Albany Institute 1846
Royal Soc. of Antiquarians, Copenhagen. 1845
Hon. Member State Hist. Soc. Wisconsin.
Trustee N.Y. State Insane Asylum Utica N.Y.
Pres. Bd/Trustees, Albany Acad. 1852
Member Exam. Com. Normal School 1852
Emeritus Prof. A. Albany Med. College 1854
Senior Trustee and Pres. Ed. Albany Acad. 1848-1855
Clark " " 1816-1848
Principal " " 1817-1848
Editor Journal of Insanity, Utica N.Y.
T. ROMEYN BECK

MARRIED: At Caldwell, Lake George, on Thursday, the 8th inst., by the Rev. Dr. Bradford, T. Romeyn Beck, M.D., of this city, to Miss Harriet Caldwell, daughter of James Caldwell, Esq.,
The Albany Gazette
Sept. 12, 184.

Union College Will Honor
Dr. T. R. Beck

Founders Day Program
To Commemorate Early 19th Century Physician

The memory of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, a member of the Union College class of 1807 and a 19th century authority on medical jurisprudence, will be honored at Union College Founders Day here on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Dr. Carter Davidson, president of the college, announced the program today.

Speakers at the ceremony, which will take place at 11 a.m. in Memorial Chapel at the college, will be Dr. George Packer Berry, dean of the Harvard medical school; Dr. J. Lewis Donhauser, a graduate of Union College in 1906 and now professor of surgery at the Albany Medical College, one of the departments of Union University, of which Union College is a part; and Dr. Francis P. Schwenkat, Union 1923, professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University.

Dean Berry will speak on the future of medical education and administration. Dr. Schwentker on the future of medical research, and Dr. Donhauser on the life and career of Dr. Beck, who studied under Albany physicians for a time after his graduation from Union and was a long-time resident of Albany. He was principal of the Albany Academy from 1817 to 1848. He died in 1833.

Dr. Beck was a grandson of the Rev. Dr. Dirck Romeyn, the Schenectady Dutch Reformed Church minister who was instrumental in founding Union College in 1775. He was born in Schenectady in 1781, the eldest son of Caleb Beck and Mrs. Catherine Theresa Beck, daughter of Dirck

Union Plans Founders Day On Feb. 25

Invitations were sent out today by Union College to all physicians in the Capital District to attend the annual Union College Founders Day observance, Feb. 25 in the Memorial Chapel.

The ceremony will honor Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, a noted 19th century authority on medical jurisprudence, who was graduated from Union College in 1807 and became one of the best known medical men of his day.

Because Dr. Beck studied in Albany after his graduation from Union College, and later lived there for many years as principal of Albany Academy, the faculty and staff of the Albany Medical College, a department of Union University, and of Albany Academy, have been invited.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. February 25, and the speakers will be Dr. George Packer Berry, dean of Harvard Medical School; Dr. J. Lewis Donhauser, professor of surgery at Albany Medical College, a Union College graduate in 1906; and Dr. Francis P. Schwentker, professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, graduated from Union in 1923.

Dr. Beck was a grandson of the Rev. Dr. Dirck Romeyn, the Schenectady Dutch Reformed Church minister who was instrumental in founding Union College in 1775. He was born in Schenectady in 1781, the eldest son of Caleb Beck and Mrs. Catherine Theresa Beck, daughter of Dirck
Gift of College Faculty Honors Dr. Beck, Union Alumnus, Medical Pioneer

Albany College Group Presents Oil Portrait of Noted 19th Century Alienist Who Established Medical Law

Dr. Beck was one of the most distinguished members of the medical profession in his part of the world and in his time," Dr. Elting said. "It is surprising that so little is known of him today.

"He graduated from Union when 16 years old, then studied with Drs. Lowe and McClelland in Albany, Dr. David Gush in New York City and at the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. He wrote two books on insanity. He was the first principal of Albany Academy, a position he held 21 years, from 1817 to 1838. He established the science of medical jurisprudence and his work on this subject, published in 1823, is still standard. He was also the founder of New York State care for the insane, and was a member of the first board of trustees of the original asylum at Utica."

In accepting the portrait, which was painted by Adrian Lamb of New York after the original at the Albany Academy by A. W. Twitchell of Albany, President Dixon Ryan Fox said the gift is an expression of unusual "intra-university comity." This is the first instance in which the individual members of the Union University faculty have joined in presenting a gift to another branch.

The grandson of Dirck Romeyn, co-founder of Union, Beck was professor of materia medica at the Albany Medical College a century ago. His subsequent achievements in the field of insanity treatment, as editor of the "American Journal of Insanity" and as an author on medical jurisprudence brought much recognition to the college.

Born in Schenectady in 1791, Dr. Beck entered the New York College of Physicians and received his medical degree in 1811. Beginning in 1819 he gave increasingly of his time to the teaching of medicine and to medical jurisprudence, and spent all of his time in these two fields after being principal of the Albany Academy.
Medical professor and author, was born at Schenectady, N.Y., August 11, 1791; he died at Utica, N.Y., November 19, 1855; graduated at Union College, 1807. He studied medicine under Dr. Hosack; obtained his degree in 1814, began practice in Albany, and in 1813 addressed the Albany Society of Arts upon the mineral resources of the United States, believed to be the first published systematic account of American minerals. Appointed in 1815 professor of the institutes of medicine, and lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Western New York; professor of medical jurisprudence at Fairfield Medical College in 1826-36, and from 1836 to 1840 professor of materia medica in the Albany Medical College, 1840-54; principal of the Albany Academy 1817-48; made President of the State Medical Society, 1829; a manager of the N.Y. State Lunatic Asylum, and in 1854 elected president. He was a member of many learned societies, and an earnest promoter of all philanthropic enterprises. His statistics of the deaf and dumb, influenced the State Legislature to take measures for their education. He edited for many years the "American Journal of Insanity," and in 1823 published his famous work on "Medical Jurisprudence," a standard work in Europe as well as in America. He also published many addresses, reports, and contributed to scientific journals. See Memoirs by F.H. Hamilton, in Gross's Medical Biography. He was a vice-president of the Institute from 1824 to 1826.

Biographical Record p. 42
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Henry B. Nason, Editor
Troy 1887

Union Plans Founders Day
On Feb. 25

Invitations were sent out today by Union College to all physicians in the Capital District to attend the annual Union College Founders Day observance, Feb. 25, in the Memorial Chapel.

The ceremony will honor Dr. T. Remsen Beck, a noted 19th century authority on medical jurisprudence, who was graduated from Union College in 1867 and became one of the best known medical men of his day.

Because Dr. Beck studied in Albany after his graduation from Union College, and later lived there for many years as principal of Albany Academy, the faculty and staff of the Albany Medical College, a department of Union University, and of Albany Academy, have been invited.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. February 25, and the speakers will be Dr. George D. R. Berry, dean of Harvard Medical School; Dr. J. Lawi Doehnauer, professor of surgery at Albany Medical College, a Union College graduate in 1904; and Dr. Francis P. Schweitzer, professor of pediatrics at John Hopkins University, graduated from Union in 1924.

Dr. Beck was a grandson of the Rev. Dr. Dirck Remsen, the Schenectady Dutch Reformed Church pastor who was the moving spirit in the movement which led to the founding of Union College and its chartering on Feb. 23, 1795.
UNION COLLEGE
requests the pleasure of your company at
FOUNDERS DAY
honoring T. Romeyn Beck, M.D., Union 1807
noted authority on medical jurisprudence
in the Memorial Chapel
on Saturday morning, February twenty-fifth
at eleven o'clock

The Speakers: GEORGE PACKER BERRY, M.D.
Dean, Harvard Medical School
J. LEWI DONHAUSER, M.D.
Professor of Surgery, Albany Medical College
FRANCIS F. SCHWENTKER, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University
The following proceedings not having been inserted in their proper place in our last paper, are republished to-day:

Albany Academy.—On the 29th of June last the Board of Trustees of the Albany Academy accepted the resignation of Dr. T.R. Beck, as Principal, which had been tendered on the 19th inst.

A committee was appointed to express the sentiments of the Board on this occasion to Dr. Beck, consisting of Rev. Dr. John N. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Potter and Judge Gansevoort, who at a subsequent meeting reported the following minute, which was adopted and ordered to be recorded:

"The Trustees in accepting the resignation of the Principal, which they do with great regret, record upon their minutes their entire satisfaction with the manner in which he has uniformly discharged the duties of his office. They deem it due at the same time both to themselves and to Dr. Beck, to express their high consideration of the disinterestedness with which he has for so many years devoted himself to their service in an office which, however, honorable and important, has been exceedingly laborious and exacting, especially when the distinguished and eminent attainments might have commanded a position affording larger emoluments and involving less labor and responsibility. He retires from his office with sentiments, on the part of the Trustees, of sincere personal esteem and respect."

From the Minutes
James Stevenson, President
Rich'd Warwick, De Witt, Sec'y pro tem.

Albany Evening Journal
July 28, 1848

The Board of Trustees of the Albany Academy have, it will be seen, paid a well-merited and dearly earned tribute to the arduous and lengthened services of its late Principal, Dr. Beck. We say "dearly earned," because the time devoted to the discharge of his duty as Principal of the Academy, Dr. Beck might have given far more advantageously to himself both in fame and money, to other pursuits. But he has been content to do good; and good he has done to thousands who have been trained up to usefulness under his teachings—thousands, too, who will never cease to love and honor their excellent Preceptor.

Albany Evening Journal
July 27, 1848
Theodoric R. Beck, physician and author, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., April 11, 1791. His father was Caleb Beck, and he was of mingled English and Dutch descent. At an early age he was left by the death of his father in the care of a widowed mother who had four other sons. He attended the common schools of Schenectady, and in 1803 entered Union College, where he was graduated at the age of sixteen years. He then went to Albany where he commenced the study of medicine which he completed in New York city, under the eminent Dr. David Hosack. He received the degree of M.D. in 1811, and returned to Albany, where he began the practice of medicine and surgery. In the same year he was appointed physician to the alms-house. Having become a member of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts, in 1812 he began to interest himself in agriculture and manufactures and continued to promote the useful arts during his entire life; in 1813 he read before the society an important report on the mineral wealth of the state of New York. In 1815 Dr. Beck was appointed professor of the institutes of medicine and also lecturer on medical jurisprudence in a new college of physicians and surgeons which had been established at Fairfield, in Herkimer county. He also became principal of the Albany Academy and withdrew from the practice of medicine in 1817, being led to this action by a sensitive organization; revolting at the suffering he was compelled to witness. In 1823 Dr. Beck was elected vice-president of the Albany Lyceum of Natural History, and the same year published with his brother, J. B. Beck, their important work on "The Elements of Medical Jurisprudence." This gave the authors world-wide fame. It was translated into several European languages and became the standard authority on that subject. In 1829 Dr. Beck was elected president of the Medical Society of the State of New York. In 1840 he was elected professor of materia medica in the Albany Medical College, and continued to fill the chair until 1854, when he resigned on account of impaired health. He also filled, from 1841 until his death, the important position of secretary of the board of regents of the state of New York. Dr. Beck was an expert on insanity; published an inaugural dissertation on the subject in 1811, and from 1849 to 1853 edited "The American Journal of Insanity." He contributed to a number of journals of general science, and the papers from his pen which were read before the general societies were valuable contributions to American literature. He died at Utica, N. Y., Nov. 19, 1855.

FOUNDERS' DAY
February 25, 1950
Commemorating the 155th Anniversary of
the Granting of the College Charter

CONVOCATION
in honor of
Theodric Romeyn Beck, M.D., Union 1807
whose name will long live in the annals
of medical jurisprudence

Organ Prelude...................................................Dr. Elmer A. Tidmarsh

Processional: The Faculty of Union College
              The Faculty of Albany Medical College
              The Speakers and the Chancellor of Union University

Invocation..................................................Chaplain C. Victor Brown

Scripture: Ecclesiastics XLIV: 1-15

The Reverend Bertram deHeus Atwood
Pastor, First Reformed Church

"The Life and Career of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck"
J. Lewi Donhauser, M.D.
Professor of Surgery,
Albany Medical College

"The Future of Medical Research"
Francis F. Schwentker, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics,
Johns Hopkins University

"The Future of Medical Education and Administration"
George Packer Berry, M.D.,
Dean, Harvard Medical School

Presentation of Candidate for Honorary Degree

"Ode to Old Union" (one verse)

Benediction................................................Chaplain C. Victor Brown

Recessional

Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations
Deuteronomy 32:7
Annual Address/ Delivered before/ the Medical Society/ of the/ State of New York/ February 6, 1829. 28 pp.

By
T. Romeyn Beck, M.D.
President of the Society.

Printed by Websters & Skinners
Albany 1829

Copy in New York State Library
Briefing Newcomers
On Henry Memorial

By EDGAR S. VANOLINDA

A recent communication asking about the history of the old Boys Academy building now occupied by the Board of Education suggests that other newcomers to Albany might be interested in the beautiful Georgian building, designed by the famous Albany architect, Philip Hooker.

When Albany lost Union College to Schenectady, they were even then talking about an academy. In 1813, a number of prominent citizens were elected trustees of the proposed school. Two years later, the cornerstone of the present building was laid by Mayor Philip Van Rensselaer before a distinguished group of citizens.

In September, 1817, after the resignation of Rev. Benjamin Allen, head master, the Academy pupils, who had been occupying a frame building at Lodge and State Street (the site now occupied by the Standard building) entered their new school under the principalship of Dr. Theodoric Romeyn Beck. It stands today one of the finest examples of early American architecture in New York State.

ACQUIRED BY SCHOOL BOARD

When the Board of Trustees decided to build a larger and more complete school in what is now Academy Road, the Board of Education acquired the building for its administrative offices. The building was completely remodeled for its present use.

It was in this building that Joseph Henry, a professor in the Academy, made his intensity magnet, forerunner of the telegraph, telephone, internal combustion engine and television.

At one time, the Paul Fenimore Cooper family lived in the north wing of the building, then 10 Elk St. There was a high stoop commanding a view up and down Elk Street, and room on the landing for some half dozen chairs. Here the members of the Cooper family used to sit, read and visit from the first warm day of Spring until it was more comfortable to sit indoors.

Among the descendents of the author of the "Leather Stocking Tales" were the Misses Susan DeLancy Cooper and Mary Borrows Fenimore Cooper. Another member of the illustrious family lived in the former Thurlow Weed house in Western Avenue which, at the death of the scion of his generation, James Fenimore Cooper, was torn down and the lot became a veritable young forest. The property is part of the land acquired by the State College for Teachers for the extension of their educational facilities, and opposite the present campus of the Western Avenue college.
EULOGY
ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK, M. D., LL. D.,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,
BY FRANK HASTINGS HAMILTON, M. D.
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SENATE.

ALBANY:
PRINTED BY CHARLES VAN BUREN.
1856.
EULOGY.

It is a swift current—that stream of life on which we ride. We fall asleep—and awaking, find ourselves almost home. Our companions, too, are constantly changing; at every moment new ones come aboard, and old ones leave us; and we have scarcely time to become familiar with their faces, or to make ourselves acquainted with their characters and purposes, before they are summoned to the gangway—the boat is lowered, and we wave them a friendly farewell. All along the sands of that silent shore, which we now so faintly see, our friends have left us; and we are awaiting the time when, cheerfully, manfully and hopefully, I trust, we shall receive our summons, and "depart alike to the inevitable grave."

I am not, gentlemen, one of your oldest members—yet, of those who occupied these seats when, for the first time I listened to your deliberations, not a few are now dead; but of the pioneers—the founders and early members, not one remains. Most of them died many years since, and their vacant places have been so long filled by others, that we have ceased to notice their absence.
But to-day, a chair is vacant which no one has yet come to fill — where, for nearly forty years, has sat a beloved associate, and to which you have, for as many years, been accustomed to look for counsel. During all this period its claimant has been rarely absent, unless detained by sickness or by urgent and imperative duties. But, in the absence of its venerated occupant, during our deliberations which have just closed, and on this anniversary occasion, you have, I am instructed to tell you, the sad and significant announcement that Theodric Romeyn Beck is dead, and that he, also, will counsel with us no more.

Let us pause, while we review his labors, and contemplate our loss — for, in such a life as has here terminated, there must be something instructive, and we ought carefully to estimate its value. Upon the speaker, who was once his pupil, subsequently his colleague, and now, by your partial suffrages, his successor, has seemed to devolve the duty to trace his history — to epitomize the long chapter of his life, and to draw the moral; in order that these things may hereafter find a faithful record upon the annals of our society. With an earnest desire that I may do no injustice to a theme so sacred, both to the living and to the dead, yet with doubting and unequal steps, I undertake the task.

Theodric Romeyn Beck was born at Schenectady, in the State of New-York, on the 11th day of August, 1791. The family were of English origin, but so long settled at Schenectady that their descendants, by association and intermarriage, became identified with the Dutch population.

The first of the family, of whom we have any knowledge, was Caleb Beck, who sailed as master of a vessel from Boston to England, and who having married at Schenectady, was subsequently lost at sea. His son, the great grandfather of the subject of our memoir, as we learn from the probate of his will before the commissioners at Albany, in the year 1738, was “Caleb Beck, gentleman, a freeholder in this colony; having during his life, and at the time of his death, goods, rights and credits in divers places in our province.”

His grandfather was admitted an attorney at law, to practice in all the courts, at Albany, in the year 1751.

The father of Dr. Beck, who also studied law, but never practised, married Catherine Theresa Romeyn, only daughter of the Rev. Derrick Romeyn, D. D., then pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church, at Schenectady, and well known as a distinguished professor of Theology in that church.

The ancestral name Caleb, was preserved through five successive generations, having only ceased with the brother of Dr. Beck.

The Romeyn family came from Holland, and settled in New-York about the middle of the seventeenth century. Among those who acquired distinction, and
whose names have come down to us, in addition to
the Rev. Derick Romeyn, of whom we have spoken,
we may recognize the brother of Mrs. Beck, the Rev.
John B. Romeyn, D.D., who died in New-York, in
1825; and a cousin, Nicholas Romaine, M. D., who
was president of this Society in 1809, 10, and 11,
and who was made an Honorary Member in 1812.

Dr. Beck's father having died in 1798, at the age
of 27 years, left his five sons to the sole care of his
young widow, to whose indomitable energy, sound
education, piety and good judgment they are probably
mainly indebted for the distinction which they all
subsequently attained.

Abraham, a lawyer of much promise, died at St.
Louis, Missouri, in 1821.

John Brodhead Beck, M.D., who was elected in
1829 a member of this Society, late Professor of Mate-
ria Medica and Botany, at the College of Physicians
and Surgeons in the city of New-York, and author of
many medical works, besides the chapter contributed
by him to "Beck's Medical Jurisprudence," died in
New-York, in 1851.

Nicholas Fairly Beck died while holding the office
of Adjutant General of the State, under DeWitt
Clinton, in 1830. And

Lewis C. Beck, M. D., late Professor of Chemistry
in the Albany Medical College, and in the Rutgers
College, New-Jersey, author of several scientific
works, and who, as a member of the scientific corps
which made the New-York Geological Survey, con-
tributed the volume on Mineralogy, one of the most
valuable portions of that excellent State Report, died
in 1853.

The rudiments of Dr. Beck's education were acqui-
red at the grammar school of his native city, under
the more immediate supervision of his maternal
grandfather, the Rev. Derick Romeyn, D.D.

He entered Union College, at Schenectady, in 1803,
and graduated in 1807, when only sixteen years old.
Union College had then been established but a few
years, and, in a great measure, through the exertions
of Dr. Romeyn.

Immediately on leaving college he came to this
city, and was admitted to the office of Drs. Low and
McClelland, the latter of which gentlemen was the
first president of this Society.

His medical education was completed, however, in
the city of New-York, under the personal instructions
of the celebrated Dr. David Hosack. At the same
time, also, he attended the lectures at the College of
Physicians and Surgeons of the Eastern District, then
recently established in that city; and in 1811 he
received the degree of Doctor in Medicine; on which
occasion he presented, as the subject of his inaugural
thesis, a paper on "Insanity"—the first fruits of the
study of that subject which afterwards engaged so
large a share of his attention, and upon which he
expended such stores of learning, and exhibited such
powers of research. The thesis was published in a pamphlet form, containing thirty-four pages, and received from various quarters highly flattering notices.

In this early composition of the young student, we may see plainly enough the presage of his future eminence. Claiming, with characteristic modesty, no credit for originality, and acknowledging that he had no practical experience to relate, he gathered from a great number of sources facts and opinions, and so condensed and arranged them as to present a complete epitome of what was then known upon this, with us, hitherto neglected subject. With great care he arranged also, in a multitude of foot notes, all his references, which, in themselves, testify to his already remarkable classical attainments, and to his laborious habits.

After a brief notice of the history and literature of insanity, there follows a synopsis of its symptomatology, its etiology, pathology, and prognosis. In conclusion, he has devoted a chapter to medical jurisprudence and police, and a section to the treatment of the insane, wherein he protests against the confinement of criminal lunatics in jail, as incompatible with proper attendance and with the safety of the other prisoners. He advocates also the establishment of public asylums, which shall be subject to the supervision and control of competent commissioners.

On his return from New-York, he commenced at once the practice of medicine and surgery in this city, and the same year he was appointed physician to the almshouse. On resigning this office, he presented a memorial to the supervisors on the subject of work-houses, the practical wisdom of which daily experience proves at this time.

Dr. Beck was married in 1814, at Caldwell, Warren county, to Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, a merchant of this city, but whose principal estate and residence was at Caldwell, on Lake George. He was a gentleman of Irish birth, and well known for his wit and hospitality. His humor has been especially celebrated in several of the entertaining tales written by J. K. Paulding.

In the year 1815, at the age of twenty-four, Dr. Beck received the appointment of professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and of lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District, established under the auspices of the Regents, at Fairfield, in Herkimer county, New-York; an institution then in the third year of its existence. Notwithstanding this appointment, which required his absence from home only a small portion of the year, he continued in the practice of his profession at Albany.

At the opening of the term in 1824, he delivered an introductory lecture on the Advantages of Country Medical Schools, which was published by request of
the class. The subject had been suggested by a remark made in an introductory lecture by one of the professors in New-York, disparaging to country schools, and which had found its way into some of the New-York prints, to which this discourse was a severe, but dignified and dispassionate reply.

In testimony of their utility, he referred, among other things, to the not inconsiderable number of their graduates who had already risen to merited distinction; and in answer to the illiberal declaration of the New-York professor, that the Legislature ought to withdraw its aid from all other schools and concentrate its efforts upon the "school of the metropolis," Dr. Beek justly said:

"The State of New-York, we may safely predict, will never adopt the counsel that has been given her. Her statesmen, her legislators, her learned men and her citizens generally, have not thus estimated the wants of the community. Her course uniformly has been to cherish learning in every situation, and to foster its first fruits with the care of a parent. At this crisis, flourishing in arts, unrivalled in commerce and exalted in wealth, she surely will not stint her supplies, or pour them with a partial hand into one portion of her dominion, while she leaves the other to need. She will not destroy what is flourishing, or overturn what is becoming permanent. She will, as she has ever done, regard the interests of education with an impartial eye.

"In thus doing she can alone perform her proper duties, and fulfil the promises of her high destiny."

Already, in 1817, Dr. Beek had withdrawn entirely from the practice of medicine, having in this year accepted the place of Principal to the Albany academy.

His success as a practitioner had been quite equal to his expectations, and with less devotion to science, or with less care for his patients, he might have continued in practice. But it was soon manifest, both to himself and to his friends, that he could not long continue an equal attention to both. He was unwilling to assume the responsibilities of a physician without devoting to each case that exact amount of careful investigation which his high standard of fitness demanded. Every new feature in disease provoked, in a mind trained to accuracy and observation, new solicitudes, new doubts, and claimed new and more thorough examination. Added to this, the scenes of suffering which he was compelled to witness wore gradually upon a frame naturally sensitive, and his health began visibly to decline.

At first, one must naturally regret that a mind so well stored, and so eminently qualified, in many respects, to minister successfully to the sick, should have been diverted thus prematurely from its original purpose. It would be difficult to measure the amount of good which, as a practitioner of medicine, he might have accomplished; how much individual suffering
such talents might have alleviated, and how many valuable lives such attainments might have saved. This is a loss which the citizens of his adopted town, and of the country adjacent, have chiefly sustained, and which they must estimate. It is a question to them whether he has made himself as useful as a teacher as he might have been as a physician; but I believe they will be slow to find fault with his choice, when they have carefully figured up the account, and have balanced the reckoning. In fact, I think, that in the fame alone which his illustrious name has given to their city, they must find an adequate apology and compensation for all his apparent neglect of their physical sufferings.

But this would be indeed only a narrow view of the question upon which the young, and, I have no doubt, conscientious Beck, assumed thus early the right to decide for himself. Although Dr. Beck formally, at this time, relinquished the practice of medicine, and never again resumed it, yet his interest in the science did not cease, but to the improvement and perfection of some one or another of its departments the balance of his life was, in a great measure, devoted, and especially to such portions as were of general or of universal interest. He seemed to have called in his attention from a narrow range of objects, only that he might fasten it again upon a much wider range. He withdrew himself from the alms-houses and the jails, in which the unfortunate maniacs were treated rather as criminals than as proper objects of sympathy and of medical care, that he might, in the retirement of his study, within which he had accumulated nearly all the experience of the world, devise the more unerringly the means of unfettering their intellects and their limbs, then so cruelly chained.

In a letter to his uncle, Dr. Romeyn, then in Europe, dated June 30, 1814, he says: "I have begun to look upon medicine in a very different manner from what I formerly did. Although delighted with the study yet I dislike the practice, and I had not acquired sufficiently comprehensive views of its value and great importance as an object of research. I now find it a subject worthy of my mind, and for some time past I have brought all my energies to its examination."

From this remarkable passage, in which we have definitely the plan of his future life, we learn also what enlarged and intelligent views he entertained of the value of true medical science.

In 1829 Dr. Beck was elected President of this Society, and was re-elected the two succeeding years—in itself a sufficient testimony of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow-members.

His first annual address was devoted mainly to the subject of "Medical Evidence," which he regarded as embracing not only the interests of the profession, but of the community generally. In this address he
urges the propriety of appointing in certain counties, districts, or parts of the State, medical men, who shall be especially charged with the duty of making the examinations upon the cadaver, in order that by experience and study they may become better fitted for the performance of this important duty. In all cases he believed the medical witness ought to be permitted to present a “written report” of his examination, and not be required to give it verbally and without sufficient preparation. Nor could Dr. Beck see any good reason why, if such services are important to the community in promoting the proper administration of justice, the medical men who render them are not entitled to receive an adequate compensation. “There is not,” says Dr. Beck, “an individual attending on any of our courts, who is not paid for his time and services, with the exception of such as are engaged in these investigations.”

In his second annual address he calls the attention of the society to the rapid progress of the science of medicine, especially in its growing distrust of mere medical theories, and in its devotion to pathology, anatomy, chemistry, materia medica, and the collateral sciences. In defence of those who pursue the study of anatomy, he utters the following just sentiment: “All will grant their pursuit would not have been selected except from a high sense of duty. It requires some lofty incitement—some moral courage, to be thus employed. The mysterious change which

dearth induces, is alone sufficient to startle the most buoyant spirit; but with this, the pathologist must familiarize himself. He proceeds to his high office at the risk of health—often, indeed, of existence.”

In conclusion, he bestows a well merited rebuke upon those who pretend to employ vegetable remedies to the exclusion of mineral, on the assumed ground that while minerals are poisonous, vegetables are innocuous, demonstrating, by a reference to their well-known properties, that among vegetables may be found the most active poisons in nature; and he appeals to his countrymen that they will not open wide the door to empiricism, and thus contribute to the destruction of a profession so important as that of medicine.

As a theme for his last annual discourse, Dr. Beck selected the subject of Small Pox, as one of “permanent and abiding interest, not only to us as medical men, but to the whole community, indeed to the whole human race.”

This paper consists mainly of a rapid history of the origin and progress of this terrible scourge, and of the value and necessity of thorough vaccination, with a view to its ultimate extinction.

“I do not pretend,” says Dr. Beck, “to recommend laws exactly similar to those that have been enumerated, for our free governments, but I will say that they furnish subjects for serious consideration. Whether some regulations could not be devised to arouse
the apathy of that portion of the community who are always the largest sufferers—whether the appointment by authority of medical men, particularly charged with the duty of vaccination, and preserving and transmitting the vaccine matter, and obliged to keep registers of those they attend—whether the promulgation of instructions, stating the dangers that threaten, the misery and mortality that may be avoided, the circumstances that prevent the complete influence of the cow pox, and the precautions necessary for its constitutional effects—whether, in fine, a census should not be taken of those who have not labored under one or other of these diseases, and they be compelled, under proper penalties, to submit to the latter—are suggestions which, to my mind, deserve some weight with those who have the power to render them imperative.

"Life can be hazarded under our own roof as much as in the field of battle, and the experience of all nations shows that in this case the chances have been fearful. When the means of prevention are within the power of a determined and united community, what can prevent their adoption with as much efficacy as ever resulted from the mandates of an absolute monarch?

"As a profession, we have not been wanting in sounding the alarm and providing against the danger. And it is a proud reflection, that the dangers of the small pox, its wide-spread ravages, and its constant succession, have been broken in upon by one who lived and died a physician. But he must be insensible to the loftier bearings of the subject, who can leave its consideration without referring to the government of that Being in whose hands are the issues of all things."

"Its history teaches us gratitude to that Providence which does not willingly afflict the children of men; which suffers physical as well as moral evil only for a season, and which, while it has permitted former generations to be scourged by ravaging infection, has, in mercy to us, removed the dreaded pestilence, or confined the operation of its destructive march."

I have been thus diffuse in my quotations from these several addresses of Dr. Beek, that you may see to how late a period he continued to feel an interest in, and to cultivate laboriously the science of medicine. Selecting always those themes for his discourses which were of the largest interest to the largest number, he was able to discuss them in a manner which indicated an intimate acquaintance with all their relations and bearings. His suggestions are constantly such as might become a physician, a philanthropist and a statesman; and that they were not Utopian is proven by the fact that very many of them, either in their original forms, or only slightly modified, have been adopted as measures of state policy and general hygiene, or, if not adopted, they still continue to commend themselves to the intelli-
gence of enlightened men everywhere, and physicians still continue to reiterate his sentiments, and to urge their adoption upon those who have the care of the public interests.

Nor can I omit to indicate as worthy of especial notice, the humble, christian-like deference with which he recognizes the hand of a kind Providence in all those discoveries and improvements in medicine, resulting in the amelioration of the condition of our race, of which our profession has been so long the chosen and honored medium.

In 1826 Dr. Beek was made Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, at Fairfield Medical College, instead of lecturer, and in 1836 he was transferred from the chair of practice to that of Materia Medica, in accordance with his own request; and these two chairs he continued to occupy until the abandonment of the College in 1840.

Medical colleges had been established both at Albany and Geneva under new and favorable auspices, each having received liberal endowments from the State, and although the College at Fairfield still retained the confidence of the profession to such a degree that in its last catalogue its pupils numbered 114, and its graduates 33; yet as it was apparent that the wants of the community did not require three colleges situated so near each other, and as both Albany and Geneva had the advantage in their relative size and accessibility, it was determined by the several professors to discontinue the lectures at Fairfield.

At this time the faculty consisted of Westel Willoughby, John De Lamater, James Hadley, James McNaughton, T. Romeyn Beek and myself, as their newly appointed Professor in the chair of Surgery, recently made vacant by the resignation of Reuben D. Mussey.

Very few changes had ever occurred in the school since its first organization. Lyman Spaulding, the first professor of anatomy and surgery had died; Joseph White and Delos White, respectively professors of surgery and anatomy, had resigned, and also Dr. Mussey, my immediate predecessor. With these exceptions the faculty remained as in 1815.

So intimately associated is the history of this college with the subject of this memoir, that I shall be pardoned for occupying your time with a lively description of the college and country adjacent, written by an old pupil,* and published in the Nov. No. for 1851 of the New-York Lancet.

"The pioneers in medicine in central New-York are almost forgotten; and to refresh the memories of the brethren we propose a short sketch of the Professors of the 'Old Pioneer' school in Herkimer county, N. Y."

*H. W. Richmond, of Ashland, Ohio.
field, eight miles into the country? It is a grazing
district—the farm-houses are plain, the farmers
plainer, and their daughters expert at cheese and
butter making, and even often successful in securing
a graduate for a husband. The village lies in a high
region of country, and is mean in appearance, and
wholly without local interest, save what was imparted
by the medical college and an academy.

"The school was started under the management of
such old veterans as Willoughby, White, Hadley, and
De Lamater, somewhere about the year 1812.

"At an early day, in the very heart of the wilderness, Dr. Willoughby and a partner in medicine had
entered on the race for fame, as practitioners of
medicine and surgery, in that part of the country
which lies between Fairfield and Newport. They
lived in a log cabin—were both bachelors—cooked
and washed for themselves, and made their sallies
on horseback into the surrounding forest, broken only
here and there by a dwelling. One of the partners
is lost to memory, so far as we know, but Dr. Wil-
looughby became the first professor of obstetrics in
the Fairfield Medical College, and remained connected
with it until its close. Dr. Willoughby acquired
wealth, and Willoughby Medical College in Ohio,
received from him a liberal endowment and its name.

"This hie place had been selected for the school
because students could live cheaply, and the rural
character of its population rendered it probable that
they would be subject to fewer temptations to vice
and idleness. A small stone edifice was erected into
which three hundred students and sometimes more
were crowded."

From these rude walls, built upon these cold and
inhospitable hills, have gone out more than three
thousand pupils, and nearly six hundred graduates;
of whom nineteen have held, or do now hold, pro-
fessorships in colleges, eight are in the United States
service as surgeons, and very many more have risen
to distinction in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Immediately on resigning his place at Fairfield,
Dr. Beck was elected to the chair of Materia Medica,
in the Albany Medical College. The chair of Medi-
cal Jurisprudence, to which he would most naturally
have been chosen, being already occupied by a very
able teacher, Amos Dean, Esq.

This professorship Dr. Beck continued to hold until
1854, when his declining health, together with an
accumulation of other pressing duties, induced him
to resign his place as an active officer, having now
taught medicine in some of its departments for
thirty-nine years, and the trustees then conferred
upon him the honorary distinction of Emeritus Pro-
fessor.

It has been mentioned that in 1817, Dr. Beck was
made principal of the Albany Academy; and in a
letter to his uncle, Dr. Romeyn, dated August 1,
1817, shortly before the appointment, he writes as
follows: "This I know, that by zeal and attention on the part of the instructors, it can be made an eminent and useful institution. * * I pray you to believe that the mention of my name as a candidate, was unsolicited and very unexpected. It is a spontaneous offer; and as such I shall always look on it as a testimony of no mean value." The citizens of Albany and his numerous pupils, now scattered throughout the United States, can bear witness, how great has been his zeal in behalf of that institution, and how well he has fulfilled his promise.

The building occupied as the academy, was erected for this purpose by the city authorities; it is large, commodious and distinguished, even among the numerous public edifices which adorn this capital, for its fine architectural proportions. Each department is supplied with able teachers, and with ample means for illustration, and during the more than thirty years of his administration, it has sustained a reputation second to no similar institution in the State.

I find in one of the Albany city papers, dated some years back, pencil sketches of a few of its most prominent citizens, among whom is mentioned Dr. Beck. The writer, who is not ignorant of his many other public services, and of his reputation abroad, thus speaks of his connection with the academy:

"The Albany academy is an institution which has furnished the community with more mind, than any other academy in this country. A distinction that is doubtless due to the admirable discipline, and well stored brain which Dr. Beck brought with him into the institution, in 1817."

In 1848, Dr. Beck resigned his place as principal of the academy, and on the death of James Stevenson, Esq., he succeeded him as president of the board of trustees.

The "Society for the promotion of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures," was incorporated by the Legislature on the 12th of March, 1793, with Chancellor Livingston as its president. The existence of the corporation was limited by its charter to the first day of May, 1804. On the 2d day of April, 1804, the Legislature virtually renewed the charter, making it perpetual, changing the name of the corporation to that of "The Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts," and Chancellor Livingston was appointed the president of the new corporation. Dr. Beck was admitted a member of this society on the 5th day of February, 1812. Among its officers, in addition to its distinguished president, already named, were Simeon De Witt, John Tayler, David Hosack, Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton, Edmund C. Genet, and others prominent in the history of our State. Although Dr. Beck was at this time only in his twenty-first year, yet at the second meeting after his election, he was made chairman of a standing committee of five, appointed "for the purpose of collecting and arranging such minerals as our State
affords." And on the 1st of April, 1812, less than two months after his admission, he was appointed to deliver the annual address at the following session of the society. This duty he performed on the 3d day of February, 1813, in the old Senate Chamber, the principal part of which, by means of changes made in the building, has been incorporated into the room in which we are now assembled. The object of this address, as he remarks in his preface, was to "exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States, with their various application to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures, whose materials are derived from this source."

This was eminently the field for Dr. Beck's peculiar talent; it was new, and everything had to be learned from the beginning; a host of persons and authorities had to be consulted, and the whole to be carefully digested, analyzed, and applied. The result could not have disappointed those who were familiar with his habits; but to one who had known him less, or who was at all acquainted with the difficulties which he was compelled to encounter in the little that was then known of the mineral resources of this country, the result seems astonishing; and to that elaborate and timely paper, we think, the American manufacturer is, to-day, in no small degree indebted for his wealth and prosperity. It was the lens which first brought the scattered rays of light upon this subject to a focus; and which now melts the ores in a thousand furnaces. If, as Dr. Beck asserts, American mineralogy was then in its infancy, he was the first to urge upon it a confidence in itself, and to demonstrate to others its unsuspected capacities, and it is through such early guidance and assistance that it has so rapidly grown to complete manhood, no less than to the "persevering industry, the unconquerable enterprise, and the extraordinary ingenuity of our citizens."

In 1819, Dr. Beck read, before the same society, a "Memoir on Alum," the object of which was to present a view of one of the most important of the chemical arts. In preparing it, "I consulted," says Dr. Beck, "every work relating to the subject within my reach."

"Had the work conducted some years ago by Prof. Cooper, of Philadelphia, under the title of the Emporium of Arts, been continued, this attempt would doubtless have been useless, as the subject under consideration was one of those which he proposed to notice. I venture, though with unequal steps, to examine the history, progress and present state of the manufacture of alum, with a hope that my investigations may prove useful to some who are unable to consult systematical works, and above all, that they may direct the attention of our citizens to the means which they possess, within their own reach,
of converting useless mineral products into rich sources of individual and national profit."

This, together with the paper first mentioned, is published in the Transactions of the Society, before which they were delivered.

The Albany Lyceum of Natural History, was incorporated by the Legislature on the 23d day of April, 1823.

Stephen Van Rensselaer was, by the charter, appointed its first president, and Dr. Beek, its first vice-president. A union between this association and the society for the promotion of useful arts, was agreed upon and carried into effect in 1824, and consummated in form by an act of the Legislature of the 27th of February, 1829, incorporating the Albany Institute, which was to consist of three departments: the first, that of the physical sciences and the arts, to consist of the society for the promotion of useful arts as then constituted; the second, that of natural history, to consist of the Albany Lyceum of Natural History, as then constituted; the third, for the promotion of history and general literature, to be formed for the purpose. Of the Albany Institute so constituted, dating back its foundation to the establishment of the society for the promotion of agriculture, arts and manufactures in 1793, and thus being, I believe, the oldest institution of this character in our State, and one of the oldest in our country, Dr. Beek was

not only one of the most active members, but it may be safely said, without doing injustice to many others who have been connected with it, that he did more to keep up its organization, to enlarge its library and collections, and generally to advance its interests, than any other person. Its proceedings, as well as its published transactions, bear evidence to the fidelity and zeal with which he labored for its prosperity. At the time of his death, and for many years before, he was its president. In 1835, Dr. Beek, by appointment, delivered before the institute a eulogy on the life and services of Simeon DeWitt, Surveyor-General of the State, Chancellor of the University, and also, at the time of his death, one of the vice-presidents of the society. After a sketch of the life of the highly esteemed and venerable Surveyor-General, remarkable for the simplicity and clearness of the style and narrative, adverting to the loss which the institute had sustained in the death of other members, he closes in language which has a peculiar appropriateness on this occasion.

"Happy, (says he), if, when our account is made up, we shall be found each in his appropriate sphere, like our honored fellow members, to have done some service to the community or the State. Then, whether in the morning of life, or at its fervid bustling noon-day, or in the declining hour, we depart, our memories will be cherished, and our names implore the passing tribute of a sigh."
One of the originators of the plan for the Geological Survey of the State, Dr. B. became one of its most ardent supporters, and under the successive Governors, he was entrusted with much of the supervision of the work. As evidence of the great part which he took in this labor, I subjoin the dedication of the 5th volume, on "agriculture," written by E. Emmons, M.D.

"To T. Romeyn Beck, M.D. LL.D.:

"Sir: There is more than one reason why the concluding divisions of the present work, undertaken to explore and illustrate the Natural History of the State of New-York, and conducted under legislative patronage, should be dedicated to you.

"You were among the first to foster the enterprise, and remained its consistent advocate in times when adverse circumstances seemed to jeopardize its continuance; much more than this, your whole life has been assiduously engaged in promoting the advance of science and the spread of popular education, and the published results of your scientific and literary labors, may be referred to as reflecting an honor upon your native State. Would that the merits of the present volume were such as to render it more worthy its dedication."

The Legislature of 1850 confided to the Secretary of State, and to the Secretary of the Board of Regents, the supervision of the publication of the remainder of the Natural History of the State. The geological survey having been protracted much beyond the period originally contemplated, and various claims existing in reference to it, the two officers named were required by law to report to the next Legislature what those claims were, and what contracts existed between the State and individuals for such of the work as remained to be completed. They were also required to report a plan for the final completion of the survey, and to submit estimates of the cost of such completion. Dr. Beck's acquaintance with the history of this work, and all the matters connected with it, was perhaps more complete than that of any other person in the State; and this fact led to the selection of the Secretary of the Regents (which post he then filled), as one of the Commissioners. Whether we look at the interests of the State or those of science, no better choice could have been made.

The reports of the Commissioners to the Legislature, show the good effects of the investigation made by them; and, judging from the order and system which the affair soon assumed under their hands, and the comparative economy which attended their expenditures and plans, it is hazarding little to say, that, had a permanent commission of this character been charged with the care of the survey from its outset, the work would have been more systematically pursued, and at an expense greatly less than that which the State has incurred.
Since 1841 he has occupied the office of Secretary of the Board of Regents; a position of great honor and trust.

The Regents have a supervisory charge of the educational interests of the State, and are required to report annually the condition of all the colleges and academies under their care. His reports made during the period of his incumbency are not only voluminous, but they are equally models of accuracy and of compactness.

But the supervision of colleges and of academies does by no means limit the powers and responsibilities of the Regents. To them is entrusted the care of the State Library, and of the State Cabinet of Natural History, with also the management of much of the foreign correspondence, and all of the literary or scientific international exchanges. Most of which various duties devolved officially upon Dr. Beck.

To his earnest devotion, and eminent qualifications, the State is therefore indebted for its large and judiciously selected library; and especially for its unrivalled collection of works on the history of this country and State.

In the language of Dr. E. H. Van Deusen, from whose brief but elegant biography, written for the American Journal of Insanity, I am indebted for several of the facts contained in this memoir:

“Dr. Beck has witnessed the adoption in this State, of a public system of education, elementary and collegiate, alike thorough and successful; and as the crowning effort in the field of his severest, yet most congenial labor, a “State Library” which, for completeness of organization and beauty of arrangement, stands unrivaled, and for which, it may be remarked, the State of New-York is almost entirely indebted to his extended and complete knowledge of the history of literature and science, in which he had no equal in this country, if indeed anywhere.”

Many years ago Dr. Beck became interested in the subject of a State Museum. In fact, while connected with the City Lyceum, established in the Albany Academy, he was industriously accumulating and depositing every thing of which he could possess himself, relating to history, or to natural science. A passion, which, it is well known, did not cease or abate, when his admission into the Board of Regents gave him a wider field for its exercise. To the State Library and the State Cabinet hereafter his time and talents were in no small degree directed; and such was his zeal in behalf of these institutions that he has not hesitated at times when the illiberal policy of individual members of the Legislature, hazard the success of necessary appropriations, to give his personal pledge that the moneys should be judiciously applied, and by becoming, as it were, the endorser of the government, he has secured the recognition of the claims of these interests, and obtained the necessary supplies.
On the arrival of M. Vattemare in this country, Dr. Beck immediately saw the value of such a system of international exchange as was proposed, and became at once one of its warmest advocates; nor has he ever ceased to urge upon the successive Legislatures the continuance of the system; and even upon his death-bed he entreated, as a personal favor, that his friends would not forget the claims of this subject, in which he had always felt so deep an interest.

In a letter lately received, M. Vattemare writes—"The death of Dr. Beck deprives me of the best and most faithful friend I ever had, as well as of the most enlightened and active co-operator in the noble cause to which my life is devoted. *

I thought that with my friend all was gone; but the recollection of his solicitude for the system of exchange, as well as his paternal anxiety for the State Library—that glorious monument of his patriotism and high knowledge—revived my courage, and with it the hope that those kind friends I have yet among the Regents of the University, and the recollection of the friendship of Dr. Beck for me, and of his association in my labors, would secure the continuation of their good will."

Outside of his own peculiar sphere of duties, no object of public interest was undertaken without finding in him a warm supporter. When the project of a University in the city of Albany was started, intended to supply, in some measure, the scientific and literary wants of the whole United States, Dr. Beck, while seeing clearly all the difficulties and discouragements attending such a scheme, did not fail to recognize its practical bearings, and his views, as may be seen by a reference to the sketch of his speech appended,* were liberal and comprehensive.

Of the American Association of Science he was an active member, and rendered to it many services.

In obedience to those promptings of humanity which seem in a great measure to have determined his course in life—laboring always most zealously for those who were least able to appreciate his services, or to recognize them—he read before this society in 1837, a paper on the statistics of the deaf and dumb, which had the effect to direct the attention of the public and of the legislators more fully to the condition and necessities of this unfortunate class, and the results of which may be seen in the establishment in the city of New-York of a school for deaf mutes, unrivalled in the excellence of its system and in the perfection of its details.

By the act of its incorporation, in April, 1842, Dr. Beck was made one of the Board of Managers of the New-York State Lunatic Asylum, situated at Utica; and he has been re-appointed by the Governor and Senate at the expiration of each successive triennial period. Upon the death of Mr. Munson, in 1854, he,
although a non-resident member, was unanimously
elected President of the Board. This important
institution, established and endowed by the State
upon a scale of almost unparalleled munificence, is
no doubt indebted largely to Dr. Beck, for his wise
counsels and efficient personal aid, which he has at
all times freely contributed.

Dr. Beck was also an occasional contributor to the
pages of the American Journal of Insanity, published
at Utica under the editorial management of Dr. Brigham,
the late principal: and when, upon the death of
Dr. Brigham, in 1850, the management of the Jour-
nal fell into the hands of the Board, Dr. Beck was
chosen its editor, a place which he continued to hold
"until the close of the last volume, when advancing
years and more imperative duties compelled him to
relinquish his editorial connection."

Of the chief labor of Dr. Beck's life, and of that
which has made his name illustrious wherever science
and literature are cultivated, it still remains to speak.
I allude to his work on "Medical Jurisprudence," and
which no less reflects honor upon us as Americans,
upon this city of his adoption, and upon you, gentle-
men, who were his associates and fellow-members in
this Society.

From how early a period in his life the subject of
this work occupied his attention we may infer from
the following brief extracts from letters written to
his uncle, the Rev. J. B. Romeyn.

The first is dated in 1813:
"Permit me to press upon you the obtaining of one
or the other of the French authors on legal medi-
cine. It has long been a favorite idea with me to
prepare a work on that subject, and should I be ena-
bled to procure Fodere or Mahon, my design may be
completed."

The second is dated June 30, 1814, and was
addressed to his uncle at Lisbon, Portugal:
"As the communication is now open between Great
Britain and France, you will doubtless be enabled to
procure the books I wished. Dulan advertised them
some years since."

On this topic I find ready at my hand nearly all
that it is necessary to say, in a biographical notice of
the author, contained in the first volume of an ele-
gant publication, entitled, "The National Portrait
Gallery of distinguished Americans," issued at New-
York in the year 1834, under the auspices of the
"American Academy of the Fine Arts."

In 1823, Dr. Beck published his work entitled
'Elements of Medical Jurisprudence,' in two volumes,
octavo; which at the time, attracted great attention,
and has since continued a standard work on the
subject of which it treats. The science of medical
jurisprudence is one of great interest and importance.
It treats of all those questions, in which the testi-
mony of a medical man may be required before courts
of justice, and from the nature of many of the ques-
tions, it is obvious that their discussion requires the widest range of medical and scientific knowledge. Although deeply studied in Italy, France and Germany, this science had scarcely attracted any attention, either in this country or in England, previous to the publication of the work of Dr. Beck. To him is certainly due the high credit, not merely of rousing public attention to an important and neglected subject, but also of presenting a work upon it which will probably never be entirely superseded. In foreign countries, its merits have been duly appreciated and magnanimously acknowledged. The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal says of it, vol. 22, p. 179, (1824):

"We undertake this task with the greater pleasure on the present occasion, that we shall have to throw aside, for the first time on medico-legal subjects, the character of the austere critic. It has been our misfortune to handle with some freedom, almost all previous works on the subject. And we have been induced to handle them more freely than many may have thought was called for, because we apprehend that all early works on medical jurisprudence, especially of the systematic kind, should be viewed with peculiar jealousy by every one interested in its progress. For as it is now circumstanced, languishing still in its infancy, and struggling against the supineness, indifference and prejudices of those who ought to be its most zealous protectors; no greater mischief could happen than that systematic treatises on it should pass without warning into the hands of the public, which, however meritorious, are nevertheless, not on a level with its state of advancement, and do not present an expanded view of its general spirit and practical applications.

"At length, however, the English language may boast, that it is possessed of a general work on medical jurisprudence, which will not only stand comparison with the best of the kind that the continent has produced, but which may also be referred to by every medical jurist as a monument worthy of his science, and as a criterion by which he is willing that its interest and utility should be tried.

"Under the unassuming title of Elements of Medical Jurisprudence, Doctor Beck has presented us with a comprehensive system, which embraces almost every valuable fact or doctrine relating to it. Each of its diversified departments has been investigated so minutely, that few cases can occur in practice, on which it will be necessary to seek elsewhere for further information. At the same time by studying succinctness and shunning those verbose oratorical details with which other writers, and particularly those of France abound, he has succeeded in rendering his treatise comprehensive within a singularly moderate compass. We may securely assert, that a work on the subject is not to be found in any language, which displays so much patient and discrimi-
nating research, with so little of the mere ostentation of learning. The opinions expressed both on general principles and on the particular questions which have occurred in courts of law, are given clearly and judiciously. There are few occasions, even where the points at issue are difficult and obscure, on which persons of skill and experience will be disposed to differ materially with him."

In the various medical colleges of Great Britain, there has been, we believe, no textbook on medical jurisprudence positively adopted; but we have been informed that Dr. Beck's work has been for years recommended to students by professors.

In 1828, it was translated into German, at Weimar, and has been favorably received in various parts of the continent of Europe.

It is not alone the physician and the jurist who are indebted to Dr. Beck for this essential work; but it has proved to the general reader, we believe invariably, a fund of interesting information; and we will venture to say that no one has ever risen from its perusal without experiencing an agreeable surprise, that a subject so uninviting in its title, should afford so much amusement. The remarks of a writer in Blackwood's Magazine agree so well with our own experience, that we cannot do better than adopt them. "The ignorant state in which jurymen continually come to the consideration of points of medical evidence, on criminal trials, is lamentable. In regard to men of any habits of reading it is really sinful; and certainly not the less so, because the works which they ought to read and master happen to be about the most interesting and amusing books in the world."

To these testimonials we will only add, that the work has already passed through five American, and four London, besides the German edition. In the preface to the first London edition which was published as early as 1825, with notes, by Dr. Wm. Dunlap, the editor says:

"We do not claim for the present work the need of a faultless performance, but we fear not to challenge a comparison of it with any of the English works in scientific accuracy, philosophical plainness and precision of style, extent of research, genuine scholarship and erudition, pointedness of illustration, and copiousness of detail and reference to original documents."

Says a bibliographer, in a notice of the German edition, "Among the numerous and unequivocal evidences of the very high estimation in which Dr. Beck's 'Elements of Jurisprudence' are held by the profession in Europe, their translation into the German language must be regarded as the most flattering and decisive indication of their true value. In no country has this interesting and varied science been prosecuted with such unabated zeal, or have so much learning and research been elicited on its several
curious topics, as in Germany. From the time of
Zachias, indeed, to the present day it has been the
favorite object of study with German physicians, and
their opinions of the merits of any treatise on the
subject are therefore entitled to the highest weight
and the most respectful consideration. Proud are we,
therefore, to see them prize the performance of our
learned countryman so high as to deem it worthy of
transfusion into their vernacular tongue. In his
native language his work is as yet without a parallel."

Although the two volumes originally comprised
more than 2000 pages octavo, yet to each successive
American edition he did not fail to add largely from
his apparently inexhaustible stores of knowledge and
research. Nor even here did his labors cease, but he
continued to contribute almost to the period of his
death to one or more of the medical or scientific
journals of the country, such additional facts or dis-
coveries as from time to time came to his knowledge.
In the American Journal of Medical Science, edited
by Dr. Hays, may be found many of his most valu-
able papers.

Says a distinguished writer for that periodical, in
reviewing the tenth edition of his Medical Jurispru-
dence: "The pages of this journal, for many years
past, have borne constant evidence of the untiring
and invaluable research of Dr. Beck, whose observa-
tions and extracts from foreign and domestic sources
have filled that portion of it devoted to medical
jurisprudence; and the writer of the present notice
bears his testimony to the same effect; for, having
taken much interest in the subject, and consequently
had occasion to examine the journals, he found it
impossible to furnish a single novelty to this depart-
ment in which he had not been anticipated by Dr.
Beck."

Nor is there perhaps, any testimony more pertinent
as to the rank occupied by Dr. Beck in the literary
and scientific world, than the large number of socie-
ties, both abroad and at home, which conferred upon
him either honorary or active memberships. Among
others less known we may mention the New-York
Historical Society, of which he was elected a member
in 1813; Physico Medical Society, N. Y., 1818;
Antiquarian Soc., Mass., 1816; Academy of Natural
Sciences, Philadelphia, 1816; Lyceum of Natural
History, N. Y., 1817; American Geological Society,
New-Haven, 1819; Natural Hist. Soc., Montreal,
1821; Hon. member of Med. Soc., London, 1824;
Medical Society, Quebec, 1824; Cor. member Lin-
nean Soc., Paris, 1826; Hon. member Med. Soc.,
Conn., 1826; Society of Emulation, Charleston, S.
C., 1827; Med. Soc. of New-Hampshire, 1828; Asso-
ciate of the College of Phys., Philadelphia, 1829;
Hon. member of Royal Med. Soc. of Edinburgh, 1832;
of Meteorological Society, London, 1838; of Ameri-
can Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1839; of
Med. Soc. of Rhode Island, 1839; National Institu-
tion for the promotion of science, Washington, 1840; Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1841; Amer. Ethnological Soc. 1842; Northern Academy of Arts and Sciences, Dartmouth, 1845; Cor. fellow of New-York Academy of Medicine, 1847; Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, 1848; Histor. Soc., Vermont, 1850; American Statistical Soc., Boston, 1851; State Historical Society, Wisconsin, 1854. The degree of LL. D. has been conferred upon him by the Mercersburg College, Penn., and by Rutgers College, N. J.

Dr. Beck enjoyed during his life, almost uninterrupted health, the result, we suspect, of a good natural constitution, and of temperate, regular, and, so far at least as his literary pursuits would permit, active habits.

The following account of his last illness and of the autopsy,* is too interesting to admit of abridgement, and I shall make no apology for its introduction. It was furnished at my request by his attending physician, Dr. S. D. Willard, of this city, who visited him from the earliest stage of his illness, and whose personal care and devotion, as well as that of Dr. Hun, who was called in counsel, toward the close of his life, was most faithful, unremitting, and far exceeding all claims of professional duty.

"Dr. Beck suffered from an attack of indigestion in the early part of January, 1854. It was at a time

when he was busily engaged in his official duties, and although he placed himself under medical treatment, and was visited twice daily by his physician, he did not allow himself, as I remember, to be deterred from going to his office for a single day. He recovered from this attack in two weeks, and with the exception of a slight paroxysm of gout, he enjoyed nearly his usual health during the remainder of the year.

In February, 1855, he was again taken ill, and the symptoms with which his illness began were precisely similar to those of the year previous. The weather was intensely cold, and he was induced on account of it to remain at home for a few days, though he was quite unwilling to admit the necessity of such regimen. The symptoms did not yield as readily as they had done before; he experienced great uneasiness about the stomach and bowels; his appetite not only failed, but he felt nausea at the very mention of either food or medicine; he complained greatly of weakness, but was almost invariably invigorated by his sleep at night. He was so much better at the end of a fortnight as to go out, and this he continued to do nearly every day, utterly regardless of the weather, and appeared to be daily gaining strength until the last of March, when the symptoms returned upon him, as violent as they had been at first; but they again yielded after a week or ten days, and with the exception of his not having regained his strength,
he appeared for a little time nearly recovered. We looked forward to the return of mild weather with confident expectation that his health would be restored. During the month of May he was daily at his office, and continued his labors and researches with his accustomed untiring industry. About the first of June he visited his daughter, Mrs. Van Cortlandt, at Croton, and while there he had a recurrence of some of his unpleasant symptoms, though they were less severe than in preceding attacks. His visit at Croton was brief, and he returned again to pursue his labors beyond the measure of his strength. At length he yielded to the solicitations of his friends to make his summer visit to Lake George a few weeks earlier than usual, and this in the belief that total relaxation would prove of the desired benefit to him. Here, however, he indulged less in the social pleasures and rural sports than had for many years been his practice. Occasionally he went out on the lake for fish, and once he joined a party that had arranged to dine on a rock about five miles down the lake. He went and returned in a row boat, and though much fatigued, bore the exertion better than could have been expected. [August 29.] His very nature gave him a keen relish for such pleasures, but he now united in them with reluctance. He became averse to exercise, and much of the time was passed with his friends on the piazza of the hotel, or in his own room, re-perusing some favorite volume. Scarcely a week passed without the return of some of his annoying symptoms, and notwithstanding he thought himself getting better, he was becoming weaker and losing flesh. He returned from Lake George on the 7th September. His journey home greatly fatigued him, and he found himself obliged to send for his physician the next day. Medication almost uniformly brought him present relief, but it did not serve to eradicate the morbid condition to which his system had become subjected. He continued to go to the State Library until the 15th of September, when he left it for the last time.

Until the present there was, to my mind, no positive indications of other than functional derangement in his case. He was very weak, and had not only lost his full, portly habit, but had become greatly emaciated. His appetite, at times, was good, but not uniformly so. The food he took did not appear to assimilate with and nourish his body, although it was generally well digested. He retired early, slept quietly, and maintained his fixed habit of rising at five or six o'clock in the morning. He had not, thus far, suffered any severe pain during the progress of his illness; the recurrence of nausea gave him great uneasiness, and he complained likewise of lassitude and debility, but not of pain.

For several years he had, at times, been afflicted with paroxysms of dyspnea, and he assured me that the pulsations of his heart had "always been irregu-
lar.” Since he had become so feeble, these had increased to such an extent as to indicate that they were occasioned by disease of the heart—but they lacked essentially some of the peculiarities which would be expected in advanced disease of that organ.

It was at this time that Dr. Hun, who had seen him at intervals while visiting other members of the family, united with me in regular attendance. So great a change had taken place in his appearance, that it now became manifest that the disease was making rapid inroads upon his remaining strength, and was advancing to a fatal termination.

The doctor consented to remain quiet for a few days; it was without a realization of his own feebleness. He consented, not because he admitted the necessity of quietude, but because his physicians positively enjoined it. He still looked forward, one week after another, to the time when he should be able to resume his duties, and appointed several days when he hoped to go out; but, when the time came, he felt that his strength was insufficient to the effort, and consented readily to abide the advice of his attendants and friends.

During these weeks of confinement, he was uniformly cheerful, and looked on the bright side of his own case. He seldom complained of pain, and was rather unwilling to admit that he suffered any. He rarely inquired particularly about the nature of his disease, nor did he evince anxiety about the manner in which it might terminate. Thus he continued until late in October, when, upon the suggestion of his daughters, he consented to an arrangement for a consultation with Dr. Willard Parker, of New-York, who had been the physician of his brother, Dr. John B. Beck, and who is likewise a warm personal friend of the family.

The evening before Dr. Parker came (October 24), he spoke more freely of himself than he had previously done. It was conclusive to me then, that the character of his malady had not escaped his own careful observation. He said to me: “I don’t altogether give up my own case yet, but I have lived long enough to wear out my constitution—and, whatever is the result, I must be content.” These were the first words indicating that he regarded his condition critical. The next morning he was visited by Dr. Parker, together with Dr. Hun and myself. He received us with great composure and cheerfulness, and made a clear, full statement of his case, speaking of himself as if he was not the person interested in the examination.

After the consultation, we returned to his room, and Dr. Parker taking his seat by him kindly said, “Now Doctor we have asked you a great many questions, are there any you would like to ask us?” His reply was strictly characteristic of himself as a man of few words. He did not seek to evade the result of this investigation, but arrived at once at the conclu-
sion, by a single question that covered the whole subject, "can you get me well?" Dr. Parker told him that we were unable to detect organic disease, but there was a suspension in the process of assimilation, his food digested but did not assimilate, "the engine," said he, "you have, but the fuel fails to make it work." Again he asked "can you get in fuel that will?" The answers to these pointed enquiries were necessarily of a negative character; to which he replied, "You make out my case very unfavorably." In the afternoon of the same day, I found him cheerful, without having been fatigued by the morning interview, and he expressed some confidence in the efficacy of the nitro-muriatic acid sponge bath which was suggested by Dr. Parker.

Until the 11th November no special change occurred; he slept more than usual, and at night comfortably, awaking at his accustomed hour in the morning; he sat up nearly every day for a short time, and often devoted a part of this to business; his books and his papers were around him, and he still devoted himself to them with untiring industry; although he was sick, he did not know how to be idle. I visited him at all hours, and I always found him with a book in his hand; when he retired at night, it was with lights arranged by his bedside that he might read until he fell asleep.

With the first loss of sleep, (Nov. 11.) came total prostration, he was unable longer to take nourishment, and soon began what appeared to be the process of dying; of this he was fully aware, yet no murmur escaped his lips, nor the wish that the termination might be averted. (Nov. 14.) His breathing became gradually more difficult, and his extremities cold, he was exceedingly restless, but uniformly answered "no" when asked if he was suffering. Each hour appeared for two or three days to be his last, but he rallied again however, and remarked of the wonderful tenacity of his constitution, and expressed surprise that he lived so long. "It is hard breaking the chain," and then he asked "Is not this a long struggle?" "How long have I been in it?" To my reply "more than twenty-four hours," he asked, "do you think it will last much longer?" Addressing his daughters, who were by his bedside, he said "I had a coldness, a sort of spasm in my side last night, that was near my idea of the coming on of death; I have thought my case over, it is a remarkable complaint, don't you all think so?" And at the same time he expressed his conviction that he must have organic disease.

At another time, when he thought his daughters greatly fatigued by prolonged attention to him, gazing upon them with paternal tenderness, he said, "I am sorry to tire you so; I wish it was over." Thus, in his last hours, he did not fail to regard the comfort of others before himself. His hearing continued acute, and his mind clear and calm through those hours of protracted dissolution, although he was so weak that
he could not converse. Thus he lingered until the morning of the 19th. A few hours preceding his death, Mrs. Parmelee was sitting by his side, when he asked, "Where is Catharine?" (Mrs. Van Cortlandt); immediately she was with him. He pressed her hand in token of recognition, gazed upon them for a moment, and then closed his eyes forever. His breathing became quiet, fainter, and still more faint, until at length, gently as sleeps a child, the slumber of death came upon him. And thus passed away this great man, on the 19th of November, 1855, at the age of sixty-four years and three months. Mr. and Mrs. Parmelee, Mrs. Van Cortlandt and myself, were with him when he died.

During the whole period of his illness, his daughters watched him with the utmost filial devotion and tenderness. They were almost constantly with him, anticipating every want, and administering every comfort. His last hours were not only soothed by their presence, their words of kindness and love, but by their earnest prayers that he might be sustained by his Heavenly Father in the eventful hour that still awaited him.

To the inquiry, so natural to one who reflects upon the life and labors of our deceased associate, "How has any man been able to accomplish so much in a single life?" The reply is,—it was the result of system, indomitable perseverance, of ardent devotion and honesty of purpose, united to excellent talents.

But no one quality so much contributed to his extraordinary attainments as that methodical improvement of time which he adopted from the first and retained to almost the last hours of his life. Every duty had its time and place, with which no other duties were allowed to interfere. A given portion of each day was assigned to a particular subject, and this arrangement was not to be interfered with. The morning study was never postponed to the evening, nor relaxation nor miscellaneous reading permitted until the allotted tasks were respectively dispatched. Having determined also upon any great purpose it was never relinquished until it was accomplished. With him there was no vacillation or uncertainty of design; and at his death nothing seems to have been left unfinished, but that one labor which he had undertaken, too late for its full completion, a memoir of his early friend and counsellor, the lamented DeWitt Clinton. A work for which his long and intimate acquaintance, his sympathy of feelings and tastes, with his rare literary attainments eminently qualified him.

They were alike men of talents, education, system and perseverance: each labored for the public good rather than for private interest: each entertained enlarged and almost prophetic views of State and National policy; each selected judiciously the time and means for the attainment of their great purposes.
De Witt Clinton was a statesman, but no less a philosopher and a patriot. T. Romeyn Beck was a physician, but no less a scholar and a philanthropist. De Witt Clinton sought to penetrate the State with the commerce of the world, and to develop by this means also its agricultural resources. Beck sought to determine its mineral wealth, and thus to encourage its manufactories, with which both agriculture and commerce are mutually allied. Operating in different channels, their ends and aims were the same, and it would be difficult to say to whom the citizens of this prosperous State owe the most, to the illustrious statesman, or to the no less illustrious physician.

No one will deny the comparison, which neither detracts from the merits of the one, nor exalts invinglyously the claims of the other.

More than two years ago, at the earnest solicitation of the Clinton family, Dr. Beck had consented to write his life, and was furnished with the large and valuable collection of papers belonging to the family. He had already made some progress in arranging and digesting these materials when disease arrested the prosecution of a work, which, there is reason to believe, would have been such a biography as the illustrious statesman deserved, and such, probably, as none but Dr. Beck, who had so long shared his intimacy and confidence, could have written.

In his domestic relations, Dr. Beck was kind and affectionate. I hesitate, even in a biographical memoir, to invade the sanctity of private life; but I must yield to an impulse which instructs me to value the example of a pure and unsullied character in its relations to home and to the social circle.

To his wife, who died in 1823, at the early age of 31 years, a woman of rare accomplishments and of refined sentiments, he was devotedly attached; and I am told that the greater part of his work on Medical Jurisprudence was written while watching at her bedside during her last and painfully protracted illness—a most touching memorial to her virtues and to the kindness of his own heart.

Of his brothers, he was the oldest; and although accustomed always to exercise over them a kind of paternal care, he was singularly attached to them; and when, one after another, they died, until he alone was left, he has seemed to suffer the most poignant grief; and especially did the death of his last and youngest brother—the late Lewis C. Beck—with whom his associations and his pursuits were the most constant, fall heavily upon him.

His mother—that venerated woman, who herself had watched over his infancy, and guided him carefully through his youth, up to manhood—found under his roof a welcome shelter in her declining years, where at all times her wants were more than supplied, and her counsels and precepts were reverentially
respected. Brought up under her father's care, her education was solid and judicious, and, until the last three or four years of her life, when her mind gave way, she preserved her interest in all literary pursuits. She lived to see all her children attain eminence and respectability, and died at last at the advanced age of 85 years.

Dr. Beck had no sons. His two daughters, Catharine, wife of Pierre Van Cortlandt, Esq., of Westchester, and Helen, wife of Hon. William Parmeleed, of Albany, still live to attest his inestimable worth and to exemplify his virtues.

In the presence of strangers, Dr. Beck was somewhat reserved, and not unfrequently seemed unsocial; but with his more intimate acquaintances he was remarkably free, affable, and unrestrained; and through all his familiar social conversations there was a rich vein of humor mingling with the profounder currents of thought and discussion.

His knowledge of books was not confined to scientific treatises. He read most of the standard works in history, romance, poetry, and in all departments of light literature. He read rapidly, and soon possessed himself of the meaning or value of any author; which faculty, united to a retentive memory, made him almost the final umpire wherever questions of text or of authority arose. In the language of one who knew him intimately, and who had been a collaborator with him in the establishment of the State Library, "His knowledge of what I would call the science of literature, I have never seen equalled."

He was liberal to the poor, and kind to all. Not even the brutes escaped his sympathy. Cruelty to animals excited in him always the most intense disapprobation.

His belief in the divine revelation, and in its doctrines, as held by the great body of Protestant Christians, was firm, decided and often expressed; and he could never tolerate any attempts on the part of any person to impugn or to throw discredit upon them.

In conclusion, I beg to repeat the language and judgment of a well known gentleman who had spent several summers in his society at Lake George, Mr. George Ticknor, of Boston. In a letter written during the illness of Dr. Beck, he says: "I have known few men of so faithful a nature as he was, and still fewer in whom, on a more continuous acquaintance, I have been so much interested. The amount of his knowledge, and the eagerness with which he pursues it, are remarkable; but not more so than the excellent use to which he puts it all."

Also, of an intimate personal friend, the Rev. Dr. J. N. Campbell, of Albany, who was his pastor for some years and his associate as a member of the Board of Regents: "I think that the secret of that respect and regard which Dr. Beck had acquired in the community, and which he enjoyed in a measure
rarely attained by any man, is to be found in his industry and disinterestedness, and these were prominent features in his character. He was the most laborious man I ever knew. He never lost a minute, and we all know how much he accomplished; yet he never appeared in anything he did to be seeking to acquire position or honor for himself—and I have repeatedly remaked that, in speaking of the results of his labors, he was always careful to give all the credit to his associates and to claim nothing for himself.” * * * “He was a remarkably pure minded man—of true honor, above all meanness, and of the sternest integrity.”

It has been my desire, gentlemen, to present you with an impartial history of our deceased associate, in which his services should not on the one hand be undervalued, nor on the other magnified into undue importance. I have sought to be brief, and yet to omit nothing which posterity might some time wish to know of that man whose cotemporaries have every where greeted him with such sentiments of applause, and whose name will hereafter reflect so much honor upon our age and country.

Upon you, gentlemen, new duties now devolve. The burdens of those who fall must be divided equally among those who remain, in order that the great work of the advancement of human knowledge may not be delayed. To each must be assigned a share—

and they must see to it that the night does not overtake them before their allotted task is done, and they “steal inglorious to the silent grave.”

It was not so with him whose last rites we have now performed. And as we deposit the urn in which we have thus carefully gathered his consecrated ashes, let us carry away with us some of those sacred fires which gave inspiration to his genius, and which still continue to shed a halo of light around his tomb. For

>“Lives of great men all remind us
   We may make our lives sublime,
   And departing, leave behind us,
   Foot-prints on the sands of time.”

8
APPENDIX.

AUTOPSY OF DR. T. ROMEYN BECK.


The examination was held November 20, twenty-nine hours after death.

The LUNGS were healthy.

The HEART was large, measuring from the apex, transversely, seven inches. There was, in patches, on the surface of the heart, especially near the posterior surface, near the origin of the blood vessels, a soft fibrinous deposit, which was easily rubbed off. The walls of the left ventricle were from an inch to an inch and one-eighth in thickness. The aortic valves were thick and opaque. There was slight calcareous deposit on the mitral valve, with thickening and induration.

The CORONARY arteries were ossified.

The HEPATIC ARTERY was thickened and indurated.

The LIVER was congested and healthy, excepting the ramifications of the hepatic artery; these were indurated.

The STOMACH.—The mucous membrane of the stomach was of a greyish color, except at the posterior part, where it was congested, and lined with a bloody mucus.

There was thickening and induration of the pyloric orifice.

The KIDNEYS were somewhat shrivelled on the surface, but the texture was healthy.

The most remarkable appearance was the extreme emaciation. In health Dr. Beck weighed two hundred and ten pounds; at the time of his death he weighed not over one hundred pounds, and possibly not over ninety. He was fat, not muscular. Here then is a loss of one hundred and ten pounds certainly, and possibly one hundred and twenty pounds! [The change in his personal appearance was so great by this loss that his most intimate friends and colleagues could not recognise in his features any thing to remind them of Dr. Beck.]

The progress of his illness was from February, 1855.* The heart was evidently in a state of hypertrophy, but the immediate cause of his death was DEFECT in HIS POWER TO ASSIMilate.

* Period of illness 91 months, though confined to the house only nine weeks.

Note.—Dr. Lewis C. Beck died in a similar manner. He was a spare man, and having no fat to consume, his illness continued only a few weeks. Dr. T. Romeyn lived until he had consumed over one hundred pounds.

Dr. Parker informed me that the arteries in Dr. John R. Beck were ossified those in the trunk; he compared them to a skeleton. A similar condition had, to some extent, taken place in Dr. T. R. Beck.
The anned is a list of offices which he filled, and societies to which he was elected, etc.

Alms House Physician, Albany, 1811
Fellow of the College of Phys. and Surg., N. Y., 1811
Medical Society, State of New-York, 1813
New-York Historical Society, New-York, 1813
Member of Physico-Medical Society, New-York, 1815
Trustee of the Albany Academy, 1815
Professor of the Institutes of Med., Fairfield, 1815
Hon. Mem. of Academy of Nat. Sciences, Phila., 1816
Receiving Officer of Antiquarian Society, Mass., 1816
Hon. Mem. Lyceum of Natural History, N. Y., 1817
Hon. Mem. Medical Society, London, 1824
Hon. Mem. Medical Society, Quebec, 1824
Corresponding Member Linnean Society, Paris, 1826
Hon. Mem. Medical Society, Connecticut, 1826
Senior Hon. Mem. Med. Soc. of Emulation of Charleston, 1827
Associate of the College of Physicians, Phila., 1829
Hon. Mem. of the Ithaca Lyceum, 1830
Hon. Mem. of the West Point Lyceum, 1830
Mem. Albany County Agricultural Society, 1830
Hon. Mem. Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, 1832
Philosophical Society, Rutgers College, 1833
Prof. Materia Medica and Med. Juris., Fairfield, 1836

Hon. Mem. Amer. Philosophical Society, Phila., 1839
Hon. Mem. Medical Society, Rhode Island, 1839
Hon. Mem. Nat. Institution for Promotion Science, Wash., 1840
Hon. Mem. Amer. Ethnological Society, N. Y., 1842
Hon. Mem. North. Acad. Arts and Sciences, Dartmouth, 1843
Corresponding Fellow of N. Y. Acad. of Med., 1847
Degree of LL.D., Mercersburg, Pa., 1849
Degree of LL.D., Rutgers Col., New-Brunswick,
President of Albany Institute.
Royal Soc. of North. Antiquarians, Copenhagen, 1848
Hon. Mem. Historical Society, Vermont, 1850
Hon. Mem. State Historical Society, Wisconsin, 1854
Trustee State Lunatic Asylum and President
Board of Trustees,
Pres. of the Board of Trustees Albany Acad., 1852
Mem. Executive Com. of the Normal School,
Emeritus-Professor Albany Medical College, 1854
UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY.

Remarks of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, on the proposed establishment of a University, made in the Capitol before the Literary Convention and the Legislature, March 30, 1854.

I beg to say that the plan presented by our respected president, is one which meets my hearty approbation. It includes very many of the subjects required to be taught in the proposed University—all of them are more or less imperatively called for by the wants of the times and of the country. If the objects set forth are not immediately accomplished, as for a few years can scarcely be expected, still the necessity will become more and more apparent.

I have, however, been accustomed of late, to look at this matter in a somewhat different point of view. The remark has been frequently made, and I have not been insensible to its bearing, that the proposed new institution will, even if successful, be only another college added to the too many already in operation. We must endeavor to avoid this. We must also, especially, take care that in anything new to be done, we do not run counter to the system of instruction at present existing. I lay it down as a settled proposition, that the present course of instruction in the various States of the Union, from common schools up to schools of law, divinity and medicine, is a good one. It may have defects which require amendment, but not its destruction. In all that we do, we should look to its stability. We shall lose every thing by undermining or endeavoring to supplant it. All who were at all conversant with the system of education in our own State, forty years ago, will fully appreciate the improvements that have been made, and they have a right to imagine an onward and forward course hereafter. The want of a sufficient complement of competent teachers in our common schools, academies and colleges, although manifest at the period referred to, is rapidly being supplied. An University in this country, on the broad, liberal and enlightened policy, that has been foreshadowed, would be a mighty agent in meeting such deficiencies.

The first practical question then, is, whether a University in the most extended sense of the term is needed? I answer emphatically that it is. And for this purpose, we need a co-operation of feeling and interest, not so much for expensive buildings and broad lands, as for supplying the museums, apparatus and other appliances that may be necessary for explanation and elucidation. Above all and first of all, we want eminent professors, accomplished in their respective branches of knowledge, and lastly, we need students to attend them.

What shall be the system of instruction? Are the Latin and Greek languages to be taught? Certainly not, in the ordinary sense of the term. We have
already in this State alone, some one hundred and sixty academies, and some seven or eight colleges, in which the study of these is pursued. And if the teachers be competent, we do not need an University for that purpose.

But it is very desirable to have a professor, or professors, who are perfect masters of those languages, intimately acquainted with all the authors of each; in one word, capable of fully illustrating the literature of both. Such men are not easily obtained. They in a great degree make themselves in any country. They are known by their works.

You cannot expect that they will be attended by large classes, and this renders it the more imperative to endow professorships for them. Even in the most favorable event, the number to be instructed will be few. What is now the mode of preparation for such an office? The individual goes to Europe—to Germany.

Even if we establish such professorships, it may still be highly proper for their incumbents to visit foreign countries. But I look forward to the time when this may not be absolutely required. We owe something on the score of national character, to take part in and foster this higher instruction—to form men among ourselves, who shall be equally learned and as fully prepared to instruct in this as the most renowned of other countries.

Dr. Beck here alluded to a fact mentioned by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, in his papers on University education in Germany. At one of these institutions, a teacher in a branch of classical literature, had but a single auditor, and still this person was so devoted to his profession and the cause of learning, that he was as untiring in his lectures, as those with large classes.

The same remarks will, in a great degree, apply to the study of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. These branches of knowledge are now largely and extensively taught. We have most able professors in many of our colleges—but still it is impossible to do full justice to them in a sub-graduate course.

We require persons to expend their application to the useful arts and the ordinary purposes of life. Civil engineering, for example, should be taught on an extended scale and with larger appliances. How much of the comfort, safety and life of the travelling community is dependent on the proper care and management of railroads and steamboats? How many accidents upon both are occasioned by want of knowledge, and hence imperfect structure. How much mischief results from an ignorance of, or incomplete acquaintance with first principles? What grievous destruction originates from a want of study of the metal that forms so material an instrument in the architecture of both. To some of my hearers, the great improvement produced by the introduction
of the hot blast must be familiar. Indeed I know of no subject in the physical sciences that better deserves the establishment of an independent professorship than that of Inox, its chemical characters, its manufacture and its application.

Then as to the engineers. They are frequently more rapidly promoted to that position, than the knowledge of the duties they are to perform will warrant. Therefore, means should be afforded to them for enlarging and increasing that knowledge. I consider this subject as most worthy of reflection, eminently deserving of careful attention and consideration. It is vitally connected with the safety of the community, and without its proper appreciation, the casualties and accidents that have already occurred will not be diminished.

But along with these needs and fully and readily conceding that many departments of useful and elegant literature and moral science should find a place in the proposed University, there still remains many specific wants, which could readily be made subjects of successful investigation, if fostered by public or private beneficence. For example: we need professors of Natural History, both in its enlarged sense, and in its numerous and important subdivisions. This is a wide subject, embracing a broad field of investigation, and daily requiring more and more studious application, on account of the branches of science that are constantly brought to bear on its proper elucidation. Look at the most recent one, that is now becoming a subject of great popular interest, viz., Microscopy. It is already successfully applied to the development of the intimate structure of man and of the inferior animals.

We want a professor of Physical Geography and Meteorology. This is peculiarly called for, on account of the important bearing of the latter subject on the safety of Navigation. It has been asserted of late years, that a ship can outride a storm. Certainly we know, that if the barometer was generally studied, many dangers might be avoided. What higher object can be proposed to a man of science, than to develop and arrange the many results that even now could be collected from the great mass of facts already accumulated. We need a professor of the General Health, or as it is also styled of Public Hygiene. This subject is the particular care of several of the governments of Europe. France, Holland, Belgium, and latterly the English government has given considerable attention to it. The construction of buildings in towns and cities—the condition of the sewerage—the number of persons that should be allowed to inhabit a tenement—the nature of the water that is used—the adaptation of proper means for analysing it—the allowance or disallowance of various kinds of manufactories—the construction of public baths—all these are but items of the great subject lying so closely at
the foundation and preservation of the health and prosperity of a community.

Nor let those, who reside in the country suppose that such an appointment is not needed by them. How often do epidemic or endemic diseases occur there, and frequently from slight and unnoticed causes, that only require scientific investigation to avoid or to remedy.

We require the appointment, under public authority, of a Professor of Medical Jurisprudence or Forensic Medicine. It is not possible to do full justice to this subject in Medical Colleges—we teach there what is known; we want a person or persons who shall ascertain, if possible, the unknown; and great as have been the discoveries of late years in this science, still the cunning of the murderer has frequently outrun them. Why should not men, duly qualified, be appointed to such an office, who, by their researches, would be far in advance of those who, by secret, and in some cases almost unknown means, prevent detection in the commission of crime. There is a person now living, the certainty of whose knowledge on the power of poisons is such, that he is not only called to examine cases in every part of France, but not long since was summoned to Belgium in one which at the time, attracted the attention of all Europe. I hold that there should be two or three persons of this character appointed and paid by the government to perform this important duty.

It is impossible for our public institutions to support professorships in these various and accumulating sciences and branches of sciences. You require the aid of the government, or what is still better, private individuals must come forward, foster and support them.

Addressing myself to an audience partly composed of members of the Legislature, I submit, with great deference, that there are certain subjects which most particularly claim their care and endowment.

For example, a Professor of Statistics might be appointed with great advantage to the community. His duties would be laborious, but how much time and money might be saved were he to compare, analyse and determine, what has been accomplished as to prisons, hospitals, asylums, and, indeed, the whole range of our corrective and beneficent institutions. How much useful information is even now gained by examining the returns of the census and of annual bills of mortality. I can only glance at this subject, nor can I do more with another, and which may be styled a professorship of Comparative Law and Legislation. Reform is on foot, even under absolute governments. One State is borrowing from another. Great efforts are making to simplify and condense the laws under which we live.
It is not within the bounds of possibility that men elected for one or two years to the Legislature are competent to grapple with these subjects. They should be furnished at the public expense with all the preliminary information that genius and industry can devise.

And now, in concluding these hasty and not sufficiently digested remarks, I return to the point at which I commenced. I fear that the plan proposed by our president is scarcely attainable until after a series of years. Constitutional scruples will be interposed. Session after session in Congress, even if the subject were allowed a hearing, would be consumed in the discussion, nor would the sanction of Washington, of a National University, as expressed in his will, be sufficiently regarded.

It only remains to call on State and private patronage. I consider it to be conceded, from the general interest that has now for several years been expressed on this subject, that there is a need of such an institution, in its broadest sense, without encroaching on any other existing one, but in fact, being rather accessory to it. The wants of the masses call for it, for it is impossible to establish such an one, without having a number of free seats.

There is an important branch of learning to which I have not as yet adverted, and that is physical astronomy, and its most important bearings on commerce and navigation. I have not spoken of it until now, because I wish to bring its encouragement prominently forward as a model and an example for future action.

Through the noble-hearted generosity of a lady in this city, ample provision has been made for the erection and endowment of an Observatory,—a most enduring monument to the memory of her deceased husband, who held a conspicuous position during his life, and whose memory is cherished by all who enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance.

This Dudley Observatory is the commencement. What we now ask for, is that our wealthy men, who by their commercial, financial, or professional pursuits, have been eminently successful,—men who have acquired the title of merchant princes among us,—men whose hands are open for every object of private or public beneficence, should come forward, and endow and thus found one or more professorships. Every such single endowment may, and doubtless will lead to another. I have no doubt that the sum of from $10,000 to $15,000 would be amply sufficient for that purpose. This would truly form a beginning, and I am strongly impressed with the opinion that in no other way can this University gain life and being.

But if this should be the result, the understanding must be fully carried out, that it is not to be an institution for boys and girls, but for men and women.
An institution, where a person in any profession or position in life, who may desire to increase his store of knowledge, in any particular branch of it, may have the opportunity afforded to him. Such will be found in every rank of social life. The necessity of increase in knowledge is recognized by every right-minded man until the day of his death. It is keenly felt, even by those who look merely to pecuniary advantage.

I have thus imperfectly endeavored to impress on my hearers, and particularly on the citizens of Albany, the necessity of moving in the matter, and of making a beginning, as alone promising a completion.

NON OMNIS MORIAR.

The various institutions and organizations with which Dr. Beek had been prominently connected, on the occasion of his decease expressed their appreciation of his virtues and talents, and the great general loss sustained in his death, in the following proceedings and resolutions:

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.—At a meeting of the Regents of the University of the State of New-York, held Nov. 29th, 1855, it was ordered that the following record be entered on their minutes:

"The Regents, in recording the death of their late Secretary, Theodric Romeyn Beck, unanimously express their high appreciation of the excellences of his character, distinguished by its modesty, simplicity and integrity, of the extent and variety of his acquirements, of his eminent, long-continued and efficient labors for the promotion of education and science, of his faithfulness and diligence in the discharge of the laborious and varied duties of his office, and of the great value of his services in the several departments belonging to it."

Resolved, That in testimony of their respect for the deceased, the Board, together with its officers, will attend his funeral on Wednesday next, and that on that day the State Library be closed.

Resolved, That the Regents tender to the family of the deceased the assurance of their sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement, and that a copy of this record, attested by the Chancellor, be transmitted to them.

JOHN H. HICKCOX,
Secretary pro tem.

MANAGERS OF THE NEW-YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.—At a meeting of the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, held at Utica, on the twenty-first day of November, 1855, it was

Resolved, That the intelligence of the death of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, the President of this Board, has been received with deep regret and sorrow; that this Institution, from its commencement, has been greatly indebted to him for his wise counsels, his judicious
and efficient action, his integrity and independence in
pursuing the path of duty, his warm sympathy with
its officers and the afflicted subjects of its care, and
his prompt and hearty devotion to all its interests;
and that, in his removal, it has suffered a loss which
is painfully felt, and which can hardly be repaired.
And that the individual members of this Board,
remembering his great private as well as public worth,
and having in mind the unbroken kindness and har-
mony which have prevailed in their association with
him, feel his death to be a severe personal affliction.

Resolved, As a token of respect to his memory,
that his funeral be attended by the superintendent
of the asylum, and so many of the managers as shall be
able to accompany him to Albany.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent
to the family of Dr. Beck.

CHARLES A. MANN, Chairman.

E. A. Wetmore, Secretary.

Trustees of the Albany Medical College.—At a
special meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Medi-
cal College, held Nov. 20, 1855, on the occasion
of the death of Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck,

Resolved, That we have learned with deep regret
the death of Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck, who for
fourty years past has been identified with almost every
leading measure, in this State, for the promotion of
education, and of medical and general science and
letters, and who for many years was one of the most
laborious and distinguished professors in this institu-
tion. That, while his varied attainments and his
able and learned contributions to medical science,
and to almost every department of liberal knowledge,
have reflected honor upon himself and upon his
country, he has endeared himself to us by his general
and estimable qualities as a man, and by the example
of a pure life devoted with great energy and single-
ess of purpose, to objects of lasting interest and use-
fulness to the whole community.

Resolved, That we tender to his family our earnest
and respectful sympathy.

Resolved, That as a mark of our respect we will
attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent
to the family of the deceased, and be also published
in the several daily papers.

A. J. PARKER, President pro tem.
O. MEADS, Secretary pro tem.

Proceedings of the Faculty of the Albany Medical
College, at a meeting held Nov. 20, 1855:.
The Faculty have heard with deep regret of the
death of their beloved and honored associate, Profes-
sor T. Romeyn Beck, and wish to express their sense
of his excellent qualities and eminent services.
By his labors in science he was a benefactor of
mankind, and an honor to his country; by his
teaching and influence he elevated the character of our profession and extended its usefulness; by the purity and honesty of his life he has commanded the respect, and by his noble and generous temper, won the love of all who knew him. Therefore,

Resolved, That to mark our respect we will attend his funeral and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That we offer to his family our sincere sympathy in their affliction.

Resolved, That these proceedings be entered on our minutes, and communicated to the family of the deceased.

HOWARD TOWNSEND, Secretary,

ALUMNI OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At a special meeting of the Albany Medical College, convened on the occasion of the death of the late Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, on Tuesday evening, Dr. W. H. Craig, president of the society, arose and remarked as follows:

Gentlemen of the Society, it becomes my duty to announce to you the decease of Prof. T. Romeyn Beck, and the object of meeting at this time is one of a painful nature.

The Alumni of the Albany Medical College owe, in part, their celebrity and prosperity to the teachings and influences of Prof. T. Romeyn Beck. We have indeed occasion to mourn his loss. Identified as he was with a department of medical instruction requiring ripe scholarship, profound and accurate analysis, he was pre-eminently qualified to impart knowledge, and lead the pupil through the labyrinth of scientific research. His name will ever be associated with the science of medical jurisprudence.

We have, in the present instance, opened up anew a train of sorrowful recollections. It is but a short time since a vacant chair in the laboratory told of the loss to us of another instructor and guide. It is rare to meet, united by kindred, two nobler or more illustrious in social or professional life than the brothers Beck. In their decease, in the meridian of their usefulness, education has lost noble advocates, and we worthy exemplars. I trust that the recollection of the many virtues of the deceased may be to us, in the pursuit of a noble profession, a guiding and inspiring remembrance. Hoping that the society will adopt some suitable mode of expressing their sorrow for this bereavement, I leave the subject with you.

Dr. U. O. Bigelow, president of the Albany County Medical Society, also paid a feeling tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Prof. Quackenbush, of the Albany Medical College, made a few remarks, after which he presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the alumni and members of the Albany Medical College have received with sincere
sorrow and regret the announcement of the death of their former teacher, Theodoric Romeyn Beck.

Resolved, That while this announcement occasions deep sorrow, the memory of his great attainments, his extended usefulness, his world-wide reputation, his kind and generous qualities, and his noble virtues, afford consolation in the hour of bereavement.

Resolved, That we respectfully tender to the family of the deceased, our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction.

Resolved, That we will attend, as a society, the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family.

W. H. CRAIG, President.

LEVI MOORE, Secretary.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.—At a meeting of this society, held in the Common Council chamber, on Tuesday, November 20th, at 12 P. M., the meeting having been called by the president, Dr. Bigelow, in consequence of the death of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, who has been a member of the society since 1811—Dr. James McNaughton rose and spoke of his long and intimate relations with the deceased, and that upon him now, as the oldest member present, devolved the melancholy privilege of presenting for the consideration of the society the following:

Whereas, It hath pleased God to remove by death our associate and much esteemed friend, Theodoric Romeyn Beck; and

Whereas, It is meet and proper, that when men, who have been eminently useful in their generation, are called from their labors, their decease should be followed by a public expression of a sense of the loss sustained by the community to which they belonged; and

Whereas, Our lamented brother was not only distinguished for his social and private virtues, but for great public services, which rendered him a benefactor to the human race; therefore,

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, we will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased in their affliction, and offer our sincere condolence.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the society adjourned, to meet at 3½ o'clock, P. M., Wednesday, at the Common Council chamber, preparatory to attending the funeral.

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD, Secretary.

Albany Institute.—At a meeting held at the Albany Academy, Monday evening, Nov. 19th, 1855, the following was unanimously adopted:
The members of the Albany Institute, assembled on the occasion of the death of Theodric Romeyn Beck, their president, desirous of paying to his memory those tokens of respect which are prompted by their sincere affection for him while living, and their sorrow at his death, and which are due to his large attainments in letters and science; to his labors for many years in the advancement and diffusion of sound learning; to his practical wisdom in the discharge of the many duties which have been imposed upon him; to his kindly temper, to his benevolent heart, to his unstained integrity in all the relations of a long life, do resolve,—

1. That they tender to the family of the deceased their respectful sympathy in the affliction that has fallen upon them.

2. That they will, in a body, attend the funeral of the deceased.

3. That the record of these proceedings be entered upon the minutes of the Institute, and that a copy thereof be delivered to the family.

Members will assemble at the Institute rooms at 3½ P. M.

JOHN E. GAVIT, Recording Sec'y.

TRUSTEES OF THE ALBANY ACADEMY.—At a meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Academy, held Nov. 20, 1855:
UNION WORTHIES

Number One: LEWIS HENRY MORGAN, CLASS OF 1840
(1945) By Leslie A. White, Arthur C. Parker, and Bernhard J. Stern

Number Two: LAURENS PERSEUS HICKOK, CLASS OF 1820
(1947) By Harold A. Larrabee, Herbert W. Schneider, and Julius Seelye Bixler

Number Three: CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR, CLASS OF 1848
(1948) By Frederick Lidell Bronner, George Frederick House, and Hiram C. Todd

Number Four: SQUIRE WHITTLE, CLASS OF 1830
(1949) By Mortimer F. Suyre, Shortridge Hardesty, and Carl E. Jansen

Number Five: T. ROMEYN BECK, CLASS OF 1807
(1950) By J. Lewis Donhauser, M.D., Francis E. Schuette, M.D., and George Packer Berry, M.D.

THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK
CLASS OF 1807

From the portrait by Adrian Lanne presented to Union College in 1937 by the Faculty of Albany Medical College
UNION WORTHIES

Worthy, A: A distinguished or eminent person, especially a man of courage or of noble character... having a marked personality.

*Oxford English Dictionary*

As an outgrowth of its Sesquicentennial celebration, Union College has inaugurated this series of historical pamphlets dealing with the lives and accomplishments of distinguished or eminent persons who have been intimately connected with the institution during its first one hundred and fifty years. Each number will consist of brief biographical or critical essays by competent scholars and a short bibliography of books and articles by and about its subject.

CARTER DAVIDSON
The Contributors

J. LEWIS DONHAUSER, M.D., is Professor of Surgery, Albany Medical College, and Senior Surgeon to the Albany Hospital, Albany, New York. He was graduated from Union College in 1904 and from Albany Medical College in 1907. He is the author of a textbook of surgery, "A Surgical Diagnosis," and contributor of many articles on surgery.

FRANCIS F. SCHWENKES, M.D., is Professor of Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Pediatrician-in-Chief at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. He was graduated from Union College in 1925 and has been connected with the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine since 1929. He has been active in many medical research groups and projects.

GEORGE PACKER BERRY, M.D., LL.D., Sc.D., is Dean of the Harvard Medical School and Professor of Bacteriology there. A graduate of Princeton University in 1921 and of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School in 1925, he has done distinguished research in immunology and virology, and has served on the staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Before coming to Harvard in 1949 he had been Assistant Dean and Associate Dean for several years of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester.

J. Lewis Donhauser, M.D.

THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DR. T. Romeyn Beck

For one who has reviewed the history and the achievements of Dr. Theodoric Romeyn Beck, it has been an inspiration to know that there lived in our community, so many years ago, a man of his greatness. We must briefly trace Dr. Beck’s history to eulogize the long chapter of his life and to draw the moral. The first of the family of whom we have any knowledge was Caleb Beck, master of a sailing vessel. He married in Schenectady and was subsequently lost at sea. His son, the great-grandfather of Dr. Beck, also was Caleb Beck, "gentleman, free holder of this colony, having during his life and at the time of his death, goods, rights and credit in diverse places in our province."

Dr. Beck’s grandfather was admitted as an attorney at law to practice in the courts of Albany in 1751. His father, who also studied law but never practiced, married Catharine Theresa Romeyn, the only daughter of the Rev. Dirck Romeyn, D.D., pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Schenectady. Dr. Romeyn was well known as a distinguished Professor of Theology and subsequently became one of the founders of Union College.

The Romeyn family came from Holland and settled in New York about the middle of the 17th Century. Though of English descent, the Beck family had been settled so long in Schenectady that by marriage there they had been incorporated with the Dutch inhabitants.

Dr. Beck was born on August 11, 1791, the eldest of five sons,
three of whom identified themselves with medicine and science. Dr. Beck's father died in 1798, at the age of twenty-seven, and left his sons to the care of their young mother, whose "indomitable will, energy and piety" largely contributed to the distinction which they subsequently attained. Her contemporaries speak of her as "a lady of great force and character." Indeed, she was the honored mother of one of the most talented families in New York State.

Dr. Beck attended the public schools of Schenectady, and entered Union College in 1809. He was graduated in 1807, at the age of sixteen. He then entered the offices of Drs. Low and McClelland in Albany and later became the protegee of the celebrated Dr. David Hosack of New York City. He attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons and was graduated from that institution as a Doctor of Medicine in 1811, at the age of twenty.

In 1812 the Regents of the State of New York granted a charter for the establishment, at Fairfield in Herkimer County, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York. In 1815, at the age of twenty-four, Dr. Beck was appointed Professor of the Institute of Medicine and Lecturer of Medical Jurisprudence in this institution. He also continued his professional work in Albany for six years, and then retired from active practice in order to devote his "entire time to education and to writing."

In 1817, Dr. Beck became Principal of the Albany Academy, a position which he held with great success until 1848. Meanwhile, however, he still retained his interest in medical teaching, and in 1826 was made Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the Fairfield Medical College. In 1829 he was elected President of the State Medical Society, and was re-elected for two successive terms. In 1836, he accepted the Chair of Materia Medica at the Fairfield Medical College, and he continued his teaching there until the abandonment of the college in 1840. On leaving Fairfield he was appointed to the Chair of Materia Medica at the Albany Medical College, and remained on the faculty until 1854, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Beck received many honors from learned societies—one of the greatest being his election as an Honorary Member of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, an honor which he highly cherished.

In 1813, two years after Dr. Beck received his degree in medicine, he started writing "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," which first left the press in 1823 and which proved to be a truly monumental text on the subject. It became a standard work for both the legal and medical professions for nearly one hundred years; even now, the book is prized by those who have been able to acquire one. It passed through twelve American and four English editions, and also has been published in German and Swedish.

Dr. Rudolf Withaus, a great authority, once said of the work: "This scientific classic is admirable for scholarly elegance of diction as for profound scientific research. His knowledge of what I would call science of literature I have never seen equalled."

Dr. Beck married Harriet Caldwell in 1814. She died in Albany on April 18, 1823.

What possessed this learned man to give up the practice of medicine and to become Principal of the Albany Academy and to devote his life to teaching medicine and the arts?

We have the answer to this decision in a letter written by Dr. Beck to his uncle, the Rev. Dr. John Brothhead Romeyn, then in Europe, and dated June 30, 1814. In it he says: "I have begun to look upon medicine in a very different manner from what I formerly did. Although delighted with the study, yet I dislike the practice and have not acquired sufficiently, comprehensive views of the value and great importance as an object of research. I now find it a subject worthy of my mind and for some time past I have brought all my energies to its examination."

Here is the essence and germ of his future life.

Dr. Beck recommended sanitation laws which have helped form the foundations of our public health programs, and he was intimately connected with the later history of nearly every department of science and literature in the state.

The Albany Academy was indeed fortunate in having Dr. Beck its Headmaster for so many years. In an abstract taken from the history of the Beck Literary Society, founded in 1857, we read:
"Certainly no member may seek a brighter example of true manhood, than he in whose honor and cherished memory our Society has received his name. Many are the men, who looking back, rise and call him blessed. Teaching was especially adapted to his taste and under his enlightened management for more than a quarter of a century, the Academy has unwaveringly maintained a most elevated rank among similar institutions."

Of massive build, dark-skinned and dark-eyed, Dr. Beck gave confidence to those who knew him. A strict disciplinarian, yet justly lenient, he won the respect and lasting gratitude of all who came under his charge. He was liberal to the poor, kind to all, an exponent of great kindness to dumb animals, a pure minded man, of true honor, extremely gentle and sympathetic, always careful to give all the credit to his associates and to claim nothing for himself.

He ranked high in the annals of the literary and the scientific world. As one of his biographers stated, "he was a life link connecting the crude ideas of the 18th Century with the startling discoveries of the 19th."

I cannot omit to indicate as worthy of especial note the humble, Christian-like deference with which Dr. Beck recognized the hand of Providence in all the discoveries and improvements in medicine. He believed in the Divine Revelation and the doctrines as held by the body of the Protestant Church, and he could never tolerate any attempt on the part of any person to impinge on or to throw discredit upon them.

Dr. Beck died in Albany on November 19, 1895, at the age of sixty-four. He was buried in the little cemetery in Caldwell, now Lake George, N. Y.

He was a great man. He was a good man.

---

THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

No man can predict the future, but an analysis of past and present trends oftentimes enables one by extrapolation to gain evidence concerning future trends.

From the period 1750 to the War of 1812, American medicine was influenced by British thinking. Then, when sympathies changed from England to France, there began a second era from about 1820 to the Civil War when the foremost American physicians went to the clinics of France for training.

Between 1865 and 1895, however, German scientists had begun to use the laboratory as a means of solving medical problems. This really was the birth of medical research. During this era German medicine dominated American thinking. By 1895, however, the economic situation in the United States was such that adequate funds and interest were available to support medical research on a large scale. Because of this, American medicine mushroomed into the forefront position and has held it up to the present.

For medical research, as for all other forms, there are two requisites. There must be men trained in an atmosphere of clean, honest, logical thinking and there must be funds to support them and their investigations. Both of these are essential. German science declined even though adequate funds were available because a dictator state and not the scientist decided what was truth.

I propose to consider these two points separately, dealing first with the opportunities for clear, honest thinking. This is, of course, one of the basic freedoms of the United States. It is pos-
sible only because it is what the people wish. As early as 1869, Congress established the National Academy of Science as an advisory board for the furtherance of scientific knowledge. Its functions have largely been taken over by the National Research Council, which has been a potent figure in correlating research activities throughout the nation, especially during the war years.

The American people believe in research. They support it in countless ways. They make donations to organizations like the American Heart Association and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which use part of their funds for medical research. Whenever I have a patient whose illness is incurable, the parents almost invariably ask me what is to be expected in the near future from medical research.

Our medical schools are turning out men well grounded in this manner of thinking. In our classes when we are presented with a patient we cannot cure, we do not say, "this case is hopeless." Instead the discussion turns toward how we can study this problem and find the patient with the view toward finding the solution.

But medical research costs money and someone must pay the bill. It was not until late in the 19th Century that philanthropists began to see the advantages of medical research. It is stated, according to Dr. Bayard Holmes, that in 1893 American theological schools possessed an endowed wealth of about $18,000,000, while that of all medical schools amounted to only about one-half million.

Nevertheless, soon after the turn of the century, large sums began to be made available for medical research under Andrew Carnegie's "gospel of wealth"—that the wealthy are under obligation to return their profits in large part to the society from which they have been derived.

In 1902, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the first of its kind, was founded by a gift of one million dollars from John D. Rockefeller. By 1928 this had been increased to sixty-five million dollars. In 1903 the Rockefellers began what is today the Rockefeller Foundation, which through repeated gifts was said to have a principal in 1929 in the neighborhood of 209 mil-

lion dollars. There are many other examples. Most all of the great financiers have made substantial contributions to medical research.

Up to the depression of 1929-1932, therefore, medical scientists had adequate funds with which to work. The scientific atmosphere was right, the economic situation was good and investigations progressed at an outstanding rate. This, then, was the period in which medical research was supported by private funds.

Then came the depression. Not only did this cause a reduction in the income from investments of all foundations, but it ended the era of the accumulation of large fortunes from which substantial contributions might be made. This was the time of the "New Deal." From then on private surpluses were siphoned into the national treasury and the country's wealth began a process of redistribution.

But at the same time the value of research was retained in the minds of the American people. Therefore, as soon as it became evident that private funds were no longer available under the new conditions, it was recognized that public funds must be appropriated. These have increased in recent years until today we have the U. S. Public Health Service, the Army, the Navy, the Children's Bureau, the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart Institute, all in the position of contributing large sums of public funds to medical research.

The trend is, therefore, clear. The value of medical research was demonstrated by private philanthropy. Economic conditions have partially closed this source of funds. To make up this deficit, the government, which is of course the people, has appropriated funds from tax money.

One cannot believe this trend toward government subsidy is reversible. Therefore, the obvious answer is that the people of the United States must in the future look more and more to tax sources for funds to carry on medical research. The American people have demonstrated a confidence in the dividends which medical research pays, and unless this confidence is somehow broken, the funds will be made available by them for the work of the future.
There are two other potential sources of funds for medical research which have not yet developed sufficiently. One of these is private industry. Industrial firms have long understood the value of research but many have been backward in recognizing that, in the end, subsidization of universities will pay greater dividends than the controlled research of a corporation laboratory.

The second potential source is the labor unions. These groups, with considerable income and even large sums earmarked as “welfare funds,” have failed to recognize that a dollar spent on individual personnel care helps only one individual and is then dissipated, whereas the dollar spent in research pays multiple dividends in the future. Labor unions are now, in effect, large corporations and they have the same obligation toward the welfare of all people as do other corporations.

There are also certain principles which should be recognized if research grants of the future are to achieve the maximum good. They are, briefly:

First, organizations, whether governmental or private, making research grants to universities must realize that such grants increase the overhead of the university to such an extent that the grant is often a burden. Unless a substantial proportion of each grant is allotted to cover this overhead expense, universities cannot continue to function in this field.

Secondly, granting organizations should deviate from the present policy of making awards to support specific, closely defined research projects. The maximum gains are made by underwriting the efforts of a competent scientist without regard to the minute details of the direction of his research effort.

Thirdly, the custom of giving grants on a yearly basis should be changed. Only rarely can results be achieved in a year. Research dividends are the result of long continued, intelligent persistence. Competent assistants cannot be attracted to university research on a year to year basis. All grants for research should be on a minimum of three-year basis and preferably longer.

The fourth point is an extremely important one, especially from the standpoint of government agencies. This is the absolute necessity for freedom of thought and action on the part of the investigator. No Board of Trustees, no House of Representatives committee can or should dictate the detailed course of research of any project subsidized by funds granted by them. Such grants should be made on the basis of the importance of the problem and the competence of the investigator. The rest should be left to him.

There have also been and will continue to be changes in the methods of medical research. In the early developmental stages, advances were made by single investigators sometimes working with one or two assistants. Thus Pasteur discovered rabies immunization. In 1883 Klebs first described the diphtheria bacillus and five years later Roux and Yersin discovered the chemical toxin by which the bacillus causes disease. In 1890 von Behring described diphtheria antitoxin, a biological product which neutralizes the toxin. Thus bacteriology, chemistry and biology were being used for medical research.

During this period the fields of these specific disciplines which were useful in medical research were small and an individual scientist was able to grasp enough of each to do effective work. Knowledge, however, does not accrue in arithmetic but in geometric progression. Since 1920, therefore, the work of individual investigators has of necessity become increasingly restricted.

At the same time more collateral sciences are being brought into medical research. Today’s projects include entomology, climatology, statistics, nuclear physics and many others.

There is a limit to the mental capacity of any one man. Therefore, there has evolved a more complex system of medical research in which a problem is studied by a group of investigators each with different specialized knowledge.

Our own investigations in rheumatic fever are carried on by a team including a clinician, a bacteriologist, a physiological chemist, an enzyme chemist and the part-time help of a statistician. Although one man is administratively the head of this group, it is actually held together by a common interest in the problem of rheumatic fever. Each of these men carries out individual research but their information and skills are pooled.

This type of group research will undoubtedly be the method
of tomorrow. Although some individualism is sacrificed, each man benefits by his association with the other and the dividends in terms of results are greater.

Despite this fact there will still be many important discoveries made by lone workers. Penicillin, for instance, was discovered by a single man who made a chance observation in his laboratory and had the vision and tenacity to follow through. The further development of penicillin and its subsequent purification and fractionation have been the work of organized teams.

Whether the scientists work alone or in a group, the future of medical research lies with the type of men engaged. As long as the attitude is one of scientific curiosity, honest thinking and a desire to aid one's fellow man, medical research will continue to be a great opportunity for young men.

George Packer Berry, M.D.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Freedom of opportunity for good health is a basic human right. That this opportunity for good health should be provided for all is an insistent and growing demand. It is a major social and political fact today.

The continuing revolution in medical teaching and research in the United States, which gathered great force during the early decades of the present century, holds out to our people, to all people, the hope of security from sickness and untimely death. In the years ahead we believe that this hope can be turned into reality. To furnish the vigorous leadership to do so is the challenge to medical education.

In the struggle to win better health for all, the outcome will be determined by our supply of scientists and practitioners and by the quality of their training; they alone can insure progress. We can obtain such men only from our universities and professional schools, which with their affiliated teaching hospitals constitute our chief centers of health and healing. To find the best candidates and to provide them with the best opportunities for their development is the pivotal task, a task which is a primary concern of the deans of our medical schools.

To emphasize this is not to lessen the importance of the contributions made by administrative experts in other health fields. The men who direct hospitals, guide programs for the prepayment of medical care, protect the health of workers in industrial
operations, are all constantly devising ways for improving our national health. The medical dean, however, must be concerned with each of these areas too, if the graduates of his school are to be effective. What, then, is his job?

The dean is the single person in the medical school and the university whose chief concern is the welfare of the medical school as a whole. He must foster cooperation between it and segments of the institution and community, for without cooperation his school cannot make an effective contribution to education, to the advancement of knowledge, and to medical care.

With the help of the faculty the dean must plan how to make the most of the school's resources. He must constantly stimulate a study of the curriculum and gain the departments' cooperation in keeping it abreast of changing values. He must extend himself to the utmost to obtain the best available men, when appointments to the staff are made.

The dean finds no part of his responsibilities more important, and I might add, more difficult, than the selection of students. After they are admitted, it is he who should emphasize for them their broad relationships to the school and the community.

Today, as never before, the dean must be a financial wizard! He has to supervise the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars, in many cases, millions; he must see that this money is wisely and economically used. Furthermore, he must often raise a substantial portion of the school's funds, a compelling task at this moment when the financial plight of medical schools is acute. Medical school finances are so strained, in fact, that few schools can hope to maintain for long even their present standards without large-scale financial help. Some schools are actually in imminent danger of closing.

Modern science and knowledge won in the laboratory, at the bedside, and in the field, have made possible such advances in medical practice that the first half of the present century can be appropriately designated "Medicine's Golden Age." Infection after infection has been brought under control; hormones and vitamins have become powerful tools in the treatment of illness and its prevention.

The growing prevalence of chronic disease is but one result of advances made in medical and surgical care—advances which, by postponing death, have produced our aging population with all its attendant social problems. Our people know these things. They demand today the fruits of our present knowledge; they demand that new frontiers be crossed tomorrow. This is a paradox of the first magnitude: just when medical schools are being pressed to assume a greatly enlarged role, to train more doctors, to implement more research, to provide more medical care, they are themselves very sick indeed.

There are seventy-nine approved medical schools in operation in the United States at the present time; forty-one are supported privately, thirty-eight by states or cities. Of the seventy-nine, sixty-nine are parts of universities.

During the academic year of July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949, forty-eight of the schools ran deficits totaling almost ten million dollars. Of these forty-eight schools, thirty-four are private, fourteen, government. Of the total deficit incurred, ninety percent was incurred by the private schools.

The total budget for educational expense of all medical schools during the last academic year was fifty-one million dollars. The comparable amount for 1946 was twelve million; for 1934, twenty-four million; for 1941, twenty-six million. Educational expense, therefore, has quadrupled in the past quarter of a century, and has doubled in seven years. This extraordinary increase in the cost of training a doctor can be expressed in another way. In 1920, the cost was five hundred dollars per student per year; today the cost is almost two thousand five hundred dollars, an increase of five times in thirty years (see chart on Page 29).

Where did the fifty-one million dollars spent by medical schools last year come from? Tuition fees provided about thirteen million; taxes, about seventeen million; and about twenty-one million came from private endowments and gifts, and from general university funds that were spent to make up deficits.

In contrast to 1910, when tuition fees covered seventy percent of the cost of a medical education, they provide today less than twenty-five percent. Yet to charge higher tuition would be incon-
sistent with the democratic spirit, for it would limit the study of medicine to a still narrower segment of the population, closing the way to many deserving young scholars.

As compared to last year, our medical schools this year will receive about ten million dollars more income, mostly derived from taxes. In spite of this substantial increase, only eight schools have reported that they do not require additional operating funds to meet their essential needs. The majority of schools have specified sums in the range of one hundred thousand dollars to four hundred thousand dollars annually as the amount of additional support that they require. A few have expressed the need for even larger amounts.

The modern era of medical teaching and research dates from the year 1910, when the Flexner Report revealed serious deficiencies in medical education. Since then, the training of doctors has been placed on a scientific basis. It is the complexities of modern science that have made more painstaking and vastly more costly the training programs for oncoming generations of medical practitioners.

Other economic forces have adversely affected medical financing: depression, war, inflation.

The depression cost medical schools almost one-third of their income from endowment (see chart). It started a train of events that threatens to put an end to large gifts. Since 1932, the burden of taxation has cut down the possibilities for individual giving.

The war stopped the training of an adequate number of teachers, meanwhile putting the schools under great pressure to expand their enrollments and accelerate their educational programs. Expand and accelerate they did, but with drained facilities and reduced staffs the standards of teaching were inevitably lowered. Deterioration in the quality of medical education resulted.

The inflation reduced the purchasing power of endowment income. Today it is only one-half what it was prior to 1932. The resulting inability of the medical schools to pay attractive salaries to their teachers is a matter of particular significance. They have lost important members of their staffs and they have failed to recruit able young teachers in sufficient numbers. A startling ex-

ample will illustrate the dangerous situation that has resulted.

There are currently one hundred thirty-nine full-time professors of anatomy in all the medical schools of the United States, but only twenty instructors. A healthy ratio would be three instructors to each professor. The problem can be emphasized in another way. About ten percent of the teaching positions in all medical schools are unfilled for lack of adequately trained candidates.

In the present crisis the sixty-nine universities having medical schools, especially the private universities, have had to make one of the following choices: closing the medical schools, curtailing their programs, raiding the income intended for other departments, or spending capital. Fortunately, from the point of view of national health, they have raided and they have spent. Such practices cannot be continued for long. Is it surprising that many sorely pressed university presidents regard their medical schools as parasites?

Our people cannot afford to let the quality of medical education deteriorate further. It has already deteriorated more than is generally realized. That is why the Federal Government is being asked to help the schools. A bill (S 1453) proposing emergency aid for five years passed the Senate September, 1949; the companion bill (HR 5949) went under study in House committees. The legislation would give each medical school a substantial amount to help meet teaching costs, help urgently needed. Most of the medical schools reported in a recent poll that they favored the prompt passage of this pending legislation, seeing no other way to raise soon enough the large amounts of money required.

Of twenty-eight schools that are supported by government funds, sixteen favored and twelve opposed; of thirty-five private schools, thirty-one favored and only four opposed.

Many thoughtful citizens are greatly disturbed at ever-increasing Federal expenditures. They urge economy, as I do. But even in times of deficits there are good economics and bad. Can the nation afford not to have the proposed legislation? It would cost about forty million dollars a year, less than a tenth of one percent of the Federal budget.
There are many who are honestly concerned lest the acceptance of financial aid from the Federal Government should lead eventually to the loss of independence by the medical schools. Others fear that such aid would dry up present sources of income. Accepting Federal aid does not mean that efforts to increase private support should diminish; on the contrary, these efforts should be redoubled. For the way to insure the degree of academic freedom essential to the progress of medical education and yet to accept Federal aid is to maintain a balance between Federal and private support. If a school's own funds can be made adequate to provide the hard core of basic functions, it is my opinion that that school can successfully resist political interference or governmental control.

New efforts to build up private support for the nation's medical schools are being made. A group of leaders in the fields of public administration, business, industry, labor, education, and science joined forces last year in establishing an organization to secure funds from voluntary sources on a national basis for the support of medical education. They set up the National Fund for Medical Education, Inc. It has three objectives:

1. To make known the needs of medical education to the American public.

2. To raise annually from private sources reasonable sums to help sustain the nation's institutions of medical education.

3. To distribute these sums each year in a manner determined to be equitable by the Trustees, constituting a concerned body aware of the vital need for a sufficient number of skilled physicians and medical researchers to meet the optimum health requirements of all the people.

In carrying out these objectives, the Fund will seek to encourage the development of constantly improving standards in the training of the nation's medical manpower; to foster the preservation of academic freedom in our medical and related schools, and to aid these institutions in offering equality of educational opportunity to all those, regardless of their origin, economic status, or place of residence, succeed in qualifying themselves to enter one of the medical or related professional schools."

I have confidence that the Fund will accomplish its purpose. Enlightened self-interest on the part of business, industry, labor, and other segments of the public will dictate such a result. In spite of their financial vicissitudes, the medical schools of the country have been making strenuous efforts to increase student enrollment without sacrificing quality. They have been successful. Over seven thousand students began medical study last fall and winter. This is the largest freshman class ever to enter our medical schools. It means an increase of one thousand freshmen over the average freshman class before the war.

The annual increment of physicians, i.e., the excess of graduates over physicians who die, is already two thousand. This increment has been growing and obviously will continue to grow. Seven more four-year medical schools are functioning today than at the start of the war. Other schools are being organized. They are needed.

It is clear, therefore, that a significant increase has occurred in the facilities for medical education in the United States. Although these facilities are not yet adequate for the nation's needs, what the schools have accomplished has been accomplished without the serious lowering of educational standards that would have followed the sudden enrollment of a large number of additional students. Such a course could have resulted only in a deterioration of medical care. Experience has shown abundantly that proper opportunities for medical study cannot be developed or expanded in a short time—especially when the schools are so seriously underfinanced.

I have already mentioned some of the responsibilities of a medical dean. None is more important than the selection of candidates for medical education. I wish to refer to it again because more bitterness and less understanding surround this difficult task than any other relating to medical education.

One often hears or reads that "vast numbers" of "fully qualified" candidates are being denied a chance to study medicine. Recently the charge was made and widely repeated in the press
that medical schools are actually debarring candidates in order to keep the profession of medicine exclusive! The facts that I have cited show how unfounded such charges are.

The last freshman class for which official statistics are available is the class that entered in the fall of 1948. There were 24,242 applicants; 6,497 were selected—one applicant in 3.7 achieved enrollment.

The 24,242 applicants filed 81,662 applications in the hope of improving their chances of selection. In other words, the average prospective medical student applied to several schools for admission. (The average of applications per student was 8.4—10,780 candidates elected to apply to only one school; there were, however, two students who applied to thirty-nine schools.) It is this large number of applications that is erroneously, yet frequently, given as the number of applicants.

Would that there were enough good candidates who want to become doctors! Would that we had enough who are really well-qualified by virtue of education, personality, character, initiative, health! Unfortunately there are not enough, as medical deans know only too well. Many promising young scholars today are deterred from trying because of the high cost of a medical education. That is why the deans are constantly seeking more money for medical scholarships.

We must train all the doctors the nation needs. To do so, we must solve the financial problems of our medical schools. We must do so now.

Acknowledgment

The above paper was prepared from official data, records, and reports, both published and unpublished, of the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Medical Association, and the National Fund for Medical Education, Inc. The Funds' "Case, Medical Education in the United States: The Problem, The Cost, The Horizon" (published by the Fund in New York City on March 1, 1950) was drawn on heavily, as were various "Educational Numbers" of The Journal of the American Medical Association, especially Vol. 141, No. 1, September 3, 1949.
BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY
AND ABOUT
T. ROMEYN BECK

[The places and dates of books in parentheses refer
to the first editions]

BY BECK

Thesis (M.D.)—College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.


On the Utility of Country Medical Institutions. An introductory lecture,
delivered at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the
Western District of the State of New York, December 15, 1824.
Published at the request of the class. Webster and Skinner (Albany, 1825).

Annual Address delivered before the Medical Society of the State of

(Since 1921 the American Journal of Psychiatry).

Remarks by Dr. T. Romeyn Beck on the proposed establishment of a
University, March 30, 1853. (In Medical Society of the State of
ABOUT BECK

*Albany Evening Journal*, November 19, 1855.

*Albany Evening Atlas*, November 19, 20, 1855.


Same in the *Medical Society of the State of New York Transactions* 1809-1905, 1856, p. 32.


THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK

(1791-1855), alienist and medico-legal expert, was born at Schenectady, New York, April 11, 1791. His mother, a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Derick Romeyn, principal of the Academy of Schenectady, was a lady of rare attainments and great force of character.

Beck entered Union College in 1803, was graduated in 1807 at the age of sixteen, and at Albany began the study of medicine under Dr. Low and Dr. McClelland. Shortly afterwards he entered the New York College of Physicians, receiving there his medical degree in 1811 and thence returning to Albany to practice. He was, however (by reason of too great sympathy with the sick), not so highly successful in practice as he was in authorship, hence at the end of six years he gave up practice entirely.

In 1815 he was appointed professor of the institutes of medicine and lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District, at Fairfield, New York, and in 1817 became principal of the Albany Academy, afterwards, in 1826, lecturer on medical jurisprudence, occasionally holding both the chair of practice and that of materia medica in the same institution. The year 1829 saw him president of the New York State Medical Society—an honor held for three successive years, and in 1840 he held the professorship of materia medica in the Albany Medical College. In 1842 he became one of the managers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica and in 1854, its president. The "American Journal of Insanity" was edited by him for several years and he was also a copious contributor to medical journals, chiefly on insanity.

His most celebrated book was his "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," a monumental work which appeared in 1823. At once it attracted the attention of the medico-legal world and has not ceased to be an authority both at home and in Europe. An English edition appeared in 1825—two years after the first American edition, and by the time of the author's decease, four English, one German and five American editions had been issued. Since the author's death, another American, and even a Swedish edition, have been brought forth. At the present moment, copies of Beck's "Medical Jurisprudence," when they appear on the bookseller's shelves, which they do but seldom, are snapped up eagerly. Traill, the great Scotch legal physician, called this treatise, "the best work on the general subject which has appeared in the English language." The famous Guy acknowledges his obligation in a special manner to Beck's learned and elaborate "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence;" and at a later day, Prof. Rudolph A. Withhaus declared this scientific classic "facile princeps" among English works on legal medicine, . . . as admirable for scholarly elegance of diction as for profound scientific research."

In 1814 he married Harriet Caldwell. Dr. Beck was a man of massive build, dark skinned, dark haired, dark eyed and possessed
Dr. Beck was a man of massive build, dark skinned, dark haired, dark eyed and possessed of an extremely gentle and sympathetic manner.

He was a voluminous reader, not only of scientific publications, but also of history, poetry, fiction, and, in fact, of every sort and variety of literature that was sound, sensible, and interesting. He delighted, when at work, to surround himself with great piles of books, whether he happened to need those particular volumes at the time or not, merely for the joy of having his darlings stacked about him.

He was an earnest and active Christian, nor did his ardent faith forsake him when, after a long and painful illness, he died on the nineteenth of November, 1855, at the age of sixty-four.

By Thomas Hall Shastid

Ann. Med. Soc. County of Albany, 1864, Miss C. E. Van Cortland

FROM American Medical Biographies.
Kelly and Burrage

The Norman, Remington Company Baltimore 1930.
Theodric Romeyn Beck, alienist and medicolegal expert, was born at Schenectady, New York, April 11, 1791. His mother, a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Derick Romeyn, principal of the Academy of Schenectady, was a lady of rare attainments, and great force of character.

Theodric Romeyn Beck entered Union College in 1803, graduated in 1807 at the age of sixteen, and at Albany began the study of medicine under Drs. Low and McClelland. Shortly afterwards he entered the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, receiving his medical degree in 1811, and thence returning to Albany to practise. He was, however (by reason of too great sympathy with the sick), not so highly successful in practice as he was in authorship, hence at the end of six years he gave up practice entirely.

He married, in 1814, Harriett Caldwell.

In 1815 he was appointed professor of the institutes of medicine and lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District, at Fairfield, New York, and in 1817 became principal of the Albany Academy, afterwards, in 1826, lecturer on medical jurisprudence, occasionally holding both the chair of practice and that of materia medica in the same institution.

The year 1829 saw him president of the New York State Medical Society—an honor held for three successive years, and in 1840 he held the professorship of materia medica in the Albany Medical College; in 1842 became one of the managers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica; and in 1854, its president. The American Journal of Insanity was edited by him for several years and he was also a copious contributor to medical journals, chiefly on insanity.

His most celebrated book was his "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," a monumental work which appeared in 1823. At once it attracted the attention of the medicolegal world and has not ceased to be an authority both at home and in Europe. An English edition appeared in 1825—two years after the first American edition, and by the time of the author's decease, four English, one German and five American editions had been issued. Since the author's death, another American, and even a Swedish edition, have been brought forth. At the present moment, copies of Beck's "Medical Jurisprudence," when they appear on the bookseller's shelves, which they do but seldom, are snapped up eagerly. Traill, the great Scotch legal physician, called this treatise, "the best work on the general subject which has appeared in the English language." The famous Guy acknowledges his obligations in a special manner to Beck's learned and elaborate "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence;" and at a later day, Prof. Rudolph A. Witthaus declared this scientific classic "facile princeps among English works on legal medicine...as admirable for scholarly elegance of diction as for profound scientific research."
We discharge a melancholy duty in announcing the Death of this eminent, widely known and universally honored Citizen.

Dr. Beck's health had been gradually declining for several months. In the absence of any organic disease, hopes of his recovery were entertained until some four weeks ago, when an unfavorable opinion was obtained from high Medical authority. Since that period his Family and Friends, prepared for the worst, have awaited an event which bereaves them and the community of a man who in all things was the type and exemplar of his race.

Dr. Beck's mission was one of practical usefulness. During the quarter of a century that he devoted himself laboriously to the instruction of youth, as the Principal of our Academy, people wondered how a man so gifted could content himself with a position so comparatively humble. The answer is, that Dr. Beck was unselfish and unambitious. He loved his school, his friends, his associates, and above all his Home. These were, to him, sources of happiness so precious to be sacrificed. He pursued, therefore, with diligence and cheerfulness, the "even tenor of his way," raising up generation after generation of thoroughly educated young men, whose first duty and highest privilege, through life, has been to acknowledge, with grateful hearts, obligations to their beloved Preceptor.

Dr. Beck aimed to render all his scientific and literary acquirements available. His knowledge was held in trust for the benefit of others. His mind, like a Tree upon a common, bore fruit for the community. He was a man of simple manners, genial nature, social habits, large humanity and radiant faith. Almost half a century was passed among us in the active discharge of responsible public duties. His efforts to promote Education, Science, Improvement, Virtue and Christianity, were always well and wisely directed.

Dr. Beck's associations, through life, have been with the truly good and great. His society was sought by all who appreciated public worth and social excellence. Those who, for so many years, enjoyed both in their daily intercourse with him, while deploiring his loss, will cherish him memory. But to other hearts—hearts with which his own was intertwined—the bereavement comes with a crushing weight. In the halls his presence brightened and gladdened, there is now darkness and sorrow.

We avail ourselves of this appropriate but mournful occasion to republish from the "American Journal of Insanity," the following Biographical Sketch of Dr. Beck's life:

Immediately connected with the later history of nearly every department of scientific literature, in this State, is the name beneath which we are writing. It is not our purpose, even did space permit, to follow the subject of this brief sketch through the many fields enriched by his labors, but simply to speak of his connection with the speciality to which this Journal is more particularly devoted. Although his mind seems to have been directed to the subject of Insanity upon the very threshold of his professional studies, it has received but a small share of his attention—sufficient, however, to have contributed largely to its literature and progress in this country.
Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck was born at Schenectady, New York, August 11th, 1791. His grandfather, Rev. Derick Romey, a distinguished scholar of his day, was a Professor of Theology in the School of the Reformed Dutch Church, and one of the founders of Union College. By the death of Dr. Beck's father, his early care and education, and that of his four brothers, devolved upon their widowed mother. In the brilliant future and distinguished usefulness of her youthful charge we see the fruit of the piety, intelligence and energy of this truly excellent woman; and as the reward of all her care, we find her, in advancing years, the honored mother of one of the most talented families in the State.

Of these five sons, two died early—one a lawyer of great promise, at St. Louis, and another, Nicholas F., who deceased while holding the office of Adjutant-General under DeWitt Clinton. Of the surviving brothers, Dr. John B. Beck, the distinguished author and physician, was for many years Professor of Materia Medica in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and died in that city in 1851. The remaining brother, Lewis C. Beck, was no less eminent, and, at the time of his decease, two years since, was Professor of Chemistry in the Albany Medical College, and occupied the same chair in Rutgers College, New Jersey. To the general as well as professional reader the writings of both these brothers are well known, while the name of the latter is prominently associated with the preparation of the "Natural History of the State of New York," to which he contributed a valuable volume.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck acquired the rudiments of his education in the Grammar School at Schenectady, under the more immediate supervision of his grandfather, and was graduated at Union College in 1807. Making choice of Medicine as a profession, he soon after commenced his studies with Drs. McClelland and Low, at Albany; but, induced by the superior advantages offered in the city of New York, he subsequently proceeded thither, and entered the office of Dr. David Hosack. He attended the lectures of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then recently established, and received from that institution, in 1811, the degree of Doctor in Medicine, on which occasion he presented an inaugural thesis on the subject of Insanity.

This dissertation was immediately published, and received much merited attention. Although written at a time when but few in this country had devoted themselves particularly to the study of Insanity, it exhibits, on the part of its author, a full appreciation of the importance of the subject, and a very intimate acquaintance with its literature. It is now out of print, the limited edition printed soon finding its way into the hand of permanent possessors. The pamphlet contains thirty-four closely printed pages, and inscribed to his uncle, Dr. John B. Romeyn, and Dr. David Hosack, and presented to his early
perceptors, Drs. Low and McClelland, "as the first fruits of an education commenced under their care." After an introduction, with a brief detail of earlier investigations, and the various theories advanced by older writers to account for the phenomena of diseased mental action, follows a condensed history of the disease, its symptomatology, etiology, pathology, prognosis and treatment. In subsequent pages the medical jurisprudence of insanity is considered, in reference both to the security of the public and the proper treatment of the patient.

This little volume, from the pen of "one whose opportunities of viewing the disease had been scanty, and whose information was principally derived from books, exhibits an intimate acquaintance with the literature of the subject, and the then only partially acknowledged wants of the insane, alike creditable to his character as a scholar and to his correct judgment.

Soon after his graduation he returned to the city of Albany, opened an office, and commenced the practice of his profession. His cultivated taste and studious habits soon brought him into intimate relation with scientific men of his day; and as early as 1813 we find his name upon the list of Counsellors of the "Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts, in connection with that of De Witt Clinton and others equally eminent. This association at that time held a high rank in the scientific world, and had enrolled upon its list of membership some of the most honored names in the State. It was a re-organization of the old "Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures," first organized in 1791, after the expiration of its charter in 1804. Among his earlier and most successful efforts in this new and honorable field is the annual address, delivered by appointment before the society, at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, on the 3d of February, 1813. This production was more particularly directed to the public, its object being the more perfect development of the mineral resources of our country, or, as is stated in the preface, to exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States, with their various application to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures whose materials are derived from this source. It is well calculated to awaken an increased interest in this important matter, and was received with great favor throughout the Union.

In 1815 Dr. Beck was appointed Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York, an institution then in the third year of its existence. The proximity of the College to the city of Albany enabled him to discharge his professional duties, and at the same time retain his medical practice, which he continued to do for some time.

Notwithstanding his many arduous duties, his interest in the progress of scientific investigation seems to have been unabated, and, in the spring of 1819, he read before the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts a most elaborate paper on Alum, which will be found printed with the transactions of the associations. A short time previous he had found his strength unequal to the laborious duties of his profession; and, on account of his apprehension of ill health, and, perhaps, in indulgence of his increasing taste for literary pursuits, he abandoned the general practice of medicine entirely, and, in 1817, was appointed Principal of the Albany Academy, an institution collegiate in character, and occupying a high literary standing. Teaching was especially adapted to his taste; and, under his enlightened arrangement, for more than a quarter of a century, the academy unvaryingly maintained a most elevated rank among similar institutions. Notwithstanding his connection as Principal with Albany Academy, he seems to have retained his professorship at the
College of Physicians and Surgeons, and, in 1834, delivered an introductory lecture "On the Utility of County Medical Institutions."

In 1829 Dr. Beck was elected President of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and, at the meeting of the Society, at Albany, delivered the annual Address, on the subject of "Medical Evidence." Continuing in office several years he pronounced, on similar occasions subsequently, two Addresses--one upon "Medical Improvements," and the other upon "Small Pox," all of which will be found in the volume of "Transactions" for the respective years.

Since 1841 he has filled the honorable situation of Secretary to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, and, beside the multiplied duties connected with that position, has had devolved upon him, as ex officio Secretary to the Trustees of the State Library, a large share of its management. The complete and well-arranged Catalogue of the Library, and the interesting and comprehensive Reports of the Board of Regents, bear the impress of his untiring application and devotion to the important interests over which that distinguished body presides.

Dr. Beck has always been a man of great and enlightened public spirit, ever ready to countenance and promote whatever tended to secure the highest interest of the community. This spirit and his natural benevolence have enlisted him ardently in the great public charities, either in their establishment and organization, or in the subsequent management of their affairs. His "Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb," read before the Medical Society of the State of New York, was the fruit of his philanthropy, and was most powerful in directing the attention of the public to the wants of this afflicted portion of the community.

Dr. Beck was appointed one of the Managers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, by the act of its organization, in April, 1842; and has been re-appointed by the Governor and Senate, at the expiration of each successive tri-annual period until the present time. Upon the death of Dr. Manson, in the spring of 1854, he (although a non-resident member) was unanimously elected President of the Board. The institution has, at all times, had the advantage of his wise counsel, efficient aid, and ardent devotion, and of his presence and immediate cooperation with his associates, whenever demanded by matters of unusual or special importance.

Here as well as in all other similar positions, he has ever consulted the highest and most enduring good of the interests committed to his charge, without regard to the prejudices or the more apparent benefits of the hour or the day, or any mere personal claims of advantage. His wisdom and experience, his independence, decision and energy, and his unflinching integrity, have made him a most valuable guardian of all the affairs of this great public charity.

It is, however, with Dr. Beck as a writer that we have at present especially to do, and we will close this sketch by a notice of his editorial connection with this Journal, and his great work on Medical Jurisprudence.

In April, 1844, the first number of the American Journal of Insanity was issued from the press, occupying an entirely new field in the medical literature of this country. The generous motive which led Dr. Brigham, its founder and first editor, to assume, in addition to his onerous duties as Superintendent of
a large asylum, the labor and responsibility of its establishment, is well known to most of our readers. To many of his colleagues and professional friends he was largely indebted for encouragement in his undertaking, and for much valued and gratefully acknowledged assistance: among them, Dr. Beck, who, deeply interested in the attainment of the ends at which the Journal aimed, warmly seconded his efforts, and, amid many other engagements, found sufficient time to contribute frequently and ably to its pages. After Dr. Brigham's death, the managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, aware of the importance, to any specialty, of a periodical devoted to its advancement and interest, assumed the entire responsibility of its publication, and, by their unanimous request, induced Dr. Beck, to edit the ensuing volume. He gave his consent, hoping at the close of the year to be relieved of a care which, with his other numerous duties, was a heavy tax; but, in the absence of any other arrangement, he continued to conduct it until the close of the last volume, when "advancing years and more imperative duties" compelled him to relinquish his editorial connection.

In the theme of his inaugural dissertation at the Medical College, and in the subject of many of his literary efforts, we perceive how early and closely his attention has been drawn to insanity and its legal relations. From a knowledge of his character, it is very natural to suppose that this interest was awakened, not only the intrinsic merit of the subject, but also by the then very general feeling that this department of medical literature was indeed barren. How well he succeeded in his effort to supply the deficiency is evidenced by the multiplied editions of his "Medical Jurisprudence" which have already been called for. Since its first issue from the press, in 1823, in two large octavo volumes, of nearly two thousand pages, it has passed through five American, one German and four London editions. The favorable reception of this work in foreign countries, at a time when national feeling in the medical world was stronger than at any previous or subsequent period, shows how completely its merits disarmed every prejudice.

Says a bibliographer, in a notice of the German edition: "Among the numerous and unequivocal evidences of the very high estimation in which Dr. Beck's 'Elements of Jurisprudence' are held by the profession in Europe, their translation into the German language must be regarded as the most flattering and decisive indication of their true value. In no country has this varied and interesting science been prosecuted with such unabated zeal, or have so much research and learning been elicited on its several curious topics, as in Germany. From the time of Zachius, indeed, to the present day, it has been the favorite object of study with German physicians, and their opinions of the merits of any treatise on the subject are therefore entitled to the highest weight and the most respectful consideration. Proud are we, therefore, to see them prize the performance of our learned countryman so highly as to deem it worthy of transfusion into their vernacular tongue. In his native language his work is as yet without a parallel."

His labors in this field did not cease with the publication of this great work, but, for many years afterward, beside the emendation and supervision of subsequent editions, he contributed largely on the subject to various medical periodicals. A distinguished writer, in reviewing a copy of the tenth edition, for Hay's American Journal of Medical Science, remarks: "The pages of this Journal, for years past, have borne constant evidence of the untiring and invaluable research of Dr. Beck, whose observations and extracts from foreign and domestic sources have filled that portion of it devoted to medical jurisprudence; and the writer of the present notice bears
his testimony to the same effect; for, having taken much interest in the subject, and consequently had occasion to examine the journals, he found it impossible to furnish a single novelty to this department in which he had not been anticipated by Dr. Beck." In both the medical and legal periodicals of the day, there have, from time to time, with successive editions of his work, appeared many and varied notices and reviews—flattering evidence of its merit, and the High estimation of both professions. From some of these it would give us pleasure to extract; but the work has already received the stamp of worth, has taken its place as high authority and acquired for itself and its author a most extended reputation.

Albany Evening Journal

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book  p. 437

November 19, 1855
THEODRIC ROMEYN BECK

By Mrs. Catherine E. Van Cottlané

It is with extreme diffidence that the writer approaches the biography of Theodric Romeyn Beck. Every man has a two-fold life, and the life known to the indwellers of his home differs much from that known to the public. Therefore it may be that the following sketch will in some measure be drawn by the light in which his character appeared to those who knew and loved him best, and not be as recognizable as the various short biographies written of him by comparative strangers. Should it be thought too partial, surely the fault will be pardoned when the relation between the man and his biographer is remembered.

Dr. Beck was the eldest son of Caleb Beck and Catherine Theresa Romeyn. A brief notice of her life and the influence that surrounded the youth of her children has been written for this volume, in the notice of her youngest son, Lewis C. Beck.

On the paternal side Dr. Beck was of English origin, his ancestors being among the earliest settlers of New England. A love of books would seem to have been hereditary on both sides, for in the will of his grandfather "Caleb Beck gentleman of Schenectady in the County of Albany," proved before Gov. Cosby, in 1726, one of the first articles named as a valuable legacy is, "my printed books to my son." It might have had its effect, for that son embraced a liberal profession, and received his diploma as attorney at law, signed by George Clinton in 1757.

Caleb Beck, the father, of Dr. Beck, also studied law, but never entered upon its practice; he died when his eldest son was but a few years of age, and the education and rearing of his five sons devolved upon his widow and her father, the Rev. Dr. Derick Romeyn. As allusion has already been made to Dr. Romeyn in the life of Lewis Beck, and also to the second of the sons Abram, no further notice of them seems proper here, but a few words should be given to the remaining brothers of this gifted family, who preceded Romeyn Beck to the grave.

John B. Beck, the third brother, was a physician of much eminence and a writer of ability, one of the principal chapters in Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, that on infanticide, was written by him; and he also published several medical works well known to, and still used by the profession. He graduated first in his class in Columbia College, New York, and his life was spent in that city, where he died in 1851, after a long and painful illness, mainly induced by constant mental and physical labor. He had for many years filled the chair of Prof. of Materia Medica in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York.

Nicholas F., the fourth brother, a young lawyer of great promise, died at the early age of thirty. At the period of his death he held the office of Adjutant General of his native state, an office conferred upon him by De Witt Clinton.
T. Romeyn Beck was placed in the grammar school at Schenectady at a very early age, and entered Union College in 1803, graduating when only sixteen. His mother, who entertained a wholesome horror of losing time, placed him immediately after his graduation in the office of Dr. Low and McClelland of Albany. The former was a man of great and varied talent, a fine classical scholar, and a lover of literature. With these gentlemen he remained until the last year of his medical studies, when he entered the office of Dr. David Hosack, who was at that period considered the first physician of the country. In 1811 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, presenting an inaugural thesis on insanity. This short treatise, written thus early in life, exhibits wonderful knowledge of the history of insanity and its treatment. The deep interest he manifested for this afflicted class ceased only with his life. At that period their needs were only partially known and wholly disregarded. In this pamphlet, short as it is, Dr. Beck gives a succinct history of insanity and devotes a portion to the treatment of the insane, advocating public asylums and careful and kindly usage. He lived to see his views endorsed by the eminent men who have made this subject their study, and to witness the inauguration of a new and humane practice, calculating to cure these unfortunates or ameliorate their condition. He modestly introduces his thesis by these words: "It is all that can be expected from one whose opportunities of viewing the disease have been scanty and whose information has been derived chiefly from books."

Dr. Beck commenced the practice of medicine in Albany, and was appointed physician to the alm house the same year. On his resignation of this situation he wrote a memorial to the supervisors on the subject of work houses, replete with sound good sense.

He was but twenty-four of age when he received the appointment of Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Western College of Physicians and Surgeons located at Fairfield, N. Y. In 1826 he became Professor of Medical Jurisprudence; in 1835 Professor of Materia Medica; filling the two latter chairs until 1840, when it was judged expedient to give up the college in consequence of the establishment of a Medical School in Albany.

Dr. Beck continued the practice of medicine in Albany until 1817, when a growing dislike to practice, and an increasing love for the study of the profession and literature generally, induced him to accept the post of Principal of the Albany Academy. He was naturally sensitive, and the sight of suffering and distress that he could not remove or alleviate wore upon him, and his strength and health alike failed; his attachment to the profession he had chosen remained unabated, and amid the constant labor which his new occupation gave him, he found leisure to accomplish an amount of work that seems almost incredible. As early as 1813, his letters to his uncle, Dr. John E. Romeyn, then in Europe, indicate the design which a few years brought to a full accomplishment, a work on legal medicine. In 1823, Dr. Beck published the volumes that have made his name familiar to every member of the legal and medical professions. In the words of an eminent lawyer of this state, Dr. Beck, "Known over the civilized world as the author and founder of medical jurisprudence, a science which he substantially created, he ranks, wherever law
and justice are administered, with Blackstone and Bacon, Grotius and D'Aguissau." These volumes were received at home and abroad, with well merited favor. Besides the numerous American editions it has passed through one German and four London editions. In a notice of the German translation, says a bibliographer, "in his native language his work is as yet without a parallel." Since his death two editions have been published. The writer well remembers as each proof sheet arrived, the immediate preparation for a new edition with copious and carefully prepared emendations. While this great work progressed, its author was never unmindful of the claims of all classes of unhappines; every public charity demanded and received not merely his notice but his ardent support. His carefully prepared statistics of the deaf and dumb, called public attention to their needs. True to his first interest in the insane, their treatment and care occupied much of his attention. Most wisely was he chosen by the governor and senate, one of the managers of the New York State Asylum, and he was reappointed at the expiration of each term of office until his death. In 1854 he was unanimously chosen President of the board of managers. In the words of one of the ablest officers of the Asylum, the institution has, at all times, had the advantage of his wise counsels, efficient aid, and ardent devotion, and of his presence and immediate cooperation with his associates, whenever demanded by matters of unusual or special importance. Here, as well as in all other similar positions, he has ever consulted the highest and most enduring good of the interests committed to his charge, without regard to the prejudices or the more apparent benefits of the hour or the day, or any mere personal claims or advantages. His wisdom and experience, his integrity, have made him a most valuable guardian of all the affairs of this great public charity.

After the death of the lamented Brigham, Dr. Beck was induced by the managers of the Asylum to undertake the charge of the Journal of Insanity which he conducted until 1854, when "advancing years and more imperative duties" compelled him to resign the charge. When the tidings of his decease reached the afflicted inmates of the Asylum, they requested their chaplains to deliver a funeral sermon on the death of "their friend," and the appropriate words chosen by them as a text for his discourse were, "Having served his generation by the will of God he fell on sleep." His children, deeply touched by the selection so deserved and so well chosen, have placed only this short inscription on the simple head-stone that marks his grave. (Dr. Beck was buried in a beautifully retired spot in the old burial ground at Caldwell, on Lake George)

It is not only as a writer on medicine or insanity, or as an able instructor that Dr. Beck is known. He gave an impulse to every important scientific enterprise of this state. He was one of the originators of the great work of the Geological Survey of New York, and made the successive governors intrusted with much of its supervision. The following dedication of the 5th vol. of the survey by Prof. Dimons, shows the light in which he was regarded by the workers in that survey.
"Sir: There is more than one reason why the concluding divisions of the present work, undertaken to explore and illustrate the Natural History of the State of New York, and conducted under legislative patronage, should be dedicated to you. You were among the first to foster the enterprise, and remained its consistent advocate in times when adverse circumstances seemed to jeopardize its continuance; much more than this, your whole life has been assiduously engaged in promoting the advance of science and the spread of popular education, and the published results of your scientific and literary labors, may be referred to as reflecting an honor upon your native state. Would that the merits of the present volume were such as to render it more worthy its dedication."

Not only was he conversant with the scientific workings of this great project, but he introduced a system of economy and order, when appointed a Commissioner to decide upon the various claims that grew out of the contracts, that reduced its expense and facilitated its completion.

As early as 1813, he delivered the annual address before The Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts. The object he states in his preferring to "exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States, with their various applications to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures, whose materials are derived from this source." Of this address, his colleague and eulogist, Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, speaks in the following terms:

"This was eminently the field for Dr. Beck's peculiar talent; it was new, and everything had to be learned from the beginning; a host of persons and authorities had to be consulted, and the whole to be carefully digested, analyzed, and applied. The result could not have disappointed those who were familiar with his habits; but to one who had known him less, or who was at all acquainted with the difficulties which he was compelled to encounter in the little that was then known of the mineral resources of this country, the result seems astonishing; and to that elaborate and timely paper, we think, the American manufacturer is, to-day, in no small degree indebted for his wealth and prosperity. It was the lens which first brought the scattered rays of light upon this subject to a focus, and which now melts the ores in a thousand furnaces. If, as Dr. Beck asserts, American mineralogy was then in its infancy, he was the first to urge upon it a confidence in itself, and to demonstrate to others its unsuspected capacities, and it is through such early guidance and assistance that it has so rapidly grown to complete manhood, no less than to the "persevering industry, the unconquerable enterprise, and the extraordinary ingenuity of our citizens."

In 1819 Dr. Beck read before the same Society a most valuable paper entitled a "Memoir of Alum." Like every paper that came from his hands, it showed wonderful industry and research. When this Society was merged with the Albany Lyceum into a new organization, the Albany Institute, Dr. Beck became one of its most active members, doing more to increase its library and its varied collections than almost any other person.
In 1841, he was chosen Secretary of the board of regents, and he succeeded in obtaining for them the entire supervision of the State Library and the State Cabinet of Natural History. The State Library alone is a noble monument of his faithfulness and diligence; he found a few volumes scattered, disorganized and partially destroyed; he left a library worthy of the state; nor did his work cease with his life. The catalogue of books is complete; its collections for years to come testify how thoroughly he completed his task.

To a stranger it will hardly seem possible for Dr. Beck to have done his duty fully in his capacity as instructor, when it is remembered how manifold were his occupations as Secretary of the regents alone, and yet he never neglected the smallest detail of duty. Hear the testimony of scholars who have distinguished themselves in the varied walks of life.

"There was ever the most faithful and vigilant attention to the daily work of the Academy, in all its departments. His capacity for labor, and his systematic, untiring industry have rarely, if ever, been surpassed. The written records of the Academy, of the Institute, of the board of regents, and of all the literary and scientific bodies with which he was connected, bear witness to an amount of patient labor which would seem to beyond the power of any man to accomplish."

"The first of the belles lettres scholars in the state, he gave his illustrious mind, that would have dignified the proudest college in the land, to the Albany academy, and if ever man was honored by his scholars, it is the man whose name is the central thought of the oration of this day."

Theodoric Romeyn Beck was a master workman in his profession—in moulding the mind and character of the young unequalled. Himself an untiring, indefatigable student, versed alike in solid learning and elegant literature, he inspired the pupil with similar tastes, lighted in his bosom the spark of noble emulation, elevated his desires and purified his ambition. In emotion, tender, delicate and sensitive as a woman—in perception of moral rectitude clear and undeviating—he still possessed a wonderful breadth and manliness of character. His brain was massive, his intellectual faculty strong and robust, his temper fearless, his conduct full of gentleness and dignity, modesty and courage. Such glorious qualities commanded respect and secured obedience, and withheld presented in the scholar a model worthy of imitation. He was the Arnold of his Rugby. Around him clustered a troop of brave boys—Tcm. Browns and all—who loved and honored him with full hearts and flowing affections.

During all these years Dr. Beck enjoyed universally good health, his labors never seemed to impair it. In 1848, he felt that he was doing too much, and he resigned his post as Principal of the Academy, a post which he had well and faithfully filled for nearly a third of a century. He was elected President of the board of trustees, filling this office until his death.
In February 1855 Dr. B. Beck was seized with what was supposed to be a slight attack of indigestion, but it did not yield readily to medical treatment. From that period until September he continued to have attacks of nausea at intervals of a fortnight, becoming gradually weakened by their recurrence. No danger was however apprehended until that month, when he became so feeble as to make it manifest that his disease had approached a fatal termination. A consultation of physicians, Mrs. Hun and Parker, and his faithful friend and physician, Dr. Willard, pronounced his disease to be "a suspension of the process of assimilation, food digested but did not assimilate." He received their dictum with his wonted composure and cheerfulness. This was October 24, and until November 11th no special change occurred. His last days can best be told in the words of his physician: "He slept more than usual, and at night comfortably, awaking at his accustomed hour in the morning; he sat up nearly every day for a short time, and often devoted a part of this to business; his books and his papers were around him, and he still devoted himself to them with untiring industry; although he was sick, he did not know how to be idle. I visited him at all hours, and I always found him with a book in his hand; when he retired at night, it was with lights arranged by his bedside that he might read until he fell asleep."

With the first loss of sleep, (Nov. 11,) came total prostration, he was unable longer to take nourishment, and soon began what appeared to be a process of dying; of this he was fully aware, yet no murmur escaped his lips, nor the wish that the termination might be averted. (Nov. 14) His breathing became gradually more difficult, and his extremities cold; he was exceedingly restless, but uniformly answered "no" when asked if he was suffering. Each hour appeared for two or three days to be his last, but he rallied again however, and remarked of the wonderful tenacity of his constitution, and expressed surprise that he lived so long. "It is hard breaking the chain," and then he asked, "Is not this a long struggle?" "How long have I been at it?" To my reply "more than twenty-four hours," he asked, "do you think it will last much longer?" Addressing his daughters, who were by his bedside, he said, "I had a coldness, a sort of spasm in my side last night, that was near my idea of the coming of death; I have thought my case over, it is a remarkable complaint, don't you all think so?" And at the same time he expressed his conviction that he must have organic disease.

At another time, when he thought his daughters greatly fatigued by prolonged attention to him, gazing upon them with paternal tenderness, he said, "I am sorry to tire you so; I wish it was over." Thus, in his last hours, he did not fail to regard the comfort of others before himself. His hearing continued acute, and his mind clear and calm through these hours of protracted dissolution, although he was so weak that he could not converse. Thus he lingered until the morning of the 19th. A few hours preceding his death, Mrs. Faramee was sitting by his side, when he asked, "Where is Catharine?" (Mrs. Van Cortlandt); immediately she was with him. He pressed her hand in token of recognition, gazed upon them for a moment, and then closed his eyes forever. His breathing became quiet, fainter, and still more faint, until at length, gently as sleeps a child, the slumber of death came upon him. And thus passed away this great man, on the 19th of November, 1855, at the age of sixty-four years and three months. Mr. and Mrs. P.
Mr. and Mrs. Parmelee, Mrs. Van Cortlandt and myself, were with him when he died."

Dr. Beck was married in 1814, at Caldwell, Warren County, to Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, a merchant of Albany, whose summer residence was at Lake George. She was a woman of fine literary culture and refined nature, and was taken from him at the early age of thirty-one.

Two daughters survived him. The youngest Mrs. Helen L. Parmelee, followed him to the grave in 1868. Like her father she possessed great industry and research, and a most retentive memory, with rare talents and attainments. She was unostentatious and modest, living and dying a truly Christian woman.

This short sketch of Dr. Beck would be incomplete without a notice of some of the peculiar characteristics of his nature. He had the most intense horror of oppression and injustice whether practiced by corporations or individuals, and his lance was ever on the rest for a tilt with the oppressor. Never did he yield a foot but manfully fought the battles of the weak against the strong. Meanness and prevarication were his abhorrence; shams of all sorts, whether found in high or low stations, excited his wrath to its utmost pitch. It may be safely asserted that the few enemies he made during his useful life, some were made so by his manly outspoken defiance of "whatevery makest a lie." His own standard was high, and he longed to bring all men up to it. It was only those who saw his daily life that knew it to its fullest extent until his death, when his correspondence revealed how incessant had been his benevolence. He had not given largely to great objects, but constantly and noiselessly dispensed the daily charities where the right hand knew not the benefactions of the left. Of his wonderful industry sufficient has been said. An early riser, the first hours of the day were given to study. Each hour had its appointed task. No duty was ever neglected. His greatest relaxation was the perusal of light literature, and he was thoroughly conversant with the poets and authors of his day. Seldom was he found at fault with any quotation. With all his learning and varied information he was modest and unassuming, ever ready and eager to acquire information, nor would any one dream when he mingled in general society that mentally he towered a head and shoulders above the generality of men. Dr. Beck loved his country with the intense love of such a nature, and among his manuscripts are many addresses written for various occasions breathing a spirit of the purest patriotism. Happy for him that he lived not to see the calamities brought upon that beloved country by the insane ambition of misguided southern demagogues. In the words he wrote for the monumental stone of one of the revolutionary fathers, he was "blest in closing his eyes upon a country prosperous, united and happy."

Dr. Beck wrote a short sketch of the life of Clinton preparatory to an extended memoir undertaken at the request of the sons of that lamented statesman. Its opening words are these, "The Academy of Science at Dijon recently asked of their municipality that all houses in the commune which deserved to be historical might be marked by commemorative inscriptions. The council we are told readily acceded to the request, among the birthplaces and residences thus designated are those of Buffon, Grebillon, Guyton, De Morveau and the Marshal Savenne. We in this country fortunately or unfortunately live in too progressive an age to
allow us to ask for similar remembrances."
Surely even in this progressive age, while events crowd each other so rapidly, Theodric Romeyn Beck deserves and will receive from the men whose characters he has contributed to form, and who honor themselves in honoring him, some memorial that will tell strangers of his devotion to truth and to the best interests of the home he so loved.

FROM Annals for the Medical Society of the County of Albany-1806-1851.

Sylvester D. Willard, M. D.

J. Munsell  Albany  1864.
of an extremely gentle and sympathetic manner. He was a voluminous reader, not only of scientific publications, but also of history, poetry, fiction, and, in fact, of every sort and variety of literature that seemed to him to be sound, sensible, and interesting. He delighted, when at work, to surround himself with great piles of books, whether he happened to need those particular volumes at the time or not, merely from the joy of having his darlings stacked about him. He was an earnest and active Christian, nor did his ardent faith forsake him when, after a long and painful illness, he died on the nineteenth of November, 1855, at the age of sixty-four.

Thomas Hall Shastid.

Dictionary of American Medical Biography
Kelly and Burrage
p. 86