ADDRESS AT THE DEDICATION OF THE MITCHELL MEMORIAL BUILDING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL AND INFIRMARY FOR NERVOUS DISEASES

Observe the title of the building we are assembled to dedicate—the Mitchell Memorial Building of the Philadelphia Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases. It is not the S. Weir Mitchell or the Weir Mitchell Memorial, but simply the “Mitchell Memorial” Building. As there are many Franklins but only one Franklin, so there are many Mitchells but only one Mitchell.

I first saw Weir Mitchell on the third of September, 1860, just as I was beginning the arduous study which has filled a long life time. The last time I saw him was at Christmas time in 1913, just before the shadow of death fell upon him. The interval covered fifty-three years and four months—a long time for an intimate friendship which never knew a cloud even as big as a man’s hand.

He was my senior by only eight years, but, having graduated ten years before I began even to study medicine and having already an established reputation, I always looked up to him as my father in the profession rather than as an elder brother.

I first aided him in his experiments on the poison of snakes—a study which for almost half a century fascinated him and to which he, first alone, and later with

1 By Dr. W. W. Keen, consulting surgeon to the hospital.
2 This was the name then on the new building. Later it was replaced by the “Silas Weir Mitchell Memorial.”