THE FORGOTTEN PHYSICIAN

I appreciate to the full the honor which has been given me to be present to-day on this platform. I have elected to say something on a subject which is very prominent in my thoughts and very pertinent to the modern trend of medical education and development, and shall speak of the forgotten physician.

In the fall of 1904, at its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, Columbia University gave the honorary degree of LL.D. to three graduates of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. These three men, who in their day meant much to the profession of New York, were Edward G. Janeway, Francis Delafield and William M. Polk. At the time these men graduated there were three outstanding proprietary medical schools which to-day have developed into three university schools of the highest rank. Janeway, Delafield and Polk became connected in high office, each with a different one of these three schools, and each came to stand for the ideals of the profession and the aspirations of the schools. It was indeed strange if I dared to refer to such men as forgotten physicians. All three at one time were connected with Bellevue Hospital, in which institution you have received a large part of your own education. It can not but be true that you found in Bellevue a tradition emphasizing the work and influence of each one of these leaders during the days of your grandfathers. Delafield was a trained pathologist, who brought an intimate knowledge of microscopic anatomy to his studies at the bedside. His lectures as professor of the theory and practice of medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons combined the observations of a scientist with the analytical judgment of a keen clinician. His diagnostic ability had a mathematical method which followed a thorough study of the relative frequency of diseases as had been formulated by Dr. Louis, of Paris, in the middle of the nineteenth century. Janeway was a typical clinician of the old school. His diagnoses were framed throughout this larger metropolitan district and known as far as his students wandered from their home school, the old Bellevue Hospital Medical College, to settle throughout this country and practice medicine as they had been taught by their honored teacher in the clinics and at the bedsides of Bellevue Hospital. Janeway's...
Editor's Summary

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