

Yet he met all this with amazing fortitude, and with an equanimity which would have glorified any system of philosophy or faith. And, in spite of these manifold buffetings, he has again and again assured me that existence was altogether satisfactory to him—thus attaining what is, after all, so far as this world is concerned, the most that any system of philosophy or faith can yield to afflicted man.

He had many admirable characteristics worthy to be named and commemorated were the mention of them consonant with this slight sketch. Among the most marked was his extraordinary willingness to afford whatever help was in his power to any one who required it, and frequently it was rendered at the expense of much of his time and comfort. His versatility of knowledge and skill made his help of great value. There must still be many besides myself who can recall some service of kindness or benevolence done for them by this generous-hearted man.

Farewell, old friend! You and I in company have long delighted to commune with atoms and their energies, and now that the share of them allotted to you for your labors here has been reclaimed, may its reunion with the infinite universe mean for you eternal rest!

By far the most picturesque member of our faculty was Dr. E. Brown-Séguard, and though his transit across our firmament was rapid, it was brilliant and highly spectacular, and thus justifies me, I have thought, in bestowing a somewhat particular notice upon him and his transactions.

Dr. Brown-Séguard was my teacher, yet reluctantly I must say that he did not teach me anything. But let me hasten to explain that this was not owing to any want or capacity of the reservoir, which was indeed superabundantly full, but to the inadequacy of the receptacle, which was completely swamped by the copiousness of the overflow. His expositions were far beyond the comprehension of a medical neophyte, and I question if I do any injustice to the great lights of the profession

of that day when I say that even some of them staggered under the weight of his elementary facts and principles. He was, in truth, one of those not very uncommon teachers who, very wise themselves, yet do not know enough to understand how very ignorant their pupils are. Moreover, his ability to speak the English language fluently was far from first-rate. A discourse as rendered by him was not very unlike an attack of spasmodic asthma, and frequently his agony in trying to make himself comprehended was, if anything, greater than ours in trying to comprehend him.

He came to the college with a great name. In fact, if he was not the most eminent, he was next to the most eminent physiologist of that time. Naturally we anticipated much benefit to our school from an accession so distinguished. In this, however, we were disappointed. His great name brought us no students; in this respect furnishing another of the many illustrations of the melancholy fact that a college can not be run by wind. Aesculapius himself in the faculty would not avail against the three terrible handicaps of too little administrative ability, not enough energy, and a surplus of honesty.

During a part of the time of his service I was a resident student and assisted him in some of his experiments. My duties as his colaborer were to beguile dogs out of their habitations into the precincts of the college and to hold cats by the tail while he was working his way into their interiors. Some people, when I have recounted to them how the venerable sage deemed me worthy to be intrusted with these responsibilities, have rendered me tired by affecting to make light of my services. But this is merely the meanness of envious persons who themselves have never been blessed with opportunities of sequestering dogs or holding cats' tails in the cause of science.

In his physiological elucidations his main resource was vivisections. Though a thoroughgoing vivisectionist, he was not a wantonly cruel man. He treated his subjects as well as the circumstances of the case permitted, and would pat the dogs

on the head and whistle lullybies to them while he was cutting them up; but he did not let his humanity stifle his science. I can not say that I approve of all his procedures. He was a very conscientious expounder and never announced even a self-evident proposition without demonstrating it then and there, but I believe we would have taken his word for it that a chicken will fly into fits if you wring its head off without seeing the operation done before our eyes. Nor do I think it was absolutely necessary to pump out a glassful of gastric juice from a hole cut in a live dog's stomach and put chunks of bread in it to convince us that the fluid was of a digestive nature, and to pass it round the class that each of us might assure himself that it was actually sour by tasting it. All his vivisection work would, from his standpoint at least, be classed as useful. Part of it had also somewhat of the beautiful in it, as when he implanted a dog's tail in the comb of a rooster and nurtured it till it took root and grew there; and the most touching passage I can remember in all his discourses was his sorrowful account of how this rooster, thus magnificently embossed, had gone forth to do battle with an opposing rooster of the baser sort, and had his tail torn out of his head by his sanguinary adversary.

In a little while I and his many other assiduous assistants among the students had gathered together for him an innumerable caravan of dogs and cats and raccoons and terrapins and specimens of nearly every other variety of the inferior forms of animal life which roamed the fields or the waters or the streets or the housetops of Richmond and Henrico county, and all these were quartered in harmonious juxtaposition with one another in the depths of the college cellar.

The setting-up of Dr. Brown-Séquard's physiological menagerie in the cellar was an epoch-making event for the inmates of the building. White-winged peace, as the class-poet said in the elegy which he composed for the occasion, had folded her sable pinions and flown like an affrighted torrent to the

mountain tops. In the night season especially, when we suddenly roused to a full realization of the roarings and bellowings which ascended from the abyss below, it was almost impossible to doubt that we had died and had come to our reward. I and the other house students being blessed with youth and innocence were able to snatch sufficient sleep to live through it, but the janitor and his wife aged rapidly, and would have perished from insomnia and compound-comminuted delirium tremens if the menagerie had held together a month longer.

Very notable, too, was the influence exerted by this uproarious zoological combination upon the colored people of the town. The conception which these worthy beings have of this college as a holy temple dedicated to the culture of the beneficent arts has at all times been alloyed with many grave misgivings, but now they looked upon it as a place thrice accursed and in full and indisputable possession of the devil and his angels, and they kept aloof from us to the utmost limit that the topography of the neighborhood allowed.

Evidently it is far more conducive to the health and longevity of the physiological inquirer, and it is also decidedly more usual, for him to work out his problems on some living economy other than his own. Dr. Brown-Séquad, however, never hesitated to put himself to the question if he thought thereby he could obtain a more satisfactory answer than cats and dogs could give. Accordingly, in studying the phenomena of digestion, he let down into his stomach pieces of sponge tied to the end of strings and therewith fished up material for subjection to the processes of science. He did it so zealously that at length the constant titillation of the organ turned him into a sort of cow, his food as fast he got it down insisting on coming back into his mouth to be chewed over and over again. A disorder of this kind, which would make any other man hang himself, was no doubt to one of his inquiring spirit a source of unspeakable satisfaction, for it was of great rarity, so that he was in possession of a new and delightful field of research all to

himself. So, too, in studying the functions of the skin, in order to elucidate some abstrusity that he never made altogether clear to us, he covered himself with a universal coat of the stickiest and most impervious fly-paper varnish—an experiment which, as he, perhaps with some indignation, informed us, would have yielded the most invaluable results had not some obtrusive individual extracted him from the corner into which the varnish had tumbled him, and, just as he was fetching his last gasp, maliciously sandpapered him off.

Experiments such as he performed on living animals are no longer shown in the lecture rooms of medical colleges. They would not nowadays be tolerated by the faculty, and I doubt if even the much-enduring student would endure them. They are of priceless value to the sincere worker in their special fields, but to the ordinary observer they are merely curious, and I fear are more apt to brutalize than inform. Some of the manifestations which he made the property of the whole class are in these times reserved for the remotest sanctuary of the physiological laboratory to be looked on only by the few and fit, or were of the kind which come unbidden among the strangest and most awe-inspiring shapes of the insane asylum. Unhappily, they were wasted on our immature intelligence. We beheld them with a pleased astonishment, as we might behold the wonders wrought by the stage magician, not understanding, and perhaps not much caring to understand, the far more wonderful laws and principles which these wonders illustrated. Never since, I imagine, have any of us who were then guided by him approached so near towards the unreachable realms whence issue life and death. He revealed to us the greater mysteries. His scalpel and his vial did before our eyes such marvelous and such awful things that I can almost fancy that once I dwelt in the halls of a necromancer.

Under the economy which governs this weary world it seems to be an inevitable law of nature that college faculties shall forever be in some kind of trouble or other. So it came to pass

that Dr. Brown-Séquard and his colleagues fell asunder. The cause of this estrangement I do not know with sufficient exactness to justify me in stating it. He stayed with us for only one session. Howsoever his departure may have affected the faculty, it grieved the students deeply. We regarded him as a mighty though inscrutable pillar of our college, and besides he was very kind to us poor things, so that we were always sure that he meant well, even while we felt that he had a very abstruse way of showing it. When he went away his vast and precious collection of scientific material—his dogs and cats and raccoons and terrapins and all—was scattered to the four corners of the city and county and became irrecoverably lost.

After many years of vicissitudes he at last fixed himself in the city of Paris. Here in his latter days he enthusiastically advocated an animal extract of his concoction of marvelous potency, as he believed. But scoffers idly chose to call it Séquard's Elixir of Life, and I was pained to see my old master subjected to much unseemly bantering thereupon. This treatment of him and his discovery was altogether undeserved. He merely proposed a medicament possessed of virtues which, in his opinion, were extraordinarily great, but which were yet not beyond what we might reasonably expect a medicine to have, and the subsequent extensive acceptance of organo-therapy seems to have vindicated him. At any rate, his nicknamed elixir was honestly conceived, conscientiously tested, and freely given in the hope that it would do good to suffering humanity, and I do not scruple to assert that its discoverer is more worthy of honor than are some of the more highly honored discoverers who conceal the methods of preparing their vaunted cures and grow rich by the concealment.

In ending my notice of this eminent man, which, despite its somewhat bizzarre aspect, is meant to be appreciative and kindly, I will say that perhaps the most obvious trait of his character was an earnest desire for full and accurate knowledge. This he sought to satisfy by the only method which

science can recognize—the method of observation and experiment. In this he was untiring, observing and experimenting to his latest day, and I can easily believe that even in his dying hours, when the silver cord—that marvelous warder of our mortal frame whose divinely wonderful energies had ever had a peculiar charm for him—was loosening, the ruling passion was strong within him, and that the old philosopher enjoyed a sublime delight in noting the majestic progress of this his last supreme experiment.

I am conscious that the almost unqualified praise I have been giving my instructors as a whole must seem to you to be merely the conventional flattery which is expected and allowed from the pupil to his teacher. It is possible, and indeed probable, that the experience of some of you will not permit so friendly an estimate of all your own instructors. I know very well that during our career of three quarters of a century our school has occasionally had a teacher connected with it whose learning or capacity or moral character did not entitle him to high respect. It must be understood that I am speaking of my teachers mainly as persons possessing knowledge and competent to impart it. In the moral and social characters of some of them no doubt flaws might be found. But the standards of conduct then were not altogether the same as those which govern now. At any rate, I can after due consideration assure you that with the exception of one or two, who perhaps should suffer some abatement, my commendation of them is just. Nor is this state of things anomalous after all, for there were reasons for it, which might be shown were it worth while to pursue the subject, prevailing then which do not obtain now.

In the process of the suns I myself became a member of the faculty, and thus gained a somewhat intimate knowledge of the ways of faculties. The normal state of a college faculty is one of extremely unstable equilibrium, of intestine war and internecine slaughter. I once heard a preacher declare that the Lord had tried for forty years to tame Moses. I think it