

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HELD AT
NEWBERN, N. C., MAY, 1872.

RALEIGH:
EDWARDS & BROUGHTON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1872.

On motion of Dr. SATCHWELL, a Committee on nominations was appointed.

The Committee consists of Dr. E. BURKE HAYWOOD, Dr. P. E. HINES, Dr. J. J. SUMMERELL, Dr. GEO. A. FOOTE and CHAS. DUFFEY.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet again at 10 o'clock, A. M., Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, May 17th, 1872.

At the hour appointed, Dr. W. A. B. NORCOM, Vice-President, called the Society to order.

Twenty-three members answered to their names.

Dr. WHITEHEAD offered the resignation of Dr. C. A. HENDERSON, of Rowan County, which was accepted.

Dr. SATCHWELL, of New Hanover, said he held in his hand a petition for membership to this Society from a distinguished lady Physician, but as she could not become a member under the present constitution as the term "he" and not "she" was only used, and as twelve months must elapse before the Constitution could be so changed as to admit her, he would move that she be elected an honorary member of the Society.

Dr. E. B. HAYWOOD, of Raleigh, advocated Dr. SATCHWELL's motion, in a strong and telling speech of fifteen minutes duration. He said he was a woman's right man in this particular; that the day was upon us when this and all other societies were compelled to recognize female Physicians, and he especially desired to see North Carolina take the initiative. He closed his remarks with a glowing tribute to woman's capacity, mentioning her meritorious aid and services in the hospitals during the war, etc., etc.

Dr. WHITEHEAD, of Rowan, opposed the motion. He said that the plan proposed was not in accordance with the regular

rule heretofore adopted by the Society, and for one was unwilling to accord her privileges which would not be granted to young men. He was a woman's right man, yet he was unwilling to sacrifice a principle for her. He would not forbid her entrance to the Society, but let her come by the right door, with a regular application. He said she was not a citizen of North Carolina, therefore he would vote against the motion.

Dr. E. B. HAYWOOD replied to the objections offered by Dr. WHITEHEAD, and counseled the Society against delaying recognition to this lady.

Dr. SATCHWELL said years ago he offered the first resolution before the Society in regard to honorary membership, which was then adopted. That was not conferred exclusively to natives of the State, but to those who had distinguished themselves in the medical world, and it recognized merit wherever found. He proceeded to read several letters from various parties, the first of which was from the lady in question, Miss SUSAN J. DIMMOCK, in which she "would enjoy the distinguished honor of being a member of the Medical Society of her own State," &c., &c. The next letter was written by Miss DIMMOCK's mother, detailing the early anxiety of her daughter for medical knowledge. He also read recommendatory letters from prominent Boston men, given to Miss DIMMOCK on her departure for Europe. He presented before the Society a medical work of Miss DIMMOCKS, printed in German. Though he could not read it himself, yet he heard it spoken of very highly by those who had. The Doctor continued the defence of his motion in a lengthy speech, in which he enlogised woman in all her useful spheres—this in particular.

Dr. WHITEHEAD as yet could not see it, and could not be impressed with the opinion that a graduate of Zurich or anywhere else could claim an honorary membership of this Society because they were such. He was in favor of remaining steadfast to the landmarks of the Society, and would oppose all innovations, in which light he considered it.

Dr. C. TATE MURPHY, of Sampson, endorsed the position of his friend, Dr. WHITEHEAD, of Rowan, and was opposed to the hot haste of rushing this lady in as a member of this Society. He was not opposed to her admission, but let her come in as other members, let her come in as a young man could only get in. His veneration for the dignity and character of his Society was too great to make a sacrifice of its Constitution merely for the sake of admitting a female member; it was an open violation, and as such he would oppose it till doomsday. He was proud to see that North Carolina had given birth to a woman with sufficient intellect to grapple the science of medicine, but yet he could not be blinded by that pride to make an inroad upon the Constitution of his Society. He was in favor of passing complimentary resolutions of recognition, but opposed to her as an honorary member.

Dr. P. E. HINES, of Newbern, spoke in favor of her admission, and hoped her election would be unanimous.

Dr. R. B. HAYWOOD, of Raleigh, favored Dr. SATCHWELL's motion.

Dr. PIERCE, of Halifax, opposed the motion.

Upon the call for the question,

Dr. MURPHY called the attention of the Society to the fact that the vote on this question would establish a precedent, which, according to usage would hereafter be a law.

The vote was taken on Dr. SATCHWELL's motion to admit Miss DIMMOCK as an honorary member of the Society, which was adopted by 17 ayes, to 15 nays.

On motion of Dr. SUMMERELL, of Rowan, the vote was made unanimous.

On motion of Dr. SUMMERELL, of Rowan, a committee of three, consisting of Drs. SATCHWELL, E. BURKE HAYWOOD and JAMES MCKEE were appointed to inform Miss DIMMOCK of her unanimous election as an honorary member.

Dr. SATCHWELL, of New Hanover, moved that the election of a new Board of Medical Examiners, as required by act of Legislature, be now held. Carried.