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In a disease so varied in its manifestations and symptomatology, occurring as it does at all ages and among all sorts and conditions of men, it is impossible to formulate a routine method of treatment which will apply to all cases. To summarize the outline of the treatment as here presented, however, I would lay special stress upon the importance of the following procedures :

1. Place the patient under the most favorable hygienic conditions with special reference to ventilation.
2. Carefully regulate the diet, guarding against constipation, and insisting upon the liberal use of pure, cool water.
3. Early in the course of the disease employ counter irritants, particularly in the broncho pneumonia of children.
4. Relieve distressing cough by inhalations and if necessary by the use of opium or its derivatives.
5. Relieve pleuritic pain by the intermittent use of hot or ice poultices or by the subcutaneous use of morphia.
6. Reduce temperature, if necessary, by bathing.
7. Stimulate heart with strychnine and in selected cases with alcohol, digitalis, and normal salt solution. It is possible that venesection, which may be followed immediately by the injection of normal salt solution, is indicated in certain cases of engorged right heart and if boldly done may be instrumental in saving life.
8. Employ large and frequently repeated doses of antipneumococcic serum in desperate cases, particularly in those with a tendency to extension of the inflammatory process.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN RHODE ISLAND.

By DONALD CHURCHILL, M.D.,

Providence, R. I.

The medical history of two centuries told in an hour, must, of necessity, be the merest outline. Details in a paper like this can only be given here and there. It is my purpose tonight not to act as your historian, but rather to endeavor to entertain you with a very brief, and I trust, not too general, retrospect of the medicine and the medical men of Providence, and with the hope of stimulating in the hearts and minds of some of the younger members,

at least, of our society, a desire to learn more of our professional ancestors and their work.

I do not claim any originality for my remarks. This paper is made up largely of abstracts from that most admirable historical sketch, from the pen of Dr. Usher Parsons, published in 1859, in the first volume of the Rhode Island Medical Society. I am also indebted to Mr. Brigham, librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, who has given me much interesting material, and especially am I under obligations to Mr. Edward Field, clerk of the Municipal Court, who has allowed me to browse among the early Providence Town Papers, which he has so carefully and painstakingly arranged and indexed, the untiring work of years and of incalculable value. He has also very kindly loaned me the advance sheets of the chapter by Dr. C. V. Chapin on "Epidemics and Medical Institutions" written for the forthcoming History of Rhode Island.

Oliver Wendell Holmes says "The state of Medicine is an index to the civilization of an age and country—one of the best, perhaps, by which it can be judged."

Just before the Pilgrims landed, a wasting pestilence had so thinned out the savage tribes that it has been piously interpreted as having providentially prepared the way for that feeble band of exiles. Cotton Mather, who hated the unhappy Aborigines, describes the condition thus: "The Indians in these Parts had newly, even about a Year or Two before, been visited with such a prodigious Pestilence; as carried away not a tenth, but Nine Parts of ten (yea 'tis said Nineteen of Twenty) among them: so that the woods were almost cleared of those pernicious Creatures to make Room for a better Growth." This "pestilence" was probably smallpox.

Sickness and death soon followed in the path of the pioneer, and the doctor's kind care and gentle ministrations were soon needed. At many points along the New England coast some person having at least more medical learning, real or supposed, and experience in the sick room than his fellows, came with or soon after the earliest settlers. So it was in Providence when Roger Williams secured a permanent foothold in Rhode Island, and before men bearing the title of "Doctor" had arrived. It was a long time before he and his followers could procure medical attendance. When sickness did occur it was treated by the administration of a few simple household remedies brought by the immigrants, and with decoctions, oils and ointments made by unlearned hands whose duty it was to regularly hoard a store of medicinal roots and herbs, as faithfully as they did their fruits and vegetables.

Probably the first regular physician to arrive in Boston was Dr. John Clark, who was born in Bedfordshire, England, in 1609. He landed in 1631 and resided in Boston till 1638 when he was driven from Massachusetts. He then came to Rhode Island and settled at Portsmouth. In 1639 he removed to

Newport. In 1651 he went to England where he united with Roger Williams in procuring the revocation of Coddington's Commission as Governor of the Islands in Narragansett Bay. He remained in England twelve years, and while there continued in the practice of his profession. He procured the Charter of Rhode Island, granted by Charles II, in 1663. This Charter continued in force until 1842, when it was superseded by the present State Constitution. He then returned to Newport, where he officiated as pastor of the First Baptist Church, at the same time continuing his medical practice. Little of this practice is recorded, but his portrait in close fitting skull cap, with long locks and venerable flowing beard is familiar to the eyes of Boston's medical men. His left hand rests upon a skull, his right hand holds an instrument which, Dr. Holmes says, "deserves a passing comment. It is a trephine, a surgical instrument for cutting round pieces out of broken skulls, so as to get at the fragments which have been driven in, and lift them up. It has a handle like a gimlet with a claw like a hammer to lift with, I suppose, which last contrivance I do not see figured in my books. But the point I refer to is this:—the old instrument I refer to, the trepan, had a handle like a wimble—what we call a brace or bit stock. The trephine is not mentioned at all in Peter Lowe's Book, London, 1634; nor in Wiseman's great work on Surgery, London, 1676, nor in the translation of Dionis published by Jacob Tonson in 1710. In fact it was only brought into more general use by Cheselden and Sharpe so late as the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. As John Clarke died in 1676 it is remarkable to see the last fashion in the way of skull sawing contrivances in his hands—to say nothing of the handle—and a Hey's saw, so called in England, lying on the table by him and painted there more than a hundred years before Hey was born. This saw is an old invention, perhaps as old as Hippocrates, and may be seen figured in the "Armamentarium Chirurgicum" of Scultetus, or in the Works of Ambrose Paré. Dr. Clarke is said to have received a diploma before he came for skill in Lithotomy. He loved horses as a good many doctors do, and left a good property—as they all ought to do." He died April 20, 1676, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. A full and very interesting memoir of him by Dr. David King is in the archives of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

The regulation of the practice of medicine, by the licensing of physicians has as we all know, been strenuously resisted here in Rhode Island by those who insisted that it was a dangerous innovation, and an unjustifiable interference with individual liberty. But thanks to an untiring board of health and particularly through the efforts of its secretary, Dr. Gardner T. Swarts, the amendment to the medical registration law has at last, been passed.

This is, however, no new idea for the old records show that in 1641 Robert Jeffries was authorized by the government of the Island "to exercise the functions of surgery."

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Soon after, John Cranston evidently applied for such a privilege, for among the records of the General Assembly in 1664 is found the following:—

“Whereas the Court have taken notice of the great blessing of God on the good endeavors of Captayne John Cranston of Newport both in phisicke and chirurgery, to the great comfort of such as have had occasion to improve his skill and practice, &c. The Court doe therefore unanimously enacte and declare that the said Captain Cranston is lycenced and commistioned to administer phisicke and practice chirurgery throughout this whole Collony and is by this Court styled and recorded Doctor of Physick and Chirurgery by the Othority of the Generall Assembly of this Collony.” It is dated March 1, 1664 and is I believe the very earliest record of a license to an accredited physician in this Colony. One must not forget that at this time there were only about one hundred persons in Providence County capable of bearing arms, so that there were probably not many cases of sickness at any one time.

After the Indian outbreak in 1676 was over, and the people returned to their homes, Dr. Richard Bowen, who had settled in Seekonk in 1680 looked after their welfare, and did so practically alone for twenty years. He educated two sons to the profession, Thomas and Jabez. Jabez settled in Providence on the home lot of Roger Williams a few rods south of St. John's Church, corner of North Main and Bowen streets. He had a grandson, Dr. Joseph Bowen, who lived and died in Gloucester, R. I. The other son, Thomas and brother to Jabez, settled with his father in Seekonk. His son, Ephriam Bowen, studied medicine with his uncle, Dr. Jabez Bowen and died in 1812, ninety-six years old. He had two sons, physicians, William Bowen, who entered Harvard and a year later went to Yale where he graduated in 1766. He was very successful and died at the age of eighty-six. His dress is described as being a “drab coat, vest and shorts, with yellow topped boots. His hair combed back and sometimes powdered and curled on the temples, and a queue behind.” He petitioned for the Charter of the Rhode Island Medical Society and was its second President. Pardon Bowen, his brother, graduated from Brown in 1775 and studied with him till 1779, when he embarked as surgeon on a privateer fitted out for the destruction of British Commerce. The ship was soon captured and taken into Halifax where Dr. Bowen was imprisoned for seven months, suffering many privations. He was finally exchanged and returned home, but soon after engaged in repeated enterprises of the kind with similar results, until his vessel gained a signal victory and his prize money made some amends for his suffering. In 1778 he attended lectures in Philadelphia, later returned to Providence where he attained the highest eminence as a Physician and Surgeon. He was seven years President of the Rhode Island Medical Society, a Fellow of the American Antiquarian Society, and a trustee of Brown University.

Dr. William C. Bowen, the only son of Dr. William Bowen, graduated

from Union College in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1803, studied with his uncle, Dr. Pardon Bowen, and then went to Europe to complete his education. There he studied in Edinburg, Holland, France, and under Sir Astley Cooper as his private pupil in London. In 1811 he was made Professor of Chemistry at Brown University. About this time he commenced a course of experiments to discover the basis of the bleaching liquor which was just then brought into use in England. This he did having in view the formation of a bleaching establishment in Providence. But the exposure of his lungs in this pursuit to the action of noxious acids laid the foundation of the disease that proved fatal and he died in his thirtieth year. In the death of Dr. William C. Bowen, Rhode Island lost its brightest ornament of the Medical Profession, and his labors on chlorine, though destructive to his own fortune, health and life, laid the foundation of the present great bleacheries in Rhode Island which have proved so conducive to its welfare and prosperity.

To return again for a moment to the Seventeenth century. I find among the earliest town papers the records of what I believe to be the first Coroners Inquest which reads as follows:

Town Paper 0282

"Mehitteble Sprauge of ye Towne of Providence aged Thirty Yeares or there aboute being Engaged Testifieth as ffolloweth. That she upon ocation being ye : 14th of this Instant at the house of Ephraim pearce, and going from thence homewar () a little before the setting of the sunn heareing a sudaine noyse looked about and saw Hannah pearce ye wife of ye s() Ephraim runn donne the Hill to ye well and there pulled out () Elizabeth pearce the Daughter of ye sayd Ephraim and Hannah () his wife, then this Deponant returned with speed to ye hou() of ye sd Ephraim where ye sayd Hannah had layd her sayd Daughter on ye Bedd, where this Deponant sayth to ye best of her understanding she found ye sayd Elizabeth pearce the Daughter of ye sayd Ephraim Aged about one yeare and halfe to be absolutely Dedd, tho this deponant and ye sayd Mother of ye sayd Childe did use what meanes they could to presearve life: but it could not be for ye Childe as aforesd was Dedd and further this Deponant sayth not Taken this: 15th of August 1679 before me

John Whipple, Assistant.

Here followeth the jurys Verdict. Our verdict is: Wee find that Elizabeth pearce the Daughter of Ephraim pearce and Hannah his wife, Aged aboute one yeare and a halfe or there abouts, Exadentally fell into the well and was overwhelmed in water and by the Providence of God Drowned. Here followeth ye names of ye Coroners Inquest.

Richard Arnold forrman
Capt. William hopkins
Leit John Dexter
Samuell Comstock
Thomas Arnold
Samuell Winsor

Epenetus Olney
Thomas Hopkins
Thomas Harris Jun.
Benjamin Whipple
John Tillinghast
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Enquiry into the Untimely Death of Elizabeth pearce, the Daughter of Ephraim pearce and Hannah his wife aged about one year and halfe, August the fivetenth one thousand Six hundred and Seaventy Nine.

Per me John Whipple, Assistant.

I found also several other cases of similar medico-legal affairs but this one is, I think sufficient to show our ancestors painstaking care and accuracy.

That due care was taken of the insane even in the earliest times, is seen from the following—a portion of a letter addressed to the Town Council in 1650 by Roger Williams himself :

Town Paper 043.

For 3 rdly I craue yor Consideration of yt Lamentable object (what shall I say of all or censure or pitie I am sure) of all our Wonder and astonishmt Mrs. Weston : my experience of ye distempers of persons elsewhere makes me confident yt (although not in all things yet) in a great measure she is a distracted woman My request is yt you would be pleased to take what is left of hers into yor owne hand and appoint some to order it for her supply : and if it may be let some publike Act of mercie to her Necessities stand upon Record amongst ye Mercifull Acts of a mercifull Towne, yt hath received many Mercies from Heaven and remembers yt we know not how soone or wives may be widows and or Children Orphans, yea and orselves be deprived of all or most of or Reason, before we goe from hence exsept mercy from ye God of Mercies prevent it.

I found also two other important records on this matter, one in 1729 in regard to Daniel Brown—Town Paper 0731 ; and a warrant for a Town Council meeting in 1750 to consider the care of Simeon Smith, town paper 0958.

Smallpox was an early visitor to the settlers of this State previous to the time when the discovery of the immortal Jenner had mitigated its terrors, causing death and mourning in many families. On the 27th day of June 1721 Zabdiel Boylston of Boston inoculated his only son for smallpox, the first person ever submitted to the operation in the New World. The first persons inoculated in Rhode Island were treated by Dr. Jonathan Easton in 1772. The first severe visitation of smallpox to this Colony took place in 1690 and the disease raged with great violence. Public affairs were neglected, the Assembly then sitting in Newport did little business—private trade operations were neglected through the winter of 1690-91. Newport was the greatest sufferer. In 1712 the first efforts were made to combat the disease by legislation, a quarantine act being then passed ; it was not however, very effective for in 1716 the disease again made its appearance in several ports of the colony. Providence had its first smallpox hospital in 1751 when the General Assembly made an appropriation for its establishment. There had probably been earlier cases of the disease in Rhode Island. Providence Town paper 066 is a protest by Joseph Turpin and nine others against their detention on board a vessel where they were “all well except ye boye” and they were “very

loath to stay on board with him any longer." This protest was dated June 6, 1752. As I have before said inoculation was introduced into the colony in 1772, and in that year the General Assembly attempted to legalize the practice which had developed intense opposition. The proposed legislation was defeated, but the operation was continued by intelligent physicians. In 1776 however the matter was again brought before the Assembly which voted to establish a hospital in each County where persons could go to be inoculated.

Providence town paper 1031—dated July 26, 1776 is a bill of William Compton covering several dates for "warning a town Mitting by Drum for Enoculation," six shillings for each warning. Providence in 1810 employed Sylvanus Fansher to vaccinate the public, the town paying the expense: he vaccinated 4,305 persons and rendered a bill of \$233.25 or about five cents for each operation which certainly was cheap enough.

Dr. William Bowen's bill for attendance on smallpox patients from August 18, 1776 to February 1777 was a little over thirteen pounds. These extracts from the old town records will be closed so far as smallpox is concerned by the following which certainly shows that some ideas of sterilization were even at that time entertained:

Providence, October 12, 1787. "This certificate that I Daniel Bucklin, agreeable to an order of the Town Council have bin on Bord the Brig Providence Capt. James Delwolf from Cape Francis and Being all Day yesterday on Bord and find that there is onely one Person on Bord But what hath had the Smallpox Before they belonged to said Brig, and this one having been eniculated about 18 days past, and appears to be as well as any Man on Bord, having had the Smallpox in the most easy manner that any person has it by inoculation and he being yesterday thoroughly Smoaked and Cleansed together with his clothing and the vessel also being smoked and cleansed and Dried with all the people & thair clothing together with everything on Board in such a manner that it is my opinion No Dainger nor risque of Communicating the Smallpox can occrue from her comming up to the whorf and Discharging her Cargo.

Daniel Bucklin.

To the Honorable Town Counsel of of Providence.

The closing decade of the eighteenth century was marked by the appearance in Rhode Island and Providence Plantations of an epidemic disease that was variously called by different Physicians "Malignant fever," "Pestilential fever," "Putrid fever" and "Yellow fever." It is quite certain that there were many fatalities from the latter deadly malady. It should be stated however, that, long before the outbreak of this epidemic, in 1723 a disease visited Providence and its vicinity which was called "burning Ague" and from its effects eighteen men, sixteen women and nine children died in the three months, July first to October first. This outbreak was undoubtedly Yellow fever, and even at this time the cause of the disease is in dispute and it is by many physicians believed to be propagated chiefly through the agency of filth. It is just as well, however, to mention at this time the results of the investigations of the U. S. Army Surgeons who have made it very certain that

mosquitoes are the chief factors in the spread of Yellow fever. It is well known from the old records that Yellow fever prevailed in those parts of Providence where there were many stagnant pools which are the breeding places of these insects.

The first cases appeared in Providence in the year 1791 and were attended by Dr. William Bowen at this time you will remember the leading physician in this vicinity. In the same year a number of sailors on vessels arriving at Newport were attacked by the malady and were treated by Dr. Isaac Senter, the most prominent physician of that city. The disease appeared with renewed virulence in mid summer 1797. In September, 1797 as seen in Town paper 12178 there was a proposal by John Brown that "large fires of Naval stores and other light fuel to keep up a large blaze on every wharf from Austen's to the South End of the Town all at the same time when the wind is Westerly be built to cure the town." That this proposition was carried out is indicated by numerous bills following for brimstone, rosin, tar, tar barrels, trucking tar kettles, etc. for use in "Smoking the Streets." The belief then prevailing that Yellow fever was brought in and propagated to a large extent by incoming vessels as well as another evidence of an honest attempt at sterilization is found in the following;—

Town Paper 12119

Capt. Isaac Cahoone.

Providence, August 21, 1797.

Sir:—You are hereby requested to Immediately go on board the schooner Betsy, Capt. Burr Comander and proceed forthwith to Smoake the said vessel with Sulphur, Tar &c., as may serve to cleanse the said vessel from any infection in order to prevent any Contagion taking place from said Vessel and to preserve the Health of this Town from the malady with which it is now infected. By order of the Town Council, Tho Lloyd Halsey, Jon'n Treadwell.

This document was supplemented on the following day by an order to pay Captain Cahoone eight dollars for "Cleansing and getting said Schooner down the River."

Dr. Charles F. Bartlett of Newport wrote a pamphlet in 1801, a copy of which is in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society in which he described the origin and progress of the disease in that City. It will be of interest to note the fact that Dr. Bartlett strongly discountenanced the use of "salts of tartarized antimony" in the treatment of Yellow fever. He says "I have constantly found in the course of my practice ill effects from their use. They always increase the irritability of the stomach (which is the affection most to be guarded against) and consequent debility. I have with greater advantage in the first stage and to answer the first intention of cure used the following evacuant. R Calomel twenty grains, Pulverized R ad Jalap twenty gr. m." He then explains the beneficial action of these drugs on the patient. It is not surprising that differences of opinion as to the best means of treating the then little known disease should have arisen, for they also exist today. The outbreak gradually decreased through the years 1801-5 and finally disappeared.

Of Cholera I shall not speak for it did not appear till about 1832 and

I have tried to confine myself for the most part to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Now let us look backward again for a few moments and see from the actual original records what we can learn of the materia medica and the professional fees of our ancestors. For these two, as we shall see, were closely allied. In every bill rendered, to the town at least, each dose as well as each visit was carefully recorded.

In the course of his essay on "The Medical Profession in Massachusetts" Dr. Holmes says "I had submitted to me in 1862 a manuscript found among the Winthrop papers marked with the superscription. 'For my worthy friend Mr. Winthrop,' dated London, 1643, signed Edward Stafford, and containing medical directions and prescriptions. Whether the paper was written for Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts or his son, Governor John of Connecticut, there is no positive evidence that I have been able to obtain. It is very interesting however, as giving short and simple practical directions such as would be most like to be wanted and most useful in the opinion of a physician in repute of that day." In this paper is described what is called "My black powder against the plague small pox; purples all sorts of fevers; Poyson either by Way of Prevention or after Infection." This marvelous remedy was made by putting live toads into an earthen pot so as to half fill it, and Baking and burning them "in the open ayre, not in an house" until they could be reduced, by pounding, first into a brown, then into a black powder.

Another cure for fever and ague described is as follows: "Pare the patients nails; put the parings in a little bag and hang the bag around the neck of a live eel, and put him in a tub of water. The eel will die and the patient will recover." The "Rubila" of Governor Winthrop is thus described: "Four grains of (diaphoretic) antimony with twenty grains of nitre with a little salt of tin, making rubila." Perhaps something was added to redden the powder as he constantly speaks of "rubifying" or "viridating" his prescriptions when his powders look like plain salt or sugar.

A careful search has failed to find any record of such remedies used here but it is not at all improbable that Dr. John Clark or Dr. John Cranston used them with varying success.

The first actual bill I was able to find is dated March 28, 1763.

Town paper 374

The Town of Providence to Henry Sterling to Attendance Medecine &c as per Book for Mrs. Sarah Hamilton in the Small Pox.

1763)

March). E. Excep Dr. H. Sterling

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*Inflated Currency.

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Town paper 455

Another of Dr. William Bowen.

1769 Town of Providence to William Bowen, Dr

To attendance & medecine to John Dolder at the work house by order of my Brother Jabez who was then overseer Pore £1.10.0
 To strengthening & anodyne Powder for Ind Girl wo H. 2
 To Bleeding Ditto Ind Girl 4.6
 To Visits & Directions to John Lad W. H. from June 12th to July 21 by Order of the Overseer of the Poor. 1.10

£3.6.6

Many of these bills against the town are very long and some of them very hard to decipher, but the following of Dr. Sterling will suffice to show the general method.

Town Paper 498.

Provid^e 19 June 1772.

The Town to H Sterling D^r for Mary Hawks order Mr Zephiniah Andrews.

	to a visit & Dressings Daily Repeated		
	20 Sal. Cath. Glot.		0-0-9
	22 Alterative Pills	xx	2-10
	29 Cordial Balsami drops		2-8
July	3 Alterative Powds	xii	3-6
	11 Ext of Hemlock Pills		5-8
	21 Balsami Cordial Mixture	§ vii	2-10
	29 Anodine Balsami drops		1-4
Aug	1 Alterative Bals. Powd	xii	3-6
	4 Pectoral Pills	x	1-10
	7 Salts		9
	15 Powd of the Bark & Rhubarb	xii	4-6
	21 Powd as before	xii	4-6
	29 The same	xii	4-6
Sept.	4 Alterative powders	vi	1-6
	7 Salts		-9
	11 Alterative Electary	§ vi	3-4
	15 Salts & Manna 2 doses		2-0
	19 Pectoral Pills	xxii	2-4
	Pectoral Balsam Mixture	§ vii	2-10
	23 Tinct of the Bark & Rhubarb		4-2
	26 Salts & Manna 3 doses		3-0
	30 Anodine Pills	v	1-0
	Salts & Manna 2 doses		2-0
	To a visit & Dressing at the house		
	For the Space of Ninety five days		4-12-0 £7-16-11

Another of Dr. Sterlings reads :

Town paper (?)

Providence Feby 13 1772.

The Town for Sarah Olney to Henry Sterling Dr

13 To attendance &c for five Days & three nights . 3.12.0
 18 Delivering Her, Care, Medicines & attendance for Her and child for Sixteen Days

March	5	To Curing Her of the Venereal Disorder of eighteen months standing	2.10.2
	23	To Medicines care & attendance for Her in the pleurisy &c	
April	2	as per book	1. 9.6
April	2	Dismissed well Her & Child.	
			<u>£7.19.8</u>

As showing the method of procedure on the part of the overseer of the poor, and the town physician I give you the following:
Town paper 457

Providence August 27 1772.

Doct^r Arnold

You are hereby desired to Visit the Children of the widow Briggs at the work House & give them such necessary assistance as is proper and Charge the same to the Town of Providence as reasonably as possible

Nath^l Wheaton

Over Seer of the poor for Town.

And to prove that Dr. Arnold did as bidden.

Town paper 600.

Town of Providence to Jon^a Arnold Dr.

To vis^o med^o &c for the Children of the widow Briggs at the work house by order of Cap Nath^l Wheaton one of the overseers of the Poor from August 27th to Dec 17th 1772

1.9.10

To vist^o Med &c for Mary Doane & verbal order of s^d Wheaton Dec. 13th 1773.

3.9

£1.13.7

And again

Town paper 3343

Providence Feb^y 22^d 1785 Sir Cap^t Thomas Field informs me that Old Misses Fisk is on well, as he may inform you more perticuler. I tharfore Request you, if agreable, to make her a Visit, and if need Be to administer Such med-
isone for her Release as may appear prudent and nesarie, on the Town acc^t &c. from

Yours to Serve at Command

Nath^l Wheaton Ov^r Poor

To Doc^t Pardon Bowen
Present.

Town paper 3426 Town of Providence to Pardon Bowen Dr

Feb ^y	22	To visit Cathartic Sena Salts &c	
		Dos 3 For Mrs. Fisk by Nath ^l Wheaton Esq Order	0.6.0
	23	To Visit Julep febrifug. diopphoret	
		Dos. 12 and advice D ^o	0.6.0
	24	To Visit Julep. fibrif diop ^t ʒ v	0.3.8
	25	To Visit and advice	0.1.0
March	9	To Visit and advice	0.1.0
	10	To Visit Bot Votee ʒ ii vial & advice	0.3.9

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Esq Order 0.6.0
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 0.3.8
 0.1.0
 0.1.0
 0.3.9
£1.2.11

Accidents occurred necessitating operations and other surgical procedures as is seen by these.

Town paper 3694

Jan 10, 1785

The Town of Providence to Henry Sterling Dr
 To ten weeks Attendance and Cure to John Delany's Hand that was Blown to peases Blowing Rock £7.13.4
 Feb. 10, 1785 James Arnold the town treasurer ordered to pay
 Paid Nov. 14, 1785.

Town paper 4720

Bill Pardon Bowen.

" Amputating Prince Jenckes leg with subsequent visits & dressings "
 Nov. 29 1787 to Feb. 21 £20.13.10

Town paper 5579

The Town of Providence to Henry Sterling Dr
 To six Days attendance and strengthening Plastr and Galy pot of oyntm^t for James Lee who Broke both the Bones in his Leg in Mr. John Francis' Service £0.13.4
 Providence April 5, 1790

Town paper 6912

1792 Town Prov. to Pardon Bowen
 " Jan. 18 To visits & amputating leg of John Brown a Negro by Mr. Thos. Jones' order " £5.0.0.

Town paper 8743

May 21, 1794, Town Providence to Pardon Bowen
 " To visit and reducing Fracture of Leg Bone for Jn^o Luthers child by Request of Mr. W^m Richmond 1.15.0
 22 To visit set Leather splints and dressing D^o 0. 4.0
 28 To visit examination and directions 0. 2.0

£1. 1.0

That an extra charge was made then as now for night visits is shown by the following :

Town paper 7532

Bill of Pardon Bowen, 1784
 To visit & call up in Night
 Anodyne & advice £0.4.0
 To visit advice morning 0.2.0
 In obstretic practice I find much difference in the fees for instance

Town paper 10525

Overseer of ye Poor of ye Town of Providence 9 mo 5th 1793
 To Thom^s Greene Dr
 To attendance, Delivering Blk woman at the work House med &c 0.15.0
 9 mo 17 To attendance, Deliyering white woman at the same place med^o 0.15.0
 and Town paper 10537

Town of Providence to Pardon Bowen Dr 1795
 To Attendance, Delivering Ruth Curtis and Anti Venereal Medicines for herself and Child as per acct. exhibited to Mr Richmond £5.4.6

That the town at times had a regularly appointed physician paid by the year is shown by the following :

Town paper 691

Providence Aug 11, 1774.
 Pay unto Amos Troop the sum of Three Pounds Lawful Money for his Service as a Physician in Doctoring the Poor persons of this Town the Last Year. Signed by order and in behalf of the Council.
 To the Town Treasure of the Town of Providence by James Angel

C. Clerk

and this Town paper 981

The Town of Providence to Amos Throop Dr.
 For Medicines and attendance for the poor of said Town from August 1774 to August 1775 six pounds

Providence June 5, 1776.

Dr. Throop was the town physician for a number of years. Later on there was evidently some rivalry in regard to this position as is seen by this :

Town paper 6464

" On request of one of the Overseers of the poor of this town who conceiving the inhabitants under more expence than necessary on account of attendance &c of Physicians on the sick who are chargable to the town & I also am of opinion that the same business might be done at less cost & with more convenience by some one person whom the town may think proper to appoint. I therefore Offer my service to attend On & furnish medicine for the sick among those who are considered to be the poor of the town according to the best of my abilities as the overseers may direct for the sum of thirteen pounds ten shillings & I flatter myself I shall be able to give satisfaction

From your friend Tho' Greene.

To the Freemen of the town of provid^e In town meeting held by adjourn^t 8th m^o 1st Day 1791."

Dr. Greene did not get the appointment, for town paper 6461 reads :

" At a Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Providence on the 1st Day of August A D 1791

Resolved, That Nine Pounds Lawful Money be allowed and paid out of the Town treasury to Doct. Joseph Mason provided that he attend the Poor of the Town as a Physician when requested and furnish all necessary Medicines for the Space of One Year from this time ; and that in case of Need or Difficulty he call in some other skillfull Physician to his Assistance at his own Expence.

A true Copy

Witness Dan Cooke.

The first bill rendered to the town by a physician and made out in dollars and cents I found in town paper 16545 :

1799 Town of Providence to Benj Dyer Dr

Jan.	25	To visit restraining hemorrhage and dressing wounded Foot for Mr Gilman order W ^m Richmond Esq	\$1.
	26	Visit and Dressing Do	.66
	28	" " " "	.66
	29	" " " "	.56
	31	" " " 3 ss salve	.56
Feb.	2	" " " "	.56

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11	To visit and Dressing, To Emp. Episport mag.				
	Pill Sena aqua ophthalmica	ss	i	and vial, Etc.	1.50

The last town paper I shall present to you is a portion of a letter of, so far as I know, unknown authorship giving the following graphic description of a visit of Dr. Hewes.

Town paper 14815

Prov July 22nd 1782 Then Jonathan Drown came to Providence & by the Request of our family informed me of My furthers being Daingerously Ill in which I Took my horse & Rode over with him & after Visiting him & found him much unwell Returned home the same afternoon to git some nurishing cordals & after Percuring them got to Bed. My Brother came over after the Doctor after calling me we amediately Persew the matter & found the Doctor visiting a patient at W^m Seofers with his horse staning at the Dawr. He came over with us got to farthers in the morning of the 23 & after the Docter had examined his Case he Bled him & then gave him a puke & Returned home the same Day with me "

And alas it does not say whether or not the treatment resulted in a cure—

Had I not already consumed so much of your time, I should like very much to say a few words about each one of those men whose lives and professional services have given them a place among the best known physicians of Rhode Island.

Could you see and read their hand writing as I have done the past few weeks I am sure you would be as deeply impressed as I have been by their honesty and integrity, their grace and dignity.

Between the lines you would read a story of whole-souled earnest endeavor to find the truth and live up to it; a scrutinizing search for everything which could in any way advance their own knowledge and the knowledge of their fellows in the treatment of disease and the alleviation of pain.

John Clark, William Hunter, Thomas Moffatt, John Halliburton, David Oliphant, Isaac Senter, Henry Sterling, Jonathan Easton, Benjamin Waterhouse, Benjamin Mason, the Bowens, Richard, Thomas, Jabez, Joseph, William, Pardon, William C.; Ephriam Bowen, Joseph Hewes and Jonathan Arnold, contemporaries about the revolutionary period. Amos Throop, the first president of the Rhode Island Medical Society, Levi Wheaton, Solomon Drowne and Caleb Fiske, are names never to be forgotten. These knightly men were our predecessors in the profession, elder brothers, whose feet have trod the paths we tread, whose chaises have rumbled over the same streets on which we daily pass.

Which of us does not desire to emulate the qualities of their characters to be courteous, generous, courageous, skillful, successful, patriotic and beloved?

Let us then honor the inheritance of such examples with the hope that in the years to come our names may be added to those already on Rhode Island's list of worthies, "Without Fear and Without Reproach."

RNAL.

Physician paid by the

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Angel
C. Clerk

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