

1900. Brassuer and Sampole produced color photographs.  
1900-01. Dr. Reed demonstrated that yellow fever is conveyed by mosquitoes. Mary Kingsley medal awarded to Dr. Carlos Finlay, 1907.  
1900. Defaur made pyrometer with quartz bulb and tin as the liquid, Muschenbrock, 1730, used a metal bar; Wedgwood used clay 1788; Siemens electricity, 1871.  
1906. Pure Food and Drugs' Act in United States, June 30.  
1907. Beltwood's theory that lead is the final decay in the Uranium series, twenty-six elements from Uranium to lead.  
1909. Willstaetter obtained crystallized chlorophyll.  
1910. Tenth International Congress of Pharmacy at Brussels.  
1912. Journal A. Ph. A. first published.  
1912. Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, Washington, D. C., and New York City, with a Section on Pharmaceutical Chemistry, well attended by pharmacists and chemists of all nations.  
1913. Sixty-first Annual Convention A. Ph. A. at Nashville, Tenn.

---

JOHN KING, M. D.\*

---

JOHN URI LLOYD, CINCINNATI.

---

Born in New York City, January 1, 1813; died in North Bend (a suburb of Cincinnati), Ohio, June 19, 1893.

*Early Life.* The father of Dr. John King was an officer in the New York Customs House. His mother was a daughter of the Marquis La Porte, who came from France with the Marquis de Lafayette, to aid the colonists in their struggle for independence. His parents were in comfortable circumstances, and gave their son a liberal education, intending that he should enter mercantile life.

The trend of his disposition, however, was towards the professions and sciences, he being apt in mathematics and proficient in languages. At the age of nineteen, five languages were at his command, and until near the date of his death, he delighted in German and French literature, the latter being with him a special favorite. At that date French was preeminently the language of science, and to King it was a pleasure to read the current scientific literature, translating therefrom for the medical press of this country, a habit he retained with the methodical habits of his early life, even to a ripe old age.

Immediately after leaving college, he learned the art of engraving bank notes, and ever afterward his hand writing was as smooth and uniform as a page of copper plate. Every page of his numerous publications, including his great American Dispensatory, was written in his own hand, and every word was faultless, every letter distinct, every punctuation mark carefully selected, every sen-

---

\*This brief biography is compiled, largely, from an article by this writer, published in the *Western Druggist*, December, 1893, and reprinted in the *Eclectic Medical Journal, Cincinnati*, January and February, 1894. The writer regrets that space does not now permit of a more extended paper on the life of this remarkable man, a subject of absorbing interest. But those desiring greater details will find them in the admirable work of Professor Harvey Wickes Felser, M. D., in *Bulletin No. 10 (Pharmacy Series No. 5)*, of the Lloyd Library of Botany, Pharmacy and Materia Medica. In this is also presented an admirable frontispiece engraving of the man whose work is herein described.

tence polished and perfect. He was one of the closest of proof readers, and to this writer he more than once expressed his humiliation that through an oversight, one of the pages of his American Dispensatory (numbering 1500 pages), carried, uncorrected, the words "white lard," where he had written "*white lead.*"

In early life, Dr. John King exhibited a love for humanity that became intensified as he approached old age. He was continually helping forlorn children, dividing with them his own possessions, and caring for those less favored, as best he could.

His brilliance of intellect, from an early age, is shown by the fact that at the age of twenty-two years, he delivered a course of lectures in the Mechanics' Institute, New York, on "Magnetism and Its Relations to the Earth, to Geology, to Astronomy, and to Physiology," which were enthusiastically received, and repeated before the New Bedford (Mass.), Lyceum. He was also fond of music and the legitimate in drama, and wrote several plays that had a run on the stage. He gave occasional lectures on temperance, but was not a fanatic, using wine temperately himself, though decrying its abuse, even as he did that of medicine.

Dr. King was twice married, his first wife being Charlotte D. Armington, who died in 1847, leaving six children, several of whom are now living, including a son, Dr. John A. King, of St. Louis, Mo. His second wife, widow of Stephen Henderson Platt, New York City, was the daughter of John and Mary Rudman, of Penn Yan, N. Y.

*Entrance Into Professional Life.* Determining, finally, to become a physician, John King affiliated, as was to be expected from his ideals and family record, with the reformers, or liberal section of American physicians. In this he made a great mistake, as the majority of people look at life, but not as John King viewed the problem. To him, the great work to be accomplished was in the line of reforming the evils that he believed afflicted mankind as a result of the medical methods of those days. He well realized that reformers must ever be in the minority, and that the humanitarian must make great personal sacrifices. Before the inflexible code that then dominated physicians, the outsider in medicine could have no professional existence, and was even ostracised socially, regardless of scholarly attainments or scientific qualifications. When, therefore, at the age of twenty-five, John King, already recognized as student, scientist and scholar, graduated from the Reform Medical School of New York, he became, in the minds of most followers of the medical profession of that day, "John King, charlatan and quack." It has been said of him that "he began his civilizing career in those dark days when medical heresy was dangerous; when depletion unto death was unquestionably 'science'; when the mildest penalty for independent manhood in medicine was personal traduction, and social, no less than professional ostracism."

*Professional Experiences.* Dr. John King, the now enthusiastic medical reformer, united his efforts with those of Wooster Beach and other reformers of the early day, sacrificing the opportunities he undoubtedly had, to become conspicuous and popular in the dominant school. He traveled extensively over the country, studying the remedies employed in domestic medication, and search-

ing the fields and forests for untried drugs, it being an ideal with both himself and his collaborators, that America was destined to contribute largely to the medicinal agents of the world. He abhorred heroic medication, and insisted that charity began with kindness to the sick. He loved Nature, had faith in vegetable remedies, and in contradistinction to the often cruel methods of that day, he favored pleasant medication, a course that finally led him to become one of the founders of the Eclectic school of medicine, in which he well earned the title, "*Father of Eclecticism.*"

In 1846 Mr. King moved to Sharpsburg, Kentucky, where he studied the products of the fields and forests, experimenting in his office laboratory and corresponding with other reformers, "Liberals" and "Eclectics," as they were then beginning to be called, contributing continually to such publications as the *Western Medical Reformer*, and the *College Journal*, Cincinnati. At that time, he being then in the prime of life, the following pen picture was given of him by Dr. A. J. Howe, a description that well applied to the very ending of his life:

"In a general resumé of Prof. King's characteristics, his personnel should not pass unnoticed. He was large in head and trunk, but small in hand and foot. His average weight was 225 pounds. His eyes were blue, and his skin soft and white. There was a peculiar sweetness of expression in his face that few men possess. His manners were those of a well-bred gentleman, and never could he be coarse or morose. He walked with a stately tread, yet with graceful elasticity. His smile, which was easy to elicit, was winning and mirth provoking. It has been said that he never had an enemy, and never was in a quarrel of his own provoking. In a thirty-five years' acquaintance, I never saw him in an angry mood. An expression of his was, that if you would be happy, your conscience must be clear. Dr. King was naturally or instinctively religious, though not bigoted nor intolerant. He would not wrench a shingle from any church edifice, yet contributed to the support of the Gospel in general. He occasionally conducted religious services in the church of his village when the clergyman was absent. His annual sermon to the class of medical students was calculated to do much good to the set of young men who do not properly estimate the influence they are to exert in the world."

In 1849 Dr. King moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he occupied the chair of *Materia Medica* in the Memphis Institute. This position he resigned in 1851, to become Professor of Obstetrics in the Eclectic Medical Institute, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a position he filled until removed by a stroke of paralysis, shortly before his death in 1893. During this long period of forty years, Dr. King taught his classes, with scarcely a lecture missed. Of those who received his instruction, all loved him dearly, those who are yet living revering his memory second only to that of Washington, and considering the name of Dr. John King on their diplomas as the highest honor to be desired by an Eclectic.

*Professional Work.* The scientific writings of Dr. King are too numerous to mention in the space herein at command. They were scattered over fifty years of active life, and among them we find: *The American Dispensatory*, which passed through eight editions; *American Obstetrics*, 1855, of which three editions were issued; *Women, Their Diseases and Their Treatment*, 1858; *The*

*Microscopist's Companion*, 1859; *The American Family Physician*, 1860; and *Chronic Diseases*, 1866.

During his career, Dr. King discovered\* and introduced to his professional friends Podophyllin (resin of podophyllum), Macrotin (resin of cimicifuga), and Irisin (oleo-resin of iris versicolor), the first supplies for commerce being made by William S. Merrell, of Cincinnati. These, and other substances of similar or of alkaloidal nature (first introduced as Eclectic "resinoids"), such as the salts of Berberine (introduced as "Hydrastine"), and Sanguinarine, became regular remedies, and made Professor King conspicuous. The value of these substances led to flagrant abuses on the part of medicine makers, until at last the few worthy members of the the group were overshadowed by others of no credit to any one, a heterogenous collection, entitled to no legitimate home anywhere, being finally included in the commercial lists of "resins, resinoids, alkaloids and concentrations." Then it was that Dr. John King, who had discovered the first of the resins (Resin of Podophyllum), and who had been so enthusiastically hopeful in their behalf, roused by the frauds in that direction that were being perpetrated in the name of Eclecticism, found it necessary to deal the death blow to these products, which, so far as Eclecticism was concerned, was accomplished by his crushing letter to the *Worcester Journal of Medicine* (Eclectic), June, 1855, discrediting the "resinoids" as a class. Several worthy members of the list, however, still live to honor the name of their discoverer. In this connection it may be added that many vegetable remedies that grace the pages of the Pharmacopœia of the United States, trace their origin to Dr. John King.

In closing this phase of Dr. King's life, we must not neglect to state that from 1837 to 1855 he labored in connection with others, including Dr. Forbes, editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, to correlate the discordant schools of medicine, but in this they failed.

*Dr. King as a Philanthropist.* From the beginning of his career, as already stated, Dr. King was a philanthropist. In politics he aimed to be on the side of the oppressed. He was thus, from his earliest manhood, an Abolitionist, remaining a Republican until the issues that created that party had been consummated, but afterward only occasionally affiliating with that organization. He espoused the cause of labor, and in 1886 he wrote "The Coming Freeman," in behalf of the laboring classes. On the title page of this work we find, "I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled, to be ridden!"

The pen of Dr. King was ever ready to support what he considered the cause of the people, his greatest ambition being to give to others, both of the profession of medicine, and the laity. He always opposed medical laws or class legislation, contending that as then projected and enforced, such laws were designed to

---

\*See *Bulletin No. 12 (Pharmacy Series No. 2)*, of the Lloyd Library of Botany, Pharmacy and Materia Medica, entitled "The Eclectic Alkaloids, Resins, Resinoids, Oleo-Resins and Concentrated Principles," and including portraits and brief biographies of John King, William Stanley Merrell, Alexander Wilder, William Tully, Grover Coe, Robert Stafford Newton, Edward S. Wayne, Calvin Newton, and John Coakley Lettsom. 1910.

serve certain medical colleges, to suppress others, and to create favored classes, not to protect the people. Arguments designed to convince him that by law his own beloved college could be strengthened, served but the more to determine his opposition to such laws. He plainly stated that he did not desire to profit by such methods, and to the day of his death he refused to acquiesce in any move to legislate, as he expressed it, "against the people," protesting that the ultimate result of all medical laws, would be a medical hierarchy, in which a favored few, having reached a high political position, would subjugate the rank and file of the profession, to their own elevation and aggrandizement. Very interesting, indeed, was his address on this subject, delivered at the meeting in Cincinnati of the Eclectic Medical Association of America. As the years pass, this address will surely be read, with increasing interest, by professional men, not Eclectics.

To the end of his life Dr. King retained his intellect. During the last two years he often spoke cheerfully to this biographer of the approaching change, which he viewed as serenely as though it were merely a passing into sleep. "My work is done," he would say, "Now it is time for me to go."

*Comments by the Biographer.*—Professor John King was one of the first to take an interest in the life of this writer, encouraging him, when an apprentice, in 1863, to persevere in his studies, and by his advice in later years leading him to make a specialty of American drugs, at a time when such work was odious, and when few pharmacists would affiliate with Eclectics. Dr. King insisted that no other field offered such advantages for research, but that a man who entered it, must bear the odium of heterodoxy. From that time until the day of his death, Dr. King took a fatherly interest in the work that followed. One of his maxims was, "It matters little to you what others say about you, but it matters much what you do and say in return," and he ever counseled work and perseverance, not controversy and vituperation. By this rule, right or wrong, he lived, as history will record, and under this rule he died. As the years pass, it becomes increasingly apparent that it was better for all the world, that his life should have been spent on the side of the minority, amid the bitterness of professional exclusion, rather than in the ease that comes to a conspicuous scholar, who casts his lot with the majority.

In every sense of the word, Dr. King was a gentleman. It was once my pleasure to introduce to him my friend, Dr. Charles Mohr. After an hour had passed and we had departed, Dr. Mohr repeated, over and over again, "What a delightful gentleman! And this is Prof. King, the author of the *American Dispensatory*! What a cultured man!" The opponents of Dr. King did not know him, else they could not have retained their personal antagonism, and would have left unsaid many unkind words. The sweetest reflection that comes to me as I think of his kind self is that, whatever others may have done, no vicious sentences stand in his name; he bore no animosity against those whose views were different from his own. That a man so conspicuous as a reformer should have made antagonists, was necessary; but his opponents had never reason to complain of discourtesy on his part. It is surprising that in the face of thoughtless indignities heaped upon him, that would be considered unpardonable if expressed by gentlemen outside the medical profession, he should have maintained

his sweetness of disposition, and his charity for those who differed with him. Yet he did so, and never, to my knowledge, said an abusive word in return. He firmly maintained his stand in favor of American medicine, the American materia medica, and medical liberty for Americans.

---

#### RECOGNIZING CUSTOMERS.

A successful cigar dealer, writing recently of his own methods in the Chicago Tribune, ascribed the remarkable growth of his business in great measure to one little detail of business policy.

“At thirty-eight,” he said, “I am the owner of a string of fifteen cigar stores, every one of which is making money. I have my good home and a motor car and a mighty nice income—and I owe most of it to one little detail I determined on when I first started business and to which I have adhered ever since.

“Eight years ago I started in the cigar store business. Before that time I had been a clerk, saving a little out of my wages every week against the time when I could start in for myself, and learning everything I possibly could about the business. I had studied the ways of customers, their likes and their dislikes—and I had discovered one great fact; the usual customer, when he enters a cigar store, likes to be known. He likes to be called by his name. Flattery, it is true, but all men are susceptible to it.

“Therefore, when I went into business I made up my mind that no man was going to come into my store the second time without my knowing his name. I tried the rule and I found it aided me. When I saw that some man was coming to my store two or three times in succession I made it a point to find out his name. Sometimes it meant a little expense and a good deal of trouble, but I did it just the same. And the next time he came I called him by his name and greeted him. I could see that the trouble I had taken pleased. It flattered the man to know that I was interested in him enough to want to know his name, and soon, instead of being just a casual customer, he became a real one. More than that, he became a friend of mine and booster for my business. The result was that when he saw a chance to send trade my way he did it. And as soon as that trade came I found out the name of the new man and used it to advantage.”

—Western Druggist.