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D. HAYES AGNEW.

DR. D. HAYES AGNEW, one of the most widely known and eminent surgeons in the United States, and for forty years or more a practitioner in Philadelphia, was born in Lancaster County, Penn., November 24, 1818, and was a son of the late Dr. Robert Agnew, who practised medicine in that region for nearly half a century and attained well merited prominence. His literary education was received at Moscow Academy, a school of renown, located in Chester County and at that time under the direction of Rev. Francis Latta; at Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, Penn., and at Newark College, Delaware, where Rev. John Holmes Agnew, a relative, was professor of languages. His future vocation, for which he had a natural inclination, having been determined upon, he matriculated at the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania and graduated therefrom in 1838. He practiced for a short time in Lancaster County, and then removing to Philadelphia, commenced teaching and lecturing on anatomy in the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, on College avenue, a famous school in which almost all the older medical men of distinction either were educated or taught in this line. He remained thus engaged, and also practicing his profession, and quickly obtained distinction in the latter as the logical result of his native ability, thorough education and untiring application, and his success as an instructor may be inferred from the fact that his classes in Surgical Anatomy and Operative Surgery soon grew to be the largest private classes in the country. He remained in this honorable position for many years, and upon the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, his class numbered 265 students, representing every State in the Union. Dr. Agnew was also the founder of the Philadelphia School of Operative Surgery. In 1854 he was elected Surgeon to the Philadelphia Hospital. In 1863 he was appointed demonstrator of anatomy and assistant lecturer on clinical surgery in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and a year later was elected one of the Surgeons to the Wills Hospital for Diseases of the Eye. In 1865 he was elected to a similar position in the Pennsylvania Hospital, and resigned after serving for twelve years, being re-elected in 1877. In 1867 he was elected one of the surgeons of the Orthopædic Hospital, and in 1870 was given the Chair of Clinical Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1871 was elected Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery in the same institution, which position he still holds, as he also

does that of the professorship of Clinical Surgery in the hospital of the University. Dr. Agnew has been identified with many societies, most of them of medical or scientific purpose, though among the oldest was one of entirely different nature—the American Colonization Society, of which Henry Clay was President. He is a member of the American Philosophical Society, was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Pathological Society, is a member of the Academy of Surgery, and of the College of Physicians, and has been President of the Philadelphia County, and of the State Medical Societies, and of the American Surgical Association. Highly valued contributions to the literature of the profession have been made by Dr. Agnew, during his fifty years of arduous practice and instruction. Among his works is one on “Practical Anatomy,” one on “Lacerations of the Female Perineum and Vesico-Vaginal Fistula;” a series of papers, about sixty in number, on “Anatomy in its Relations to Medicine and Surgery;” an exhaustive work, of recent years, on “Principles and Practice of Surgery,” in three volumes, aggregating 3,000 pages, and in addition to these he has made numerous contributions to medical journals on varied surgical topics. As is well known, Dr. Agnew has devoted himself almost exclusively to surgery, its practice, and instruction in the art. He is a master of every branch or department of surgery, and the rapidity and skillfulness of his operations, and the scholarly character of his literary contributions, have made his fame world wide. In his capacity as surgeon and as consulting physician he has been called into many cases of importance and of prominence in general as well as medical history, among the latter the most generally known being the case of President Garfield, the victim of Charles J. Guiteau’s pistol on July 2, 1881, in which Dr. Agnew was the chief surgeon and whose skill, though the President’s wound was mortal, was an important factor in the prolongation of the martyr’s life for over ten weeks, until the angry and inflamed passions of partisans had become cool and it was rendered possible for the interests of law and good order to prevail. It may be remarked that the distinguished surgeon’s character as a man and citizen is in perfect keeping and accord with his professional prominence and ability, a condition of symmetrical development nowhere more admirable or necessary than in his vocation.