LIVES

OF

EMINENT AMERICAN

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

OF THE

Nineteenth Century.

EDITED BY

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CHARLES A. LUZENBERG.

1805—1848.

CHARLES ALOYSIUS LUZENBERG was born on the 31st of July, 1805, in the city of Verona, where his father, an Austrian of ancient and respectable family, had followed the army in the capacity of commissary. Soon after this event, his father returned with the army to Alsace, residing with his family alternately at Landau and Weissemberg. At the latter place one of his uncles was established as a practitioner of medicine; a circumstance which, perhaps, gave his father the idea of educating him for that profession.

His earliest tuition was at the public school of Landau, where his precocity first evinced itself, in the rapidity with which he learned arithmetic, and the French and Latin languages. Afterward, when his father moved to Weissemberg, he was received into the city college, at the early age of ten years, being the youngest pupil ever admitted. On account of his attainments, the rules for admission were waived in his favor, and he was held up as a model to the other scholars.

In the year 1819 his father left his native country and settled with his family in Philadelphia, and sparing no expense, sacrificed almost all his means to procure for his eldest son every facility his adopted city could afford for the completion of his studies. True to the German standard of a perfect education, he was taught music, fencing, boxing, and other exercises in gymnastics, and soon acquired the same proficiency in the athlete which he afterwards attained in the medical arena.
In 1825 he attended the lectures of the Jefferson Medical College, and evinced such assiduity and zeal in the acquisition of knowledge, especially in the dissecting rooms, as to furnish, even at that early period, strong indications of his future eminence. Although he made the study of his profession the base-line of his pursuits, he did not neglect to prosecute the departments of classical literature, and especially natural history; which latter he made subsidiary to comparative anatomy, and in this he engaged con amore.

At this period, Dr. Physick was in the zenith of his surgical career, and it is presumed gave a bias to the mind of his hospital pupil for his particular department. Hence surgery became his ruling passion; and he spared no trouble or pains, by constant attendance at the Almshouse, or by going almost any distance to witness an important or interesting operation.

In the year 1829, he went to New Orleans, taking with him many most flattering letters, but contenting himself with delivering a single one to Dr. David C. Ker, one of the visiting physicians to the Charity Hospital. On his first visit to that institution, upon the invitation of Dr. Ker, he performed a difficult amputation, in a manner so satisfactory, and so indicative of that courage and genius, which were soon to ripen into maturity, that he was almost upon his arrival, and when scarcely known to the administrators, elected house-surgeon.

In this situation his talents found a field somewhat commensurate with their extent, and which soon brought him a rich harvest of celebrity and reputation.

The abundant opportunities here afforded of witnessing every variety of calamity and casualty to which suffering humanity is subject, and the many emergencies which tasked his judgment, boldness, and address, soon enabled him to acquire those qualities which are found in all great surgeons,—a sure and steady hand, an imperturbable self-possession, and a quick sagacity to seize new indications and employ, at the instant, the means of fulfilling them. These were only some of the evidences of his genius for surgery, which were now developed.

While in the pursuit of surgery, his earliest and his first love,
he was not unmindful of the importance of the other departments of his profession. About this time his attention was attracted to the numerous cases of small-pox which were received into the Charity Hospital. While engaged in the post-mortem examination of a patient who had been some years previously so afflicted with small-pox as to produce deep pits upon the face, Dr. Luzenberg was surprised to find that those parts of the body which had been protected in a great degree from the action of light by clothing were entirely unmarked. Putting this in connection with the fact recorded by Baron Larrey, with which he was doubtless acquainted, as he had read a great deal, viz., that the Egyptians and Arabians were accustomed to cover the exposed parts of small-pox patients with gold leaf, the idea was impressed upon his mind that light was the agent of this phenomenon. Acting upon this impression, he placed a number of patients in an apartment so constructed that the reflective rays of the sun, even at its meridian, could not penetrate within. The result confirmed his opinion, and fully established the position, that the exclusion of light prevents pitting; for all who were discharged cured, exhibited neither pit nor mark upon the face or body, and even such as had the disease in its worst confluent form, passed rapidly and without any difficulty through the maturative and desiccating stages, and recovered with comparatively none of those marks and disgusting discolorations which so signally disfigure the subjects of this most loathsome disorder. Thus satisfied of the correctness of his conclusion, he communicated the fact in scientific good faith to the class of young men around him, requesting them to prosecute the subject, with the view of further testing its reliability. One of them made it the subject of a paper, which will be found in the tenth volume, page 119, of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," for 1832, and thus attracted the attention of European physicians to the subject, as may be seen in the Revue Médicale, for August, 1832. Much acrimonious disputation transpired as to who was the actual discoverer of this method; at which we need not be surprised, when we remember the old adage that "there is
nothing new under the sun." Our own Physick was almost shorn of the eclat of one of his most important surgical discoveries by Dupuytren and Schmalkalken; and like him, if Dr. Luzenberg did not first bring into notice the practice of excluding the light in treating variolous disorders, he at all events revived it, and finally got as much credit for it as he deserved; for I well remember when I arrived in Paris, in 1832, that he was pointed out to me at one of the hospitals, by a French student, as an eminent American physician, who had discovered a new mode of treating small-pox.

His reputation soon spread beyond the walls of the Charity Hospital, and a better field was opened for him in private practice, which furnished additional scope for the exertion of all his powers, as well as the gratification of his highest ambition.

In March, 1832, he was married to Mrs. Mary Fort, daughter of the late Henry Clement, of New York. By the ample fortune which was at once, with the most exemplary confidence, placed at his disposal, he was raised to a height whence he could look down with pity upon the rivalries and jealousies of the profession, and in the seclusion of a well-stocked library, and all the appliances for study with which he now supplied himself, shut his ears against the hubbub of his assailants.

More eager now for the acquisition of knowledge than the accumulation of riches, he did not fall into the fatal error of supposing that the distinction he had already acquired entitled him to repose or indolence. He had learned enough—the most important learning—to be conscious of his comparative ignorance, and looking abroad from this new eminence to which he had urged his way, he felt the overpowering conviction that what he had already gained bore but a ratio, eternally decreasing, to what was still contained within the ever expanding horizon of knowledge. Thus did he determine to avail himself of his acquirements in the languages, to collect materials in Europe to erect the superstructure, for which he conceived he had but as yet laid the foundation.

He accordingly, on the 2d May, 1832, left New Orleans, accompanied by his family. He went by way of the West, with
a view of first acquainting himself with the features of his own country, and sailed from New York on the 1st of July following for Liverpool. Making excursions through England, Scotland, and Ireland, and taking notes of everything remarkable in these interesting countries, especially in the line of his profession, he next passed over into France, and spent the ensuing winter in Paris. Here he luxuriated in hospitals, schools of medicine, natural history, and the arts, and with a kind of peripatetic study, enriched his mind with all the valuable discoveries in science and art, for which the capital of France is so famous.

Partaking of the same industry which is manifested by the medical, scientific, and literary men at Paris, and which is wholly unknown in this country, he was with the professors and students before daylight in the morning, with taper in hand, pressing through the crowd at the bedside of the sick and diseased, or assisting at the material clinique of some illustrious professor. Hurrying from one hospital to another, he might be found at a more advanced hour of the day on the benches of the Ecole de Médecine, or at some other of the numerous colleges, academies, or gardens of natural history, hearing, seeing, feeling, and comparing all the multiplied and varied sources of spreading knowledge. The day was not long enough. The same enthusiasm carried him by night to the dissecting rooms and operating courses, hardly leaving him time to eat, drink, or sleep.

Thus he passed the whole winter in Paris, visiting, successively, the Hôtel Dieu, la Charité, la Pitié, and other institutions, going from one master to another, discussing all the opinions, ancient and modern, seeing all the methods, and preparing himself to shed a new lustre upon American medicine.

But it was chiefly at the unrivalled clinique of Dupuytren that he passed most of his time. Who has seen the Autocrat of the Hôtel Dieu, in green coat and white apron, treading with measured steps at the head of his crowded class, through the vast salles of his chirurgical empire, with his redoubtable looks and regal dignity, putting bluntly a few questions to each patient as he passes on, so pertinent as to draw forth
as prompt a response, without being fascinated by the power and omnipotence of his strong mind? But it was not for this ascendency and domination that Dr. Luzenberg admired the chirurgeon en chef; on the contrary, no one condemned more than he did his stern and despotic severity. It was for his wonderful acumen and diagnostic foresight, his oracular decision based upon scientific deduction, and the admirable forecast with which he modified general methods of practice according to particular individual cases, that he yielded to him the homage due to extraordinary merit. I have often heard him say that he would not give one morning's visit to the Hôtel Dieu for one whole year's knowledge that can be got from books. This is a high, but by no means exaggerated estimate.

Besides having been a perfect and finished operator, the Baron Dupuytren possessed a talent for clinical instruction that never was and never can, I think, be equalled. To have seen him give an apparently superficial glance at a patient, one would have believed the case to be a very simple one, or at all events to possess few points of interest; but arrived in the amphitheatre, he would overwhelm you with a crowd of interesting circumstances, discuss them with his peculiar method and spirit of order, and expose the perilous intricacies of the case with as much precision and perspicuity as if he had weighed and elaborated them in the silence of his study. So, likewise, when he performed an operation, he showed, after it was over, and the patient removed, how thoroughly he had comprehended its diagnostic problem, and deliberated before proceeding to the dernier resort, although for all this but a few moments were required. In addition to these brilliant qualities, "the first surgeon of the king" possessed what was still more important in a clinical lecturer,—an inexhaustible fund of practical reflections of the highest interest, which a talent for extemporaneous speaking, and a command of words, resulting from his knowledge of the languages, enabled him to impart in a diction so pure and elegant as actually to serve as a lesson in elocution to the students. I shall never forget the satisfaction Dr. Luzenberg expressed at an incident, which
confirmed his opinion of the value and importance of a thorough knowledge of the dead languages, to render a physician's preparatory education complete, and to admit him into the great catholic communion and fellowship of scholars throughout all ages and all nations.

It was during one of those unlooked for occurrences in the operating amphitheatre, which exemplified all the resources of his genius, that M. Dupuytren addressed himself to a German student who had stepped forward from the first bench, directing him how to assist him. The young man hesitated, and replied in Latin that he did not understand the French language. Never disconcerted, M. Dupuytren readily explained himself in Latin, and the brilliant operation was soon concluded.

I have thus dwelt upon the splendid qualifications of M. Dupuytren, because he embodied the beau ideal of professional eminence, which Dr. Luzenberg had set up in his own mind for future attainment, in a higher degree than any other of the living surgeons of the day, and presented in his qualities, like the artist in the statue of Praxiteles, the aggregated excellencies of the partial and subordinate, but highly meritorious worth around him. To this standard of excellence he modelled all his future efforts, and worked up to it unceasingly with a pre-determined resolution. Not that it was in the nature of Dr. Luzenberg, gifted as he was with a lofty, independent, and capacious intellect, to seek for and depend upon foreign resources; for his whole life in medicine, as in everything else, was a practical illustration of the motto, *Nullius addictus ju-rare in verba magistri*; but what I wish to be understood as saying is this, that, in his enthusiastic admiration of M. Dupuytren, he contemplated, like an artist, the nearest approximation to the conception of a standard he had previously formed in his own mind, and which he had assigned to himself as a life-work.

After spending five months in Paris, Dr. Luzenberg proceeded on his travels through Europe, visiting most of the principal cities of Germany, Italy, Prussia, Poland, Holland,
and the Netherlands, and taking copious notes of the hospitals and everything pertaining to medical science, which he at one time had some idea of publishing, but which incessant demands upon his time and attention afterward prevented.

At Göttingen he was much gratified by the attention he received at the hands of the distinguished Langenbeck and Himly, who, it would seem, took especial pains to acquaint him with the mode of their university public lectures, which are delivered gratuitously at the respective houses of each professor and who, likewise, have their hospitals within their own domiciles. The constitution of these seminaries is such as to permit the professor to deliver as many private courses as he pleases, and charge whatever he thinks fit, or can get. Hence result a subdivision of the branches unheard of in our home economy, and a competition and rivalry among the professors, which exert a wholesome reaction among the pupils.

At Cracow he had the satisfaction of meeting with an uncle, who was commander of that portion of the Austrian army stationed in that neighborhood, and who furnished him with a special passport for visiting the wonderful salt mines of Wieliczka.

His range of investigation was not limited to the prosecution of the different branches of medical and chirurgical science, or to attendance at the hospitals and lectures of the most renowned teachers in the world, but to the best acquisitions in medicine he added the study of mineralogy, zoology, botany, and the fine arts; so that when he returned home he brought with him a choice collection of rare and precious specimens, and subsidies in every department of knowledge and art.

He returned to New Orleans in the winter of 1834. As soon as it was known that he had resumed his business, patients, speaking the languages of all nations, flocked to him, and he was soon engaged in an extensive and lucrative practice. Such was the general confidence reposed in his skill, that he was frequently sent for from great distances to perform important operations, or to meet consultations; indeed, this latter mode of medical practice formed for the last ten
years a large share of his daily avocations. On these occasions his conduct was regulated by the nicest sense of professional etiquette, and the established rule of medical ethics. He was scrupulously careful to say nothing in the presence of the patient or friends, which could even in an indirect manner weaken their confidence in the medical attendant. On the contrary, if the physician was a young man of merit or character, he did all in his power to raise him in the estimation of those who employed him.

Upon all occasions he was ready to confer freely with his professional brethren on any subject respecting which they desired his advice or counsel, whether in special relation to themselves and their affairs, or to those under their treatment. Prodigal of his knowledge as he was generous with his money, he assisted largely in the education of many who drew freely from the inexhaustible fountain of his instruction; and among the prominent physicians of New Orleans, there are several who owe their position and success to his liberality and bounty.

Recognizing in all its bearings the force of the maxim, that "every man is a debtor to his profession," he never compromised its dignity by underselling his services, or by competing in the cheapening practice with his younger or less fortunate confrères. He always graduated his charges according to the circumstances of the patient and his own valuation of the services he had rendered. Perhaps no contemporary practitioner in the United States ever enjoyed so lucrative a practice, or received larger fees for single cases or operations.

To the poor he devoted two hours every day, from 8 to 10 o'clock, at his office, and cheerfully gave them his advice and experience gratuitously. Nor did his charity stop here. Many are the respectable families in this city, whose slender circumstances scarcely enabled them to live decently apart from his bounty, and who are now mourning for him as their greatest friend, not only in whatever related to their health, but also to their pecuniary well-being. Gratitude, however, was not the object which prompted his disinterested kindness; for this was seldom manifested towards him during life. He
did good for the gratification and reward which every virtuous action carries with it; and could those persons who form their opinions from appearances or hearsay, have been admitted behind the scenes into a nearer and truer view of his real character, they would, instead of doing him more injustice than they have already done, acknowledge that he was possessed of the kindest and softest emotions of which human nature is susceptible. Many instances might be related, did they not infringe upon the sanctity of professional confidence, of his warmest sympathy with the affliction of others; and of the tenderness he evinced for the suffering of such as were compelled by the force of circumstances to submit to his unyielding knife. The consciousness of the benefit which would result, enabled him on these trying occasions to steel his sensibilities into apparent apathy or indifference.

Such were the principles and feelings; thus exalted were the ends, the aims, and the objects, which actuated and guided Dr. Luzenberg through the whole of his professional career. Active and operative in his character, he was unable to restrain from practical application the speculations of his ardent and energetic mind, but was continually devising new schemes for enlarging the sphere of his usefulness, and benefiting the community by every means in his power. Before one year had expired after his return from Europe, he built the Franklin Infirmary, now the Luzenberg Hospital, situated on the Champs Elysees road, so that those whose circumstances prevented them from receiving his advice at their dwellings, might, for a comparatively small amount, share equally with the more opulent the benefit of his skill and experience. It was almost as easy, once the visit made, for one possessed of his quick and perspicacious insight into the causation and nature of disease, as well as powers of rapid analysis, to prescribe for fifty patients, when congregated together, as for one. As he foresaw, the sick and suffering gathered soon in considerable numbers to his Infirmary, and I am informed by Dr. J. H. Lewis, who was the first physician associated with him in this enterprise, that, such was Dr. Luzenberg's popu-
larity at this period, there were seldom less than from eighty
to a hundred patients at any one time during his residence at
the hospital. To this gentleman I am indebted for much in-
formation communicated to me orally respecting Dr. Luzen-
berg, with whom he was always on the most intimate and
friendly terms; some of which, relating to the most important
operations he performed, I shall now proceed to relate.

As I have already stated, long before his visit to Europe,
Dr. Luzenberg had reaped in the vast field of the Charity
Hospital a stock of practical knowledge and experience in the
treatment of surgical cases, which had already established his
fame as an operator of the first order. There remained but
few of the recognized procedures of chirurgical art which he
had not mastered. An opportunity offered soon after his re-
turn to New Orleans for the further display of his surgical
attainments.

It was in the case of an elderly man suffering with a cancer
of the parotid gland, which was much enlarged, as may be seen
by a painting taken before the operation. The risk and danger
attendant upon such a perfect extirpation of this gland, as to
preclude the possibility of a recurrence of the disease, is so
well known to the profession, that it would be supererogatory
in me to point them out. Suffice it to say that the operation
was performed in so thorough a manner that the disease never
returned, and that the man enjoyed good health for many
years afterward.

The following account of this operation is translated from the
Gazette Médicale de Paris, of the September following:

"M. Jobert reported a case of complete extirpation of the
parotid gland, which was transmitted to the Academy by C. A.
Luzenberg, M.D., of New Orleans, Louisiana.

"A man, sixty-two years of age, had been affected for twenty
years with an enlargement of the parotid gland. About six
years prior to this time it began to increase rapidly, and soon
acquired the size of a hen’s egg; extensive ulceration attacked
the summits of the tumor, from which a thin ichorous pus was
discharged, and acute lancinating pains were experienced in
the diseased parts; in a word, it manifested all the usual symptoms of a cancerous affection.

"Dr. Luzenberg resolved to extirpate this tumor, and commenced by passing beneath the primitive carotid artery a loose temporary ligature; then, after having circumscribed the cancerous mass by two incisions, he detached it from the deep-seated parts, extending the dissection to so great a depth that both the styloid and mastoid apophyses were fully exposed to view. At this stage of the operation it was easy to see that the entire parotid gland had degenerated into an encephaloid substance. The profuse hemorrhage which supervened towards the close of the operation, rendered it necessary to tighten the ligature which had been cast around the common carotid artery during the first steps of the operation; this promptly arrested the flow of blood.

"MM. Smith, Lisfranc, and the immortal Beclard, have also reported cases of extirpation of the parotid gland. The case of Dr. Luzenberg is no less interesting, since he has described with much clearness and accuracy the volume and nature of the parts removed.

"Resolved, That we return our thanks to the author, and enrol his name on the list of corresponding members of the Academy of Medicine of Paris."

This resolution was adopted by the most learned, impartial, and scientific body of savans in Europe, and was the second instance, as far as I know, Dr. Physick being the first, of this distinguished honor being conferred upon an American. The particulars, as communicated by Dr. Luzenberg, are reported in full in the Archives Générales de Médecine.

The next operation, which may be called the capital of his surgical pillar, was the excision of six inches of the ileum. This was a case of strangulated hernia in a man, now alive and in good health, treated jointly by Dr. Lewis and Dr. Luzenberg. Dr. Lewis states that when they cut down to the sac, the intestine was found so completely mortified for the extent of at least half a foot, as to yield under the touch.

With his peculiar quick and comprehensive judgment, which
enabled him to determine instantly the merits of a procedure, when most men would be still hesitating as to what ought to be done, Dr. Luzenberg proceeded, with the assistance and concurrence of Dr. Lewis, to remove all the mortified portion of the gut, and to bring the serous surfaces of the separated ends together by means of stitches, after the manner recommended by Professor Gross, of Philadelphia. The patient was put upon opium treatment, and in thirty-five days the stitches came away and he entirely recovered.

The next triumph in surgery of Dr. Luzenberg which I shall notice, and which I had the gratification myself of witnessing, was the tying of the primitive iliac artery for the cure of an aneurism of the external iliac.

The subject was a mulatto man, about eighteen or twenty years of age, who bore the operation well. The ligature came away in twenty-one days; the anastomotic circulation was gradually established; the tumor became absorbed in due time, and the patient, when last seen, in 1848, was well and hearty.

It would swell the pages of this memoir to an unnecessary extent were I to detail all those multiplied and varied achievements of his knife, which proved a surgical genius not only in expertness of execution, but in the invention of modes of operation. For instance, I have witnessed during my residence in New Orleans another successful extirpation of a sarcomatous parotid, so deeply seated and attached that it was necessary to shave the styloid and mastoid processes of the temporal bone, and ligature the common carotid. Again, I have assisted him in unlocking the jaws, and loosing the tongue, with his scalpel, of a gentleman from Texas, whose mouth was a perfect deformity and firmly closed up, from the bad effects of salivation. These are but instances, I say, of the various operative procedures, the enumeration of which to be complete would fill a volume. There is one class of operations, however, in which Dr. Luzenberg took such particular interest, that I must add a few words on the subject; and that was couching for the cataract. Whether it was that he possessed a pecu-
familiar tact in the use of the needle, or that he exercised a rare faculty of prognosis in the cases he undertook, it is certain he seldom, if ever, failed in producing, if not a complete, at least a partial restoration of vision. Many are the once blind in New Orleans who owe to him the recovery of their visual powers after years of obscuration. There is one case in particular, which was published in the journals of the day, of an individual, who, after a total eclipse of light for eight years, caused by cataract, was in the space of one minute repossessed of the full enjoyment of a sense, the loss of which is in itself one of the most dreadful misfortunes that can befall humanity. From all I have seen and gathered, I am disposed to believe that the operation of couching for the cure of cataract was Dr. Luzenberg’s forte, and that he took special satisfaction in performing it, on account of the rapidly brilliant result, which comported with his ardent and enthusiastic disposition.

No sooner was his Infirmary established on a permanent basis, than Dr. Luzenberg hastened to accomplish his cherished idea of instituting a Medical School. As he was at this period extensively known and appreciated, not only by the members of his own profession, but also by all who cultivated science in general, and enjoying as he likewise did the friendship of the Governor of the State, he had no difficulty at first in carrying out his plans. His colleagues in this enterprise entered upon the preliminary arrangements with similar views, no doubt entertained simultaneously with himself, and from their combined exertions and influence arose the Medical College of Louisiana.

Dr. Luzenberg was chosen Dean, and the first session opened with a class of sixteen matriculated students. The lectures were delivered in the State House, on Canal Street, and the anatomical demonstrations at the Charity Hospital. The chair of anatomy was filled ad interim, as well as that of Surgery, of which he was Professor, by Dr. Luzenberg, with his well-known ability and accustomed zeal.

Judging from what I have seen and heard, in conversation,
debate, and argument, Dr. Luzenberg must have been a superior lecturer; for on all occasions he exhibited great powers of reasoning, joined to the charm of a fluent and energetic elocution. In his various discussions before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Louisiana, he was remarkable for great copiousness of language, and that delicate tact which is appositely resorted to by men of varied learning and distinguished social relations, in keeping up the interest of their hearers.

For reasons which it does not comport with my sense of propriety to discuss in this memoir, but which did not affect his character, Dr. Luzenberg saw fit to withdraw from his chair in the College, and forever after eschewed the society of his then associates.

Untiring in his devotion to every subject connected with his profession, as well as to the medical institutions of the State, and ever active in alleviating the sufferings of humanity, we find him next taking a deep interest in the regulation and internal management of the Charity Hospital, of which he was appointed one of the Administrators by the Legislature. He was elected Vice-President of the institution—in fact, virtually President, the Governor being ex-officio nominally so; an office which he continued to fill with zeal and fidelity during the remainder of his life.

It would have been an impossibility for a thoughtful and energetic man like Dr. Luzenberg, who had consecrated to learning the passion of his youth and the strength of his manhood, and had made even the portion of his life when he travelled a period of more diligent application; now, when his feelings had become regulated by the discipline of philosophy, and his opinions mellowed by meditation and experience, to abstain, so long as the welfare of humanity was the object of his pursuits, from turning to practical purposes the results of his intellectual acquirements, and thus contributing to the interest nearest to his heart.

The repeated recurrence of yellow fever in New Orleans, and the confused and imperfect accounts published concerning
a disease of which so little positive knowledge was as yet established, determined him to make its investigation the subject of a publication, which should be as perfect as the most diligent application of the residue of his natural allotment of life could make it.

Accordingly he set himself to work collecting materials for this object, and I believe there exists no book in any of the languages, having the most remote bearing on yellow fever, which he did not procure. His plan was to have large and accurate plates of every phase of the disease, somewhat after the manner of M. Pariset, and he had already caused to be painted in oil, as large as life, the most accurate delineations of the *facies*, and other morbid appearances, which are so readily recognized as pathognomonic of yellow fever.

His writings and pathological researches on the subject had reached a voluminous extent at the time of his decease, but still it was far from being completed; nor did he contemplate publishing the work until he had established every fact and assertion to his satisfaction. With his peculiar predilection for the Latin language, the manuscript is in that tongue; but whether he intended to publish it in such classic form is not known to any one.

Never satisfied unless he was incessantly occupied in prosecuting measures which appeared to him best fitted to promote the cultivation of those branches of human knowledge, so necessary for the intellectual improvement of society as well as the progression of his profession in the collateral sciences, we find him, in 1839, becoming the founder of the "Society of Natural History and the Sciences," which was liberally endowed by the Legislature, with full power to create professorships and confer degrees. To the advancement of this institution, of which he was forthwith elected President, he devoted every hour that he could spare from other avocations, or snatch from the time allotted to sleep; and to forward the great objects in view, he was always ready to sacrifice the claims of worldly prudence and self-interest. The rich collec-
tion of specimens in natural history and the natural sciences which he has left behind him, attests his munificence and disinterested exertions in the cause of education.

Believing in the principle of association, so characteristic of our republic, and so potent an agent in the diffusion, as well as in the augmentation, of knowledge, Dr. Luzenberg succeeded at last in consummating a long-projected scheme for uniting his medical friends of the city into a society for the purpose of mutual improvement and the promotion of medical science.

On the 1st April, 1843, a legislative act was passed, incorporating our society, under the title of "The Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society," and at its first meeting Dr. Luzenberg was unanimously chosen President.

In the midst of his active life, Dr. Luzenberg's health began to fail suddenly. Although for a considerable time previously he had experienced the most undoubted symptoms of cardiac disease, still he did not suffer to any noticeable degree until about the beginning of the spring of 1848, when actual pain in the præcordial region, together with obstinate and readily excited paroxysms of palpitation and dyspnœa, totally incapacitated him from application to any business whatever. The worst fears of his medical friends were now excited, and their diagnosis confirmed, with an accuracy worthy of the school of Corvisart, by M. Rouanet, of France, recently arrived in New Orleans, who, as was verified by the autopsy, pointed out the precise location and character of the disease. Without any expectation of deriving benefit from travelling or other means, but solely with the view of escaping from the unavoidable molestations incidental to his numerous business relations, Dr. Luzenberg, after experiencing some degree of alleviation from the quiet of a seashore residence, determined at the first approach of summer to sequester himself at the Red Sulphur Springs of Virginia. By the time he reached Cincinnati, however, his malady had made such inroads upon his constitution that he could proceed no further, and here he lingered until the 15th July, 1848.
Dr. Luzenberg was fully prepared for his departure. During the last two years of his life he was on terms of the most intimate friendship with the Rev. F. L. Hawks, who was unremitting in his attention to him in the earlier period of his last illness, and who served greatly, by the aid of his lucid and masterly reasoning, to prepare him for his end.

The obsequies were performed on the 28th July, the day after the arrival of his remains at his residence, by the Rev. Mr. Preston, of Annunciation Church, assisted by the Rev. William Ozanne; and the large concourse of sympathizing friends and acquaintances, who attended and followed on foot to his last resting-place, in the Protestant Cemetery, showed the high and general estimation in which he was held. The Philharmonic Society, of which he was President, appeared in a body as the procession was moving off, and accompanied it, unexpectedly to every one, with strains of the most appropriate and solemn music. But the most affecting part of the ceremony was to witness the children of the Protestant Female Orphan Asylum, to which he had been a number of years the physician, following in the wake, uniformed in the habiliments of mourning. Truly touching was it to observe this testimonial of the fatherless and afflicted to their departed benefactor, which spoke more eloquently than the best-couched eulogy.

During the time occupied in closing up the tomb, appropriate addresses were made to suit the mixed multitude assembled, in the French, English, and German languages, by Alfred Hennen, Esq., and Drs. De Valetti and Mueller.

Thomas M. Logan.