

LIFE AND LETTERS
OF
FIELDING H. GARRISON

BY
SOLOMON R. KAGAN, M. D.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
PROF. JAMES J. WALSH

THE MEDICO-HISTORICAL PRESS
Boston, Massachusetts
MCMXXXVIII

CHAPTER I

GENERAL SURVEY OF GARRISON'S LIFE

(1870 - 1935)

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world "this was a man!"

— SHAKESPEARE

DR. FIELDING HUDSON GARRISON was born at Washington, D. C., on November 5, 1870. His ancestors had been planters in Virginia for generations. His father, John Rowzee Garrison, was a man of high competence and integrity. He was educated at Dickinson College, taught Latin and Greek at the Classical Institute at West River, Maryland, and later tutored at the home of Mr. Davidson at South River. Soon after 1863 he was appointed to First-class Clerkship in the office of First Comptroller of the District of Columbia, where he removed and eventually became Deputy First Comptroller. While he was employed there he studied law, and was graduated from a school of law. Later the Treasury Department sent him to Puerto Rico as auditor of the Island. Records show that the Garrison family goes back six generations in Stafford County, Virginia, and that an ancestor fought in the Revolutionary War. Dr. Garrison's mother, Jennie Davis Garrison, who was of French Huguenot extraction, originally came from Maryland. She was alert, upright, vivacious, quick in thought and speech. She helped to found and became a charter member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. His sister, Miss Florence Garrison, served also in the Army Medical Library. She was a brilliant worker with a keen sense of humor, and was respected and beloved by her co-workers.

Dr. Garrison's childhood was a happy one. After he was graduated from the Central High School in his native city, he spent one year studying music, for which he showed a great inclination and talent. In

1889 he entered the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, where he studied ancient and modern languages, and higher mathematics, receiving his bachelor of arts degree in 1890. He then returned to Washington and entered the Georgetown University School of Medicine from which institution he was graduated in 1893.

On April 26, 1909, he married Miss Clara Augusta Brown of New York. With her Garrison had a long and beautiful companionship, and she was the inspiration of his remarkable career. Her parents, old American stock, had died while she was a child. Her father, Orlando Brown, was a farmer and teacher in Western New York. The Garrisons had three daughters, Mrs. Shirley Heare, Miss Margaret Garrison, and Miss Patricia Garrison.

Dr. Garrison was not a practicing physician, but he attended sick calls of the personnel enlisted at the headquarters in Manila, P. I. It is of interest to note that medicine was not his favorite study, but, rather, higher mathematics. He had studied medicine, however, to please his father. His father was a Methodist and his mother an Episcopalian. Garrison once told Dr. Albert Allemann, an intimate friend, that as a boy he never liked to go to church, but his father compelled him to go.

Garrison was a gifted and diligent student. His interest in medical history and medical bibliography began during his under-graduate days at Baltimore. Dr. J. S. Billings, the great librarian and medical bibliographer, recognized Garrison's ability and eagerness for knowledge, and encouraged him to work in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office. After he was graduated from Johns Hopkins University Garrison joined the staff of this Library, which since 1922 has been known as the Army Medical Library. There he served under Robert Fletcher and John S. Billings, whose methods and traditions he continued. He began his service as a Clerk of Probation, March 4, 1891. The following year he was appointed Assistant Librarian, and in 1912 was appointed Principal Assistant Librarian of the same institution. With the exception of two years of army duty in Manila, his entire service was in the Army Medical Library until his retirement from the Army in 1930.

The Army Medical Library, the largest medical library in the world, gave Garrison an opportunity to render valuable contributions to medical history and medical bibliography. The *Index Catalogue* of the Army Medical Library and the *Index Medicus* have been factors

in the progress of American medicine and of great value to medical authors and investigators. In both these monumental works Garrison played an important rôle. He devoted much time and effort to the development of this library and its publications. For several years Billings, Fletcher and Garrison worked together on the first series of the *Index Catalogue*. When Billings retired in 1895 Fletcher and Garrison continued the same work. Following Fletcher's death in 1921, Garrison became the sole editor of the whole second series of this colossal medical catalogue. Of great importance also was the participation of Garrison in the publication of the *Index Medicus*, a monthly edition, presenting the latest medical literature of the world arranged by subjects. He was Associate Editor of the *Index Medicus* from 1903 to 1912, and Editor from 1913 to 1926. When this publication became fused with the *Quarterly Cumulative Index* of the American Medical Association to form the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*, he became Associate Editor of the latter publication — from 1927 to 1929. Garrison's classical work, *An Introduction to the History of Medicine*, as he pointed out in the preface, is a product of the Surgeon General's Library. As editor of the *Index Catalogue* and of the *Index Medicus*, and as author of a monumental text-book on medical history, Garrison gained national and international recognition as an outstanding medical bibliographer and medical historian.

Colonel Garrison possessed much initiative and energy in professional activities, and had the spirit of a pioneer. He was active, not only as a writer, but as an organizer and leader in his special field. He was prominent in the affairs of medical societies, historical clubs, library associations, editorial activities, and was frequently the chairman of medical meetings. He was a member of scientific societies here and abroad, and was president of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

During a period of thirty years (1906-1935) Garrison wrote many books, monographs and articles covering a variety of subjects: medical history, medical bibliography, medical biography, pedagogy of medical history, medicine in literature, military medicine, popular science and music. He also wrote forewords to, and reviews of many books, and translated several essays of a medico-historical nature from the German and the French. He lectured many times on medical history and music before numerous medico-historical clubs, medical and philosophical societies and colleges. Among them were: The

Medical History Club, Washington, D. C.; New York Academy of Medicine; the Charaka Club of New York; Academy of Medicine, Cleveland; Mayo Clinic; Johns Hopkins Medical History Club; The College of Physicians of Philadelphia; The College of Medicine and Surgery, Manila, P. I.; Goethe Society, Baltimore.

He was also an able mathematician and physicist and showed interest in these subjects. He evaluated the rôle of mathematics in epidemiology. In 1909 he scientifically discussed the principles of entropy and also the second law of thermodynamics. His papers, "Josiah Willard Gibbs" (1909) and "A Note on Traube's Theory of Osmosis" (1910) evidenced his versatility. They summoned forth the admiration of Professor F. Traube who acknowledged it in a private letter to him. As a historian, psychologist and man of science he was able to explain clearly the world's problems, and to grasp the genesis of human nature. Garrison was a frequent contributor not only to the leading medical journals, but also wrote for the *American Mercury*, *Science*, *Times*, and *Monthly Science*, mainly on medical subjects. In general, he enriched with brilliant contributions the literature of medical history and bibliography.

Colonel Garrison was a lover of music and all the fine arts. He was himself an accomplished pianist, and showed the intellectual thoroughness of a scholar and of a critic in the field of music and other fine arts.

Garrison was appointed a Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps shortly after its organization. During the World War he was commissioned Major in 1917, and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1918. He was in charge of the collection of medical data on the history of the World War, which material was incorporated into the History of the Medical Department, U. S. Army, of which he was one of the editors. In 1920 he entered the Medical Corps of the Regular Army and served as Lieutenant-Colonel until his retirement as a Colonel in 1930. From 1922 to 1924 he served in the Phillipine Islands. The climate there did not agree with him; the humid atmosphere was depressing to his mind. So great were the effects of this tropical country upon him that he suffered a break-down, which left him with a nervous ailment. The enervating existence there left such an impression on his mind and body that it influenced his career and life habits during his remaining years. He conducted some researches while there on the Colonial Spanish Medical records; did some work for the Tropical and

Medical Board of the Army; wrote on the history of military medicine and pediatrics, on Lord Kitchener, on the teaching of medical history, and on epidemiology. These few contributions were, however, minor works for such a productive worker as Garrison.

Following his return from the Philippine Islands to the United States in 1924, he was on duty at the Army Medical School, Washington, D. C. He was a student at the Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and was graduated from the Medical Service School, Advanced Course, in 1929. Colonel Garrison was greatly favored by Surgeon General Ireland. The latter and all the higher officers were naturally proud of having a man of his standing in their ranks, and military rules were not strictly applied to him. When the Army Medical School was in session he lectured there, but he usually worked at his desk at the Army Medical Library. He classified the titles and subtitles on the cards as they were to appear in the catalogue; arranged and prepared the subject cards for the printer; and also read the proof sheets. He was a rapid and serious-minded worker, but the exacting task caused a mental strain, which reacted unfavorably on his well-being, and in later years added to his sensitiveness and irritability.

Garrison was a gifted librarian, but he was never appointed to the position of Librarian at the Army Medical Library. I found in Garrison's correspondence a letter from Brigadier-General W. D. McCaw, Librarian of the Army Medical Library from 1903 to 1913, in which he writes that he recommended Garrison as a permanent Librarian. Such a prominent man as Professor Harvey Cushing also tried to get this position for Garrison, but to no avail. Dr. Allemann writes me that once Garrison was appointed temporarily. In 1925 Garrison was appointed consulting librarian for the library of the New York Academy of Medicine and regularly wrote editorials for their Bulletin.

In 1930 Garrison moved to Baltimore where he became Librarian to the Welch Medical Library at the Johns Hopkins University. He had been consulting librarian for the institution since its inception several years before he was appointed its Librarian. In the same year he became resident lecturer on the history of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. Both of these positions were held until his death in 1935. In the autumn of 1930 he took a trip to Europe and visited the cities of London, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Budapest and several

other great centers in Germany and France. He was received there by friends and admirers with great respect as an eminent medical historian and medical bibliographer.

Garrison's pioneer work in the field of medical history and his valuable accomplishments in the field of medical bibliography found an expression of appreciation by two American universities. Georgetown University conferred upon him the degree of Master of Letters in 1917. The diploma reads in part as follows:

"Fortunate is this our University in possessing such a man among the graduates of our School of Medicine, Fielding Hudson Garrison. A profound student of science in its various departments, he has contributed to its evolution. As editor of the *Index Medicus* he scans and publishes its discoveries in every land and language of the world. Such are his attainments in speech, ancient and modern, such is his extensive erudition, and such his indefatigable industry that he is master of its industry, as he has already proven himself by his published works. He who advances the healing art by such contributions to its development, its efficiency and its dignity is surely a friend and benefactor of humanity. He who super-adds to the exposition of its utility and achievements of the graces of literature, richly merits to be signally recognized by his Alma Mater and to be decorated with the highest honors in her gift."

In 1932 Yale University bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. Professor Phelps in introducing Garrison said:

"Librarian of the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Garrison belongs to that noble company from Sir Thomas Browne to Harvey Cushing who have combined the science of medicine with the art of literature. Lieutenant-Colonel of the Medical Corps in the United States Army, author of many scientific and biographical works, Dr. Garrison holds a unique position in America. His *Introduction to the History of Medicine* is the foremost reference book in English. In all phases of medical and biological history he is a master. While editing the Surgeon General's *Catalogue* and the *Index Medicus* he wrote the most accurate and readable life of Josiah Willard Gibbs and in 1915 a Memoir of John Shaw Billings. Many specialists think of him mainly as the author of the History of Anatomic Illustration before Vesalius, but his friends know him as an excellent musician and a competent authority on the history of music and the history of Spanish poetry. As a linguist he is familiar with nearly all Modern European languages, including Russian."

Then President Angell concluded:

"Most eminent of American scholars in a difficult field, where your extraordinary literary gifts have been wedded to profound scientific knowledge and unflagging industry, Yale University confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Letters, admitting you to all its rights and privileges."

Dr. Garrison has been regarded as the outstanding American medico-historian. His pioneer work in the field of medical history served as a stimulation and inspiration to others, and helped, materially, to popularize the history of medicine in this country. An omnivorous reader in many languages, he combined versatility, wisdom and humanity. Endowed with a keen intelligence, tenacious memory and colossal industry he was a man of encyclopedic learning.

Fielding H. Garrison died at the age of sixty-four on Thursday, April 18, 1935, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, after an abdominal operation for a cancer of the intestine. He was buried on April 22, 1935, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D. C., among his fellow soldiers, and near his masters and friends — Billings and Fletcher. The pallbearers were: Surgeon-General Robert U. Patterson, former Surgeon-General Merritte W. Ireland, Brigadier-General Carl R. Darnall, Major General Harry L. Gilchrist, Colonel Joseph F. Siler, Colonel Roger Brooke and Major Edgar E. Hume. Garrison's death was mourned by his friends, associates, pupils, and the profession at large. The medical and layman press here and abroad devoted eulogies to Garrison. The great loss to medical history caused by his death was particularly emphasized by his eminent associates and friends.

Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, Professor at the Institute of the History of Medicine of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, wrote¹ :

With the death of Colonel Garrison the Welch Medical Library lost its director, the Institute of the History of Medicine its lecturer, and all of us a co-worker and friend. A man of rare culture, of great intellectual clearness and a profound lover of music is gone. If he had left behind him nothing but his contribution to the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library and his Introduction to the History of Medicine, it would have been enough to secure him a permanent place in the Annals of American Medicine. He left infinitely more, valuable monographs, a great number of stimulating papers — and many friends who mourn him and remember him.

¹ *Bull. Inst. His. Med.*, Baltimore, June, 1935, vol. iii, p. 403.

Dr. John R. Oliver, Associate Lecturer at the Institute of the History of Medicine, Baltimore, said¹ of Garrison:

His loss to medical history in general is very great, his loss to the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University is greater still. Greatest of all is his loss to a group of us who had known him for years, who understood all his peculiarities, who had learned how to avoid the sore spots in his character and who admired him profoundly.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume, former Librarian of the Army Medical Library, wrote:²

Colonel Fielding Hudson Garrison was one of the best known medical historians and medical librarians in the world. He had done more than any man in this country to popularize the history of medicine. His monumental "Introduction to the History of Medicine," which went through four editions, became the standard text not merely of specialists in this field, but also for the general practitioner. Not only the Johns Hopkins University where he had worked for the last five years, and the Medical Corps of the Army, feel the loss of this outstanding scientist, but his passing is a loss to the world.

General Douglas MacArthur, former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, on June 14, 1935, wrote Mrs. Garrison a letter,³ which in part reads as follows:

I wish to extend to you on behalf of the War Department and for myself personally, our sincere sympathy in the death of your husband, Colonel Fielding H. Garrison, United States Army, Retired. . . . Colonel Garrison was an earnest, studious, conscientious officer of outstanding accomplishments in medical literary work. He was a librarian and historian of no mean ability, and faithfully and efficiently performed the duties intrusted to him. His death is deeply regretted by his former associates.

Emeritus Professor H. Rolleston, of London, England, said:⁴

The death in the Johns Hopkins Hospital on April 18th of Colonel Fielding Hudson Garrison in the full maturity and activity of his literary powers is a serious blow to all interested in medical history, and more particularly to those in English-speaking countries.

¹ *Ann. Med. Hist.*, New York, July, 1935, p. 402.

² *Military Surgeon*, Washington, D. C., June, 1935, vol. 76, p. 338; *Sun*, New York, April 19, 1935.

³ Mrs. Fielding H. Garrison sent me the original letter for publication.

⁴ *British Med. Journal.*, London, May 18, 1935, vol. i, p. 1054.

Clinical Medicine and Surgery stated:¹

With Garrison's passing from among us, medical history has lost one of its most illustrious votaries, and his personal friends are deprived of the companionship of a genial, scholarly, and gracious man. It will be long before his like appears again, and the members of the profession which he adorned will be well advised to make more general use of the priceless heritage which he left to the world.

Dr. Albert Allemann, former Principal Assistant Librarian of the Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C., wrote:²

With Dr. Garrison, who died in Baltimore, Md., April 18, 1935, American medicine loses one of its brightest ornaments. As editor of the Medical Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office he rendered medical science invaluable services. His writings in the field of medical history are of the highest order and will have permanent value.

Dr. Victor Robinson, editor of *Medical Life*, New York, said:³

By his passing, the world of medical scholarship is bereft of one of its most important workers, and America loses her outstanding medical historian. The fountain-head and focus of medical history, Garrison was revered by his few peers, and was ever ready to render generous aid to the beginners in the field. He leaves a void which none can fill, and which will but widen in the coming years. His death is a cultural tragedy.

¹ Editorial, *Clin. Med. and Surgery*, Chicago, vol. 42, July, 1935, p. 316.

² *New England Jour. Med.*, May 2, 1935, p. 856.

³ *Medical Life*, vol. XLII, April, 1935.

CHAPTER II

MEDICAL HISTORIAN AND MEDICAL BIBLIOGRAPHER

The History of Medicine forms an essential part of medical science and is indeed as serious a science, based on experience and observation, as any other department of natural philosophy.

— KARL SUDHOFF

DR. GARRISON devoted nearly forty years to research in the field of medical history and medical bibliography. As a friend of books he studied them thoroughly, understood their silent significance and acquired wide knowledge of medico-historical subjects. As an assistant to Dr. Billings, the prime mover of American medical bibliography, he learned medical bibliography. As an expert in his specialty and a scholar he made splendid and learned studies on many aspects of historical medicine, not only in America and Europe but also in China and Japan.

He succeeded in presenting the background of discoveries, advancement and leaders in medicine, in stating the facts in their true relations, and in expressing his views of things with sufficient clarity. His many medico-historical contributions have the merit of originality, depth, and impressiveness. They popularized historical medicine and aroused great interest in this subject among the profession. These achievements are of great importance, as American contributions to the history of medicine are meager in extent, and this branch of medical science does not yet occupy its deserved place in this country.

As a historian Dr. Garrison possessed an inborn sense of criticism, sound judgment, a fine literary taste, an avidity for research, and voluminous knowledge. He had an extraordinary ability to evaluate the contributions and activities of medical leaders and contributors, and to recognize the most important problems of medical

history. He also was an artist in expressing the historical facts in a concise, attractive form. Beautiful and forceful style, balance and proportion in the description of medical facts, the exactness of data, and astounding literary composition are the main features of Garrison's medico-historical contributions. These charming features of his historical writings make them masterpieces and attract the young medical student and the older practitioner as well. A remarkable feature of Garrison's work is its brevity and completeness. He was able to select the characteristics of the pathfinders in medicine and to point out their principal achievements in a clear and harmonious form.

Dr. Garrison is the author of various publications on medico-historical subjects. The most important is his standard work, *An Introduction to the History of Medicine*, which originally was published in 1913 and passed into a fourth edition in 1929. This stupendous book is modestly called an "Introduction," and, as Sir Humphry Rolleston said, "concisely written, it is difficult to imagine the size of the book to which it could be an introduction." In fact this immense text is much more than its title indicates; it is a complete history of medicine, an original work of highly creditable character, which helps in the understanding of the development of medical science in the main countries in all times. It is especially valuable for the modern period, which is one of the weakest points with most historians. It is of great help, not only to medical students and physicians, but also to any historian who wants to verify the accuracy of medical names and facts. It is also useful for authors and investigators who are interested in collateral reading of medical biography and histories of special subjects. It is upon this *History of Medicine* that Garrison's fame rests, a work to which he devoted six years of research, from 1906 to 1912. This contribution greatly influenced American medicine. It is the best English text-book on the subject at the present time. In 1921 a Spanish translation of Garrison's history by Carcia del Real was published in Madrid.

Garrison was modest in his historical views and conclusions. He did not set up his opinion on various historical subjects as an authority who has done extensive investigation, but expressed his attitude as an expositor or interpreter of great authorities whose ideas he grasped deeply, analyzed masterfully, and criticized exactly. His main sources for his first edition were the works of K. Sudhoff, H. Haeser, M. Neuburger, J. Pagel, L. Choulant, and C. Singer. Among those who

influenced Garrison in the three later editions, 1917, 1921, and 1929, were: W. Osler, A. Jacobi, W. H. Welch, C. Singer, H. Rolleston, H. Cushing, E. C. Streeter, E. V. Cowdry, S. Yoshida, and Yamanawa. Among those who encouraged his work with favorable commentaries and high praise were: S. W. Mitchell, C. Allbutt, J. G. Mumford, A. C. Klebs, A. Castiglioni, Professor Haberling, and W. D. McCaw.

Dr. Garrison expressed in his *History of Medicine* original views on many medical events, on the study of medical history, and on cultural and social aspects of modern medicine. These ideas present him as a humane and progressive writer, and evidence his erudition and clear vision. He regarded the history of medicine as a stationary product, which deals essentially with the past, with things that have happened. He believed that medical history has to deal rather with information derived from books than with knowledge obtained from experience. According to him, the history of medicine is the history of humanity itself with its fluctuations, its brave aspirations after truth, and finally its pathetic failures; it is the history of human fallibility and error. Garrison's aim in his *History of Medicine* was not to exploit original researches and to present lengthy learned expositions, but to give in a concise, clear, and perspicuous form valuable medico-historical information based on his verification of facts, dates, and bibliographical references. He emphasized the advantage of brevity in the teaching of medical history and wrote in his preface to the *History*: "The history of medicine and hygiene touches human activity on all sides, like a vast circle by multifarious tangents, and no single volume could include everything. But it is believed that enough has been presented in the text and bibliographies to enable anyone to repair such omissions by investigations of his own." According to Dr. Garrison, advanced instruction in medical history can be given only at an institute with the aid of a good medical library. There the student can learn how best to use reference books, how to deal with medical manuscripts, how to evolve new facts from the findings of erudition, and how to teach others to think historically.

With regard to the function of the modern physician and medicine Dr. Garrison says at the conclusion of his *History of Medicine*:

"The high function of the physician is still the relief of human suffering, not merely to drug his patients, but to care for them; and, as the surgeon must know how to think clinically, the clinician to think surgically, at need, so it is possible

that, some day, the word "cure" will, as part of the same Hippocratic ideal, be restored to its ancient meaning (*curare*). Meanwhile, it is recognized that the whole of medical science includes its parts, is greater than its practice, applies to the ills of society as well as to human ailments. The aim of modern medicine, coordinate with the advancement of all the sciences, is the prediction and control of phenomena, the prevention, as inclusive of the cure, of disease."

Garrison's *History of Medicine* is an authoritative source for medico-historical disciplines. It brought the author the acknowledgment of the greatest masters on that subject in the world, who expressed in the medical press, as well as in private correspondence, their high esteem of his contributions to historical medicine. Karl Sudhoff, the mighty scholar, considered it as "clear-sighted, open hearted, impartial." Sir Clifford Allbutt, one of the greatest English physicians of his time, wrote¹ to Garrison in 1924 as follows:

"I have just given the last of a short course of University Lectures here on the history of medicine and I seize the first spare moment to thank you most cordially, most profoundly, for the extraordinary service of your *great* book. It is one thing to use such a book casually as a work of reference, it is another to have to *use* the *whole book* for intimate and general preparation. Every day I was more and more astonished at its fulness and completeness in detail, and yet I had Haeser, Neuburger, Pagel, etc., all at my elbow. How you collected all your detail, and *never missed a date* that one wanted, is a mystery. The book must have cost you *years* of time. And there is so much good reading in it — not mere dry chronicles."

Dr. Howard A. Kelly, Emeritus Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins University, on June 1st, 1927, wrote to Garrison:

"I have been so immersed in my several duties and interests for some years that it has been impossible to follow the *History of Medicine* with any interest. But I have just had a request from the Harveian Society of London to deliver their Hunterian address next January which I have accepted. This has at once driven me to your *History of Medicine* and as I read it I am simply overwhelmed with its vastness of well digested facts, with your artistic fancy in dressing so difficult a subject in beautiful clothes, and with your 'rede craft!' Why, why have you ventured to set our poor halting humanity such a pace of

¹ H. Rolleston, *Sir Clifford Allbutt*, London, 1929, p. 286.

erudition! If its Geist could only be bottled and sipped by us of common mold what tipplers we would become. Surely your work is the genuine 'monument aere perennius.' Well, it surely is no sin to be generously envious of such men as you first of all and then as a good second our own Welch, another paragon of learning."

Sir Humphry Rolleston, one of the greatest authorities among living physicians, said: "It is the indispensable companion at the elbow of those who care to verify names." Sir William Osler, the leader of medical thought, wrote¹ to Garrison on February 26, 1916: "I enclose a list of Corrigenda not very long. The book seems to have taken over here. I see it very often and recommend it everywhere." Professor Arturo Castiglioni, of Italy, the eminent medico-historian, was most laudatory. On the 29th of March, 1929, he wrote to Garrison: "I am not only a sincere admirer of your work and of your system, but also a follower of your example." Abraham Jacobi, the father of American pediatrics, regarded it as a source of study and enjoyable reading. In one of his letters to Dr. Garrison he wrote: "Seriously, you come here, you can get a bed here any time, and read Garrison. That is what I am doing. Now and then I read Homer, Sophocles, and a few days ago I read Xenophon. Mostly Garrison." William H. Welch, the dean of American medicine, regarded Garrison an expert and pioneer in his specialty, and invited him to become professor of the history of medicine at the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Major G. Seelig, Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, on January 21, 1929, wrote to Garrison:

"The new edition arrived two days ago, and has absolutely put my ordinary routine 'on the blink,' for I keep dabbling into it here and there, thumbing through the most attractive appendix, marvelling, fantasizing, and even envying. I just don't see how you — or for that matter anyone else — can turn out such work. I have come to the unalterable conclusion that back of all the effort is celestial genius."

Edward C. Streeter, former lecturer on medical history at Harvard University, in a private letter to Garrison said:

"I received today the tripartite History of Medicine, that vast treasury of your gathering, the *legenda aurea* of science. I thanked Saunders with ill-suppressed effusiveness; can thank

¹ H. Cushing, *Life of Sir William Osler*, Oxford, 1925., vol. ii, p. 518.

you holding nothing back, admiration, emulation and despair, mingled in confederate passion, attacked me as soon as I opened. Demme, how do you contrive so to leaven the lump? Your narrative is like soft-running Thames, you round all unsmoothness in your path like Thames in her sinuosities at Henley."

Lewellys F. Barker, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, expressed his appreciation of Garrison's *History of Medicine* in a personal letter to Garrison:

"The Saunders Company has sent me a copy of the new revised edition of your 'History of Medicine.' I had enjoyed the first addition so greatly that I am of course delighted to have this revised volume. I have already seen enough to understand how extensive your revision has been. You must have put an immense amount of work into it. I wonder if you fully realize how great a contribution you have made to the progress of medicine by giving us this valuable history. There was a great need for just such a book and it is rather astonishing that no one tried to produce it before. Still when one thinks of the conditions necessary for the production of such a volume, it is perhaps easier to understand why others have not made it."

Leonard L. MacKall, an eminent bibliographer, of New York, in a private letter dated January 5, 1931, wrote to Garrison: "I have copies of your wonderful History of Medicine both in New York and here, and use it very often indeed with great interest and much profit."

Garrison's other medico-historical books, monographs, essays and sketches are also among the most valuable modern contributions to historical medicine. He was much interested in anatomic illustrations, in primitive sculpture and in medical art. He undertook research in this field in order to stimulate thought and interest in this subject. In his work, *The Principles of Anatomic Illustration Before Vesalius* (1926), Garrison demonstrated that the real content of artistic anatomy is not descriptive anatomy but ethnic morphology, physiology, and pathology. He said that the practitioner in bedside diagnosis must cultivate something of the vision and the discriminating intelligence of the artist. Thus, facial appearance and configuration of the body often convey certain outward diagnostic signs of inward metabolic or endocrine disorders, as well as of infectious diseases or injuries. Garrison further stated that in cultivating the faculty of vision in bedside medicine, the student may learn something from such

shrewd observers of human nature as explorers, artists, novelists, and men of the world. He concluded that the modern physician has at his beck and call the accumulated knowledge of the past — called the gift of good seeing by astronomers — without which he is no physician at all. It is, however, not necessary for the doctor to be an actual draughtsman, painter, or sculptor. Vision and visualization, the power to synthesize, are the highest mental qualifications the physician may have.

Garrison made a thorough study of anatomical illustrations. In 1919, in collaboration with Dr. E. C. Streeter, he published a remarkable paper, *Sculpture and Painting as Modes of Anatomical Illustration* in the *Annals of Medical History*. He also contributed to Choulant-Frank's work, *The History and Bibliography of Anatomical Illustration*, the Appendix called "Anatomical Illustration Since the Time of Choulant."

In 1909 Garrison published his article on "Editorial Revision of Titles of Medical Papers." Sir Clifford Allbutt wrote¹ at this time to him: "I need not say how cordially I welcome such an eminent champion of accuracy and propriety, especially when he occupies so influential a position in this subject as yourself."

A later Garrison contribution, "Military Medicine", published in 1922, aroused particular interest. Sir Clifford Allbutt wrote² in the same year, "How splendidly you do these things! I am so thankful for your great paper on the History of Military Medicine. Thorough as well as comprehensive, it must stand out as a permanent contribution to medical history. The narrative is charmingly readable."

Dr. William Browning, Emeritus Professor of Neurology at Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N. Y., in his letter to Garrison dated February 17, 1926, wrote: "Thank you for the personal note, and the added courtesy of the copy of *The Military Surgeon*. To have evoked such a considerate and classical review from a leading historian is an achievement. It is rare as a type, and I am glad to have it for 'keeps.'"

Garrison's *History of Pediatrics* (1923) is pioneer work and is remarkable for its exactness and completeness. It gives a detailed

¹ *The Right Honourable Sir Thomas Clifford Allbutt*, by Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston, London, 1929, p. 191.

² *Ibid.*, p. 286.

account of the contents of the individual pediatric texts and treatises up to the time of Billard. It is of interest to note that many years before Garrison's publication on this subject a prize was offered for such work, but there were no candidates for winning the prize. I am quoting the following from Dr. A. Jacobi's letter¹ to Dr. William Osler: "Fifty years ago — I shall try to learn the exact time — I offered a prize of \$400 (I had more money then than at present) for a history of American Pediatrics. No return in a year. Next year I did the same — no results."

Among other of Garrison's important historical contributions are: "The History of Bloodletting" (1913), "Anatomical Illustrations Before and After Vesalius" (1915), "Historical Aspects of Diabetes and Insulin" (1925), "A Century of American Medicine" (1933), "History of Gastroenterology" (1934), "Pages of Spanish Medicine" (1935). His medico-historical papers in the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* attracted much attention at the time of their publication. Dr. Streeter remarkably evaluated them in his letter to Garrison as follows: "Penitential reading is one thing — reading your excerpts from the Academy Bulletin is quite another, I find. Although I am defeated by your cleverness and omniscience sometimes, I like your printed word (and your crumpled written words) damn well, Sir. Your style is a kind of sober titillation, like sun-lamp or electric bath." In another letter Streeter wrote to him: "I have great joy in your sketch of Spanish medicine which I received gratefully as a good omen from you this week and do hold for a treasure, equal to the book on *Military Medicine*."

Garrison devoted much time and effort to collecting material for his work, not only in research at the Army Medical Library, but also in numerous letters to various authorities requesting facts and references on certain phases of medical history. He showed eagerness in his endeavor to represent accurate and complete historical data. Thus, in 1916, he wrote to Brigadier-General W. D. McCaw at the Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces asking for material concerning the history of mobilization which he needed for his work on *Military Medicine*. In 1926 Garrison wrote to L. F. Barker in Baltimore asking his advice regarding the terminology for certain dis-

¹ This undated letter was never published. I found it among Garrison's correspondence bound in personal file of selected letters.

eases existing in succession and clues for classifying them. On March 13, 1930, he consulted Dr. J. Collins regarding the history of specialism in medicine.

Garrison never wrote carelessly. His work showed a characteristic scholarly attitude. Even his first bibliographic article "A Sketch of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office" (1906) is a product of maturity. According to Garrison,¹ it is better to begin anywhere with some definite subject and to study it exhaustively and well in the original texts, than to attempt to encompass everything at once by superficial skimming. There are, however, a few of Garrison's articles which give the impression that they were compiled in haste; for instance, his "History of Endocrine Doctrine," and "History of Neurology." This was due not only to lack of time but also to the fact that the history of certain medical specialties should be described by specialists in these fields. In a letter to Dr. Seelig in 1925 he wrote that he had been asked to write on the history of surgery. However, he declined to do so believing that such work should be done by a specialist surgeon who thinks surgically. Garrison was interested in revising his *History of Medicine*. Each new edition contained important addenda on various phases of medical subjects, corrections of typographical nature, and author's errors of facts. The efforts and devotion on his part concerning this is evidenced in the abstracts from the letters which follow. On the 27th of April, 1920, he wrote to Dr. Streeter: "If you have any corrections to make — and I have no doubt there are a good many — will you have them for me by the time fall weather sets in, when I shall have to get busy. I am going to ask Singer and Neuburger to do the same, so that I may feel that I have left no stone unturned. On September 29 of the same year he wrote again to Dr. Streeter: "Please send me any corrections you may have for my history 3 ed. before the end of October as I need them and want to acknowledge them." Six days later, on October 5, still again he wrote to Dr. Streeter: "I shall look forward with interest to your corrections and want them badly before I close up my 3 ed. at the end of this month." On May 6, 1926, Garrison wrote to Dr. Morris Fishbein: "As to my 4 edition, I am merely reading up for it this year and don't expect to tackle revision until 1927, although I am entering up corrections and minutiae. Modern medicine is such

¹ *History of Medicine*, Philadelphia, 1921, p. 866.

a chaos that I have not got the hang of it as yet, and I shall have to rewrite some sections."

Garrison was the first to give a comprehensive review of the medical progress and accomplishments in modern times. However, his interpretations of the ancient ages of medicine are also valuable contributions. Thomas Fitz-Hag emphasized Garrison's services in this respect to him:

I have been fascinated by your article on the Greek Cult of the Dead and the Chthonian Deities in Ancient Medicine, and thank you heartily for providing me with a copy. It will be useful to me in interpreting classic life and literature very much oftener than one might suppose, for the Greek and Roman spirit was saturated with the ideas which you have treated so illuminatingly. You have done a valuable piece of work in interpreting to the world as well as to your profession the results of Rhode's largely inaccessible material.

Colonel Garrison was also an outstanding medical bibliographer. He devoted his life masterfully to medical bibliography to which he had a deep inclination, and his work in this field was accepted with gratitude by the profession at home and abroad. He was the author of many bibliographical works, but the most important of them are his contributions to the *Index Medicus* and *Index Catalogue*.

Garrison started his literary work with bibliography. His first paper, published in 1906, gives valuable information concerning the methods of compiling the material in *Index Catalogue*. Three years later Garrison published his paper, "On Editorial Revision on Titles of Medical Papers," in which he described the art of reporting medical cases and of selecting a proper title. In 1912 he published an article entitled "Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine," which covers the history of medicine from the pre-Hippocratic period to the nineteenth century. Of interest is his paper, "Medical Journalism," published in 1915, in which he presented a list and a description of early medical periodicals. In 1916 he described the uses of medical bibliography and medical history in the medical curriculum. Garrison continued his researches in the field of bibliography even after his retirement from the Army Medical Library. Thus, from 1932 to 1934 he published original work on the high cost of current medical periodicals, on the first authentic periodical of medical history, on Moritz Stein-schneider as a contributor to bibliography of medical literature, on texts illustrating the history of medicine, and on medical and scientific

periodicals of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. According to him, "Bibliography is only an enlarged system of bookkeeping."

Garrison had a natural talent for history and bibliography and fortunately was surrounded by favorable circumstances which helped the development of his mental and literary powers. The Library of the Surgeon-General's office was an important factor in Garrison's success both as historian and bibliographer. Much influence on Garrison was exerted by Billings and Fletcher who trained him in these fields. Billings was the first to teach him the art and work of a librarian and bibliographer. Fletcher's influence was still more effective. A veteran of the Army Medical Library writes me that Dr. Garrison was more closely associated with Dr. Fletcher than with Dr. Billings. He came to the Library in October, 1891, and his desk was in Dr. Fletcher's office, a room adjacent to Dr. Billings, who left the Library in 1895. He worked with Dr. Fletcher until 1912, or until the time the latter left the Library; consequently he was closely associated with him for about seventeen years after Dr. Billings retired. Through this close association he was more influenced by Dr. Fletcher, although Dr. Billings was a stellar factor in medical librarianship.

Osler, Billings, Welch, and Garrison are four teachers who advanced the knowledge of medical history in this country. Inasmuch as the first three leaders were pioneers in several directions of American medicine, Garrison was the prime-mover in the field of the history of medicine and eminent in the field of medical bibliography. Thus, Osler was the most outstanding clinician; Billings, the distinguished medical librarian; Welch, the foremost pathologist and hygienist; Garrison, the greatest medico-historian and medico-bibliographer in this country.

Dr. Henry R. Viets, Librarian of the Boston Medical Library, an eminent neurologist and historian, remarked¹ regarding Garrison's influence on American medicine as follows:

"It was Garrison's task in life to take a narrower path and climb it higher than any of the others — the rocky path of the history of medicine. He travelled fast and strong, explored new ground and gained new vistas. He wrote an account of his travels, his 'Introduction,' as all good travelers do, for the benefit of those who should come after him. This book led more people to explore the same mountains than any other publication before its time."

1. *Bull. Instit. Hist. Med.*, 1937, Vol. V, p. 352.