

Chair of Midwifery

Edinburgh, 1839

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CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH ;
LECTURER ON MIDWIFERY AND THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND
CHILDREN ; LATE INTERIM LECTURER ON GENERAL PATHO-
LOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ; PHYSICIAN TO THE
LOCK HOSPITAL AND TO THE MIDWIFERY DISPENSARY, HIGH
SCHOOL YARDS ; PHYSICIAN ACCOUCHEUR TO THE NORTH-
WESTERN DISPENSARY, AND LATE SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE
ROYAL PUBLIC DISPENSARY ; VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ANA-
TOMICAL SOCIETY ; FORMERLY SENIOR PRESIDENT OF THE
ROYAL MEDICAL AND OF THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETIES ;
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF GHENT ;
ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MEDICO-CHI-
RURGICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, &c.



EDINBURGH:

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1839.

Handwritten notes and signatures are visible at the bottom of the page, including the name 'A. M. D.' and other illegible scribbles.



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD PROVOST,
THE MAGISTRATES AND TOWN-COUNCIL,
PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave very respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the vacant CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY.

I have delivered three Courses of Lectures on Midwifery, and one, in the University, on General Pathology. The first Part of the accompanying Testimonials, consisting of Addresses which I have had the honour to receive from the Students attending my Midwifery and Pathology Classes, will attest my past success as a Medical and as an OBSTETRIC TEACHER.

The other Part of the present Testimonials, containing some extracts from various British and Continental Medical Works, relative to the value of the different Practical and Theoretical Treatises which I have published on Midwifery subjects, will give you an opportunity of judging in what estimation I am held as an OBSTETRIC AUTHOR.

The length of time during which I devoted myself to the study of Practical Midwifery with a view of becoming a Teacher of that Branch,—my former servitude as Annual Pupil or House-Surgeon to the Lying-in Hospital of Edinburgh,—my present connection as Physician-Accoucheur to two Dispensaries,—and the extent of the opportunities which I have enjoyed in Private and in Consulting Practice,—may serve to show that I am not without experience as an OBSTETRIC PRACTITIONER.

At an early date I shall have the honour of submitting to your consideration, a number of Testimonials, from some of the most distinguished Accoucheurs and Professional Men of the present day, expressive of their opinions as to my qualifications to discharge the important duties of the Midwifery Chair.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M. D.

1 DEAN TERRACE, EDINBURGH,
15th November 1839.

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PART I.

ADDRESSES, &c. PRESENTED TO

JAMES Y. SIMPSON,

BY STUDENTS ATTENDING THE CLASSES OF GENERAL
PATHOLOGY AND MIDWIFERY.

TESTIMONIAL *presented to DR SIMPSON, by Students of the Class of General Pathology, at the termination of the Session 1837-38, during which DR SIMPSON acted as Interim Lecturer for PROFESSOR THOMSON.*

WE, the undersigned Students attending the Pathological Class in the University of Edinburgh during the Winter Session 1837-38, are anxious to express the high sense we entertain of the zeal, fidelity, and success with which DR J. Y. SIMPSON has discharged the duties of the Professorial Chair, to which he was so suddenly and unexpectedly called;—as well as to express our admiration of his high talents,—of the varied and extensive research which he has displayed,—and of his uniform and kind affability, which, while it exalted him in the eyes of all as a Teacher, endeared him to each as a Friend.

While we are anxious, by this Testimonial, to render justice to DR SIMPSON personally, we are equally anxious to avoid expressing any opinion as to the propriety of the continuance or suppression of the Chair which he has filled during the present Session.

(Followed by the Signatures of Fifty-three Pupils.)

LETTER to DR SIMPSON, *transmitted along with the preceding Address, from DR CHARLES MAITLAND, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Class for drawing up a Testimonial of Approbation.*

4 Graham Street, 26th April 1838.

DEAR SIR,

It gives me sincere pleasure to present you with the enclosed Testimonial, in the name of my Fellow-Students whose names are attached to it. Being the only means in our power of expressing our gratitude, both for your labours in our behalf, and for the example of industry and research which you have set before us, we trust that you will accept it at our hands, and that you may find it serviceable at some period of your future career.

The tendency to pleasing anticipation, natural to our period of life, leads us to hope that some, at least, of the enclosed names may be hereafter connected with such associations as may give you no cause to be ashamed of our friendship; in which case, it will not lessen your pleasure to recollect that your own instructions and example have contributed to so happy a result.

Sincerely wishing that your talents and perseverance may meet with such reward as, in my humble opinion, they richly deserve, I have the satisfaction of subscribing myself,

Yours, &c.

CHARLES MAITLAND.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

TESTIMONIAL *presented to DR SIMPSON, by the Students who attended the First Session of his Lectures on Midwifery.*

We, the undersigned Students, attending DR J. Y. SIMPSON'S Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of

Women and Children during the Session 1838-39, desire to express our highest approbation of the unwearied diligence and assiduity with which he discharged the important duties of a Teacher.

The ready and fluent manner in which these Lectures were delivered, and the extensive and intimate acquaintance with Midwifery, and the collateral branches of Medicine, which their Author displayed, have shown at once a facility of expression, and a degree of talent and information, which reflect the greatest credit on DR SIMPSON, both as a Lecturer and as a man of unlimited professional acquirements.

His mildness and suavity of manner, and his unceasing attention to the interests of his Students, in affording them every means of instruction in his power, not only by lectures and examinations, but likewise by private exercises on Obstetric Machines, in the use of which he spared neither time nor labour to make us perfect, were such as to command our esteem for him as a friend, and our respect as a Teacher.

(Followed by the Signatures of Twenty-seven Pupils.)

ADDRESS read by WILLIAM COKE, Esq. A. M. M. D., &c.
on presenting DR SIMPSON (April 19, 1839) with the
above Certificate of Approbation, at the termination of the
concluding Lecture of the Session.

SIR,

I am deputed by the Gentlemen of this Class, my fellow Pupils, to present to you a Certificate, expressing our sentiments of you as a Public Teacher, and a Lecturer

on Midwifery. It gives me no ordinary pleasure, Sir, to have the honour conferred upon me of performing this very agreeable office, although I wish, for your sake, it had fallen into hands more adequate to do it justice. The document, Sir, I now hold in my hand, speaking in such unequivocal and honourable terms of you, and coming from those who are so well qualified to appreciate your merits, must be exceedingly gratifying to your feelings, and cannot fail, if occasion requires, to produce a marked impression in your favour. Each of us, I am sure, was both delighted and proud to subscribe it, because we knew it was well and amply deserved. We are all fully conscious that your public appearances have been characterised by many and various excellencies. Your Lectures have, on all occasions, discovered such a depth of research—such an extent of reading, both of foreign authors and those of our own country,—such an intimate acquaintance with every branch of your subject,—as often excited our surprise, and called forth our applause. And although this is the first year you have started as a Public Teacher, if we except the Session you lectured in the University, on General Pathology, in room of the celebrated and highly accomplished DR JOHN THOMSON (which circumstance, by the by, is a strong testimony to your superior talents), I say, although this is the first year you have appeared as a Public Lecturer on Midwifery, yet so fully are you master of your subject,—with such great copiousness and variety of example do you illustrate it,—with so much perspicuity,—and fluency,—and ease,—and recollection,—do you express your ideas,—such a *lucidus ordo* (as old Master Horace has it),—and justness of definition,—and accuracy of distinction,—and facility of language,—pervade the whole, that one would suppose you had lectured for a

long series of years. Nor is this minute and thorough knowledge confined to Midwifery, for we have every reason to know that you are equally conversant with every other department of Medical Science.

Nor can I omit, Sir, on this occasion (for I know it is in unison with the feelings of those around me), to take notice of the suavity, modesty, and unaffectedness of your manners,—your accessibility, and readiness at all times to communicate information,—the absence, on your part, of all attempt at display or egotistical praise, or any wish to disparage or depreciate the merits and reputation of others,—and, in a word, all those other amiable qualities which adorn your character, and which so eminently fit you for a Public Teacher, as well as qualify you to be an ornament of society.

Allow me, Sir, before we part, to express my hope that you will, ere long, be called upon to fill a sphere more worthy of your talents and acquirements; for I am sure (and while I say it, I am not afraid of incurring the charge of presumption) you could not fail to discharge, with the highest credit to yourself, and approbation of others, in any School or University, the duties of any Medical Chair to which you might be appointed. But if it be your lot to continue longer here, I have no doubt that your celebrity will daily increase, and that numerous gentlemen will annually crowd to your Class, and avail themselves of your very valuable instructions. And, to conclude, I am fully sensible that one effect, at least, of the present expression of our sentiments will be to operate upon you as an additional stimulus to make renewed exertions in the arduous path of honourable fame.

PART II.

CRITICAL NOTICES, &c.

OF

VARIOUS ESSAYS ON MIDWIFERY SUBJECTS

PUBLISHED BY

J. Y. SIMPSON.

OBSERVATIONS *on the Diseases of the* PLACENTA. *Part I.*
Published in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal,
No. CXXVII. *for January 1836.*

This Essay was subsequently reprinted by the Editors of the *London Medical and Surgical Journal*, in different numbers of their Journal for June and July 1836.

It has been translated and published in German by DR SIMON of Berlin. (See the *Midwifery Journal*, edited by PROFESSORS BUSCH, D'OUTREPONT, and RITGEN, "*Neue Zeitschrift fuer Geburtskunde*," &c. Vol. V. Part I. p. 35-70. Berlin, 1837.)

It has also been translated into the Italian language by DR CHELIONI of Milan. (See PROFESSOR OMODEI'S *Annali di Medicina* for January 1837, p. 88, et seq.) DR CHELIONI, in the Preface to his published translation, after stating that the pathology and nature of those diseases that affect women in a state of Pregnancy were "as yet uncertain, hypothetical, or at best unsupported by satisfactory observations," goes on to observe,

“ In different works on Practical Medicine and Midwifery, they treat of ailments and diseases peculiar to pregnant women, which ought to be referred to the diseases of the Placenta, yet their descriptions are limited to the mere representation of the relative external symptoms, and the authors acknowledge themselves ignorant of their primary seat and real essence, or, what is worse, they suppose them very different from that which they really are. Thus it happens that they generally propose a plan of cure which is altogether empirical, symptomatic, or quite inappropriate, not being able, from want of the necessary information, to establish it upon rational grounds. Dr SIMPSON was aware of this deficiency, and, wishing to obviate the evils that could not but result from it, has directed his attention to the special pathology and cure of the said affections. Conversant with all that former authors have written upon them, and relying on the results of many researches which he had himself opportunely made, especially by the most accurate observations of whatever diseased placentaë he had an opportunity of examining, he has, in a praiseworthy manner, filled up the void which Medical Science presented on this point. His work is learned and well executed, and we cannot better make known our favourable judgment of it than by giving its complete translation, which we do in order that Physicians and Accoucheurs may profit by the useful information and sage precepts which the Author, for the same purpose, has now made a public property.”

The Italian original of the preceding extract.

“ In diverse opere di Medicina Pratica e di Ostetricia si parla di incomodi e mali proprii delle gravide, che

debbonsi a le malattie della placenta riferire; ma con le descrizioni loro sono limitate a rappresentarne solo le relative forme esterne, e gli autori confessano di ignorarne la sede primaria e la vera essenza, ovvero, ciò che è peggio, le suppongono ben diverse da quelle che realmente sono. Così ne viene ivi proposta d'ordinario una cura affatto empirica, sintomatica, od anche inopportuna, non potendosi per mancanza di lumi necessari stabilirla sopra indicazioni razionali. Il dott. SIMPSON conobbe tale difetto; e desideroso di riparare agli inconvenienti che ne possono riuscire, si occupò della patologia speciale e cura di dette affezioni. Istrutto di quanto su di esse lasciarono scritto gli autori, ed appoggiato ai risultamenti di molte indagini a bella posta da lui fatte, e massime dell' esame accuratissimo di quante placente morbose ebbe la opportunità di vedere, empì lodevolmente il vòto, che a proposito di ciò offrivano tuttora le Mediche Istituzioni. Erudito e ben condotto ne è il lavoro; e noi non sapremmo far noto meglio il favorevole nostro giudizio, quanto con darne una compiuta traduzione, onde i medici e gli ostetricanti si approfittino delle utili cognizioni e de' saggi precetti, che per esso l' Autore fece di pubblico diritto."

"The diseases of the placenta supply an ample scope for inquiry, and have not, I think it is allowable to say, been so systematically and so minutely treated of in this country as in some others. The elaborate paper of DR SIMPSON is, on this account, the more entitled to our notice. He has fully detailed all that has been written and well authenticated upon congestion of, and extravasation into, the Placenta, as well as upon inflammation occurring in this very vascular and peculiar mass."—(From the

Retrospective Address delivered by DR CROSSE of Norwich at the Fourth Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Manchester, July 21, 1836. (*Transactions of the Association, Vol. V.*)

“This is a very valuable compilation, * * and abounds with much information on a class of diseases which unfortunately are rarely discoverable, and consequently treated injudiciously. The author is well acquainted with modern medical literature, and has collected cases from all available sources. He has followed the example of our continental contemporaries, and produced a very instructive Essay on a part of a large number of diseases. We hope he will follow up the undertaking; and, in the event of his doing so, cannot fail to obtain much applause from his brethren, and considerably advance an interesting department of pathology. The diagnosis of such cases is extremely difficult, and the treatment must depend upon the character of urgent symptoms. A knowledge of Placentalitis and other diseases of the organ connecting the mother and fœtus in utero will enable the Obstetrician to explain some of the causes of the death of the offspring before birth, and the utter impossibility of preserving it in certain cases. The author is entitled to much credit for the research he has shown.”—(*London Medical and Surgical Journal for June 18, 1836.*)

“DR SIMPSON’S valuable Monograph on the Diseases of the Placenta....Few subjects connected with fœtal development are so deserving of study as the influence of morbid states of the Placenta.”—(*British and Foreign Medical Review for January 1838, p. 116.*)

“ We allude more especially to the admirable Essay on the Diseases of the Placenta by DR SIMPSON.”—(*Review of Dr Churchill's Outlines of the Diseases of Females, in the British and Foreign Review for July 1838.*)

“ This valuable paper is highly deserving of the attention of Pathologists in general and Accoucheurs in particular.”—(*Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review for July 1836, p. 288.*)

CASES *illustrative of the SPONTANEOUS AMPUTATION of the Limbs of the Fœtus in Utero. Published in the Dublin Journal of Medical Science for November 1836.*

“ DR SIMPSON of Edinburgh has published an excellent paper on this subject, into which he has collected a vast quantity of curious information, and many most important cases from authors, to which he has added not a few from his own observation, together with several highly apposite remarks.”—(From the work on the *Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, &c.*, by DR MONTGOMERY, Professor of Midwifery to the College of Physicians of Ireland. See page 331.)

See also DR TODD'S *Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*, No. XII. p. 328; and other notices in the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, No. V., and in DIEFFENBACH'S *Zeitschrift für die Gesammte Medizin* for January 1837.

CONTRIBUTIONS to *Intra-Uterine Pathology, Part I. Notices of Cases of Peritonitis in the Fœtus.* See the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, No. CXXXVII. for October 1838.

This Essay has subsequently been translated, and published in an abridged form in the French "*Archives Générales de Médecine*" for December 1838, in "*Dezeimeris' L'Expérience, ou Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie*" for 27th June 1839, and in the Italian "*Annali di Medicina*" for 1839, Vol. LXXXIX.

"This is such a communication as might be expected from the author of the admirable Essay on the Diseases of the Placenta. It is well deserving the attention of Pathologists; but we must refer them to the original, as we can only give a meagre outline of the subject in this place. An account is given, in all, of twenty-four cases, nearly one half of which came under DR SIMPSON'S OWN notice: three-fourths of them were acute. These cases amply establish the fact of the fœtus being liable to Peritonitis. * * * * We are happy to observe that DR SIMPSON purposes continuing his admirable researches in this curious and obscure region of Pathology."—(*British and Foreign Medical Review*, No. XIII. January 1839.)

"I am induced to forward for publication (the following cases of Dropsy and Peritonitis in the fœtus, observed during the past autumn in the Dublin Lying-in Hospital), from the fact of there not having been any cases of Peritonitis in the fœtus recorded by English writers be-

fore the appearance of DR SIMPSON'S excellent paper in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for October 1838. . . . Next to DR SIMPSON'S invaluable paper, the work of GRÆTZER [Die Krankheiten des Fœtus, Breslau, 1837] is worth consulting."—(DR WEST, *London Medical Gazette for 9th February 1839.*)

CONTRIBUTIONS to *Intra-Uterine Pathology*; Part II. On the *Inflammatory Origin of some Varieties of Hernia and Malformation in the Fœtus.* See the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, No. CXL. for July 1839.

Translated, and published in an abridged form in the "*Archives Générales de Médecine*" for September 1839.

" This is a most important article. * * * * It is a continuation of a former paper; and its object is to trace the indirect morbid effects which occasionally result from Peritonitis in the fœtus, described in the former part. * * * We recommend this paper to the particular attention of our readers."—(FORBES'S *British and Foreign Medical Review*, No. XVI. for October 1839.)

See also, by J. Y. S., the article on Hermaphroditism in the Human Subject and the Lower Animals, in TODD'S *Cyclopædia of Anatomy* (London 1839), &c.

SECOND PROOF-SHEET OF TESTIMONIALS
IN FAVOUR OF DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR R. B. TODD, F. R. S., *Fellow and Censor of the Royal College of Physicians of London ; Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in King's College ; and one of the Examiners for Degrees in Medicine in the University of London, &c.*

London, 26 Parliament Street,
November 9, 1839.

It is with unfeigned pleasure that I venture to bear testimony to the great merits of DR J. Y. SIMPSON as a Physiologist, Pathologist, and Obstetrical Physician. DR SIMPSON'S researches upon some of the most intricate and difficult points connected with Obstetric Medicine, have not only proved him to be a Physician of very superior attainments, but have acquired for him an European reputation. I feel that I do not say too much when I state my belief that DR SIMPSON ranks high among the first class of Obstetric Physicians in Great Britain, and that there is no one in this country better able to fill the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, whether we consider his great erudition, his laborious and extensive researches, or his habits of careful observation. Were I to look solely to the interests of Medical Science, I should most heartily wish that DR SIMPSON may be elected to the vacant Chair.

R. B. TODD.

From DR ALLEN THOMSON, Professor of Anatomy in Marischal College, Aberdeen, &c. &c.

Aberdeen, November 9, 1839.

Understanding that DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON is at present a Candidate for the Chair of Midwifery, vacant by the resignation of the distinguished Professor by whom it was lately occupied, I have sincere pleasure in stating the very high opinion I entertain of DR SIMPSON'S qualifications to fill the office to which he aspires.

I have been intimately acquainted with DR SIMPSON for a period of eight years, and have had ample opportunity during that time of knowing his zeal in acquiring professional knowledge, his deep learning in many branches of Medicine, and more especially in that of Midwifery, to which his attention has been chiefly devoted, and his singular facility of communicating his knowledge to Students.

DR SIMPSON'S amiable manners and correct conduct are such as to secure him the confidence and esteem of those with whom he may be called upon to act. Possessed of excellent natural talents, acute observation, a remarkable memory, and unrivalled activity and powers of application to study, DR SIMPSON has acquired an amount of professional knowledge which it is the lot of few at his period of life to possess; and his writings on various subjects connected with Midwifery, most favourably received by the profession in this country and on the Continent, while they afford ample evidence of his deep research, show at the same time with what accuracy,

judgment, and success, he can apply his talents and information to the promotion of knowledge in any department of Medical Science.

DR SIMPSON'S known success as a Teacher, both in the Pathology Class of the University and in his Lectures on Midwifery, has most fully proved his competency to fulfil the duties of a Public Teacher, by giving a most luminous and extended view of his subject, in a manner so as to interest and instruct the Pupils, and communicate to them a portion of his own zeal.

On these grounds I have no hesitation in saying that I consider DR SIMPSON as in every way eminently qualified for the honourable situation of Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh,—a Chair which, I am confident, he would fill with honour to himself and to the University, with great benefit to the Students, and with satisfaction to the Patrons and to the Public.

ALLEN THOMSON, M.D.

From JAMES BROWN, M.D., Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Andersonian Professor of Midwifery, and Accoucheur to the Glasgow Lying-In Hospital and Dispensary.

Glasgow, 73 St Vincent Street,
8th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me much pleasure to learn, that you have thought of applying for the Midwifery Chair, at present vacant in the University of Edinburgh.

Your contributions to medical science have already made your name extensively known, not only in this country, but also on the Continent. These contributions entitle you to the thanks of the profession. They have established you in the opinion of medical inquirers, as a man not only of industry and ingenuity, but as one possessing the rare talent for successful pathological observation.

I cannot help viewing your advancement, therefore, as a step towards the advancement of medical science, and wishing for it accordingly. If raised to the Midwifery Chair, you would, I have no doubt, turn your thereby extended opportunities of observation to the best account. This we have reason to infer from what you have already done; but it is rendered to my mind still more certain, from what I know of your acuteness and zeal.

I am ignorant of those likely to be your opponents, and therefore cannot speak comparatively of your respective merits; but I feel satisfied, that the Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh will, by appointing you to the Chair of Midwifery, appoint one who will fulfil its duties well, and who, if he goes on as he has begun, will sustain the honour and add to the fame of the University at home and abroad.

JAS. BROWN, M. D.

To DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From JAMES WILSON, Esq. M. D., Interim Lecturer on Midwifery, &c. in the University of Glasgow, for many years Lecturer on Midwifery in the Portland Street School of Medicine.

Glasgow, 7th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me sincere pleasure to hear that you are a Candidate for the Professorship of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

From your education, professional zeal, industry, and already intimate acquaintance with the subject of Midwifery, I consider you admirably qualified to fill that important situation.

I have carefully perused the papers which you have published at different times, with much pleasure and advantage; and from their merits, as well as from my personal knowledge of you, I have been led to form a very high opinion of your professional qualifications, as being of the very first order; so much so, that when I resigned my Lectureship in the Portland Street School of Medicine, it was my earnest wish that you should have succeeded me in that situation.

Convinced as I am that your appointment would promote the interests of the Edinburgh University, I sincerely wish you success in your application.

And I am,

DEAR SIR,

Yours very truly,

JAMES WILSON, M. D.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From JOHN REID, Esq. M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, President of the Anatomical Society, Superintendent of and Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, &c.

Having enjoyed the most free personal communication with Dr J. Y. SIMPSON for many years, I am enabled to express my opinion of his talents and professional attainments with the utmost confidence. After finishing his literary studies at this University, he entered upon his medical education with the same zeal and persevering industry which have always formed so prominent a part of his character; and the facility and rapidity with which he mastered the rudimentary part of his professional studies,—as I can vouch from the most ample experience,—was such as was to be expected from those qualities when conjoined with his high mental endowments.

When Dr SIMPSON presented himself for graduation, the excellence of his Inaugural Dissertation attracted the attention of Professor THOMSON, to whom he was at that time personally unknown, and induced that gentleman to request his assistance in his professional studies. The very high opinion which Professor THOMSON entertained of his talents and acquirements, after a personal intercourse of several years, was fully attested by the fact, that he was recommended by that gentleman to the Patrons of the University, as qualified in every respect to act as Interim Lecturer on General Pathology; and the Testimonial presented to him by the Students at the termination of the session, shows that the high expectations formed of his capabilities for filling so honourable and responsible a situation were fully verified.

The same success has attended Dr SIMPSON'S labours in the department of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, to which he now directs his principal attention; and the highest value is attached by the scientific cultivators of that branch of Medical Science, to his learned and important Memoirs published on Midwifery subjects.

The high standing which Dr SIMPSON has attained is entirely due to his own meritorious exertions; for when he came to Edinburgh, more than twelve years ago, he was entirely a stranger, without patronage, and without a single friend to assist him in his professional advancement.

Those who are acquainted with Dr SIMPSON'S great mental capabilities, and the extent of his practical knowledge, his indefatigable industry, his uncommon zeal, immense erudition, and highly enlightened views of Medical Science, can have no doubt that he will continue his unabated efforts in the path in which he has already so much distinguished himself, and feel fully confident that the advancement of Midwifery will be much promoted by his exertions.

Entertaining these views of the extent of Dr SIMPSON'S talents and attainments, I can have no hesitation in stating my conscientious belief that he is eminently qualified for filling the Professorship of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh; and also in expressing my conviction that he will, if elected to the situation, honourably support and extend the great reputation of that Institution.

JOHN REID, M. D.

Royal Infirmary, 12th Nov. 1839.

From JAMES CARSON, M. D., F. R. S., *Membre Honoraire de la Société Française de la Statistique Universelle, &c. &c., and Author of a Work “ On the Causes of the Motion of the Blood,” &c.*

Liverpool, 11th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are a Candidate for the Midwifery Chair, now vacant in the University of Edinburgh.

You have already acquired great and just celebrity as a Lecturer on Midwifery and General Pathology. Your writings on subjects connected with Midwifery have gained the applause of the Medical Profession, not only of the British empire, but of other countries, where the high estimation in which they are held has been frequently evinced by the translation of them into the languages of these countries. From the perusal of these writings, and from the very interesting interview I lately had with you in Liverpool, I am satisfied that in all your pathological researches you have been guided by profound and correct physiological views. With such attainments, supported by your well-known energy and zeal, and by the subsidiary but important qualifications of a Lecturer, so beautifully and honourably attested by your Pupils, I am convinced, that if you should be selected to fill the vacant Chair, you will be found to discharge the duties of it in a manner highly to your own honour, and to the benefit of the public.

I have the honour to be,

MY DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES CARSON, M. D., F. R. S.

DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

THIRD PROOF-SHEET OF TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR CARSWELL, *Professor of Pathological Anatomy in University College, London; Physician and Professor of Clinical Medicine to the North London Hospital, &c. &c.; Author of "Illustrations of the Elementary Forms of Disease," &c.*

London, 10th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is with no small degree of pleasure that I embrace the opportunity you afford me, of expressing the high opinion I entertain of your qualifications to discharge the duties of the Chair now vacant by the resignation of DR HAMILTON.

I can most conscientiously assert, that among the whole circle of my medical friends and acquaintance, there is not one whose education, studies, and acquirements so fully qualify him for the discharge of these duties as yourself. You possess ample means of furnishing the Patrons of the University, with the most satisfactory evidence of your attainments as an original observer,—as a patient and philosophical inquirer,—and as a successful Teacher.

Your zeal, perseverance, and moral integrity, acknowledged by every one who has had the pleasure of your acquaintance, can leave no doubt that your appointment to the Chair of Midwifery, would be a sure guarantee of the

future advancement of that Chair in the University of Edinburgh.

With every wish for your success,
Believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT CARSWELL, M. D.

DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From EDWARD RIGBY, Esq. M. D., F. L. S., *Lecturer on Midwifery at St Bartholomew's Hospital ; Physician to the General Lying-in Hospital, &c. &c. ; Author of various Obstetric Essays.*

11th November 1839.

23 New Street, Spring Garden.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in thus publicly recording my high opinion of your abilities and attainments in Midwifery,—a branch of the healing art which is under special obligations to you for the valuable papers which, during the last few years, you have contributed to it, and which have tended to throw much light upon a hitherto obscure and unexplored subject.

From your youth,—your studious habits,—and persevering ardour,—and (it is no more than just to add) from the high respect in which you are already held by the most distinguished members of your profession, both in this and other countries, an ample earnest has been given of your future merit and distinction.

With every wish for the success which you so well deserve,

Believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very truly,

EDWARD RIGBY, M. D.

DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

From DR MONTGOMERY, M. R. I. A. Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, Professor of Midwifery to the College, &c. ; Author of an " Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy."

18 Molesworth Street, Dublin,
Nov. 7, 1839.

Having learned with great regret that the Professorship of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh is about to become vacant, in consequence of the resignation of my highly-esteemed friend DR HAMILTON, who has filled the Chair so long and with such distinguished reputation and celebrity, and that DR J. Y. SIMPSON is a candidate for the office, I beg to state, that in my opinion he is eminently qualified to do the duties thereof, with credit to himself and advantage to the Institution.

I have had sufficient opportunity of judging of DR SIMPSON'S abilities and acquirements, both from his published writings and otherwise ; and I do not hesitate to say, that both are of a very high order ; while his zeal and industry render him, in my opinion, peculiarly fitted to discharge, *efficiently*, the arduous duties of a Public Teacher of Midwifery, on which subject, and its collateral branches, he possesses a very unusual extent of information.

W. F. MONTGOMERY, M. D., M. R. I. A.

From EDWARD WILLIAM MURPHY, Esq. A. M., M. D., *late*
Assistant Physician to the Dublin Lying-in Hospital ; Lec-
turer on Midwifery at the Marlborough-Street Medical
School, Dublin, &c.

Dublin, Nov. 13, 1839,
 12 Upper Semples Street.

MY DEAR SIMPSON,

I feel much pleasure in acceding to your request to state my opinion of your acquirements in reference to the Chair that you seek for. The Testimonials of your Pupils, and the extent of your Class, sufficiently testify your power of communicating instruction.

The instruction which you are capable of communicating I would judge to be of the highest order, because it does not appear to be confined to the mere routine of everyday Lectures;—but, from the Monographs you have published, I must suppose it to contain a large fund of information altogether new.

If those who are to elect think it essential that their Professor should keep pace with the improvements of the present age, and that he should not be behind the spirit of medical research, I think they cannot well object to one who has opened a field for himself, and has led the inquiry into the diseases of Embryonic life.

Any objection as to youth is to me quite unintelligible. If they are satisfied as to your knowledge and competency in every other respect, the activity and desire for distinction that would belong to a junior Professor, I would suppose to be an advantage; besides that he is likely to have more time to devote to the duties which he undertakes. Unless, therefore, they are in dread that you might hold the Chair for half a century, I cannot perceive the force of the objection. I think that, with three exceptions, all our Professors are young men, and we have gained, by the change, from our former sexagenarians. * * * *

Hoping that the Magistrates and City Councillors will agree in this view, and that they will appreciate your industry and your research as fully as I do,

I beg to remain,

MY DEAR SIMPSON,

Very truly yours,

EDWARD WM. MURPHY.

TO DR SIMPSON.

From CHARLES RANSFORD, Esq. M. D., *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and Physician to the Royal Public Dispensary.*

51 Northumberland Street,

13th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

With the greatest pleasure I comply with your request to give my feeble testimony in favour of your qualifications for the highly responsible and arduous post for which you are a Candidate. I have for many years enjoyed your acquaintance. We have been continually in the habit of meeting each other, both in public and private. Every opportunity has consequently been afforded me of becoming well conversant with your general and professional attainments. Of these I cannot express myself too highly.

No one with whom I am, or ever was, familiar, has equalled you in the untiring energy with which you have sought after and obtained medical knowledge. Not only have you made yourself master of the literature of our profession; but you have tested the accuracy of opinions by a diligent observation of their value at the bedside. You have been distinguished by industriously seeking out new channels for discovery,—and for diligently avail-

ing yourself of the many sources of information with which this highly favoured School abounds. I, in common with many others, have profited by your conversations and publications,—the fruits of laborious study.

In addition, then, to a profound knowledge of all that has been done by ancient and modern Professors of the Obstetric Art, you have, by active practice, acquired experience and confidence to avail you at the moment of difficulty and danger. By your business habits,—patience,—and fluent and ready mode of expressing your thoughts,—and by your success in exciting and keeping up in the minds of your Pupils an interest in the subject, you have already proved yourself fit for the department of teaching,—as indeed the highly satisfactory testimonials in your possession from former classes show.

In conclusion, I can with strict conscientiousness certify, that I believe you perfectly qualified to discharge, with credit to yourself, and advantage to your Pupils, the duties of that Chair of which DR HAMILTON has been so long the able occupant.

Believe me,

DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

CHARLES RANSFORD.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR JOHN CAMPBELL, Fellow and formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, &c.

DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, has been well known to me for some years past, as a Gentleman who has rendered himself eminent as a most successful and accomplished cultivator of Medical Science, to various departments of

which he has furnished many published Contributions, distinguished by great learning, industry, and research, and showing a profound and intimate acquaintance with the different subjects treated of. He has likewise been very favourably known as a Lecturer on Midwifery; and from the opportunities which I have had of judging of his merits and qualifications in this respect, I can bear the strongest testimony to his being a most able, efficient, and popular public Teacher.

From DR SIMPSON'S general talents, learning, and profound professional acquirements, and from his ability as a Lecturer on Midwifery, I should consider him as well qualified to discharge the duties of the Chair in this University, for which he is now a candidate.

JOHN CAMPBELL, M. D.

Edinburgh, 17 Albany Street,
12th November 1839.

From DR FARQUHARSON, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and one of the Examinators to the College, &c.

Northumberland Street, Nov. 13, 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I have very great pleasure in bearing testimony to your admirable qualifications for filling the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

I have perused your very valuable contributions to Uterine Pathology with much pleasure and profit. They display the rare union of learned research, minute and accurate investigation, and profound reasoning,—and rank you high as an improver of our profession.

I have had ample opportunity of conversing with many of those Students who attended your last year's Course of Midwifery. They all expressed themselves highly gratified by the clearness with which you conveyed your va-

luable instructions, and by the kindness and facility of access which you ever displayed towards them.

I remain,

Yours, &c.

FRANCIS FARQUHARSON, M. D.

TO DR SIMPSON.

From DR W. HENDERSON, *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Lecturer on Pathology and the Practice of Physic, Interim Physician to the Royal Infirmary, &c.*

I have been intimately acquainted with DR J. Y. SIMPSON for several years, and have had ample opportunity of knowing the character of his mind, and the range of his acquirements. It is therefore with the greatest confidence that I am enabled to express my opinion of his very remarkable capacity and attainments.

There is no mental endowment calculated to be of service in the acquisition, or in the imparting of knowledge, which he does not possess in a singular degree. Throughout his career as a student he has been distinguished above all others by great depth of observation and extent of knowledge; and his research and ability have, in the years which have intervened, enriched the science which he cultivates, with many interesting and important facts; giving a promise of future eminence in his department of medicine, such as none at his years, however distinguished subsequently, have ever surpassed.

Considering what he has already done, and what he is capable of doing, I cannot hesitate to express my strong conviction, that the Patrons of the University will, by placing him in the Chair to which he aspires, confer on the University one of the greatest boons in their power, and discharge their duty to the Public and to Science in a manner most highly creditable to themselves.

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M. D.

FOURTH PROOF-SHEET OF TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR ASHWELL, Lecturer on Midwifery, Guy's Hospital, London, Obstetric Physician to that Institution, &c. ; Author of a " Practical Treatise on Parturition," and of different Essays and Reports on Midwifery and the Diseases of Females.

15 Devonshire Square, London,
November 12, 1839.

It affords me sincere pleasure by any testimony of mine to advance the claims of DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

My anxiety for his success is free from the influence of personal friendship, as DR SIMPSON is known to me only through his writings. These are, however, of such rare merit, they are so clear, they evince so entire an acquaintance with *the most difficult* class of subjects which *can* engage the attention of a Scientific and Obstetric Physician, and they afford so great a promise of future research and usefulness, that, on Public grounds, I shall rejoice in his elevation to a Chair so long and so ably occupied by the distinguished HAMILTON.

His youth—his great zeal—and his untiring industry, will aid in upholding the celebrity of the ancient University of Edinburgh.

SAMUEL ASHWELL, M. D.

From DR CONQUEST, F. L. S., Physician to the City of London Lying-in Hospital, London Female Penitentiary, and London Orphan Asylum; for many years Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, at St Bartholomew's Hospital; Author of "Outlines of Midwifery," &c.

I have been led to form a very high estimate of the professional attainments of DR J. Y. SIMPSON, from some communications from him which have appeared in several of the most respectable publications of the day. These contributions to Medical Science prove him to be a man of sound judgment,—extensive research,—close observation,—and with those attributes of mind which cannot fail to raise him to a commanding position in his profession, and which qualify him in no ordinary measure for the responsible duties of a Teacher.

J. T. CONQUEST, M. D.

London, November 12, 1839.

From DR INGLEBY, F. R. C. P. of Edinburgh, Lecturer on Midwifery at the Royal School of Medicine, Birmingham; Senior Surgeon to the Birmingham General Dispensary; and Author of "Facts and Cases in Obstetric Medicine, with Observations on some of the most Important Diseases of Females," &c. &c.

DR SIMPSON is well known to me—not personally—but as the author of several valuable contributions to Medical Science. I refer especially to his paper on the diseases of the Placenta,—a paper evincing much research, replete with Practical information, and in all respects highly creditable to the writer.

Impressed with the ability displayed in his writings, I have much satisfaction in stating my conviction, that DR SIMPSON is well qualified for the arduous and responsible duties in connection with the Professional Chair of Midwifery.

J. T. INGLEBY, M. D.

Birmingham, 12th Nov. 1839.

From THOMAS TURNER, Esq. Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary; Lecturer on Anatomy at the Marsden Street Royal School of Anatomy and Medicine, &c.; Author of "Outlines of a System of Medico-Chirurgical Education," "A Practical Treatise on the Arterial System," &c.

Manchester, November 10, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me much pleasure to hear that you are a Candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University; and most fervently do I wish that you may succeed in your laudable endeavours to enter on a more extensive field of instruction in the art in which you have so much distinguished yourself.

Your Obstetrical Papers, and especially your valuable contributions to the Pathology of the Placenta, have shown so much industry—and research—and accuracy of observation, as cannot fail to recommend you to the Profession, and through them to the members of the Council, in whose hands the appointment is vested. Indeed I have no hesitation in stating, that your past labours,—your zeal,—and your scientific attainments, give full evidence of your competency to discharge, with credit to yourself, and to

the honour of the University, the important and responsible duties which will devolve upon you, should the Professorship be conferred upon you.

Highly as I value your friendship, nothing should induce me to recommend you to the favourable consideration of the Electors, if I did not *conscientiously* believe, that your talents are of the first-rate order, and that you are eminently qualified to enhance the reputation of the Edinburgh School.

With best wishes for your success, believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very sincerely,

THOS. TURNER.

To DR SIMPSON, Edinburgh.

From DR MARTIN BARRY, F. R. S. E., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c.; Author of "Researches in Embryology," &c.

London, 18 of Eleventh Month,
(November) 1839.

It is with great satisfaction that I learn DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON is a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.

As an intimacy with DR SIMPSON of some years standing warrants me in forming an opinion of his eligibility for so important a situation, I venture to offer that opinion, which I am enabled to do in an unqualified manner.

In whatever point of view DR SIMPSON'S character is considered—whether as regards those attainments which he has achieved by the persevering cultivation of great natural talents—or, more particularly, in reference to his own department of the Medical Profession, his great prac-

tical acquaintance therewith, conjoined with his peculiar aptness for original research and observation, as evinced by his writings—or excellent endowments for communicating his knowledge with perspicuity to others—or his courteous deportment in private life—his acquaintances, in common with myself, cannot but wish that the University of Edinburgh, and that Medical Science itself, should derive those advantages which are reasonably to be expected from the appointment of a man of such promise, and in the vigour of life.

MARTIN BARRY.

From R. A. MANFORD, Esq. Surgeon to the Northern Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum, Inverness, &c.

Inverness, 12th Nov. 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I have just heard that a vacancy has occurred in the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, in consequence of the resignation of DR HAMILTON, and that you have resolved on becoming a candidate for the situation.

From my own knowledge of your public and private character, and my observation of your intimate and varied acquaintance with the different subjects connected with your profession—particularly that of Midwifery—combined with the opinion of many of my Professional Brethren and Students of Medicine from this quarter attending your schools in Edinburgh, who uniformly speak of your suavity and general kindness of manner—your indefatigable zeal, perseverance, and research—your fluency of expression—ease of manner—and the gift you possess of communicating knowledge as a Lecturer on Midwifery

(qualifications so seldom to be met with combined in one individual),—it affords me more than ordinary pleasure in recommending you to the Honourable Patrons as eminently qualified to fill the vacant Chair.

Permit me to add, that your several Contributions on subjects connected with Midwifery, so handsomely and deservedly noticed by different Medical Reviews both at home and abroad, and which I have myself perused with very great pleasure and improvement, demonstrate your professional attainments; and, coupled with the facts of your increasing success as a Teacher of Midwifery, and your having lectured for a session on General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, fully entitle you to the confidence of the Patrons and Public.

I am sure, should the Patrons do you the honour to appoint you to fill the Chair, they shall have no cause to regret it; on the contrary, I am satisfied your election would greatly tend to the maintenance and extension of the high reputation of the University of Edinburgh.

Wishing you success in this and every other undertaking,

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

R. A. MANFORD.

From W. B. CARPENTER, Esq. M. D., Lecturer on Forensic Medicine, Bristol; late President of the Royal Medical Society; Author of a Work on the "General Principles of Physiology," &c. &c.

I have been requested by DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON to state my opinion of his qualifications for the Professorship in the University of Edinburgh. This I do with some hesitation, so far as I am myself concerned; since I can scarcely suppose that any testimonial of mine can have

much weight with the Patrons of this Chair. But I can have no hesitation whatever in regard to DR SIMPSON; since I am not acquainted with any one in whom there exists so complete an union of the qualifications required for this important office, as that which I have had many opportunities of knowing him to possess.

By a rare combination of natural talents, and of industry and zeal in the employment of them, DR SIMPSON has acquired a knowledge of the whole range of Medical Science, to which I scarcely know of any parallel, and which I can scarcely conceive to be surpassed by any man of his age and standing in the profession. Pathology and Midwifery are the departments which he has more especially cultivated, and particularly the pathological department of the latter subject. Of his attainments in this, his various papers give ample proof. In his Essay on the Diseases of the Placenta, his Paper on the Spontaneous Amputation of the Limbs of the Fœtus, his article on Hermaphroditism, and others which might be mentioned, he has displayed the most complete and accurate acquaintance with the writings of previous authors (many of them generally forgotten)—the utmost discrimination in sifting the value of the facts thus obtained—and a most remarkable sagacity in the deduction of inferences from them;—and, combined with these, great acuteness of original observation, by which he has already been enabled to add many facts of great interest and importance to those which his learning has accumulated from other sources.

But great as are DR SIMPSON'S acquirements, I deem them but subservient to a higher qualification—that philosophic spirit, which, as DR THOMAS BROWN has justly remarked, is of more value than any limited attainments in science. The rare degree in which he possesses this, combined with the remarkable powers which I have already mentioned,

give a promise of future excellence, which I should be very sorry to see displayed in any other field than the University to which, as my Alma Mater, I feel so much attached.

I can scarcely regard it as unlikely that DR SIMPSON'S youthfulness, when he is compared with other candidates, may operate against him. I would suggest, however, that practical experience does not so much depend on having seen a *great deal*, as on the *power* of observing accurately, and applying with judgment. That DR S. possesses these faculties in an eminent degree, he has given ample proof; and I feel confident that he has derived more benefit from his Midwifery practice, comparatively limited in duration though it may have been, than most other men would do in the course of a whole life.

I have hitherto spoken only of DR SIMPSON'S mental acquirements; but I am well aware that these alone would not entitle him to the office which he is seeking. His power of communicating knowledge to others, arising from clearness of thought and facility of expression, is no less remarkable than his other qualifications. Of this I had abundant opportunities of judging whilst I was a resident member of the Medical Society; and although I have not heard him lecture more than once, the excellence of that lecture, both in regard to matter,—arrangement,—style,—and delivery,—will long be impressed on my mind.

I could say much more on the subject of DR SIMPSON'S qualifications; but I hope that I have sufficiently expressed my opinion of them. I have only to add, that I regard him as possessed of a remarkable power of attaching young men to him, by his suavity of manner, by the interest he manifests in their pursuits, and by the assistance he is always ready to afford to them.

WILLIAM B. CARPENTER, M. D.

Fifth Proof-Sheet of

TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR BEATTY, M. R. I. A., Master of the New Lying-in Hospital, Cumberland Street, Dublin; Consulting Accoucheur to the City of Dublin Hospital; Lecturer on Midwifery in the Park Street School of Medicine; formerly Professor of Medical Jurisprudence to the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c.

November 12, 1839,

16 Molesworth Street, Dublin.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received your letter yesterday, and hasten to reply to it, with mingled feelings of pain and pleasure. I must regret, in common with all who take an interest in our branch of the profession, that DR HAMILTON, who has so long and so ably filled the important office of Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, has been compelled by ill health to resign the Chair upon which he has shed such a brilliant lustre; and I must lament that Medical Science is thus deprived of one of its brightest ornaments.

But while I condole with my parent University in the loss she has thus sustained, I cannot but feel pleasure in the thought that Edinburgh possesses an individual *in every way worthy* to be the successor of that distinguished man;

and that there is a prospect of your being selected to fill the important vacancy.

If we are to judge of the qualifications of a candidate by the value of his Scientific labours and contributions, it must be admitted that *your* claims are of the highest order. Your researches, in a department hitherto neglected, have already stamped your character with a wide celebrity, as is evinced by their translation into other languages; and if the evidence of so humble an individual as I am, can add any thing to the universal applause bestowed upon them, I most willingly acknowledge the very great pleasure and profit which I have derived from their perusal.

Upon one of your Essays I feel myself more at liberty to speak, in as much as I have been a labourer in the same field. I allude to your valuable article on Hermaphroditism,*—one of the ablest and most finished Essays I have ever read—exhibiting at the same time the greatest research—and the most profound thought—and bearing evidence throughout of first-rate ability in the writer.

With such sentiments respecting your endowments and acquirements, I look forward with pleasure and hope to your being elected to a post for which you are so eminently qualified; and I anticipate very important benefits to Obstetrical Science from your promotion.

With every wish for your success, believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very truly,

THOS. EDWD. BEATTY.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

* DR BEATTY is the author of the article on Sexual Malformations and Hermaphroditism in the Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine.

From ROBERT POWER, Esq. *Surgeon to the Coombe Lying-in Hospital; Lecturer on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, at the School of Anatomy and Medicine, Peter Street; one of the Midwifery Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, &c. &c.*

Dublin, 56 Great Dominick Street,
November 11, 1839.

I have the pleasure of knowing DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, and can bear testimony in favour of his great merits as a Teacher and as an Author. His contributions to Obstetrical Pathology are of the highest interest and importance, more particularly his observations on the Diseases of the Placenta, and his papers on the Fœtus, which have amply supplied a deficiency hitherto existing in Medical Literature. The article on Hermaphroditism in the Cyclopedia of Anatomy and Physiology, affords most honourable and decisive evidence of his ability and research.

Judging from DR SIMPSON'S talents—his industrious habits—his courteous demeanour and easy address—and the highly creditable mention already made of his name in the professional world, I am certain that he must be a most efficient and popular Lecturer.

ROBERT H. POWER.

From FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M. D. ; Lecturer on Midwifery in the Richmond Hospital School, Dublin ; Physician to the Western Lying-in Hospital ; Secretary to the Dublin Obstetrical Society ; Author of " Outlines of the Diseases of Females," &c. &c.

136 Stephen's Green West,
Dublin, 9th Nov. 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

Although but a short time personally known to you, your writings have been long familiar to me. I fully appreciate in them your laborious investigation and extended research ; and I doubt not but that these qualities will ere long yield a rich harvest of reputation to yourself, and of information to the profession. That which I had admired in your papers, I perceived in conversation to be characteristic of your mind ; and therefore I doubt not that you will fill any situation you may occupy, to the great advantage of those who look to you for instruction.

It is still better when these qualities are (as in your case) set off by courtesy of manner and frankness of communication. Believe me, ever sincerely yours,

F. CHURCHILL.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From SIR JAMES EYRE, Senior Physician-Accoucheur to the St George's and St James's Dispensary, London, &c. &c.

November 26, 1839.

Although I have not had the pleasure of personal communication with DR SIMPSON since 1834, I cannot refrain

from testifying, on the present occasion, how eminently qualified I consider him to fill the vacant Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, not merely on account of his popularity as a Lecturer, *of which I have heard much*, but in respect to his talented writings, the careful perusal of which has impressed me with the conviction that he possesses first-rate abilities, and would effectively sustain the high character of the University in his own particular department.

JAMES EYRE, M. D.

From DR SHARPEY, F. R. S. E., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in University College, London, &c. &c.

DR JAMES YOUNG SIMPSON, now a candidate for the Professorship of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, having requested me to state my opinion of his qualifications, I beg to say, that I consider him a man of great ability, and of extensive and solid professional acquirements. He has both a decided turn for Practical inquiries, and great readiness in collecting and rendering available whatever information is to be found in books.

Since taking his degree, he has devoted his attention chiefly to the Study and Practice of Midwifery, and, as I have reason to believe, has made himself highly accomplished in that branch.

His writings on various Medical and Obstetrical subjects have acquired him great consideration among his professional brethren; and such of his papers as treat of Anatomical and Physiological topics connected with Midwifery (of which I can venture to speak with more confidence), display, in my opinion, great learning and ability.

He is, moreover, a man of great activity and industry, prosecuting whatever he undertakes with untiring zeal.

Such qualifications, added to his marked success as a Teacher and Lecturer, in my opinion eminently fit DR SIMPSON for the important and responsible office which he solicits.

WM. SHARPEY.

68 Torrington Square, London,
11th November 1839.

From DR HODGKIN, Conservator of Guy's Hospital Museum ; Lecturer on Morbid Anatomy in that School, &c. &c. ; Author of " The Morbid Anatomy of Mucous and Serous Membranes," &c.

The Patrons of the University of Edinburgh will probably acquit me, as one of their graduates, and as the personal friend of several of their Professors, of any wish contrary to a *sincere* desire that their professional Chairs may be filled by a succession of teachers worthy of their distinguished predecessors. But they may doubt the correctness of my judgment, when, after having long left their University, I venture *most strongly* to recommend the appointment of DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON to the Chair of Midwifery, recently vacant by the death of DR HAMILTON.

It is right, therefore, that I should state, that although I have not had an opportunity of witnessing DR SIMPSON'S exertions as a Teacher, it is not merely by his writings, which have gained him a well-earned European reputation, that I am prepared to bear testimony to the validity of his claims.

Having had the pleasure of DR SIMPSON'S acquaintance both in London and Edinburgh, in both of which places we spent a considerable time together in the inspection of extensive Pathological collections, I have had ample opportunity of becoming convinced of the extent and soundness of his knowledge of the subject. In one highly interesting branch of Pathology, most intimately connected with the Professorship to which he aspires, he has trodden in a new path, and already become a *leader* and a *teacher* to his professional brethren.

I have no hesitation in stating, that I believe that the appointment of DR SIMPSON to the Chair of Midwifery will fully justify the choice of the Patrons of the University, and prove highly advantageous to those who may have the benefit of his instructions.

THOMAS HODGKIN, M. D.

London, 26. 11. 1839.

*From DR HANNAY, Professor of the Practice of Physic in the
Andersonian University, &c. &c.*

The numerous communications of DR J. Y. SIMPSON to Journals of Medicine, and his contributions to the Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology, evince a zeal, intelligence, and research of the highest order. Originality of views, and a philosophic spirit, characterise his labours.

Whilst he shows by these that he possesses a profound knowledge of Pathology in general, yet it is obviously to those parts of that Science which engage the attention of the teacher of Midwifery, that his mind has been most ar-

dently devoted. I feel perfectly confident that, from his attainments—his previous experience in teaching—and his many accomplishments—he is eligible, in the *highest* degree, to fill the Chair to which he aspires in the University.

ALEXANDER J. HANNAY, M. D.

Andersonian University,

13th November 1839.

From DR W. STOKES, M. R. I. A., *Honorary Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland ; Lecturer on the Practice of Physic in the Park Street School, Dublin ; Physician to the Meath Hospital, &c. &c.*

Dublin, November 25, 1839.

I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with DR SIMPSON. It was made during his late visit to Dublin ; but long before this, I had formed the very highest opinion of his talents and his acquirements as a Physician, a Pathologist, and a Teacher of Midwifery. His contributions to Science have all been of the *first* class, and have earned for him in his department a reputation second to few indeed in this country or on the Continent. There can be no doubt whatever that his election to the Chair of Midwifery would tend greatly to the maintenance of the high character of the Medical School of Edinburgh.

WILLIAM STOKES, M. D.

(*Sixth Proof-Sheet.*)

TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

From DR D. D. DAVIS, formerly Obstetric Physician to the Queen Dowager; Professor of Midwifery in University College, London; Obstetric Physician to the North London Hospital, and to the Royal Maternity Charity, &c. &c.; Author of "The Elements of Operative Midwifery," "The Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine," &c. &c.

17 Russell Place, Fitzroy Square, London,
5th December 1829.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have to apologize to you for not having replied to your valued communication some weeks sooner. This is a period of the year, and of our College Session, when my time is much occupied. *Now*, however, that I have made up my mind exclusively as to other candidates, and conclusively in favour of your pretensions, I hope I am not too late in coming forward to submit my *HONEST* opinion to that effect to the gentlemen of the Town Council of Edinburgh. In requesting you to communicate that opinion to the several members of the elective body (for I have not the honour of a personal acquaintance with any one of the gentlemen), I hope I may be permitted to assure them, through you, that *I have arrived at this conclusion as a dictate of SIMPLE JUSTICE to the estimate I have formed of YOUR superior fitness to be appointed to the vacant Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.*

I feel no sympathy, my good sir, with your fears lest you might be deemed too young to undertake the duties of the important Chair you aspire to; for although indeed not old, you have nevertheless lived long enough to have acquired a name of no little distinction as a Public Lecturer; and that name, in addition to the *SUPREMACY* of your pretensions as a Public Writer (I allude principally to your researches into the difficult subject of Uterine Pathology), will very soon, if I am not much mistaken, have the effect of placing you in the long-respected Chair of Dr JAMES HAMILTON, who filled it well, be it remembered, at an earlier period of life than that which I presume to be your present age.

Sincerely hoping to hear of your triumphant success on the day of election,

I have the honour to remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

With very unfeigned regard,

Yours faithfully,

DAVID D. DAVIS.

To Dr J. Y. SIMPSON.

From Dr LOCOCK, Physician to the Queen Dowager, Physician to the Westminster General Lying-in Hospital, &c. &c.; Author of various Essays on Female Diseases in the Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine, &c.

7 Hanover Square, London,

16th November 1839.

It is with much regret that I have been informed of the retirement of Dr HAMILTON from the Chair in the

University of Edinburgh, which he has filled with such distinguished ability for so many years.

From the Successor of so celebrated a Professor much will be expected; and although I have not had the honour of a personal acquaintance with DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, yet from what I have *read* of his published writings, and from what I have *heard* of his talents as a Teacher, I should have great confidence that the appointment of that gentleman to the vacant Chair of Midwifery would *redound* to the interests and reputation of the University.

CHARLES LOCOCK, M. D.

From T. RADFORD, Esq. M.D. F.R.C.P. of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Midwifery at the Marsden Street Royal School of Medicine, Manchester; Consulting Surgeon to the Manchester Lying-in Hospital, &c.; Author of "Essays on Various Subjects connected with Midwifery."

Understanding that, in consequence of the state of PROFESSOR HAMILTON's health, he has been induced to give in his resignation, and that the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh is now vacant; and as DR SIMPSON is a Candidate for it, I have *the greatest satisfaction* in giving *my* testimony as to his talents and ability to discharge the duties belonging to this most responsible and important office.

THOMAS RADFORD, M. D.

From HENRY MAUNSELL, Esq. M. D. *Professor of Midwifery to the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, &c. ; Author of the "Dublin Practice of Midwifery," and (conjointly with DR EVANSON) of a "Treatise on the Diseases of Children."*

Dublin, November 13, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

* * * It gives me much pleasure to learn that you are a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, which, my acquaintance with your labours in Infantile Pathology convinces me, you would fill with credit to yourself, and to that distinguished seat of Medical learning.

Your laborious investigations upon many subjects connected with the duties of that Professorship, in my mind sufficiently prove, that you are possessed of powers of observation of a high order, and that you are not deficient in inclination to employ them in very difficult inquiries.

I regret to say that my friend DR EVANSON is absent on account of his health, or I feel convinced he would join me in the expression of the foregoing opinions.

With every wish for your success,

I remain,

Faithfully yours,

H. MAUNSELL, M. D.

To DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR COLLINS, late Master of the Lying-in-Hospital, Britain Street, Dublin, &c. ; Author of " A Practical Treatise on Midwifery."

It gives me much pleasure to state, both from a professional knowledge of DR SIMPSON, and an intimate acquaintance with the several excellent Essays written by him, that I consider him a truly zealous and scientific cultivator of his profession, and well qualified to afford sound instruction to Pupils. DR SIMPSON *has proved* to his professional brethren, by his great industry, and likewise by his success as a Teacher, his competence to discharge the very responsible duties of the Professorship for which he is a Candidate.

ROBERT COLLINS, M. D.

Merion Square, Dublin,
Nov. 16, 1839.

From D. SKAE, Esq. F. R. C. S. of Edinburgh, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence ; formerly President of the Royal Medical Society, &c.

There *are* occasions, even in writing Testimonials, when one may run as great a hazard of falling short of the truth, as he more commonly incurs, in such cases, of exaggerating or misrepresenting it. That this is one of those occasions I feel more and more convinced, the longer I reflect on the abilities and attainments of DR SIMPSON.

In the private intercourse of friendship, and in the public appearances made by him, on many occasions, both as

a Writer and Speaker, I have had numerous opportunities of becoming acquainted with his merits; and every new opportunity has increased my esteem for his many amiable qualities, and heightened my admiration of his talents, his knowledge, and his unwearied diligence.

DR SIMPSON'S intimate and extensive knowledge of the innumerable facts of Medical Science is such as to excite the admiration of all who know him. There are few persons who have enjoyed greater advantages for the acquirement of a complete medical education,—still fewer who have been indebted to *their own* exertions for these advantages,—and *certainly* none whom I have met, have used these advantages with more industry and success than he has.

The value of DR SIMPSON'S contributions to that branch of Medicine to which he has more particularly devoted himself, is sufficiently attested by the high terms in which they are mentioned by the many distinguished authors who have referred to or translated them in the different Medical Journals of Europe.

Of DR SIMPSON'S merits as a Teacher, the addresses of those who enjoyed the benefit of his instructions, and the annually increasing number of his pupils, afford evidence to which I can add nothing, and warrant the belief, that if appointed to the vacant Chair in the University of Edinburgh, he will discharge its duties with the highest credit to the University and himself, and with the greatest satisfaction and advantage to the Students.

From DR SIMPSON'S energy of character, I know of no one who would be less likely to have his activity injured, or his usefulness impaired, by an endowment; and from his erudition and talents, I feel confident that he would add lustre even to the name of a University which has

been so long and so highly distinguished as that of Edinburgh.

DAVID SKAE.

15th November 1839.

From DR ELLIOT, *Lecturer on Materia Medica in the Newcastle School of Medicine and Surgery, &c. &c.*

Gateshead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
November 16, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

While I have, as a former Pupil of PROFESSOR HAMILTON, deeply to regret the cause, allow me to express my gratification at the fact, of your becoming a Candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in our ancient and honoured University. * * * * *

In adding mine to the abundant and authoritative testimony of worthiness which it is so easily in your power to elicit, I may first allude to a point of *primary* importance in the selection of a Teacher, viz. to the union of a mild and courteous manner, of an energetic and enterprising character, and of an easy and fluent speech, which you so remarkably possess. With your kind disposition, simple habits, calm but cheerful deportment,—your freedom from all pedantry and egotism,—and your just estimate of, and due respect for, the writings and doings of others,—you can scarcely fail to be looked to, even amid a crowd of Candidates, as one *pre-eminently* fitted for a guide and pattern to the Students of the University. Your acknowledged accomplishments,—your acquaintance with so many of the European languages,—your superior powers of contrasting, comparing, and selecting,—all appear to be

points of the utmost importance, especially in reference to a class of Midwifery ; for whom do Students so instinctively *imitate* in manner—in address—in modes of thinking—expression—and writing—as a favourite and successful Teacher ?

You have effectively, and in the most philosophical spirit, brought an universal, minute, and truly surprising acquaintance with Pathology,—and a knowledge of Midwifery, no less practical than scientific—seldom equalled, and still seldomer surpassed—to bear upon some of the most *obscure yet important* points connected with disease in general, but especially with that of the Placenta, and the Fœtus in Utero. * * * *

I cannot conclude without a reference to one important point in favour of your election. Observation, partial in our own country, universal on the Continent, teaches us that the occupant of every University Chair ought to possess *vigour* and *enthusiasm*,—qualifications peculiar to youth,—and if, at the same time, he should present us with a *name* as extensively known and respected as possible, he has thus the chief recommendations given by age and experience. In France and Germany, what the man *has done*—what he is *now doing*—and what *for long* he is still likely to do, form the ground of his election, which, as you know, is decided by severe competition.

With every wish, therefore, for your success, in endeavouring to further which I believe I am looking to the best interests of the University,

Believe me,

DEAR SIR,

Ever yours truly,

ROBT. ELLIOT.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

*(Seventh Proof-Sheet.)*PART I. OF FOREIGN TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF
DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

(*Note.*—My friend, M. CHAUMONT, kindly allows me to use his name as a guarantee for the strict fidelity of the following translations. The original has been so literally followed in the English translation, that the latter will be found to contain, in many parts, idioms and modes of expression which might otherwise be regarded as inexcusable.—J. Y. S.)

From MADAME BOIVIN, Doctor in Medicine of the University of Marbourg; Midwife-in-chief of the Hospital of Maternity, and of the Royal "Maison de Santé," Paris; Decorated with the Gold Medal of Civil Merit of Prussia; Member of the Royal Medical Society of Bordeaux, and of other learned Societies, National and Foreign, &c. &c.; Authoress of the "Memorial de l'Art des Accouchemens," "Recherches sur l'Avortement," "Recherches sur la Mole Vésiculaire," "Mémoire sur les Hémorrhagies internes de l'Utérus," "Traité Pratique des Maladies de l'Utérus et de ses Annexes," "Atlas représentant les principales Altérations Morbides des cettés Organes," &c. &c.

TO J. Y. SIMPSON, Doctor of Medicine of the University
of Edinburgh.

MOST ESTEEMED DOCTOR,

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Being acquainted, Sir, with several of the writings which you have published, and with various professional gentlemen of Paris who have

had occasion to see you in Scotland, and to appreciate your acquirements in Obstetrical Medicine (of which you have enriched the Science), I desire anxiously that a learned man such as you, Sir, who enjoy a merited reputation, and a judicious mind—who have a love for the progress of science,—and possess the art of teaching to others that which you know so well how to execute yourself—(an art so difficult, and hence very rare in all countries)—I would wish, I repeat, to learn, Sir, that you have been, of all your competitors, he whom the [Patrons of the] University have decided to elect as Successor to Dr Hamilton.

Your youth, instead of being a motive of exclusion from this office, should, on the contrary, be a reason for giving you the preference over others, as offering a guarantee of a greater energy—of a perseverance maintained amid the fatigues attendant upon teaching, and the studies of all kinds which are so necessary in a practice so often toilsome and fatiguing, and which interests so eminently mankind and society at large. I am an example of the advantage which the employment of youth affords. From the age of nineteen I have been able to be useful up to the present day, when I am sixty-eight years of age.

I hope, Sir, that you will extend still farther than myself, your career in the cause of humanity, and that your fellow-citizens to whom you will have been useful will load you with blessings. Such is the very sincere wish, SIR, of

Your very devoted Servant,

VEUVE BOIVIN.

30th November 1839.

Extract from the French Original of MADAME BOIVIN'S Letter.

A MONSIEUR SIMPSON, Docteur en Médecine de l'Université d'Edimbourg.

TRES-ESTIMABLE DOCTEUR,

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Connaissant, Monsieur, plusieurs des écrits que vous avez publiés, et divers savants de Paris, qui ont eu l'occasion de vous voir en Ecosse, et d'apprécier vos connaissances en Médecine Obstétrique, (dont vous avez enrichi la science), je désire vivement qu'un savant tel que vous, Monsieur, qui jouissez de la réputation méritée d'esprit judicieux,—ayant l'amour du progrès de la science,—possédant l'art d'enseigner aux autres ce que vous savez si bien exécuter (art si difficile, et pour cela très-rare dans tous les pays),—je voudrais, je le répète, apprendre, Monsieur, que vous avez été, de tous vos compétiteurs, celui qui a décidé l'Université à vous élire pour le remplaçant du DOCTEUR HAMILTON.

Que votre jeunesse, au lieu d'être un motif d'exclusion de cette place, soit, au contraire, une raison de vous donner la préférence sur les autres, comme offrant la garantie d'une plus grande force, d'une persévérance soutenue dans les fatigues que donnent l'enseignement et les études de toutes sortes qui sont si nécessaires dans la pratique si souvent pénible et fatigante, et qui intéresse si éminemment l'humanité et la société entière.

Je suis un exemple de l'avantage que donne l'emploi de la jeunesse. Depuis l'âge de 19 ans, j'ai pu être utile jusqu'à aujourd'hui que j'ai 68 ans. J'espère, Monsieur, que vous pousserez encore plus loin que moi votre carrière si humaine, et que vos compatriotes, à qui vous aurez été

utile, vous comblerons de bénédictions. C'est ce que vous souhaite bien sincèrement, Monsieur,

Votre très-dévouée servante,

VEUVE BOIVIN.

30 9bre 1839.

From M. PAUL DUBOIS, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour ; Professor of Clinical Midwifery in the University of Paris ; Surgeon-in-chief to the Maternity Hospital, &c. &c. ; Author of various Obstetric Essays, " Sur l'Auscultation appliqué à la Grossesse," " Sur les Causes de l'Accouchement par le Vertex," " Sur la Méchanisme de l'Accouchement," " Sur la Version Cephalique dans les Présentations Vicieuses du Fœtus," &c. &c.

Paris, November 27, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

I was in the country, where I had spent a few weeks, when your letter reached Paris, and I did not receive it until my return to town. This will be my apology for not having answered as soon, perhaps, as you expected.

I was *much* pleased to hear that you were a Candidate for the Chair of Midwifery, left vacant in the University of Edinburg by the resignation of DR HAMILTON. The professional communications which I had with you when you were in Paris, gave me a *very high* opinion of your merit and abilities; and it was confirmed by an attentive perusal of some of your publications on many subjects connected with Midwifery.

The Obstetric Science is not, as many seem to think, a narrow and infertile branch of Medicine; I consider it, on

the contrary, as very well worth employing the intellectual activity, and fit to satisfy the scientific ambition of the most enlightened professional men. Therefore I think it is very desirable that the vacant Chair should be obtained by a Teacher possessed of such a *special* and *deep* learning in Obstetric science, and such an extensive knowledge in the *various* branches of Medicine, that will enable him to continue the high and well-deserved reputation which the Midwifery School of Edinburg has acquired under DR HAMILTON'S direction. As I believe *you* are endowed with those qualities, I will be much satisfied to hear that you have been in this circumstance a successful Candidate.

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very sincerely,

PAUL DUBOIS.

From M. CAPURON, Professor of Midwifery and of the Diseases of Females and Infants, Paris; Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, &c. &c.; Author of "Cours d'Accouchemens," "Traité des Maladies des Enfans," "La Médecine Legale relative à l'Art des Accouchemens," &c. &c.

Paris, 1st December 1839.

SIR,

I thank you most sincerely for the pleasure which you have afforded me of obliging you. Although I have not the honour of knowing you personally, I have much esteem for you. The Memoirs which you have published upon the Diseases of the Placenta, upon those of the Fœtus, in the Womb, and on other subjects relative to the Art

of Midwifery, have been announced and analysed by the French Journals. They have given me a high idea of your talents, and have proved to me that you had observed accurately, and studied profoundly, the subjects of which you have treated.

I have no doubt, Sir, but that your merits are sufficiently appreciated by your countrymen, and they have now a good opportunity of recompensing you for your works, and of encouraging you for the future.

As to myself, I believe that you reunite all the qualities necessary to fill worthily the Chair at present vacant by the decease of the honoured DR HAMILTON. If they render you justice you will certainly be named his successor ; and you will contribute to maintain the lustre and glory of the celebrated University of Edinburgh.

Accept, Sir, of my sentiments of most distinguished regard, and of the wishes which I feel for the consummation of your present views.

Your devoted Servant,

CAPURON.

(Copy of the French Original of M. CAPURON'S Letter.)

Paris, le 1^r Xbre 1839.

MONSIEUR,

Je vous remercie bien sincèrement du plaisir que vous m'avez procuré de vous obliger. Quoique je n'aie pas l'honneur de vous connaître personnellement, j'ai beaucoup d'estime pour vous. Les Mémoires que vous avez publiés sur les Maladies du Placenta, sur celles du Fœtus dans la Matrice, et sur d'autres sujets relatifs à l'art des accouchements, ont été annoncés et analysés par les Journaux Français. Ils m'ont donné une haute idée de vos talents, et m'ont prouvé que vous aviez bien observé et profondément médité les objets que vous avez traités.

Je ne doute pas, Monsieur, que votre mérite ne soit aussi apprécié par vos compatriotes, et ils ont maintenant une belle occasion de récompenser vos travaux, et de vous encourager pour l'avenir. Quant à moi, je crois que vous réunissez *toutes les qualités* nécessaires pour occuper dignement la chaire actuellement vacante par le décès de l'honorable DOCTEUR HAMILTON. Si l'on vous rend *justice*, vous serez *certainement* nommé son successeur, et vous contribuerez à soutenir l'éclat et la gloire de la célèbre Université d'Edimbourg.

Agréez, Monsieur, les sentiments de la considération la plus distinguée, et les vœux que je fais pour l'accomplissement de vos désirs en ce moment.

Votre dévoué serviteur,
CAPURON.

From CLAUDIUS TARRAL, Esq. M. D. Paris, formerly Surgeon-Major to the Polish Army, &c. &c. ; Author of "Mémoire sur l'Ablation de l'Utérus," "Observations, &c. sur les Aneurysmes," "Recherches Propres à éclairer le Diagnostic de divers Maladies," &c.

Paris, 26 Rue Rivoli,
2d December 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

I cannot refrain from addressing you a few lines on the subject of your present contest for the Chair of Professor of Midwifery.

I know no one more fully competent to occupy that elevated situation than yourself. I have read your various contributions to the Medical Journals with great pleasure ; they have been translated and praised in several continental languages. In fact, these Memoirs have already

stamped you as a most acute, erudite, just, and conscientious writer.

I am not acquainted with the names of your opponents, but I think it will be difficult to unite more facility of elocution with that depth of knowledge in the different branches of the Medical Science, which you possess to so great a degree; nor can your zeal and industry be equalled, nor your familiar acquaintance with the foreign languages be surpassed. Indeed the French, and still more the German writers, have of late contributed so much valuable information, that *I would elect no man* to the high office of Professor of Obstetrical Medicine who was not perfectly conversant with their idioms.

However great your chances of being appointed to this situation are, I regret exceedingly that a public Concours or contest of talent is not the course adopted in this election; were it so, your qualities as a Teacher, and your vast learning, would, I feel certain, nobly stand forth without the assistance of other testimony, and as independent of every other influence as talent and virtue ought to be. The youth of the candidates has been strenuously brought forward by the Concours. Doubtless your temples may be found still green; but console yourself on this point,—it is a regret which will too soon pass away. Above all, inform your Judges that in France the Concours has mostly elected very young men to the highest offices in our Profession, and many of their names, at the present day, do equal honour to the Concours and to their country. Wishing you every success and happiness,

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very truly yours.

CLAUDIUS TARRAL.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

(*Eighth Proof Sheet.*)

PART II. OF FOREIGN TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF
DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From M. BRACHET, Professor of Pathology at Lyons, Physician to the Hotel Dieu of that City; Member of the French Royal Academy of Medicine, and of the Academy of Medicine of Berlin; Member of the Lyons Academy of Science, and of the Medical Societies of Bordeaux, Marseilles, &c. &c.; Author of works “ Sur la Nature et le Siège de l’Hystérie;” “ Sur les Fonctions du Système Nerveux Ganglionnaire;” “ Sur les Convulsions dans l’Enfance;” “ Sur l’Asthénie,” &c. &c. &c.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON, Edinburgh.

SIR AND VERY LEARNED COLLEAGUE,

It is with a sincere pleasure that I have learned that you are among the number of Candidates who have presented themselves to succeed the late Professor of Midwifery, the honoured DR HAMILTON, because the most decided chances ought to be in your favour.

No one, in fact, appears to me to offer so many guarantees as yourself. Several courses of Midwifery, delivered with distinction, attest your power of lecturing in the manner most suitable to communicate knowledge; your scientific works, already numerous and highly appreciated by learned men, attest your learning—your zeal

—and your capacity in particular in that branch of the healing art which forms the subject of the vacant Chair.

Almost all your researches have had for their object the Obstetrical Art. Several treatises upon intra-uterine diseases, and upon those of the Fœtus, demonstrate your sagacity and your talent for observation.

But of all your works, there is one which I am able the better to judge of, because it treats of a subject with which I was myself at one time occupied—(the Diseases of the Placenta), and because I have been able to attain an acquaintance with it in the Italian translation which has been made of it by DR CHELIONI of Milan. This is a work of the highest interest. The subject was almost new when I sketched the observations which my practice had enabled me to collect. You have been able since, by your immense researches, and by your useful precepts, to form a complete monograph, which will live in that science, which it establishes in a manner so very satisfactory. The numerous and well-selected facts with which you have enriched it—the just and natural deductions which you have made to flow from them—the physiological remarks with which you have accompanied them—and the practical deductions which you have drawn—assure to it a success of long duration. It is true that new facts may be added to those which you have arranged together with so much discernment, but they will go to confirm the justness of your descriptions, and the wisdom of your counsels. It will be scarcely possible to add new information to that which you have developed.

I repeat, Sir, that the most favourable chances are for you; and your nomination will be hailed by learned men, and will be, above all, very useful to the Students, who will find in you at one and the same time the able Professor—the laborious Philosopher—and the judicious observer.

If my wishes could serve you, your election would be certain, because no one desires more anxiously to see you successful than

Your sincere admirer and very devoted Colleague,

BRACHET.

Lyons, 30th Nov. 1839.

French Copy of M. BRACHET's Letter.

À MONSIEUR LE DOCTEUR J. Y. SIMPSON.

MONSIEUR ET TRÈS-SAVANT CONFRÈRE,

C'est avec un vrai plaisir que j'ai appris que vous étiez sur les rangs des candidats qui se présentaient pour remplacer le Professeur d'Accouchement démissionnaire, M. l'Honorable Hamilton, parce que les chances les plus décisives doivent être en votre faveur.

Personne, en effet, ne me semble offrir autant de garanties que vous. Plusieurs cours d'Accouchements professés avec distinction, viennent témoigner de votre habileté à manier la parole de la manière la plus convenable pour transmettre la science; des travaux scientifiques déjà nombreux, et bien appréciés des savants, viennent attester votre savoir—votre zèle—et votre capacité surtout, dans la branche de l'art de guérir, qui fait l'objet de la Chaire en vacance.

Presque toutes vos recherches ont eu pour but l'art obstétrical. Plusieurs Mémoires sur les Maladies Intra-utérines, et sur celles du Fœtus, démontrent votre sagacité, et votre bon esprit d'observation.

Mais de tous vos travaux, il est un que j'ai pu le mieux juger, parce qu'il traite un sujet dont je m'étais occupé dans le temps (des Maladies du Placenta), et parce que j'ai pu en prendre connaissance dans la Traduction Itali-

enne qui en a été faite par le DR CHELIONI de Milan. Ce travail est du plus haut intérêt. Le sujet était à peu-près neuf, lorsque j'esquissais les observations que ma pratique m'avait fait recueillir. Vous avez su de suite, par vos recherches immenses, et par des préceptes utiles, en faire une monographie complète, qui restera dans la science, qu'elle fixe d'un manière si bien satisfaisante. Les faits nombreux et bien choisis dont vous l'avez enrichie,—les déductions justes et naturelles que vous en faites découler,—les remarques physiologiques dont vous les accompagnez,—et les inductions pratiques que vous en faites surgir—lui assurent un succès de longue durée. On pourra ajouter, sans doute, des faits nouveaux à ceux que vous avez co-ordonnées avec tant de discernement, mais ils viendraient confirmer la justesse de vos descriptions, et la sagesse de vos conseils. Il ne leur sera guère possible d'ajouter de nouvelles connaissances à celles que vous avez développées.

Je le répète, Monsieur, les chances les plus favorables sont pour vous ; et votre nomination sera bien accueillie des savants, et surtout, très-utile aux élèves qui trouveront en vous, tout à la fois, le professeur habile—le savant laborieux—et l'observateur judicieux.

Si mes vœux pouvaient vous servir, votre élection serait assurée, parce que personne ne désire plus vivement de vous voir réussir que

Votre admirateur sincère, et tout-dévoué Confrère,

BRACHET.

Lyon, le 30 9bre 1839.

From M. VELPEAU, *Chevalier of the Legion of Honour* ;
Professor of Clinical Surgery to the Faculty of Medi-
cine of Paris ; formerly for many years *Professor of*
Midwifery ; *Secretary to the Academy of Medicine* ;
Surgeon to the Hospital of La Charité, &c. &c. ; *Au-*
thor of a " Traité Complet de l'Art des Accouchemens,"
" Nouveaux Elémens de Médecine Opérative," " Des
Convulsions dans les Femmes Enceintes," " Embryologie,
ou Ovologie Humaine," &c. &c. &c.

Paris, 23d November 1839.

SIR,

I read with attention, at the time of their publication, your *Researches on the Diseases of the Placenta, on the Spontaneous Amputation of the Limbs of the Fœtus, and on the Diseases of the Ovum during Pregnancy.*

Having myself pointed out some of these diseases (see my *Treatise on Midwifery, volume i. pp. 392-3-4, &c.*), I have been able to judge of the *importance* of your works. They discover a judgment so correct—a learning so extensive—an exposition so clear—that, in my opinion, you ought to be well qualified to make a *Professor of Midwifery.*

Pray believe me,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

VELPEAU.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

(*Copy of the French Original of M. VELPEAU'S Letter.*)

Paris, le 23 9bre 1839.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai lu avec attention, lors de leur publication, vos *Recherches sur les Maladies du Placenta, sur*

l'Amputation Spontanée des Membres du Fœtus, et sur les Maladies de l'Œuf, pendant la Grossesse.

Ayant moi-même signalé quelques-unes de ces maladies (voyez mon *Traité des Accouchemens*, tom. i. pag. 392, 393, 394, &c.), j'ai pu juger de *l'importance* de vos travaux. Ils décèlent un jugement si droit—une instruction si étendue—une exposition si manifeste—que, selon moi, vous devez être très-propre à faire un Professeur d'Accouchement.

Veillez me croire,

MONSIEUR,

Votre très-obéissant serviteur,

VELPEAU.

À M. LE DOCTEUR J. Y. SIMPSON.

From DR J. AL. STOLTZ, Professor of Midwifery and of the Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Strasbourg; Member of the Parisian Academy of Medicine, &c. &c.; Author of Treatises "Sur l'Accouchement Pré-maturé Artificiel;" "Sur la Version du Fœtus sur la Tête;" "Sur le Mécanisme de l'Accouchement;" "Sur les Grossesses Douteuses," &c. &c.

University of France, Strasbourg,

4th December 1839.

SIR,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I communicate to you my opinion of the *Treatises* which you have published, and the impression that they have made upon me.

I will state to you, then, that I have read with the greatest interest your researches on the Diseases of the Placenta. The subject was not altogether new, but it had not before been set forth as a whole, with the method and the clearness which distinguish your work.

Your observations upon the Spontaneous Amputation of the Limbs of the Fœtus are as curious as they are original; and your Memoirs upon Peritonitis and upon the Inflammatory Origin of certain Malformations in the Child while yet enclosed within the Womb of the Mother, clear up very important points in Fœtal Pathology.

In my opinion, you have rendered a true service to science by these Publications. The "Gazette Médicale" of Paris, and "the Archives Générales de Médecine," have republished and analysed your researches. The excellent spirit which reigns in your writings, and the judgment of which you have given proof, give me a high idea of your talent.

Your youth should not be a reason for setting you aside; it is a defect which you are correcting every day. Besides, if, at an *early* age, a person has given such proofs of great knowledge, and accumulated so many high proofs of esteem, as you have, the *future* promises an eminent man, who will not perhaps become so if an opportunity be not furnished to him.

I regret, Sir, that the Concours is not the mode chosen by the honourable men who are to judge you. Then you would come forth, I am convinced, triumphant.

Accept, in the mean time, Sir, the assurance of my most distinguished regard.

J. A. STOLTZ.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

French Original of DR STOLTZ'S Letter.

Université de France,

Strasbourg, le 4 Décembre 1839.

MONSIEUR,

C'est avec le plus grand plaisir que je vous communique mon opinion sur les Mémoires que vous avez publiés, et l'impression qu'ils ont fait sur moi.

Je vous dirai, donc, que j'ai lu avec le plus grand intérêt vos recherches sur les Maladies du Placenta. Le sujet n'était pas tout-à-fait nouveau ; mais il n'avait pas encore été exposé dans son ensemble, avec la méthode et la lucidité qui distinguent votre Travail.

Vos observations sur l'Amputation Spontanée des membres du Fœtus sont aussi curieuses qu'originales ; et vos Mémoires sur la Péritonite et sur l'origine Inflammatoire de certains vices de Conformation de l'Enfant encore renfermé dans le sein de la mère, éclairent des points de Pathologie Fœtale très-importants.

Suivant moi, vous avez rendu un véritable service à la Science par ces publications. La " Gazette Médicale " de Paris, et les " Archives Générales de Médecine," ont reproduit et analysé vos recherches. L'excellent esprit qui règne dans vos écrits, ce jugement dont vous avez fait preuve, me donnent une haute idée de votre talent.

Votre jeune âge ne serait pas être une raison pour vous écarter ; c'est un défaut dont vous vous corrigerez tous les jours. D'ailleurs, si à *un âge peu avancé* on a donné tant des preuves d'un grand savoir, et recueilli d'aussi beaux témoignages d'estime que ceux que vous possédez, *l'avenir* promet un homme éminent, qui ne le deviendrait peut-être pas, si on ne lui en fournissait l'occasion.

Je regrette, Monsieur, que le concours ne soit pas la voie choisie par les hommes honorables qui doivent vous juger. Vous en sortiriez, j'en suis convaincu, triomphant.

Recevez, en attendant, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération très-distinguée.

J. A. STOLTZ.

À Monsieur le DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

(*Ninth Proof-Sheet.*)

PART III. OF FOREIGN TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF
DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

FROM DR J. GUISLAIN,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICINE OF GHENT ;

Professor to the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Ghent ; Physician-in-Chief to the " Hôpital des Aliénés" of that City, &c. &c. ; Author of Works " Sur l'Aliénation Mentale," Sur les Phrénopathies," &c. &c.

Ghent, December 1, 1839.

I became acquainted with DR JAMES Y. SIMPSON at the time of his travelling in Belgium in 1835. I have read, since that period, different literary productions by him, which I have found translated into the Continental Journals, and it affords me sincere pleasure to be able on this occasion to render homage to his talents.

The Society of Medicine of Ghent, wishing to give him a proof of the just appreciation which they had formed of his works, conferred upon him the title of Corresponding Member.

In a tour that I lately made in England, I had often occasion to hear the name of DR SIMPSON of Edinburgh coupled with eulogies. In London, they spoke of him as

of a man who did honour to the place which he inhabits. In Edinburgh, his Colleagues talked of his works in the most flattering terms.

In consideration of the whole of these reasons, I transmit to DR J. Y. SIMPSON this testimonial, believing him, as I do, in all respects competent to fill the Chair which he solicits. It would be truly desirable to see that the exertions which he has made in the cause of Science were encouraged in an efficient manner.

JOSEPH GUISLAIN.

(Copy of the French Original of the Preceding Letter.)

Attestation du DR GUISLAIN, PRÉSIDENT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE GAND; Professeur Ordinaire à la Faculté de Médecine, à l'Université de Gand; Médecin en Chef de l'Etablissement des Alienés de la même Ville, &c. &c. &c.

J'ai appris à connaître Monsieur le DOCTEUR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, lors du voyage qu'il fit en Belgique en 1835, et surtout pendant la visite qu'il fit dans l'établissement confié à mes soins. J'ai lu de lui, et depuis cette époque, différentes productions littéraires, que j'ai vues traduites dans les Journaux du Continent; et je me fais un vrai plaisir de pouvoir ici rendre hommage à ses talents.

La Société de Médecine de Gand, voulant lui donner une preuve de la juste appréciation qu'elle a faite du mérite de ses travaux, lui a conféré le titre de Membre Correspondant.

Dans un voyage que je fis dernièrement en Angleterre,

il m'est arrivé souvent d'entendre allié avec éloges le nom de Monsieur le DR SIMPSON d'Edimbourg. A Londres, on m'a parlé de lui comme d'un homme qui honore le lieu qu'il habite ; à Edimbourg, ses collègues m'ont parlé de ses travaux dans les termes les plus flatteurs.

Eu égard à l'ensemble de ces motifs, je délivre à Monsieur le DR J. Y. SIMPSON le présent certificat ; le considérant sous tous rapports apte à remplir le Chaire qu'il sollicite. Il serait réellement désirable de voir que les efforts qu'il a fait dans l'intérêt de la Science, fussent encouragés d'une manière efficace.

JOSEPH GUISLAIN.

FROM M. CRUVEILHIER,

PERPETUAL PRESIDENT OF THE PARISIAN ANATOMICAL
SOCIETY ;

Chevalier of the Legion of Honour ; Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the University of Paris ; Physician to the Hospital of Salpêtrière, &c. &c. ; Author of works upon " Anatomie Morbide en Général," " Anatomie Pathologique du Corps Humain," " Anatomie Descriptive," &c. &c. &c.

Paris, 27th November 1839.

SIR, AND VERY HONOURED COLLEAGUE,

* * * *

I have read with the greatest interest your Works upon the Diseases of the Placenta and upon the Diseases of the

Fœtus. This is a fertile and new mine, which your position in a great Hospital, and in a Chair of Midwifery, would enable you to investigate with the greatest success.

I have done no more than glance into Intra-uterine Pathology whilst I filled the office of Physician to the Maternity Hospital at Paris, and I am convinced that this study may reveal many new facts, and many new theories opposed to those now generally admitted.

I join my wishes to those of your friends for the success of your proceedings; and I pray you to accept my expression of sincere regret that I cannot take in this affair a more active part.

Yours very devotedly,

CRUVEILHIER.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

Original of the preceding Letter.

Paris, 27 9bre 1839.

MONSIEUR ET TRÈS-HONORÉ CONFRÈRE,

* * * *

J'ai lu avec le plus grand intérêt vos travaux sur les Maladies du Placenta et sur les Maladies du Fœtus. C'est une mine féconde et nouvelle, que votre position dans un grand Hôpital, et dans une Chaire d'Accouchement, vous permettra d'exploiter avec le plus grand succès.

Je n'ai fait qu'entrevoir la Pathologie Intra-utérine, pendant que j'ai rempli les fonctions de Médecin à l'Hospice

de la Maternité de Paris, et j'ai compris que cette étude pourrait révéler bien des faits, bien des théories nouvelles en opposition avec celles généralement admises.

Je joins mes vœux à ceux de vos amis pour le succès de vos démarches ; et je vous prie d'agréer l'expression de tous mes regrets, si je ne puis y prendre une part plus active.

Votre très-dévoué,

CRUVEILHIER.

À Monsieur le DOCTEUR J. Y. SIMPSON.

FROM DR F. DUPARCQUE,

PRÉSIDENT OF THE " SOCIÉTÉ DE MÉDECINE" OF PARIS ;

Member of the Parisian Athencæum of Medicine, of the Royal Society of Medicine of Bordeaux, &c. &c. ; Author of the " Traité des Altérations Organiques de la Matrice," " Histoire Complète des Ruptures de l'Utérus," " Traité Pratique des Maladies des Enfants," &c. &c.

TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

SIR, AND HONOURED COLLEAGUE,

I have read with the most lively interest, in the Periodical Medical Journals of the last years, [the different Treatises which you have pub-

lished upon some subjects hitherto little studied, in Obstetrical Pathology. They have inspired me with the highest esteem for you. They prove the profoundness of your medical instruction—the extent of your attainments—an excellent spirit of observation—and a correct judgment, capable of turning this to good account.

Hence it is with the most lively satisfaction, and as a sincere friend of the noble Science, that I would wish you to succeed DR HAMILTON in the Chair of Midwifery, which his health has obliged him to leave vacant. That, Sir, which you have already done, is a certain guarantee that you would fill it with benefit to Science and advantage to the Pupils.

I should be particularly happy if this sincere testimonial, given in your favour by an old Practitioner, who has also himself paid his tribute to the progress of Obstetrical Pathology, may serve you before your Judges, and make the scale turn in your favour.

Pray, Sir and honoured Colleague, accept the assurance of distinguished regard with which I have the honour to be

Your Servant,
DUPARCQUE.

Paris, 28th November 1839.

(Original of the preceding Letter.)

À MONSIEUR le DOCTEUR JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

MONSIEUR ET HONORÉ CONFRÈRE,

J'ai lu avec le plus vif intérêt, dans les Recueils Périodiques Médicaux des dernières années, les différents

Mémoires que vous avez publiés sur quelques sujets encore peu étudiés, de la Pathologie Obstétricale. Ils m'ont inspiré pour vous la plus haute estime. Ils témoignent de la profondeur de votre instruction médicale, de l'étendue de vos connaissances, d'un excellent esprit d'observation, et d'un jugement exact, qui sait en tirer bon parti. Aussi serait-ce avec la plus vive satisfaction, qu'en sincère ami de la noble Science, je vous verrais succéder à Monsieur le DOCTEUR HAMILTON, dans la Chaire d'Accouchement, que sa santé l'oblige à laisser vacante. Ce que vous avez déjà fait, Monsieur, est un sûr garant que vous la rempliriez avec fruit pour la Science, et avec avantage pour les élèves.

Je serais particulièrement heureux que ce témoignage sincère que donne en votre faveur un ancien praticien, qui lui aussi a payé son tribut aux progrès de la Pathologie Obstétricale, pût vous servir auprès de vos juges, et faire pencher la balance de votre côté.

Veillez, Monsieur et honoré Confrère, recevoir l'assurance de la considération distinguée avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

Votre serviteur,

DUPARCQUE.

Paris, 28 9bre 1839.

FROM DR LOMBARD,

PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF GENEVA ;

President of the Geneva Society of Physics and Natural History ; Physician to the Civil Hospital of that City, &c. &c. &c. ; Author of Essays " Sur les Tubercules," " Sur l'Emphysème," &c.

Geneva, 20th November 1839.

MY DEAR SIR,

Will you allow me to express my great satisfaction at hearing that you are a Candidate for the Midwifery Chair.

With such a stock of valuable information on all the branches of Pathology, and chiefly on the Pathology of the Organs concerned in Parturition, and with the acquired habit of Teaching Pupils on the subject of Midwifery, I am most decidedly of opinion that your nomination to the vacant Chair will be a most valuable acquisition both to the Pupils and to the Profession at large. Your Essays on different subjects relating to Midwifery are well known to me, and highly esteemed, as illustrating subjects of paramount importance, and hitherto very imperfectly understood.

You may well feel what an interest I take, as a former Edinburgh Student, in the prosperity and renown of the Medical School of the Northern Athens ; and I deem it a satisfactory excuse for trespassing upon your time in expressing my heartfelt satisfaction in the prospect of seeing you elected to the vacant Chair of Midwifery.

Believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours truly,

H. C. LOMBARD.



TO DR J. Y. SIMPSON.

Accession no.

HC

Author

Chair of midwifery

Simpson, J.Y.

Call no.

ANESTHESIA

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