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Amongst New England's sons and Harvard graduates who have done good work in the profession, John C. Dalton will take rank in the first row. There had been experimental physiologists before him in the United States - good ones too - such as Beaumont and Draper, but he was the first professional physiologist, and so far as I know, the pioneer of that small, but distinguished band of men, who in this practical country and money-making age, devoted themselves exclusively to pure science.

After graduation at Harvard in 1847, he taught physiology successfully at the University at Buffalo, the Vermont Medical College, the Long Island College, and (1855) succeeded to the Chair at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, of which Faculty he was for nearly thirty years a devoted member and one of its most distinguished ornaments. His physiological work was excellent, embracing a wide range of subjects, but he will be best remembered by his studies on the corpus luteum, on the bile, on the placenta, on cerebral localization and on the anatomy of the brain. His text-book on physiology passed through seven editions, and it is no disparagement to the works of other American authors to say that there were special features which made it the most important book of the kind ever issued in this country. Well arranged, clear in style, beautifully illustrated, free from all superfluous matter, it was a first favorite with students and teachers. Of no text book have I such grateful memories. What a gem in text and figures was the section on embryology in comparison with other works fifteen years ago! How straight it made crooked paths! How plain the rough places. The man and his book were of a piece - good throughout. Alas! that for both, in the general profession, oblivion is inevitable, but let us be thankful that in each succeeding generation a remnant, at least, will always know and cherish the name of John C. Dalton.

(William Osler)