

To us, members of the Club, the untimely removal of our friend, William Pepper, is a very special loss. Few in the community appreciated more warmly the great gift of his life to his country and to his native city; none knew more keenly at what sacrifice of health his great labors had been carried on.

The tribute of words has already been paid, to us, of his circle, two aspects of his character may be dwelt upon for a moment. William Pepper was the embodiment of the happy and gracious flexibility which distinguished the best of the old Greeks. Matthew Arnold's portrayal of the cultured Hellene can be transferred to him with singular appropriateness, "Lucidity of thought, clearness and propriety of language, freedom from prejudice, freedom from stiffness, openness of mind, and amiability of manner." The greatest of philosophers has said that a man's nature is best proved, not in the business of life, but in festive intercourse; and at our round table we have all had opportunities of proving how good was the best in the nature of our friend.

For six generations this home of the medical profession in America has never wanted broad-minded representatives whose talents were not restricted within the limits of their art. Such men as Caspar Wistar, Rush, Chapman, and Leidy — to mention only typical illustrations — have passed into the history of this city, famous in literature or science, pursuits peculiarly adapted to the retired life of the physician. When the wider field of public service has been sought, it has almost invariably been at the loss of all active interest in medicine. For the first time in this country the medical profession produced in the person of William Pepper a man of affairs of the first rank, whose work as an organizer will compare with the very best, and this at a period of our history when the value of organization had become fully appreciated.

That amid multifarious duties and cares he should have retained to the last an undiminished activity in his calling, is perhaps the greatest tribute to his genius. To his native land and to her sons he gave freely the splendid gifts of his time and energies, but to us, his intimates, he gave of his buoyancy, his hopefulness, and his courage — and they remain to cheer us on the remainder of our way.

W. O.

THE MAHOGANY TREE CLUB,
PHILADELPHIA,
November fifteenth,
MDCCCXCVIII.