



TOBIAS G. RICHARDSON, M.D.
New Orleans
1827-1892

*Thirtieth President, A. M. A.
Buffalo, N. Y. Session
June 4, 5, 6, 7, 1878*



T. G. Richardson

DR. TOBIAS G. RICHARDSON of New Orleans was the first and only president elected from that city. It is stated that his selection to this office was due to his high professional character, and reputation as an anatomist and surgeon, but also in part to the active influence of Dr. Samuel D. Gross, who urged it to more completely obliterate the effects of the previous war between the States.

He was born in Lexington, Kentucky, January 3, 1827, and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Samuel D. Gross as preceptor, graduating from the Medical Department, University of Louisville in 1848. Soon after graduation he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Louisville, and while in this teaching position in 1854 he published "Elements of Human Anatomy, General, Descriptive and Practical," an octavo volume of 734 pages with 269 illustrations, the first treatise of its kind published in the Mississippi Valley. In this work he substituted English for Latin terms whenever justifiable.

Aside from his reputation gained as an anatomist he had become favorably known for his surgical ability. As early as 1841 when he was twenty-four years of age it is recorded that he successfully removed the parotid gland and performed a double hip-joint amputation, both without anesthesia.

In 1858 he accepted an appointment as Professor of Anatomy in the Medical Department of Tulane University, and removed his

residence to that city. A few years later he became Professor of Surgery and Visiting Surgeon at Charity Hospital. It was in New Orleans that he accomplished his best work both as a teacher and practitioner.

His eloquent and felicitous words of welcome at the New Orleans meeting of the Association in 1869 have been previously referred to. In his presidential address at the Buffalo session he made a plea for more original investigations on the part of the members, and greater attention to public hygiene and sanitation. He referred to the greater number of State Boards of Health that had been formed in the previous ten years; he specially commended the plan adopted in Alabama where the State Medical Society was responsible for the organization of the State Board of Health. He also recommended the incorporation of the Association, and further urged that State laws be enacted requiring licensing examinations of physicians.

Dr. Richardson was a charter member of the American Surgical Association as well as a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

After his death in New Orleans, May 26, 1892, his widow contributed \$170,000 to erect a memorial addition to the Medical School of Tulane University.

