

IN MEMORIAM.

HENRY JACQUES GARRIGUES, A. M., M. D.

Born June 6, 1831. Died July 7, 1913.

HENRY J. GARRIGUES was born in Copenhagen June 6, 1831 and died at Tryon, North Carolina, on July 7, 1913, in the beginning of his eighty-third year. He received his first degree, that of A. B., from the Metropolitan College of Copenhagen, in 1850, and the degree of A. M. in 1863. He graduated in medicine from the

University of Copenhagen in 1869 when thirty-eight years old. A year before this time he married Louise Riemer. In 1875 Dr. Garrigues came to America and settled in New York City where he remained until his retirement from practice.

His first appointment in New York City was as Gynecologist to the German Dispensary, 1879, next Obstetric Surgeon to the New York Maternity Hospital in 1881. He was made Attending Physician to the New York Infant Asylum in 1884, Gynecologist to the German Hospital in 1885, Professor of Obstetrics at the New York Post-graduate Medical School and Hospital in 1886, Gynecologist to St. Marks Hospital in 1890, Consulting Surgeon to the New York Maternity Hospital in 1892, Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, School of Clinical Medicine, in 1895, Consulting Physician Mother's Home and Maternal Hospital in 1897, Consulting Gynecologist to St. Mark's Hospital in 1904, Member of the Board of Physicians to the German Dispensary in 1903. In 1901 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Gynecological Society, and in 1902 an Honorary Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of Edinburgh. He was the author of several books, of which the best known are *Diagnosis of Ovarian Cysts*, published in 1882; *Practical Guide to Antiseptic Midwifery*, 1886; *Text-book of Diseases of Women*, 1894, 1897, and 1900; *Text-book of Obstetrics*, 1902, 1907; *Medical and Surgical Gynecology*, 1905. Besides these he wrote *Gastroelytomy*, 1878; *Development of Female Genitals and Malformation of Female Genitals* (in *System of Gyn. by Amer. Authors*) 1887; *Puerperal Infection and Diseases of the Breasts in System of Obstetrics*, 1889, and was a voluminous writer in the medical journals.

Dr. Garrigues' greatest work and that which will cause his name to be long remembered was the introduction of a rational antisepsis into obstetric practice.

In 1883, while the bulk of the profession held more or less to the idea that puerperal fever was essentially a septic process, a wound infection, as had been taught by Holmes and Semmelweiss, there was much concerning the exact nature of the poison that was vague, for the science of bacteriology was yet young and the old idea of a specific fever hard to overcome. Outbreaks of puerperal fever still were frequent and there were many who yet believed in the "epidemic influence of the air." But the time and opportunity were waiting for him who should have the insight and courage to replace the ancient dogmas of the established order by the new ideal of surgical cleanliness.

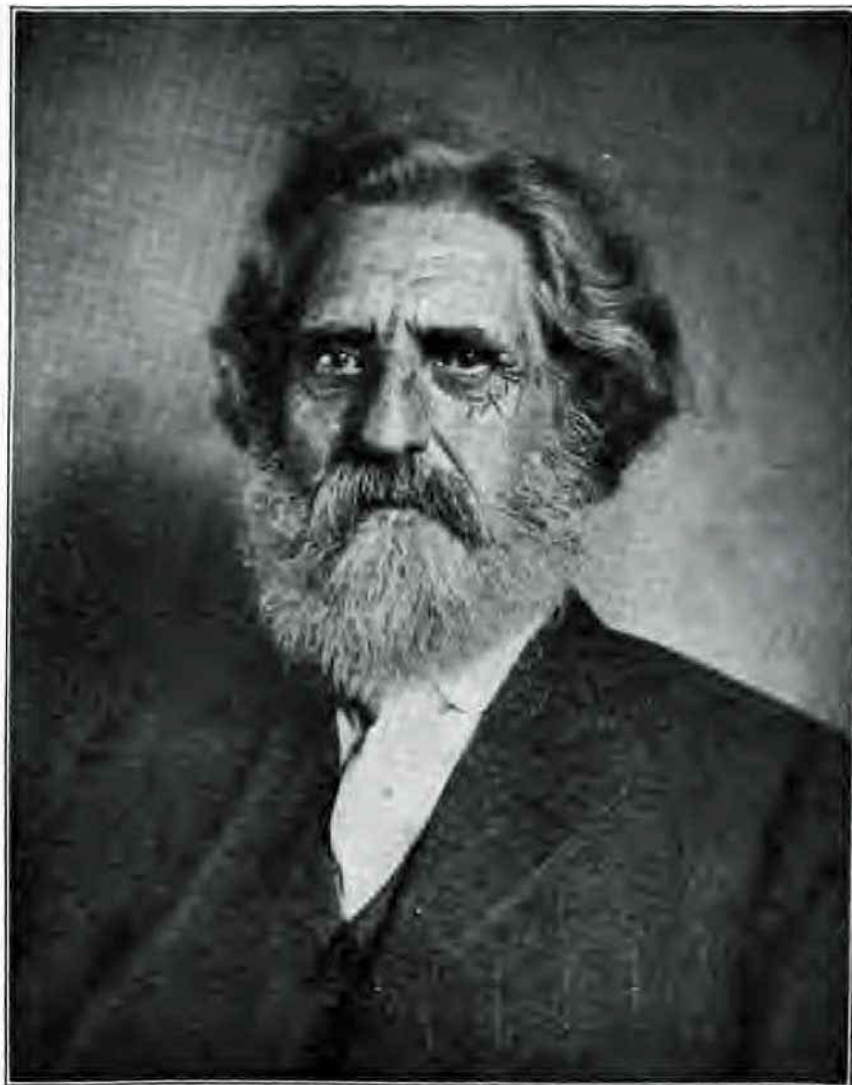
In the first nine months of 1883, out of 345 women delivered at

the New York Maternity Hospital thirty died and the serious morbidity was enormous. In the month of September one in four of the women died and the others escaped only with their lives. At this time Garrigues came in charge and in the face of considerable ridicule formulated and carried out a detailed plan for driving out the pestilence. This plan was original in its detail, showed a broad comprehension of the principles of asepsis, was brilliant in achievement and proved to be of far-reaching influence on the practice of obstetrics.

Less than three months later Garrigues, in reporting the result of his work, was able to say: "The effect of the treatment has been wonderful. Ninety-seven women have been delivered since its introduction and not only has none of them died but there has been scarcely any disease among them. Only three have had any rise of temperature."

Could there be a greater triumph than this? The lesson was well taught and has not been forgotten. The world has ever held him the hero who has led victorious armies in triumph across fields strewn with dead and dying men. Is he less worthy to be called a hero who has led victorious against the legions of Death?

Dr. Garrigues was a man of simple habits and one who had in large measure those qualities of truth, courage and simplicity which, while seldom leading to great material success, give to their fortunate possessor the power to look life in the eyes with clear, unswerving gaze and to accept calmly whatever of pleasure or of pain may fall to him. Now, after a long and honored life he lies beneath the grass in the shade of the hills about the little town of Tryon, and above him the marble bears witness to the fact that "On October first, 1883, he introduced Antiseptic Obstetrics in America."



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