BOON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA

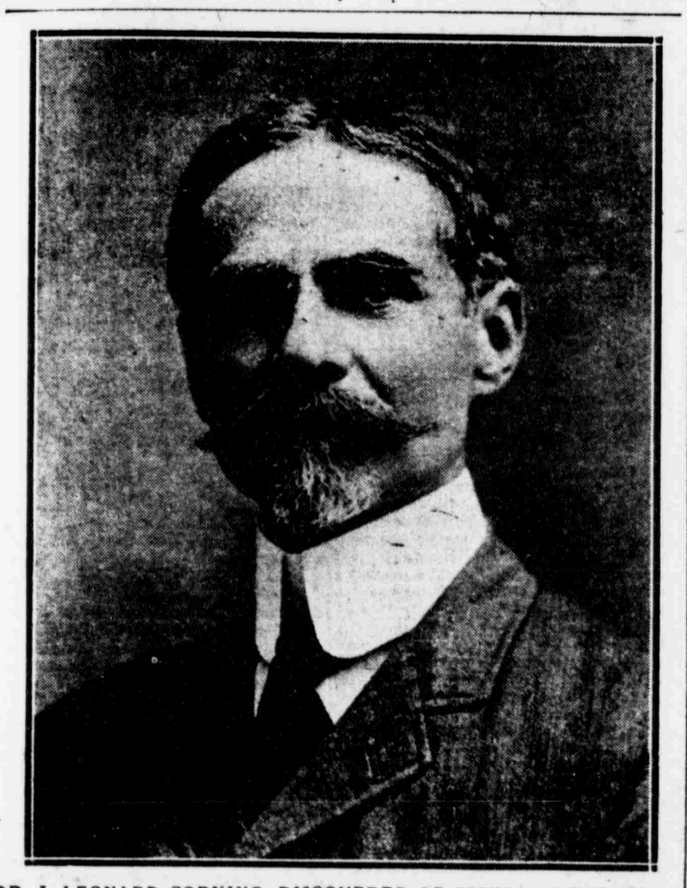
STORY OF ITS DISCOVERY BY DR. CORNING OF NEW YORK.

Method and Development of the Surgical Device Dr. Jonnesco Has Been Exhibiting—Field of Its Use—More Than 35,000 Recorded Operations So Far.

The constant striving of the medical profession to devise means for the relief of suffering constitutes its chief title to public respect and regard. Among the many ingenious devices and discoveries issuing from this benevolent bias spinal anæsthesia, of which so much has been heard of late, is surely one of the most remarkable.

What is spinal anæsthesia? Despite all that has lately been written of it comparatively few persons outside the medical profession seem to know. An account of it is therefore given here. Parenthetically it may be remarked that in its issue of October 21, 1900, THE SUN gave an exhaustive account of the discovery, evolution and surgical applications of spinal anæsthesia.

Spinal anæsthesia when reduced to its simplest terms means the deposit of a local anæsthetic in the immediate neighborhood of the spinal cord, whereby the conduction of painful sensations to the brain from the regions of the body lying below the spot where the anæsthetic is applied is prevented.



DR. J. LEONARD CORNING, DISCOVERER OF SPINAL ANÆSTHESIA.

If, to illustrate, the anæsthetic is applied in such way as to interrupt conduction in the inferior part of the spinal cord the lower limbs and the abdominal cavity, including the organs therein contained, will become so profoundly insensitive that operations of the greatest magnitude may be performed in the affected regions, and this without causing the slightest pain to the patient. Moreover, and wonderful to relate, all this is possible while the subject remains fully conscious; and, should he be of an inquisitive turn of mind, he may scan each detail of the operation, smoking or chatting the while, with no more inconvenience to himself than if he were regarding the manipulations of a carpenter or a plumber.

Naturally it requires steady nerves for this, for even though there is no pain there is apt to be in nervous persons more or less mental shock at beholding extensive mutilation. Hence it is customary to blindfold most persons and to stop the ears as well of a smaller and more susceptible number, with a view to shielding the mind from the suggestiveness of sights and sounds alike.

Now, this conservation of consciousness is a great desideratum in the eyes of the timid, and is not lightly regarded even by the courageous and robust. Nor is this to be wondered at, for who, indeed, compelled by physical exigency to take ether, chloroform or nitrous oxide can ever forget the struggles and the nameless terrors of "dying consciousness"?

Again, there are persons not a few who suffer from heart disease, certain renal or pulmonary affections or other physical disorder which if it does not absolutely preclude the taking of general anæsthetics—chloroform or ether—renders their use exceedingly dangerous. To such sufferers spinal anæsthesia comes as a great boon.

In view of these manifest advantages it is not surprising that the introduction of spinal anæsthesia into surgical practice should have been regarded as something considerable, not to say momentous. Thus it came about that when some years ago the rumor went forth that certain foreign surgeons were employing the expedient in a wide range of cases and on a great scale, the profession of this country awaited with impatient expectancy the practical tests of the method, certain to be made on this side of the Atlantic. Nor was curiosity kept long upon the stretch, for presently the medical press gave accounts of extensive operations performed under the new method in all parts of Europe and the United States.

Then occurred what is sure to happen when a considerable addition is made to any branch of science—a quest for priority, a hunt for the rightful innovator. Books were pulled down, catalogues interrogated, libraries ransacked, and lo! the testimony, not of rumor but of cold type, that the innovation was not the child of a foreign brain but was the discovery of an American physician, the principle having been established and published years before any one else, whether native or foreign, had ever entered the field.

The American to whom belongs the honor of this discovery is Dr. J. Leonard Corning, the neurologist of New York; its very name, spinal anæsthesia, was coined by him and formed the title of his first paper, which appeared in the New York *Medical Journal* October 31, 1885. In this paper is disclosed, moreover, a prophetic discernment of the applicability of this form of anæsthesia to the needs of surgery, while in his book on "Pain," published in Philadelphia in 1894, will be found the proof of the complete application by the discoverer of all the anatomical and physiological conditions involved in the achievement of practical success.

That despite his prediction of its wider usefulness and his development of the method as an adjunct in the treatment of certain nervous affections it should have remained so long neglected is one of those enigmas with which the history of science abounds. Perhaps the dread of invading the spinal canal so prevalent among surgeons years ago may have had something to do with it.

But how was this discovery made? By what course of reasoning and by what steps did the author arrive at the fruition of his ideas? Properly to understand how the first steps were taken it is necessary to bear in mind that Dr. Corning was able from long study of the nervous system in health and disease to bring to the problem—an essentially neurological one—that kind of foreknowledge which its conception and solution necessarily demanded. Yet the thing once achieved, a very few simple ideas regarding the nervous system will enable the reader perfectly to understand what was thought and done.

The nervous system may be likened for purposes of simple illustration to the arrangement of the telephone. There is the central station, the brain of the system; its trunk line, the spinal cord; its hundreds of thousands of individual wires, the nerves. Messages may be sent from the brain down through the spinal cord, through the nerves to the muscles, causing the latter to act; precisely as messages may be sent from the central station of a telephone system down through the trunk line, thence through the individual line to the ear of the listener.

But the process may be reversed. Messages may be sent through the nerve of sensation up through the spinal cord to the brain and be there perceived as pleasurable or painful, according to their original nature. Tickling the skin would give rise to an agreeable message; pinching, pricking, cutting or burning it to a disagreeable or painful one.

Here again our analogy holds good, for the process closely resembles what occurs when a message is transmitted through the individual wire of the telephone, thence through the trunk line, and so to the central station. These impulses from the surface of the body to the brain are those which most concern us here.

Now let us suppose it were desirable to prevent the arrival at the central station of the messages, agreeable or otherwise, from a large number of individual subscribers. We might attain our end in one of two ways. First, either the individual wires might be severed, a long and tedious process, or secondly, their continuations in the trunk line might be cut, a very easy thing to do, since in that locality the wires lie close together.

Once more our analogy holds good, since practically the same principle is applicable to the nervous system. Here also we may prevent the transmission of impressions, especially those of a painful character, by artificially preventing conduction in the nerves of sensation, the individual wires, or by suspending conduction in the spinal cord, the trunk line of the body, where all the sensory pathways flock together and through which alone sensations agreeable or painful gain access to the brain and are there recognized by the mind as agreeable or painful.

Now, to shut off conduction in the nerves when the latter are distributed over a wide area is even more difficult than to cut hundreds of individual telephone wires.

Theoretically then it would be far better to interrupt conduction in the spinal cord, where all the sensory pathways lie close together, precisely as the telephone wires lie side by side in the trunk line.

It was in the latter part of 1884 that the idea of arresting sensory conduction in the cord occurred to Dr. Corning. He knew of one drug, cocaine, which had been brought prominently to the attention of the profession by Dr. Karl Koller and practically demonstrated in operations upon the eye. This was the only local anæsthetic of any practical value then available which would suspend or paralyze conduction in the nerves of sensation, while leaving the nerves of motion little if at all affected. Why, then, he reasoned, should not this drug paralyze sensation in the sensory pathways of the spinal cord if brought in contact with the latter?

No sooner thought than acted upon. He decided to begin experimenting on animals at once, selecting rabbits and dogs as most suitable to his purpose. One of his experiments, that on a dog, is very striking.

Having provided himself with an ordinary hypodermic syringe he injected twenty drops of a 2 per cent. solution of cocaine between the spines of the two lower dorsal vertebræ. Five minutes later the dog threw his legs about aimlessly, not from paralysis but from lack of ability to feel the floor distinctly and judge of the relation of his feet to the same. His actions in this respect bore a ludicrous resemblance to those of intoxicated persons.

Dr. Corning next tested the condition of sensibility in the hind legs by thrusting in needles and applying powerful electric currents. But despite the rigor of the tests the dog gave no token of discomfort, revealing thus beyond a doubt that the lower part of the body up to the point of injection was absolutely insensitive to pain.

When, however, these tests were applied to the forelegs and upper part of the trunk the dog howled loudly, his undignified conduct in this respect being due to the fact that the nerves of sensation supplying the regions in question entered the cord above the point of injection and were thus able to transmit their painful messages to the brain.

The loss of sensibility in the lower part of the body persisted for a considerable length of time; and the same was true of the comical straddling gait. After the lapse of about four hours, however, the dog was himself again. Thus was established the principle of spinal anæsthesia.

So far so good; the principle was established among quadrupeds, but would it serve as well among bipeds? Dr. Corning immediately determined to put this part of the problem to the proof.

To this end he injected into the back of a man, after the manner just described, thirty drops of a 3 per cent. solution of cocaine between the spines of the eleventh and twelfth dorsal vertebræ. As there was no manifest insensibility in the legs and lower part of the body after the lapse of six or eight minutes he concluded that he had not gone sufficiently deep to influence the cord. Accordingly he injected a second time, employing the same amount of cocaine, but thrusting the hollow needle in much deeper.

For ten minutes he awaited the results. Then came the statement from the patient that his legs "felt sleepy." Thereupon Dr. Corning immediately applied the electric current to the lower limbs, and found that currents which caused pain in the hands and arms were barely perceived in the feet and ankles. Later the insensibility had become so profound that neither deep pricking with a needle nor strong electric currents were felt in the legs and lower abdominal regions, the area of anæsthesia extending up to and even slightly above the level of the injection.

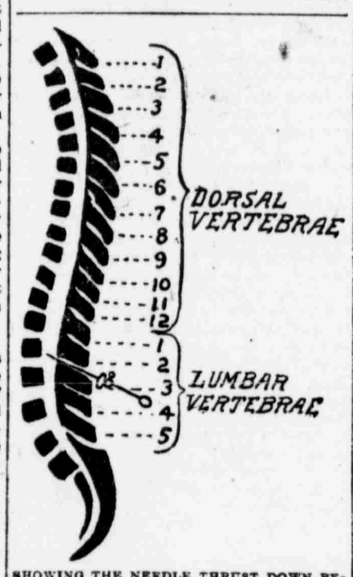
This insensibility persisted for two hours; but, as in the case of the dog, there was no paralysis of motion. Next day this patient returned, none the worse for his experience, nor did he at any time thereafter complain of a single disagreeable symptom.

Thus for the first time in the history of medicine was the principle of the action of a local anæsthetic upon the spinal cord established; thus was spinal anæsthesia given to mankind.

But perfection of method was yet to be worked out; and to this part of the problem Dr. Corning accordingly addressed himself, elaborating the details of the procedure during several succeeding years and publishing his results in medical journals.

To appreciate the various steps in the apparently simple manipulations involved in the induction of spinal anæsthesia it is necessary to bear in mind that the spinal cord is contained in a passageway or longitudinal cavity, the vertebral canal, running through the vertebræ or small bones which constitute the backbone; that the spinal cord is surrounded by a liquid, the cerebro-spinal fluid, and that both liquid and cord are enclosed by membranes; and that the cord does not run the entire length of the long canal, but comes to an end some distance before the lower end of the latter is reached, running out into nerves—the so-called *cauda equina* or horse's tail—the last named nerves being, however, still surrounded by the cerebro-spinal fluid and the before mentioned membranes.

As a result of this peculiar disposition it was evident that if a hollow needle attached to a glass syringe be thrust down between those vertebræ which enclose the *cauda equina*, let us say between the second and third lumbar vertebræ as shown in the figure, so as to pierce the membranes, a local anæsthetic—cocaine, stovaine, &c.—may be deposited within the membranes, whereby the whole lower portion of the cerebro-spinal fluid becomes impregnated. The consequence is that the sensory pathways of the spinal cord—those connected with the nerves of the lower part of the body and with the legs—are rendered insensitive to pain.



SHOWING THE NEEDLE THRUST DOWN BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD LUMBAR VERTEBRÆ, ITS POINT ENTERING THE VERTEBRAL CANAL.

With these simple mechanical details in mind it is easy to understand the technique usually adopted at the present time. To fulfil the exactions of the latter, three implements are required:

1. A fine, hollow needle, four inches long, provided with a sliding nut, which may be fixed at any point by means of a setscrew.

2. A small glass syringe, attachable by means of a screw to the hollow needle.

3. A small trocar, or sharpened hollow tube, half an inch long. This is thrust through the thick skin of the back, and thereafter the hollow needle is passed through it (the trocar). By the use of this simple device we are enabled to employ a very fine needle, a desideratum of the first importance. We may add that the trocar is now usually dispensed with; but as it was originally employed by Dr. Corning we have described it.

All these implements are carefully sterilized by boiling before using; the subject's back is washed with green soap, alcohol, ether and a solution of bichloride of mercury, and in short all the resources of modern antisepsis are invoked to prevent infection.

To execute the necessary manœuvres the subject, if his condition admits of it, is placed upon a stool, his back exposed, his attitude that of one bending forward over a low table. This attitude causes the bones of the back—the vertebræ—to separate a little behind so that the spinal canal is rendered more accessible to the needle.

The opening between the second and third lumbar vertebræ is often selected. Accordingly, having rendered the skin insensitive by injecting a little cocaine, the needle is thrust in at a point between but a little to the right of the spines of the second and third lumbar vertebræ until the cerebro-spinal fluid exudes as limpid drops. From the appearance of this fluid it is known that the needle has gone deep enough; that its point has entered the canal and penetrated the membranes. The sliding nut is then pushed down till it rests upon the skin, whereby further penetration by the needle is prevented. It may be noted that this sliding nut has been usually dispensed with by those who have undertaken spinal anæsthesia since Dr. Corning discovered it.

The glass syringe, containing a 2 or 3 per cent. solution of cocaine, is now screwed to the needle and twenty or thirty drops of the anæsthetic solution is slowly injected. In from eight to ten minutes the subject is apt to declare that he feels a sensation of heaviness or sleepiness in the lower limbs; and shortly thereafter—or exceptionally within ten or fifteen minutes—his legs and the entire abdominal region will be found to have become quite insensitive. Needles may be thrust in, the electric current applied or other pain provoking tests invoked, all without the slightest inconvenience to the subject.

Now is the surgeon's opportunity. Applying a bandage to the eyes of his patient, and if the latter be unduly apprehensive plugging his ears with cotton, the master of the knife goes about his work, confident that however searching his undertakings there will be no suffering for the one most nearly concerned.

Operations lasting one and even two hours have been many times performed under this form of anæsthesia.

Amputations, abdominal operations of all kinds and removal of malignant growths are a few of the major undertakings achieved under spinal anæsthesia. The number of operations now on record are said to be between 35,000 and 40,000.

In obstetrics too it has already been extensively invoked with striking success.

What are the limits of the procedure? It is yet too early to give a conclusive answer to this question. Enough, however, is already known to predict that while it may not displace ether or chloroform it is likely to fulfil a unique field of usefulness in cases of alcoholism, certain forms of renal trouble, cardiac enfeeblement and pulmonary disease—conditions in which the administration of a general anæsthetic is fraught with peril, even though not always absolutely contraindicated.

A number of deaths have already been recorded in connection with spinal anæsthesia, but the like may be said of chloroform, ether, and even nitrous oxide, one of the safest of anæsthetics. Just what the percentage of mortality may be is still undetermined.

The literature of spinal anæsthesia is already enormous; something like 700 papers besides special monographs in all languages are already catalogued. As for Dr. Corning's priority as the discoverer of this mode of anæsthesia, that has long been recognized by the foremost medical authority throughout the world.

In conclusion it may be stated that by making the injections higher up (in the neck) as was done by Dr. Dudley Tait of San Francisco in 1899 and more recently by Dr Jonnesco of Bucharest, the field of anæsthesia may be so extended as practically to include the whole body.

THE BOOTBLACK'S GAINS.

$30 the Best Week's Record of One Man—The Average About $18.

Bootblacks, like the old women who sell newspapers, are often suspected of hidden wealth and supposed to own many tenements with a rent roll greater than the income of the average person whose shoes are shined and to whom newspapers are delivered. One investigator interviewed a bootblack of his acquaintance with an idea of discovering what was the income of this man, who for years had been travelling about with a brush and box, building up a fine trade.

The bootblack told him that the very best week he ever had in his life occurred a dozen years ago, when he made $30. That was in the days of almost universal five cent shines, so that his efforts represented at least five hundred and probably more shines. An average week netted $18 to $20. Years ago business was better. The bootblack an Italian said with fine scorn

"The Greeks come over here and they shine all five cent shines. They never bring their women folks from the old country and a dozen of them live in a room. The small boys they hire get almost nothing, and so of course they can make money. The Italians bring their families along and they have to spend money to live. The competition from the Greeks has killed the business."

Of course, the bootblack said, the big stands in buildings downtown and those in good spots throughout the city made money. Some of them took in from $70 to $90 a week, but then again they had rent to pay and also the services of assistants to reckon with. As far as this man could see, the bootblack who went around with box in hand was as well off as any of them.

"And no one is well off when the weather isn't good," he said. "Some days it's no use coming out. You won't make a nickel all day. That's the worst of the business. Bad weather kills it."

Icy Plunge Didn't Stop the Wedding.

From the Detroit News.

Despite the fact that they had just taken an unwilling plunge in the icy waters of the Little Muskegon River Charles H. Stinson and Miss Grace Heimbecker, two young people of near Morley, appeared before the Rev. W. Cool Murden of that village and asked that the wedding ceremony be performed in accordance with prearranged plans.

While the couple were driving across a bridge just east of Morley their horse took fright at some cattle, and becoming unmanageable backed the buggy over the embankment, throwing the occupants into the river. Miss Heimbecker was completely submerged at one time, while Stinson escaped with only a slight ducking.

Neighbors rushed to their rescue and insisted that the couple go to a nearby farmhouse and secure dry clothing, but this they refused to do, and after securing the loan of another buggy continued their trip to Morley and were united in marriage only a few minutes after the appointed hour.

POOREST OF THE PRESIDENTS

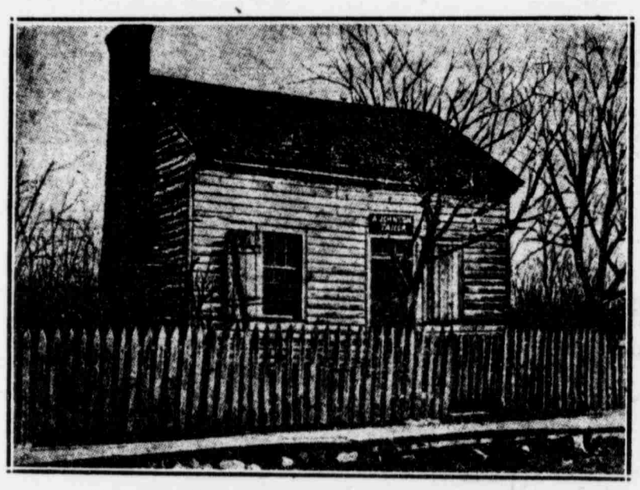
YET ANDREW JOHNSON WAS NOT A TAKER OF GIFTS.

His Poverty Felt in the White House—The Gift of a Carriage and Pair Offered by New York Bankers and Merchants Which He Refused—Johnson's Youth.

This country has had five accidental Presidents: John Tyler of Virginia, who succeeded to the office at the death of President William Henry Harrison; Millard Fillmore, who owed his elevation to the death of President Zachary Taylor; Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln; Chester S. Arthur, the successor of President Garfield, and Theodore Roosevelt, who was President McKinley's successor.

To Andrew Johnson belongs the distinction of having been the poorest of the Presidents. Other Presidents have been poor men, but he was unlike all others in that he went to the White House almost as poor as when he entered the Legislature of Tennessee, while yet a tailor.

The earlier Presidents were men of means, excepting the second and the sixth, who were John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams, and who may be described as comfortably off. Tyler was a poor man with a large family, but his degree of poverty was so far removed from Johnson's that it appeared to be wealth by comparison. Tyler had a Virginia plantation and slaves to plant and harvest crops. Johnson owned his little tailor shop and his home at Greenville, Tenn., and the latter was scarcely more than a ruin. It had been used as a hospital by the Confederates and was spared from complete destruction only because it served the purpose.



ANDREW JOHNSON'S TAILOR SHOP.

Many public men in this country have risen from humble surroundings, Jackson and Lincoln among the Presidents being notable examples; but no man of national repute has sounded to the same degree the depths of poverty and obscurity that encompassed the early life of Andrew Johnson, yet no man has left a record of greater integrity. He was the personification of honest industry, and as boy and man he had a passionate hatred of debt. His enemies, and he had his full share, paid tribute to his honesty, and his bitterest foes, such as Isham G. Harris and Parson Brownlow of Tennessee, admitted that he had an invincible shield in his probity.

His attitude of dignified, cheerful acceptance of his fate from his boyhood made him strong friends. He never alluded to his poverty and never shirked the consequences of being poor. When he was a lad in Raleigh, N. C., his birthplace, he worked at any task assigned to him, and he uncomplainingly accepted his fate when his mother had him bound out as an apprentice to a tailor. The following is a copy of the document which indentured him:

State of North Carolina,
Wake County.

At a Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions begun and held for the County of Wake at the Court house in Raleigh, on the third Monday of February A. D. 1822, being the 46 year of American Independence, & the 18th day of February.

Present
The Worshipful
CHARLES L. HINTON,
NATHANIEL G. RAND,
MERRITT DILLARD,

It is "Ordered that Andrew Johnson, an orphan boy, the son of Jacob Johnson dec'd, 14 years of age, be bound to James I. Selby until he arrive to lawful age, to learn the trade of a Tailor."

Why he should have been referred to as an orphan is inexplicable, because his mother and his stepfather were both living in Raleigh at the time. The popular idea that Johnson was the only son of a widowed mother is incorrect. He was her youngest son and she was not a widow dependent upon him until after the death of her second husband, which occurred near Greenville after Johnson had been elected to the Legislature.

In the autumn of 1826 Johnson and his mother and stepfather went from Raleigh to Greenville. They travelled in a cart in which was carried all their household goods, and they camped the first night in a lot which is now a part of his old home. As if led by some unseen hand Johnson selected the spot and then explored the village. It pleased him, and its nearness to the college made him desire to remain.

His mother was of Irish parentage. Her first husband, Jacob Johnson, was the janitor of the Court House in Raleigh at the time Andrew Johnson was born. He died when the boy was very young, and Andrew Johnson never knew a father's care or had a real home.

He was not yet 10 when he arrived in Greenville. The family had started to go to West Tennessee, where his oldest brother was living, but the young man saw in Greenville the place of opportunity for him and he refused to go further. In Greenville in May, 1827, he was married.

Johnson's bride, Eliza McCardle, was the daughter of a widow, who sewed for a living. She lived on the pike leading from Jonesboro through Greenville, and the day that Johnson passed the house on his entrance into the village her daughter stood at a window of her home, and seeing Johnson said to her mother: "There goes my sweetheart; that's the man I'm going to marry." Mrs. Patterson, the eldest child of the marriage and the idol of her father throughout his life, is the authority for this account of the meeting of her parents and also for the facts given in connection with her father's life in Greenville.

From 1827 to 1830 Johnson worked and studied, living in a log house of two rooms, one of which was his shop. At first his young wife helped him, doing the lighter work, such as sewing on collars and the like, but it was not long before the young tailor could hire help. He had all the best custom of the place, and when he abandoned the business he had seven men in his employ.

He was twice elected Alderman and then was sent to the Legislature. While away his shop was run by his foreman, overlooked by Mrs. Johnson. When he was elected to Congress he sold his trade, but not his shop, and no one ever occupied it after he left it.

He taught his young daughter to sew, and when she had learned to do good sewing he let her sew on the sleeves of coats. For this he paid her, carefully measuring her work and estimating its worth. She was put at school at the age of 6 and knew how to read before that age. Her father had taught her, and as soon as she was started at school he studied with her.

In after years she said of those days: "My father would sew all day until about dark, and then he would go out to meet me as I came home from school. We would walk together slowly to the house. At that time our home was separate from the shop. His invariable greeting was 'Well, daughter, what have you learned to-day?' and I would tell him, and then repeat all that I could of the different lessons.

"After supper we would read over the lessons for the next day, and thus he studied my lessons, and learned them sometimes better than I did. If I knew my lessons better than the other girls sometimes I would be taunted with the remark 'Oh, your father helps you.'"

All the way along his journey from obscurity to the White House, Johnson lived in an unpretentious and economical manner, studying every day and trying always to get knowledge from every one he met. The course he pursued of avoiding debt and cultivating a contented mind enabled him to live a comparatively carefree life. When called to fill the highest office in the land he entered upon its duties poor but not oppressed with any sense of poverty.

His family remained in Tennessee for a long time after he and his oldest daughter took possession of the President's house, and when they were finally established there Mrs. Patterson had it under the same careful control that had characterized the Governor's house at Nashville. She best knew the slimness of his purse, and she had all the ambitions for him that he had felt for himself.

It was with no little anxiety that they considered the management of the salary of the Presidential office and the demands of a public nature that would be upon it. The one simple rule of his life he insisted should be carried out there, and a man never had a more loyal and faithful colaborer than was this daughter.

Johnson had not the moneymaking spirit. He was too ambitious to let a love of money dominate him, and he treasured his personal independence as above all wealth. As President much was required of him, and he was eager to meet all the requirements of his position. His family knew his wishes, and plain and unassuming though they were, they sustained the dignity of their positions, while his eldest daughter became a popular hostess.

The White House in the time of President Johnson's administration was a simply furnished and unpretentious place as compared with its present condition. All its appointments were plain, while its equipages consisted of a plain old coach and a general utility carryall. The President's family rode about Washington in a carriage that had done duty there since Buchanan's day, and it was driven by a colored coachman whose only sign of livery was a high hat. Spartan simplicity characterized the stables, the kitchens and the drawing rooms. It never entered the thoughts of any one to wish that a new carriage was needed.

In the early days of his administration, before the shadow of the impeachment trial had fallen upon the President and while yet he had the good will of both political parties, some of his admirers in New York conceived the idea of making him a present. It was finally decided that a suitable carriage was most needed at the White House, and it was ordered to be made. A pair of horses was purchased to accompany the carriage to Washington.

To notify Johnson of the gift a large piece of parchment was selected and a suitable envelope was made to hold it. The letter, which is now published for the first time, was engrossed on the parchment and the names of the donors appear on it in three rows. The list, as will be seen, represents many of the leading bankers and merchants of that day. The letter was sent to Washington by a personal friend of President Johnson, a Tennessee Union man, who, knowing him well, went with many misgivings as to the reception of the gift. The letter is as follows:

The undersigned Citizens of New York take great pleasure in sending to Washington, by the Camden and Amboy R. R. Cars, a Coach, Span of Horses, Harness, Blankets, et cetera., respectfully asking Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, to accept the same as a token of their high appreciation of his fidelity to the country as a statesman, well approved by word and deed in all the various offices to which he has been called.

Phelps, Dodge & Co.	Peter Cooper.
J. S. Schultz.	M. Armstrong & Sons.
Hoyt Brothers.	Hoover Calhoun & Co.
Hull, Southwick & Co.	Horace B. Claflin.
John R. Lawrence & Co.	Henry A. Smythe.
Wicksmith Co.	Lathrop, Ludington & Co.
S. B. Chittenden.	Daniel S. Ross.
Sprague C. Holbern.	Daniel Drew.
Winslow Lanier & Co.	Henry Clews & Co.
Chas. A. Meigs & Son.	Wm. W. De Forest & Co.
Eugene Kelly.	E. A. Quintard.
A. A. Low.	Wilson G. Hunt.
Arthur Leary.	Chas. H. Marshall.
William H. Fogg.	Chas. B. Bosdick.
Edwin Hoyt.	Arnold Constable Co.
Sheppard Knapp.	Hunt, Tillinghast & Co.
Vermilye & Co.	L. P. Morton & Co.
Peter Hayden.	Ketchum, Son & Co.
H. J. Baker.	Reeve, Case & Banks.
William T. Blodgett.	George H. Potts.

NEW YORK, May 17th, 1865.

The answer that was returned was this:

WASHINGTON CITY, May 22, 1865.

Messrs. A. A. Low, Phelps Dodge & Co., Hoyt Bros., J. S. Schultz and others.

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your very complimentary note dated New York, May 17, 1865, wherein you request my acceptance of a coach, span of horses, harness, &c., as a token of your high appreciation of my public course.

While I fully appreciate the purity of your motives in thus generously tendering me such substantial evidence of your regard, I am compelled solely from the convictions of duty I have ever held in reference to the acceptance of presents by those occupying high official positions to decline the offerings of kind and loyal friends.

The retention of the parchment conveying your sentiments and the autographs of those who were pleased to unite in this manifestation of regard is a favor I would ask, and I assure you, gentlemen, I shall regard it as the highest mark of respect from any portion of my fellow citizens.

Trusting that I shall continue to merit your confidence and esteem in the discharge of the high and important duties upon which I have but just entered, and with best wishes for your health, &c., individually, I am, gentlemen, yours truly,

(Signed) ANDREW JOHNSON.

It is a fact that after the death of Andrew Johnson but one present was in his family's possession. This was a silver service, consisting of a pitcher, a dozen goblets and a salver, given him by the Union men of Nashville. These men were not a numerous body, and they had been closely associated with Gov. Johnson in his reconstruction work in Tennessee. They asked permission to give him a token of their appreciation of his efforts before he left Tennessee, and he agreed to receive the offering in the spirit of comradeship in which it was offered. This gift was taken with him to Washington and was one of the features of the private dining room's decorations while he lived in the White House. It occupied a place of honor in his home in Greenville and remained in the possession of a grandson. The Union men of Nashville were his personal friends, and as he was leaving then for an indefinite stay he made their wishes his own, and this was the sole exception to his lifelong rule of independence in the matter of gifts.

It was said of him by his neighbors who had known him longest and best that he never borrowed a dollar in his life and never spent one that he had not first earned.

TROUT WITH A HISTORY.

Had Travelled Thousands of Miles in Tank of an Engine.

From the Field.

The mascot of the Iverness railway men passed away last week in the shape of a brown trout, whose life history was somewhat peculiar. The fish had been landed at Millburn by the son of Mr. McDonald, engine driver, was kept alive, and soon became a great pet. Upward of ten years ago the engine driver had it transferred to the tank of his engine, and it has since passed a somewhat curious existence in the tanks of three separate railway engines.

The trout was so tame that it would feed from the engine driver's hand, and when a pail was dropped into the tank to take it out would flop into it at once.

Occasionally the driver took his pet home with him, and on the last occasion that he did so an accident happened—a box of matches had fallen into the tank, with the result that the trout was poisoned. The trout is lamented by all the railway men. It travelled during its stay in the engine tank thousands of miles, and once when there was a snow block and the water ran down was only saved by pouring water sparingly over it.

The fish was a beautifully spotted specimen. Its ten years residence in a railway tank had made it famous, and it is intended to transfer it to some museum.

Oklahoma Wolf Drive.

From the Arapahoe Bee.

The farmers had a wolf drive in Barnes-Davis's neighborhood last Saturday. Two wolves were scared up, but they broke through the line, ran over the men, whipped the dogs and all got away. While the men were armed with from .22s to light artillery every wolf escaped the bombardment.