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NOTES AND COMMENTS

That industry, ambition and health, when centred in an individual of fair abilities, command success, was never better illustrated than in the life of the late Samuel D. Gross, whose AUTOBIOGRAPHY, edited by his sons, has recently been issued. If genius is only an infinite capacity for taking pains, it would not be right to deny to Dr. Gross a share of this quality. He won success and fame by hard, honest, unceasing work in a profession for which he seems to have had, from the outset, a special aptitude; and, as he well says, "aptitude is nothing but genius or talent properly applied." As a student, as a young graduate, as a teacher and practitioner at Easton, Cincinnati, Louisville, New York and Philadelphia, throughout a long professional career of fifty-four years, industry was his watch-work. He may, indeed, be said to have died in harness, as articles from his pen appeared within a few months of his death. And yet he claims to have been constitutionally lazy! He was, perhaps, the most voluminous American medical author. His work on Pathological Anatomy, which passed through three editions, remains the only native one issued in this country, and is still valuable on account of the numerous and accurate references to the older literature. A large part of the second volume is taken up with sketches of some of Dr. Gross's distinguished contemporaries - Drake, Dewes, Pattison, Chapman, J. K. Mitchell, and others - which will have a permanent value in biographical literature. Certainly nothing Dr. Gross has written will outlast his Autobiography. Text-books rarely survive their authors, but the record of such a life is of enduring interest, and will stimulate and encourage many who tread the rough and thorny road to professional eminence.