

**PORTRAITS OF EMINENT AMERICAN PRAC-  
TITIONERS—WILLIAM HOLME VAN  
BUREN, M.D., OF NEW YORK.**

William Holme Van Buren, whose portrait appears on the front cover, died just a quarter of a century ago, but is still remembered for his achievements in medical literature. He was born in Philadelphia, April 5, 1819, and his grandfather and great-grandfather were physicians before him. In 1838 he entered Yale College, but finished his course at the University of Pennsylvania—before graduating age. He spent the interval in Paris as member of the house staff of La Charité Hospital, under the famous Velpeau. While there he met the American surgeon, Valentine Mott, whose daughter he eventually married.

He was Assistant Surgeon in the U. S. Army until 1845, when he came to New York to serve as prosecutor to his father-in-law in the University Medical College. After serving in this capacity seven years he succeeded Dr. Granville Patterson as Professor of Anatomy. In 1868 he accepted the professorship of surgery in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, which he held for fourteen years. In 1866 Yale College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, and again in 1878 the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Quite early Dr. Van Buren turned his attention toward writing. His first attempt was a translation of Morel's "Histology," and later Bernard and Huette's "Operative Surgery." Then followed a book of essays entitled "Contributions to Practical Surgery." In one of these essays he described a successful case of ovariectomy which he performed in the days when this operation was yet in its infancy. Five years later appeared his "Diseases of the Rectum," and four

years later he wrote, conjointly with Dr. Edward L. Keyes, a text-book on "Genito-Urinary Surgery." Shortly afterward he read an able article on "Aneurism" before the International Medical Congress in Philadelphia. His essay on "Inflammation" in Ashhurst's International Encyclopedia of Surgery is one of his best efforts.