

CHAPTER V.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Part I.—By Joseph Bascom Griswold, M. D.

The medical history of Grand Rapids may be said to date from January 1, 1835, on which day Dr. Jason Winslow, then of Gull Prairie, Kalamazoo county, reduced a dislocated hip on the person of Joel Guild. Grand Rapids was then a village of less than one hundred persons, and there being no physician nearer than Gull Prairie, Dr. Winslow was called by Richard Godfroy to attend to Mr. Guild's case.

The first physician to settle permanently within the present city was Dr. Stephen A. Wilson, who arrived in August, 1835. In the spring of 1837 he formed a copartnership with Dr. Charles Shepard, the association lasting until 1839, in the fall of which year Dr. Wilson died. Dr. Charles Shepard was the second resident physician. He arrived October 20, 1835, only two months after Dr. Wilson came. The third was Dr. Gravelle, a young French physician, who came in the spring of 1836, but remained only until the fall of that year. Dr. Jason Winslow, the physician who rendered the first professional service in the community, was the fourth to settle here. He came from Gull Prairie in the spring of 1837. He was of New England stock and had practiced in Stockholm, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., before coming to Michigan. After a residence of six years in Grand Rapids he died, March 15, 1843. Dr. F. J. Higginson was the fifth. He came in 1839. He also was a New England man, a graduate of the Medical Department of Harvard College, and had practiced at Cambridge, Mass. He remained in Grand Rapids only about two years; removed in 1841 to Brattleboro, Vt., where he practiced many years and where he died.

A few of the other pioneer physicians of this community, with date of arrival, are here named in the order of their coming: Alonzo Platt, in 1842; Philander H. Bowman, in 1846; Charles L. Henderson, in 1847; Wenzel Blumrich, in September, 1848;