

Obituary

Dr Richard Estelstyn was born in Claverack Co. N.Y. about the year 1794. He died at Red Hook on Wednesday the 12th of February 1868 identified for nearly fifty years with the active practice of medicine in the Northern part of Dutchess and in portions of his native county. He was next the eldest of a numerous family. We find him early engaged in the study of some classics at Claverick with Caspore the celebrated Tutor, of many of the leading Men who emanated from the County of Columbia among whom may be mentioned the more eminent of the Van Kessels, Van Kessels, Miller and Gebhardts. In 1816 he commenced the study of medicine with Guitman M.D. who then lived at the residence of David Elsefer near the Stone Church in Rhinebeck and whose great skill as a physician was in some degree early impressed on the mind and habits of thought of the young Estelstyn of whom Dr Guitman was accustomed to speak as his favorite student.

For three terms including the winter of 1822-23 he attended course of Lectures in the city of New York listening to those eminent Men Doctors Hosack Post Francis McAllen & Eddy composing an array of medical talent unequalled perhaps at any period since that time and on graduating he is said to have left his mark in an article written by him on the diseases of children and treatment thereof which attracted just attention from those eminent professors.

On the Spring of 1826 and on his
return to Rhinebeck his very talented
preceptor Dr Wittman suggested a
willingness to surrender his ride to him,
and Dr Esselstyn commenced to practice
from the house where he had lived and
studied for three years at which he
continued to reside for at least five years
and until he moved his office to the village
of Red Hook about the year 1826
Since that time upwards of forty years
Doc Esselstyn devoted himself to his
profession. When his attention to a patient
became fixed he would compound his ingredients
to baffle his enemy in such a way to gain advantage
these efforts of his were not limited to
his more profitable patients but were as wide
alike to every condition in life as was
manifest at his funeral where many a tear
was shed in remembrance of him
Doc Esselstyn in his own way encouraged
efforts in the community to mental and
moral improvement he was scholarly in his
tastes and having been in former years
an attentive reader of history he rendered
himself always agreeable as a debater
and gave marked encouragement
to that question, indifferent
neighbourhoods, within reach
the deeds of good men live after their death
and the name of Richard Esselstyn
will bloom with fresh and charming
fragrance in the hearts of his
many friends ever