

## Biography of Dr. Samuel Bancroft Barlow

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BARLOW, SAMUEL BANCROFT, M. D., of the city of New York, was born April 19th, 1798, in the town of Granville, Hampshire county, Mass. Having received a good common school education, in 1812 he prepared for college at the private academy of Rev. T. M. Cooley. From 1814 to 1817, he taught school, meanwhile studying history and botanic medicine, though previously to this he had familiarized himself with medical subjects in a regular and systematic manner. He had commenced to practice as early as 1814, and had learned to cure neurosis by specific medicines.

In June, 1819, he entered the office of Dr. Vincent Holcombe as a regular student, possessing his entire confidence and assisting him almost from the first in practice. After two years he chose Dr. Joseph F. Jewett, of Granby, Conn., as his preceptor, and thence matriculated at the Medical Institute of Yale College, and passed a creditable examination for his degree in March, 1822.

He immediately commenced the practice of his profession, in which he had eminent success, remaining in New England until 1834, in which year he received the honorary degree of M. D. from the Berkshire (Massachusetts) Medical College. His next sphere of duty was in Florida, Goshen county, N. Y., where he remained for seven years. During his residence in this town (in the autumn of 1837), having been converted to the doctrines of Hahnemann, he was the first to practice according to those tenets, and met with great success. Whenever doubtful about any important matter, he elicited information of great value by correspondence with Drs. F. Vanderbergh, A. Gerald Hull, and Curtiss.

In 1841, he removed to New York city, and has resided there ever since. During the cholera epidemic -May to November, 1849- he had more cases than any other private physician of any school. Out of two hundred and fifty cases he lost but five ; the rate of mortality being only two per cent. Other homœopaths averaged six and a quarter per cent., while by allopathic treatment the mortality was over fifty-four per cent., as conceded by the published reports of city authorities.

He has been a member of all the various societies and associations of the new school during his residence in New York, and has contributed not only pecuniary means, but also cases, essays and monographs on medical subjects. He was one of the original founders and members of the American Institute of Homœopathy.

In 1850, he imported from South America some of the poison termed "woorara," as prepared and used by the natives to poison the tips of their arrows, so as to

enable them, in times of war, by striking their enemies to paralyze their limbs and render them easy of capture. Dr. Barlow has successfully used this article in the cure of paralysis, especially among the aged. He has also devised a mode of treating intermittent fever, or rather of preventing its attack, by removing the proximate cause -the chill- and has succeeded in very many instances. He believes he originated this method, though Dr. Hering claims it as original. He has also devised a plan of treatment in fractures of aged persons, without splints or bandages, and has successfully followed this method for over forty years.

In November, 1863, he was elected Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the New York Homœopathic Medical College, and lectured therein for eight years. These lectures are now being translated into the Armenian language by a native of that country, in the city of Constantinople.

Dr. Barlow has written and published much for over sixty years on various subjects. He has been also the recipient of medical honors from several homœopathic colleges, including those of Philadelphia and Cleveland, beside the diploma of the Eclectic College of Cincinnati.

In July, 1868, he was sun struck, since which time he has suffered from paralysis, induced by an apoplectic or comatose condition of the brain.