Dedication and Acknowledgements

Dedication: Throughout my life one person has always been there during those difficult and trying times. I would like to dedicate this thesis and everything I do to my mother Susan Green Hébert. In addition to her I have always been surrounded with strong supportive women. I would not be who I am today without the love and support of my grandmother Helen Purcell Green. Although our time together was brief, her contributions to my life will be felt forever.

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# Table of Contents

**Introduction** ................................................................. Page 1

**Chapter One:** ................................................................. Page 9
  “Becoming a Country Physician”

**Chapter Two:** ................................................................. Page 34
  “The Country Physician in the Domestic Sphere”

**Chapter Three:** ............................................................... Page 63
  “Professional Income, Politics, and Patronage”

**Epilogue** ......................................................................... Page 89

**Vita** ................................................................................. Page 101
List of Tables

Table One: Montgomery County Population Statistics, 1870. .................... 38

Table Two: Selected Southwest Virginia County Statistics, 1870 ................. 67

Table Three: Unpaid Medical Fees ....................................................... 78

Table Four: Robert Ellett Patient Visits by Occupation ......................... 79

Table Five: Robert Ellett’s African American Patients .......................... 81

Table Five: Robert Ellett’s Unpaid Fees, 1867-1872 .............................. 92

Table Six: Comparison Based Upon Judith Leavitt’s Criteria .................... 94

Table Seven: Comparison by Strict Gender Categories .......................... 94