

1

History of the Northwestern University Medical School—Its Founders, and the Important Improvements in Medical Education they sought to accomplish—And their very gratifying degree of Success.

The Northwestern University Medical School was first organized in 1859, under the name of Medical Department of Lind University of Chicago; and its first annual course of medical instruction was commenced October 9th 1859. The active founders and permanent supporters of the School were Drs. Hosmer A. Johnson, Edmund Andrews, Ralph N. Escham, Nathan S. Davis, and William H. Byford; aided by Drs. David Rutter, John H. Hollister, F. Mahle, M. K. Taylor and Titus Deville.

To enable our readers to understand, ~~the condition of educational institutions~~ more clearly the objects to be accomplished and the obstacles to be overcome by those who undertook to organize this school on a broader basis and with a more rational system of instruction than previously prevailed in the medical schools in this country, it is necessary to state in as few words as possible the actual condition of medical college education in this country ~~at~~ ^{during} the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century.

At the commencement of that century only four medical schools existed ⁱⁿ the country, i.e. one in Philadelphia, one in New York City, one in Boston and one in Bowdoin N.H. - They all had been organized as departments of Universities or Colleges authorized to grant the degree of Doctor of Medicine which was ~~which was~~ ^{then} everywhere recognized as sufficient authority to practice medicine and surgery. The number of students attending these schools was very limited, and a still ~~and~~ more limited number graduated annually. During that period and the twenty-five subsequent years a large majority of the medical students received their instruction in the offices of general practitioners whom they chose as their preceptors. In ~~many~~ ^{several} of the States laws had been passed requiring ~~that~~ ^{about} years of medical study and an examination by the censors of some organized medical society by which they were licensed to practice, without having attended any medical school. But by attending one annual course ^{of} medical college instruction, one year could be deducted from the period of medical study; and attending two college courses and graduating M.D., they were permitted to practice medicine in all its departments without any other examination or license. Under such regulations, it was soon learned that it cost less both in time and money for a young man to register himself as a student in the office of

a practitioner for three years, and during that time attend an incorporated medical college through two annual courses of lectures of sixteen weeks each, and receive from the College the degree of Doctor Medicine, then to study with the practitioner four years and then pass an examination by a Board of Censors of either a State or County Medical Society. Under such regulations and circumstances, medical colleges soon began to increase rapidly and their degrees ^{to be} sought by medical students instead of a license from a State or County Medical Society.

As proof of this, it may be stated that in 1810 only six medical colleges ~~or~~ ^{or} schools existed in the United States; while before 1850 the number had increased to thirty-six.

In 1810 the whole number of students attending the six medical schools was 650 and the number of graduates 100. But in 1850 the whole number in the thirty-six medical ^{schools} was 4,500, and the number of graduates 1300. During the same period of time, the number of students applying to the County and State boards of censors for licenses decreased ^{with} equally rapidity. This rapid multiplication of medical colleges, nearly of ^{all} which were dependent wholly on the fees derived from their students for their support, led to so active a rivalry for numbers of students that before the middle of the century it was no longer a question as to ^{which} college would give the most complete system of medical instruction, but which would be reasonably certain to grant the coveted degree for the least exp^{en}diture of time and money.

No standard of preliminary education for commencing the study of medicine or entering the Medical College was maintained; no laboratory work was required except the dissection of a part of the human body; and no ^{attendance on} hospital clinical instruction was made obligatory on the student.

The college faculties generally consisted of six or seven professors and a Demonstrator of Anatomy. The instruction was almost wholly by didactic lectures given at the rate of five or six per day to all the students in a single ^{class} without any consecutive order by which the more elementary branches might be attended the first year and the more practical the second year. In that way all the then recognized branches of medicine were lectured upon each year for a period of from twelve to sixteen weeks, which was recognized as an annual college term. Such was the condition ~~of medical education~~ of medical education and medical schools in this country during the first half of the nineteenth century, and it called forth numerous and severe criticisms both in the meetings of medical societies and in the medical periodicals. It was the period of transition from the personal instruction of the preceptor's office and library to the incorporated medical schools. In the annual meeting of the New York State Medical Society, February 1844, resolutions relating to the subject of medical education were presented by Dr Alexander Thompson of Cayuga County and Dr. Nathan S. Davis

then a young delegate from the Broome County Medical Society. Those by the latter, called for the adoption of a fair standard of general education before commencing the study of medicine, the lengthening of Annual Medical College terms to six months, the attendance on three such annual terms; ^{and} the grading of the curriculum in such manner that the student would be able to confine his attention to a limited number of branches each year. It was the earnest and persistent discussion of these resolutions and the principles they involved in the Annual Meetings of the New York State Society in 1844 and 1845, that resulted in the call for a National Convention of delegates from all the regular Medical Societies, Medical Colleges, and hospitals in this Country to be held in May 1846, in the City of New York, and the final organization of the American Medical Association by a second convention in Philadelphia in May 1847. The great leading object of the National Association was to elevate and systematize medical education by inducing the medical schools in all the States to act in concert. And although it continued to faithfully reiterate ^{from year to year} its recommendation of a fair ^{College} standard of preliminary education; a much longer annual term with a graded curriculum; embracing hospital clinical instruction at least one term; and three full years of Medical Study, ~~from year to year~~ not one of the 35 or 40 medical schools then existing in this

country attempted to carry those recommendations into practice. It was while attending the third annual meeting of the American Medical Association, held in Boston in May 1849, that Dr N. S. Davis was invited to accept a professorship in the Faculty of Rush Medical College in Chicago; which he accepted and changed his residence to that city the following Autumn. In his new position as a member of the Faculty of the Rush Medical College he continued to urge the adoption of the more thorough and efficient system of medical education by that institution without waiting longer for other Colleges to move first. His views were ~~approved~~^{approved} by Drs. H. A. Johnson and Edmund Andrews, who were graduates of the College of Liberal Arts of the Michigan University, and had both been members of the Faculty of Rush Medical College.

The majority of the Faculty and Trustees, however, persistently refused to make any changes in the direction desired. It was under the foregoing conditions of medical education and medical society organizations in this country that the Trustees of Lind University of Chicago, a new institution that had just received a liberal charter from the state legislature, informed Drs. H. A. Johnson, E. Andrews and R. N. Isham, that they were desirous of opening their University with Departments of both Theology and Medicine in addition to a College of Liberal Arts. Accordingly at a meeting in which the three physicians just named and Dr David Reutter were

present, written propositions were submitted by the board of Trustees as follows: 1st That the University ^{would furnish} temporary rooms for the Department of Medicine for the three first years; and at the end of that time would provide a permanent building suitable for that Department.

2nd That the Faculty of the Department of Medicine, when organized, should have the right to arrange the curriculum of studies; the length of the annual courses of instruction, and to nominate to the Board of Trustees, all persons for filling vacancies in the Medical faculty, that might occur from time to time.

3rd That all income to the Medical Department after defraying the current expenses, should be used in adding to the means for illustration for the first three years, during which the members of the Medical Faculty would render their services gratuitously.

4th That Medical Degrees should be given by the University only on the recommendation of the Faculty of the Medical Department.

Seeing in these propositions, if carried out in good faith, an opportunity to organize a Medical School on the basis persistently recommended by the American Medical Association and its founders, they were accepted by the four physicians present, who lost no time in inviting Drs. Davis and Byford, of the Faculty of Rush Medical College, to join them in their important undertaking. After proper notices to their colleagues of the Rush Medical College

they resigned their respective professorships, for the purpose of accepting the same chairs in the Medical Department of Lund University. After due consultation, it was decided that instead of only six or seven professorships, the curriculum of the new medical school should embrace thirteen, as follows:—1 Descriptive Anatomy; 2 Physiology and Histology; 3 Inorganic Chemistry; 4 Materia Medica and Therapeutics; 5 General Pathology and Public Hygiene; 6 Surgical Anatomy and Operations of Surgery; 7 Obstetrics and Diseases of women; 8 Principles and Practice of Medicine; 9, Principles and Practice of Surgery; 10 Medical Jurisprudence; 11, Organic Chemistry and Toxicology; 12, Clinical Medicine; and 13, Clinical Surgery. The foregoing arrangement of the various branches of medical study was adopted for the purpose of ultimately dividing them into three groups, i.e. one for each of the three years of medical pupillage, and thus establish a rationally graded system of medical instruction, by which the student could limit his attention to the more elementary branches the first year, ~~to~~ ^{to} another group of branches the second year, and ^{to} the strictly practical branches with hospital clinical instruction the third year. If each annual College term was lengthened to six months, attendance upon three such consecutive courses would more than double the time required to be spent in the ^{other} colleges and correspondingly increase the student's expenses. Consequently it was deemed more

prudent to commence with the whole curriculum
 divided into two groups and permit them to be includ-
 ed in two consecutive college courses of instruction
 of five ~~months~~ months each, called junior and senior
 courses. And when the principle of graded instruction
 had been established in medicine as in all other depart-
 ments of education, it would be much easier to add
 the more complete grading and additional time. The
 Faculty as first organized and approved by the Board
 of Trustees was constituted as follows:—Titus Deville
 M.D., Professor of Descriptive Anatomy; John H. Hollister M.D.
 Professor of Physiology and Histology; F. Mahla, Professor
 of Inorganic Chemistry; Hosmer A. Johnson M.D. Professor of
 Materia Medica and Therapeutics; M. R. Taylor M.D., Professor
 General Pathology and Public Hygiene; Ralph N. Isham M.D.
 Professor of Surgical Anatomy and Operations of Surgery;
 Edmund Andrews, M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of
 Surgery, and of Clinical Surgery; Nathan S. Davis, M.D. Prof-
 -essor of Principles and Practice of Medicine, and of Clinical
 Medicine; William H. Byford M.D. Professor of Obstetrics and
 Diseases of Women; Henry S. Spofford Esq. Professor of Medical
 Jurisprudence; F. Mahla, Professor of Organic Chemistry and
 Toxicology; David Rutter M.D. Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics;
 and Horace Wardner M.D. Demonstrator of Anatomy.

The instruction given by the five professors first named, with

dissections and laboratory work constituted the junior course, and that given by the remaining members of the faculty with hospital clinical instruction, the Senior Course.

Students who were in the first half of their three years of their medical study were required to attend the junior course, and those in the second half, the Senior Course.

Rooms were provided in Lind's Block on the corner of Randolph and Market streets, and the first Annual College term was commenced October 9th 1859 with an introductory lecture by Prof. N. S. Davis, which may be found in the Chicago Medical Examiner Vol. 1. p. 1, 1860.

Near the commencement of that address it was stated that the "considerations which have induced the faculty to undertake the task of establishing this institution, may all be included in the two following propositions:—First, the very liberal offer of the Board of Trustees of the University, to furnish all the needed accommodations for a medical department, with no other restrictions than that the plan of instruction adopted should be such as would most effectually promote the educational interests of the profession without reference to established customs and usages. Second, a sincere desire on the part of the faculty to put into practical operation a system of medical college instruction more in accordance with sound educational principles, and better adapted to the present state of the science and art of medicine, than that which has been so long adhered to by the medical schools of this country."

The whole number of

Matriculates for this first college term was 33, of whom 19 were Juniors and 14 Seniors, they having completed ~~the~~ their first two years of study and one college term in some other medical school. The rooms that had been provided, consisted of two convenient and well lighted lecture rooms, a laboratory, a museum, a room for practical anatomy, a library and faculty room. The laboratory was furnished with new apparatus selected with special reference to illustrating full courses of instruction, both inorganic and organic chemistry and toxicology. The museum contained a good collection of specimens, anatomical, pathological, microscopic and obstetrical; some of which had been brought from Paris by Professor Deville. The facilities for clinical or bedside instruction in the departments of practical medicine, surgery, gynecology and pediatrics were furnished by the Mercy Hospital with about sixty beds for the sick; an Orphan Asylum adjoining the Hospital; and a free Dispensary for the poor in one of the rooms of the medical school. The Hospital and Orphan Asylum were at that time located on Wabash Avenue near Van Buren Street, and the Senior class of students attended clinical instruction in the surgical wards by Professor Andrews every Tuesday and Friday morning, and in the medical wards by Professor Davis on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

from eight to nine o'clock. In addition ^{to} the regular hospital clinics every morning except Sunday, one surgical clinic was given in the lecture room ^{of the college} from two to three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon on patients selected from the Dispensary by the Professor of Surgery; and a clinic at the same ~~time~~ hour on Saturday on patients from the same source by the Professor of Practice of Medicine. These dispensary or College clinics were generally attended by both Junior and Senior classes, but like the hospital clinics, attendance on them was obligatory only on the Senior class. The first ^{term of} regularly graded ~~of the~~ Medical College instruction thus commenced, was continued with entire regularity five months and was closed by a valedictory address by Professor H. A. Johnson as Dean of the Faculty, and the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Medicine on ~~the~~ ^{him} members of the Senior Class and the ad eundem degree on two other members by the Trustees of the University on the 5th day of March, 1860. The names of the graduates were J. S. Jewell, C. De Haven Jones, John Conant, Rufus D. Cogswell, Lucien Ashley, Thomas J. Rigg, ~~of Illinois~~ ^{of Illinois}; J. M. Kendall of Indiana; and A. D. Andrews and J. F. Hopkins of Wisconsin. The two receiving the ad eundem degree were Drs. Edward C. Dickinson and Ezra A. Steele ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{practitioners of} Chicago. All of the foregoing subsequently became active and successful practitioners; and the first named attained a very high reputation both as a teacher and writer.

~~One~~ ^{Not} one of them, however, is enumerated among the living at the present time, ~~i. e. Dr. Cogswell & Dr. of Rogers, & others.~~

Soon after the close of the regular annual college term, a summer course of instruction was commenced, consisting of a continuance of the Medical and Surgical Clinics in the Mercy Hospital and Dispensary by the Professors of Practice of Medicine and Surgery, and lectures on the more important topics connected with Midwifery and diseases of Women by Prof. W. H. Byford, in the same institutions; also lectures on Analytical Chemistry by Prof. Mahle; On Histology and Microscopy by Prof. J. H. Hollister; on Auscultation and Percussion by Dr. Ezra A. Stealy, and on diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs by Dr. S. C. Blake.

This Summer course was open and free for the attendance of both medical students and practitioners, fees being required only sufficient to pay for the materials used. It attracted considerable attention and proved very beneficial to such medical students as could spend the summer in the city.

Soon after the close of the first regular college term, Prof. Titus Deville who enjoyed a very high reputation as a teacher of descriptive and surgical anatomy found it necessary to return to England and consequently resigned from the Chair of Anatomy, which led to the following changes in faculty of the medical department of Lind University. Prof. J. H. Hollister was transferred from the Chair of Physiology and Histology to that

of Anatomy; Prof. H. A. Johnson was transferred from the Chair of Materia Medica and therapeutics to that of Physiology and Histology; and the last Chair thus made vacant was filled by the appointment of Dr. A. S. Matthews of Joliet, Illinois.

The second regular annual course of instruction in the Medical Department of Lind University was opened by an introductory lecture on "the incentives to high attainments in the Science and practice of Medicine," by Prof. W. H. Byford on October 7th 1860, and was continued with entire regularity five months. The whole number of matriculates in attendance was 51, of whom 12 received the degree of M. D., two the ad eundem degree, and one the honorary degree.

No material changes were made either in the faculty or in the system of instruction; and the ^{College} year or term for 1861-62 was attended by 63 students, and 17 of the Seniors passed satisfactory examinations and received the degree of M. D. in March 1862.

It was during that year, however, that the great Civil War commenced in the South, causing intense excitement in all parts of the country. Prof. M. K. Taylor resigned the Chair of General Pathology and Public Hygiene and accepted the office of Surgeon to a Regiment of Volunteers in the Government Service, and Dr. Horace Warehner, demonstrator, did the same. The Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, ^{also resigned} and the vacancy was filled by transferring Prof. J. H. Hollister from the Chair of Descriptive Anatomy, and the last named chair was filled by the election of Dr. J. S.

Jewell who ^{was} a member of the first graduating class and had acquired a thorough knowledge of Anatomy under the instruction of Prof. Deville, and soon proved himself to be an enthusiastic and successful teacher in that important branch.

The Chair of General Pathology and Public Hygiene vacated by Prof. M. K. Taylor was filled by the election of Henry Wing, M.D. With these changes the work of the Medical Department of the University was continued ^{with} unabated interest and success.

The fourth regular annual College term, 1862-63, was attended by 79 matriculates, and 17 of the Seniors passed satisfactory examinations at its close in March 1863 and received the degree of M.D. - Beside the members of the faculty who resigned for the purpose of giving their whole ^{time} to the military service, there were others who ^{rendered} prompt ~~and~~ ^{and} important service to the government and still retained their connection with the medical department of the University. Soon after the commencement of the war in 1861, Prof. Davis was appointed by the Governor a member of a temporary Board of medical examiners

for ~~for~~ examining the candidates for Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons to the first six regiments of Illinois Volunteers; and he spent one or two weeks in Springfield in the faithful discharge of that duty. A little later, professor H. S. Johnson became the chief medical adviser of ~~the~~ ^{the} Governor of the State, and made many tours of inspection to the military camps and hospitals during the progress of the war.

Soon after the close of the College Term of 1861-62, Prof. E. Andrews, accepted the office of Surgeon to the first ^{Illinois} Regiment of Light Artillery. He went with the Regiment directly into the active and bloody Campaign ~~at~~ under General Grant in Tennessee and for nine months rendered most efficient and valuable service. His health being then impaired in some degree, he was permitted to return to Chicago in time to give his course of surgical instruction in the Annual College Term of 1862-63. And even in the midst of his arduous military campaign, he wrote several very interesting letters that were published in the Chicago Medical Examiner Vol. 3. - 1862. - The close of the regular medical College Term of 1862-63, marked a critical period in the progress of both Lind University and its Medical Department.

During the four preceding years, ^{the Faculty of} the Medical School had efficiently sustained its organization for better preliminary education, longer annual college terms, properly graded curriculum, laboratory teaching in Chemistry, Anatomy, and Histology, and direct clinical instruction in both hospital and dispensary. The regular obligatory five months College term had been supplemented by four months summer clinical and practical instruction free to all matriculated students. The number of ^{matric} ~~regulate~~ ^{ulates}, including both Junior and Senior classes, had increased from 33 the first year to 79 the fourth, and the temporary rooms had become

inadequate for their accommodation. ~~Then~~ The time had also come when the Trustees of Lind University had promised to have a new and adequate building ready for the permanent accommodation of the Medical Department. But the disturbing influences of the great Civil War and the unexpected financial failure of Mr. Sylvester Lind, who had promised the Trustees an endowment of \$100,000, and in whose honor the University had been named, had rendered the Trustees unable to fulfill that part of their contract with the Medical Faculty.

These circumstances entirely beyond their own control caused them to change the name of the Corporation to that of Lake Forest University, and to release the Medical Faculty from all further obligations to remain a Department of that institution. Being thus thrown entirely upon their own resources the ~~following~~ members of the ~~members of the~~ Medical Faculty immediately sought and obtained an independent organization ^{in accordance with} under a general incorporation law of the State of Illinois under the name of Chicago Medical College.

The Faculty soon after the close the Colly. Term of 1862-63 decided to continue the Medical school as an independent institution, and issued their annual Announcement under the name of Chicago Medical College - Medical Department of Lind University; but without any change in the membership of the Faculty or the system of instruction. They purchased

a lot on State Street near ^a street then called Ringgold Place, now Twenty-second Street, and caused a new College building to be erected thereon in time for the opening of the next regular annual college term in October 1863. In the mean time the usual summer courses of Clinical and didactic instruction were continued faithfully to a good class of students with but one change in the Faculty. H. S. Spofford Esq. resigned the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence, and ^{the} vacancy was promptly filled by the appointment ^{of} Dr. M. C. Heydock of Chicago, whose general scholarship and professional attainments rendered him well qualified for the place. The new college building having been completed according to the contract therefor, the fifth annual college term was inaugurated by an introductory lecture on the evening of October 12th 1863 by the Prof^r Principles and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine, in which he gave the following summary of past progress, and of the accommodations of the new building. "Four years have now elapsed since this institution, organized in the manner already indicated, began its career in rooms temporarily fitted up, not as facetiously remarked by an enemy of the enterprise, in the 'loft of a warehouse', but on the third and fourth floors of an elegant block of buildings on Market Street. The number of students attending the first annual lecture term was 33; the second 54; the third 63; and the fourth 81. Thus in the short period of four years attracting a larger class than the old and justly celebrated medical

departments of Yale or Dartmouth; and equal to the classes in one fourth of Medical Schools in the Union. During the the same period of time, by careful attention to the pecuniary income of the institution a Museum has been filled with every needed means of illustration; a Chemical Laboratory supplied with all the apparatus required in both departments of Chemistry; and a library stored with more than one thousand valuable medical volumes. And this evening, at the commencement of the fifth annual lecture term, instead of climbing three long flights of stairs to reach temporary lecture rooms, we are assembled in a new and permanent College edifice, admirably arranged for the work for which it was designed. On the first floor is a library, and dispensary room, a Chemical Laboratory and the spacious lecture room in which we are now assembled. On the second floor, is a beautiful museum, and an Anatomical and Surgical Amphitheatre.

On the third floor are the well lighted and ventilated rooms for practical Anatomy. All these we have with a pecuniary incumbrance remaining, of only six thousand dollars payable in ten equal annual installments." —

The term thus commenced was prosecuted with zeal and regularity in every part, and was attended by 89 students, 17 of whom passed their ~~senior~~ ^{senior} Course examinations and received the degree of M. D., at the hands of Prof. H. S. Johnson ^{as} President of the Chicago Medical College, March 1st 1864.

In the meantime the terms of incorporation of the Faculty as an independent Educational institution, had been completed in accordance with a general act of Incorporation of the State of Illinois, under the name of Chicago Medical College. The same was filed with the Secretary of State and duly certified by him April 26' 1864. The following members of the Faculty were made to constitute the Board of Trustees in the act of incorporation viz: James S. Zerwell, M.D. Prof. Descriptive Anatomy; Hosmer A Johnson M.D., Prof. Physiology and Histology; John H. Hollister M.D. Prof. Materia Medica and Therapeutics; Henry Wing, M.D. Prof. General Pathology and Public Hygiene; F. Mahler Ph.D. Prof. Chemistry; Edmund Andrews, M.D., Prof. Principles and Practice of Surgery, and of Military Surgery; Ralph, N. Isham, M.D., Prof. Surgical Anatomy and Operations of Surgery; William H. Byford, M.D., Prof. Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; Nathan S. Davis, M.D. Prof. Principles and Practice of Medicine, and of Clinical Medicine; and M. O. Haydock M.D., Prof. Medical Jurisprudence. The board of Trustees of Chicago Medical College thus constituted were authorized to fill all vacancies that might occur in future; appoint Professors and confer medical degrees on the recommendation of the Faculty; and hold the legal title to the real estate and other property belonging to the College. Hosmer A. Johnson was elected president and Edmund Andrews Secretary of the Board of Trustees; Prof. Davis being Dean of the Faculty. The annual College fees had

been from the beginning of the Medical Department of Linn
 University for Matriculation \$5.00; for Lectures \$50.00; for
 Practical Anatomy or Dissecting ticket \$5.00; Mercy Hospital
 ticket, \$6.00; and Graduation fee, \$20.00. And the same were
 continued under the new organization, and entitled all regular
 matriculates to attend all the College, hospital, and dispensary
 instruction during the year. (This is the end of the manuscript
 of Mr. Davis upon which he was working ~~at the~~
~~time~~ when attacked by his last illness)

Med June 14 - 1904
 Worked on this up to June 4th 1904.