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### HISTORY OF THE GROWTH OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND THE CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION DURING THAT TIME.

DR. DAVID S. FAIRCHILD, SR., DEAN.

We have invited you to assist us in the formal opening of our new College building. We have waited long for this occasion and it has often seemed to the older members of the faculty that the hope of earlier years would never be realized in our day.

The idea of organizing a medical school in Des Moines had its inception in the mind of Dr. A. G. Field as long ago as 1874 or '75. In August of 1875 I spent two days with Dr. Field in discussing the advisability of forming a new medical school, the difficulties in the way and the plans for the school if after mature reflection it was thought wise to add another to the already numerous medical colleges in this country. Dr. J. F. Kennedy joined with us and was one of the original projectors of the institution. In January, 1876, when the State Society met in Des Moines, a meeting was called at the parlors of the Savery Hotel, now the Kirkwood, to consider the question of a new medical college. At that meeting there were present Dr. Field, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Osborn of Council Bluffs, Drs. Thrall and Williamson of Ottumwa, including myself and some others whose names I am not able now to recall. No definite steps were taken, but the idea of a medical school in Des Moines was encouraged, perhaps because many members of the profession at that time were opposed to the State maintaining a school for the education of doctors. In September, 1876, at the meeting of the Inter-national Medical Congress in Philadelphia, Dr. Field and myself had a conference with Dr. J. C. Hughes of Keokuk in relation to the same matter. Among other things, Dr. Hughes assured us that the organization and maintaining of a medical college was no easy matter and that such an undertaking involved much labor, many troubles and small returns. This observation left something of an impression on my mind at the time and I, as well as some others, have been frequently reminded of the wisdom of the veteran surgeon's statement in the years that have passed since then.

Addresses...

1905

## OPENING EXERCISES

The times have greatly changed during the 28 or 29 years which have elapsed since Dr. Field and I sat on the walls of the new Capitol which then had reached one story in construction.

We reached the Capitol that August evening in 1875 on the only car line that Des Moines possessed which ran from the court house on Court avenue to the old Capitol and back again with one mule or horse as the motor power. It was not a magnificent city, with great buildings, striking signs of enterprise, push and energy that greeted our vision, or gave us our inspiration, but rather what was beyond what seemed possible. Dr. Field assured me that the greatness of Des Moines was not in sight, (an observation in which I fully agreed), but was to come, and that in our own time we should see 100,000 or more inhabitants, and that we should certainly see a medical college grow up in this great center of Iowa's population.

In those comparatively early times various motives were given for the organizing of medical colleges. It was sometimes said that these enterprises grew out of the desire on the part of ambitious medical men to become professors; that it seemed to be a modest and dignified way of advertising. There was no doubt some evidence to support this view. In the older centers of population when the older schools could not supply enough professorships for all the ambitious practitioners of the healing art, new schools with high sounding names were brought into existence. In the West, State Universities were not thought to be complete without a medical department, regardless of the size of the town or the natural facilities for such work, and no town with possibilities before it could afford to be without a medical school—or, at least, that was the way the local profession looked at it. Whether this was an important influence underlying the Des Moines undertaking, or whether it was a feeling that medical education was suffering for the want of a medical school in this city, I will not undertake to say. It may, however, be presumed that the profession here was not altogether free from ordinary human weakness.

In 1881 the work of organizing the school was taken up in earnest and again I was invited to take a part. This time Dr. Blanchard was the moving spirit. Dr. Field and Dr. Kennedy were still leading factors in the work. Some of the younger men were enlisted, notably Dr. J. T. Priestly. How the agreement as to the division of work was accomplished I am unable to state. One of the difficulties attending the organization of faculties in those days when medical schools were nearly all private corporations was the arrangements for the leading

chairs, particularly of Medicine and Surgery. At that time all who had an ambition to be medical college professors were qualified to fill any place, especially the more attractive chairs, and often it happened that much ill feeling was engendered because all could not be professors of Medicine or Surgery. All were general practitioners except the Eye and Ear men. All the difficulties were finally settled in our school, and the school year opened in October, 1882, with the following list of professors: J. A. Blanchard, M. D., Des Moines, Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Dean of the Faculty; A. C. Simonton, M. D., Des Moines, Principles and Practice of Surgery; J. F. Kennedy, A. M., M. D., Des Moines, Obstetrics and Diseases of Children, and Secretary of the Faculty; W. H. Ward, M. D., Des Moines, Gynecology; J. T. Priestly, M. D., Des Moines, Anatomy, General and Descriptive; L. C. Swift, M. D., Des Moines, Physiology; W. W. Hale, M. D., LL. B., Des Moines, Materia Medica and Therapeutics; T. E. Pope, A. M., Ames, Chemistry; D. S. Fairchild, M. D., Ames, Pathology, Histology and Microscopy; E. H. Hazen, M. D., Davenport, Diseases of the Eye and Ear; F. E. Crutenden, M. D., Des Moines, Diseases of the Throat and Nasal Passages; Hon. Judge C. C. Nourse, Des Moines, Medical Jurisprudence; C. M. Colvin, M. D., Des Moines, Adjunct to the Chair of Gynecology, and Demonstrator of Anatomy. The requirements announced were three years in a doctor's office, including two courses of lectures of four months, the last of which must be in our college. We had simply adopted the standard then required by nearly all the schools in the country. This was, indeed, a very imperfect course of training and was felt to be so then, but even the great schools in the centers of medical education did not deem it safe to demand more. The private school must have a large roll of students and must have revenue, and the medical department of State Universities must make a showing to their respective boards of regents as an excuse for their existence. The following announcement was made in the Chicago directory, 1843, in relation to Rush Medical College.

"The annual course of lectures for the first session commences on Monday, December 4, 1843, and will continue 16 weeks," that "the requirements for graduation are three years study with a reputable physician. Two course of lectures, one of which must be in this institution (or two years' practice in lieu of one course)," etc.

Dr. Blanchard was the first Dean, and served about two years when he was succeeded by Dr. Schooler, who served 19 years. The personal history of the school does not differ materially from the history of

## OPENING EXERCISES

other similar schools. Sometimes there was harmony, and sometimes there was not. We drifted about from place to place; we had no home, and it appeared at times as if we had no friends. In 1887 we were adopted by Drake University, but our condition did not improve. The University seemed to have forgotten us and no adopted child was more neglected. I can hardly express to you the disappointments we suffered, often the feeling was so deep that abandonment of the enterprise was contemplated and had it not been for the heroic courage of Dr. Schooler and the loyalty of his assistants I am sure the school would have closed its doors long ago. It has been my good fortune to take up the work at the end of the dark days when the future seems assured. It has been my fortune to have been associated continuously with the school from its inception to the present, and I am now the only remaining member of the original faculty who has served continuously, and I can now speak with the deepest feeling of the liberal policy which Drake University under the leadership of the new President, Hill M. Bell, has adopted toward the Medical Department.

The last twenty-five years has been marked by marvelous changes in our entire economic system. Inventions, transportation, and communication has been largely responsible for this. All the western world has been brought into competition and through the above mentioned instrumentalities.

This bringing together of widely separated populations, as measured by distance, has developed an intensity of activities which has heretofore been unknown and from necessity has changed our way of looking at things. Men whose minds had been engrossed with their own little affairs did not recognize the approach of this change until it was fully upon us and then were astonished that the government of our country had really passed into the hands of the few; that the control of transportation and communication was centralized; that industries, trade and commerce were no longer in the hands of the many, and that many of our old ideas of democracy had been swept away. This could be seen to be inevitable by thinking men, who saw in its approach a part of the social educational and economic evolution of the world; old methods could not meet the new conditions, and the change must come; and resolutions, attempts at legislation, and protests, while they might delay, could not stop it.

To meet the changed conditions, men must be better equipped or be forced to the wall. As a protest some tried to avoid the inevitable by adopting methods which the world has always known and which is

now designated in the strong and expressive language of today as "grafts," but comparatively few, however, are endowed with faculties which will make this matter of "getting on" permanently a success; and it has come to be recognized that the great majority must have a solid foundation upon which to build; without this they must expect to be the servants or agents of the strong.

The medical profession had its traditions, but in the newer portions of the country they were not so firmly fixed that they could not be easily broken down when the changed conditions came.

During the past twenty-five years, we have passed and are passing through an evolution which the physician of 40 years ago could not have conceived of, however wise or far-seeing he may have been. When this college was organized, none of us were fully satisfied with the facilities we had or with the course of instruction we could give, but followed the path that had been made by others, not much better, not much worse. As we look back over our past and the past of our neighbors we discover two things: first, the necessity of getting students as a means of existence, and second, the necessity of doing what we were afraid to do and what we did timidly and fearfully. What influence led us to extend our course to three years of 24 weeks each, then to four years of 24 weeks each, and finally to four years of 36 weeks each, it would be hard to tell. There was no written law that compelled us to do this, but there was a force in the great body of the profession which expressed itself through medical associations, the medical college association and the examining boards, and finally through state laws. But the laws came too late to do more than punish the deliberate wrongdoers. The reputation of a medical college in the past depended on making the course easy, rapid and sure. It now depends on making it difficult, long and uncertain. What has accomplished this? Not the colleges themselves, because they were timid, and like all industrial enterprises felt the general pulse first. The answer to this question is: first, the silent and indefinable influence of the general public which through its changed methods was demanding better things and greater responsibilities of all who attempted to serve it; and second, a higher sense of responsibility on the part of the profession itself. It is true the advancement of knowledge, the discovery of new facts in science, were factors in so far as to increase the responsibilities, but it must be remembered that it was these discoveries in various fields and their applications that have led the world into new ways of thinking. What, may I ask, would be the position of

1903. Dr. Schooler will continue as head of the chair of surgery. It has always been the ambition of Dr. Schooler to leave as a legacy a great medical school in Des Moines. To accomplish this, he and his colleagues have made many sacrifices for which great credit is due them. In order that the highest efficiency might be attained, the property of the Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons was turned over to Drake University in the year 1900, and thereby ceased to be an independent organization. By making this change the school gained the benefit of the complete and extensive laboratories of the University for its students. The first two years' work is now done in the Science Hall of the University, while the last two years' work will hereafter be done in the new and commodious Medical College Building on Center street, near Fourth street. It is generally recognized today that there is a special advantage to the student in having the privilege of doing his first two years' work in the environment furnished by the regular college teachers and students of the University. Habits of methodical study and observation are acquired that were impossible under former conditions.

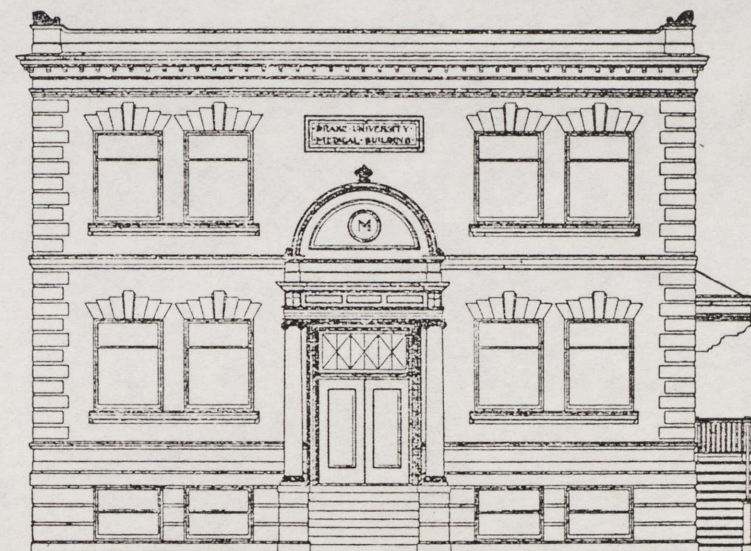
The erection this year of a new building specially designed to facilitate clinical instruction is a distinct step forward. The erection of this building and the more complete equipment of the Science Hall have been made possible by the gifts of \$10,000 from General F. M. Drake, \$5,000 from Dr. J. L. Sawyers, \$1,000 from Colonel C. F. McCarty, and several thousand dollars additional from the members of the Medical College Faculty whose modesty forbids the mention of their names in this connection.

The classes have increased gradually and the attendance has been for several years quite satisfactory. Our graduates are located in nearly every northern state. One is a teacher in a medical college in China, others are teachers in medical schools closer home, all have been as successful in practice as those of other schools, many of them ranking among the best.

The changes wrought in medical teaching during the last few years have all been in the direction of higher education and at such increased cost that only universities with endowments can now conduct a medical school worthy of the name. To such an extent has this idea been recognized by the profession that only a very few colleges exist that have not a close connection with a university, and the few remaining ones must soon seek such an alliance or become extinct.

### THE NEW MEDICAL BUILDING.

The new medical building has been located between Fourth and Fifth streets on the south side of Center street. It is specially designed for the Junior and Senior classes. It will be equipped with a splendid free dispensary, completely furnished. The lecture rooms are large and the commodious assembly room will be specially serviceable. Following we show the front elevation of the building and the plan of each floor:



FRONT ELEVATION