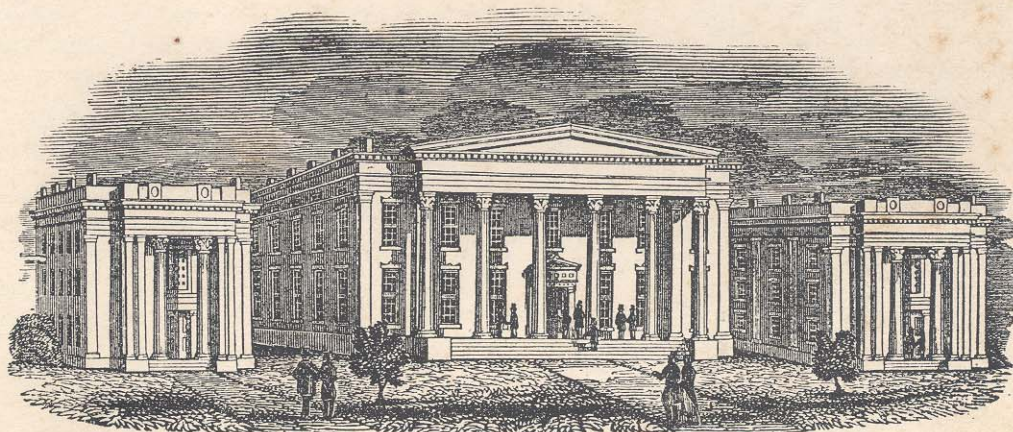


HISTORY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS

FROM ITS BIRTH TO THE CIVIL WAR

By A. E. FOSSIER, M.D.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.



"UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT FROM THE PROSPECTUS, 1860-1861."

REPRINTED FROM NEW SERIES, VOL. 6, NO. 4, PAGES 320-352,
AND VOL. 6, NO. 5, PAGES 427-447

ANNALS OF MEDICAL HISTORY

PUBLISHED BY PAUL B. HOEBER, INC., NEW YORK

HISTORY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS

FROM ITS BIRTH TO THE CIVIL WAR

By A. E. FOSSIER, M.D.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PART I

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

ALTHOUGH in the early period of the nineteenth century New Orleans was rapidly increasing in population and growing in commercial importance, and although it possessed a great hospital with unlimited clinical facilities, and prided itself on the learning, culture and distinction of a large number of its physicians, it was not until the year 1834 that the Medical College of Louisiana was organized. This was the first medical school in the Southwest.

During the summer of that year a few English-speaking doctors of this city, realizing the need for a school of medicine in this section of the Union, decided on its establishment. The first mention of their intention was made in one of the dailies of the time, the *Bee* of September 29, 1834, which made the following editorial comment:

We are highly gratified to notice the establishment in this city of a medical college. The gentlemen who fill the chairs of professorship are men of skill and experience, and we hope that we may not be thought invidious, when we point out to Messrs. Hunt, Ingalls and Luzenberg, with whom our acquaintance is extended: The former two have been officiating in a like capacity in similar institutions, and the latter has established a reputation of the highest degree as a surgeon.

In the same issue of that journal the prospectus of the Medical College

of Louisiana was published in the French and English languages. It read as follows:

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA PROSPECTUS

Health is a primary and essential source of human happiness. It increases population; it cheers and sustains industry; it gives birth and vigor to enterprise; it confers the power and infuses the spirit to prosecute study, and in short, with the qualities that usually attend it, it bestows on Society whatever is connected with its highest interests, and whatever is necessary to the enjoyments of the comforts and refinements of life.

Impressed in a good degree with the truth, the great and good men of antiquity were wont admiringly to style medicine "a divine art," and to hold its professors in the highest estimation as public benefactors. Nor has time detracted from the consequence of the profession, or diminished the honors justly due to its skillful and scientific practice. Indeed the influence of the science of medicine is now universally felt and acknowledged by the civilized nations of the earth, and attention is paid everywhere under public authority, in proportion to the progress which each society has made in civilization, to whatever is calculated to promote and preserve the public health. In this enlightened country particularly, we are happy and proud to say that public anxiety has manifested itself to a considerable extent for the diffusion of medical knowledge and that liberal appropriations have been made by several of the State Legislatures for the establish-

I

ment and support of Medical Schools and Colleges.

But it cannot be denied that these schools and colleges, however, creditable to us considering their youth, are not yet, in consequence of the rapid growth of our population and vast extent of territory over which that population is spread, sufficient to answer the growing wants of the country, and accordingly we every day find prospectuses issuing in various directions, in the name of honorable physicians ambitious to distinguish themselves in the public service as teachers, inviting students of medicine to attend lectures at designated places considered as affording facilities and opportunities for the acquisition of medical knowledge. Of these Prospectuses this is avowedly one.

The undersigned practitioners in New Orleans convinced of the want of scientific medical knowledge in this State and in several of the adjoining States, and of the non-existence of schools necessary for the diffusion of that knowledge, and aware too that an acquaintance with the peculiar diseases which prevail in this part of the Union, cannot be made in Cincinnati and Philadelphia, but must be obtained by the students at the bedside of the patient, and anxious to advance the cause of science; and to disseminate rational principles so as to remove or alleviate human sufferings and to put an end to the murderous practice of the empirical arts of selfish speculators on the ignorance of vulgar credulity, and thereby to increase the happiness and prosperity of the country, have associated themselves together as a Faculty for the purpose of delivering Medical Lectures in the city, under the name and style of the Medical College of Louisiana.

The establishment of this school in the City of New Orleans, it is sufficiently obvious, must prove of the greatest benefit to the States of the Southwest generally. It will tend to excite professional emulation, to diffuse knowledge, to expose ignorance, and to eradicate or

arrest under scientific treatment, the diseases of which thousands are now victims.

Nor will its effects end here. By removing the danger of death and the apprehension of disease, it will cause population to increase, agriculture to yield additional profits, trade and commerce to flourish and the arts and science to advance rapidly among us. In short, its operation will be to improve our national extraordinary advantages, to remove the obstacles in the path of our prosperity, and under proper exertions put New Orleans in a short time on an equal footing in medical knowledge with New York and Philadelphia.

In selecting New Orleans as a place for the location of their school, the undersigned have been governed by the following among other reasons:

- 1st. Because it is the largest and most populous town in the Southwest, and the most accessible to Students.
- 2nd. Because its hospitals, which will be opened to the undersigned for the purpose of instruction, are the largest in the Southern and Western States, so that Practical Medicine and Surgery can be taught at the bedside of the patient, the only place for this study.
- 3rd. Because the study of anatomy can be prosecuted with more advantages and at a cheaper rate here than in any other city of the United States.
- 4th. Because New Orleans is so healthy during eight months in the year, that students can remain in it and study the different types of diseases at different seasons.
- 5th. Because it is a Commercial town, and more surgical accidents occur to seamen than to any other class of individuals, and it is consequently the best field for the study of Surgery in the Southwest.

- 6th. Because in consequence of its great population, its Hospitals are filled with patients, and
- 7th. Because as the undersigned pledge themselves Students can get board at \$25.00 per month.

The undersigned feel assured that these reasons will have their due weight with the Public, and at the risk of being charged with a little repetition will add the following remarks:

A Home Institution has already been too long wanted among us. The expense attending the acquisition of knowledge in schools at a distance from us has heretofore closed the door of science against the poor student and has caused this part of the country to be overrun with Quack Doctors, to the destruction of human life. An institution like that we are about to establish, which will bring knowledge to our doors, impart instruction at the cheapest possible rate, and afford the opportunities of medical education to all who may feel inclined to avail themselves of them must lead to the advancement of Science and the rational treatment of disease by regular bred Physicians, and cannot fail, in whatever point of view it is considered, to obtain the good wishes of every philanthropist and friend of science. Besides, to the student of Medicine in the Southwest it will recommend itself by this unanswerable reason for a preference over any similar institution at a distance; it will enable him to study diseases and their treatment in the climate in which he intends to practice, and will supply him with that information which is necessary to his successful practice, and which he could not obtain except at home.

The undersigned respectfully invite the attention of the Students of Medicine in the Southwest, to the above observations, the confidence of success, announce, that

THE LECTURERS OF THE
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

will commence on the first Monday of

January, 1835, and will continue for four months from that day.

Thomas Hunt, M.D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology

John Harrison, M.D. Adjunct.

Chas. A. Luzenberg, M.D. Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

J. Monroe Mackie, M.D. Secretary. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

Thomas R. Ingalls, M.D. Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

Edwin B. Smith, M.D. Professor of Materia Medica.

Augustus H. Cenas, M.D. Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

Demonstrations in Practical Anatomy will be given daily by the Adjunct Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

Chemical Lectures will be delivered twice a week at the Charity Hospital. The Hospital will be open every day for the attendance of the Students.

Thomas Hunt, M.D.

Dean of the Faculty.

Sept. 29

New Orleans, September 25, 1834.

This unexpected announcement was the cause of quite a furore in the city. It was the principal topic of conversation. It provoked acrimonious discussions not only among members of the medical profession, but among the educated public as well. The necessity for the *modus procedendi* for the formation of the new school, as well as the personality and the qualifications of the members of the faculty were the subjects of controversies in the home, in the streets, in the exchanges, in the coffee-houses, and in the newspapers.

The announcement of the faculty composed practically of English-speaking physicians, a few of whom had only recently arrived in the city, incited the expression of acrimonious

opinions. Communications from polemics appeared in the press. Unfortunately the identity of these letter

first one of these documents was signed "An American Physician" and was published in the French section of the



FIG. 1. DR. THOMAS HUNT.

writers is lost to us today, because it was the custom of that time for all letters from the public published in the newspapers to be signed with a *non de plume*. Strenuous objections were voiced against the establishment of the College without first procuring the sanction of the Legislature or the authorization of Congress. It was also evident that the idea of "self-appointed professors" was distasteful to many members of the local profession. The very youth of many of the organizers of the College was a subject of rancorous discussions.*

The following communications which appeared in the contemporary newspapers are of the greatest historical importance because they voiced the strong opposition by many of the physicians of this city to the establishment of that institution. The

* Hunt, Harrison, Luzenberg, and Mackie were then twenty-six years old.

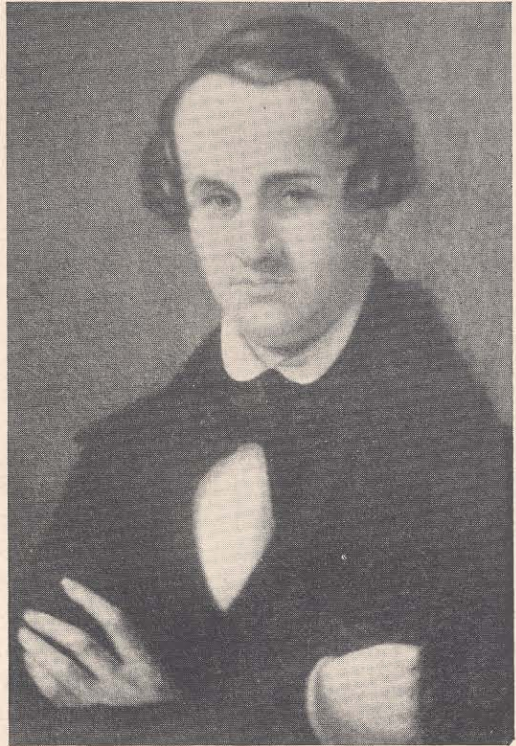


FIG. 2. DR. JOHN HARRISON.

Bee of October 3, 1834. It read as follows:

Yesterday whilst I was reading your gazette, I noticed the announcement of the establishment of a medical college in New Orleans. I was delighted, because I thought that Congress had legally created a college, which would be so useful to the city, and also, that Louisiana, so happily situated for the study of the diverse branches of the art of healing, would acquire a regular school from which would emanate distinguished physicians, capable of imparting to our profession its well deserved lustre, and to those who practice their profession, the amount of consideration, of which they are deprived of a large portion by the numerous charlatans, who have shamefully arrogated to themselves, to the great

shame of our tribunals, the right to practice medicine, either by the usurpation of titles that they at no time pos-

God is my witness, that it is not my intention to even insinuate that the honorable gentlemen who have signed



FIG. 3. DR. CHARLES A. LUZENBERG.

sessed, or by making a vile trade of the noblest of professions.

I was greatly surprised to notice that the college was organized without legal authorization: In England, in Germany, in France, and in fact in every civilized country, a school of medicine cannot be established without legal authority. The professors are appointed only by the Government or by an university. The aspirant for a chair must be at least a doctor of medicine in one of the principal faculties of the country. If we acknowledge that this is as it should be, and recognize the fact that this concerns the most difficult science in the world, the one to restore health, the one which is of the greatest interest to all citizens, it is, therefore, of the utmost importance that only the most learned professors be chosen.



FIG. 4. DR. AUGUSTUS H. CENAS.

the prospectus are not in the above mentioned category, but this is not alone sufficient, because, no matter what may be the extent of their education, they do not have the right to appoint themselves to these all important professorships! These chairs should be allotted only after a competitive examination conducted before one of the leading faculties of the Union, or to physicians who have already graduated from one of these faculties, or from one of the principal universities of Europe. The professors should be at least thirty years of age. These professorships should demand as much experience as knowledge. Do the signatories of the prospectus combine all these essential requisites, or even a majority of them? Without a shadow of a doubt, NO! How, then, can they possibly teach in a Medical College?

I do not know to what extent liberty may be stretched in the United States. But I do not think that a medical school may be legally organized in the manner

proposed by our honorable confrères. The future alone can determine this question.

I do not know whether any invitations were extended by the organizers of the new college to a Creole or European born physician who practices their profession here, to join them in their enterprise. If they have not done so, they should have, and I am certain that the one to whom an invitation should have been extended, would have proved to the signers of this prospectus that a medical school should not be instituted *ad libitum*.

There is still much more to be said on the subject, Mr. Editor, but as this is only intended to be a communication for your journal, space is necessarily limited. With your kind permission, I reserve to myself the privilege of writing again if the occasion should present itself.

(signed) An American Physician.*

The opinion of "An American Physician" was evidently not shared by the Editor of the French section of the *Bee* for in the following issue, he editorially commented that "those who had the idea of founding here a medical college have undisputed rights to the gratitude of their fellow citizens in general, and also especially to the esteem of men fully capable of appreciating a similar benefaction." He further asserted that there was not a country in the world where greater precautions had to be taken to conserve health, and that nowhere else less attention was paid to that serious problem. The public always hesitated before calling in a physician. And very frequently the disease had progressed considerably before it was decided to call in "a man of the art."

"What is the cause of the negligence? Is it because physicians in general do not inspire the necessary

confidence?" he queried, and "why do they not inspire that confidence? Is it because the public has so often been duped by charlatans who do not even have the necessary talents to be bootblacks? The ethical doctors have necessarily suffered from the maneuvers of these scourges of the human species." He welcomed the advent of the new college because it promised a strong guarantee for the safeguarding of health, and because of the assurance that its students would possess the indispensable knowledge needed for the practice of their art.

The cudgel was taken up in defense of the new college by a correspondent who signed himself "Humanitas." He prefaced his remarks by stating that he had neither the intention nor the desire to precipitate a discussion relative to the merits of the medical college, but that he shared the opinion of a majority of the citizens, the greater number of whom were most respectable, and enlightened, relative to the advantages to be derived therefrom by the country. He stated that the sole purpose of his communication was to destroy by a simple recital of the facts, the impression caused by an article signed "An American Physician." He cited the fact that the London College of Medicine was organized through the efforts of a single individual, Dr. Thomas Linnoire, of All Saints, at Oxford. That the University of Pennsylvania, the most prominent institution in the United States, well known by all American physicians, originated from an association of a few enterprising doctors of Philadelphia, for the purpose of delivering lectures on the different branches of medicine. Encouraged by their success, they petitioned the state legislature to incorporate their

* A literal translation.

institution. Their request was not only granted but funds were allotted to continue their good work. He made the prediction that the college of medicine of Louisiana would not only follow the same footsteps, but would be crowned with the same success. He announced that the state legislature would be appealed to, at its next session, for the grant of a charter and for sufficient funds to accomplish the desired purpose, and he felt certain that many persons in the state would lend their aid.

He asserted that the offer of a professorship was made to one of the most distinguished French physicians of New Orleans, which he declined after mature deliberation, because he did not feel that he was sufficiently conversant with the English language.

"An American Physician" retorted, this time in the English language, in the *Bee* of October 10. His letter reads thus:

Mr. Editor: I have read in the *Louisiana Advertiser** a communication supposed to originate from a member of the future medical college, in which the author complains of the virulent attacks from many quarters aimed at that institution. He assumes that these attacks ought to be ascribed to interested motives, but I am far from attributing to the writers these selfish and despicable views. Instead of apprehending any danger for the institution, I really believe that all persons possessing but a moderate share of common sense, and particularly those of the profession, will on the contrary be highly gratified at the establishment of such a school, if it afforded all the requisites indispensable to attain the object contemplated by its establishment.

* Unfortunately this issue of the *Louisiana Advertiser* is not available.

Now I will answer more in point, to what concerns me in the above article. I am not a French lawyer, as says the author, but really what is purported by my signature, which I will show if necessary,—and that I have at least the same right to assume the titles of physician as any of the professors of the embryo faculty.

He sneers at me because I pretend that a medical college should only be established by an Act of Congress. I am very far from denying to Congress the right of passing such a law, since I am of the opinion that a faculty of medicine, instead of a local, is of a general interest, and that it never was contemplated by the writers of the prospectus that their students, on leaving the institution, should be allowed to practice only within the limits of Louisiana, which, however, must be the necessary consequence of a law passed by the Legislature, and if this ever happens that body might be expected to take the utmost care that the professors should give proof of their capacity, before being allowed the right, if I am allowed to use the expression, to dispose of the lives of their fellow citizens.

2nd: My opponent who has a turn for jesting, pretends that it is my opinion that the professors should be gray headed. I really was so ignorant as not to know that many persons have gray beards at thirty. If such a notion is entertained and professed by the future faculty, I will certainly go and listen to the reasons alleged in demonstration of it; but seriously speaking, I contend that in general it should be much more desirable that men with gray beards in preference to beardless youths, should teach the difficult art of curing diseases, an art that the great Hypocrates maintained should be studied through life, however long it might be.

In conclusion the author of the article pretends that I blame the faculty for not having invited some French physicians to aid in the formation of the Institution.

The gentleman must be almost utterly unacquainted with the French language, in thus construing my expressions for there is not the least mention made of French physicians. By Europeans I mean English, German, French, Spanish, Italian physicians, a great number of whom can write and speak correctly the English language.

I did say the Creole or European physician, and add that had the founders of the college proposed it to them, they would have opposed it on the ground that such an institution cannot be self erected, at the will of the proposers; which as far as I can see, has no other meaning than that the Creole or European physicians could not with any excuse have co-operated in the execution of the project.

I do repeat it; no man of sense will ever oppose an institution so evidently calculated for the public benefit—as a medical college established in New Orleans, as it is alleged by my opponents, who affect to shift their ground to this new question;—but without intending to hurt the feelings of any man, I think the professors of such a college should not be self appointed to such high functions, which to be successfully performed, must stand the test of public scrutiny, or otherwise have afforded proof of great medical and chirurgical requirements sufficient to entitle them to the honour of professorship.

I consider them highly competent, but should they continue still to doubt, I cannot but think that they should be much gratified at finding a fitting opportunity to display their knowledge before the public eye. Thus they will avoid any suspicion that in establishing a medical school, they have been more influenced by their interest and a desire to accumulate filthy lucre, than by a due regard to their talents or their love of humanity.

The Legislature should not grant them a charter or give them money unless satisfied as to their attainment.

An impartial public I think will readily

observe that I do not write under the influence of bad feeling. On the contrary I entertain a great esteem for the writers of the prospectus; with most of them I am personally acquainted. My only object was to give publicity to my views, which I believe are based upon the honour of the profession.

If, as it is pretended, a distinguished French physician has refused to associate himself with the future faculty, this refusal corroborates what I have advanced on the subject I have treated. It confirms what I have said that no physician of whatever origin he may be, comprehending that he owes to his profession, will ever consent to support an institution which may be regarded as illegal, notwithstanding the respectability of those who have given it unauthorisedly a local habitation and a name.

(signed) An American Physician.

That communication, evidently written by a physician of foreign birth, provoked the following diatribe from the pen presumedly of one of the organizers of the new college, which appeared in the *Bee*, October 13, 1834:

MUGITUS LABYRINTHI

Mr. Editor:

Having observed in your last paper an essay signed "An American Physician" endorsed to advance objections to the establishment of the "Medical College of Louisiana" under its organization; we have thought it proper to write a few words in reply to that communication, with a view to elucidate the subject, and expose the errors under which the writer of that article laboured.

The gentleman commences his remarks by disclaiming the influence of any invidious motives, and strenuously asserting the right and title to the appellation of *Doctor*—In this respect he needs no one to blow his trumpet—He then goes on to make some wise and current remarks respecting the appointment of a college

by the Congress of the United States. Is the "American Doctor" so ignorant of the laws of his country, as not to be aware that Congress has no right to interfere in such matters. . . . His assertions, if we understand his phrase aright, that the Legislature cannot incorporate a college, the diplomas of which will be legal except in Louisiana, is so marked an absurdity, as not to need a moment's notice. If this be true, there is no school in the Union capable of sending forth physicians legally qualified to practice the profession, anywhere except within the limits of their own States.

With respect to the fact of his being, as he terms himself, an *American* we have strong doubts, for we do not conceive it possible, for an American professional man, to manifest so profound an ignorance of English Grammar as this writer has done; his sentences are many of them obscure and in fact incomprehensible to our understanding, and we are inclined to consider his signature as altogether usurped and *soi-disant*.

Indeed it appears quite plain to us, that this gentleman is pretty much in the situation of a "*mus in pice*"; he has commenced making his remarks on a subject of which he is evidently totally uninformed, and is deficient of a "*quantum sufficit*" of sense to retract from the disagreeable dilemma, with credit or satisfaction to himself. We shrewdly suspect that if an anatomical investigation was made, the existence of a perfect vacuum would be discovered in one place besides the Torricellian tube, namely in the interior of the gentleman's cranium.

Our author seems inclined to view all the faculty in the light of boys,—perhaps as he is himself advanced in years; if this be the case, there is a little excuse for his nonsensical garrulity, but we would advise him for the future to confine his paltry attacks to those more equal to himself in information and acquirements. We think his style and language would better suit the "*ignobile vulgus*" than enlightened minds.

Notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary, we are disposed to believe that he considers himself one of the adept, and is abusing the present faculty for not possessing sufficient penetration to discover his merits and offer him a professorship.

"Invidia, siculi non invenere tyrani tormentum magus."

(signed) Marcurius.*

With this last communication this campaign of vituperation between the French and English speaking physicians closed. Although the new college was still a subject of controversial discussions, the plan of attack was changed. The editorials and communications in the daily press were more constructive in tone, and a strong effort was made to have the lectures delivered in the French and English languages.

The establishment of a new college was accepted as a *fait accompli*. The curriculum proposed by the youthful founders of the medical college of Louisiana was discussed, criticized, scrutinized, investigated and dissected whenever and wherever doctors met. Prophecies were made as to the possibility of its success. The younger members of the profession, carried away by their undaunted enthusiasm, glorified its founders and predicted for it a brilliant future. The more matured and gray headed practitioners shook their heads, and although they acknowledged the necessity for such an institution, they voiced the opinion that there would not be a sufficient number of students, from the standpoint of education, qualified for the study of medicine. They ambitioned a college which would cast honor on the State of Louisiana, one which would

* It may be surmised that this communication was written by Doctor Luzenberg.

graduate physicians the equal in learning, distinction and culture to those of the greatest centers of medical lore in the old country. They prayed for a high standard of medical education, and offered suggestions which, from their experience, they felt would prove most advantageous to the students of medicine.

The following anonymous letter appearing, in the *Bee*, October 18, 1834, written in French by a proponent of a higher standard of medical education is interesting. It reads in part:

Although a subject of a great deal of acrimonious discussion, the school of medicine about to be established offers great advantages. To this day no one has as yet proposed a solution for the difficulty. I will try to lift the veil which obscures the obstacles in its path. If I am successful in accomplishing this I will muster enough courage to detail a plan of medical instruction.

The first issue he discussed was: Should the lectures be delivered in the French or English language, or should they be given in both. He thought the latter plan was feasible, but he doubted that the proposed professors could speak French, and that even if they were able to do so, that they could conduct their courses of lectures in that idiom.

He conceded for the sake of argument, that the Americans did not wish to compel the Creoles to study medicine only in the English language, but admitted that the Creoles would much prefer to receive their instruction in the French. He asserted that there was not a language in which more science and medicine were written than the French language. He continued:

The American Physicians who have appointed themselves to the School of

Medicine of Louisiana appear to be actuated by philanthropic sentiments, and the French doctors who practice their art here, doubtless, have the same sentiments. If such be the case, they should teach without an honorarium. Then the professors would not be a burden on the Government. The number of classes could be doubled, and there would then be two professors for each branch, one of whom would teach in French, and the other in English.

But I do not think that a French physician would accept a chair if he had to teach according to the scheme proposed in the prospectus. Although the teaching staff would necessarily be divided, the school could be directed by one dean and housed in the same domicile. Separate days could be designated for the courses given in the French and the English language.

He then discussed the status of primary education, and the necessity of a proper foundation for the study of medicine. The colleges established in New Orleans up to that time, he said, did not teach philosophy, and but few of the humanities. He dwelt upon the necessity of founding a college in which the classics and philosophy would be included in the curriculum. He also proposed that this college should be under the direction of the rector of the University.

He submitted a plan of medical education which was far in advance of the requirements of the colleges of the time in this country. He suggested a course of four years, the first of which would be pre-medical. The course was to be opened only to students who had studied the classics, and who were prepared for the study of philosophy. The third year Latin was to be reviewed, and philosophy was to be taught in the French language. The medical course for that term was to

be limited to anatomy, physiology, chemistry, hygiene and medical physics. At the end of the first term, the students should pass a public examination and "those whose merits and application deserved the confidence of their professors would be entrusted with the teaching of the new students." By following this plan, the number of professors for the second year term would be augmented. During the second year, internal pathology, botany, operative medicine, and even pharmacy could be taught. During the third year special attention would be given to operative medicine, external and internal clinics, external and internal pathology. The fourth or graduating year should comprise internal clinics, medical history, internal pathology, medical jurisprudence, clinics and obstetrics. There should be a summer and a winter term.

He ended his communication with the statement: "Here is a course of medicine, I hope some day will be given to Creole students in the Medical College of Louisiana."

It is needless to say that such an idealistic plan of medical education fell on deaf ears. It was far beyond the times.

The editor of the French section of the *Bee* on October 21, 1834, deplored the fact that there was not in the city and its vicinity a college capable of giving a course of instruction befitting a student of medicine. He claimed "that was the greatest obstacle to the promotion of the new medical school; because before commencing the study of medicine, a student should employ a portion of his youth in preparatory courses, so that he will be thereby better able to understand that intricate science." He stressed the importance of having in this city an

institution where students may be properly prepared for the study of medicine. He deplored the fact that such a school did not exist in the immediate south, and that, of necessity, the new school of medicine must draw its students from the northern states and from Europe. He appealed to the legislature of the State to assist in the promotion of the two colleges. He suggested that the college of St. James (Jefferson College) and the institution of Mr. Bellanger in New Orleans could, if they would procure special professors, offer a pre-medical course. He ended his editorial with the following admonition:

The Medical College can give its course, it is their undisputable right. But what guarantee have we that the professors have the necessary qualifications if they are not legally instituted? And besides how do we know that the young men who take their course are fully able to understand them? It is then absolutely necessary, that the legislature must recognize officially the teachers, and that all students seeking admission to the medical school must pass a public examination. Such a serious undertaking demands the taking of all necessary precautions.

The announcement of the establishment of a medical college in New Orleans was hailed with delight in the surrounding country. The following editorial in the contemporary issue of the St. Francisville *Phoenix* voiced the heartfelt approval generally expressed by the press of the other parishes of the State:

It will be perceived by reference to the prospectus published in our columns to-day, that a part of the enterprising physicians of New Orleans have put in

requisition the elements upon which to build up a Medical College there. This effect to supply a desideratum, universally acknowledged in our state, should be hailed with delight, and patronized by every philanthropist and lover of science, and we ardently hope that no one will lend a listening ear to the croaking of prejudice and the cold calculation of scepticism; but encourage by all laudable and efficient means, this meritorious experiment. We are glad to see that Dr. Barton fills an important chair in this infant institution. It is to us a strong and promising earnest of its success. We know his devotion to his profession, his untiring zeal, his experience, his sacrifices, and we have a confident assurance, if his efforts are properly responded to, the enterprise will not fail. Dr. Ingalls is a man of science, and his appointment we think, happily cast. The other gentlemen we are not acquainted with, but we have heard them highly spoken of. We shall advert to this subject hereafter as the occasion may seem to require, and in the meantime recommend an attentive perusal of the medical prospectus alluded to for the motives and reasons which have actuated and influenced those gentlemen, who have identified their reputation and fortunes in the accomplishment of their purpose.

Despite the strong opposition of a large number of the most influential members of the local medical profession, the organizers of the medical college, with undaunted determination, persisted in their efforts, which were eventually crowned with success.

Speaking of the difficulties encountered by these pioneers of medical education in the Southwest the *Bee* (April 29, 1835) editorially said: "The experiment was rather hazardous, as the establishment of a medical college was viewed with jealousy, if not suspicion. But the zeal and prudence of the gentlemen who united to form

the faculty, nobly braved and conquered all difficulties."

The Medical College of Louisiana inaugurated its first course of lectures on the first Monday of January, 1835.

The minutes of the College state that Dr. Edwin R. Smith tendered his resignation of the Chair of *Materia Medica*, on October 2, 1834, because "the consideration arising from the loss of a very near and dear relative put it out of his power to retain the professorship with which he had been honored." His resignation was received with great regret of the cause which had occasioned his decision, and Dr. Edward H. Barton was unanimously elected to succeed him as professor of *Materia Medica*. Dr. Smith, although one of the organizers of the Medical College of Louisiana, never fulfilled the duties of the professorship.

Dr. Barton was editorially commended by the *Bee* as "a gentleman of extended information, great experience as a physician, having resided for more than fifteen years in Louisiana, and in every way fully qualified for the trust."

Chaillé tells us that during the first session no duties were discharged by Dr. Harrison, the Adjunct Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, in consequence of an indisposition, and that Dr. Warren Stone demonstrated anatomy.¹

The college did not own its domicile; some of the lectures were delivered at the homes of the professors, and others in the hall No. 41 Royal Street, and twice a week lectures were held in the wards of the Charity Hospital. The course was of two years; the sessions were of four months.

The following is the introductory passage of the first lecture delivered to a class of medical students in New

Orleans. This masterly address attests the culture, the superior capabilities and the high scientific attainments of that great teacher, the first Dean of the Medical College of Louisiana, Dr. Thomas Hunt:

Until within the last century, and particularly the latter portion of it, **Medicine** was not entitled to be ranked among the sciences. Its principles had not developed. The labors of its professors were devoted towards speculations; to the invention of theories (so-called) founded on the principles of other sciences; to the discussion of subtle and abstract doctrines, and to the practice of empirical arts.

The great defect of the ancients was their careless observations of facts, and their almost total neglect to register them. Carried away by a foolish pride, they imagined that truth was to be attained by the mere exertion of the mental powers of meditation. They accordingly misspent in the metaphysical jargon of the schools that time which they might have more usefully employed in a natural and practical observation.

The honor and glory of raising medicine from this degraded condition, of elevating her character, and placing her almost on a level with the exact sciences, was reserved for Bichat, the appearance of whose works, it is justly said, was the termination of the older and hypothetical medicine, and the commencement of modern physiological or philosophical medicine. The discovery of general anatomy, and the union of anatomy and pathology, have laid the solid foundation of a rational and scientific theory. Medicine, now marching with the banner of reason in her hand, will go on achieving victories, until her empire shall be co-extensive with the civilized world.

Nature, who in all her operations governs by fixed general laws, has not deviated from her ordinary course in regard to men. Scientific observation has established that his life is the result

of organization, that every phenomenon of organized matter results immediately from those laws. To ascertain those laws, which are few in number and of remarkable simplicity, to become familiar with their operation, to know their cause, nature and seats of the lesions of structures, and the true character of remedial agents; these form a considerable portion of the labours of a physician. This is the work which the student of medicine undertakes—a work, to accomplish which is in the power of every well educated man, having an ordinary portion of understanding and a due spirit of perseverance. The sources from which the well established principles of the science are to be taught, are the different departments of learning allotted to the various professors of our institution. It would be foreign to the object of this address to extend any remarks by expatiating on the dignity and importance of the several branches of medicine.

Anatomy is the basis of all medical knowledge. All the branches of the profession are in a great degree dependent upon it, while it is independent of them. It is the science of organization, health and diseases. A competent knowledge of it is essential to the honest practice of medicine; for how can he repair the derangements of structures, who does not know what structure is? And the knowledge can only be acquired by unremitted labor and close observation in the dissecting room, with the aid of books. Anatomy presents no obstacle to its acquisition which is not easily surmounted by perseverance.

There is no mystery about science. Truth is simple and reveals her doctrines in a language intelligible to every mind. She affects no air of pedantry, and decrees it inconsistent with her vocation to annoy and perplex the learners with far-fetched and uncouth terms. To my mind, there is a moral sublimity in the picture of a learned and philanthropic man, conveying the lessons of wisdom and experience, in the beautiful language

of simplicity, to an inquiring and intelligent student.

The first session of the Medical College of Louisiana was attended by eleven students, the greater number of whom were citizens of the neighboring states.

The first course of lectures terminated on April 27, 1835. The professors were highly commended, and it was stated that the lectures were well attended by the students as well as by "respectable persons of both sexes."

We read in the *Bee* of April 29, 1835, that the "first course of lectures by the professors of the institution has terminated. We have heard these lectures highly commended and have been informed that they were attended by respectable persons of both sexes,—in addition to the students: eleven of whom have already been matriculated."

It also stated that this was an auspicious commencement of the College.

The College was granted a charter by the State Legislature on April 2, 1835: It was entitled: An Act to Incorporate the Faculty of the Medical College of Louisiana and the Medical School of New Orleans. The preamble of this Act reads as follows:

Whereas, the encouragement of learning is one of the first duties of an enlightened Legislature; and whereas, Thomas Hunt, M.D., John Harrison, M.D., Chas. A. Luzenberg, M.D., J. Monroe Mackie, M.D., Thomas R. Ingalls, M.D., Ed. H. Barton, M.D., Aug. H. Cenas, M.D., have associated themselves together and taken measures for the establishment of a Medical College in the City of New Orleans, and Whereas the establishment of such a college would greatly advance the cause of science and produce most beneficial results to the people of the

State, tending at once to the general preservation of health, the increase in population, the extension of trade and commerce, the productiveness of agriculture and the rapid growth and promotion of the arts and sciences.

It was provided in Section one of that Act that they were thereby constituted a body corporate and politic under the name of "The Faculty of the Medical College of Louisiana."

Section four provided that:

The Faculty of the Medical College shall be and they are hereby authorized to make such regulations as they might think proper for the election of professors, to remove and dismiss any professor from his professorship in the institution, and to fill, under any regulation that they may deem expedient any vacancy in the Faculty provided always that it shall require the concurrence of a majority of four-fifths of the members of said Faculty, to elect any professor or to remove or dismiss any professor from his professorship in said Medical College.

It was also enacted in Section six that the Governor of the State, the Judges of the Supreme Court, George Eustis, G. Mulligan, W. H. Sparks, and John B. Dawson be constituted the Board of Trustees of said College.

This act also provided for the incorporation of the Medical College of New Orleans, whose Faculty shall comprise Drs. Labatut, Lemonnier, Formento, Lambert, Fortin, Tricou, Conaut and others. Its Board of Trustees to be composed of the Governor, the Mayor, the Recorder, and the Members of the City Council of the City of New Orleans.

It was also provided in the act that the Medical College of New Orleans should have the same rights and

privileges as the Medical College of Louisiana.

It is logical to surmise that the profession of the city were still divided among themselves. This division was racial, or rather it was lingual. The Faculty of the Medical College of Louisiana was composed of members of the Medical Physical Society, and that of the Medical College of New Orleans of those of the New Orleans Medical Society. The membership of the former was principally composed of the English and the latter of the French speaking physicians of this City.

Although the Medical College of New Orleans was granted a charter, it failed to materialize. Apparently its promoters realized the futility of such an institution in a country which was rapidly increasing its English-speaking population. The faculty of the contemplated medical school was composed of some of the most noted and cultured physicians in the South.

The Medical College of Louisiana, during its first year, was rent by dissensions. We read in the *Bee* of May 16, 1835, that Doctor Hunt, the founder, the chief promoter, and the Dean of the school, and whose ability as a professor was highly respected, resigned not only from the Chair of Anatomy, but also as the head of the institution. It stated no reasons for Dr. Hunt's resignation, but only said: "We are pleased to ascertain that the resignation proceeded from the most honorable and disinterested motives," and that:

He had to encounter many difficulties from being placed in the vanguard of an institution, resembling one that had failed; and nobly he surmounted those difficulties, till he obtained a charter for

the college and the patronage of the public. Of his superior attainments and capabilities for a professorship in any faculty, there can be no doubt; this, his lectures alone, delivered during the past season, sufficiently attested.

We can but surmise that only a very serious provocation would have induced Dr. Hunt to resign from the teaching staff of an institution he not only founded, but labored for so assiduously during the most trying and critical period of its existence. Today, we do not know the causes of the discord. The only intimation of the dissension is to be had from a few cryptic remarks in the daily press. The *Bee* of June 11, 1835, editorially commented:

We are indeed sorry that the Faculty has forfeited the aid of the acknowledged ability of Dr. Thomas Hunt. It was almost well that the organization of that College commenced de novo, and that elections were consequently held for every deanship so instituted.

The chair made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Hunt was not immediately filled, for it was announced in the *Bee* of June 12, that "a successor to Dr. Thomas Hunt (as Professor of Anatomy) has not yet been selected; but enquiry is made in every quarter for an efficient candidate."

On June 11, 1835, it was announced that Dr. Ingalls had vacated his professorship of Chemistry to which Dr. W. B. Powell had been elected. On the following day Doctor Cenas tendered his resignation of the chair of Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children. He was replaced by Doctor Ingalls. Speaking of this resignation a contemporary newspaper laconically remarked: "Apropos, would not

an old woman answer very well as professor of midwifery?"

The name of Dr. W. Byrd Powell, the newly elected professor of Chemistry, was frequently mentioned in the news as well as in the advertisement columns of the contemporary press. He was an itinerant lecturer on phrenology. His lectures in New Orleans were very popular; in fact the reputation he achieved therefrom elevated him to the professorship of chemistry. The following testimonial attests the high regard in which he was held by some of the most prominent members of the clergy, the bar and the Medical profession.

New Orleans, June 5th, 1835.

To W. Byrd Powell, M.D.

Dear Sir:

The class recently in attendance on your instructions in the Congregational Church, have with one voice requested the undersigned to return you their thanks for the information you have imparted to them on the science of phrenology.

It gives us pleasure to assure you that all those who have listened to your entire course of lectures are satisfied that phrenology is an interesting branch of human knowledge. Your lectures delivered in a style perspicuous and strong, often eloquent and beautiful, are distinguished for an astonishing amount of valuable and instructive facts in relation to the philosophy of the human mind. These facts are entirely independent of all theoretical speculations on the mental science; and their importance would remain undiminished were all the speculations to pass away into utter oblivion; and give you the credit in this our new world, of being the first in laying the axe at the root of prejudice, and false philosophy and pioneering the road to truth, to the true science of mind and enlightened religion.

Those competent to form a correct judgment on the subject regard your reasoning in refutation of the most prevalent hypothesis concerning the formation of coal perfectly conclusive; and though they may not fully adopt the novel views which you have advanced, they can discover in them nothing chimerical, nothing repugnant to sound philosophy.

Permit us to add that we have been much gratified with the personal independence and decision of character displayed in your efforts to enlighten ignorance and overcome unbelief. You have declared your peculiar views with the sincerity of truth and maintained them with calm dignity which adorns those who with a just appreciation of human applause, regard it less than nothing in comparison with the value of truth and of a clear conscience.

Be pleased, dear sir, to accept the assurance of our esteem of your personal character, and our ardent attachment to those enlarged views of philosophy and religion of which you are an able and efficient advocate.

(signed) Henry A. Bullard
Benjamin Story
E. H. Barton
Theodore Clapp

On the second day of June of that year Dr. Powell gave a farewell gratuitous lecture on Phrenology; which was advertised in the *Bee*, June 2, 1835, as not only to be a revised edition of his last lecture, but to comprise an analysis of the whole science or rather theory.

Dr. Powell taught in the Medical School of Louisiana for only one session. The reason for the short tenure of his professorship is unknown today. He is the only one of the professors of New Orleans about whom there is any question of his ethical conduct. Why he left New Orleans,

where he went, what he did, or what became of him, we do not know. Even the newspapers of this city which were so profuse in his praises, and contained so many of his advertisements, were ominously silent on his departure.

The second session of the Medical College of Louisiana opened on December 7, 1835, with a lecture from Professor Luzenberg, the newly appointed dean. The attendance, which was slightly increased, numbered sixteen matriculates.

It was customary in those days for the professors to extend, through the medium of the press, invitations to the ladies and gentlemen of the city to attend their opening lectures. They even extended to the public, on the paying of a small fee, the privilege of attending certain courses intended for medical students. The advertisement columns of the French and English sections of the contemporary newspapers are replete with these invitations. They are not only interesting but are of historical interest. From the following it will be seen that these public notices were always most flattering to the professors.

The following notices and advertisements are taken from the files of the *Bee* for the month of December, 1835:

Dr. Edward H. Barton will deliver a lecture this afternoon at 41 Royal Street—his introductory for the season. From his known ability in his profession and diligence in accumulating observations and statistical details, we have no doubt of his being highly interesting.

He will probably glance at the climate of Louisiana and New Orleans, and the local causes assigned for endemic diseases, for he has collected a vast number of facts bearing on this subject; and therefore can do it more justice.

Medical College. Dr. Powell, the Professor of Chemistry will deliver his introductory lecture to-night at 7 P.M., in the hall of the institution, No. 41 Royal Street.

The ladies and gentlemen of the City are respectfully solicited to attend. We are happy in having in our power to say to our friends, that this gentleman's course of lectures will be illustrated by an apparatus superior to that of any similar institution southwest of Baltimore.

We can inform further that his cabinet of mineralogy, which he will use as far as it can prove auxiliary to his course, is equalled by few anywhere; and none on our side of the mountains.

To the citizens and especially to the youths of our alluvial country, this must certainly prove both interesting and instructive. As a lecturer, his labours last spring upon another and highly interesting subject, must give more satisfactory information to the public than anything we can say.

His subject to-night is of a general nature, and calculated to interest all, but more especially the friends of science, legislation and political economy.

We bespeak for him a hearing not only on account of his talents but because he is the friend of our city, as he proved himself last summer in his public lectures in the West, by disabusing it of the slander which the idle, the ignorant, the prejudiced and the wicked have heaped upon it abroad.

And in the advertisement column we find the following: ;

Medical College. Dr. Powell's course of chemical lectures will commence this evening at 5 o'clock P.M., in the hall of the institution, and will continue every day except Sundays, till the first of April. To the first week of this course the ladies and gentlemen are invited. During this time those who desire to attend the course, or only the popular

portion of it, will obtain tickets at his office No. 45½ Canal St.

At 7 o'clock to-night, at the same place, he will deliver his introductory. The ladies and gentlemen are solicited to attend.

He that desires to acquire an accurate knowledge of man, of physiology and pathology, should attend the daily lectures given at the Hospital from 12 to 1, by Dr. C. A. Luzenberg.

They are those of a master of his profession.

We have received an "Introductory Lecture on the Importance Derived from Medical Science in Improving the Physical Condition of a Country, etc." by Edward Barton, M.D., of the Medical College of Louisiana.

The lecture is published in pamphlet form, and can be obtained at any of the book stores. It contains much useful information—particularly as regards Malaria and swamp lands and should therefore be read by all the intelligent of our citizens. We would promise to make extracts from it; but that we wish our subscribers to purchase it.

The first year of medical education in New Orleans was a hectic one. Not only the success, but the very existence of the Medical College of Louisiana was then very precarious. It was the undaunted ardor, the overwhelming love of the profession, the steadfast determination, and the unflagging spirit to conquer no matter how nearly overwhelming the odds, as well as the fearless courage of these beardless youths, the organizers of the first medical college in the Southwest which surmounted dissensions in their own ranks as well as the untiring opposition of obstructionists.

They built well, for from this modest beginning, this college without even a domicile, with only eleven matriculates, grew to become a great institution, one whose influence is

reflected not only throughout the South, but over the whole extent of these United States. It is today the Medical Department of Tulane University. Its graduates number over 6200. Its fame, its science and its achievements are known the world over. Its alumni are justly proud of their Alma Mater's distinguished heritage.

Too much honor and credit cannot be cast upon Thomas Hunt. It was his zeal and his love for humanity which impelled him to found nearly one hundred years ago a medical college in New Orleans. Louisiana owes him a debt of gratitude which cannot be repaid.

His memory is fitly perpetuated in the recently completed building of Tulane University, the *dernier mot* in medical school construction, where a marble tablet reads:

THE FACULTY OF THE MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
HAVE ERECTED THIS TABLET IN
MEMORY OF
THOMAS HUNT, M.D.
A FOUNDER OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF
LOUISIANA, IN SEPTEMBER A.D. 1834
WHO WAS BORN IN CHARLESTON, S. C.,
MAY 18, 1808,
AND DIED IN THIS CITY, MARCH 20, 1867.
HE WAS THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AND PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND
PATHOLOGY
IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MOURNS
ITS MOST GIFTED AND ELOQUENT
TEACHER,
AND SCIENCE AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND
UNTIRING LEADER.
HE BROUGHT TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN
PHYSIOLOGY
THE RESOURCES OF A CULTIVATED AND
LEARNED EXPERIENCE;

AND HIS DEMONSTRATIONS IN PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY, REPEATED FOR YEARS IN THE CHARITY HOSPITAL, CONDUCTED BY A MASTER IMBUED WITH A PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT AND REMARKABLY GRACEFUL AND SKILLFUL IN THE USE OF THE KNIFE, CONSTITUTED A COURSE THE MOST PERFECT EVER DELIVERED ON THIS CONTINENT.

THE SERVICES OF PROFESSOR HUNT AS THE PRESIDING AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THIS DEPARTMENT, HIS VALUABLE DEVOTION TO IT, AND THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTION OBTAINED MAINLY BY HIS ENERGY AND HIS INFLUENCE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE HAVE ENTITLED HIM TO THIS GRATEFUL MEMORIAL.

The Medical College of Louisiana during the first ten years of its existence was of slow growth. The number of its students, although then slightly increasing year by year, was small and its graduates seldom exceeded ten a year. The roster for the second session shows thirty matriculants.

The first graduation exercises took place at four o'clock in the afternoon of April 5, 1836, in the Congregational Church in St. Charles Street. The orator on that occasion was the Honorable Henry A. Bullard, the learned and distinguished Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, who by virtue of his office was a member of the Board of Trustees of the College. He was also the founder of the Louisiana Historical Society.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Reverend Theodore Clapp, author, humanitarian, and one of the most noted as well as one of the most beloved clergymen of this city.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Luzenberg, delivered an oration in Latin, which was said to be in conformity with a custom which was more honored in the breach than in the observance. Mr. George Eustis, a prominent member of the local bar, and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institution, spoke eloquently to the graduates. After the conferring of degrees, the exercises terminated with prayer. The degrees of Doctors of Medicine, the first conferred, not only in Louisiana, but in the Southwest, were awarded to the following students: Messrs. M. M. Carpenter, R. S. M. A. Delatule, Alphonse Delavigne, Walter Fosgate, Alexander Hart, Albert Simeon Kostki, Ogden D. Longstaff, John C. Lawhon, John H. Lewis, F. J. Romer, Cornelius Traweck.

The *Bee* on April 6, 1836, reported that:

The assembly convened on the occasion was more respectful than numerous. But science and literature are yet in their infancy in New Orleans.

The Medical College of this State has some very intelligent and experienced professors,—such as Luzenberg, Barton, Harrison, Cenas, Ingalls, Powell and Mackie, and will doubtless win that success which its many local advantages present and its real merits deserve and demand.

Henceforth it may rival others of fame, and be honored as well as supported throughout the United States.

The following recommendation was incorporated in the message of Governor E. D. White to the Legislature of the year 1836:

The Medical College originating in scientific zeal, and supported by private contribution, is doing credit to itself in promoting medical education, and the

study of the peculiar diseases of our climate. The number of the students has considerably increased since the last year, and its prospects are such as to test the practicability of founding such a school here, and to warrant whatever patronage the Legislature might think proper to extend it.

Shortly afterwards, a bill was presented in the Senate by Senator Brownson, to appropriate \$60,000.00 for the erection of an edifice for the use of the Medical College of Louisiana. This grant was predicated upon the condition that the property should belong to the state, and to revert back to it should the college cease to exist. The following arguments were advanced by the proponent of the bill: "The State would be benefitted not only in aiding medical knowledge and endowing a really useful institution, creditable alike to Louisiana and to the individuals connected with it, but would obtain the gratis attendance of the professors of the Charity Hospital."

While the bill was unanimously adopted in the Senate, it failed of passage in the House.

The second annual report of the Medical College of Louisiana, dated January, 1837, signed by a committee of the Faculty composed of Drs. J. Harrison, J. Jones, and E. H. Barton, complimented their graduates in the following flattering terms: "To express to you who are alike interested in us that the proof of their acquirements would have been creditable to any Medical School, and have well merited the first literary and professional honors conferred in the State of Louisiana, may be no invidious assumption of self-praise."

It was mentioned in that report that "the present course (1837-38)

was more numerous in students and that the majority came from the neighboring states." They expressed regret at the departure of many students because of lack of proper facilities and suitable accommodations. The Committee called attention to the fact that they had "no apartments for lectures, and for the deposit and preservation of anatomical preparations, collections and specimen of natural history, pharmacy, botany, mineralogy, drawings, books, models and every variety of chemical and surgical apparatus." They asserted further:

Without legislative aid neither individual talents and exertion, the good will of the community nor their well-merited reputation, can enter into competition with more favored institutions enjoying the benefits of public munificence, unsubjected to the exaggerated expenses of the City of New Orleans,* or the more formidable terrors of its reputed insalubrity.

It was announced in that prospectus that the course would begin on the first Monday in December and end on the fourth Saturday in March.

Even at that time the study of medicine was very expensive. It approximated \$150.00 per session. The fees were:

Matriculation fee	\$ 5.00
Price for tickets for each professor	20.00
Demonstrator's ticket	10.00
Graduation fee	30.00

The study of medicine for at least three years was required for graduation. Two years of this time to be spent in a medical school, and at least the last at the Medical College of

* The cost of living in New Orleans was very high compared to other cities in the Union.

Louisiana. The applicant for a diploma in medicine should have attained the age of twenty-one and must present to

Louisiana; Honorable F. X. Martin; Honorable H. A. Bullard; Honorable H. Carleton; Honorable R. C. Nichols;

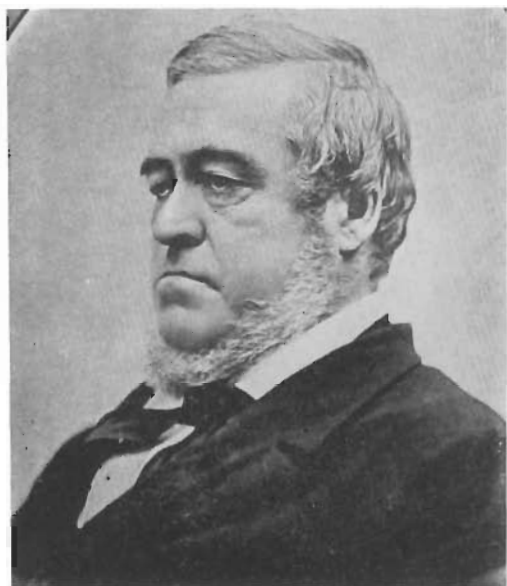


FIG. 5. DR. WARREN STONE.



FIG. 6. DR. JAMES JONES.

the Dean a respectable thesis on a subject connected with medicine or some collateral science by the first day of March, and exhibit satisfactory testimonials of moral character and preliminary education.

The following professors composed the Faculty for the session 1838-39: Warren Stone, M.D., Professor of Anatomy; Ed. H. Barton, M.D., Dean and Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine; John Harrison, M.D., Professor of Physiology and Pathology; James Jones, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; J. Monroe Mackie, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics; John J. Riddell, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy; Warren Stone, M.D., Professor of Surgery.

The board of Trustees of the College were as follows: His Excellency E. D. White, Governor of the State of

George Eustis, Esq.; G. Miligan, Esq.; Wm. H. Sparks, Esq.; Major General J. B. Dawson; General S. Johnson; Judge Butler and Judge Brownson.

The graduation exercises for that session took place in the large hall of the Charity Hospital on March 28. The valedictory address was delivered by Professor J. Monroe Mackie.²

At that time changes were frequent, not only in the personnel of the Faculty, but in interchanges between the various chairs. The catalogue for the session of 1839-40 announced that Dr. James Jones relinquished the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children for the professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, replacing Dr. Barton who resumed the teaching of his original branch, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, previously taught by Dr. Mackie who

had resigned. The new appointments were G. A. Nott, M.D., Professor of Anatomy; A. H. Cenas, M.D., Professor

the years 1840-41 gives the following interesting account of the curriculum: The professor of anatomy limits him-



FIG. 7. DR. JOHN J. RIDDELL.



FIG. 8. DR. GUSTAVUS A. NOTT.

of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; C. W. Morgan, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

It was announced that Doctors Nott and Cenas had returned from Europe after a stay of a few years devoted to preparing themselves for the teaching of their respective branches.

A school of pharmacy was established by the Medical College of Louisiana on October 20, 1838.

It was not until the end of the year 1840, that the College acquired its domicile. It was a modest building in the immediate vicinity of the Charity Hospital, which at that time was considered to be a comparatively retired location. For the first time the lecture rooms were under one roof.

The prospectus for the session of

self to special anatomy and thereby completes everything belonging to his course.

The Professor of Physiology exhibits likewise to his class all tissues, apparatus and organs of which he is to communicate the functions, and performs his physiological experiments in their presence; on the subject of General Pathology and Pathological Anatomy he pursues a similar course.

The course on the Theory and Practice of Medicine is one of special pathology, and special therapeutics, leaving to another the subject of General Pathology, and avoiding useless dissertations on Nosology, Contagions, Miasms, etc.; it is devoted to the history, causes, character, nature and treatment of particular diseases. These the Professor more fully illustrates by clinical lectures twice a week in the wards of the Charity Hospital.

The greater part of the Surgery Course is delivered by the Professor at the bedside of the patients; and all his operations and dressings are performed in the presence of the class. In the Surgical Department, the advantages of this college rank those of all others in the Union. The number of wounds, fractures, dislocations and other injuries, and diseases requiring the frequent exercise of operative surgery, admitted into the wards of the New Orleans Hospitals, will be found on examination, to exceed that of any other in America.

In the clinic of Obstetrics and on Diseases of Children and of Females, the same care is taken to touch lightly upon all that is not useful, and to bring forward everything of practical importance. In no respect do the modification of climate affect diseases, more than those in females and children. Good models and plates are frequently resorted to.

In the chair of *Materia Medica* and of Chemistry, the same satisfactory and advantageous demonstrations and practical system of instruction will recommend themselves to the good opinion of the Pupils.

That session Dr. S. W. Ruff succeeded Dr. Barton to the Chair of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics; and Doctor John Harrison was elected to the deanship. The following year the Chair of Dean Harrison, Professor of Physiology and Anatomy, was divided between himself as Professor of Physiology and Pathology and Doctor A. J. Wedderburn, as Professor of Anatomy. Doctor W. M. Carpenter was elected to the Chair of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics, made vacant by the resignation of Doctor S. W. Ruff.

It was not until the tenth year of its existence that the State of Louisiana gave its official recognition to the Medical College of Louisiana. A lot of

ground, 120 feet square, at the corner of Common Street and Phillipa, now University Place, was granted by the State to the college by an act of the Legislature for the erection of a suitable edifice to house that institution. This site was immediately in the rear of the State House, then situated on Canal Street between Baronne and University Place, which building was formerly the Charity Hospital.

The following interesting account of the grant of this site to the Medical College by the State Legislature and the conditions on which it was predicated, appeared in the first issue of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, May, 1844. It reads:

Previously, in 1843, the Board of Administrators elected annually four physicians, one Visiting Physician and a House Surgeon, to perform the professional services of the Charity Hospital for twelve months, who had their professional services prescribed and received a small compensation. At the session of the Legislature in January, 1843, the Professors of the Louisiana Medical College petitioned that body to grant them a certain portion of the public square; on which to build a College Edifice, in consideration for which privilege they offered to render all the necessary professional services to the Charity Hospital for the term of ten years, free of charge. As soon as the other physicians of the city became apprised of the movement, they at once sent to the Legislature a counter-proposition against the prayer of the Professors, so far as related to the granting the exclusive attendance of the Hospital, but making no other objection to any other aid the Legislature might think it proper to extend to the Medical College; they likewise agreed to attend the Hospital gratis. The result was that the Legislature very properly granted the Professors a site for a College Edi-

face, and held them bound to attend the wards of the Hospital for the next ten years, provided they should be called upon; but that they should be entitled to no preference in the election of attending Physicians and Surgeons, by the Board of Administrators. The Board can make its own selection from the Body of the Licensed Physicians in the City; and if their appointments are not accepted, they have a right to demand the services of the aforesaid Professors. They moreover increased the number of attending Physicians to eight, and Visiting Physicians to two, and made the election semi-annually.

The Professors are generally elected to attend the wards of the Hospital during the winter season, and are enabled thereby to deliver clinical lectures to the Medical Class.

During the term following the adoption of these regulations, the professional services were most punctually performed; and the mortality of the Hospital will compare favorably with any previous similar period. The Hospital was more frequented by Physicians of the City, and more attention was paid by them to post-mortem examinations, and to special anatomy, than probably was ever done before during the summer months.

Some half-dozen students are admitted into the Hospital who are furnished board and lodging in the house, and are required to perform all the minor operations by the attending Physicians. To be admitted, they are required to give satisfactory evidences of their qualifications, moral character, etc.

Admirable opportunities are afforded these students; but few of them, however, can be induced to prosecute their studies; but a few of them, however, can be induced to remain at their posts during the sickly season; and it is melancholy to relate that of the three who determined to stay last summer, two died of Yellow Fever.

We are told that "the Faculty laboured under great disadvantages from its commencement, for want of a suitable house in which to deliver lectures; but this defect is now remedied, and they have a beautiful edifice, erected during the past year (1843), possessing every convenience necessary to this object."

In the same medical journal we have the following description of the new College Building:

It is situated on a portion of the Capitol Square fronting Common Street . . . the facade being adorned with two very rich Corinthian columns. It contains on the ground floor a large and well arranged lecture room, capable of holding at least two hundred students, to which is conveniently attached the chemical laboratory, also two smaller rooms, appropriated to the purpose of a library and reading room. On the second floor is a large room which contains the Museum, besides two smaller rooms, and the Amphitheatre. . . . On the third floor is the dissecting room.

It was regretted that the library and museum were as yet small, but it was claimed that the "faculty were making laudable efforts to increase them."

This building was erected at a cost of \$15,000.00. It was the domicile of the medical college until the year 1847. That year the college removed to a larger and more commodious building, erected for its purpose on an adjoining site. The former structure then became the domicile of the Law Department of the University of Louisiana.

In 1845, the success and fame of the College induced the Convention to establish, by the Constitution, a University in New Orleans, named the University of Louisiana, and to constitute the Medical College, as then

organized, the Medical Department of said institution.

The Medical Department of the University of Louisiana was destined to become one of the greatest institutions of its kind in the United States. The first ten years of its existence were hectic ones. The number of its students was small. Its very existence was not only continuously threatened by the animosities and jealousies of many of the most influential members of the local profession, and by racial prejudices which were so strongly entrenched in the population of the city of that time, but by internal dissensions as well. During that period only one of the founders, Doctor Harrison, taught uninterruptedly, the others, for reasons unknown to us today, resigned their professorships.

During the first five years of the existence of the Medical College of Louisiana, lectures were held in the public halls, No. 41 Royal Street, No. 14 St. Charles Street and No. 239 Canal Street, in the offices of the professors, and from 1840 to 1843, in a small house in close proximity to the Charity Hospital. The faculty was greatly handicapped by the want of funds and the lack of the necessary equipment for the teaching of their profession. Despite these apparently insurmountable obstacles they conquered.

The great accession in population, not only in the city but in Louisiana and the neighboring states, legislative support, and the new domicile furnishing the necessary facilities for teaching medicine, were the dominant factors which spelled the success of that institution.

With prophetic vision the Editors of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical*

Journal, in the issue of January, 1845, predicted:

At a day not distant, New Orleans must become the seat of a great Medical College; and if the present Professors of the Louisiana Medical School should not be destined to establish it, they will at least be entitled to the honor of having laboured zealously in the cause. Such has been the germ and growth of all great enterprises, and the pioneers who struggle with the first difficulties should share the glory of those who complete them. New Orleans possesses all the elements and facilities requisite for medical instruction; these will soon be fully seen and appreciated; and hence we confidently venture the prediction we have made.

The fame of the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana extended throughout the southwest. Not only students but practitioners of medicine came hither, attracted by the superior facilities for clinical medicine in the Charity Hospital and by the unquestionable high scientific attainment of the teachers of the medical college.

"We are pleased also to see several practitioners from the interior, who have come to spend as long a time as they can stay from home, for the purpose of refreshing and improving themselves. . . . Our hospitals are always opened to visitors and the professors invite all graduates to attend their lectures gratis," editorially commented a contemporary medical journal.³

Postgraduate medical teaching was evidently inaugurated that year in the South.

The Faculty for the session of 1846-47 was composed of the following professors: John Harrison, M.D.,

Professor of Physiology and Pathology; James Jones, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine; Warren Stone, M.D., Professor of Surgery; J. L. Riddell, M.D., Professor of Chemistry; A. H. Cenas, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; W. M. Carpenter, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics; A. J. Wedderburn, M.D., Professor of Anatomy; J. Y. Lemonnier, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Dr. Lemonnier, the first Creole to teach in the medical college, succeeded Dr. John F. Eustis.

The roster of the college showed 163 matriculants, which was 60 more than for the previous session.

Dr. R. M. Graham in a masterly plea for a higher standard of medical education, delivered before the Physical-Medical Society of New Orleans, November 27, 1846, gives an interesting view of the medical profession of that time. He said:

If we wish to advance, we must increase the power of our instruments of observation, . . . multiplying them will not do. We must require that men be educated before they enter the profession. And I will state, too, what I mean by education; a thorough classical, philosophical and mathematical education. Or plainer still, I mean that before one is allowed to enter the profession, he be required to have received the degree of A.B. at least from some College or University.

Until this is the invariable regulation let us not call ours a learned profession; for it is as far from the truth, as it would be to call the profession of a carpenter or blacksmith a learned profession. If we wish to see the science of medicine advanced, we must qualify its members to philosophize, to observe facts, and to know how to engage in legitimate deduc-

tion. Extremely difficult as the science of medicine really is, is it not the height of absurdity to expect progress from filling up the profession with unlettered men? It is not only the height of absurdity; it is more than that. It is a disgrace to the profession of medicine, and a positive injury to society at large. I speak plainly on this subject, for it is time to speak plainly. We all deprecate the quack. But what is a quack? Johnson, in his dictionary, defines him to be "a vain pretender to physic; a pretender to arts which he does not understand." If such be the true definition, then the majority of our medical graduates are quacks; for who will pretend to say, that a young man understands the science of medicine after having only two courses of lectures in a Medical College?

The thing is a monstrous absurdity. So long as the present system continues let us discontinue the use of "learned profession" and "quack" and say nothing about the progress of medical science.

If we wish to elevate the profession and cause the science to advance, we must have an educated profession. Our members must be learned men, with minds fitted, by classical learning and a long course of philosophical studies, for the work of observation and deduction. With such men we look for progress; without them we may expect to sink lower in degradation, and to hear louder and longer the laugh of derision which is already raised against us.

We will avail ourselves of this occasion to speak in just terms of our high admiration for the Medical College of Louisiana, the learned faculty of which are all members of this society.

No medical school in this country has raised so high the standard for professional preferment or advancement as this College. And although it has struggled for years against a regularly organized opposition, no doubt can exist that it is firmly established. It now numbers about 160 students, young gentlemen from various parts of the

Southwest, and it may be said without any attempt at flattery, that they would compare, in all requisites of mental endowment and education with any class in the United States.⁴

Even as early as the later forties the standardization of medical education was a vital issue. The shortness of the sessions, the two year term, the small number of professors, the crowding of lectures, the lack of clinical facilities were subjects of controversial discussions. At that period a survey of twenty-four medical colleges in the United States revealed that one school had a lecture term of eight months; another, seven months; two, five and a half months; three, five months; five, four and a half months; six, four months; three, sixteen weeks; and two, fourteen weeks.⁵

One of these schools, the St. Louis University of Missouri, had eight professors; the others had six to seven professors, excepting the University of Virginia which had only three.

The Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association reported to the annual convention held in Philadelphia in 1847, that: "It is next to an impossibility, that the strongest intellect can receive and well digest some half a dozen discourses or more a day, embracing subjects which have sometimes little or no immediate connection with each other." It advocated that "with a lengthened period of teaching, a double advantage will be gained; a wider extent of information may be imparted to the student, while his time will be occupied with fewer lectures during the day."

The fixation of a minimum term of lectures of five months by that convention, although recognized by the profession as a step forward, did not meet

with universal approval, for we read in the New York Annalist of August, 1848, that they "acquiesced, but very reluctantly, in the fixation of the term at five months, by the American Medical Association, and yet live in hopes that the future will see the period much increased."

The Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College, in their annual announcement for the year 1848, held that:

The prevalent idea, that too much is attempted to be taught in the four months generally allotted to the medical session, is of more recent origin. . . .

The time usually employed in lectures during four days in the week is six hours, and it is acknowledged in all professions that six hours daily ought to be devoted to professional reading. To lecture may be regarded as synonymous with "to read"; consequently the medical student who listens to six hours in the day may be looked upon as having been "read to" for six hours; and there can be no essential difference between reading and being read to, except in the circumstance that the latter is much easier on the student. The well informed and able lecturer adapts his elucidations more readily to the comprehension of his hearers than can be done in the best books. He has an opportunity of perceiving whether he is understood; and should he think he is not, he modifies and repeats his instructions.

The sessions of the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana usually opened on the third Monday of November and terminated on the third Monday in March. Ostensibly the course was of three years; the first year was supposed to be under the direction of a private tutor or preceptor, and the other two in a medical college. The lectures in the different branches were divided as follows:

Anatomy, five hours; Pathology and Physiology, four hours; Theory and Practice of Medicine, six hours; Surgery, five hours; Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, four hours; Materia Medica and Therapeutics, four hours; and Chemistry, four hours, the course totalling thirty-two hours per week.

The increase in the number of students was rapid and steady. They flocked hither not only from the neighboring states, but practically from every part of the Union. Ninety-three students, of whom fifteen were graduates, enrolled for the session of 1845-46, and 188, of whom thirty-nine were graduates in medicine and two in pharmacy, matriculated in 1850.

The Board of Administrators of the University for the late forties was composed of: Isaac Johnson, Governor of the State of Louisiana; George Eustis, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; A. D. Crossman, Mayor of the City of New Orleans; Honorable P. W. Farrar, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Maunsel White; R. C. Nicholas; Judge J. T. Preston; Isidore Labatut, M.D.; Levi Pierce; M. M. Cohen; W. P. Hort, M.D.; W. C. Micou; C. Roselius.

The rapid growth of the college soon demanded a more spacious domicile. In 1848, a new edifice was erected on Common Street, between Common and Phillipa, now University Place, on the present site of the Crescent and Tulane Theatres. This new home of the Medical College as was already mentioned, was adjacent to the former domicile, which was afterwards used to house the Law Department of the University. This group of buildings was destined to be the home of the University of Louisiana for nearly forty years. At that time the first

amphitheatre at the Charity Hospital was completed. The teaching facilities of the Medical College were thereby greatly improved.

This new building was one of the largest and best arranged for the teaching of medicine in the United States. Its architecture and size were imposing. Its dimensions were 100 feet front by 104 feet in depth. It contained three large lecture rooms, capable of accommodating 600 students; a large hall for a museum, several large dissecting rooms, and the necessary number of private offices for the professors.

During the winter months the wealth of teaching material in the Charity Hospital was placed altogether at the disposal of the Professors, for they were in full charge of the wards of that institution during that time. This exceptional advantage, unsurpassed by any other college on this continent, was editorially commented upon by a contemporary medical journal.⁶ It said:

We fear that the great advantages offered by the Hospital as a school of practical medicine, has not yet been fully appreciated by the profession; but the time will come, and that soon, when both the teacher and student, will not only talk of clinical medicine, but the one will hasten to teach, and the other to learn, medicine in the only way in which it can be taught. To make a good and practical physician we must educate all the senses; the touch, the eye, etc., and in this way nothing will be omitted calculated to convey knowledge of diseases.

To teach practical medicine, nothing is equal to the opportunities presented to the student by our great Charity Hospital. Here he may study the symptoms of diseases during life, and inspect the body after death; here, no obstacle is interposed to wrest from science the

fruits which justly belong to her; in other words, post-mortem examinations are not only tolerated almost to any extent, but the public actually encourages the practice even in private circles. It is the fault of the Professors if it does not make this one of the **first practical schools of Medicine in the United States**—in the world.

Doctor John Harrison, Professor of Physiology and Pathology of the Medical College of Louisiana and at one time its Dean, died on March 13, 1849. He was not only one of the organizers of that institution, but he taught uninterruptedly from the time of the founding of the college to the day of his death. He was succeeded by Doctor Thomas Hunt, the organizer and the first dean of the school. His loss was **greatly regretted** not only by the **Faculty and alumni** of that college of medicine, but by the profession of the South.

The following beautiful tribute of respect was paid to the memory of Doctor Harrison by the Physico Medico-Society of New Orleans at a special meeting held on March 31, 1849:

That, since its institution, a more painful duty has not devolved upon it than to place on record the death of one, whose association with us has been marked by all those high qualities of heart, and rare endowments of mind which proclaim him the man, the scholar and the teacher. That in whatever aspect he is seen, the eye rests on bold and prominent traits of character; generous in impulse; magnanimous in conduct; firm in purpose and lofty in aim. Pleasing as was this combination of a dignified moral nature, he shone more conspicuously as one endowed with the highest order of intellectual gifts. With perceptive faculties aptly fitted to the pursuit to which he was called, he possessed the higher and nobler gift of reason, which

guided to the contemplation of first principles, and a knowledge of elementary forms. Into the wide domains of natural science, his manly understanding pushed its inquiries and enriched itself with spoils from all its grand subdivisions. There was no department of useful and polite knowledge that hid its treasures from his active researches. The evolutions of mind, subtle, mysterious, wonderful as they are, and the diversity of material being in all its forms and relations, were familiar to him as his every day thoughts. . . .

With all this diversity of knowledge and largeness of attainments, he combined a modesty which shrunk from vain and ostentatious displays. His opinions were his own, were liberal, comprehensive, and positive; yet he was never known to urge them at inopportune moments, or in a spirit of dogmatism. They were the ripe fruits of years and research; were well matured; well elaborated. Yet they were the firstlings of a mind mistrustful of its powers, although conscious of the truth and direction they had taken."

The college, in 1850, received a generous appropriation of \$25,000.00 from the State Legislature to purchase anatomical preparations illustrative of human and comparative anatomy; anatomical paintings, plates and drawings; medical, surgical and obstetrical preparations, paintings, plates, drawings, and instruments; preparations for the teaching of physiology and pathology; pharmaceuticals, chemicals and philosophical instruments, etc. Professors Cenas and Wedderburn were entrusted with the responsibility of making these important purchases. That summer they embarked for Europe to perform the task imposed upon them. They procured museum specimens and anatomical preparations from every large medical center.

The College prospectus for the session of 1851-52 mentioned that "amongst the preparations in human and comparative anatomy, are the entire collection of muscular preparations from the Academy of Anatomy at Florence, representing in about 300 wax models, perfectly executed, the entire anatomy of the muscles.

Thibert's entire collection of models, representing the anatomy of tissues, and Auzou's valuable cabinet of human and comparative anatomy. The collection of human bones is very large and put up in the best manner; and there is also a very handsome collection of skeletons of the inferior animals, a large number of urinary and biliary calculi; many of which were obtained from Dupuytren's museum at Paris and from the College of Surgeons in London.

Wax models of diseases of the skin were made by Mr. Towne from his original collection at Guy's Hospital in London, which was then the only institution in the world which could boast of having such a magnificent collection. Professor Wedderburn in a letter dated June 2, 1850, written in Paris addressed to Dean Gustavus Nott stated that Mr. Towne was engaged in making anatomical and pathological preparations for that institute for twenty-five years. He averred that Towne's models of diseases of the skin are superior to anything on the Continent, or in fact, in the world; and that his anatomical models in wax are infinitely superior to anything he had seen. "In fact," he said, "my imagination never could have conceived that art could have arrived at such perfection."

"He has never sold a preparation in his life," Dr. Wedderburn wrote;

"he has had repeated applications to make the same for different colleges in England, but he has always refused." Evidently a magnificent fee, made possible by a liberal appropriation, induced that master craftsman to make an exception for the medical college in New Orleans, for shortly afterwards these splendid wax figures illustrating eighty skin diseases were placed in the museum of the Medical College of the University of Louisiana.

Dr. Wedderburn also announced that he had ordered 500 specimens of *Materia Medica* to be put up in beautiful glass bottles, and to be arranged in their natural order. This collection was acquired from Verron and Fountain of Paris, and was said to be on a plan of the College of Pharmacy of Paris.

The local museum was one of, if not the largest and the finest in this country, and it was even claimed that it equalled any in Europe.

In the early fifties the success of the college was assured. It was one of the best equipped schools of medicine in the Union. It had learned professors and possessed unexcelled facilities for teaching; unlimited clinical material in the Charity Hospital; a magnificent domicile, the last word in medical college construction in this country; an amphitheater at the Charity Hospital where cases were shown to advantage, and a museum unsurpassed not only in the States but in the world as well.

Its renown spread everywhere. Students flocked hither in large numbers not only from the South, but from the East, North and West.

Its eighteenth session (1851-52) opened with 186 matriculants, and its graduates numbered 43. The following year the number of its students

increased to 219 and its graduates to 72, amongst whom must be noted Doctor Stanford E. Chaillé, who was



FIG. 9. DR. EDWARD HALL BARTON.

destined to become the future dean of his Alma Mater, and one of the most beloved and renowned teachers of medicine in the Southland.

"More than seventeen hundred names are on the register of matriculates," was proudly observed in the prospectus for the nineteenth session, and "many of the graduates have acquired honorable distinction and scientific reputation as Surgeons and Physicians."

The devastating epidemic of yellow fever of the year 1853 was doubtless the cause of the small enrollment of students that winter. The register for that term shows only 190 matriculants and 51 graduates.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Louisiana during the early fifties were: P. O. Hebert, Governor of the State of Louisiana; Thomas Slidell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the

State of Louisiana; A. D. Crossman, Mayor of the City of New Orleans; Honorable M. Walker; Honorable Maunsel White; Honorable D. V. Nicholas; Honorable Isidore Labatut, M.D.; Levi Pierce, Esq.; M. M. Cohen, Esq.; John Slidell, Esq.; James Rodd, Esq.

Doctor John J. Castellanos, the medical historian, was the valedictorian of the graduating class of 1856.

Drs. Cornelius C. Beard and Samuel P. Chopin were appointed demonstrators of Anatomy in the fall of the year 1853. They subsequently became the organizers of the New Orleans Medical College, and respectively its professors of Anatomy and Surgery.

Doctor J. C. P. Wedderstrandt was the professor of Anatomy and Doctor Gilbert S. Vance the Demonstrator of that branch for the session of 1856-57. Dr. Wedderstrandt filled the chair of Anatomy one year, and was succeeded by Doctor Josiah C. Nott of Mobile, Alabama, who was succeeded the following year by Doctor T. G. Richardson. At that time Doctors S. E. Chaillé and W. C. Nichols were chosen demonstrators of Anatomy.

The Board of Trustees of the University for the later fifties consisted of: R. C. Wickliffe, Governor of the State of Louisiana; E. T. Merrick, Chief Justice of the State of Louisiana; C. M. Waterman, Mayor of the City of New Orleans; W. N. Mercer, M.D.; Daniel Edwards; Newton Richards; G. W. Race; W. A. Gordon; P. E. Bonford; W. C. C. Claiborne; Charles Genois; Isidore Lanatut, M.D.

The generous appropriation made by the legislature of 1857 to the

medical college was "applied in admirable improvements and alterations" planned by the renowned architects

Lawson was appointed Lecturer on Clinical Medicine with the title of Professor. He was the first to teach

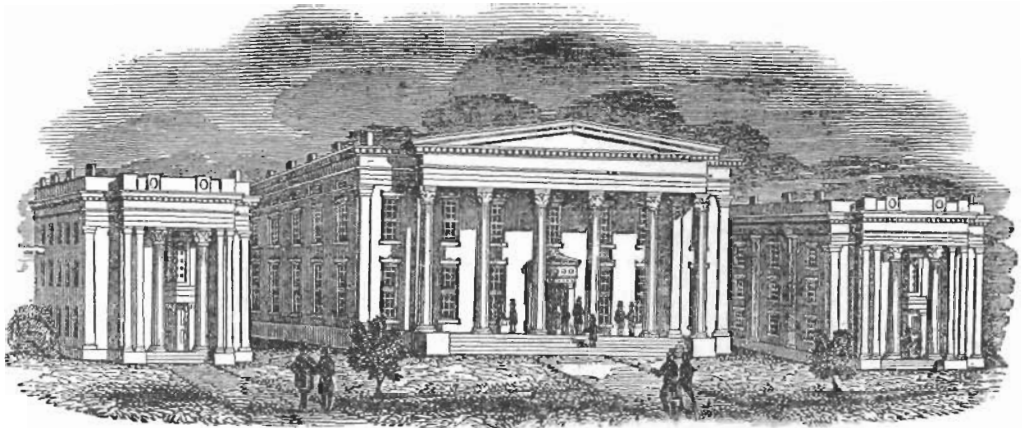


FIG. 10. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT FROM THE PROSPECTUS, 1860-61. "THE CENTER BUILDING IS ONE OF THE MOST SPACIOUS AND BEST ARRANGED FOR ITS PURPOSES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IS OCCUPIED BY THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT." THE BUILDING ON THE LEFT WAS THE DOMICILE OF THE COLLEGE FROM 1843 TO 1847.

Gallier and Turpin.

The reputation of the College had spread throughout the Union. Students flocked hither from Mississippi, Alabama, Ohio, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, New York, Illinois, and from France, Mexico and South America.

Four hundred and two students, of whom 113 were graduates, registered for the term 1859-60.

The two years preceding the Civil War proved the most prosperous. For the session of 1861-62, 424 names were on the register of Matriculates. The roster of the school shows that during the first twenty-seven years of its existence 6482 students studied their profession within its portals. Such a magnificent showing is today amazing to us, especially in view of the difficulties encountered at that time in travelling and the merited reputation of the city's unhealthiness.

On July 6, 1860, Doctor L. M.

that branch of medicine. Professor Hunt was then the Dean of the School of Medicine.

The trustees of the University immediately preceding the Civil War were: T. O. Moore, Governor of the State of Louisiana; E. T. Merrick, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana; J. T. Monroe, Mayor of the City of New Orleans; Honorable T. G. Hunt; Daniel Edwards; John Pemberton; J. A. D. Rozier; Wm. R. Miles; Robert J. Ward; Issac J. Seymour; Newton Richards.

During these twenty-seven years the State of Louisiana contributed \$83,000.00 to the Medical College. Chaillé tells us that the state was fully repaid for its generosity. He gives the following estimate of the pecuniary benefits derived from these appropriations⁷: "Attendance upon the Charity Hospital for ten years, \$24,000.00; the amphitheatre in the same hospital, \$2,500.00; west wing of the University building (transferred to the Law

Department of the University), \$15,000.00; library, apparatus, preparations in museum, etc., \$20,000.00; repairs, insurance, etc., on the College edifice, belonging to the State, \$16,000.00; education of indigent students, \$42,000.00, amounting in all to \$119,000.00."

New Orleans was then the third largest medical center in the United States. The two medical schools were very prosperous. The students attracted hither by the unexcelled facilities for medical teaching and the unusually large amount of clinical material in the Charity Hospital num-

bered in the two colleges, the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana and the New Orleans Medical College, approximately 617 students.

Unfortunately during the height of this unusual success, that great devastating war between the States broke out. Professors abandoned their Chairs for service in the field and students rushed to join the ranks of their respective sections. The Charity Hospital was converted into a military hospital. The portals of the medical colleges were closed for the duration of the Civil War.



HISTORY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS

FROM ITS BIRTH TO THE CIVIL WAR

By A. E. FOSSIER, M.D.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PART II

NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

In the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* for December, 1855, appeared the following advertisement:

PRIVATE EXAMINATIONS

The undersigned have formed an association for the purpose of thoroughly preparing students of medicine in all the Branches taught in the Medical Schools of the country, through the means of regularly conducted examinations. They will also receive "Office Students" for the term of six months, or one or two years. The examinations will commence immediately after the Introductory Lectures in the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana, and continue until the close of the session.

I. L. Crawcour, M.D.	Anatomy and Chemistry.
Howard Smith, M.D.	Materia Medica, Surgery and Practice.
D. Warren Brickell, M.D.	Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children and Physiology.

TERMS

For the session of four months.	\$ 30.00
For office students, six months.	50.00
For office students, one year.	100.00

Evidently this quiz class was the incentive for the organization of a new medical college in this city.

The accession of population, not

only of New Orleans and of the State of Louisiana but of the whole Southwest, was rapid. The number of inhabitants doubled, tripled and quadrupled in a comparatively short period of time. The clinical facilities presented by the Charity Hospital were unsurpassed in this country. The reputed learning of the physicians and the unexcelled skill of the surgeons of this city attracted large numbers of medical students who crowded the halls of the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana. Such were the conditions which encouraged the founding of a new school of medicine.

Despite the strenuous objections of the professors of the old college and their friends, and the impeding tactics of obstructionists, the organizers of the new school of medicine achieved their ambition. The establishment of a new College of Medicine in New Orleans was announced in an editorial in the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* of May, 1856. It reads in part:

THE NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: Under the general law of the State of Louisiana, an institution has been duly organized and incorporated under the style and title of the "New Orleans School of Medicine" with full powers to impart medical instruction and to grant diplomas to such as may be deemed worthy of the same. In a short time, a full and comprehensive prospectus

will be issued, in which will be set forth a plan of medical education which, we venture to assert, will meet the unqualified



FIG. 11. NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, CORNER OF TULANE AVENUE AND VILLERE STREET, OPPOSITE THE CHARITY HOSPITAL.

approbation of the profession throughout the country. An elegant and commodious edifice is in process of construction, and will be ready for use before the beginning of the lecture season; and every effort will be made to supply all the material necessary for the most satisfactory demonstration on the various branches.

The announcement of the establishment of a new medical school in the City of New Orleans, will excite no surprise amongst our readers; that emotion has long lingered on the strange phenomenon of the existence of but one such institution in a place of all others the most fertile in the resources necessary to the acquirement of a complete medical education. With clinical advantages unsurpassed, if equalled in the world, and with opportunities for the study of pathology and anatomy in all its phases, such as are elsewhere unknown, it is strange indeed that the profession of New Orleans should have so long remained

inactive. . . . Not that we mean one word of detraction from those who have been working in the mine; on the contrary we are proud to acknowledge that they have accomplished much; but we are surprised, that in a mine so rich, there should as yet have been but one shaft sunken. Competition is truly said to be the life of trade, and yet it is no more true of trades than of professions. . . . It is in this spirit of honorable rivalry, that the New Orleans School of Medicine enters the lists, and on this fair basis she is confident of a liberal support from those to whom she promises equivalent benefits. . . .

The annual pilgrimage of Southern young men to the medical schools of the North is an unnatural and humiliating sight, yet we have but ourselves to blame. So far from there being a reason why New Orleans should be restricted to a paltry class of two hundred students of medicine per annum, there is every possible reason why she should have trebled that number; and to all of them she can afford greater facilities for the proper acquirement of a medical education than any other city in the Union.

The New Orleans School of Medicine was unostentatiously inaugurated on Monday, November 17, 1856, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. But scant notice was given to that occasion in the daily press. The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* was silent on the subject.

The *Picayune* of November 16, 1856, commented on the advent of the new college as follows:

The rapidity with which the enterprising faculty of this new school of medicine have erected their college edifice, has surprised the community.

Thus far, they have proven themselves equal to the task of contending against difficulties, and they now open the doors of as well appointed an institution as is to be found in the land. They have the

most ample advantages to offer their pupils in the wards of our great Charity Hospital, and everything looks as if they were working in right good earnest. So much for well directed private enterprise.

The College edifice was situated at the corner of Common, now Tulane Avenue, and Villeré Street, directly opposite the main entrance of the Charity Hospital, on the site of the present ambulance building. It was erected at a cost of \$15,000. The building was well lighted and well ventilated, and it was proclaimed by many to be "one of the most imposing edifices in the city." It was said that it contained two of the most beautiful lecture rooms ever constructed. Each comfortably seated 300 persons. The Dean's room was spacious and there were eight anterooms for the use of the professors. It had also a janitor's room, and a hall to be used as a dispensary.

In a contemporary medical journal^s it was stated that the dissecting room was the finest in the country, and was well supplied with gas and with rain water from a large cistern on top of the building. In the same editorial it was mentioned that water was conducted to every room in the house from the cistern and that gas found its way to every point where it was required.

"The museum room is stored with everything requisite for the complete demonstration of a course, and the Faculty are early expecting two more shipments from Paris of the most elegant preparations ever sent to this country." This article continued:

The obstetrical cabinet of wet preparations is probably not equalled in the Southern country. It has been purchased from an ex-professor of one of the oldest

schools in the land, and consists of about two hundred of the rarest and most valuable specimens from nature, all in the most beautiful condition for the closest examination. The chemical and philosophical apparatus are equal to any, having been ordered from the best manufacturers in Europe and America, and without regard to cost. . . . Here, then, is what has been done; and we may undertake to say that it has all been done by surmounting as many obstacles as were ever thrown in the way of any similar enterprise in the land. But obstacles, difficulties, are nothing in the way of well directed and useful enterprise; and success is only the more honorable and gratifying, when it comes as a triumph over natural and factitious obstructions combined.

But that writer frankly acknowledged that:

The New Orleans School of Medicine owed much, however, to the enlightened liberality of others besides those who enrolled themselves as pupils in the institution. To the generosity of our private citizens she was indebted for nearly the whole of her beautiful museum; and to the wisdom and public spirit of the Board of Administrators of the Charity Hospital, she was indebted for that firm footing.

The tuition fees were practically the same in the two colleges. Seventy-two students hailing from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Nicaragua matriculated for the opening session. This unexpectedly large number of students, which was claimed to be the largest initial class of any medical college in the land, was most gratifying to the Faculty, because it boded the ultimate success of the school.

"The success of the institution, so far as early patronage goes, is placed

beyond all doubt on the part of its friends; and if the institution has any enemies (which we flatter our-

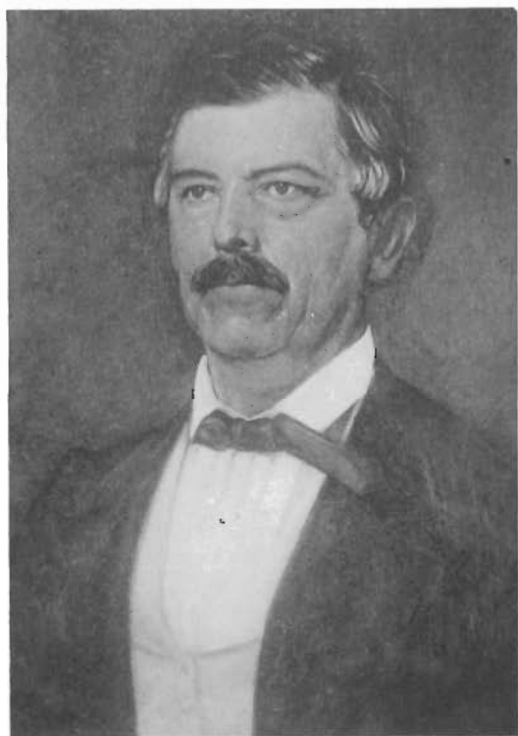


FIG. 12. DR. E. D. FENNER.

selves it should not have), they had better not waste their labor in attempting to stay its progress"; warned the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette*. It enthusiastically opined: "What new Medical School has ever made a more flattering beginning? If energy, industry, and a firm determination to excel, will cause the class of another year to be twice or three times sixty-seven, then are the Faculty sure of their presence."

The new school offered a five month course. The first dean was Doctor E. D. Fenner. The organizers and the first members of the Faculty were: Erasmus D. Fenner, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine; A. Forster Axson, M.D., Professor of Physiology; Thomas Peniston, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine and

Auscultation and Percussion; Samuel Chopin, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Isaac L. Crawcour, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence; Howard Smith, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics; John M. W. Picton, M.D., Professor of Diseases of Women and Children; D. Warren Brickell, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics; Cornelius C. Beard, M.D., Professor of Anatomy; Anthony A. Peniston, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Anatomy.

It was announced in the first prospectus of the school that it was the intention of the faculty to demonstrate practical medicine and surgery at the bedside as fully as possible. And that in addition to the facilities for this purpose afforded by the hospital, a dispensary would be established at the college, for the examination and treatment of such patients as may not wish to enter the Hospital. Here the students would be required, in their turn, to put up prescriptions, apply dressings, etc. "Indeed every effort would be made to render the course of instruction as practical as possible."

This was the first dispensary established in the Southwest. It served its purpose well, because there were no facilities in the Charity Hospital for the treatment of outdoor patients; ambulant cases were treated in the wards of that institution, much to the discomfort of the resident sick. The following editorial in the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette*, of February, 1857, is the only source of information from which a glimpse may be had today of the modus operandi of that dispensary and of the lying-in department of the new medical college; it reads:

They have now opened a Free Dispensary for the indigent sick and lying-in women, where advice and medicine will be furnished gratuitously on stated days of the week. In New Orleans, the word Dispensary is something new. Indeed, it may be said to be new in all Southern cities. It therefore behooves us to tell what the objects of the institution are, what is to be gained by the establishment. These are threefold first, as regards the advantages derived by the student of medicine; second, as regards the welfare of the sick poor; and third, as regards the interest of the State in a pecuniary point of view. Experience at the North has proven clearly that there is a large class of cases which may be treated at the Dispensary with far more advantage to the student of medicine. Of this class we may mention, all minor surgical operations which do not require the patient to take to bed; the large class of skin diseases; various chronic affections; recent cases of venereal disease; most of the diseases of children, etc., etc. By the concentration of these cases at the dispensary on stated days, the student is not only enabled to see disease in variety, but he is required to make diagnosis, write prescriptions, apply dressings, and compound and dispense medicines. But if all this is useful to the student, there is still another point of more importance than all others. By the establishment of a lying-in department, the student is enabled to attend the parturient woman entrusted to his care, at her own home, where all his duties may be performed with the most comfort to his patient, and the greatest degree of instruction to himself. . . . "The lying-in woman receives the very best attention; for she is not only assigned to the care of an advanced student of medicine, who is known to be capable of attending her (and is, therefore, far superior to the female midwife), but in case of any difficulty whatsoever occurring in the case, the Professor of Obstetrics in the New Orleans School of Medicine is bound

to give prompt attention. So that, in reality, the indigent parturient female who places herself under the care of this

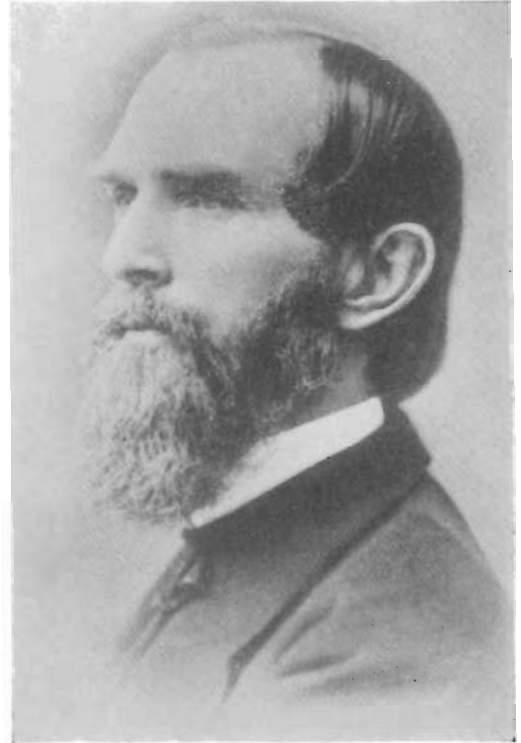


FIG. 13. DR. D. WARREN BRICKELL.

dispensary, is better off than many women of ample means, who from a sense of false modesty, place themselves and their offsprings in the hands of old women midwives, who either do mischief by meddling, or allow mischief irreparable to take place, through total ignorance of the manner of arresting or relieving. . . . The faculty have opened their dispensary for the benefit of their pupils—wishing at the same time to give their mite towards the relief of suffering humanity; but they are sure that neither the people of this State nor of this City, will expect them to furnish medicines gratis to thousands. One or two thousand dollars will enable them to do more good than has ever been done in New Orleans with four times the amount of money. Here, then, is another of the improvements already begun by the Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine.

The efforts of the Faculty of the new Medical School to improve the existing system of medical teaching by increasing the usual number of professors, by lengthening the term of lectures one month, and by adopting a system of daily clinical instruction especially at the bedside, met with the hearty approval of the medical students of the South and the physicians throughout the land.

The Board of Administrators of the Charity Hospital, at a meeting held on November 3, 1856, accorded to the new school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the older medical college. The visiting physicians and surgeons elected by the Board for the year were: From the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana: Surgeons: Drs. Stone and Hunt; Physicians: Drs. Jones, Cenas, Nott and Wedderstrandt. From the New Orleans School of Medicine: Surgeon: Dr. Chopin; Medicine: Drs. Fenner, Beard, Picton, Thos. Peniston, and Axson. Physicians from the Profession at large: Drs. William Cox, A. Peniston, Martin, and Tancy.

The New Orleans School of Medicine was the pioneer in clinical teaching, not only in this city and in the Southwest, but in the Union as well. It is evident that it was organized because it was sensed by its founders that the students who sought their medical education in New Orleans were not receiving the proper clinical teaching and that a wealth of clinical material was wasted, and that the students were poorly prepared for the practice of their profession. All credit must be given to them for inaugurating a comprehensive and practical system of bedside teaching, for which this city enjoyed for so many years a well-merited reputation.

We are indebted today to the masterly article "Remarks on Clinical Medicine" by Professor Fenner⁹ for the following description of the medical teaching then in vogue and of the reforms and innovations inaugurated by the new school:

Medicine is an art as well as a science; and like all other arts, that of skillful practice can only be acquired by observation and experience. He who devotes himself to his profession with the determination to master it and to realize its advantages as far as he is capable, requires extensive opportunities of seeing various forms of disease, injury and deformity, to which the human system is liable; of bringing to bear upon them all his senses, as well as his judgment, and likewise, of observing the effects of medicines and the curative powers of nature. Without such opportunities, he may store his mind with all the learning of the books and teachers; he may understand all theories that have ever been promulgated, but he will not be able at once to make a skillful application of his knowledge to any useful purpose. He would be like a navigator, who had never managed a larger vessel than a jolly-boat; a mechanic who never handled a tool; an engineer who never bridged a rivulet nor saw a steam engine in operation; an architect who has only seen the pictures and drawings of temples and palaces; or an astronomer who never directed a telescope. Yet such has been the general course of medical instruction followed in this country from the beginning, and is for the most part even to this day. In Europe, this grand error has long since been recognized and remedied; but we in America have but recently acknowledged its importance, and applied our inventive genius to its correction. The course of qualifications preparatory to entering upon the practice of medicine hitherto pursued by nine-tenths of the medical students in this country has been to read a text-book on each of the

different branches, to hear two courses of lectures, occasionally walk through the wards of a hospital, where he may see a Professor prescribe for a number of patients or perform a surgical operation, then be able, when questioned, to repeat a respectable amount of what he read in books or been told by his teachers, and he obtains a diploma. Under such system of instruction, experience is only acquired at a considerable expense to human life. . . . I think I may safely say that previous to the present day, nothing like a systematic course or plan of clinical instruction has been adopted by any of the medical colleges in the United States. **Indeed**, there is scarcely a city in the Union that commands the necessary facilities; but it might appear invidious in me to attempt to particularize their comparative advantages; so I will only mention the general course that has hitherto been pursued by the most prominent medical colleges, and close this paper with a description of the plan adopted by the New Orleans School of Medicine.

The course hitherto pursued by such of our medical colleges as command any hospital privileges whatever has been to allow the students to visit the hospitals twice a week, when the professors walk through the wards with a crowd of students at their heels, and make a sort of running commentary on the different cases before them. The professors also deliver clinical lectures twice a week, and perform surgical operations before the class. New Orleans is the only city within my knowledge, that has a **large** hospital convenient to a **Medical School** and accessible to students daily **without** charge; but even here, the course of clinical instruction heretofore pursued has been pretty much the same as above described.

Most of our medical schools of late **years** have been trying to supply the want of **hospital facilities** by establishing clinics and **dispensaries**; but the defect is too glaring to require comment. The

student of medicine must see **disease** and observe its daily progress from beginning to end, as well as the effects of remedies, before he can become a skillful practitioner.

The Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine, deeply impressed with the importance of demonstrating, as far as possible, all the practical branches of science, resolved on its inception, to quit the beaten tract so long pursued in this country, and to strike at once for the latest improvements in teaching, which have been established in the greatest medical institutions of the day.

The following is our plan: The student is provided with a printed ticket, to be pasted in his note-book, and having a suitable blank space for inserting the number of the ward and bed, the name of the patient, his age, nativity and vocation, the diagnosis, duration and result of the case. Most of these blanks can be filled at once, but, of course, some of them must remain till the termination of the case.

To **facilitate** the inexperienced student in the **novel duty** he is about to undertake, and to **answer** the purpose of the *Chef de Clinique*, he is also furnished a printed sheet **containing** the following series of **questions** relative to the history and existing state of the **patient**:

QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY OF THE CASE

Previous History:

- How **long** have you been sick?
- Where were you when attacked?
- How were you taken—first symptoms?
- How did the disease proceed?
- What treatment before entering Hospital?
- At what hour did you enter?
- What was prescribed by the House Surgeon?

Present State:

- Note the general appearance of the patient.
- Note the skin, whether hot or cold, dry or moist.
- Note the tongue, appearance of.

Note the thirst.

Note the stomach, whether quiet, nausea or vomiting.

Note the abdomen, whether full or not, tender on pressure or not, tympanitis, or dropsical effusion.

Note the bowels, whether loose, easy or costive.

Note the urine, free or scant; color of it.

Note the chest symptoms—breathing, cough, pain, physical signs.

Note the heart, sounds of.

Note the pulse, number and character of.

Note the appetite.

Note the rest and sleep.

Note the pain, where located.

Note the debility.

Diagnosis:

Remarks of Visiting Physician.

Treatment:

Having asked all these questions and made a connected narrative of the replies, the student is prepared to receive the Visiting Physician, who requires him to read aloud what he has written, corrects all inaccuracies, and proceeds to pronounce the diagnosis, with such instructive explanations as he thinks requisite. The student can insert in his note-book such of these clinical remarks as he may wish to preserve. The professor then points out the indications, dictates his prescriptions, and proceeds to the next bed, where the attending student goes through the same process if he has a new patient. On the following morning the student visits the patient an hour before the professor, notes any change in the symptoms, and also the operation of the remedies prescribed. When the professor arrives, he can hear these notes in as little time as it would take him to get the same information by questioning the patient himself. After his clinical remarks, he prescribes again and passes on. This course is pursued from day to day till the termination of the case either in recovery or death. If the patient recovers, the professor makes a brief summary of the pathology and treatment of the case before discharging him. If

the case terminates fatally, the body is followed to the Dead-house, where a post mortem examination is made before the students. Before opening the body the professor must declare his opinion of the pathology of the case, the seat of disease, and the morbid conditions to be found. He does this boldly; without claiming to be infallible in his judgment, but to test his skill in diagnosis, and his willingness for his pupils to profit by any blunder he may have committed. . . . I will say nothing of the clinical instruction to be given in the obstetrical wards of this hospital. The Legislature has granted us equal privileges in this as in every other department of the Charity Hospital, which we shall turn to the benefit of the students; but we hope to accomplish more in the obstetrical branch of our Free Dispensary. We here take the address of such indigent women as desire to be delivered at home, and when the call is made, a competent student, to whom the case has been assigned, starts promptly, and performs the duty, if the labor is simple; but if any difficulty presents he calls on the professor at once.

Our professor of anatomy, Doctor Beard, is a thoroughly educated oculist, and will demonstrate daily the proper method of diagnosing and treating the various diseases of the eye. He is a master of all the surgical symptoms that perform on this delicate organ.

It will be seen that the plan of clinical instruction we have adopted is much the same as pursued in the General Hospital of Vienna, which was introduced into the Meath Hospital, of Dublin, by Doctor Graves in 1821, and has been continued there ever since, with entire satisfaction.

I should not omit to mention also the practical instruction given at the Free Dispensary of the New Orleans School of Medicine, on three days of every week. Here we prescribe for thirty or forty patients a day, presenting the ordinary complaints of men, women and children. The students see how this is

done, and also assist in putting up prescriptions.

Dr. Fenner ends his article by quoting Dr. Latham, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital of London, who said:

I know that five out of six of those who profess to attend the medical practice of this hospital (and it is the same of other hospitals), never watch a single case of disease through its entire course, during the whole period of their pupilage. I say this with great sorrow, and as a warning to those whose pupils have yet to begin. This is what I mean by the materials of knowledge running to waste.

Dr. Fenner remarked that while this was true and applicable to the state of things hitherto existing in New Orleans, he predicted that this would soon change, because with its extensive hospital and beautiful lecture rooms, the day was not far distant when this city would rival Dublin, Paris and Vienna in the great business of clinical instruction, more especially for the qualification of the Southern practitioners.

The number of matriculants for the second session (1857-58) of the New Orleans School of Medicine was most flattering, the enrollment was 126 students of whom 33 were graduates. The commencement exercises for that year were held on March 31, 1858.

Prizes were offered by the Chairs of Chemistry and Obstetrics to the students who stood the best written examination on their respective subjects. The award for Chemistry was a silver cup and was won by Stanford Perry, of Louisiana; the prize for Obstetrics, a complete set of obstetrical instruments, was presented to J. F. Grall of Germany.

The first graduates from the New Orleans School of Medicine were:

J. F. Glass, Georgia; Thomas Haughey, Alabama; Chas. L. Evans, Mississippi; William Sandel, Jr., Louisiana; A. J. Thompson, North Carolina; J. F. Grall, Germany; Thomas H. Powell, Tennessee; James E. Keator, Louisiana; Stanford Perry, Louisiana; Mark Andrews, Mississippi; D. W. Wilkinson, Mississippi; N. R. Payne, Mississippi; J. W. Chandler, Louisiana; M. P. Quinn, Louisiana; E. P. Stubblefield, Louisiana; W. C. Hicks, Mississippi; J. M. Scaife, Louisiana; P. J. Gibert, Cuba; William P. Smith, Alabama; S. L. Singletary, Louisiana; E. T. Gazley, Texas; W. R. Capchart, North Carolina; Richard S. Boyd, Tennessee; W. A. Stanley, Tennessee; A. A. Caruth, Louisiana; J. F. Allen, Tennessee; R. G. Stansers, California; J. W. Fitzpatrick, Alabama; J. W. Tottenham, Mississippi; G. W. Pearce, Mississippi; S. Wallace, Arkansas; W. S. Rogers, Texas; J. T. Jenkins, Alabama.

The New Orleans School of Medicine in the second year of its existence ranked eleventh in the number of graduates, among similar institutions in the United States. The Medical Department of the University of Louisiana was fifth on that list. The leading medical schools in the United States and their respective number of graduates were:

Jefferson Medical College, 209 Graduates
 University of Pennsylvania, 145 Graduates
 University of New York, 127 Graduates
 University of Nashville, 109 Graduates
 University of Louisiana, 68 Graduates
 Georgia Medical College, 61 Graduates
 College of Physicians and Surgeons, 53 Graduates
 St. Louis Medical College, 49 Graduates
 Medical College of Ohio, 43 Graduates
 Rush Medical College, 36 Graduates

Pennsylvania Medical College, 35 Graduates
 New Orleans School of Medicine, 34 Graduates
 New York Medical College, 33 Graduates.

The following year the New Orleans School of Medicine surpassed, by a considerable margin, both in the number of students and of graduates, the Pennsylvania Medical College, the St. Louis Medical College, the New York Medical College, the Medical College of Ohio and the Rush Medical College. The University of Louisiana retained its respective position.

New Orleans was fast becoming one of the greatest medical centers in the Union. During the term of 1858-59, 497 students had matriculated in the two medical schools of this city, and at the end of that session the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 130 of these young men. The enrollment of the University of Louisiana was then 333 of whom 97 were graduates; of the New Orleans School of Medicine, 164 and 36 graduates.

The leading medical schools in the country were then: Jefferson Medical College with 570 matriculants and 256 graduates; the University of Pennsylvania with 410 matriculants and 140 graduates; the University of Nashville with 435 matriculants and 103 graduates; the University of New York with 350 matriculants and 97 graduates; the University of Louisiana with 333 matriculants and 97 graduates; the Medical College of South Carolina with 195 matriculants and 58 graduates; the Medical College of Georgia with 165 matriculants and 57 graduates; and the New Orleans College of Medicine with 164 matriculants and 36 graduates.

From these figures it will be seen

that the prediction made by the friends of the New Orleans School of Medicine, that competition would prove to be beneficial to the two institutions, was confirmed.

The commencement exercises for the third session was held at the Lyceum Hall on April 1, 1859. The ceremony was opened by an eloquent and appropriate address by the Reverend B. M. Palmer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Professor Howard Smith addressed the graduates in the name of the Faculty. The Valedictorian, Dr. H. D. Evans, of Alabama, delivered a touching address. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on thirty-six students and the degree of Pharmacy on three.

In 1858 the New Orleans College of Medicine lost two of its most learned professors: one, Dr. Thomas Peniston, of the Chair of Clinical Medicine, who was forced to resign because of ill health, and the other Doctor John Moore White Picton, Professor of Diseases of Women and Children, who died on the twenty-eighth day of October. Dr. Peniston was succeeded by Doctor Austin Flint whose literary work had placed him in the front rank of medical writers in this country, and who was a clinician of international reputation. Doctor Flint taught in this city during only the winter months. During the spring and summer months he returned to the North where he resumed the teaching and practice of his profession. He also gave a private course in auscultation and percussion, consisting of twenty-five lectures, to students and practitioners of medicine.

Doctor Picton was one of the founders of the New Orleans School of Medicine, a surgeon of ability and an old practitioner of this city. As

Professor of Diseases of Women and Children he labored for the advancement of the Institution with all the energy of his mind and body. He was the oldest member of the Faculty. The only changes in the faculty for the session of 1857-58; in the Chair of Physiology, Dr. Anthony A. Peniston, adjunct Professor of Anatomy succeeding Doctor A. Forster Axson, and Doctor Theodore S. Clapp replacing Doctor Peniston.

When Dr. Austin Flint, Sr., was appointed to the Chair of Clinical Medicine and Auscultation and Percussion, in the fall of 1857, Dr. Thomas Peniston was made emeritus professor of that branch. He was the first Emeritus professor of this city. The teaching of clinical medicine and auscultation and percussion was then an innovation in this country. It was said of Dr. Flint that the importance of his teaching was

. . . recognized by all who heard him, and it is not exaggeration to say, that the student who assiduously attended his lectures at the bedside and in the amphitheatre had a more useful fund of information on the subjects taught than could be elsewhere acquired in the country, and this because there was the time and the material, and than a teacher unsurpassed. Dr. Flint's style of teaching surpasses anything we have seen.¹⁰

Doctor Flint was the recipient of the first prize for the best essay of the year, presented by the American Medical Association at its annual conventions for the years 1852 and 1858. The titles of his contributions were: "On Variations of Pitch in Percussion and Respiratory Sounds, and their Application to Physical Diagnosis," and "Essay on The Clinical Study of Heart Sounds in Health and Disease." He was a prolific writer.

The files of the local medical journals are replete with articles on his clinical observations made in the Charity Hospital.

The Faculty for that year was composed of the following professors: Erasmus D. Fenner, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine; Austin Flint, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine and Medical Pathology; Anthony A. Peniston, M.D., Professor of Anatomy; Austin Flint, Jr., M.D., Professor of Physiology and Anatomy; Samuel P. Chopin, M.D., Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery; Cornelius C. Beard, M.D., Professor of the Principles of Surgery and Surgical Pathology; D. Warren Brickell, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence; Isaac L. Crawcour, M.D., Professor of Chemistry; Howard Smith, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

That year the Chair of Surgery was divided into two distinct branches: one of Clinical and Operative Surgery, which was retained by Doctor Chopin, and the other of The Principles of Surgery and Surgical Pathology which was held by Doctor Beard. Doctor Beard was replaced as Professor of Anatomy by Doctor Anthony A. Peniston, who for many years was a *privat dozent* of that important branch of medicine.

The title of the Chair of Physiology was changed to that of Physiology and Microscopy. This was the first time microscopy was taught in the Southwest. Doctor Austin Flint, Jr., the son of the renowned Austin Flint, the Professor of Clinical Medicine, was called to this professorship. Doctor Austin Flint, Jr., was then the Professor of Physiology of the Buffalo Medical College and of the New York Medical College. He was one of the

first two physicians who devoted their time exclusively to research and teaching. He was said to have been an experimental physiologist.

Dr. H. D. Schmidt, formerly connected with the Mobile Medical School, was then appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy. He enjoyed an enviable reputation throughout the country as an anatomist and a microscopist. He had been for many years prosector to Professor Leidy of the University of Pennsylvania.

The New Orleans Medical College of Medicine was then considered by many unqualifiedly the best medical school in the land.

On March 29, 1860, the annual commencement was held at Odd Fellow's Hall, the largest in the city. It was located on Camp Street opposite Lafayette Square. It was filled to capacity. We can visualize the éclat of that occasion from the following abstract taken from a contemporary newspaper:

A brilliant audience was in attendance. The music discoursed by Prévost's Orchestra, from the Opera House, was such as only Prévost can produce. The valedictories of Professor Crawcour and Dr. W. W. Scott of Mississippi, were most felicitous—indeed, the exercises passed off in a manner not only satisfactory, but more than flattering to the friends of the institution.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on sixty-three students and to three on Pharmacy.

New Orleans was fast becoming the great medical center in the United States. Statistics for medical colleges for the session of 1859-1860 eloquently affirm that statement. The Medical Department of the University of Louisiana was fourth on a list of forty-two colleges, and the New

Orleans School of Medicine was the seventh. The leading colleges in this country were: Jefferson Medical College, 630 students of whom 170 were graduates; University of Pennsylvania, 515 students of whom 173 were graduates; University of New York, 411 students of whom 138 were graduates; University of Louisiana, 401 students of whom 113 were graduates; University of Nashville, 401 students; Medical School of South Carolina, 248 students; New Orleans School of Medicine, 216 students of whom 63 were graduates.

The growth of the New Orleans School of Medicine was phenomenal. It surpassed the most sanguine expectations of its founders and patrons. It drew its students from the whole Southland. On its roster for that year were matriculants from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, South America, and California. In four years the number of its students increased from seventy-six to 216. Editorially, the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* of January, 1861, commented:

Notwithstanding the terrible financial crisis and unprecedented political excitement which exists, the class of the New Orleans College of Medicine is this day (December 20, 1860) larger than it ever was at the same date, and the proportion of *bona fide* students (undergraduates) far greater. The Institution will stand fully up to the expectation of friends, and under other and more favorable surrounding circumstances would have surpassed this. Many students have been denied the pleasure of coming to us, and many have even had to return home after coming to the city, having found it impossible to make arrangements for even paying their board and lodging.

After the termination of that session the school was forced to close its doors because the Civil War had been declared.

The advent of the new school aroused the lethargic indifference of the medical profession in New Orleans and of the Southland. In its very incipiency it was in the vanguard of the march of progress of medical education. From the very first day of its organization it asserted its leadership. Its phenomenal success must be attributed to the vision, acumen, ambition, and unremitting toil of its faculty. It can be truthfully asserted that it was one of the most successful as well as one of, if not the most progressive schools of medicine in the Western Hemisphere prior to the Civil War. The editor of a contemporary medical journal commented

The prospects of this medical institution are brighter than ever. Her friends stick to her; she is daily forming new ones; students are writing from all quarters; her facilities for teaching are unequalled in the land; and medicine will be taught within her walls and those of the Charity Hospital as the exigencies demand. We can truthfully say that the New Orleans School of Medicine has been the first to leave the old narrow path, and open the broad road of real practical improvement in the business of teaching medicine; it is by no means equalled, as her strides are so long that it is a difficult task to keep up with her. She has the ambition to be the very best school in the land, and youthful ambition, in this republican country of ours, is almost illimitable in its success. . . . We trust our students will come in early, as they will find the opportunity for dissection and clinical study unrivalled, and no man can acquire too much knowledge in either branch. Only think! Daily visits with one or all of five physicians at the bedside of the sick in the hospital,

and tri-weekly admissions to the dispensary of the school, which is flooded with patients; and all without charge. Can any other city in the Union afford the same facilities, even if paid for? No, not one. We are sorry to draw comparisons, but it is our honorable privilege and in it can be found no just cause for offense. We took part in the medical regeneration of New Orleans; we were determined that her light should no longer be hidden under a bushel, and our labor shall be ceaseless while we are in the field. She is to be (she is) the medical center of the South. This four short years of labor have made her, and four more will find her the medical center of the Union. This soil is the richest, the seeds have taken root, the tillage is deep, and the harvest is certain.

The faculty of the New Orleans College of Medicine claims priority in the establishment of a chair of Clinical Medicine in the United States. When that claim was questioned, this retort was made in the same editorial:

But tell us, gentlemen, in what school, previous to our movement, was there a regular chair of medicine? None of the mere bogus titles attached to somebody tacked to a faculty: but, where and who was the professor who did actually labor in this branch, over sick men, with the students at his elbow, every day, and during the whole session?¹¹

It is greatly to be regretted that because of the Civil War this flourishing school of medicine had to close its doors.

Although it was reorganized after the declaration of peace between the States, because of the exigencies of the time, the abject poverty of the people of the South, the hectic period of reconstruction and the lack of financial support from the State, the faculty was forced to disband, and the

New Orleans School of Medicine became defunct.

Although there is no medical college to perpetuate the memory of the founders of the New Orleans College of Medicine, although there is no inscription in a magnificent temple of scientific lore to commemorate their achievements, and although the names of these pioneers of medical education are almost forgotten, yet their influence on the progress of medical education not only in the South but throughout the whole United States will endure the ravages of time. The verdict of posterity will be "*Exitus acta probat.*"

THE SECEDING STUDENTS

Long before the first gun was fired at Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861, the rumbling of the approaching war was manifest.

Jealousy, distrust, hatred, and misunderstanding ran rampant throughout the Union. The nation once united by the bonds of fraternity was divided. The activities, bordering on fanaticism, of the abolitionists of the North caused the resentment of the Southerners. A mutual feeling of mistrust had insidiously crept in the homes, schools, business, professions and churches; in fact, wherever men congregated it was the topic of animated discussion. Abuse was heaped by brothers on brothers of the same nation. Patriotism was considered only from the standpoint of sectionalism. The allegiance due the United States by its citizens was divided by the Mason and Dixon line. The country was divided into the North and the South, the slave-holders and the abolitionists. The minds of the citizens of this great country were

imbued with the thought of secession even if it would result in war.

The first concerted movement in a Northern city by Southerners to leave for the South, because they were abused and discriminated against, was made by the medical students from Dixie in Philadelphia. The action of these medical students caused a great deal of acrimony and not a little consternation all over the Union, and resulted in criminations and recriminations among the students and faculties of the medical colleges of the North as well as the South. The first inkling of the action of the seceding students was had in New Orleans from the *Daily Picayune* of December 21, 1859. It said:

ABANDONMENT OF NORTHERN COLLEGE

Philadelphia, December 20: Over four hundred southern medical students are about leaving this and neighboring cities for institutions in the South. It is said the movement is a general one and upon an extensive plan, originating with the Southern Medical Colleges, others say that this movement originated with the students themselves.

SECOND DISPATCH

Philadelphia, December 20: A meeting of Southern Medical students took place in this city last night, and a large number resolved to leave the schools of this city. The Jefferson College loses two hundred students, and the Pennsylvania University one hundred. A large number of them go to the Richmond Medical College: The three hundred leave tomorrow by special train for the South.

An editorial comment of this paper for the following day gives an interesting account of the strained relationship then existing between the North and the South. It reads:

The concerted movement of Southern Medical Students in abandoning the Philadelphia schools, and returning to complete their education in the schools of the South, has its great significance as to the degree in which the Southern feeling, engendered by the recent demonstrations of northern abolitionism is pervading all classes in the South and penetrating into all its relations of business and associations in the North. These young men from various states in the South, respond to what they believe to be the sentiment at home, and put into practice the first large and impressive demonstration of the growing determination at the South, to encourage, by all means possible, a self-sustaining policy in business, in commerce, in manufacture and in education. It is an act which prefigures the adoption of a general policy all over the South, to rid ourselves of the dependence, under which we have languished and the North has grown rich and arrogant, upon Northern storehouses and workshops for everything we use and buy, and the Northern colleges and schools, for the training up of the generation which is, after us, to have the custody of states. It has been done in the heat of a just resentment, in the practical application of a just theory of self-defence against assaults, with which current events menace us. But it was not less true as a general policy, for the peaceful development of the resources and capabilities of the South, for its material growth and for intellectual advancement, when there was no immediate cause for calling it out as a measure of retaliation for wrong, or preparation for unfriendly non-intercourse.

Needless to say that the action of these Southern medical students aroused the ire and resentment not only of the affected medical schools, but as well of the anti-slavery and abolitionist parties. It was the vital question of the day, and it was widely

and heatedly discussed in editorials of the great dailies in the country.

The accusation was made by the faculties of the medical colleges of Pennsylvania and of New York that the action of these students was actuated by the medical colleges of the South; that these institutions had employed agents or propagandists to foment dissension in order to draw these young men to their own schools. This imputation was denied by the *Daily Picayune* in the following article:

There never has been any good reason why students from this region of country should have gone North for medical education. There are two institutions in this city, which are amply provided in all their departments with means of instruction not to be surpassed anywhere, plentiful apparatus, learned professors, and thoroughly educated trained men of science and study. This has been growing into knowledge and appreciation of late, so that the number of students is largely increasing each year. Doubtless they will be given new accessions, under the impulse given to proper Southern policy by the excitement of the time, and which whatever be the issue of the pending conflict, will we trust, be incorporated into the permanent policy of the Southern States, as an indispensable element of self-dependence.

The implication might be that the medical colleges of the South have employed agents, or taken some active measures, after the Northern fashion of "drumming" to get custom for themselves. That practice never gained a foothold at the South in any department of business. We can safely say that no Southern institution has made use of such means, and that we know that none have been practiced by either of the institutions here.

Immediately after reading the dispatches mentioned above, the student

bodies of the two medical schools of this city met and passed resolutions approving the action of their fellows in Philadelphia, and extended to them a cordial invitation to complete their studies in New Orleans. These resolutions were published in the dailies of this city and were telegraphed to the students from the South at the Northern colleges. These meetings were held on December 22.

Mr. A. R. Gourrier was the chairman, and Mr. W. W. Scott was the Secretary of the meeting held by the students of the New Orleans College of Medicine. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Southern students of medicine in the Northern colleges, desiring "not to patronize Northern institutions" have asked the Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine, on what terms they would receive them for the remainder of the current season (they, the students, having paid for their tickets); and whereas, the Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine have replied to them that they will receive them on payment of \$5.00 for a matriculation fee, and that those proposing to graduate will pay the graduating fee, \$25.00.

Resolved, That we cordially approve the action of our Faculty: That we will cheerfully receive all Southern students leaving Northern schools, and will freely share with them the great advantages with which we are surrounded, and to which we, its class, are entitled:

That a copy of the papers containing the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the medical students in the different Northern schools:

That a telegraphic dispatch be forwarded immediately to those students who have already left or intend to leave the Northern schools, inviting them to accept the facilities of the New Orleans Schools of Medicine gratis.

On that same day the Medical Students of the University of Louisiana unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Mr. S. J. Luckett was called to the Chair.

Having heard by late advices from Philadelphia, that a large number of Medical Students attending the Medical Schools of this city have been compelled to withdraw from the same on account of the sectional question which unfortunately divides our common country, and which should not have the least bearing on our glorious profession: Therefore

1. Be it resolved, That in consideration of the sectional feelings now existing between the Northern and Southern portion of the Union, and the exhibition on the part of the North of hatred toward those institutions which we love and cherish, as the basis upon which our happiness and prosperity depend; and on account of the insults and outrages to which we are ever liable in the North, that we fully approve of the course pursued by our fellow-students of the South in Philadelphia.

2. That we tender to them our congratulations upon the manner in which they have acted in determining no longer to reside in a community in which there cannot be a feeling of mutual respect and friendship.

3. That, whereas, under existing circumstances we do not receive, on the part of the North that respect which is due to us as citizens of the United States, it is our duty as men of the South to afford that support to our own able institutions, which, for so long a time has been given to those of the North, to the neglect of our own.

4. That we appreciate the motives which induced our brothers in the profession to determine to come among us for the prosecution of their studies, and, furthermore, that we extend to them the right hand of fellowship, and good will,

promising them, if fate guide them to the "Crescent City" a welcome greeting; also, assuring them that the facilities to be enjoyed in our institution, if not superior, are at least equal to any on the Western Continent. And we feel ourselves warranted in further assuring them that our high-toned and liberal faculty, as well as ourselves, will know how to receive them.

These resolutions from the medical students of New Orleans added fuel to smoldering embers. The lay press and the medical journals of the North reeked with abuse of the Southern medical colleges. A diatribe resulted therefrom in the medical journals of the North and of the South, and principally in the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review*, which was published in Philadelphia and was edited by Doctor S. D. Gross, Professor of Surgery in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, and by Doctor T. G. Richardson, Professor of Anatomy in the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana, and the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* published by Doctor Warren Brickell, Professor of Obstetrics, and by Doctor E. D. Fenner, Professor of Theory and Practice in the New Orleans College of Medicine.

The following editorial in the issue of January, 1860, of the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* gives us an interesting report of what transpired in Philadelphia, it reads:

EXODUS OF SOUTHERN MEDICAL STUDENTS.—For some time past much excitement has existed among some of the Southern Medical Students of this city, growing out, as has been alleged, of the Harper's Ferry movement. It has been vaguely rumored that a committee of thirty had been appointed early in

the last month to obtain signatures to a pledge of secession; and on Tuesday morning, December twentieth, a final meeting was held in the Assembly Building rooms, preparatory to the exodus of the disaffected members of the classes of the different schools. The president of the meeting, we learn, was Mr. Lee, of Alabama, assisted by several vice-presidents and secretaries. Addresses were made on the occasion, among others, by Doctor F. E. Lockett and Doctor H. H. McGuire; and letters and telegraphic dispatches read from Governor Wise of Virginia, and the deans of the medical schools of Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Augusta, New Orleans and Nashville, tendering sympathy, and a cordial welcome to such secessionists as might feel inclined to resort to those institutions. The meeting is said to have been conducted with great decorum. The time fixed upon for their departure from the city was Wednesday night, December twenty-first, with free passes provided by the Fredericksburg and Richmond Railroad, through Doctors Lockett and McGuire, over the whole route, and one thousand dollars, said to have been sent from Virginia, to defray incidental expenses.

The number of students that left has been variously estimated at from one to two hundred, a large majority of whom were matriculates of the Jefferson College. It is understood that they were joined at the depot by a small number of Southern students from the University of New York. The exodus was avowedly conducted by Doctors Lockett and McGuire, the former of whom had been intrusted with the railroad passes and the disbursement of the money. It is proper to add that these gentlemen had a large quizzing class, consisting of nearly two hundred Southern students, and generally known as the "Southern quizzing class." Of this class the great majority have left; and the whole number of secessionists, one hundred, it is said, had previously been pledged to the medical school of Richmond. The manner in

which the secessionists were received at Richmond will appear by the following dispatch, copied from one of the daily journals of this city:

RECEPTION OF THE SOUTHERN MEDICAL STUDENTS AT RICHMOND, VA.

Richmond, Va., December 22. The seceding medical students from Philadelphia arrived here to-day, and were received by the faculty and students of the Medical College, the Governor's guard, and an immense throng of citizens. The procession marched to the Governor's mansion, where the students were addressed by Governor Wise, and afterwards by Professor Gibson, at the college. A dinner was then partaken at the Columbia Hotel.

The students were received with great enthusiasm by our citizens, and as the procession passed through the streets the shouts of the men were deafening, while the ladies manifested their delight by the waving of their handkerchiefs.

The objects of the secessionists are best explained in the language of the preamble and resolutions adopted at the meeting at the Assembly Building rooms, on the twentieth instant:

Whereas, We have left our homes and congregated in this city, with a view to prosecute our medical studies; and having become fully convinced that we have erred in taking this step; that our means should have been expended, and our protection afforded to the maintenance and advancement of institutions existing in our sections, and fostered by our own people:—

Resolved, That in a body, or as many as approved of the act, we secede from the institutions in which we have severally matriculated, return to the South, and herein pledge ourselves to devote our future lives and best efforts to the protection of our common interests.

Resolved, That in taking this step, we disclaim any personal animosities, and deprecate any political agitation.

Resolved, That we tender our grateful acknowledgments and heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia; Dr. L. S. Joynes, Dean of

the Virginia Medical College at Richmond; Henry R. Frost, Dean of the Medical Department of the University of South Carolina; to President Robinson, of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, and all others who have extended to us the substantial encouragement and aid so essential to the furtherance and successful accomplishment of our enterprise.

Resolved, That we extend a cordial invitation, and will cheerfully welcome in the South, any Northern students who will subscribe to the previous resolutions.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to all the Northern medical colleges, for the benefit of Southern students who may have matriculated in them.

Resolved, That the Southern papers generally, be requested to publish the proceedings of this convention.

We have given the above statements of this proceeding as they have been communicated to us, as matters of interest to the medical profession of the United States in all time to come. As faithful journalists it is our duty to chronicle the event, and to express our profound regret at its occurrence. Various rumors are afloat in this city, both in the profession and in the community generally, as to the origin of this movement and those who played the chief part in its execution; but as we ourselves have no authentic data to guide us, we shall, for the present, forbear any further comments.

In the next issue of that same journal was published the following statement:

In the article of our journal, above referred to [January, 1860] we included the schools at New Orleans as among those that had opened their arms to the disaffected students. It is due, however, to the University of Louisiana to say, that she stood entirely aloof from any participation in the movement. We make

this statement upon the assertion of our colleague, Dr. Richardson, the Professor of Anatomy of that institution, who declares that the whole faculty were opposed to the proceeding and that no dispatch, or communication of any kind was sent by them to this city either before, during, or after the stampede.

The *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* strenuously objected to that statement in a caustic editorial which appeared in its issue of April 1860; it said in part:

There is within us a sense of pride which may prompt us to treat with sovereign contempt an indirect attack on our personal status in society; but the slightest inuendo directed against the noble institution to which we are attached, as teacher, and for the permanent establishment of which we have so long, so faithfully, and so honestly laboured, shall never pass unnoticed while we have its interest at heart and can write clearly enough for the compositor to read our manuscript.

We had hopes that every medical journal north of the Mason and Dixon's line, which had had its worse suspicions aroused by the voluntary secession of medical students from Philadelphia and New York, had ere this vented its fullest measure of spleen against Southern Medical Colleges, and leave the leaven to its own work. But the March, 1860, number of the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review*, stirs the pool again, and with a gusto tells us plainly of supremacy of self over all consideration whatever. . . .

Now, if we have a reader who thinks that our remarks are intended to excuse the New Orleans School of Medicine for the action she has taken in this secession movement, that reader knows not the material of which we are composed. We write to show that our institution stands on an eminence from which she can, and does, look down on all who directly and indirectly asperse

her character; we write to prove that the charges made against her, directly and indirectly, have no shadow of foundation in truth; we write to show that the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* has never given a true history of the secession movement; and we write to show this same Review, that in the maxim we have adopted at the head of this article* it may find food for reflection. The simple credulity it has evinced proves that its mother never mentioned to it the true old proverb: "All's not gold that glitters."

1st then: The only connection the New Orleans School of Medicine ever has had with the seceding students of the north was in her receiving a dispatch from New York City, signed by the "Alabama Committee" saying that the southern students contemplated leaving New York, that they had paid for their tickets, and desiring to know on what terms she would receive them; to which dispatch the Faculty sent the following reply:

The Faculty of the New Orleans College of Medicine deeply regret that you have found yourselves under the necessity of leaving the school to which you are attached. They will receive you on condition that you pay for matriculation and graduation fees.

2nd. The Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine have never had, at any time, any communication, of any kind whatsoever, with any student of medicine attached to or seceding from any school in Philadelphia; and we now demand of the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* proof to the contrary—not heresay proof, but proof positive. . . .

Is the *Review* silly enough to believe that the classes of the schools here or elsewhere, could thus freely throw open the doors of the institutions without the positive approbation of the respective

* An open foe may prove a curse
But a pretended friend is worse.—Gay

Faculties, or if the classes did act thus independently of the Faculties (said Faculties being opposed to the proceedings), does not the Review think it a solemn duty of said Faculties to as publicly express their disapprobation of the course pursued?

Has the *Review* been informed which of the Faculties of this city, "opened their arms," embraced and graduated the one seceding student who found his way to New Orleans? Or does the *Review* think that a Faculty opposed to the proceedings would only have been acting consistently in declining to admit the seceder?

Would it not be well for the *Review*, since it aspires to writing a history of the secession movement, and a history is worse than flat, if falsified, to send special messengers on to the various cities it has named, and collect at least a few substantial facts? Its present position is a most unenviable one, for all impartial, truth-loving readers (if it ever does publish the facts) are sure to condemn its course.

The editorial emphatically denied that telegraphic dispatches emanating from the Dean of the New Orleans College of Medicine, were read at the meeting of the seceding students in Philadelphia, on December 20. It further asserted that by printing such statements based on vague rumors "it evinces a disregard for others which admits of an interpretation by no means flattering to itself."

"Once more we say, we do not shed ink to excuse the New Orleans School of Medicine for what she has done." The editorial ends:

She has acted openly; we think she acted properly; and she would act again in the same manner. She will never tacitly sanction an act of her pupils to which she is even indirectly opposed; she will do before the whole world what she will do in New Orleans; she will

truckle to no man's reputation; and while she is ever ready to meet the 'open foe,' she condemns the little moles that, under the earth and in the dark, vainly struggle to sap her deep laid foundation.

In its issue of May, 1860, the *Review* replied as follows:

They declare,* not in so many words, it is true, but by implication, that they are ready to die in defence of their noble institution, the establishment of which has cost them so much labor, and anxiety, and treasure, and that they will permit no one to cast any imputation, even of the most indirect character. All this is very right and just, and valiant. Keep your school pure and chaste before the public and the medical profession. Let her be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. To all such sentiments we cordially subscribe. But why, gentlemen, are you abusing the *Review*, and calling it by hard names: In the article to which you have taken such exception, the great sin which we committed, in your immaculate eyes, was that we did not include you in the same category as the University of Louisiana, in her disclaimer, made through our colleague, Professor Richardson, respecting her supposed interference in the late stampede in this city. It is here that the shoe pinches, "hinc illae lachrymae." We should have been rejoiced if we could extend to your school a similar courtesy. But we could not; for, although we were not able to assert, from any official documents in our possession, that you sent any telegraphic communications to the medical students of this city, "tendering sympathy and a cordial welcome to your school," yet we were perfectly sure that you had sent a dispatch to New York, and we had, therefore, a right to assume that you would have been very glad to perform a similar service for the Philadelphia students if they had addressed you upon the sub-

* Editors, *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette*.

ject, which, however, judging from your silence, we conclude they never did. But be this as it may, our ethics are that when a man does a wrong, he is equally guilty whether he commits the wrong in one place or in another, upon one person or another. The fact that the Faculty of the New Orleans School of Medicine sent a dispatch to New York induces us to exclude her from the benefit of the exculpation which we so gladly extend to the University of Louisiana.

Personally, we have no preference for either institution; we have kind friends in both, and we wish them both well; but we could not, we must confess, place them upon the same footing in a matter in which one was observing a dignified silence, and the other catering to public excitement.

The episode of the seceding students was soon forgotten. The ominous shadows of war hovered over a whole nation. The fear of an impending catastrophe gripped the hearts even of the most optimistic. It pervaded the souls of men in every status of society in the North as well as in the South. Even the disciples of the healing art, whose lives were dedicated to the alleviation of human suffering, foreboded a dismal future. This presentiment on the part of the profession was expressed in an editorial in the *New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette* for the month of January, 1861, which augured the catastrophe

which was soon to engulf the whole nation. It reads:

For the first time in life, we look onto the New Year with forebodings of all but good. To our patrons, then, we certainly wish "a happy new year"; but the wish is clouded with the impossible conviction that it is scarcely in the range of probability that in this land of ours there will, in the space of a few short months, be a single happy individual. Prosperity preachers and politicians have combined to madden our people, until there seems scarcely a shadow of hope that we shall avoid suicide in its worst form.

We pray that our worst fears may soon vanish into thin air, and our still lingering hope for the continuance of our Union be realized.

REFERENCES

1. *New Orleans M. & S. J.*, p. 340 (May) 1861.
2. *Commercial Bulletin*, March 28, 1838.
3. *New Orleans M. & S. J.*, January, 1846.
4. *New Orleans M. & S. J.* (Jan.) 1848.
5. *Philadelphia Med. Examiner* (Sept.) 1848.
6. *New Orleans M. & S. J.* (May) 1850.
7. *New Orleans M. & S. J.*, p. 341 (May) 1861.
8. *New Orleans Med. News & Hosp. Gaz.* p. 620 (Dec. 1) 1856.
9. *New Orleans Med. News & Hosp. Gaz.* p. 558 (Oct. 1) 1857.
10. *New Orleans M. & S. J.* p. 689 (Dec.) 1858.
11. *New Orleans Med. News & Hosp. Gaz.*, p. 698 (Nov.) 1860.

