

THE

AMERICAN

Medical College Association,

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

NEW YORK CITY, MAY 31ST, AND JUNE 1ST, 1880.



DETROIT.

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1880.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

American Medical College Association.

Pursuant to adjournment, the American Medical College Association convened in the Lecture Room of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City, at 10 A. M., May 31st, 1880.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Prof. S. D. Gross.

The presentation of the credentials of delegates being in order, the following were received:

Jefferson Medical College—Prof. S. D. Gross.

Medical Department University of Louisville—Prof. J. M. Bodine.

Hospital College of Medicine, Louisville—Profs. D. S. Reynolds, W. H. Bolling.

Medical Department Iowa State University—Prof. W. F. Peck.

Detroit Medical College—Prof. Leartus Connor.

Medical Departments Universities of Nashville and Vanderbilt—Profs. Thos. S. Menees, J. H. Callender.

Missouri Medical College—Profs. J. M. B. Maughs and P. G. Robinson.

Kansas City College Physicians and Surgeons—Profs. T. B. Lester and E. W. Schaffler.

Louisville Medical College—Prof. J. A. Ireland.

Medical Department Michigan University—Prof. E. S. Dunster.

Medical Department University of Louisiana—Prof. T. G. Richardson.

Texas Medical College and Hospital—Prof. Greenville Dowell.

Alabama Medical College—Prof. W. H. Anderson.

Ohio Medical College—Prof. W. W. Dawson.

Medical College State of South Carolina—Profs. R. A. Kinloch, E. P. Porcher.

Medical College of Evansville—Prof. Wm. A. Wheeler.

Atlanta Medical College—Prof. W. F. Westmoreland.

Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery—Prof. D. D. Bramble.
Cleveland Medical College—Prof. John Bennett.
Medical College of Indiana—Prof. Henry Jameson.
Nashville Medical College—Profs. Duncan Eve, T. O. Summers, W. T. Glenn.
St. Joseph Hospital Medical College—Prof. Chas. F. Knight
Chicago Medical College—Prof. Samuel J. Jones
Medical Department University of Wooster—Prof. H. J. Herrick.
Kentucky School of Medicine—Profs. A. B. Cook, J. A. Oeterlony.
Total number of delegates, twenty-five.

On motion, the reading of minutes of previous meeting was dispensed with, the same having been previously published.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, and reports of committees heard.

The report of the committee on a plan for the registration of the Medical Colleges of the United States, consisting of Profs. N. S. Davis and S. D. Gross, was, in the absence of the chairman of the committee, read by the Secretary of the Association.

It argued that no plan which fell short of including a three years' course, preceded by a preliminary examination, would command general respect as a proper preparation for the practice of medicine. It strongly recommended the adoption of these two changes in our articles of confederation at the present meeting. If, however, this failed, then the standard must be that of the Association. It criticised the great show of medical instruction exhibited by the several catalogues, as compared to the relatively small amount actually required.

The report was laid upon the table until the afternoon.*

The standing committee on Medical Colleges, consisting of Profs. Murphy, Dunster and Connor, made a report as to the provisions of the Association not conformed to by the Colleges of the United States, giving in detail full specifications as to names and violated provisions. The same was accompanied by the circulars and letters furnishing evidence of the points made in the report.

*The full text of this report will be found at the end of these minutes.

After some discussion this report was made the special order for 3 p. m.

Action on amendments being in order, that offered by Prof. Menees last year was now taken up. It alters the articles of confederation as follows:

Art. II., Sec. 3: For "*two* courses" read "*three* courses."

Art. III., Sec. 3, third line, for "*two* regular sessions" read "*three* regular sessions;" fourth line, for "*two* full courses" read "*three* full courses;" sixth line, for "*two* full courses" read "*three* full courses."

Sec. 4, for "*two* yearly regular collegiate sessions" read "*three* yearly collegiate sessions."

Said amendments to take place at and after the sessions of 1882-83.

Pro and con., these amendments were very earnestly discussed by a large number of delegates present.

Finally, on motion of Prof. Peck, they were laid upon the table until the afternoon session.

On motion, the Association now adjourned till 3 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the American Medical College Association was called to order by President S. D. Gross at 3 p. m.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was omitted.

The report of the Committee on Medical Colleges was now taken from the table and adopted.

On motion of Prof. D. S. Reynolds it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to notify the Colleges whose announcements are defective in any respect whatever, of the particular defects noticed in the report of the Committee on Colleges.

As evidently most of the violations of the requirements of the Articles of Confederation of the Association were due to thoughtlessness on the part of those preparing the several catalogues, it was decided to withhold for the present the publica-

tion of the names of the Colleges, and endeavor by private notification to induce all to adopt a standard at least as far advanced as that required by the American Medical College Association.

For these reasons all names of specific Colleges are omitted in the abstract of the report of the Committee on Medical Colleges.*

The report of the Committee on a plan of registration of Medical Colleges was now taken from the table and adopted.

A consideration of the amendments to the Articles of Confederation, offered by Prof. Menees, being in order, several motions and speeches were made with the intent of deferring present action, but the amendments requiring three full courses of lectures as a preliminary requisite for conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine were finally adopted—twenty Colleges voting in the affirmative; the delegate of one College did not vote, and the delegates of four Medical Colleges were absent from the meeting. Thus, out of the twenty-five Colleges represented at the meeting, twenty voted for this amendment. The list of these Colleges is as follows:

College declining to vote on the requiring of three courses of lectures preparatory to the conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine:

Jefferson Medical College.

Colleges voting for the amendments:

Medical Department of University of Louisville; Hospital College of Medicine; Medical Department Iowa State University; Detroit Medical College; Medical Department University Nashville and Vanderbilt; Missouri Medical College; Kansas City College Physicians and Surgeons; Louisville Medical College; Medical Department Michigan University; Medical Department University Louisiana; Alabama Medical College; Medical College State of South Carolina; Medical College of Indiana; Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery; Cleveland Medical College; Nashville Medical College; St. Joseph Hospital Medical College; Chicago Medical College; Medical Department University Wooster; Kentucky School of Medicine—20.

*The full text of this abstract will be found at the end of these minutes.

Colleges whose delegates were absent from the meeting at the time the vote was taken:

Texas Medical College and Hospital; Ohio Medical College; Medical College of Evansville; Atlanta Medical College—4.

Without discussion the following amendments were adopted:

Amendments to the Articles of Confederation:

For Art. VII, as it now stands, read Art. VIII.

Art. VII—Advertisements: "No College shall advertise in any other than a strictly medical publication the names of its Professors, with their respective chairs."

The following amendment to the By-Laws:

For Section 1, Article V, of the By-laws, substitute the following:

"Delegates to the meetings of the Association may be chosen from among the members of the governing boards of a College, or from members of the faculty having a vote upon the graduation of students, or from both; but in no case shall such double representation entitle a College to more than one vote in the Association."

The following amendment to Art. I of the Articles of Confederation:

"The majority of the members of one faculty shall not constitute the majority of the members of another faculty, unless the sessions of the two schools are held simultaneously."

The Secretary read letters from the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York," "The Bellevue Hospital Medical College" and the "Medical Department of the University of Vermont," signifying their withdrawal from the Association.

To consider the objection to the admission of Fort Wayne College of Medicine, a committee was appointed consisting of Prof. D. S. Reynolds, Prof. E. S. Dunster, Prof. J. M. Bodine, Prof. P. G. Robinson, and Prof. W. H. Anderson.

The report of the Secretary was now read and adopted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The total membership of the American Medical College Association now includes thirty-one active members. Since our last

meeting the following five colleges have been admitted to active membership, viz. : "Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery," "Medical College of Indiana," "Nashville Medical College," "Savannah Medical College," and "St. Joseph Hospital Medical College," "Kentucky School of Medicine."

Three colleges have resigned their membership in the Association, viz. : "Medical Department of the University of Vermont," "The College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York," and "Bellevue Hospital Medical College."

Thus it will appear that our active membership is three greater than at our last meeting.

Two applications for active membership are now pending, and from present outlook one of these will be granted.

The colleges that have conferred the honorary M. D. are:

Nashville Medical College; Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery; Medical Department of Nashville and Vanderbilt Universities; Texas Medical College and Hospital; Medical Department of the University of Wooster; Hospital College of Medicine; Cleveland Medical College, Medical College of Indiana; Columbus Medical College—Total, 9.

Thus, out of the thirty-one colleges reporting, only nine honorary degrees were conferred.

Of the thirty-one colleges reporting, the following twenty were granted reduction or remission of fees:

Kentucky School of Medicine; Rush Medical College. Medical College of the State of South Carolina, Nashville Medical College, Savannah Medical College; Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, Evansville Medical College; Medical Department of Universities of Nashville and Vanderbilt; Louisville Medical College; Hospital College of Medicine; Woman's Medical College of Chicago; Detroit Medical College, Cleveland Medical College; Medical College of Indiana; Columbus Medical College; Chicago Medical College; Medical Department of the University of Louisville; Jefferson Medical College; Starling Medical College; Atlanta Medical College—Total, 20.

Colleges reporting, as required by by-law, Art. VII., Sec. 1, are as follows:

Kentucky School of Medicine; Woman's Medical College of Chicago; Rush Medical College; Medical College of the State of South Carolina;

Nashville Medical College; Savannah Medical College; Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery; Evansville Medical College; Medical Department of the University of Iowa; Medical College of Alabama; Medical Department of Universities of Nashville and Vanderbilt; Louisville Medical College; Texas Medical College and Hospital; Kansas City College of Physicians and Surgeons; Medical Department of the University of Wooster; Hospital College of Medicine; Detroit Medical College; Ohio Medical College; Cleveland Medical College; Medical College of Indiana; Medical Department of the Michigan University; Columbus Medical College; Miami Medical College; Chicago Medical College; Missouri Medical College; Medical Department of the University of Louisville; Jefferson Medical College; Hospital College of Medicine; Starling Medical College; Atlanta Medical College; Medical Department of the University of Louisiana
—Total, 31.

Several of the Colleges have issued no catalogues since our last meeting. Those that have been forwarded to the Secretary are bound and presented to the Association with this report. It is gratifying to note the greater promptness of the Colleges in sending in their annual reports, also to note the diminution of the number of honorary degrees of Doctor of Medicine granted and the large increase in the number of Colleges which have granted no remission or reduction of fees, and the diminishing number of remissions or reductions of fees by such Colleges as availed themselves of the liberties granted by the Articles of Confederation.

Several things are very apparent from a review of the workings of the Association:

(1) The Association has greatly diminished the number of diplomas that are bestowed without thorough study and examination.

(2) It has diminished the number of "dead heads" in the several medical classes.

(3) It has diminished an undignified bidding for students, and so increased the respect entertained for medical colleges.

(4) It has undoubtedly increased the revenues of the Colleges as a whole.

(5) It has greatly promoted uniformity in medical teaching and in requirements for graduation.

(6) Its standard has been formally adopted by nearly all the Colleges started during the period of its existence.

(7) All the two-term (in one year) schools have disappeared, and with but two exceptions (and these among the oldest medical colleges in the United States,) "University Virginia and Harvard," it is impossible for a medical student to complete his college work within one year, at any regular College or Colleges in the United States.

All this has been accomplished by so little display and so little force that few have realized its full significance. If we firmly hold on our way, it is in our power to direct and shape the medical education of this continent. Thirty-two medical colleges united to promote each other's welfare and that of the profession can, directly and indirectly, do far more than thirty isolated colleges working alone and more or less antagonizing each other's efforts.

Thus far we have been largely engaged in organizing, so that we might move on together. Henceforth we should move onward. It seems to us that the time is ripe for adding to our requirements a matriculation examination. Having adopted this and a three years' course of lectures, we shall be able gradually to establish a more scientific and satisfactory method of instruction, and so fulfill the grand object in the establishment of this Association, viz: "The advancement of medical education in the United States."

On motion of Prof. D. S. Reynolds, it was

Resolved, That the Association of American Medical Editors be requested to give the full weight of its influence to the support of the Association of American Medical Colleges, in the execution of all its efforts to secure reforms in medical education, and that the public press everywhere be requested to publish the amendment to the Articles of Confederation of this Association, requiring attendance upon three full courses of lectures in three separate years before admitting candidates to apply for final examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Prof. W. W. Dawson offered the following amendment to Article III, Section 4, of the Articles of Confederation:

"Two sessions of nine months shall be regarded as equivalent to three

courses, and Colleges adopting this curriculum shall be admissible to membership in this Association."

Prof. Dunster offered the following as an additional Section to Article III, of the Articles of Confederation:

"In lieu of the first of the three courses of lectures, or the first year of a three years' graded course, members of this Association may lawfully accept a certificate from the proper officer of Cornell University, countersigned by a regular physician who is also a professor in said University, that a student has successfully pursued at said University a course of study of not less than two years, covering the following branches:

1. Latin, French or German, 1 year, 5 recitations per week.
2. Chemistry, organic and inorganic, including laboratory work, equivalent to at least 1 year, 5 lectures or recitations per week.
3. Botany, including laboratory work, equivalent to 1 year, 3 lectures or recitations per week.
4. Anatomy, physiology and histology of man and other vertebrates, including laboratory work, equivalent to 1 year, 10 lectures or recitations per week.*

Provided, That during or at the end of the second year or course, the pupil submits to an examination in such studies as may be required in the first year or course, and are not covered by said certificate.

Resolved, That our institutions of learning are advised to establish courses of study, including such laboratory work, similar to the preliminary medical course at Cornell University, with a view to securing the concession here made to that institution.

A communication from the Commissioner of Education of the United States, relative to bogus diplomas, was read by the Secretary. The same was received and placed on file, the Secretary being directed to represent to the Commissioner the impossibility of the Association acting officially in the matter.

Election of officers being in order, ballots were taken with the following result:

For President—Prof. S. D. Gross.

For Vice-President—Prof. N. S. Davis.

For Secretary and Treasurer—Prof. Leartus Connor.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 9 A. M., June 1.

*In reckoning the laboratory work, not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours of actual time is equivalent to a lecture or recitation.

June 1st, 9 A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the American Medical College Association was called to order by President Gross.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

The following was read, accepted and adopted :

Report of Treasurer of American Medical College Association, May 31st, 1880:

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at last annual report.	\$80 15
Three assessments paid since.....	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$95 15

EXPENDITURES.

Janitor at Atlanta	\$ 4 00
Printing... ..	34 65
Stationary	3 40
Postage.....	25 00
Express	2 50
Binding catalogues.....	3 50
	<hr/>
	73 05
	<hr/>
Balance on hand.....	\$22 10

The committee to whom had been referred the matter of the admission into the Association of Fort Wayne College of Medicine, offered the following:

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of the objections made to the admission of the Fort Wayne College of Medicine. would respectfully report, viz.:

2d. With reference to the first specification of the charges adduced by the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, that documentary evidence has been submitted to your committee, showing that Dr. Rosenthal, the treasurer of said College, is not a graduate in medicine in the regular course of study, but that he is the recipient of an honorary degree of M. D. from the Cleveland Medical College of Ohio, said degree being conferred on the recommendation of some local medical society in Fort Wayne, and also in consideration of his having attended one course of lectures at the said school some fifteen or twenty years previously. The Dean of said school further submits in writing, testimony to the effect that it is very certain that if the school could now review their action in the premises, their decision would be quite the opposite of that already made.

1st. With reference to the objection in two specifications made by the Chicago Medical College to the admission of said school into the Association, that no positive evidence, either documentary or oral, was submitted in support of the specifications under said objection.

3d. In the matter of the second specification of the charge of the same school—the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery—touching the personal character of Dr. J. R. Beck, one of the Professors in the Fort Wayne College of Medicine, your committee deeply regret that they are compelled to report that affidavits from four different physicians, residing in two separate counties of Indiana, have been submitted, fully substantiating the specifications of using obscene language and of giving immoral advice to the students in the College referred to.

In rebuttal, the defendant, Dr. Beck, orally denies unqualifiedly the sworn statements; as to the use of obscene language and as to immoral advice, he denies the same, according to his own personal standards and opinions of what immoral advice is.

4th. As to the subject matter of the 3d specification, under the objections of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, your committee would report that no evidence, either documentary or oral, was submitted in support of said specification.

In conclusion, your committee beg leave further to report that, in their opinion, the sworn testimony of four witnesses—members in good and regular standing in the profession—must, until impeached, carry greater weight and conviction than the mere personal denial of the accused, and therefore, in consideration of this and all the other testimony submitted, which they have examined with great care and consideration, they unani- mously recommend, that so long as the cloud which now hangs over the reputation of the Fort Wayne College of Medicine remains unlifted, and so long as the grave and objectionable charges against the personal character of at least one of its Professors are unrefuted, it is neither desirable nor expedient for this Association to admit said College into its fellowship.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by the unanimous vote of your committee.

E. S. DUNSTER, M. D.,
Secretary.

The report was accepted and adopted.

The following amendment to by-laws was offered by Prof. Connor:

Art. III, sec. 2. Middle of third line after College charter, add: "And send to each College of the Association their last annual announcements, with any other information which they may desire the colleges to consider in acting upon the application."

On motion of Prof. Bodine, the annual assessment for the year was fixed at \$5.

The President appointed as a Committee on Medical Colleges, Profs. Leartus Connor, J. M. Bodine, E. S. Dunster.

On motion, it was resolved that, in the judgment of this Association, the minimum lecture fees should be seventy-five dollars.

The following communication was read by the Secretary, accepted and placed on file:

AUSTIN, TEXAS, May 20th, 1880.

Secretary of the Association of American Medical Colleges, New York:

SIR—At the 12th annual meeting of the Texas State Medical Association, April, 1880, the following resolution was adopted and the Secretary of said body instructed to transmit a copy of same to yourself:

Resolved, That the Texas State Medical Association regards with approval the effort now being made to elevate the standard of medical education, and especially does it endorse the action of the Association of American Medical Colleges, requiring attendance upon three (3) regular winter courses of lectures as a prerequisite for the degree of Doctor in Medicine.

Very respectfully,

R. H. L. BILEH, M. D.,
Secretary T. S. M. A.

Accepted.

On motion of the Secretary, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the College of Physicians and Surgeons for its courtesy in furnishing convenient rooms for the meeting of the Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet next year at the same place as the American Medical Association, at a time to be fixed upon by its officers.

Adjourned.

S. D. GROSS, M. D., LL. D., D. C. L., Oxon,
President.

LEARTUS CONNOR, A. M., M. D.,
Secretary,

92 Cass Street, Detroit, Mich

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND A PLAN OF REGISTRATION OF
MEDICAL COLLEGES IN THIS COUNTRY, READ MAY 31, 1880:

At the annual meeting of this Association, held in Buffalo, N. Y., June, 1878, a communication was received from a foreign source asking for a list of American medical colleges in good standing, and the degrees from which should be recognized by the medical institutions of other countries. Questions of a similar character had been asked many times before, both at home and abroad.

Owing to the number and varied character of the medical schools in this country, there was some difficulty or embarrassment in returning a proper answer; and after some discussion a committee of three was appointed to consider and recommend a *plan* for the registration of American medical colleges.

A report of considerable length was prepared and submitted to the regular meeting of the Association in Atlanta, Georgia, May, 1879. Some of the more important recommendations appended to that report were adopted, but the report, aside from such recommendations, was re-committed or referred back to the same committee with instructions to revise and condense the same and report it to the next annual meeting. In accordance with these instructions the report has been carefully revised, or, more properly, re-written, and is now respectfully presented by the undersigned, as follows:

In devising a plan for the registration of medical colleges, which shall designate those whose diplomas should be recognized or respected at home and abroad, the question immediately arises, What shall be the standard by which such institutions shall be judged? In considering what constitutes a proper standard for a college, we must determine: First, What constitutes a proper or adequate medical education? Second, What is the minimum length of time required for a fair acquisition of such an education? Third, What part of such time should be spent in direct attendance on a medical college? and, Fourth, What are the appliances, means of illustration, and facilities for imparting practical knowledge, that are necessary to constitute a college capable of performing all the functions required of such an institution?

The first of these questions may be answered by saying that an adequate medical education is such as gives to the student a fair practical

knowledge of all the branches of medical science, and a mental discipline sufficient for the proper use of such knowledge in the practice of the medical art. We use the words "practical knowledge" as implying something more than mere verbal knowledge. For instance, a student might study a text-book on human anatomy until he could describe every bone in the skeleton, state the origin and insertion of every muscle, and give the distribution of the blood-vessels and nerves, and thereby sustain a fair verbal examination in that department. Yet, if he had never either dissected a subject himself, or witnessed the actual demonstration of each part by a competent teacher, he would be entirely devoid of that *practical* knowledge necessary to guide him in the operations of surgery. The same is true of most of the branches of medical science. Therefore, a practical knowledge of these various branches necessitates demonstrative teaching and personal manipulation, which can be provided in an adequate degree in medical colleges only. The amount of medical knowledge requiring for its proper acquisition this kind of teaching, makes it necessary that at least one-half of the whole time allotted as the period of medical pupilage should be spent in the medical college.

As there are none at the present time who seriously claim that less than *three* full years should be devoted to a diligent study of medicine, before graduation or commencement of practice, we may answer the second and third questions by stating that (the minimum length of time required for gaining an adequate knowledge of medicine should be not less than three years; and that at least one-half of each of these years should be spent in a proper medical college.) And this makes it necessary that the medical colleges, to be capable of performing their functions properly, should extend their annual term of active and obligatory instruction to six months of each year. It is obvious, also, that in answering the fourth question, we must insist that the very objects for which medical colleges are needed make it necessary that each one should not only provide a full curriculum of studies, a full corps of teachers, and an annual term of six months' instruction, but also a sufficient supply of anatomical material for demonstrations and practical dissections; a chemical apparatus and laboratory for practical or analytical chemical work; a histological and physiological laboratory for practical and microscopic work; a museum containing a collection of specimens of normal and pathological anatomy sufficient for illustrating the departments of pathology, practical medicine and surgery; and access for the students to a hospital containing a daily average of not less than thirty patients actually in the wards for treatment and accessible for clinical instruction. A college which is so organized, or so located, that it does not or cannot provide for the daily use of its students all the resources here named, both for didactic and practical instruction, is not

capable of performing all the functions that should be performed by every such institution that receives the patronage of the profession and the public. So long as the medical college diploma is recognized as a sufficient license to practice, every college asking for recognition should be required, in addition to possessing the foregoing means for adequate instruction in all departments, to exact proper evidence from every student that he possesses at least a good English education before allowing him to become a matriculate of the college; and after matriculation he should be required to attend *three* regular annual terms of medical college instruction of not less than six months each, and the last of which should be in the institution granting him a diploma.

Such are the views of your committee in regard to the *standard*, to which all medical colleges should be required to attain, before their diplomas should be regarded as worthy of universal recognition.

And if this College Association should adopt and enforce two amendments to its articles of confederation proposed at the last annual meeting, and now lying on the table awaiting final action at this meeting, it would speedily bring a large majority of the colleges located within reach of hospitals accessible for adequate clinical instruction directly up to the *standard* proposed. One of these amendments provides for the enforcement of a proper standard of preliminary education before admitting the student into the college, and the other for demanding attendance on *three* regular annual courses of medical college instruction before graduation. It is greatly to be desired that both these amendments shall be adopted unanimously by this Association at its present session. Until such action is taken, however, your committee have no alternative but to adopt the *standard* presented by the present articles of confederation of this Association as a basis or guide for the registration of American medical colleges. By a careful examination of the annual announcements of the colleges of legitimate medicine in the United States for 1879-80, we find about three-fourths of the whole number complying fully with all the requirements for membership in this Association. We find several of the remaining ones complying with all the regulations in regard to time, means, and amount of instruction furnished and qualifications required of the student, but falling in some particulars in relation to the exaction of *fees* for instruction. And a few come short more or less either in the amount of instruction furnished, or in the time of attendance required, or in both. Some of these serious shortcomings are in institutions where we should least suspect their existence. For instance, in the Medical School of Harvard, at Boston, there is certainly nothing in their annual catalogues to hinder a student from receiving the degree of M. D. from that institution by an attendance on simply one college year, which means merely nine months. The language

of their catalogue for 1879-80, touching this point is, under the head of *Division of Studies*, as follows: "Students may be admitted to advanced standing in the regular course; but all who apply for admission into the second or third class must pass an examination at the beginning of the year in the branches already pursued by the class to which they seek admission, and furnish a satisfactory certificate of *time spent in medical studies.*" Again, under the head of *Requirements for a Degree*, we are told that "Every candidate must be twenty-one years of age, and of good moral character; must give evidence of having studied medicine three full years; have spent at least one continuous year at this school; have presented a satisfactory thesis; and have passed the required examinations."

In turning to the examinations required in each year, we find those of the first year to be Anatomy, Physiology, and General Chemistry. Those for the second year, Medical Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Pathological Anatomy. Now, it strikes us that he must be rather a dull young man who cannot take the necessary books, get some regular practitioner to lend the use of his name as preceptor, and in two years make himself sufficiently familiar with the language of his text-books, that he can pass a fair examination, either oral or written, in Anatomy, Physiology, and General Chemistry, in connection with at least two out of the following three: Medical Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Pathological Anatomy. And if he can do this he can step directly into the third or graduating class, and complete his course by attending *one* college year, without ever having set foot inside of any other medical school. We are sorry to perceive that in regard to permitting students to take advanced standing in such a way as make the degree accessible by attendance on only one collegiate year of medical instruction, the example of Harvard has been followed by the Medical Department of Yale, and possibly some others. If we have not misinterpreted the catalogues, the very school which has made more pretentious appeals for the sympathy and support of the whole profession, on account of the great advancements she is making in elevating the standard of medical education in this country, is to-day offering her diploma for a less amount of medical college attendance and instruction than any other respectable school in this country.

Indeed, in reviewing the annual catalogues and announcements of the medical colleges generally, nothing has struck us so forcibly as the vast amount of medical instruction provided by these institutions, and to all of which the students are most cordially invited, to some part of it without money and without price; compared with the very modest amount they are actually required to take.

The almost stereotyped flourish is something like the following: "The preliminary course of lectures in this institution will commence on the 15th

of September and continue until the opening of the regular college term. Three lectures per day will be given on very important topics, by members of the college faculty, besides the usual clinics in the hospitals and dispensaries. This course is free to all students. The regular winter term commences on the first Monday in October, and continues until the last Tuesday in February, when the public commencement exercises will be held and degrees conferred upon the members of the graduating class. The regular spring and summer course of instruction will commence on the first Monday in March, and continue three months. This is a very important course for the student to attend, as many topics of great importance will be taught for the consideration of which there was not sufficient time in the regular winter term. This course is often free to all regular matriculates of the college, at other times a fee of \$20, \$30 or \$50 is charged, the same to be credited on the fees of the next winter term. It is thus seen that instruction in this institution continues through nine months of the year. But attendance on the regular winter term *only* is *obligatory* upon the student, that on the spring course being entirely optional and not counting as a course in the requirements for graduation." This is a very moderate representation of the general average of pretention. Nine months of instruction, all of which is alleged to be very important, and yet only five months, or just a trifle more than one half of the whole, is the student actually required to pay any attention to. Again, look at the self-stultification presented in the claim that all the instruction provided is important and much of it on topics that could not be included in the regular winter term for want of time. If this claim is true, common sense would dictate either the extension of the winter term or the making of attendance on the spring term obligatory.

Still another phase of these shams consists in cutting up the general departments of medicine, surgery and obstetrics, by carving out of them something less than a dozen *specialties* with a lecturer or full professor in each one. This swells the list of members of the faculty and instructors to formidable proportions, and helps to back up the general claim of great advancement in the facilities for instruction. But when we turn to the time allotted to each of these additional teachers in which to give their highly important amount of instruction, we find the length of the term *obligatory* upon the student substantially the same as before, and the number of hours daily devoted to instruction also the same.

Nothing is more plain, therefore, than the fact that all this array of special additional teaching either takes the place of a similar amount of teaching under the general heads, or is crowded into the terms, attendance on which is entirely optional, namely, the preliminary course and the spring and summer terms—the preface and the supplement; or, to express the actual facts more exactly, these additional special branches come in to

occupy a part of the time of the regular obligatory college term, and by shortening just so much the time allotted in said term to the general branches, a corresponding amount of instruction in these goes over to help make up the purely voluntary spring and summer course, when as a general rule three-fourths of the students have returned to their homes or their preceptor's offices. To cap the climax in this complicated effort to show a great advance, and yet, so far as real exactions upon the student are concerned, stand quite still, many of the colleges do not even require the students to be examined in any but the seven main branches of medicine, viz: anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, practical medicine, surgery and obstetrics. It does not require a very rigid analysis of the facts here alluded to, or many years of practical experience in connection with medical colleges, to see very clearly that all this array of optional medical instruction has served to diminish the completeness and harmony, without increasing the amount of the real medical knowledge communicated to the great body of young men attending the colleges. For no fact is better known to the members of this Association than that three-fourths of the whole number of young men who study medicine actually *attend only* just so much medical college instruction as is made obligatory upon them for the attainment of a diploma. Consequently, the college that has during its obligatory winter term of five months, or twenty weeks, 150 students, will find from 25 to 40 remaining to enter upon the voluntary spring term commencing early in March. By the end of April, half of these have disappeared, one by one; and by the end of the term it will be doing well if a baker's dozen be present at the closing lecture. If the college be in one of our great commercial cities and has a class of 400 or 500 students attending its obligatory term, 100 to 150 may enter their names for attendance on the voluntary spring term, but as the term progresses, the same dwindling takes place as in the other case. With some the pocket money gets low; with others, it is becoming too warm; still others find they are needed at home to aid their preceptors or somebody else; and the faculty of instructors have cause for special congratulation if they have from 50 to 75 actually in the lecture rooms at the close of the term. Now how much better it would be for all parties concerned if the regular obligatory term was extended to six months, whereby one month more of systematic instruction in all departments were given to the whole 400 or 500 students, instead of two months additional voluntary instruction to a number ranging from 50 to 150. The effects here seen in one college, applies equally to all the colleges and to the whole mass of medical students. The present state of things has grown out of the efforts of the colleges to yield to the constantly increasing demands of the profession and of the people for a higher standard of attainment on the part of medical men. Knowing that the

controlling motive of the student is to obtain the college diploma with as little expenditure of time and money as possible, and influenced, whether consciously or not, by strong feelings of mutual jealousy and active rivalry, every device has been resorted to for increasing the show of instruction and advancement without increasing materially the real obligatory demands upon the time and attainments of the student before he gets his degree.

Hence it is that we are in the midst of an era of an enormous show of medical instruction, as represented in the college announcements, a trifle more than half of which the students are obliged to attend, while the other half goes mainly to empty benches. The latest addition to this side-show business is the notice sent out by the faculty of Harvard, for which she is now receiving a fresh supply of gratuitous advertising in the medical journals, stating that hereafter she will add a fourth year of medical instruction to her already extended system. True the notice states that it will be mainly a continuation of the studies of the third year, and that attendance upon it will be entirely optional with the student. But if the latter does graciously condescend to attend this fourth year before he graduates, he is permitted to have added to his title of Doctor of Medicine those remarkable words, "*cum laude.*" We had always supposed that any student who so desired had the privilege of adding a fourth, fifth or even a sixth year to his medical studies in any medical college in the country. At any rate we have known several rather dull young men who were obliged to attend a fourth year, and one even the fifth year before obtaining a degree. But this era of make-shifts and pretensions, of more show than substance, of superabundant provision for instruction without requiring the student to attend more than half of it, must soon come to an end. It is in the nature of things only a transition period. This College Association must perpetuate its existence, and move steadily on to the perfection of its work by adopting the pending amendments in relation to preliminary education and the exaction of attendance upon three annual courses of college instruction before graduation; and in all other important particulars combining and harmonizing the colleges, and perfecting the details of a fair and honorable system of medical education; or, failing in this, the profession and the people will unite on such legislation as will establish independent boards of examiners in every State, and take the matter of licensing candidates to practice medicine entirely out of the hands of the colleges, thereby leaving them to compete with each other solely as institutions for imparting instruction.

Already the drift of popular demand is plainly in the latter direction. In making this report, we have omitted a detailed list of colleges that comply with the requirements of this Association, as well as of those that

do not comply, simply because that special duty was, at the last meeting, assigned to a regular standing committee, and we thought a duplication of the same work unnecessary.

Respectfully submitted,

N S DAVIS,
S D GROSS

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL COLLEGES.*

Your committee was instructed to procure, in so far as possible, the circulars and announcements of all the Medical Colleges of the United States, to examine the same and note any provisions therein that appear to violate the requirements of the Association, and to report a list of all colleges that violate its requirements, with a full statement of the provisions violated. To obtain as exact a report as possible, the committee mailed to all colleges not belonging to the American Medical College Association the following circular letter.

DETROIT, Mich., 1880.

DEAR DOCTOR—The undersigned were appointed a committee by the "American Medical College Association," to "report to the Association at its next annual meeting a list of all colleges that violate its requirements, with a full statement of the provisions violated." As this report may be published, it is desired that it be absolutely correct. That your college may be fairly and fully reported upon, we request. First, That you send us a copy of your latest announcement or circular. Second, That you will send us a certified copy of any official action of your faculty, respecting your requirements for graduation, said action being of a later date than the issue of your announcement, circular, etc. Third, A brief answer to the following points will be of great service to us and guard against any mistakes of interpretation.

Of your candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine:

1. Do you require any evidence of moral character? If so, what?
2. What age do you require?
3. Do you require a preceptor's certificate of time of study, and if so, what is the form of said certificate?
4. Do you require that this certificate be given by a known regular practitioner in good standing?
5. Do you require evidence of three full years' study—the time to expire before or at a date not later than three months after the final examinations?
6. Attendance upon how many regular courses do you require?
7. What is the least time that you permit between the beginning of the first course and the end of the second, if only two courses are required?
8. Do you require that the last *full* regular course be attended at your college?

*As mentioned elsewhere, the names of those colleges whose requirements for graduation are less than those of the American Medical College Association are hereby omitted, in the hope that they may, during the coming year, at least come up to the Association's standard.

9. What is the smallest number of weeks of attendance upon lectures that you recognize as a full regular term?

10. Do you require a personal examination by your Faculty upon anatomy, including dissections, physiology, chemistry, materia medica and therapeutics, obstetrics, surgery, pathology and practice of medicine?

11. Do you require of every student the full payment of all college dues, as per your catalogue, etc.?

12. Do you grant the degree of Doctor of Medicine to any person on any other terms than the foregoing? If you do, specify exactly the variations, etc.

Please send your answers to the foregoing inquiries at your *very earliest convenience*, to Leartus Connor, M. D., 92 Cass street, Detroit, Michigan. If we receive no answer we shall take it for granted that your published announcement contains all that you desire reported upon by us, and on this basis we shall make up our report and present it to the American Medical College Association at its next meeting, early in June.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN H. MURPHY, M. D.,
Miami Medical College.

E. S. DUNSTER, M. D.,
Medical Department Michigan University.

LEARTUS CONNOR, M. D.,
Detroit Medical College, Sec'y Amer. Med. College Association.

Of the thirty-four circulars thus sent out, twenty-two were returned with the inquiries more or less fully answered. It is fair to suppose that the remaining twelve colleges regarded their announcements as sufficiently well exhibiting their present status.

We were also able to collect sixty-three announcements. The answers to our circular letter and the announcements are presented with this report, in order that any question respecting the accuracy of the details of the report may be readily answered.

Six colleges do not require of all candidates for graduation evidence that they have studied medicine three years.

Three colleges do not require a preceptor's certificate.

One college does not require any positive evidence of good moral character.

Three colleges do not require attendance upon two courses of lectures.

Five colleges give the degree of M. D. to students who have attended their last course elsewhere.

The regular term of five colleges is less than twenty weeks.

Four colleges give beneficiary tickets irrespective of the limitations prescribed by the American Medical College Association.

Four colleges grant *ad eundem* degrees on terms other than those required by the Association, viz., on simple examination on the practical branches.

No Colleges avowedly graduate students whose two regular courses of lectures have been attended, so that the time between the beginning of the first course and the end of the second is less than fifteen months.

In Colleges not belonging to the Association there does not seem to be any definite policy on this point. But the Dean of Long Island Hospital Medical College writes that "December 6th, 1870, the Faculty passed a resolution requiring the close of the last course of lectures to be twelve months subsequent to the close of the first course of lectures."

Three Colleges hold lectures during the evening. These Colleges do not strictly violate any specific requirement of the Association. Still, it is understood that, as a rule, the Colleges shall require their students to spend the entire working time of each term in actual medical college work. It is clear that the above arrangement only demands a small part of such time, and that the least valuable, to be so spent. Hence, other things being equal, a term passed in such a manner, must be far less advantageous to the student.

Twenty-two Colleges do not designate in their announcements the subjects covered by their final examinations.

It is believed that all of these Colleges do actually require candidates for the degree of M. D. to pass a satisfactory examination upon the seven principal subjects designated by our articles of confederation, but we think it would be better if all would so state it in the list of their requirements for graduation, leaving nothing to be implied.

RESUMÉ.

(a) Twenty-eight Colleges publicly conform to all the requirements for active membership in the American Medical College Association.

(b) Thirty-five Colleges, by their public announcements, do not show that they conform to all the requirements for active membership in the American Medical College Association.

(c) The last named list of thirty-five Colleges may be divided into two classes: (1) Those failing to conform to the provisions of the Association through oversight; (2) those so failing from deliberate choice.

Sixteen Colleges do not conform to the requirements of the Association, apparently from oversight.

Seventeen Colleges do not conform to the requirements of the Association, apparently from choice.

In making this last classification of medical colleges, your reporters have no other guide than the impressions received from a study of the documents presented with this report.

Incidentally we remark that nearly all the new Colleges started during the past year have adopted a standard equal to that required by this Association.

It may be solely a matter of taste, but at least the appearance of many announcements would be enhanced by the omission of all outside advertising matter. Such extraneous material we find in sixteen of the sixty-three announcements examined.

(Signed,)

LEARTUS CONNOR, M D.
JOHN A MURPHY, M D.
E. S DUNSTER, M D