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The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia

From 1825 to 1908

By James W. Holland, A.M., M.D.

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The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia

By J. W. HOLLAND, A.M., M.D.

In the first quarter of the last century certain physicians, ambitious to teach medicine, made unsuccessful attempts to secure from the Legislature a charter for a second medical school in Philadelphia. So much reproach was cast upon any graduate of the existing school who would endeavor to set up a rival to his alma mater that few had the audacity to try it.

Social influence proved strong enough either to nip such enterprises in the bud or to blight them before the Legislature. Dr. George McClellan, a man of restless energy, fertile in expedients, determined if possible to organize a medical school under the authority of some literary college already chartered by the State.

On June 2, 1824, in company with Drs. John Eberle, Joseph Klapp and Jacob Green, he sent a communication to the Trustees of Jefferson College, an institution founded in 1802 and situated at Canonsburg, Washington County, Pennsylvania, proposing a plan for a medical department at Philadelphia, in which these four should be part of the faculty.

The Trustees adopted the suggestion and established a medical faculty of six chairs in the city of Philadelphia, as a constituent part of Jefferson College, under the name of the "Jefferson Medical College." In the winter of 1825-26 an enlargement of their charter was obtained, which authorized them to appoint ten additional Trustees in the city of Philadelphia. Rev. Ashbel Green, D.D., who was possessed both of influence and learning, wise in council, and of great decision of character, at one time President of Princeton College, was appointed Chairman of the additional Trustees, and held office until his death in May, 1848. In 1826, an Act of the Legislature enlarged the charter, giving the right to grant the medical degree. Two years after, the Philadelphia Board was authorized to have almost entire management of the affairs of the Medical College, the parent Board retaining the right to reverse the proceedings when in their judg-
ment the interests of the College required this action. This relationship survived until the winter of 1837-38, when it terminated by the Medical College obtaining a separate charter.

In organizing the first faculty Dr. Joseph Klapp resigned, and, in 1825, the chairs were filled as follows: John Eberle, M.D., Theory and Practice of Medicine; B. Rush Rhees, M.D., Materia Medica and Institutes; Jacob Green, Chemistry; Nathan R. Smith, M.D., Anatomy; Francis S. Beattie, M.D., Midwifery; George McClellan, M.D., Surgery. Having no endowment where-with to build, they rented the old "Tivoli Theatre," now 518 Locust Street, altered its interior to suit their purpose and announced a course of lectures for the winter of 1825-26. The first class numbered one hundred and seven, and the degree was conferred upon twenty in May by a writ of mandamus obtained from court, as the charter of the College at Canonsburg had not yet been amended so as to enable it to confer the medical degree.

In the summer of 1826 Dr. W. P. C. Barton was appointed to a new chair of Materia Medica. Litigation and discord between two of the Professors affected unfavorably the class of 1826-27. The old theatre building proving entirely inadequate, a member of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Ezra Styles Ely, D.D., offered to advance the money to erect a suitable building, the College to take a lease upon it for five years. This building was constructed upon a lot situated on Tenth Street, between what are now called Sansom and Moravian Streets. By August, 1828, it was ready for the tenant, which as renter or owner has been in continuous possession ever since. The Chair of Midwifery having been declared vacant, Dr. John Barnes was appointed lecturer pro tempore for one session, and in April, 1827, he was elected Professor. At the opening of the session of 1827-28, Dr. N. R. Smith resigned the chair of Anatomy. The juncture was critical, but Dr. George McClellan undertook the course on anatomy as well as his own on surgery. The Trustees being dissatisfied with the teaching in midwifery, on June 19, 1828, all the chairs were vacated, and on the 26th of the same month the faculty was reconstructed as follows: Surgery, George McClellan, M.D.; Medicine, John Eberle, M.D.; Materia Medica, W. P. C. Barton, M.D.; Institutes, B. Rush Rhees, M.D.; Chemistry, Jacob Green, M.D. As the chairs of Midwifery and Anatomy were vacant, Dr. Eberle took the extra

In January, 1830, Dr. George McClellan was relieved of anatomical teaching by the appointment of his brother, Dr. Samuel McClellan, to the chair. In the hope of securing a more satisfactory assignment of labors in 1830, Dr. Barton having resigned, Dr. Eberle was transferred to the chair of Materia Medica, while undertaking to teach midwifery, and Dr. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, was appointed to the chair of Practice of Medicine. The session of 1830-31 opened with every professorship occupied by a man of proved ability as a writer and teacher. At the end of the session a disaster was experienced in the resignation of two of the most eminent professors, Daniel Drake and John Eberle. This loss and other changes made in the personnel from various causes had an unfortunate influence upon the prosperity of the institution. For the session of 1831-32 Dr. Usber Parsons, of Providence, R. I., held the chair of Midwifery, Dr. Granville Sharp Pattison, of Anatomy, vice Dr. Samuel McClellan resigned. At the end of the session Dr. Parsons resigned and Dr. Samuel McClellan was appointed Professor of Midwifery, Medical Jurisprudence and Diseases of Women and Children. By 1834, Dr. John Revere had been appointed Professor of Medicine and a mutually acceptable organization was effected, which persisted for six prosperous years. The teaching corps was much strengthened by the election of Dr. Robley Dunglison to the chair of Institutes in June, 1836.

In 1838, the larger classes called for more commodious quarters, and it was decided that the old building must be altered and enlarged. To do this it was desirable that the title to the property, hitherto vested in Rev. E. S. Ely, should be transferred to the Board of Trustees. As these Trustees in Philadelphia were subordinate to the parent Board and could hold property in their name only, a necessity arose for a distinct charter, which would enable the Philadelphia Trustees to hold and modify the Medical College property as a separate institution.

At the session of the Legislature held in the spring of 1838, a charter was obtained creating "The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia," an independent corporation "with the same powers and restrictions as the University of Pennsylvania," and the Trustees then holding office were reappointed with "power
to increase their number to fifteen,” and to be self-elective. At
the meeting which accepted the new charter the Board of Trus­
tees closed the old connection very gracefully by passing unani­
mously the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the President be directed to communicate to
the mother Board at Canonsburg, that in accepting the charter
which separates them from the Jefferson College at Canonsburg,
the additional Trustees are influenced by the conviction that such
a separation is for the mutual benefit and convenience of both
bodies, and desired it for no other reason; and that this Board
will retain a grateful sense of the kind and fostering care ever
exhibited towards them by the parent institution, and will in their
new capacity be always ready to acknowledge their past obligations
and to exchange, in every way in their power, kind offices with
Jefferson College at Canonsburg.”

The Trustees executed a lease on the College premises for
twenty years, which gave them the privilege of paying off the
principal at any time before the lease expired. In time they came into full ownership of the property, having made from time to
time the alterations called for by the growth of the school.
The happy outlook was soon beclouded by the personal difficulties
June, 1839, the Trustees dissolved the faculty, and organized
another out of the more congenial members of the previous body,
with some new appointments. The name of Dr. George McClellan
does not appear in the reorganized faculty. In his place was Dr.
Joseph Pancoast, and Dr. R. M. Huston replaced Dr. Samuel
McClellan.

Dr. George McClellan is conceded to have been the master spirit in founding the school. He had shown a marked aptitude for
surgery before he studied medicine. In ten years after beginning
practice he was among the foremost surgeons of the world, show­
ing in his operations consummate skill joined to an alertness of
mind which made him ready for the most trying emergency. His
lectures evinced enthusiasm, clearness and thoroughness. His
methods were characterised by brilliancy and dash rather than by
cool calculation. It was very hard for him to submit to authority
or to control the impulses of his ardent temperament.

In 1841, new difficulties came to a crisis, and on the second of

April, all the chairs were again vacated, and the faculty recon­
stituted as follows: Robley Dunglison, M.D., Institutes; J. K.
Mitchell, M.D., Practice of Medicine; Joseph Pancoast, M.D.,
Anatomy; R. M. Huston, M.D., Materia Medica; T. D. Mütter,
M.D., Surgery; Charles D. Meigs, M.D., Obstetrics; Franklin
Bache, M.D., Chemistry, succeeding to the chair on the death of
Dr. Jacob Green. At last was brought together a group of
teachers of approved merit who would work in harmony. Under
their régime the College thrrove apace. During the first seventeen
years there had been many disagreements ending in withdrawals,
some of them involuntary. In that time there had been eight
incumbents to the chair of Midwifery. At different times vacan­
cies had been filled for short periods by men of unusual ability.
Their stay was so short as to prefigure the early decline which
seemed to be the fate of an institution whose history was marked
by such extraordinary vicissitudes, due in the main to internal
discords. Having lived through bitter opposition, poverty and
domestic contention, like a child that has been delivered painfully
and survived dentition, the eruptive fevers and the dangers of
puberty, the school had reached the maturity of its powers. With
the faculty of 1841 came the reign of peace, order, and good
fortune. There were no changes in the faculty for fifteen years.
The confidence of the public and of the profession was given in
full measure to the friendly body of talented men, and as a result
the school was prosperous to a degree surpassing any other med­
ical school of its time.

Prominent among the features contributing to its usefulness
and popularity, must be ranked its clinic. The virtual founder
of the College, Dr. McClellan, whose name is intimately associated
with every phase of its early history, was also the chief agent in
creating its clinic. Having cultivated a charity practice at his
office, he easily supplied the infirmary at the College building, and
on May 9, 1825, before the first session, he performed the first
operation in its amphitheatre. When the new building was
erected in 1828, a small room in front, with an entrance under the
staircase, was used by him as a dispensary for his patients. He
would draw upon these for illustrating his lectures. From such
small beginnings the clinic grew, under the new faculty, to such
dimensions that in a single year, 1856, no less than 802 medical
and 813 surgical cases were treated, and capital operations of the
rarest kind were performed before the class by such adroit operators as Pancoast and Mütter. The accommodations at the College had been so poor that as late as 1841 even those who had undergone serious operations were sent to their homes in carriages.

In 1844, two rooms were rented over a shop at the southwest corner of Tenth and Sansom Streets, and grave cases were treated here after operations. The anesthetic power of ether was first exhibited in Philadelphia by Dr. Mütter at the clinic, December 23, 1846. About 1849, the surgical clinic used two floors of a building adjoining the College on the north. Later this was remodeled to accommodate fifteen patients. In these narrow quarters the clinic was maintained until the Hospital was built in 1877.

To accommodate the larger classes, in 1846 more ground on the north side was purchased for a new entrance and stairway, the lecture rooms were enlarged and the old gable front altered by the erection of a classic portico and pediment.

On the death of the President, Rev. Ashbel Green, in 1848, the Rev. C. C. Cuyler served for one year and then was succeeded by Hon. Edward King, LL.D., who officiated until 1873.

The failing health of Professor Mütter in 1856 caused him to resign. He was elected professor emeritus. He had been assistant to Dupuytren in the Paris hospitals, and while abroad had worked for months under other surgeons of equal celebrity. He has the credit of having been the first to introduce into this country the Edinburgh "quizzing" system. He was elected Professor of Surgery at twenty-nine years of age, and at once displayed extraordinary talent as a teacher, eloquent, polished and much beloved by his classes. He was equally successful as a clinical lecturer and operator. The surgical clinic, by the associated zeal and efficiency of Mütter and Pancoast, became so famous that the amphitheatre was crowded with practitioners from all parts of the country. Always lacking in physical vigor, though abounding in nervous energy, Dr. Mütter was forced by increasing infirmities to bring his labors to a close. His death ensued within a year at the early age of forty-eight. The extensive Mütter Museum and its liberal endowment under the administration of the College of Physicians, serve to keep his name in the grateful minds of the new generations.

His place was taken by S. D. Gross, M.D., recently Professor
in the University of Louisville, a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College of the class of 1828, who had made a great reputation as a surgeon, writer and lecturer.

The following year Dr. Huston resigned, was made professor emeritus, and was succeeded by T. D. Mitchell, M.D., Professor in the Medical School of Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky.

In 1858, the faculty was bereft of one of its most valued members by the death, in harness, of Dr. J. K. Mitchell. Beginning his scientific career as Professor of Chemistry in the Franklin Institute, he published original researches on osmosis, the solvents for india rubber and the tests for arsenic. Later he was the author of important papers on medical topics, such as the spinal origin of rheumatism. His most notable contribution was his persistent advocacy of the view then entirely new, but which is now universally accepted, that malarial fevers, yellow fever and cholera are produced by the presence of low vegetable organisms in the body. On his death the professorship of Practice of Medicine was conferred on Samuel H. Dickson, M.D., recently of the University of South Carolina. When the Civil War broke out, as two-fifths of the class usually came from the Southern States, it is not surprising that in two years the roll of students shrank from 630 (the largest class which up to that time had attended any medical college in this country), to only 275.

The last course of lectures delivered by Dr. C. D. Meigs was in the session of 1861-62. As professor emeritus for that year he took the place of the new appointee, Professor Keating, whose health would not permit him to take the chair. In the following year the chair of Obstetrics was permanently filled by Dr. Ellerslie Wallace, sometime Demonstrator of Anatomy. For twenty years Dr. Meigs had been eminent among the associates who had given so much lustre to the history of the College. Famous as a scholar, eloquent lecturer and writer on obstetrical subjects, he was at home in the arts of painting and modeling, which he used with great dexterity to illustrate his lectures. At his resignation the faculty made a minute which said, in part, that they “parted from him with intense and enduring regret. Never could anyone have more closely applied himself to the execution of the responsible duties that have devolved upon him.”

In 1864, the Chair of Chemistry lost its occupant, Dr. Franklin Bache, the great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin, best-known
as one of the authors of Wood and Bache’s “United States Dispensatory.” His eulogist, Dr. George B. Wood, considered him an extraordinary man, who worked diligently and thus did much for the public good—“presenting to the young men an example of all that is morally excellent, lovely and of good report in mankind.” He was succeeded by B. Howard Rand, M.D., a practiced lecturer on chemistry in different medical institutions.

After eight years of his connection with the College Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell died in 1865. In his endeavors for the well-being and the instruction of the students he acted conscientiously and harmoniously with his colleagues, who held him in high esteem. His successor in the chair of Materia Medica was John B. Biddle, M.D., an accomplished lecturer, who had won popularity as professor of that branch in the Pennsylvania Medical College.

In the session of 1866-67 the clinical opportunities were much enlarged by the establishment of a daily clinic, the medical cases being allotted to the skilful consideration of Dr. J. M. Da Costa as lecturer on clinical medicine. In the same year more extended facilities for learning the specialties of medicine and surgery were provided in a “summer course.” The work of the faculty was supplemented by Drs. W. H. Pancoast, S. W. Gross, J. Aitken Meigs, R. J. Levis and F. F. Maury. In the following year this list was augmented by the names of Drs. J. H. Brinton and W. W. Keen.

After filling for twenty-five years the chair of Institutes of Medicine and for fourteen the office of dean, in 1868, Dr. Robley Dunglison was compelled to resign by the ill-health which in the next year caused his death. The Trustees accepted his resignation with expressions of regret and elected him professor emeritus. In him was a rare combination of varied culture and vast erudition, made useful by an industry which produced the best medical dictionary of its day, copious contributions to journalism and textbooks on physiology, hygiene, materia medica and the practice of medicine. The honors awarded him at home and abroad gave him a prestige that lent impressiveness to the easy flow and grace of his discourses. In his thirty years of medical teaching this “Father of American Physiology” signed his name to at least five thousand medical diplomas. The chair of Institutes was next occupied by J. Aitken Meigs, M.D., a physician and anthropologist of repute.

In 1870, the alumni formed an association to promote the interests of the College and medical education.
strator and adjunct had enjoyed his tutelage, acted as his substitute and carried the prestige of his name. Dr. Joseph Pancoast's greatest distinction was won as surgical clinician. His anatomical lectures were made rich in practical information by his faculties of looking at the dry bones and other anatomical details as things highly interesting to the surgeon, from their relation to various surgical maladies. Among the great surgeons who played their parts in the history of the institution he had been a most conspicuous figure.

On the death of President J. R. Barden, in 1877, the Board of Trustees elected E. B. Gardette as his successor. The failing health of Dr. Rand (who was a man of marked character though not brilliant) having necessitated his resignation, Dr. Robert E. Rogers, the new appointee, brought to the vacant chair an accession of strength by his twenty-five years' of experience and reputation as Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania.

In this year the new Hospital was completed and in operation. Fronting on Sansom Street, it was bounded on three sides by streets and on the fourth side by a wide passageway. It was 107 feet square, five stories in height and could easily accommodate 125 patients. Much valuable material for clinical instruction was obtained from the outdoor department. The amphitheatre, provided for operations and lectures, seated more than 600 spectators. The most approved appliances for heating and ventilation were provided, and in fact the construction represented the best knowledge of the time. The clinical lectures were delivered daily, in the fall and winter by the faculty, in the summer by the hospital staff.

As the successor of the suave and sagacious Biddle, whose lectures were refined to the last degree, but whose personality was even finer than his work and who died in 1878, begins the connection of Roberts Bartholow, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics. He was widely known as a medical author and in the Ohio Medical College had made his mark as a forcible and popular teacher. In the session of 1879-80, Dr. J. Aitken Meigs being in his last illness, Dr. H. C. Chapman was called upon as Demonstrator of Physiology to deliver the course of lectures in that branch. In the following summer Dr. Chapman, equally successful as investigator and teacher, was promoted to the chair vacated by the death of Dr. Meigs. The lectures of Dr. Meigs had been notable for their learning and literary finish, resembling in these qualities the style of his predecessor, Dunglison. As a method of teaching physiology it has given place to the superior course of experiment with instruments of precision.

The new laboratory building adjoining the medical hall was opened this same session. It provided a room for section teaching in operative and minor surgery and spacious laboratories for practical chemistry, microscopy and physiology. The equipment for the use of the student was thought at the time to be adequate, but year by year new and better apparatus was added until in the physiological laboratory the liberal expenditures of Professor Chapman provided a most extensive outfit for study and research. In this year Dr. Morris Longstreth was appointed Demonstrator of Pathological Anatomy. He obtained material from the autopsies of the Pennsylvania and the Jefferson Hospitals and gave instruction in pathological anatomy and histology. The laboratory of materia medica and pharmacy in the medical hall was equipped in the following year. Besides the necessary appliances for a practical course in pharmacy, a room was fitted up with instruments for special researches in the physiological action of remedies. These laboratories were put in charge of demonstrators under the supervision of the professors of each branch. The lecturership on ophthalmology held by Dr. William Thomson was made a professorship without seat in the faculty.

At this time the statutes of Pennsylvania, like those of most American States, contained laws against the desecration of cemeteries, which if enforced would have made dissections next to impossible. Those in authority recognized that an educated physician must know his anatomy well or run the risk of liability to the law for malpractice, and this knowledge could be acquired only by dissection of the human body. But at intervals a person connected with a medical college would be caught in some overt act by officers sharing the vulgar prejudice and the law would be invoked to punish him. At the instance of Dr. W. S. Forbes, in 1866, a law had been enacted which partially obviated this by allowing dissections upon the unclaimed bodies in Philadelphia County. In 1882, urged on by the clamor of the sensational newspapers, a trial for desecration was brought against Dr. Forbes, while demonstrator of anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College. He was triumphantly vindicated, but not without a publicity which...
Jefferson Medical College

was intensely annoying and for a time injurious to his professional practice. It was some compensation for this disagreeable experience that his prosecution brought him the sympathy of his professional brethren and excited an agitation in the ranks of the medical profession, which was communicated to other enlightened citizens and thus Dr. Forbes became the instrument which caused the enactment of a perfected anatomical bill, not only legalizing dissections, but providing for the compulsory distribution to the medical colleges of all unclaimed dead bodies in the interest of the science which devotes itself to prolonging human life.

A desire to take repose after a lifetime of ceaseless mental toil caused Professor Gross, in 1882, to resign the chair of Surgery, which he had made illustrious for twenty-six years. He received the honor of being named professor emeritus. After two years of retirement he died in his seventy-ninth year.

Samuel D. Gross, M.D., LL.D. Edin., D.C.L. Oxon., LL.D. Cantab., was born near Easton, Pa. At the age of twenty-three he was graduated doctor of medicine in the third class that went forth from Jefferson Medical College. After five years of practice he became Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical College of Ohio, and with this office began his career of medical teacher, which lasted for forty-nine years. After seven years of hard work, in which he produced a treatise on the “Bones and Joints,” and another on “Pathological Anatomy,” he was elected Professor of Surgery in the University of Louisville. He held this position for sixteen years, in the meantime growing to be the chief surgeon of the Southwest and helping to make the school the leading medical center west of the Alleghenies. In 1856, he succeeded Mütter in the faculty of his alma mater, dedicating to her the remainder of his life. In the years of his connection with Jefferson Medical College he delivered twenty-six annual courses of lectures, published his great “System of Surgery,” edited for some years the “North American Medico-Chirurgical Review,” wrote many articles for the journals and addresses notable for eloquence and lucidity. He was a skillful operator, careful in diagnosis and profoundly versed in pathology. His lectures were made acceptable in a high degree by his imposing presence, animated gestures, sonorous voice and earnest manner. Consecrated to a work in which he excelled, he was honored in life and in death is destined to a lasting fame.

In their endeavor to make good the loss entailed by the with-
Jefferson Medical College

The drawal of Dr. Gross, the Trustees provided that surgical instruction should be given by two professors, and elected his son, S. W. Gross, M.D., Professor of the Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, and J. H. Brinton, M.D., Professor of Practice of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, the last named a teacher of many years' experience, who had achieved distinction as a surgeon in the late war. The declining health of Dr. Wallace compelled him in 1883 to resign the chair of Obstetrics, which he had adorned for many years. His was a strong personality, shown in his power of impressing permanently upon the minds of his pupils his clean-cut ideas. The vacancy was filled by the election of Theophilus Parvin, M.D., LL.D., of Indianapolis, widely known as a writer and as a professor in several medical colleges.

The long and distinguished service of Dr. R. E. Rogers as teacher of chemistry came to a close by his decease in 1885. Excelling in the art of illustration by striking experiments, the exposition of his difficult science lacked nothing for clearness of speech, while his delivery was always agreeable. For the session of 1884-5 the lectures were delivered by Professor J. W. Mallet, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., who at the end of the session returned to his former position in the University of Virginia. The chair was filled by the appointment of J. W. Holland, M.D., who had thirteen years' experience as professor in the University of Louisville.

In the ensuing session a maternity department was organized in the Hospital, and practical instruction was given to members of the graduating class in the use of the laryngoscope and the ophthalmoscope.

By the resignation of Dr. W. H. Pancoast in 1886 a vacancy was made in the chair of Anatomy, which was filled by the promotion of Dr. W. S. Forbes, who for seven years had performed satisfactorily the duties of demonstrator.

Dr. Bartholow laid aside the cares of the deanship in 1887-88 and the faculty chose Dr. Holland for this duty.

In the next year provision was made for a better use of the hospital facilities by the creation of five clinical lectureships, which were first administered as follows: Orthopedic Surgery, O. H. Allis, M.D.; Laryngology, C. E. Sajous, M.D.; Children's Diseases, O. P. Rex, M.D.; Dermatology, A. Van Harlingen, M.D.; Renal Diseases, J. C. Wilson, M.D.

The death of President Gardette was followed by the election of
Hon. James Campbell in the year 1889. The untimely death of
Dr. S. W. Gross occurred in the spring of that year. Profoundly
versed in surgical pathology, he was a warm advocate of the anti-
septic system in surgery, just then coming into vogue, and did much
to establish it as the ruling method at the Hospital. In his lectures
he was clear and emphatic, his discourse sweeping on in a river of
words all bearing directly towards his definite aim. In his stead
was appointed W. W. Keen, M.D., who had made a name equally
distinguished in medical letters, medical teaching and as an
operator.

With the session of 1890-91 a chair known as the Honorary
Professorship of Laryngology was created for Dr. J. Solis-Cohen,
whose standing in this department was of the highest. The rules
now required that all matriculates who could not show a certificate
from an academy or college of a suitable preliminary education
should pass an entrance examination in English and in Elementary
Physics. A graded curriculum extending over three years was also
required.

At the close of the session 1890-91, Dr. J. M. Da Costa, having
taught clinical medicine and practice of medicine to loving and
admiring classes for twenty-four years in this institution, resigned
his chair, accepting the title of professor emeritus. His successor,
J. C. Wilson, M.D., had made his mark in medical letters and
medical teaching while engrossed with the cares of a large pro-
fessional practice.

Owing to the poor health of Professor Bartholow in this
session the course on Materia Medica and
conducted partly by Professor Holland and partly by Dr. A. P.
Bruhaker. In place of Dr. Bartholow, made professor emeritus,
who was a forcible teacher, with a rare gift of clear and succinct
statement, the Trustees elected Hobart A. Hare, M.D., who had
made a name by his researches in physiological therapeutics and as
a lecturer on the diseases of children. Dr. Morris Longstreth
was promoted from the lectureship to the professorship of General
Pathology and Pathological Anatomy.

In 1889, Hon. Joseph Allison, LL.D., was elected president and
E. E. Montgomery, M.D., recently professor in the Medico-Chi-
rurgical College, was appointed Professor of Clinical Gynecology
with a seat in the faculty. The next five years form a period of
active evolution, with many additions to the teaching corps. The
faculty chair of Ophthalmology, the first incumbent of which was
Dr. William Thomesen, after his resignation was occupied by George
E. de Schweinitz, M.D., late professor in the Polyclinic College,
while W. M. L. Coplin, M.D., recently professor in Vanderbilt
University, became the successor of Dr. Longstreth in the chair of
Pathology and Bacteriology. The three-years' course was now in
operation and successful to a surprising degree, the matriculation
list reaching 711 in the session of 1894-95. The additional time
gave opportunity for the introduction into the curriculum of various
special branches of practice as required studies. A body of "clinical
professors" was instituted and the appointees chosen were men of
recognized ability and experience. Though without a voice at the
faculty meetings, each was put at the head of a clinic with a staff
of assistants serving as instructors to the third-year class, which
for this work was divided into sections of convenient size. The
list of newly appointed clinical professors was as follows:

- Henry W. Stelwagon, M.D., Dermatology; H. Augustus
Wilson, M.D., Orthopadic Surgery; Edwin E. Graham, M.D., Dis-
cases of Children; F. X. Dercum, M.D., Diseases of the Nervous
System; Orville Horwitz, M.D., Genito-Urinary Diseases; Edward
P. Davis, M.D., Obstetrics; S. MacCuen Smith, M.D., Otology; W.
Joseph Hurn, M.D., Surgery; Howard F. Hansell, M.D., Ophthal-
ology; Wm. S. Jones, M.D., Laryngology; D. Braden Kyle, M.D.,
Laryngology; J. Chalmers Da Costa, M.D., Surgery; J. M. Barton,
M.D., Surgery.

A great many changes were made in the curriculum which,
though small in themselves, in the aggregate transformed the course,
making it more varied, more thorough and more practical.
Although the course had been extended to three years and each term
lengthened six weeks, the demands of a rapidly growing science
created a need for more time. A compulsory four-years' course was
announced to go into effect June 1, 1895. As this step was taken
antecedent to a like action on the part of rival colleges, it was in
full view of the fact that it would entail for a few years diminished
revenues, to balance which no guarantee fund had been raised.
The wisdom of this step has been shown by the fact that the
graduating class of 1898, made up of students who have taken the
four-years' graded course, was much larger than was expected.
This was a long stride in advance; how long may be best appre-
ciated by a retrospect.
The science, which five years before had been represented by seven chairs, now called for twenty chairs, didactic and clinical, each standing for a distinct branch of medical teaching. To direct the students' work it required nine demonstrators, twenty assistants and ten instructors. In the olden time there was but one laboratory—the dissecting-room. Now not only had suitable buildings been provided for the new laboratories, but these were furnished with expensive apparatus to which yearly additions were made. Where once there had been no clinical instruction except in the two general clinics on medicine and surgery, there were now not only these lectures, but instruction was given to each student at the side of the patient in twelve separate clinical rooms and wards. The ten clinical professors had thirteen chief assistants and fifty-six subordinates, making a total of one hundred and thirty-seven members of the teaching corps in the College and Hospital combined.

When attempting to raise endowments to carry out the expensive improvements they had projected, the Trustees and Faculty often encountered the objection that as the receipts in excess of expenditures were divided among the Faculty, they were practically asking for money to be given to the Faculty, and not to the cause of medical education or suffering humanity. In order to end this system, complete reorganization was effected by the Trustees, which was cheerfully accepted by the Faculty. By their act of February 1, 1893, entire control of the College and Hospital was assumed by the Trustees, the Faculty receiving salaries in lieu of a proportion of the net receipts. The College was put under the supervision of a standing committee of seven Trustees elected annually. Another committee of like character had charge of the Hospital. Hon. Edwin H. Fitler had succeeded Judge Allison as President in 1893. After holding office for two years, he had retired, and at the time of the reorganization Hon. Joseph B. Townsend, LL.D., was President. His death in 1896 left a vacancy, which was filled by the election of Hon. William Potter. President Potter, unlike his venerable predecessors, was in the prime of life. In carrying out his College and Hospital enterprises he had need for all his native energy and tenacity of purpose. These qualities were supplemented by knowledge of affairs and tact gained by his experience in the world of affairs and diplomacy.

Since the opening of the Hospital in 1877, which event has been previously referred to, it had been a great factor in medical teaching as well as in the cure of disease. Primarily intended as a hospital for teaching medical students, this feature had been found to redound to the advantage of the patients. It had at command without cost the professional services of leading practitioners of medicine, surgery and the specialties, chosen for eminent ability. The surgical and other treatment had been done openly under the eye of curious critics, quick to detect inefficiency and to condemn neglect. A bright light of publicity beat upon the clinician which inspired him to do his best for the case in hand. The percentage of bailing and difficult cases had been unusually large. From the city and all parts of this and neighboring States patients suffering from complicated disorders were sent to this clinic for diagnosis and treatment. Those calling for greater skill in surgery than the ordinary practitioner can acquire were far from rare. To meet the call for the latest appliances a costly “Roentgen Ray” apparatus was put in, and proved its value at once by wonderful results. The building was commonly overcrowded, especially for the hours between eleven and two. Not only was all the suitable room in the building occupied, but the side corridors and dark closet-like places under the amphitheatre were daily thronged with patients.

The accident work of the hospital grew to great proportions. Its central location was well adapted for the care of such patients, who were quickly brought to its doors by an active ambulance service. The disproportion between the facilities afforded and the actual needs of the institution became so marked that in 1892 the maternity ward was removed from its cramped and unsuitable quarters in the Hospital to a rented building, No. 327 Pine Street. The increased expenses entailed were met partly by the Trustees and partly by private subscriptions raised by a Board of Lady Managers in charge of this department. The success of this branch was mainly due to the personal efforts of the ladies whose chairman was Mrs. E. D. Gillespie. By affiliation with other charities, the devoted managers were able to care for the homeless children, and exert an elevating moral influence upon those who came to them for help. The nurses of the Training School and the students of the College received special instruction at the Maternity from its medical director, Prof. E. P. Davis, M.D. It was soon found that this building was overtaxed, and accordingly a more commodious house, 224 South Seventh Street, was taken in the autumn of 1894.

In 1891, a Training School for Nurses was established in
connection with the Hospital, by which a great improvement was obtained in the character of the nursing. A well qualified Directress had charge of the School, who was assisted in the teaching by lecturers who gave annual courses to the nurses on subjects related to their employment.

To maintain the Hospital in its beneficent work appeal was made to the Legislature. The appeal was not in vain. Annually for six years or more the deficit in running expenses was reduced by the $5,000 a year donated by the State. In 1892 the sum of $100,000 was appropriated to aid in the construction of a new building better suited to the demands of the time than the twenty-year-old structure, found inadequate in many ways. To obtain this sum, the Trustees were required to raise a large amount outside and begin work within two years. The business depression of 1893 arrested all progress in this direction and the appropriation became inoperative.

In 1894 the Legislature confirmed the action of their predecessors, and with this donation a six-storied building was purchased, situated at the corner of Tenth and Moravian Streets, adjacent to the Hospital. In the two lower floors of this building, called the "Hospital Annex," temporary quarters were arranged for certain special clinics by constructing partitions and hallways.

A receiving and an examining room were provided for each of the following out-patient departments: Diseases of Children, of the Eye, of the Throat and Nose, of the Ear, of the Nervous System and of the Skin. In the main building were still housed the dispensaries for Genito-Urinary Diseases and Diseases of Women, besides those for General Medicine and Surgery.

In 1896, the alumni having contributed $10,000 to purchase laboratory appliances, which were of the most recent and improved pattern, and necessarily very expensive, the Trustees set apart three upper floors for the elaborate study of diseases, required by the advanced science of the day. It was at the time considered the most complete hospital laboratory in this country. The entire floors were renovated from top to bottom, with new plumbing, electric lights and steam heat. Abundant light shone in through large windows on three sides. On the fourth floor was the laboratory for studying the normal conditions of the tissues and fluids of the body. Each investigator was furnished with a locked desk of substantial make for holding the apparatus needed in his study. Other cases were placed about the room for holding reagents, chemical appara-
tiss, microtomes, blood measures and forty microscopes. Opening into the laboratory was a record room for keeping the reports and archives. On the fifth floor was the laboratory for studying diseased conditions of the tissues and fluids.

The furniture was much the same as that on the fourth floor; the instruments were adapted to taking observations of morbid changes in the blood in tumors and inflamed structures. The microscopes belonging to this laboratory were of high magnifying power and with very delicate means of adjustment. Connecting with it was a photographic dark-room with appliances for developing the X-ray pictures taken from the Hospital cases. On the sixth floor was the laboratory for investigating the causes of disease. The bacterial germs of infection were here studied with reference to their detection and destruction. Here the means of disinfection could be tested, adulterations of food proven and reports made upon sewage pollution and the effects of filtration upon drinking water.

The direction of these hospital laboratories was given to Professor Coplin and to H. F. Harris, M.D., who was made Associate Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology, assisted by Dr. Randle C. Rosenberger as demonstrator, all of them trained experts in this new field of study. In order to extend the benefits of these laboratories to the many physicians whose college education did not include this advanced culture, the Trustees instituted a system of summer work for post-graduates of medicine, in no way interfering with the regular under-graduate winter instruction.

Having established laboratories and some of the clinics in this building, it was soon found that, although the Hospital congestion had been relieved somewhat, every inch of floor space was occupied and more room demanded. The urgency of this need developed a more far-reaching plan, which should provide for the needs of this great charity through a long period of time. A great modern hospital was projected, the ground for that purpose being the site of the old college building, extending from Tenth to Juvenal Street, and from Sansom to Moravian Street. The new hall and laboratories now occupy the corner of Tenth and Walnut Streets, a description of which is given on pages 285 and 286.

In the winter of 1897-98 occurred the death of Professor Theophilus Parvin. For many years he had enjoyed an international reputation as an authority in obstetrics. To this he joined accuracy in scholarship, a graceful literary style and a fervid
eloquence peculiarly suited to public occasions. The vacant chair was filled by giving to the clinical professor, E. P. Davis, the title of Professor of Obstetrics and the didactic as well as clinical lectures with a seat in the Faculty. To the professor of clinical gynecology, E. P. Montgomery, was assigned the title Professor of Gynecology, his work to be both didactic and clinical.

In 1897, Professor Dercum was given a seat in the faculty with the title of Professor of Neurology and Mental Diseases. At the same time Professor J. Chalmers Da Costa was elected to share in the didactic work with duties as a member of the faculty. His title was Professor of the Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery.

The fidelity and enthusiasm of the group of clinical Professors suggested the propriety of further recognition, and in May, 1904, they were admitted to full faculty chairs, the qualifying title of “Clinical” Professor being omitted.

At the same time, the business of the faculty was entrusted to the “Administration Committee,” which was made up of the former faculty and in addition two representatives elected annually by the remaining members of the new faculty.

As this arrangement did not prove satisfactory it gave place, in May, 1908, to the present organization of twenty-two professors of equal rank and responsibility. To facilitate business the faculty has been divided into nine standing committees, which report to the general faculty at the bi-monthly meetings. The details of instruction, examination and discipline are delegated to the faculty, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

On December 17, 1905, occurred the death of Professor Forbes, at the age of seventy-four years. The course of lectures in anatomy for the remainder of the session was delivered by Dr. Addinell Hewson, who as Assistant Professor, had for several years taken much of the burden from the shoulders of Professor Forbes. After much consideration it was concluded to divide the work of this important department under two full professors.

Dr. Edward A. Spitzka, who had made his mark as writer and teacher while on the staff of Columbia University, New York, was made Professor of General Anatomy, teaching the students of the first and second year. Dr. George McClellan, a grandson of the founder of that name, widely and favorably known as Professor of Anatomy at the Academy of Fine Arts and author of several books on the subject, was elected Professor of Applied Anatomy and assigned to the task of instructing the third-year students. Upon the death of Professor Brinton, at seventy-three years of age, which occurred March 18, 1909, Dr. John Gibbon was elected his successor. Dr. Brinton had graduated at the College fifty-seven years before, and through all that time was connected with its teaching corps, with the exception of the Civil War period, when he served as Surgeon and Medical Director in the Federal Army. Dr. Gibbon had served on the staff of surgical instructors of the College, and was one of that select body of eminent men—the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

THE NEW MAIN BUILDING

With the inauguration of the graded four-years' course was created a requirement which the old buildings did not meet. For some years the Trustees had struggled with the problem how to provide for the present and future classes under a curriculum constantly developing with the advancement of science. It is believed that the new buildings present a solution satisfactory as far as they go. A much enlarged hospital building was projected which would supplement the new hall and adequately provide for every modern feature in medical education.

The new hall, fireproof in construction, is at the corner of Tenth and Walnut Streets, with a front on Walnut and the side joined to the new laboratory building. This situation has been chosen as the best for the purpose, because its central location insures a constant supply of clinical material at the dispensaries and at the Hospital, besides having the advantage of nearness to the Pennsylvania Hospital. The exterior is designed in formal English Renaissance, so as to suggest its academic uses, with a regularity of construction in such marked contrast with the heterogeneous buildings surrounding it as to enhance the dignity of its noble proportions. The construction is fireproof throughout.

The second floor has a large museum room, newly equipped by the donation of Charles S. Smith, Esq. It will store in the best manner for study the great collections of the late Professor Samuel D. Gross, of the late Professor Parvin, of Emeritus Professor Da Costa, and a large collection of models, preparations and specimens.
The system for heating and ventilation embodies the latest principles and is entirely adequate. Fresh air is taken from above the building through a special shaft blown by an enormous fan over a heating stack of steam coils and forced into every room. At the top of the exit shafts accelerators exhaust the foul air from every room by a system of flues.

THE NEW LABORATORY BUILDING

The College has ten large laboratories for students, and seventeen smaller private rooms for individual research. Most of these are provided for in the structure which adjoins the medical hall and is directly connected with it. All the student laboratories are lighted by windows on three sides, besides incandescent electric lights, and have individual desks and outfits entirely under the control of the students while working. This equipment was provided, in part, by funds subscribed by the alumni; it has, among other notable features, one hundred and fifty microscopes of the most recent make, a complete outfit for electric lantern projection and one for photography, besides the microtomes, models and other apparatus required for thorough study.

THE NEW HOSPITAL

No part of the history of the Jefferson Medical College is more interesting than the evolution of its great Hospital, which is now under the skilful management of Professor Coplin, who contributes the remainder of this sketch. In May, 1825, several months in advance of the opening of the first session of lectures, an Infirmary had been organized within the walls of the building in which was to be inaugurated the infant medical college. On May 9, 1825, Dr. George McClellan performed the first operation in the amphitheatre and in the Infirmary administered to the first patient. From this modest beginning, involving a single room, a small lecture amphitheatre and an outlay of but a few dollars, was laid the foundation of the movement which nearly two-thirds of a century later culminated in the erection and equipment of an institution at that time the best of its kind on the continent.

In 1841 the reorganization of the school provided for systematic college clinics in both medicine and surgery. In 1843 rooms adjoining the College building were rented and fitted up for the reception of patients. A gradual increase in bed accommodation evolved this miniature hospital into one having crowded accommodation for twenty patients. The growing work of the College and the more general recognition of the vastly superior advantages of clinical teaching, led the Faculty and Alumni to dream of better and more adequate facilities, and eventually from the ill-defined dream evolved the hope which later was to mature into a new hospital. Through 1870 and 1871 many plans for financing the proposition were discussed, but aside from arousing enthusiasm and awakening practical interest in the project, nothing of importance was accomplished. In December, 1872, the Alumni Association met in the old College building on Tenth Street and formally decided to act. On the condition that a feasible plan for further financing projects would be matured, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars was on this occasion pledged. Committees of the Alumni, Faculty and Board of Trustees were formed for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions, approaching the Legislature of the Commonwealth for a grant, and in other ways raising the necessary funds. The Board of Trustees appointed a Building Committee, consisting of Messrs. Phillips, Lippincott and Garrette, and later a Finance Committee, composed of Henry M. Phillips, Asa Packer and James Campbell. Later these committees were merged and joined with a committee of two from the Faculty and a like number from the Alumni Association.

On November 4, 1875, the contract was placed, and on April 27, 1877, the new Hospital was completed and officially opened, receiving its first patient on May 1st. The new institution, with its entire equipment, cost $185,519.83; it afforded four large wards, a number of smaller wards adapted to isolation and segregation of selected cases, and ten private rooms. The maximum capacity for in-patients was 135, and the out-patient service was correspondingly small. Of the former, 441 were admitted during the first year, 621 in the second and 890 in the third. A corresponding increase was shown in the out-patient department, in which during the first year 4,659 patients were treated and in the third year, 5,497.

For thirty years this institution continued to grow in influence and in the amount of work accomplished. During the last year of its existence as a Hospital 3,392 patients were treated in the wards, 3,840 emergencies met, and 101,229 visits paid by out-
patients. In the thirty years of activity 2,000,000 beneficiaries passed through its doors, 50,000 accident cases were treated, 5,000 doctors were equipped in its halls, and nearly 150 nurses graduated from its Training School.

The amphitheatre of the Jefferson Hospital became renowned for the extent and quality of the clinical teaching that it afforded. It was the arena in which operated such surgeons of imperishable fame as the Grosses and the elder Pancoast. There the illustrious J. M. Da Costa taught and the erudite Bartholow lectured. "There spoke Levis, Parvin, Wallace, Biddle, Brinton, Maury and others. There, as guests have stood Esmarch, of Kiel; Mikulicz, of Breslan; Faure, of Paris; Lorenz, of Vienna; Bryant, Durham, Horsley, Ballance and MacCormack, of London; Macewen, of Glasgow; Lawson Tait, of Birmingham; Annandale and Cheyne, of Edinburgh; Emmett, Weir and Thomas, of New York; Senn, of Chicago; our own Marion Sims, and a host of others."

Gradually the institution became totally inadequate for the demands thrown upon it. The higher standard of preliminary education required for the admission of students, the lengthening of the course of instruction, the improvement and extension of methods of teaching and other factors gradually led to the entrance into medical study of men possessing more advanced qualifications, and justly demanding proportionately increased facilities. In this improvement of conditions of medical education the Jefferson Medical College has ever taken a foremost rank, and now felt no inclination to recede. The Hospital originally was started as an adjuvant to teaching methods largely evolved within its hall, and, while accomplishing, as no institution could have better done the purposes for which it was created, had concurrently extended its influences along other humanitarian lines becoming a magnificent charity. Brought forth as a teaching institution, it grew to be one of the greatest charities among the many for which Philadelphia is deservedly noted. The wards became inadequate for the ever-increasing demands upon them; the out-patient departments no longer afforded anything like proper facilities for the care of those applying for treatment. A new hospital was needed.

While both Faculty and Alumni recognized the inadequacy of the old institution and desired something better, it is particularly to the Board of Trustees whose indefatigable energy has marked the rejuvenation of the new College that all are indebted for the completion of the new Hospital. Fully fifteen years before a stroke of work had been expended upon the new institution the Board began feeling its way toward the consummation of an idea which was then little more than a dream. Properties east of the old Hospital and lying between that structure and the old College were purchased; a new College building, at the corner of Tenth and Walnut Streets, was planned, constructed and occupied. In this way became available a plot of ground extending from the old Hospital to Tenth Street. For financing the proposition one million and a half dollars was necessary. The location, in the midst of the most closely built-up portion of the city, demanded that it should be absolutely fireproof; the enormous value of the ground prohibited the acquisition of a large building plot and consequently the structure must be many storied. No two elements add more to the expense of construction than fireproofing and height. The institution must be ideal from sanitary aspects and in every detail adapted to its contemplated purposes—a great charity, a tremendous teaching plant, safe from fire and completely equipped. To attain these ends many paths had to be blazed, requiring time and money, so that from the date upon which the architect first put pen to paper to the dedication of the new building over five years elapsed. It was worth waiting for.

The old Hospital, when crowded, accommodated 125 patients; the new has ample facilities for over 300. The old was dark, gloomy, inflammable—as were all institutions of its time—the new capacious, fire-proof, sunny and well ventilated. Open streets on three sides with electricity for light and power, assures a cool, quiet building in summer and steam heat affords a comfortable winter temperature. Built of steel, brick, terra-cotta, concrete and tile, the structure is fireproof. Capacious roof gardens afford facilities for open air treatment preferable to lawns. Every ward possesses an out-door balcony. The building contains eight operating rooms, each fully equipped for its specific uses. Of the fourteen wards, seven afford accommodations for twenty-four patients each, two for fourteen patients, and the smaller for from one to two to eight patients. Numerous single rooms on the public floors are used for isolation or seclusion of those dangerously ill or for other purposes requiring segregation.

During the last year in the old Hospital 2,267 patients were
admitted to the wards. In the present year (1909) in the new institution the number will reach 5,000. On June 1st, in the old Hospital, the house census was 101; on the same date, 1908, in the new Hospital, it was 198, and on February 1, 1909, 210. In the emergency department a like increase has occurred, amounting to over 40 per cent, in eleven months. In numbers these statistics tell something of the work done; the yearly cost exceeds $200,000, of which $80,000 is contributed by the Commonwealth, and over $120,000 provided by contributions from those charitably inclined, by income from investments, and by the earnings from various sources, principally the private room service.

The Maternity Department of the Jefferson Hospital occupies separate quarters at 224 West Washington Square. Its wards provide for the care of patients during confinement, its dispensary administers to hundreds seeking medical advice and aid, and by a most thoroughly organized system arrangements are constantly maintained for attending poor women at home. Situated on the border of a larger district in which poverty is common, the very location of the Maternity Department renders it available in the most trying period of woman's life. It affords help to the most helpless class and prompt aid at a time when delay means danger and unobtainable assistance, death. Yearly it ministers to hundreds of mothers and their babes.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The names given below include first the members of the original Board of ten Trustees, residing in Philadelphia, who stood by the struggling school through all its dark days, and after them their successors appointed from time to time to fill vacancies. The institution has been fortunate in the character of the public-spirited men of business and the members of the liberal professions that have been enlisted in its service. With no recompense, save the consciousness of supporting an institution for imparting useful knowledge and helping to relieve human suffering, they have ever guarded the interests of the College with watchful eyes.


PRESIDENTS OF THE COLLEGE
