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THE rise and progress of medical science in America forms an important chapter in the history of the new world. This is particularly true with reference to Pennsylvania, where under the early English rule the Quaker influence predominated, the Quakers being a people who gave medicine a leading place among the professions.

The American colonies were peopled by various races, each represented by progressive men who, in part because of natural disposition, in part from the necessities imposed by their isolated position and incident self-dependence, soon threw off the trammels of long time custom, and entered upon a new era in science as well as in government. For, soon after their coming, the discovery of the circulation of the blood was popularized, and this marked the speedy end of charlatanism and necromancy, and the beginnings of modern medicine based upon a slow but progressive investigation of anatomy, physiology, and chemistry.

With the earliest permanent English settlement, that at Jamestown, Virginia, came one who may be regarded as the first physician in America. He was Thomas Wooten, whom Toner, in his "Contributions to the Annals of Medical Progress," speaks of as "Surgeon-General of the Colony," while Captain John Smith terms him "chirurgeon." Surgery was comparatively unknown, and such operations as were then performed were entrusted to persons called barbers, or barber-surgeons. A year later Dr. Walter Russell
arrived, accompanying Captain Smith in his explorations of the Virginia inland waters, and treating him for some injury, as he also did an Indian chief for a gunshot wound. None of these early surgeons or physicians remained long, and in 1609 Captain Smith, having received an injury from an explosion of gunpowder, was obliged to return to England for treatment, there being “neither chirurgeon or chirurgery at the fort.” It may be noted that Virginia was first of the colonies to attempt the safeguarding of the people against quackery, by the enactment of a law “to compel physicians and surgeons to declare on oath the value of their medicines.”

Next after Virginia the Massachusetts Bay colony had a physician, in the person of Samuel Fuller who was of the “Mayflower” company in 1620. While the records of the time refer to him as surgeon of the Plymouth settlement, it does not appear that he held a medical diploma. He treated the people through a large extent of territory, as population expanded, and his wife performed industrious service as a midwife. John Winthrop, Jr., a son of Governor Winthrop, who followed shortly afterward, was famous for his medical attainments. He was one of the leading men of his time, had been among the founders of the Royal Society of Great Britain, and became Governor of Connecticut.

The first physician of record in New Amsterdam was Harman Myndertz Van de Bogart, a ship’s surgeon, who came with the Dutch vessel “Eendraght,” on May 24, 1630. In 1652, when the population of the settlement was presumably one thousand or less, there were resident surgeons, for in February of that year, as shown in the “Register of New Netherlands, 1627-74.” on the petition of the chirurgeons of New Amsterdam, “none but they be allowed to shave, the Director-General and Council understanding that shaving doth not appertain exclusively to chirurgery, but is an appendix thereunto; that no man can be prevented operating on himself, nor to do another this friendly act, provided it be through courtesy and not for gain, which is hereby forbidden.” At the same time it was also ordered that “ship barbers shall not be allowed to dress any wounds nor administer any potions
on shore without the previous knowledge and special consent of the petitioners, or at least of Dr. Johannes La Montagne," who was not only a physician but the adviser, and in many instances the agent, of Governor Kieft. The petitioners are believed to have been Hans Kierstede, Jacob Hendricksen Verrevanger, and Jacob L'Oragne. The inhibitory ordinance directed against the ship's barbers is of peculiar interest, for in it is to be discerned the first legal provisions for the protection of medical practitioners in New York, and, it is believed, in America. The physicians before named, who were thus favored, may be regarded as the founders of modern medicine in New York. Of them the most conspicuous was Dr. Hans Kierstede, who was the progenitor of a long line of physicians and surgeons. He married Sarah Roelefs, a daughter of Annetje Jans, whose descendants have for a century and a half laid claim to the Trinity Church and other valuable lands in the city of New York. Dr. Verrevanger, another of these pioneer physicians, is known as the founder of the first hospital within the territory of the present United States. This was established in a building purchased for the purpose, in 1680, not primarily for the sake of the physically suffering, but for the relief of householders against the exactions of the Dutch authorities, who billeted upon them sick soldiers, and, in some instances, sick negroes.

Reference has thus been made to medical conditions in the earlier settled colonies in order that those in Pennsylvania, at a later day, may be intelligently discerned. The first of the barber-surgeons on the Delaware river was Jan Petersen, who was publicly employed by the Swedish authorities, in July, 1638, at ten guilders per month. After him came Hans Jansche, 1644; Timon Stiddem, 1655; Jan Oosting, 1657; and Peter Tyne­man, 1660. They found little employment, the Swedes and the Dutch in that region, in their simple pastoral lives, suffering from slight ailments only, which they treated themselves, sometimes resorting to friendly Indians for herbal remedies.

With the establishment of the English supremacy, old things passed
away. Penn had not yet planted his colony when, in 1655, Colonel Richard Nicolls became Deputy Governor of New York, under the royal grantee, James Stuart, Duke of York, and promulgated "the Duke's Laws." This code, although framed solely for the colony of New York, was, for the times, so broad and tolerant, upon the whole so beneficent in its provisions, that, if it did not become the recognized law of the other English colonies, its spirit prevailed in them to a large degree. Indeed, a portion of these laws, pertaining, too, to the practice of medicine, was in 1672 adopted verbatim by the Assembly of the Massachusetts Bay colony, and placed upon its statute books. The following is the text:

"It is therefore ordered that no person or persons whatsoever, employed at any time about the bodies of men, women, or children for the preservation of life or health: as Chirurgeons, Midwives, Physicians or others, presume to exercise or put forth any act contrary to the known approved Rules of Art, in each Mystery and Occupation, nor exercise any force violence or cruelty upon or towards the body of any whether young or old (no not in the most difficult and desperate cases) without the advice and consent of such as are skilled in the same Art (if such may be had) or at least of some of the wisest and gravest then present, and the consent of the patient or patients if they be mentis compotes, much less contrary to such advice and consent. Upon such severe punishment as the nature of the fact may deserve; which Law never-the-less is not intended to discourage any from all lawful use of their skill, but rather to encourage and direct them in the right use thereof, and to inhibit and restrain the presumptuous arrogancy of such as through presence of their own skill or any other sinister respects, dare boldly attempt to exercise any violence upon or toward the bodies of the young or old, one or the other, to the prejudice or hazard of the life or limb of man woman or child."

Pennsylvania, which came into being later than did the colonies previously referred to, entered upon its career under conditions the most favorable. Upon its soil the foundations of civil and religious liberty were laid deep and strong, and the individual was exalted in all his best attributes. Penn had proclaimed to all comers that they should feel assured, for themselves and for all generations to come after them, of their entire freedom as men and Christians, "that they may not be brought in bondage but by their own consent." He made it his care to frame a constitution "as near
as may be conveniently to the primitive, ancient and fundamental laws of the Kingdom of England," but introducing the democratic method of making all offices elective, and a new principle of perfect religious freedom—"that no man nor numbers of men upon earth hath power or authority to rule over men's consciences in religious matters." This was in marked contrast with the theocratical ideas of the Puritans in New England, on the one hand, and the aristocratical reign of Locke in Carolina, on the other. In response to Penn's liberal scheme of government, his declaration of his intention "to try this holy experiment of a free colony for all mankind," came a sturdy people—men, and women, too, of brawn, brain, and conscience, with lofty ideas of duty to their God and their fellows. The greater number were farmers and mechanics. Simple and clean in their lives, the homes which they built were humble, but they were the seat of all the domestic virtues, and the children they reared inherited the athletic frame, rugged constitution, and moral fiber of their forbears. Their leaders were men of no ordinary mold, as witness those comprising the first Assembly which met at Upland, now the city of Chester, and who there expressed their hearty acceptance of Penn's principles of civil government and religious freedom, and adopted the "Great Law of Pennsylvania," that merciful code, in which the only death penalty prescribed was for the crime of murder, in this regard strangely dissimilar from that of East Jersey, which provided death for thirteen distinct crimes and offenses. It is not strange that upon such foundations, laid by such a people, Pennsylvania was soon to take a leading place in statesmanship, in letters, in the sciences and in mechanics.

A vanguard to the Penn colony of 1682 was the little company of agents for the Society of Free Traders. The President, Dr. Nicholas Moore, was a physician, but little more than this mere fact is known of him. The official "chirurgeon" was John Goodson, who came from London, England, first settling at Upland. To him all writers of Pennsylvania history accord the distinction of having been the first practicing physician in the colony, the ship's barbers previously named having been located in Delaware, at New
Amstel, near the present city of New Castle. Goodson does not, however, long remain in view, his removal to Philadelphia being the last mention of him which we find. With Penn in the "Welcome" came Thomas Lloyd, Thomas Wynne, and Griffith Owen, medical men of character and repute, and trained in European schools. "These," says a contemporary writer, "like other Welshmen and Englishmen who first occupied this part of the colony, were well calculated to secure for it a prominence in national welfare, in scientific standing, and in morality, which it soon reached and long maintained." Of Owen it is to be said that in attainments and usefulness he was foremost of the practitioners of his day, and for the last half of his life, covering a period of thirty-five years, he was the most industrious man of his calling in the colony, his practice extending down the river and into the interior. He was the performer of the first recorded case of amputation in Pennsylvania, removing the arm of a young man which had been injured in the firing of a salute in honor of Penn on his return from England. Notwithstanding his devotion to his profession, Owen was prominent in public affairs, serving as a member of the Assembly, Deputy Master of the Rolls, and Commissioner of Property; and he frequently preached in the meetings of the Quakers, in whose councils he was held with a respect almost amounting to reverence. He was highly regarded by Penn, who wrote of him as "tender Griffith Owen, who both sees and feels." He left a namesake son, who was also a physician, but died at an early age. Lloyd and Wynne have little more than a nominal connection with the medical profession, so soon did they turn their attention to public affairs. Their diversion to the latter field was probably due to necessity fully as much as to inclination, for there was little employment for them as physicians. Lloyd became Deputy Governor, President of the Council, and Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province. Wynne was President of the first Assembly, a man always active in the affairs of the province, and in good repute with the people, although there were those whom he left behind in England who would have robbed him of his fair name and character. Yet the names of Lloyd and Wynne must be held
in association with that of Owen, for upon the labors of these three rest in large degree the foundations of medical science and medical institutions in Pennsylvania, which was then and for many years afterwards in advance of all the other colonies in these respects.

Notwithstanding the fact that from the beginning of its history the city founded by Penn increased rapidly in population and commercial importance, and in spite of the dignity which Owen and his colleagues gave to their profession, there was for a considerable time little inclination on the part of its people to add to the number of those who would practice physic and surgery. On the contrary, there appears to have been a determination to discourage growth in that direction. In 1685, three years after the colony was planted, Charles Gordon, of New Jersey, in a letter to his brother in England, also a physician, wrote as follows: "If you desire to come hither yourself, you may come as a Planter, or a Merchant, but as a Doctor of Medicine I cannot advise you; for I hear of no diseases here to cure but some Agues, and cutted legs and fingers, and there is no want of empirics for these already; I confess you could do more than any yet in America, being versed both in Chirurgery and Pharmacie, for here are abundance of curious herbs, shrubs and trees, and no doubt medicinal ones for making drugs, but there is little or no employment in this way." Another, Gabriel Thomas, a man of substance, unquestionably a man of positive ideas, and with individual opinions of men and things, appears to have sturdily opposed the presence of both doctors and lawyers in the colony. In his diary, in writing of the conditions prevailing in the region, he notes: "Of lawyers and physicians I shall say nothing, because this country is now Peaceable and Healthy: long may it so continue and never have occasion for the tongue of the one nor the Pen of the other, both equally destructive to Men's Estates and Sins; besides, forsooth, they, Hangman like, have a License to Murder and make Mischief."

In 1711, six years before the death of Dr. Griffith Owen, Dr. John Kearsley came to Philadelphia and entered upon a career which stamped him
as the foremost practitioner and medical teacher of his day. Born in England, he had received the most thorough professional training that could then be obtained. He came into prominence at the time when Franklin was mounting "to the zenith of his influence and fame"; when John Bartram was "reflecting lustre on his native land" by his discoveries in the science of botany, which led to his being mentioned as the "greatest practical botanist in the world," and when David Rittenhouse was working out his scientific problems in astronomy and mathematics. He was an enthusiastic teacher, and received into his office a large number of young students, some of whom subsequently found recognition as among the brightest minds known to the profession in the early years of the eighteenth century. Among these was John Bard, who located in New York, where he became famous as a practitioner and author; he established the first quarantine station there. His son, Dr. Samuel Bard, a native of Philadelphia, and a graduate in medicine of the Edinburgh (Scotland) University, was the principal factor in the founding of the Medical School of King's College, New York. Another student under Kearsley was John Redman, also born in Philadelphia, who completed his medical studies in England and Scotland, became one of the earliest physicians to the Pennsylvania Hospital, was the first President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, but whose greatest distinction, perhaps, was that he was for six years the professional preceptor of Benjamin Rush. Of his pupils, said one writer, Kearsley "exacted services beyond those which belonged specifically to their medical studies, for they were required to compound his medicines and go his errands, and do for him other menial services, emerging from his hard school with a rare fitness for the work they were to do in their rapidly developing country." Others who, if they were not actual students under Kearsley, came under his influence and listened at times to his expositions of medicine, general science and governmental affairs, and made for themselves useful careers in the medical profession, were Thomas Cadwalader, William Shippen, Thomas Bond, Phineas Bond, Cadwalader Evans, and Kearsley's nephew John Kearsley,
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Jr. Dr. Kearsley was as useful in community affairs as he was in his profession. He served for many years in the Assembly, in which body he displayed fine oratorical abilities and an almost passionate patriotic spirit. He interested himself in various public enterprises, and contributed liberally to the building of Christ Church, one of the oldest and most interesting structures of its kind in the state. He was also one of the founders of Christ Church Hospital for Poor Widows, a charity which has been maintained to the present day. He had a cultivated taste for architecture, and was the designer of Independence Hall and Christ Church.

Philadelphia witnessed the first attempt at systematic instruction in medicine in America. Dr. Cadwallader Colden, a native of Scotland and a graduate of Edinburgh University, came to the city in 1710, at the age of twenty-two. In 1717 he sought to procure a legislative appropriation in his own behalf as physician to minister to the medical requirements of the poor. He also made an attempt to establish, with the aid of an Act of Assembly, a course of public physical lectures, "to the support of which every unmarried man above twenty-one years should pay six shillings eight pence yearly; and that the corpses of all persons whatever who died here should be visited by an appointed physician who should receive for his trouble three shillings and four pence." The plan did not receive the approval of the legislative power, and Colden's endeavor yielded no substantial results. He remained but five years, busily engaged in practice and associated with Franklin in scientific investigations, and otherwise taking a useful part in the affairs of the growing city. During this time he wrote his first medical paper, one on "Animal Secretion," which his friend, the distinguished Edmund Halley, read before the Royal Society of London. In 1715 Colden visited England, and on his return located in New York, which became the scene of his most active and useful efforts as a scientist and publicist.

About 1750, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, a native of Philadelphia, began public medical teaching with a series of dissections and demonstrations in anatomy. This is said to have been done for the especial instruction of Dr.
Shippen and several others who had not enjoyed the advantages of European schools, and was the first teaching institution of its kind in Pennsylvania. It is pleasant to note that his students, who were practitioners themselves, were entirely devoid of envy or jealousy, and eagerly sought his instruction, which he gave out of a sincere love for science. Dr. Cadwalader was the author of a work entitled "An Essay on the West Indian Gripe," which was one of the very first publications on a medical subject to be produced in this country. In this he records a necropsy in 1742, which was one of the first in the American provinces, and probably second only to the autopsy on the body of Governor Slaughter, whose mysterious death in 1691 gave rise to the suspicion that he had been poisoned.

The practice of inoculation for smallpox seems to have been resorted to during the epidemic of 1731, by Dr. John Kearsley, Dr. Lloyd Zachary, the elder Shippen, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, Dr. Somers and Dr. Thomas Bond. Dr. Thomas Graeme, then one of the noted physicians of the day, favored the practice, but was sick throughout the period of the scourge.

During this, the formative period of medical history in Pennsylvania, there was manifested a deep interest in educational and scientific subjects by men of learning and humanitarian tendencies. This led to numerous investigations of scientific subjects, resulting in the establishment of institutions of much importance, and, it is to be noted, the leading physicians bore a full share in the arduous labors in connection therewith. The first of these was the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded in July, 1731, the first subscription library in America. Another was the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1743, and the outgrowth of the once famous Junta, or Leather Apron Club, which was formed in 1728 by Franklin and a few of his associates. Still another was the Academy of Philadelphia, which originated in 1749, through the suggestion of Dr. Phineas Bond to Benjamin Franklin, and which, passing through different stages, advancing always, developed finally into the University of Pennsylvania, the alma
mater of thousands of men schooled in the professions of medicine and law, the arts and sciences, and in other useful pursuits.

Another noteworthy institution originating during the same period was the Pennsylvania Hospital, founded in 1751, largely through Franklin’s influence, but greatly advanced by Dr. Thomas Bond, who, with Thomas Bond, Lloyd Zachary and Phineas Bond, formed the first visiting staff, while Thomas Cadwalader, Graeme Moore, and John Redman constituted the consulting staff. This was the first regularly established hospital in the colonies, preceding that at New York by twenty years (1771), and that in Massachusetts by a much longer period. By reason of its superior opportunities for clinical observation, it was for many years the most important field for medical instruction in the country.

In 1786 was established the Philadelphia Dispensary, the pioneer of its kind in the whole country. The first staff of attending physicians consisted of Drs. Samuel P. Griffiths, James Hall, William Clarkson, John Morris, John Carson, and Caspar Wistar, with Drs. Jones, Shippen, Kuhn and Rush as consultants.

In 1789 the College of Physicians came into existence. From its founding it has been known as one of the most useful and dignified medical bodies in America, whose fellowships are a sure index of professional integrity and worth. One well known writer of the medical profession and its institutions in Pennsylvania, treating of the College of Physicians, says it was “largely composed of the very men whose force and breadth was shown by the fact that they were sufficient to include in the sphere of their activities in many cases not one but many of these important bodies, for the roll of the College of Physicians included the names of men of the greatest influence in shaping the destinies of the colony and afterwards of the nation when Philadelphia was the center of government.”

The founding of the Academy of Philadelphia in a large measure satisfied the demand for an institution of higher education in the city and province. It was the result of a project of Franklin, formulated in a pamphlet issued
by him, and entitled “Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania.” The founders were among the most prominent men in the city, and included among the physicians Lloyd Zachary, William Shippen, Phineas Bond, and Thomas Bond. Each was deeply interested in the work; they built well, and the structure which resulted from their efforts has endured to the present time. In 1755 the charter was amended, and the name changed to The College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia, and at the same time the institution was authorized to grant the “usual University degrees.”

The Medical School of the Academy of Philadelphia was founded in
1765, sixteen years after the establishment of the Academy (or College) itself. It was the first institution of its kind in America, predating the Medical School of King's College, New York, 1767; the Harvard Medical School, 1783; and the Dartmouth Medical School, 1798. These were the only medical schools in the country until after the beginning of the next century, the medical department of the University of Maryland having been founded in 1807, that of Yale College in 1813, the Medical College of Ohio, in Cincinnati, in 1819; and all others later.

The pioneer medical school owes its founding chiefly to Dr. John Morgan, who was a native of Philadelphia, and one of the first graduates from the College of Philadelphia, in 1757. He began his medical studies under Dr. John Redman, served as surgeon in the French war, and completed his professional education in Edinburgh and London, with a view to fitting himself for teaching medicine. Returning to Philadelphia, he made Dr. William Shippen, Jr., his associate in his project to establish a school of medicine. Dr. Shippen was also a native of Philadelphia, a graduate of the
College of New Jersey, now Princeton; he had studied medicine under his father, and completed courses in Edinburgh and London, during the time being a fellow student with Morgan. Shippen returned home in 1762, three years before Morgan, and in the same year delivered a series of lectures on midwifery, the first special course in America upon this subject. Later the same year he began a course of "anatomical lectures for the advantage of the young gentlemen now engaged in the study of physic, in this and the neighboring provinces, whose circumstances and connections will not admit of their going abroad for improvement to the anatomical schools of Europe; and also for the entertainment of any gentleman who may have the curiosity to understand the anatomy of the human frame."

Dr. Morgan laid his plans before the Trustees of the College, and they were at once approved (May 3, 1765), and he was unanimously elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the College of Philadelphia, thus becoming the first Medical Professor created in America. A few weeks later (May 30th) Dr. Morgan delivered a "Discourse upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America," which has been characterized by Dr. James G. Mumford ("A Narrative of Medicine in America"), as "the most notable American educational essay of the eighteenth century." This paper had been submitted to Dr. Fothergill, Dr. Hunter and Dr. Watson, in London. One of its paragraphs, in a prophetic vein, is worthy of reproduction here:

"Perhaps this Medical Institution, the first of its kind in America, though small in the beginning, may receive a constant increase of strength, and annually exert new vigor. It may collect a number of young persons, of more than ordinary abilities, and so improve their knowledge as to spread its reputation to distant parts. By sending these abroad duly qualified, or by exciting an emulation amongst men of parts and literature, it may give birth to other useful institutions of a similar nature, or occasional rise, by its example, to numerous societies of different kinds, calculated to spread the light of knowledge through the whole American Continent, wherever inhabited."

In September, 1765, Dr. William Shippen, Jr., was elected by the Trustees to the chair of Anatomy and Surgery, and he entered upon his
Dr. John Morgan.

(From painting in College of Physicians, Philadelphia. By Angelica Kauffman, 1846.)
course of lectures on November 14th. Dr. Morgan lectured upon Materia Medica, and, in the following year, his subjects were announced to be “Theory and Practice of Physic, with a preparatory course on Botany, Chemistry and the Materia Medica.” Dr. Thomas Bond delivered a course of “clynical lectures” in the Pennsylvania Hospital, “as a Branch of Medical Education,” but it does not appear that he ever occupied a professorial chair in the medical school.

The first commencement of the Medical School of the College of Philadelphian, and the first of any medical school in America, was held on June 21st, 1768, and, as the newspaper account says, “the whole was honoured with the presence of a polite and learned assembly, who by their kind approbation testified the satisfaction which the inhabitants of this place have in the improvement of useful knowledge in their native country.” The event was written of upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees as follows:

“This day may be considered as the Birth-day of Medical Honours in America. The Trustees being met at half an hour past nine in the forenoon, and the several Professors and Medical Candidates, in their proper Habits, proceeded from the Apparatus Room to the Public Hall, where a polite assembly of their fellow-citizens were convened to honor the Solennity. The Provost having there received the Mandate for the Commencement from his Honor the Governor, as President of the Trustees, introduced the business of the day with Prayers and a short Latin Oration, suited to the occasion. The part alluding to the School of Medicine is in the following language:

“Oh! Factum bene! Vos quoque Professores Medici, qui magno mummi, temporis et laboris sumpter, longa quoque peregrinatione per varias regiones, et populos, domum reduxistis et peritiam, et nobile consilium servandi, et rationali praxi, docendi alios servare valetudinem vestrum civium Gratam facitis omnibus, sed pergratum certe peritis illis medicis qui artis suae dignitatis consci, praxim rationalem, et juventutis institutionem in re medica liberalem, hisce regionibus, ante vos longe desideraverunt.’

‘To this succeeded

‘1. A Latin oration, delivered by Mr. John Lawrence, ‘De Honoribus qui in omni aevi in veros Medicinae cultores collati fuerint.’

‘2. A dispute whether the Retina or Tunica Chorides be the immediate seat of vision? The argument for the Retina was ingeniously maintained by Mr. Cowell; the opposite side of the question was supported with great acuteness by Mr. Fullerton, who contended that the Retina is incapable of the office ascribed to it, on account of its being easily permeable to the rays
of light, and that the choroid coat, by its being opaque, is the proper part
for stopping the rays, and receiving the picture of the object.

“3. Questo, num detur Fluidum Nervosum? Mr. Duffield held the
affirmative and Mr. Way the negative, both with great learning.

“4. Mr. Tilton delivered an essay ‘On Respiration,’ and the manner in
which it was performed did credit to his abilities.

“5. The Provost then conferred the degree of Bachelor of Medicine
on the following gentlemen, viz.: Messrs. John Archer, of New Castle
County; Benjamin Cowell, of Bucks; Samuel Duffield and Jonathan Potts,
of Philadelphia; Jonathan Elmer, of New Jersey; Humphrey Fullerton, of
Lancaster County; David Jackson, of Chester County; John Lawrence, of
East Jersey; James Tilton, of Kent County, Delaware; and Nicholas Way,
of Wilmington.

“6. An elegant valedictory oration was spoken by Mr. Potts, ‘On the
Advantages derived in the Study of Physic, from a previous liberal education
in the other sciences.’

“The Provost (the Rev. Dr. William Smith) then addressed the Gradu­
ates in a brief account of the present state of the College, and of the quick
progress in the various extensive establishments it hath already made. He
pointed out the general causes of the advancement as well as decline of liter­
ature in different Nations of the World, and observed to the Graduates,
that as they were the first to receive medical honors in America, on a regular
Collegiate plan, it depended much on them, by their future conduct and
eminence, to place such honors in estimation among their countrymen; con­
cluding with an earnest appeal that they would never neglect the oppor­
tunities which their profession would give them, when their art could be of
no further service to the body, of making serious impressions on their
patients, and showing themselves men of consolation and piety, especially
at the awful approach of death, which could not fail to have singular weight
from a lay character.

“Dr. Shippen, Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, then gave the re­
mainder of the charge, further inviting the Graduates to support the dignity
of their Profession by a laudable perseverance in their studies, and by a
Practice becoming the character of a gentleman; adding many useful pre­
cepts respecting their conduct towards their patients, charity towards all;
and with reference to the opportunity that they might have of gaining the
confidence of the sick, and esteem of every one who by their vigilance and
skill might be relieved from suffering, and restored to health.

“The Vice President concluded the whole with Prayer and Thank­
giving.”

The degree conferred at this time was that of Bachelor of Medicine,
which was discontinued in 1789, for the reason that but few who received
it returned to the school to labor for the doctorate degree. At the commence­
ment of 1771 four of the Bachelors of 1768 received the degree of Doctor of
Dr. William Shippen, Jr.

(From painting in College of Physicians, Philadelphia. Artist unknown.)
BEGINNING OF ITS HISTORY

Medicine. These, the first Doctors of Medicine graduated in Philadelphia, were Jonathan Elmer, Jonathan Potts, James Tilton, and Nicholas Way. Each presented a thesis, and that of Potts, "De Febribus intermittentibus potissimum tertianis," and bearing the imprint, "Philadelphiae: Typis Johannis Dunlap, MDCCCLXXI," is still preserved. Potts and Tilton both became prominent by their connection with the Continental army during the Revolutionary war.

Fac-simile Diploma of John Archer, the first Medical Diploma.

It is to be inferred, in view of the utterances of Dr. Morgan, at the commencement above referred to, that the Hippocratic Oath was not administered to the graduates, possibly out of deference to the antipathies of the Friends to all beyond simple affirmation. The minutes of the Board of Trustees contain the following:

"Each of the candidates having judiciously answered the objections made to some parts of their Dissertations, the Provost conferred upon them
the Degree of Doctor of Physic, with particular solemnity, as the highest mark of honour which they could receive in the Profession.

"Dr. Morgan, who was appointed to that part of the Business, entered into a particular account of those branches of study which the Medical Gentlemen ought still to prosecute with unremitted Diligence, if they wished to be eminent in their Profession, laying down some useful rules for an honourable practice in the discharge of it. He observed that the 'oath' which was prescribed by Hippocrates to his Disciples had been generally adopted in the Universities and Schools of Physic on like occasions, and that laying aside the form of oaths, the College, which is of a free spirit, wished only to bind its Sons and Graduates by the ties of Honour and Gratitude, and that therefore he begged leave to impress upon those who had received the distinguished Degree of Doctor that as they were among the foremost sons of the Institution, and as the Birth Day of its Medical Honours had arisen upon them with auspicious lustre, they would, in their practice, consult the safety of their Patients, the good of the community, and the dignity of their Profession so that the Seminary from which they derived their Titles in Physic, might never have cause to be ashamed of them."

While, as has been shown, the first medical degrees in America were conferred by the Medical School of the College of Philadelphia, it is curious to note that the first full medical degrees were conferred by the Medical School of King’s College, New York, of which the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the medical department of Columbia University, is the legitimate successor. The Philadelphia graduates received the Bachelor’s degree in June, 1768, and those of New York the same degree in May, 1769, a year later, the latter being Robert Tucker and Samuel Kissam. May 15, 1770, Tucker received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, the first recipient of that honor in America, and Kissam received the same degree May 21, 1771, one month before the doctorate degree was conferred in Philadelphia. These facts are of interest for the reason that the two schools named run so nearly parallel in their early history. Should any value attach to the fact of priority in bearing the title of Doctor, we must needs seek more ancient authority. Thus, in 1663, the General Court of Rhode Island licensed Captain John Cranston “to administer physick and practice chirurgerie, and is by this court styled doctor of physick and chirurgery by the authority of this the General Assembly of this Colony.” Again, in 1720, Yale College conferred upon Daniel Tucker the degree of Doctor of Medicine, but this was
simply an honorary degree. Tucker had been a liberal benefactor of the institution, and the reason for the honor was so well understood that his M.D. was facetiously interpreted "Multa Donavit."

From the close of the Revolutionary war to the beginning of the nineteenth century, medical institutions were constantly advancing and attaining a higher standard of efficiency. The war itself had temporarily injured all interests which centered in Philadelphia, and during the occupancy of the city by the British there was little attempt on the part of Americans to carry forward the operation of many of their institutions. Medical interests suffered with others, yet the period had its lesson in teaching the importance of more general education, particularly in regard to practice in surgery, and after the end of the contest the minds of the leading physicians were directed in new channels, and there was a gradual drawing together in their professional circles. The result was the establishment within the next few years of several new and important institutions, the Philadelphia Dispensary, the College of Physicians, the Academy of Medicine, etc.

There was established, too, a custom among the older practitioners of giving their pupils practical training in anatomy and physiology, with occasional dissections. This led to the opening of several private schools of medicine, some of which were of importance, and all of which tended to increase interest in medical education, and ultimately led to the founding of a second medical college in the city.

It has been said that the first twenty-five years of the nineteenth century constituted a period of reformation in the medical history of Philadelphia; a period of "reconstruction and disaffection of various sorts, not the least being an awakening resistance to the old systems"; a period of "transition to the extreme skepticism that foreshadowed the modern scientific spirit, and one of restlessness that sought to work out toward new conditions." A new generation of factors was coming into existence, and a new school of method in practice was beginning to replace the older custom. It was the beginning of an age of progress, and as its exemplars and advocates held
to advanced thought both in the theory and practice of medicine they found themselves opposed with many obstacles, not the least of which was the non-progressive element of the ancient schools.

During this period the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania had gained numerical supremacy in the country, and it is probable, as has been suggested by Dr. F. P. Henry, that this very aggregation of medical students in one school in a growing city was an impetus to larger facilities. Certain it is that about the end of the period referred to, a spirit of disaffection worked its way into the councils of the University and increased the general desire for the establishment of another school. Other causes contributed to the growing sentiment, and it required only a little agitation to set them in motion.

The situation in respect to the history of medicine in Philadelphia at this time, if not novel, was at least interesting, for important events were destined to follow, and at least one great institution was to be founded and permanently maintained. This was the Jefferson Medical College, which was the result of the united efforts of several eminent physicians of that day, headed by Dr. George McClellan, a leader in medical thought and action, a man of originality and power, and well calculated by natural endowment to carry into successful operation any project which his fertile brain might formulate.

In the establishment of private schools of medical instruction during the early years of the nineteenth century, Dr. Nathaniel Chapman was a pioneer. His work was begun in 1817, when he put into operation a plan of giving private and public lectures to his pupils, much in the same manner but far more comprehensive in scope than those which were inaugurated during Griffith Owen's time. Dr. Chapman has been described by biographers as a young and popular Virginian, a member of the University Faculty, and a physician of much prominence. In his special work he was associated with Dr. Horner, and from the beginning made by them soon came into existence the Medical Institute, which, ten years later, "reached to the
condition of a popular and systematic course of instruction," extending over nearly the whole year, and numbering on the rolls more than one hundred students.

In 1818 Dr. Joseph Parrish opened a school for private instruction in medicine, and in a short time had classes of more than thirty pupils. Thus encouraged, he called to his assistance Dr. George B. Wood, and afterward added other lecturers to his corps of instructors. In 1830 the school developed into the Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction, with a Faculty comprising Drs. Parrish, Wood, S. G. Morton, J. R. Barton and Franklin Bache; and still later there were added Jacob Randolph, W. W. Gerhard, Joseph Pancoast, and William Rush. The school flourished until about 1836, and then began to decline. Its founder died in 1840.

Another private school which about this time attracted some attention, and a fair patronage, was that founded between 1818 and 1820 by Dr. William Gibson, a practitioner of good repute, and a lecturer of more than ordinary capacity. His institution was dignified with the name of School of Medicine. It flourished for several years, then fell into a decline, and passed out of existence. The associate lecturers in this school were men of prominence in medical circles, among them being Drs. Jacob Randolph, Benjamin H. Coates, Rene LaRoche, John Hopkinson, and Charles D. Meigs. The latter afterward became prominently identified with the Jefferson Medical College, and was one of the "Faculty of 1841" that extended the fame of the institution throughout the land.

When, in 1820, Dr. Jason V. Lawrence opened a school for private medical instruction in Philadelphia, he found the field well supplied with institutions of that character; but he evidently reasoned, and with excellent judgment, that the city was destined to become the chief seat of medical learning in the country. Being an originator of new ideas in professional work, and a man of strong personality, as well as a scholarly lecturer, he varied somewhat the custom of the day and named his institution the Philadelphia Anatomical Rooms. In 1822 Lawrence became Assistant to the
chairs of Anatomy and Surgery in the University, and from that time his private enterprise was intended for a summer school to cover the long vacation (from April to November) of the greater institution. He died in 1823, after which the school passed into the hands of Dr. John D. Goodman. He conducted its course with remarkable success, and during the first year gave lectures to seventy students; but in 1826 he removed to New York, and Dr. James Webster succeeded him, remaining four years as proprietor, and then accepting a chair in another institution. Dr. Pancoast then assumed the management and conducted the school until 1839, when he joined the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College.

In 1838 Dr. James McClintock opened his Philadelphia School of Anatomy, following in the footsteps of Lawrence, and ultimately succeeding to the control of the school founded by the latter. The merger was effected in 1841, and thereafter until 1875 the Philadelphia School of Anatomy was numbered among the notable institutions of medical instruction in the city. On the rolls of the Faculty are found the names of such men as DRS. William R. Grant, D. Hayes Agnew, James A. Garretson, James P. Andrews, R. S. Sutton, W. W. Keen, Dr. Richardson, H. Lenox Hodge and others. The Philadelphia School of Anatomy, under its various proprietorships and names, was in all respects a worthy institution, and frequently was mentioned as a “famous training ground for professional chairs” in medical schools of more pretentious character. For many years its history ran in parallel lines with that of the Jefferson Medical College, and the latter certainly profited by its existence, although they were in no sense allied to one another.

In 1821 another lecture-course was started in Philadelphia by a young man whose practice included the full range of the profession, both medicine and surgery; and, if he excelled in either, it was in the latter branch. In a lecture room fitted up in connection with his office at the corner of Walnut and Swanwick streets, this young aspirant, then twenty-four years old, laid the foundation for a permanent institution of medicine when he opened his doors to students; and, while there was nothing unusual in his manner and
methods, and little to indicate a purpose other than the temporary prestige of standing at the head of an excellent private school for medical instruction, Dr. George McClellan had in mind the founding of an institution of a high order when he began his work. To this time, to this fountain head, and to the fertile brain of George McClellan, the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia traces its history, although several years passed before the

![Anatomical Hall, 1765-1802.](image)

institution was recognized as a factor in educational circles, and was authorized to grant diplomas and confer degrees.

As a pupil under the preceptorship of such eminent physicians as Dorsey and Physick, George McClellan was well equipped for the management of a private medical school. As a descendant of Highland-Scotch and English ancestry, and the grandson of an old Revolutionary patriot, General Samuel
McClellan, he was by nature qualified to contend against opposition and develop his school into a well ordered Medical College, equal to that of any similar institution.

The mere setting up of a private medical school was easy of accomplishment, for there could be no objection to such action. On the contrary such establishments were favored rather than opposed, as they afforded excellent preliminary training to students who contemplated a course of lectures and advanced study in the University; but when an attempt was made to secure an act of incorporation for a medical institution which could in any sense rival the University, a storm of opposition was aroused, and the efforts of the supporters of the new enterprise came to naught through the greater influence of the opposition with the legislative power. But it remained for McClellan to overcome the opposing influence by recourse to strategy of good generalship, for he inherited something of that quality from his ancestor, and in turn transmitted it to his own son. The result of his endeavors was the founding of the Jefferson Medical College.