CHAPTER IV.

The First Commencement—Members of the Graduating Class—Faculty Jealousies—Reorganization of the Faculty—A New Medical Hall Erected by Dr. Ely—Method of Paying the Rent—Resignation of Drake and Eberle—Changes and Dissensions—The Announcement of 1832—Gratuitous Students—"The Rose Chamber."

The Jefferson Medical College was founded and its permanency assured when Governor Shultze affixed his signature to the bill, a copy of which forms a part of the preceding chapter. Previous to the time when the act became a law, the institution had an experimental existence, but there was no guarantee of its future life. Under the patronage of the Jefferson College, the Faculty of the Medical Department had been permitted to open their school in Philadelphia. The venture was purely experimental; the fees were received and the expenses were paid by the members of the Faculty. The parent institution was not in any manner responsible for the failure of the branch department, nor did its Trustees expect to derive profit therefrom in case of ultimate success from a financial standpoint. The matter of success or failure rested with the Medical Faculty alone.

The Trustees of Jefferson College were faithful to every pledge made to the founders of the Medical School. They had promised and given it a temporary existence, and until the question was raised during the latter part of 1825, it was confidently believed that under a fair construction of the provisions of their own charter they were authorized to graduate students in medicine, and to confer the doctor’s degree. But when the subject was seriously considered, and the enemies of the Medical Department had declared that diplomas could not lawfully be granted, the Trustees promptly applied to the legislature for an enlargement of their charter; and they were loyal
to the interests of their struggling offspring until the latter was able to stand of its own independent strength. The act was the result of their endeavors united with the persistent effort of Drs. McClellan and Eberle of the Medical School, the onus of the work necessary to be done falling generally upon the Professors comprising the Faculty at that time.

In the legislature the bill was much delayed, both in the house and in the senate. This was due in part to natural causes and in part to the serious opposition of those who refused to recognize the need of a second chartered Medical College in Philadelphia, and who were determined to prevent it. To overcome such influential opposition as developed on this occasion was indeed a victory for the advocates of the new institution, and attracted to it many warm friends. However, the delay in the passage of the bill had the effect to injure the school to some extent, and also to necessitate a postponement of the commencement exercises. These were originally fixed for March, but not until April 14, 1826, were they, in fact, held.

At a meeting of the Faculty on April 8 it was announced that the Commencement might be held on the 14th, and it was then resolved that Dr. Ashbel Green be requested to officiate on the occasion; also that public notice of the event be given, and that private invitations be sent to the clergy. To Professor Smith was assigned the address to the graduates. At the appointed time the commencement was held, the exercises being opened with prayer by Dr. Green. The degree of Doctor of Medicine was then conferred on twenty graduates who had passed the examinations.

The members of this pioneer class of graduates from the Jefferson Medical College, with the subject of the thesis of each, were as follows:

Nathan L. Hatfield, "Dysentery," Pennsylvania.
J. Frederick Stadiger, "Epilepsy," Pennsylvania.
Atkinson Pelham, "Mania a Potu," Kentucky.
Joel Foster, "Neuroses," Vermont.
John Graham, "Epilepsy," Ireland.

Dr. Gayley, in writing of the history of the Jefferson Medical College, said:

"The first session of the new effort was highly satisfactory to its friends and founders. Though the Faculty was mainly composed of young men, and the institution viewed only as an experiment, the size of the class was respectable. In June, 1826, the board (at Canonsburg) created another chair, by separating the Institutes from that of Materia Medica, and appointed to it Dr. William R. C. Barton. They also had obtained from the legislature the necessary enlargement of their charter, authorizing the appointment of twelve trustees in Philadelphia to superintend the Medical Department. These convened in the College on the 9th of August, and immediately appointed a committee to 'inquire into and report whether any changes in the then existing Professorships were necessary or expedient.' At their next meeting this committee recommended that the chair of Midwifery be vacated, and at a subsequent meeting, held September 28, Dr. John Barnes was appointed to fill it temporarily, during the ensuing session. In the meantime Dr. Barton took the chair of Materia Medica, and Dr. Rhees that of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, these branches being more congenial to the tastes of the gentlemen concerned than the chairs to which they had been appointed. An unfortunate difficulty between the late professor of Midwifery and another member of the Faculty, which ended in litigation, had a disastrous effect on the class of 1826-27, and it diminished considerably, though the graduating class rose to thirty-four—an increase of fourteen on that of the previous year."
With the Governor's approval of the supplementary act of 1826, the Jefferson Medical College at once assumed a new status in the educational world. It was now a College in fact, and not merely in name, and was entitled to nearly all the privileges enjoyed by other institutions of its class. Its managing Trustees were residents of Philadelphia, and while ostensibly they were additional Trustees of the Jefferson College, their especial office was to protect and promote the welfare of the Medical Department. Their interest, however, was hardly more than nominal, and their duties little more than perfunctory; the affairs of the Department were to a large extent permitted to remain in charge of the Faculty, and when dissensions worked themselves into the councils of that body, the College suffered loss in attendance and prestige.

It was not alone the difficulty between the "late Professor of Midwifery and another member of the Faculty" that caused trouble and had such a disastrous effect on the class of 1826-27; but owing to certain jealousies the whole body of Professors, with hardly more than one or two exceptions, became involved in a controversy which at one time threatened the very life of the school. Just where and with whom the fault lay is a question which has been frequently discussed and enlarged upon.

From a study of the history of the institution during its first ten or twelve years one is inclined to attribute the cause of the trouble to feelings of jealousy growing out of the fee system of charges, which at times appeared to infect the entire Faculty. There were jealousies, too, arising from other causes, and it soon became evident that, in order to maintain the College, a more commodious building must be provided; the Faculty must have more rooms at their disposal, else the clashing of interests would continue indefinitely. This unfortunate phase of the history of the College was not fully eliminated even with the removal to the new building on Tenth street, and from that time to the radical changes of 1841 there was occasional ill feeling between members of the Faculty, and frequent changes in the Professorships. In discussing the events of this period Dr. Holland says:
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 of Anatomy as well as his own on Surgery. The Trustees being dissatisfied with the teaching of 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; Medicine, John Eberle; Materia Medica, W. P. C. Barton; Institutes, B. Rush Rhees; Chemistry, Jacob Green. As the chairs of Midwifery and Anatomy were vacant, Dr. Eberle took the extra work in Midwifery, and Anatomy was taught by Dr. George McClellan, assisted by the Demonstrator, Dr. Samuel McClellan.

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. Usher Parsons, of Providence, Rhode Island, held the chair of Midwifery, Dr. Granville Sharp Pattison of Anatomy, vice Dr. Samuel McClellan, resigned, and Dr. Samuel Callhoun that of Materia Medica. 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. Revere had been appointed Professor of Medicine, and a mutually acceptable organization was effected, which continued for six prosperous years.

Among themselves in their business and social meetings the members of the Faculty resorted to various expediens to rid their body of the disorders that retarded the progress of the College. In 1827 a committee was appointed to prepare a code of by-laws or regulations for the organization of the Faculty, and in June following the committee, Eberle and Rhees, submitted their report. It was unanimously adopted and was known as "Rules of Government."

This scheme of organization provided for the election of a Chairman, a Dean, and a Treasurer, and defined the powers and duties of each. On the first of August a meeting was held for the election of officers. Dr. Rhees
was elected Dean, but the objection was raised that under a former rule the Deanship could not be held by the same incumbent for two successive years, Dr. Rhees having served in that capacity the preceding year. The legality of the election also was questioned by Dr. Barton, and the election of Dean was postponed until September 26, when Dr. Eberle was chosen to that office. At a previous meeting, held August 6, Professor Green was elected Chairman and Treasurer of the Faculty.

The subject of a new college-building was first mentioned officially in February, 1827, just before the close of the second session. It was then proposed to procure more commodious quarters, provided the expense thereof should not exceed $20,000, and that the necessary funds could be "procured by subscription of joint stock." Dr. McClellan and Professor Green were appointed to confer with a committee of the Trustees and take the necessary steps in the matter. Dr. Gayley says: "It now became evident that, for the College to succeed, a more eligible location and a more commodious building were necessary; on this point both the Faculty and the Trustees were unanimous, but where were they to get the funds?

"The institution had no endowment, and the act creating it stipulated expressly 'that it should have no claims on the funds of the parent institution' (Jefferson College). Of the Faculty, though gifted with energy, talent, and enthusiasm, there was none possessed of much wealth. The Trustees, though desirous of the prosperity of the College, yet hesitated to assume the responsibility of purchasing a lot and erecting thereon a suitable edifice. The only basis for a negotiation having this object in view was the size of the class and the fees accruing therefrom. The session just closed, when examined for this purpose, was anything but encouraging. It had fallen off considerably from that of the previous year; moreover, the fees charged to the students were very moderate.*

*At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 22, 1827, the following rates were adopted for the tickets of the several Professors: The Professors of Anatomy, Surgery, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, each $14; Theory and Practice, and of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, each $12; the Professors of Midwifery, $10; "so that the whole amount paid by each student to the seven Professors shall not exceed annually ninety dollars."
“This was security that no capitalist, in the technical sense of the word, would accept. The only collaterals the infant institution could produce were the untiring industry of her new and only partially tried Professors, and their sanguine confidence of future success. Such an investment no mere stoical money-lender would look at. A man was needed, who, while possessed of the money, had the mental elevation to rise above the calculations of the mere man of money, and could estimate properly what force of character, a determined will, and a manly enthusiasm in carrying out a praiseworthy purpose, can accomplish. Such a man was found in the Rev. Ezra Styles Ely, D. D., a member of the Board of Additional Trustees of the College.”

Dr. Ely was pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, and Secretary of the Board of Additional Trustees. He generously proposed to assume the responsibility of erecting the new building. On March 22, 1827, the board resolved

“That the Additional Trustees of Jefferson College, in their capacity as Trustees, and not otherwise, do hereby agree with the Rev. Dr. Ely, that if he will cause to be erected a Medical Hall for the use of the Medical School, on such plan as shall be approved by this Board, the Additional Trustees will rent the same of him and such persons, if any, as he may associate with him as proprietors of said hall, for a term of time not less than five years, at a rent of one thousand dollars a year, to be paid in the month of November in each of the said five years—after said building shall be fitted for use.”

In all that he did Dr. Ely acted with commendable promptness. On May 12 he reported to the Trustees that he had purchased a suitable lot on Tenth street, between what then was known as Juniper alley and George street. He also submitted a plan of a building, which was approved by the Trustees and the Faculty. The work of construction was pushed with all possible dispatch; the corner stone was laid by Rev. Dr. Green, and on that occasion Professor Green, of the chair of Chemistry, delivered an address.

In August, 1828, the new college-building on Tenth street, between
what are now known as Sansom and Moravian streets, was finished, and thereafter for many years was the home of the Medical School.

In his work in behalf of the College, Dr. Ely laid the foundation for its future permanency and prosperity. Another might have done as much, but he did the work, at a time when the affairs of the institution were in an unsatisfactory condition, and just at the time when a little loyal friendship and honest encouragement was able to turn the tide of possible disaster into perfect success. In the goodness of his heart Dr. Ely provided the Medical Department with a comfortable home, but to pay the annual rental of one thousand dollars, and defray all other expenses of maintenance, was a proposition that confronted the Faculty. The Additional Trustees naturally took deeper interest in the affairs of the Medical Department than the nonresident Trustees, but still the Faculty managed the school, received and disbursed its revenues, divided the profits, if any there were, or shared the losses.

The Faculty of 1828, headed by McClellan, and balanced by John Eberle and Rhees, were men of business capacity as well as professional attainments; and they agreed among themselves how they would pay the rent and other expenses by levying an assessment on each chair, according to its estimated value. True, this Faculty household, like others which followed it, was not free from its little domestic squabbles, but when business questions were to be considered there was found in that body much resolute good sense. To pay the current expenses for the year, they agreed among themselves to assess the chairs of Anatomy, Surgery, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, $250 each; the chairs of Theory and Practice, $137.50; and the chair of Midwifery, $125. This plan the Trustees obediently ratified; for while they possessed the power in themselves to provide for maintenance funds, they in fact had very little to do with the matter, and discreetly left such concerns in the hands of those more immediately interested.

Having fixed the rates of assessment, the Faculty resolved "that each and every Professor who shall at any time refuse and neglect to comply with the foregoing resolution shall be considered as ipso facto vacating his
A few days later each member of the Faculty signed an agreement to conform to the action and resolution of the board, and also agreed thereafter to hold their chairs subject to the regulations.

In this connection the following quotation from Gayley will be of interest:

“We have deemed it proper to go somewhat into details in regard to the negotiations connected with the new College building, because it marks a critical point in the history of the institution. Without an eligibly located edifice provided at that time, the enterprise, to all appearances, would have proved a failure. From the terms of the agreement entered into by the Trustees with Dr. Ely, it is very evident that they had no faith in its ultimate success. They did everything ‘as trustees,’ in which capacity, as they had no funds, no endowments, no property—in fact nothing but the Faculty—to be custodians of, their guarantee amounted to nothing. The real parties to the transaction, and who took the responsibility, were the Faculty and Dr. Ely, and for this are deserving of being held in lasting remembrance by every alumnus of Jefferson Medical College.”

From the beginning of the session of 1830-31 to 1838, the close of the first epoch in the history of the Jefferson Medical College, the institution enjoyed a generally healthful growth, although during that period there were frequent manifestations of the old spirit of strife and jealousy among the occupants of the several chairs.

The session of 1830 opened with bright prospects, and for the first time in three years all the chairs were filled. Could all the members of the Faculty have seen their way to unite their energies and abilities harmoniously in promoting the interests of the College, it would have rapidly risen into notice; would have earlier attained that brilliant success which came afterward. Such were the calculations of its friends, but they were destined to disappointment.

At the close of the session of 1830 both Drake and Eberle resigned, and the loss of the services of two such eminent teachers at just that time
was the most severe blow the college had yet been called upon to withstand. Since the organization of the institution, as Gayley says, "McClellan, Eberle, and Rhees had been the master spirits of the enterprise. Amid all the changes that previous to this time had taken place, they had stood firmly together, prepared for every emergency. If one or more chairs had been left vacant, and suitable appointments could not be made, it mattered little, so far as the interests of the class were concerned; the deficiency could at any time be supplied by this noble trio.

"When we take into account their age, their varied services, and the discouragements they had to contend with—a pressure from without and difficulties within—we are at a loss which to most admire, the versatility of their talents, or their indomitable courage and persevering energy in carrying to completion the work they had undertaken. We must confess to a feeling of sadness at reaching the time at which they must separate; and this feeling is deepened by the reflection that another of their number must soon cease his connection with the school. The pressure of his varied and arduous labors connected with the College had proved too great for Professor Rhees, under which his constitution, never robust, had succumbed. Pulmonary tuberculosis had developed, and terminated his career the following October.

"We would not be understood as detracting from the eminent abilities of their successors, whose labors have since brought the institution to its proud pre-eminence, when we say that McClellan, Eberle, Rhees, and Green have the honor of being its founders. They were the pioneers in the work, who met the opposition, cleared away the rubbish, and laid the foundations upon which the present superstructure has been so nobly reared by their successors. Sunt hic etiam sua praemia laudi."

During the two years next following 1830, frequent changes and dissensions in the Faculty worked great injury to the interests of the College, and, as one of the results, the class of March, 1833, numbered only eighteen graduates. This would not do; the institution was not on a paying basis, and
radical measures must be adopted, else the College must close its doors. But there was no thought of this. Although Dr. McClellan was now frequently at variance with some of his associates he once again threw his whole energy into the work, and with competent assistance from the Trustees, succeeded in establishing a Faculty that continued without material change for six years. This was something new in the history of the College; it encouraged its friends and correspondingly depressed the spirits of its enemies, for even now there were those who would have rejoiced at the downfall of the institution.

In 1832 the Trustees and the Faculty had labored to turn the tide of ill-fortune and inject some new vigor into the life of the College. In that year the graduating class numbered only twenty-one, and the outlook for the future was not encouraging. Evidently, the Professors had become aware that the fault in a measure lay with themselves, and they were willing to do something to recover the ground already lost. In remedy they caused the next "Announcement of Lectures" to be elaborately printed, and to set forth the advantages to be derived from its courses of instruction. A few excerpts from the pamphlet are interesting:

"As considerable alterations have taken place in the Professional arrangements of Jefferson Medical College, and as it is the wish of the Trustees and Professors of that institution to modify, and, they trust, improve the system of medical education, which has heretofore been pursued in the College over which they preside, the following exposé is submitted to the Profession:

"Professors. The Anatomical Department will in future be placed under the control and direction of Professor Pattison, formerly Professor of Anatomy in the University of Maryland, and lately Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of London. The Lectures on Surgery will continue to be delivered by Dr. George McClellan. Dr. John Revere has been elected to the Chair of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and will in future teach this branch of Medical Science. Materia Medica and Pharmacy will be taught as before by Dr. Samuel Calhoun; and Dr. Jacob Green will continue to occupy the Professorship of Chemistry. Dr. Samuel McClellan, who held the Anatomical Chair, having retired from it to afford the Trustees an opportunity for electing Professor Pattison to that Professorship, will in future deliver the Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children. The above appointments are permanent, and the following
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will be in future the arrangements of subjects, and the Professors who will teach them in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia:

"General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy, by Granville Sharp Pattison, M. D.

"Principles, Practice and Operations of Surgery, by George McClellan, M. D.

"Theory and Practice of Physic, by John Revere, M. D.

"Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by Samuel Calhoun, M. D.

"Chemistry, by Jacob Green, M. D.

"Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, Charles Davis, M. D.

"Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, Samuel McClellan, M. D.

"The Dissecting Rooms and Anatomical Demonstrations will be placed under the superintendence of Professor Pattison, who will instruct the students in Practical Anatomy.

"In addition to the course of instruction regularly provided, a special series of lectures are offered under the separate heading of 'Notice:'

"John Millington, Esq., F. L. S., lately Civil Engineer for the County of Bedford, England, Professor of Mechanical Philosophy to the Royal Institute of Great Britain and Lecturer on that Science to the Medical Students attending the Hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas' London, proposes to deliver this ensuing session, a Course of Lectures on Mechanical Philosophy, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, provided his extensive apparatus for illustrations, for which he has written, should arrive in this country in time to enable him to do so. No obligation will be imposed on the students to attend this Course of Lectures. It will be left entirely to their own option."

In describing the attractive features of the College buildings, this is said:

"The members of the Profession who have visited Jefferson Medical College must be aware how admirably calculated the Theatres of the Institution are for the purposes of effective teaching. They are large, well ventilated and so constructed that the most minute demonstrations can be distinctly seen from the distant benches. In them, therefore, no improvements can be made. But the Professors having suggested to the Trustees that the former dissecting rooms were defective in their arrangements, being small and ill-ventilated, and that the size of the Museum of Anatomy was not on a scale commensurate with the other departments of the Institution, they are now making, under the superintendence of an able architect, extensive additions to the College building. These, among other conveniences, will include a splendid hall for a Museum of Anatomy, and a Dissecting Room, 54 by 30 feet, the ceiling having an elevation of 18 feet."
Under the caption of "System of Education," which was more complete than ever before, the announcement says:

“The Trustees and Professors of Jefferson Medical College, anxious to elevate the character of the Medical education of their country,” (the aspirations of these officials were held in no narrow environment), “propose, in future, to modify, and, they trust improve the system which they have formerly pursued. On the subject of the changes they propose to adopt, the Professors have taken pains to make themselves acquainted with the sentiments of distinguished members of the profession residing in distant sections of the country; and it affords them sincere gratification to state that their views have received the concurrence and approbation of the gentlemen with whom they have communicated on the subject.

“In future the Professors of Jefferson Medical College will deliver two courses of lectures annually. The first, or regular academical course, will commence on the first Monday of November, and terminate the first of March. The second, or Collateral course, will commence the first of April, and terminate the first of June.

“As a stimulus to the students, to induce them to avail themselves of the more extended course of education, which will be open to them, it is proposed by the Professors to hold an examination at the termination of the second course, and to award to the more distinguished pupils medals and Certificates of Honour. To each class three medals will be awarded. The first medal will be given to the student whose written answers place him at the head of his class; and the second and third to the two who follow next in order. Besides the medals, Certificates of Honour will be given to those, the excellence of whose answers entitle them to such a distinction.”

In regard to the diplomas, the announcement says:

“The examinations for the Diplomas of M. D. in Jefferson Medical College will commence on the first of March, and will be continued daily, until all the candidates for graduation shall have been examined,” etc.

The requirements imposed on candidates for diplomas were:

The candidate must be twenty-one years of age.

He must have attended, at least, two full courses of lectures, one of which must have been in the Jefferson Medical College.

The candidate must have studied three years (inclusive of the terms of attendance on lectures) under the direction of a respectable practitioner of medicine.

He must write a thesis either in Latin, French, or English language
on some medical subject, to be selected by himself, and sent to the dean of the medical faculty before he comes forward for examination.

When examined by the faculty the candidate must furnish satisfactory evidence of his medical knowledge, and of his being qualified for the practice of his profession.

The subject of "Fees," which in earlier years in particular was the cause of much dissatisfaction, is provided for in the reorganization plan of 1833, as follows: For admission to each course of lectures, $15; for admission to dissecting rooms and demonstrations, $10; for diplomas, $15; and for the janitor, $5. The janitor, in consideration of his fee, is to provide each graduate with a "handsome" box for the preservation of his diploma.

The officers and faculty, in concluding their Annual Announcement for the year 1833, say:

"It only remains for the Trustees and Professors of Jefferson Medical College to assure the Members of the Profession and the Public, that they are determined that no effort shall be wanting on their part to elevate and extend the reputation and usefulness of the Institution, which the Legislature of the State has placed under their management and direction. Deeply impressed with the responsibility and importance of the trust which has been committed to them, neither money, zeal, nor exertion, shall be spared by them to realize the most sanguine hopes and expectations of the Friends and Founders of the College. They consider no standard of excellence too high to be aimed at, and, by possessing zeal and devotedness to their duties, they feel confident that even the highest may be attained.

"In the recent discoveries and improvement of Medical Science, the Members of the Profession in the United States have furnished fully their quota. There is no reason, therefore, why the schools of medicine in this country should be behind those of Europe in introducing improvements into their Systems of Medical Education. Let it be remembered it is only by doing so that they can hope to attain that degree of excellence and celebrity of which they are susceptible.

"Anxious to deserve and obtain for their own Institution the highest rank and character, they have no jealousy nor any wish to find fault with others. All they desire is to enter with them on a career of high-minded and honourable rivalry—a rivalry which will exalt the reputation of all Parties, and confer invaluable benefits on their common country. They aspire with earnestness to be first in the race of improvement, but, using the words of the Roman poet, they are content that

"Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat."
In this announcement to the public, the Trustees and Professors make special reference to the admission of "Gratuitous Students" to the several courses of lectures offered by the institution; and in making provision for students of this class, they say that they have determined to place the right of admission in this branch entirely in the hands of the Trustees. Quoting again: "The board have appointed the Rev. Dr. Green, the Rev. Dr. Ely, and General Duncan, to examine the pretentions of candidates, and only recommend such as shall furnish evidence of good moral character, and of their having received a sound general education."

Under this resolution candidates for this gratuity were thereafter required to apply to the persons mentioned. Their certificates entitled them to admission to the several courses of lectures on payment to the Dean of the Faculty a fee of twenty dollars. This payment was required for incidental expenses and added nothing to the income of the Professors.

The idea of admitting students to the benefits of the lecture courses without charge originated with the founders of the Medical College in 1824. As demonstrated by the experience of later years, it was found to benefit the institution as much as the successful candidates for admission; and besides, it gave the College and its Faculty an enviable standing throughout the country, for here the possession of means was not an absolute prerequisite to a thorough education. Here was an institution of learning whose doors were open to the young aspirant for the M. D. degree whether he was rich or poor, and the only requirement upon which his scholarship was conditional was that he pass a satisfactory entrance examination and bring to the school a good moral character.

The ninth section of the articles of union entered into by the Jefferson College and the founders of the Medical Department expressly provided "that ten indigent young men of talents, who shall bring to the Medical Faculty satisfactory testimonials and certificates, shall be annually admitted into the Medical School, receive its medical instructions, and be entitled to its honours, without any charge."
Among the archives of the College is a volume of letters, bound in book form, and containing the correspondence of the Dean of the Faculty with applicants for admission on the "benefice foundation." The first mention of students admitted on this plan was for the session of 1827-28, when nine candidates were awarded scholarships. Their names are preserved, and among them were several young men who afterward attained a high standing in the ranks of the profession. The policy of the Faculty forbade disclosure of the names of students admitted on the "charity foundation," as it was sometimes called, and all the correspondence and records bearing upon this subject were kept private. The discussions by the Faculty were held sub rosa, as it were, and for this reason there was an established department of the College known as the "Rose Chamber," from which all the correspondence emanated.

Although the Faculty derived neither direct profit nor advantage from the free scholarships, its members were always ready to encourage them. It appears to have been the custom to send a copy of the following letter to such capable young men as were recommended by the Trustees. One of these letters, in which were set forth the purposes of the benefice department, is preserved in the records, and is of sufficient interest to warrant reproduction in this work:

"Rose Chamber of Jefferson Medical College.

Philadelphia, September 25, 1828.

To . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Student of Medicine.

Sir:

"The Professors of the Faculty of Jefferson Medical College, impressed with a belief, that there are, throughout the United States, young men of good abilities and education, moral worth, and individual respectability of character and deportment, who are the sons of respectable families in very indigent, if not destitute circumstances, and who perhaps have been able to study medicine, but could not from their dependent situations and restricted pecuniary means, afford to purchase the necessary tickets of public instruction,—have determined to perform their part of the pleasurable office of gratuitously instructing, by public lectures, Ten such individuals annually, provided they may be able to present to them such credentials of moral excellence and literary fitness, as may lead fairly to the expectation, that should they
become graduates of the Institution, they would reflect credit on it, and in that way repay the Professors for their instruction. The requisites on this point have already been set forth in our official circular and public advertisements.

"In order that the selection of Ten pupils from the whole number of candidates for this Benefice, might be, both in fact, and to the satisfaction of the candidates and their friends, impartially awarded—the Faculty have deputed to the Trustees, their right to a decision on this point, thus becoming wholly disinterested in bestowing the favour. The decision once made, however, the Faculty then feel deeply interested, both for the honour and reputation of the School, thus gratuitously placed at hazard by their own act, and, for the praiseworthy and becoming deportment and professional advancement of those selected. Hence, they express, through me, their earnest desire, that you, whom I take this opportunity of informing, have been this day included in the selection made by the Trustees for the ensuing course, will bear in vivid recollection, how painful to us would be any reproachable conduct; and how proud, on the other hand, simply by the course of true ambition, you might render us, that we have gratuitously aided in the education for a noble and dignified profession—one every way qualified to honour it and be honoured by its members. You will receive this exhortation as it is intended, not to enhance a proffered favour, but, in truth, to incite you to transfer the debt from yourself to ourselves.

"I have taken this early opportunity of informing you of the decision of the Trustees in your case, and also, that we shall exact from each benefice student, the payment of twenty dollars to the Faculty, for incidental expenses, which we ourselves incur and pay for, and for which you will receive the benefit in your accommodations in the College. Our instruction, by our regular public lectures, is alone the gratuity.

"The sum just mentioned is to be paid to me before you can receive a warrant to procure the different tickets; and a default in doing so will render the annunciation made in this letter, of the result of your application, null and void. You are requested to acknowledge to me, soon, the receipt of this letter, and to state whether you will be prepared to attend this approaching course (1828-29) to which alone our gratuity at present extends, and whether you can comply with the contingent expense incurred thereby, as, in case of declining, the vacancy will be immediately supplied.

"I need not say, that although we publickly make known our Benefice Foundation, and the number it admits, we do not perceive any necessity for the individual on that foundation, being known as such to the class—it is therefore unnecessary to call your attention to the place whence this communication is dated, to let you understand the course we shall pursue, and the one which will be proper and becoming, on your part, relative to our connexion, as instructors and pupil.

"I am, Sir, respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"WILLIAM P. C. BARTON,

"Dean of the Medical Faculty of Jefferson College."
The College records indicate that students were received on the benefice foundation until the latter part of 1838, when the work of remodeling all the older methods of the institution was begun. It cannot be claimed that in the establishment of ten free scholarships annually, the Faculty was actuated solely by philanthropic motives. They had founded the College in the face of much opposition, and they were determined to maintain it and preserve it in spite of all its enemies could do. The free scholarships increased the popularity of the Medical Department, and it was that which chiefly impelled the action of the founders, although McClellan and Eberle knew that the suggestion of free instruction to a limited number of students would obtain the approbation of the benevolent preachers and teachers who comprised the Trustees and Faculty of Jefferson College at Canonsburg. This statement in a measure is speculative, but the fact remains that McClellan, Eberle, and Rhees had set out to accomplish a certain end, and results showed that although they were professional men—teachers, instructors, and to a certain extent philosophers and theorists—they were not foolish in the transaction of business outside their accustomed sphere in life. This was proved hundreds of times, and had they not possessed the tact, sagacity, and business foresight with which they are credited, it is a question whether the Jefferson Medical College ever would have had an existence.

As has been stated, the records indicate that the gratuitous scholarships were continued until about the latter part of 1838, and then under the sweeping changes wrought through legislative enactment and reorganization of the Faculty the system was gradually set aside. By the time mentioned, the College had entered upon a new period of existence. It was no longer an adjunct to the parent institution at Canonsburg, but an independent body corporate and politic, with as full powers conferred by law as were possessed by the University of Pennsylvania.