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CHAPTER X.


AT THE Annual Commencement held in the American Academy of Music in March, 1872, Professor Pancoast delivered the address to the graduating class. There was something peculiarly appropriate in this selection, for at the time the College was about entering upon a new era in its history, and, as the orator had been an important factor in its past and was destined to be in its future history, it was fitting that he as senior member of the Faculty should officiate on that occasion. He and Gross were the only surviving members of the Faculty as constituted fifteen years before, and at the time mentioned they stood at the head of their profession in America.

At the close of the forty-seventh course of lectures, the total number of graduates who had received diplomas since the College was founded was 6,052. The graduating class in 1872 numbered 114; not so large by nearly one-half as in some earlier years, but now it was not the length but the strength of the class that left the school at the completion of each successive course of study; it was not number, but quality, and, as year followed year, each found the required standard of merit raised higher.

In March, 1873, Dr. Burden, President of the Board of Trustees, conferred the degree of M. D. on one hundred and forty-nine graduates. The valedictory address on this occasion was delivered by Professor Rand. Each made allusion to the new step taken by the College and its friends in securing from the legislature an appropriation of $100,000 for the erection of a new Hospital building. This was one of the first and one of the noblest
Old Buildings.

(The Class Book of 1899.)
undertakings in which the influence of the Alumni Association was brought to bear in behalf of the College. Its members subscribed liberally to the general fund, and were instrumental in securing the appropriation from the legislature, as well as generous contributions from other sources.

The act itself was passed April 9; the building was completed in March, 1876, and was formally opened in September of the following year. In the aggregate the finished structure, with grounds and furnishings, cost nearly $186,000. At the time, the expenditure was looked upon in some quarters as extravagant, but no friend of the institution doubted the wisdom of the undertaking. Subsequent events proved the value of the Hospital to the College, for it was afterward regarded as its most useful adjunct as a means of thorough, practical medical education.

In 1873 the Faculty inaugurated a system of prizes for proficiency in scholarships, and the awards were first made at the Annual Commencement in March, 1874. These prizes were five in number:

1. A prize of $100, by a friend of the school, for the best thesis, founded on original experiments, clinical observation, or superior excellence in scholarship.

2. A prize of $50, by the Professor of Anatomy—Pancoast—for the best anatomical preparation contributed to the College museum.

3. A prize of $50, by the Professor of Surgery—Gross—for the best report of his surgical clinic.

4. A prize of $50, by the Professor of Practice—Da Costa—for the best report of clinical cases, or for any original inquiry into practical medicine.

5. A prize of $50, by the Professor of Physiology, for the best paper embracing original physiological investigation.

The prize system proved satisfactory and appeared to stimulate a friendly, healthful competition among the members of the classes. So earnestly did the students enter into the spirit of the contest, and that without any friction whatever, that the system was soon extended and regularly adopted. In the
next year a prize of a pocket operating case, of the value of twenty-five dollars, was offered by the Demonstrator of Anatomy—Andrews—for the best dissection in the anatomical room. In 1875 the number of prizes offered had increased to nine, and were found to have extended the interest in the various contests to men of influence who were not in any manner connected with the school, except as friends of higher medical education, naturally interested in the welfare of the best medical institution in the United States.

In the year mentioned, Henry C. Lea offered prize No. 1, $100, for the best thesis, founded upon original experiment, clinical observation, or superior excellence in scholarship. This was the first prize of two years before, offered by Mr. Lea, who then was referred to as a “friend of the school.” His example immediately found followers, among whom were Henry M. Phillips, then one of the Trustees. He offered two prizes of $100 each, one for the best essay on the “influence of diseases of the nervous system on the mind,” and the other for the best “preparation of the cranial nerves” contributed to the College Museum. Another prize donor was Dr. Joseph M. Jones, a Jefferson Alumnus of 1853, who offered a gold medal for the best general thesis based on original investigation.

The prize offers soon won popularity with all the classes, and had the effect to elevate the standard of the several departments; but awards were not made upon the mere presentation of theses, the requirement being that no paper or preparation would be considered unless a certain standard of excellence was attained. In later years the number of prizes increased with the growth of the College and the constant elaboration of the courses of study, each branch and department moving steadily upward and onward in even pace with the march of progress in the history of the school. The Alumni Association has taken an earnest interest in prize offers and competitions from the time the custom was adopted, and by its devotion to the welfare of the College has contributed much to the reputation of the institution.

In 1874 the elder Pancoast retired from the active duties of the chair of General Anatomy, but was still retained as Emeritus Professor. He was
an educator of too great fame to be entirely separated from the College work; he was a man of professional skill, a master of anatomy, and his name gave strength at the head of the faculty roll. His resignation was received with regret, but he was entitled to the retirement he sought. It was with great satisfaction, however, that his colleagues of the Faculty announced that he would still “afford his valuable aid in the surgical clinic.”

Upon the resignation of Joseph Pancoast, the chair of General Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy was filled by his son, William H. Pancoast, former Demonstrator of Anatomy, who for several years had assisted his distinguished father in the clinic, who had learned of him, and had inherited much of his skill in this special field of educational work.

In the meantime, Thomas H. Andrews had been appointed to succeed the younger Pancoast as Demonstrator of Anatomy; and J. Ewing Mears had for two years been Demonstrator of Surgery. In 1874 Henry Seaman was appointed Prosector to the Professor of Anatomy, and at the same time Franklin West was made Prosector to the Professor of Surgery, and Curator of the Museum. At this time the teaching force comprised seven regular members of the Faculty, with the elder Pancoast as Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, and the four adjunct lectureships previously referred to.

In addition there were the instructors and lecturers who with the Faculty conducted the summer course, extending through the months of April, May, June and September.

This department of the College had now passed beyond the experimental stage, and had become a permanent branch of the regular course. In the selection of its corps of lecturers, the Faculty had exercised much care, and had made the branch an important auxiliary to the College, and a training school for instructors who might become Professors in the Faculty chairs. Glancing briefly at the personnel of the corps at the time indicated, there is noticeable the name of John H. Brinton, who made his first appearance as lecturer on Operative and Minor Surgery in 1867. In the session of 1903-
1904 his name appears thus: "John H. Brinton, M. D., LL. D., Professor of the Practice of Surgery and Clinical Surgery."

Next was Dr. Richard J. Levis, Lecturer on Ophthalmic and Aural Surgery, an instructor of wide reputation. He continued with the summer courses several years, and afterward became identified with the movement which led to the founding of the Philadelphia Polyclinic. He was one of its incorporators, and the first incumbent of its chair of Operative and Clinical Surgery. Maury, too, was still with this corps of teachers, and continued his lectures for some time afterward.

Dr. Keen also was then lecturing regularly on pathological anatomy, and laying the foundation for the prominence afterward gained in the field of anatomy and surgery.

Dr. J. Solis-Cohen became an instructor in the summer intermediate courses of 1870, lecturing on laryngoscopy and diseases of the throat and chest; and with evolutions of later years he was promoted to his present position of Honorary Professor of Laryngology. Loughlin, who has been mentioned, came into the auxiliary courses a little later. Townsend gave lectures on minor surgery; he was a pupil under Pancoast and Gross.

The summer course was now so conducted as to make it preparatory to the regular course, which began in October. The session of 1873-74 was begun with an attendance of 473 matriculates, and at the next annual commencement 151 graduates were sent out to begin their work as doctors of medicine. For the following session, Dr. William H. Green was added to the corps of lecturers, and was made Demonstrator of Chemistry. In addition to the regular curriculum of the College, special instruction was given the physiology of the special senses; dermatology and syphilitic diseases; pathological anatomy, by Keen; operative surgery, by Brinton; ophthalmology and otology, by Thomson; laryngoscopy, by J. Solis-Cohen; toxicology, by Dr. Henry Leffman. The union of clinical with didactic teaching was carried out to the fullest extent, and special clinics under the faculty professors were held on regularly appointed days.
Gradually, but not less surely, was the Faculty already beginning the
great work of elevating the standard of medical education. This was done
chiefly because the conditions surrounding the institution seemed to demand
a new advance step, and in part from the fact that there was a tendency in that
direction on the part of medical schools generally in the United States.
The action was in harmony with the spirit of evolution and enterprise that
seemed to pervade everything American after the country had recovered from
the disastrous effects of the business depression of 1873. In the year in
which the finances of the country were so seriously disordered, the legis-
lature had given the sum of $100,000 to the Trustees of Jefferson for the
erection of a new Hospital building, and at the same time generous friends
of the institution had contributed liberally to the same purpose.

It was intended for the easy accommodation of one hundred and twenty-
five patients. Its amphitheatre, provided for clinical lectures, was equal in
all its appointments to that of any other American clinical hospital. Daily
clinics throughout the year were now made possible without crowding in any
department. A Hospital Staff was created by drawing upon the teaching
force of the auxiliary branches, and by other appointments. For the first
year the Surgical Staff was made up of Brinton, Maury, the younger Gross,
and Levis. The regular Medical Staff comprised J. Solis-Cohen, Wilson, Roberts,
and Rex. Thompson was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon; Turnbull,
Aural Surgeon; Getchell and Mears, Gynecologists; and Longstreth, Path-
ologist. The Hospital was thus well equipped in every department.

With the completion of the Hospital, the Trustees, Faculty, and the
Alumni Association were able to announce the completion of a laboratory
building, and its readiness for use at the beginning of the fifty-fifth course
1879-80) of lectures. In earlier years laboratory work had been one of the
features of the College course, and was only limited by reason of the crowded
quarters in which it was previously conducted. In alluding to the latest ac-
quisition, the Faculty described the building as standing on ground adjoining
the medical hall; as being equipped with all the essential requisitions for
minor and operative surgery, and provided with spacious laboratories for study and demonstrations in practical chemistry, microscopy, and physiology.

The action of the Faculty in elevating the educational standard of the College was supported by the Board of Trustees, and also met with the unqualified approval of the Alumni Association, whose influence had especial weight with the governing body of the institution, and whose recommendations helped to shape the policy of the school. Another factor in accomplishing this end was the confederation of the Association of Medical Colleges, whose rules required a more thorough course of instruction and a higher standard of education than under previous regulations. The Jefferson Faculty readily seconded the change and subscribed to the articles of the Association. Indeed, the Faculty and the Trustees, in all their discussions, had for some time favored a general elevation of the school courses. The senior Pancoast, Gross, and Da Costa had earnestly advocated it, and their arguments were concurred in by Wallace, Biddle, Meigs, and the younger Pancoast, as well as by nearly all the Adjunct Professors. Still, for some reason, definite action was delayed until about the time the Association of Medical Colleges organized a movement looking to the desired end, and secured in its favor the sanction of the institutions comprising its membership.

Under the previous regulations, the candidate for the degree of M. D. must have studied medicine not less than three years, and must have attended at least one course of practical anatomy and of clinical instruction. Under the new requirement the student must produce a satisfactory certificate of having studied medicine for at least three years under a regular graduate, or licentiate and practitioner of medicine, in good standing, using the word "regular" in the sense commonly understood in the medical profession.

The new regulation was adopted as a measure of protection to the school, for at that time there were in practice many persons who were not graduates of any regular collegiate institution, but who in some manner had procured licenses from schools of questionable standing, or who were presuming to practice without any collegiate warrant whatever. These not only practiced
their deceits upon the people, but assumed to furnish young men with the preliminary instruction necessary to prepare them for a course of lectures in medical colleges; and when the aspirants presented themselves for matriculation they were too often found deficient in elementary education, and hence were an annoyance to the faculty of the school they sought to enter.

At the time mentioned, the practice of medicine and the profession generally were not safeguarded with legislative regulations, and there was no real protection against the operations of quacks who set themselves up as physicians and surgeons. Legislation finally provided a remedy for the wrongful practices, but the initiative was taken by the Association of Colleges in closing the doors of medical schools against those who were not properly prepared for the college course.

Previously, the requirement was that candidates for the degree should attend one complete course in some respectable medical school where attendance on two complete courses was necessary to a diploma, and where the same branches were taught as in Jefferson. Now the requirement was that the candidate must produce satisfactory proof that during the above mentioned three years he had matriculated at some affiliated college for two regular sessions, and in the course of the same had attended two full courses of instruction on the seven topics—anatomy (including dissections), physiology, chemistry, materia medica and therapeutics, obstetrics, surgery, pathology and practice of medicine.

In other respects the College regulations were recast in conformity to the articles of the Confederated Association, all of which tended to elevate the character and standing of the institution. One of the good results of the work of the confederation was the establishment of harmony among the Colleges subscribing to its articles, and also the adoption of regulations for uniformity in the curriculum. It brought schools of medicine nearer together in accord and methods, and put aside those unworthy of the public confidence. None such were admitted to its privileges, and their students were refused membership in any of the Colleges comprising the Association.
Under the new order, the fifty-fifth course of lectures was begun with every condition favorable to future prosperity, and nothing was left undone which might add to the usefulness and efficiency of the College. In the meantime, however, important changes had been made in the corps of instructors. In 1878 Professor Rand resigned the chair of Chemistry, being impelled to that course by failing health. The Faculty expressed regret at parting with one of its most faithful fellow workers, and yielded to the necessities of the occasion with much reluctance. To fill the vacant Professorship, the Trustees, on the nomination of the Faculty, called Dr. Robert E. Rogers, formerly and for twenty-five years Professor of Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania. When Rogers came into the Faculty of Jefferson, the chair of Chemistry was changed in name to Medical Chemistry and Toxicology.

In the same year died Dr. John Barclay Biddle, for many years the "distinguished Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics;" the "suave and sagacious Biddle, whose lectures were refined to the last degree, and whose personality was even finer than his work." Biddle's incumbency of the deanship for a period of six years had been of almost as much importance to the interests of the College as was his teaching. At this time the school could not well afford to part with Biddle, as changes now for one cause or another were coming in quick succession, and the influence and counsel of the Dean was of weight in determining the best course to pursue in replacing old material with new, and in selecting additional instructors to meet the demands upon the school.

Biddle served as Dean from 1873 to the year of his death,—six years as business manager, looking carefully after the physical welfare of the College, and at the same time as teacher. His death was a serious loss to the school, but Roberts Bartholow was immediately called to fill the vacant chair, and Wallace was appointed Dean. Bartholow was already widely known as a medical author, and in the Ohio Medical College had made a great reputation as a forcible and popular instructor. In the next year other changes were made. Professor J. Aitkin Meigs, who had so long and acceptably
filled the chair of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, because of illness retired from active work in the school. In his stead the Faculty called Dr. H. C. Chapman, Demonstrator of Physiology and Curator of the Anatomical Museum, and also lecturer in the preliminary course, and gave him a temporary appointment in the higher branch of College work. It was hoped that Professor Meigs might recover his health and return to his chair, but upon his death Chapman was regularly advanced to the vacant professorship.

There were several other changes of an important character about this time among the minor lectureships in the College. The institution had now become so large and so strong, and its curriculum included instructors in so many different branches, that the teaching force was constantly changing and increasing to meet all the requirements. At the opening of the session of 1879-80 the regular Faculty comprised the seven principal Professorships, exclusive of that held by Pancoast as Emeritus Professor of Surgical Anatomy, with seven Adjunct Lecturers and Demonstrators. These were in the line of promotion to Professorships whenever a vacancy occurred. The personnel of this corps of instructors was as follows: William Thomson, Lecturer on Diseases of the Eye; William S. Forbes, Demonstrator of Anatomy; J. Ewing Mears, Demonstrator of Surgery; Henry C. Chapman, Demonstrator of Physiology, and Curator of the Anatomical Museum; J. Gibbons Hunt, Demonstrator of Histology; G. Mason Ward, Demonstrator of Chemistry; Morris Longstreth, Demonstrator of Pathological Anatomy, and Curator of the Hospital.

Those mentioned, with the Faculty, comprised the teaching corps in the regular course, which began on the first Monday in October, and ended in March of the next year. In addition to this course there were two others; the Fall or Preliminary Session, beginning early in September and closing at the opening of the regular course, and the Spring Session, extending from the early part of March to the middle of June. In the former were Professor Meigs, of the Faculty, and Drs. Longstreth, Brinton, S. W. Gross, Thomson,
and J. Solis-Cohen. In the latter were Professor Meigs, and Drs. Gross, Brinton, Thomson, Maury, J. Solis-Cohen, Forbes, Wilson, Longstreth, Atkinson, Chapman, Leffman, Neff, and Engle.

The session of 1880-81 opened with 609 students in attendance, and at its close in March, 1881, 205 graduates were awarded the degree of M. D. The class of the preceding year numbered 572, and in March, 1880, 196 diplomas in medicine were granted. For the session of 1881-82 the attendance numbered 630, and at the next annual commencement the degree was conferred on 247 candidates. This was the greatest number in any single year in the history of the College.

After the close of the regular session of 1881-82, one more conspicuous figure, that of Pancoast, no longer appeared in the lecture rooms and clinics. He died in 1882, after having been a part of the life and history of the school almost thirty-three years. He had been Emeritus Professor since 1874, but he taught regularly, and on occasion his hand and mind directed the operations in the clinic.

In the same year in which Pancoast died, Gross resigned the chair of Surgery, and was named Professor Emeritus. He had held his chair for twenty-six years, and during that time he not only honored the school and added much to its reputation and usefulness, but he made himself famous in medical circles throughout the world. At his own request, Dr. Gross was made Emeritus Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Surgery, but his name was carried on the Faculty list—and at its head—for only two years, when he died. During this time his visits to the class room and in the clinic were infrequent, but his influence was there. His spirit remained, seeming to pervade the atmosphere, and infused itself into the work of his successors, Samuel W. Gross and John H. Brinton.

When Professor Gross retired from the active duties of his chair, the remaining members of the Faculty expressed their feeling in these words:

"Since the close of the last session, Professor Samuel D. Gross has felt impelled by advancing age, and a desire to spend the remainder of his
days in comparative repose, to withdraw from the chair of Surgery, which
he has adorned for more than one-third of his long and honored life. The
Faculty keenly feel the loss entailed by the great surgeon.”

On the same occasion the Trustees, as the records disclose, took action
as follows:

“Resolved, That hereafter surgical instruction in the Jefferson Medical
College be given by two Professors, namely, a Professor of the Principles
of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, and a Professor of the Practice of Surgery
and Clinical Surgery.”

The Board then elected Dr. Samuel W. Gross to the Professorship of Prin-
ciples of Surgery, etc., and Dr. John H. Brinton to the Professorship of Prac-
tice of Surgery, etc. Thus, in 1882, there were eight principal chairs compris-
ing the Jefferson Faculty. In addition, Dr. William Thomson was Professor
of Ophthalmology, and nine demonstrators were employed in the several
branches of the school.

One of the men brought into the life of the College during this period
was Dr. William S. Forbes, whose name first appears in 1879 as Demo-
strator of Anatomy in place of Dr. Thomas H. Andrews, and also as Teacher
of Anatomy in the Spring Session of the school. When he became a part
of the teaching force in Jefferson, Dr. Forbes was not unknown in medical
circles, either as a practitioner or as an instructor. He was a student in the
College under the famous Faculty of 1841, and he received his medical
degree in 1852. In the school he gave special attention to the study of
anatomy, and after graduating he still further applied himself to this branch.
He went abroad, and after his return he opened a private school of anatomy
and operative surgery, which he conducted with excellent success for several
years. Realizing the want of means for practical demonstration in anatomical
and surgical teaching, he undertook to provide a way for better and more
thorough instruction in this respect, and he accomplished a work which ulti-
mately raised the standard of every school of medicine in the country. He
secured the passage of the “Anatomical Act,” also known as the “Anatomy
Act,” and its subsequent amendment.