CHAPTER XIV.


At the opening of the sixty-first session—1885-1886—an announcement was made "that the presentation of a thesis will not be required unless in competition for a prize." This notice was received with congratulation for the one thing most dreaded in the life of the student was the task of "writing a composition." With few exceptions the Jefferson students were glad when the Trustees abrogated the thesis rule as a prerequisite to a diploma.

Another change in the requirements was that relating to examinations, which previously had been conducted orally, by each Professor in his own branch. The new regulations provided for written examinations in all cases, to be held by the Faculty, each Professor conducting that in his own branch, as before. The changes first put into practical operation during this period were of an important character, and tended to improve the standards of the school. In the following year other changes were made, particularly in the character and methods of instruction and training of first course students, and in teaching histology, pathology, and anatomy.

In 1886 a new figure appeared in the Faculty circle. A vacancy was created by the resignation of Professor Pancoast, of the chair of General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy, and the Trustees were united in nominating his successor. There may have been other aspirants, but there was only one logical and natural successor—Forbes—the father of the Anatomical
Act, and to whom every medical school in Pennsylvania has since owed a debt of gratitude. Dr. Forbes had been Demonstrator of Anatomy in Jefferson for seven years when he was called to the chair. He had been an earnest, faithful worker as demonstrator, and, upon his accession to the Faculty, the work formerly done by him was assigned to three new teachers—Orville Horwitz, James H. Bell, and A. C. W. Beecher.

The teaching corps of the College had been materially enlarged, in part to meet the demands of increased attendance, but chiefly on account of the more elaborate courses of study recently adopted. In 1886 there were engaged eleven Assistant Demonstrators regularly on the rolls. The entire teaching force, exclusive of the Hospital and Dispensary Staffs, now numbered thirty-two Professors, Lecturers, Demonstrators, and Assistant Demonstrators. With this corps of capable instructors the school was equipped for efficient work, and its popularity continued to increase as its curriculum was extended to include new subjects and instruction. The Trustees and Faculty were planning still other improvements, reaching out into new fields of investigation, enlarging the facilities for medical teaching, and thereby promoting the usefulness of their school. The changes of the last few years had been remarkable, yet a complete revolution in the affairs of the College was approaching. Present conditions in 1886 indicated such a movement in the future, but when and just how it was to be accomplished was then uncertain.

Among medical schools of note there was a growing tendency to elaborate the courses of study, and Jefferson stood well in the lead in this work. The practical, graded and special courses were found to work satisfactory results, but in high professional circles there seemed to be a desire for a still higher standard of medical education than existing courses afforded. The Jefferson Faculty were aware of the prevailing sentiment, but the working out of the great problem was left for future consideration and development. During the last forty or more years Jefferson had taken the initiative in so many enterprises (which were in a sense regarded as innovations), that
now she was looked upon as one of the leaders in medical reform, and
naturally and instinctively the eye of the profession was directed toward
the "proprietary" school in the city of Philadelphia.

At the time indicated, although the Jefferson Medical College had not
yet fully laid aside its distinctive character as a proprietary school and taken
its proper place among the medical institutions of America, it nevertheless
retained all the prestige it had gained more than forty years before, and
still ranked as a leader in originating advanced methods of instruction, both
didactic and clinical. To the profession at large it apparently mattered
little whether the school was proprietary or was governed absolutely by the
voice of the Trustees. The medical world seemed little concerned with
relations of Trustees and Faculty. The ultimate disposition of surplus
revenues was of no consequence so long as the standard of the institution was
maintained. Everything in the life of the school at this time proved that the
high reputation of Jefferson was faithfully guarded by Faculty and Trustees
who were devoted to the interests of the school.

Da Costa, the great master, now stood at the head of the Faculty, and
next to him in seniority was Bartholow, concededly one of the ablest in-
structors of his time. Upon him devolved the work of the chair of Materia
Medica, and also the duties of the Deanship. But the latter he laid down at
the close of the sixty-second course of lectures, and was succeeded in office
by Professor Holland, of the chair of Chemistry and Toxicology. Since
that time there has been no change in the Deanship, Bartholow's successor
having performed its duties to the entire satisfaction of the Trustees, with
credit to himself, and to the advantage of the school.

During the next year, provision was made for a better use of the
Hospital facilities by the creation of five Clinical Lectureships, which were
filled for the first year as follows: Orthopedic Surgery, O. H. Allis; Laryn-
gology, Charles E. Sajous; Children's Diseases, Oliver P. Rex; Dermatology,
Arthur Van Harlingen; Renal Diseases, James C. Wilson. This action
called for minor reorganization in various branches of Hospital work, and proved of benefit to the students in the clinics in that department.

Professor Gross died in the spring of 1889, and thus the chair of Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery was made vacant. This chair was originally filled by George McClellan, the founder of the school, although in 1825, when that little contingent of teachers was laying the foundation of a great medical institution, they called McClellan’s place the chair of Surgery; now, in 1889, it had become known by the more dignified and comprehensive name of Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery. The founder himself taught the principles of surgery and also clinical surgery.

Joseph Pancoast followed McClellan, but was soon succeeded by Thomas Mütter, and, in turn, Mütter was followed by the elder Gross, the master in his profession.

In the younger Gross, who died in 1889, the qualities of the father were transmitted to the son by direct inheritance and the result of paternal instruction and association; and, when the time came, the son succeeded to the father’s place in the life of the Jefferson Medical College. It was a natural succession, but with the death of the son the surname Gross was lost to the Faculty roll where it had been known almost thirty-five years.

The vacant Professorship was given to William W. Keen, M. D., to whom the Trustees and Faculty refer, by way of introduction, as having been “associated long and honorably with the medical schools and medical letters in Philadelphia;” and further: “Having for a number of years filled the chair of surgery in another institution, he comes to his new duties well equipped in every requisite as surgeon and teacher.” This was Keen’s modest introduction to the medical world when he became a part of the Faculty life of this College in 1889. What he has since accomplished is well known to the profession throughout the world, for his fame is world-wide. He still holds the chair to which he was appointed fifteen years ago, and by his works and teachings he still honors himself and the institution with whose life and prosperity he has been so closely associated.
While the changes in the courses of study in the school during the ten years reviewed had been indeed remarkable, a new and far more important step was inaugurated and put into effect at the beginning of the sixty-sixth course of lectures. In 1890 the Trustees and Faculty adopted a "New Course of Study," a compulsory three years' course, which had been successfully attempted in a few other schools. Jefferson might have been the pioneer in this work, had the "Graded Course" been made more elaborate and extended, and compulsory. The plan for the three years' college curriculum combined the best features of the former system with the progressive and lengthened courses of study required under the new regulations. The course for the first year prescribed study and proficiency in Anatomy and Histology, Physiology, General and Medical Chemistry, and Materia Medica and Pharmacy, with laboratory work in each branch, dissection and general clinics, the latter, however, being at the option of the student.

Under the new order the course of study for the second year included the subjects of General and Topographical Anatomy, Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence, Toxicology and Medical Chemistry, Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Pathologic Anatomy, Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Clinical Surgery, and Didactic and Clinical Obstetrics. At the end of this year final examinations were provided to be held on Anatomy and Histology, Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence, Medical Chemistry and Toxicology, and Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

The studies for the third year included Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Clinical Surgery, Didactic and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Didactic and Clinical Pediatrics, Hygiene and Therapeutics, Medical Jurisprudence, and Pathology. The final course also included laboratory work and ward classes in the practical branches and clinics in the "specialties." At the end of this year, final examinations were to be held on such branches as had not previously been passed.

This was the arrangement of the three years' course of study adopted for the session of 1890-91. At the beginning of the next session it became
necessary to modify the system in some respects, but in the main it was con-
tinued until the sweeping changes of 1895, which resulted in a complete
revolution of the system, both in its management and in its course of study.
The idea of establishing the three years' course originated with the Faculty,
and was carried into effect almost wholly by the members of that body.
The Trustees were not concerned in the enterprise, although they viewed
the action of the Professors with much interest. It was thought that the
change might tend to lessen the number of new students, but the medical
profession at large was well pleased with the change, and it was the pro-
fession in general that largely controlled the attendance.

One of the most earnest advocates of the new course was DaCosta, who
had favored it in the Faculty meetings for a year or more before it was
adopted. His efforts were seconded by his colleagues, among whom Chap-
man, Brinton, Parvin, Bartholow, Forbes, Holland, and Keen were active
in their advocacy of the highest standard. If failure or lack of complete
success resulted, the loss fell upon the Faculty, for the time had not yet
come when Jefferson ceased to be a proprietary College. The old relation
of Trustees and Faculty was still maintained, and the latter were merely
the tenants of the former, occupying the College buildings and paying therefor
an annual rental.

This does not imply a leasehold interest on the part of the Faculty; no
such instrument as a lease ever was executed by the parties in interest, and
the relations of "landlord and tenant" were never understood as being in
force. Soon after the Hospital was opened the Trustees began to accept
from the Faculty an annual rental for the occupancy of the College and
Laboratory buildings, and in November of each year it was the custom of
the board to fix a price for the use of those properties. This was done by
resolution, and in accepting its provisions the Faculty assumed to pay an-
ually for the use of the College building the sum of $3,000, and $993 addi-
tional for the use of the laboratory.

This was an unusual condition of affairs, and, had it not been that the
respective parties were perfectly harmonious in all their relations, complications might have resulted. But these conditions could not continue indefinitely, and even before the adoption of the three-year compulsory course there was an inclination to put aside the old system of Faculty domination over any part of College and to vest supreme and absolute control in the Trustees. This power was now and always had been vested in the Trustees, but subsequent to 1841 there had been little occasion to assert the authority. The Faculty had proved excellent managers in their own departments, had paid their rental regularly and without complaint, and under their management the school had grown in popularity and usefulness, and at times the medical hall was taxed to the utmost of its capacity.

There was, however, a growing desire for a complete change, and a demand for the abrogation of the custom of dividing the profits of the school among the members constituting the Faculty. The medical profession favored the action, the Alumni advocated it, and the best interests of the institution itself demanded it. The substance of the whole matter seemed to be that further continuance of the old-time custom was incompatible with the dignity and character of a college. The time was at hand when Jefferson must throw off ancient methods, as other similar institutions were doing or had done, and appear before the profession and the world on a higher plane.

The adoption of the compulsory three years’ course was a step in the right direction, and the proposed erection of a new college building was an additional argument in favor of the change. Naturally, some members of the Faculty approved the measure, others were indifferent, and were content to submit to such action as the Trustees might take. As a body they had established the reputation of the school, and had profited by their work; and further participation in those profits was desirable.

However, before the end was finally attained, several noteworthy events took place. Professor DaCosta had expressed a desire to retire from the Faculty before the adoption of the three years’ course of study, but such
had been his interest in that work that he continued his lectures and clinics longer than was intended; but when the new regulation was put in effective working order he sent his resignation to the Trustees. It read as follows:

"Gentlemen:—

"I beg to resign the Professorship of Medicine, to which you elected me nineteen years ago. The demands of professional work on my time have made it for some years difficult to discharge the duties. But I was unwilling to sever my connection with the College while it was about to extend the course of instruction. This has now been most happily accomplished, and I can retire with full confidence in the further brilliant success of the school. In leaving the institution I thank you both as a board and as individuals for years of pleasant intercourse and for many acts of kindness and courtesy.

"Very sincerely yours,

"J. M. DaCosta."

The resignation was not unexpected, and it was not welcome. He had been too long a part of the life of the school to admit of a complete severance of his relations with it at this time. He had earned retirement, and he deserved it; his fame had become world-wide, and for this he owed much to his professorship in the College. Both were highly honored by the mutual relation. Da Costa would have preferred to relinquish all his duties in the College, but to this proposition neither the Trustees nor his associates on the Faculty were willing to assent; hence, after some persuasion, he consented to accept the Emeritus Professorship of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, and to give the institution and the professional world the benefit of his name and help.

At the same time Bartholow was made Emeritus Professor of Materia Medica, and thus, after twelve years of faithful service, he was elevated to the honorary position he held until his death, May 10, 1904. His professional career was honorable and highly useful. A graduate in arts from Calvert College, he received his degree in medicine from the University of Maryland in 1852, in his twenty-first year. From 1857 to 1864 he was a surgeon in the United States Army, resigning in the latter year to take the chair of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati,
Roberts Bartholow.
and later became Dean. In 1879 he resigned to become Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Jefferson Medical College. He was chosen Dean in 1885; and in 1886 resigned that position to resume his work as a Professor, in which he continued until he was made Professor Emeritus in 1893. He was the author of several medical works, among the best known being "Hypodermic Medication," "Treatise on Therapeutics and Materia Medica," and "Practice of Medicine," the last of which was translated into the Japanese at Tokio. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, an honorary member of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh and the Société Medico Pratiques of Paris, and an active member of leading American professional bodies.

To succeed Bartholow in his Professorship, the trustees elected Hobart A. Hare. Professor Hare (in 1904) is still a member of the Jefferson Faculty. Nothing that was said of him in 1891 need be withdrawn after thirteen years of service in the chair of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics.

So with Wilson, who succeeded Da Costa in the chair of Medicine. To follow a teacher and clinician of Da Costa's strength—to succeed him in fact as well as in name—meant a great deal, and both Trustees and Faculty agreed that the man for the place was James C. Wilson, M. D., who was then modestly referred to as Clinical Lecturer on Renal Diseases, member of the Hospital Staff, and also as having "made his mark in medical letters and medical teachings while engrossed with the cares of a large professional practice." His connection with the school was begun in 1877, as Lecturer on Physical Diagnosis in the Summer Course, and also as Physician to the new Hospital. A teacher himself, he also was taught, and he profited by association with Da Costa, whose friend he was. When this great teacher laid aside the active duties of his chair, Wilson was his natural successor, and (in 1904) his name still stands on the Faculty rolls as Professor of Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine.

Among the several changes of this time, was the creation of the chair
of General Pathology and Pathological Anatomy, in 1891. Its first and only incumbent under that name was Morris Longstreth, who for years had been in the school in some important capacity, and whose chair was changed in name, with others, under the radical reorganization of 1895, when the Trustees adopted a "new constitution" for the College.

In 1891 a Training School for Nurses was established in connection with the Hospital, and through this means there was secured a decided improvement in the character of the nursing in that institution. A well qualified directress was placed in charge of the school, and was assisted in teaching by lecturers from the College corps, who gave annual courses to the nurses' classes on subjects relating to their employment. Owing to the fact that the capacity of the Hospital was already overtaxed, it was decided to locate the Training School in some other place. The College building was never considered in this connection, the Trustees and Faculty being desirous to "avoid even the appearance of evil," as such an establishment might give rise to the suspicion that Jefferson was a coeducational institution. Therefore, to meet the requirements of the occasion, the Trustees (the Faculty were not concerned in it, although they favored it) rented the building and premises at No. 518 Spruce street, and fitted it for a "Nurses' Home;" and at the same time secured for the male nurses rooms on Sansom street, above Eleventh. Later on, the Trustees provided more convenient quarters at No. 226 South Seventh street.

To maintain the Hospital and its beneficent work, the Trustees again had recourse to the legislature, and not in vain. Annually for six years or more the deficit in running expenses was reduced by the $5,000 appropriation by the State. In 1892 the sum of $100,000 was received from this source to aid in the construction of a building better suited to the demands of the institution than the twenty-year-old structure, which was inadequate in many respects. To obtain the funds from the State, the Trustees were required to raise a large sum of money from outside sources, and begin the work of construction within two years after the passage of the act. The business
depression of 1893 arrested all progress in this direction, and, as a result, the act became inoperative; but in 1894 the legislature confirmed the action of its predecessor, revived the act, and with this donation the premises and six-storied building at the corner of Tenth and Moravian streets, adjoining the Hospital on the east, was purchased. In the two lower floors of this building, called the “Hospital Annex,” temporary quarters were arranged for certain special clinics. Provision also was made for receiving and examining rooms for the out-patient departments. The annex building was torn down in 1903, and on its site stands a part of the new hospital structure.

In 1892 another chair was created, and a new name and figure appeared in the College life. E. E. Montgomery, formerly a Professor in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, was called to the Professorship of Clinical Gynecology. His name still appears on the Faculty list, and he is “known by his works,” for as a gynecologist Montgomery has attained a high standing both in Jefferson and in the professional world.

The remaining years of operation of the school under the requirements of the three years’ course were uneventful, although they constituted a period of active evolution, with many additions to the teaching corps. The Faculty chair of Ophthalmology, the first incumbent of which was Dr. William Thomson, was filled, after his resignation, by Dr. George E. de Schweinitz, former Professor in the Polyclinic College, a lecturer and teacher of known quality and wide repute. Dr. W. M. L. Coplin, formerly Professor in the Vanderbilt University, became the successor of Professor Longstreth in the chair of Pathology and Bacteriology.

The three years’ course was now in full operation. It had passed the experimental period, and was successful beyond the expectations of its best friends. For the session of 1894-95 the matriculation list aggregated seven hundred and eleven. The additional time gave opportunity for the introduction into the curriculum of various special branches of practice as required studies. A body of “Honorary and Clinical Professors” was constituted, and its appointees were men of ability and experience. Though without a
voice in Faculty meetings, each was put at the head of a clinic, with a staff of assistants serving as instructors to the third-year class, which for this work was divided into sections of convenient size.

The personnel of this first staff of Professors, with the subject taught by each, was as follows: Henry W. Stelwagon, Dermatology; H. Augustus Wilson, Orthopedic Surgery; Edwin E. Graham, Diseases of Children; F. X. Dercum, Diseases of the Nervous System; Orville Horwitz, Genito-Urinary Diseases; Edward P. Davis, Obstetrics; S. MacCuen Smith, Otology; W. Joseph Hearn, Surgery; Howard F. Hansell, Ophthalmology; William S. Jones, Laryngology; D. Braden Kyle, Laryngology; J. Chalmers Da Costa, Surgery; J. M. Barton, Surgery.

During this period of five years, 1890-95, many other changes were made in the teaching force and in the curriculum, which, though of minor importance in themselves, contributed to the complete transformation of the course, making it more varied, more thorough, and more practical. Although the course had been extended to three years, and each term lengthened six weeks, the demands of a rapidly growing science created a need for still more time. In less than five years from the time of the adoption of the three years' course, it was necessary to add still another year, and to establish a four years' course. The great and wide advance in all the branches of medical science demanded something more than was accomplished under the existing requirement.

Good results had followed the adoption of the three years' course by the Jefferson Faculty. It was given to this enterprising association of proprietors to place and maintain their school on a basis equal at least to that of any other similar institution in the country; but in that great work they followed the leadership of others. Now they were "raised up" to become leaders themselves; to take the initiative in advanced thought and action; and to give to the Jefferson Medical College the distinguished honor of being the first of the independent medical colleges to adopt the compulsory four years' course.
The Faculty had worked out this great problem more than a year before it was put into operation, and in the College publications for 1894-95 it was publicly announced that "all persons beginning their medical studies by matriculating after June 1, 1895, must take four annual courses." This was notice to the world that after the date mentioned the Faculty of Jefferson intended still further to change the system of medical teaching. If the proposed undertaking was of an experimental nature, the Faculty members were sufficiently brave to face the possibility of failure, but this phase of the matter does not appear to have been considered by them, at least so far as the records of their proceedings disclose. It seems to have been a peculiar and distinguishing trait of character in the average Jefferson Faculty member, in every age and generation in the life of the school, to overcome obstacles, brave dangers, devise original methods, and put them into practical operation without considering whether other schools would adopt like measures. From McClellan's time down to the end of what has been termed "Faculty domination," this was noticeable in Jefferson's history, and never more so than after the accession of the Faculty of 1841, and from that time to June 1, 1895, when so-called Faculty supremacy was actually ended. It ended in fact in 1839, but Jefferson continued to be a proprietary school until the end of the seventieth session—until it reached the allotted "three score years and ten."

The last Faculty and corps of Associate Teachers and Lecturers under the old regime was a noteworthy aggregation of medical talent and skill. Never before in the life of the school had there been a more powerful array of instructors. The principal chairs, ten in number (there were six in 1825, and six in 1841), were filled by Professors of marked ability, and at their head were two Emeritus Professors—Da Costa and Bartholow. In addition, there were eight Honorary and Clinical Professors, one Adjunct Professor, seven Lecturers, nine Demonstrators, and thirty-six Instructors and Assistant Demonstrators. In the aggregate the teaching force at the close
of the seventieth session numbered seventy-three instructors in all departments.

For the session of 1894-95 the attendance at the College was 711 students, divided as follows: Third year students, 229; second year students, 237; first year students, 219; special students, 26. On May 15, 1895, at the annual commencement the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on 148 graduates. The total number of graduates of the College to and including this date, was 10,398.