

*cf. Harry Shuman account of the beginnings in the Osler Mo. J. N. Bulletin
Much the best acct. !!*

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An account of the early days of the Johns Hopkins Hospital was given by the same
Mr. Abraham Flexner, then of the Carnegie Foundation, before the Royal Commission
on University Education in London in 1911. It was given in reply to a question by
Mr. S. W. M'Cormick asking for details regarding the beginning of the Johns Hopkins
Medical Faculty.

"When Johns Hopkins died he left two equal sums of money, one to establish a
University and the other to establish a hospital. The University was begun in 1876.
The hospital was built out of the accrued income of its endowment, and it was ready
to be opened until late in the eighties - 1888 or 1889, I think - and as it neared
its completion the question of organising the Medical Faculty came up. It was sup-
posed at first, doubtless, that the original endowment of the University would be
sufficient to carry all the Faculties, but after the University had been in operation
for 13 years it became evident that the endowment of about \$3,500,000 was not large
enough; therefore the opening of the Medical School turned on the raising of an ad-
ditional endowment of of about \$500,000. However, the trustees began with the ap-
pointment of a professor of Pathology, who practically organised the Medical School.
I happened to be in Baltimore myself as a student at that time, and I remember the ex-
pectation that the prominent physicians of Baltimore would be appointed professors in
the Hopkins Medical School. As a matter of fact none of the appointees came from
Baltimore. That was not, of course, intentional, but it happened they were not the
kind of men whom the Trustees were seeking. What happened was that Mr. Gilman, the
President, appealed to Cohnheim, who was the professor of Pathology at Leipzig, for a
recommendation, and he recommended a student of his - Dr. Welch - who had spent several
years in Leipzig studying Pathology. He had come to New York, but found no opening, no
possibility of doing anything, and had got a room in the Bellevue Hospital Medical
College, where he was working at Pathology on his own account; from that he was taken
quite suddenly to Baltimore and made professor of Pathology and Dean of the new
Medical Faculty. He was then in the early thirties, but he was known, of course, as a

man of modern training, of very distinct scientific leanings and ambitions. His first step was to find a professor of Internal Medicine, and he proceeded in somewhat the same way, selecting Dr. Osler, who was then considerably under 40, well known as one of the brilliant men who was endeavouring to make a science of Clinical Medicine. The entire Faculty was recruited of young men. They have all turned out well, a brilliant, highly successful group of men, and all the original professors still hold the chairs, except Dr. Osler. " When the School was opened it was currently supposed that it would have no students. Dr. Billings, who was the librarian of the Surgeon-General's office at that time, and who was advising the Trustees in everything concerning the construction and organisation of the hospital, made an address in 1877 on the proposed Medical School, in which he suggested that it would probably never have more than 25 in a class, and probably would be very many years until it got so many. The second graduating class was 32, and the problem now is altogether one of limiting the numbers. The entrance standard is higher than that of any other Medical School in the world. "

From Abraham Flexner's

Testimony before the Royal Commission on University Education London 1911.