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The Medical School

After the plans were adopted, the construction of the hospital proceeded slowly. Mr. King could not be hurried. Only the income of the endowment was employed. Year by year the opening of the wards was postponed. Meanwhile the University authorities were studying the problem of medical education, for it was fore-ordained that medicine and the allied sciences should be one of the principal cares of the University. Professor Huxley, then recognised as an able advocate of the study of nature, was invited to deliver an opening lecture, which was chiefly directed to medical education. Dr. Martin's courses in biology were so arranged as to be of special service to prospective physicians. A preliminary medical course was announced. The nucleus of a medical Faculty was established. Inquiries were made as to suitable incumbents for the professorial chairs. Medical schools, at home and abroad, were visited. Everything was hopeful. Then unexpected disasters occurred. The investment which the founder had selected for the University ceased to yield its usual income, and then ceased to yield any income whatever. It was not until Miss Mary E. Garrett came forward, several years later, with a gift of nearly half a million dollars, supplementing a large contribution from friends of the medical education of women, that the organisation of the Medical School was perfected.

The first appointment on the Medical Faculty was Dr. William H. Welch. The medical profession generally recognised at that time the importance of bacteriology, and were desirous that the new School in Baltimore should include on its staff one who was eminent in the modern study of pathology. Inquiries as to such a person were made in this country, in England, and on the Continent, and, after a great deal of

(Daniel Coit Gilman: The Launching of a University. New York, 1906, Dodd, Mead & Co., pp. 122-124.)

scrutiny, the choice fell upon the gentleman just named. He was persuaded to leave the post which he then filled in the Bellevue Medical College of New York, was allowed a year's leave of absence to further fit himself for his new work in the laboratories of Germany, and entered upon his duties in 1885. He was the first Dean of the Medical School, and, in all the developments of his plans, his learning, his good sense, and his enthusiasm were most helpful.

Looking forward to the future organisation of the Medical School, Dr. William Osler was appointed Professor of Medicine and Chief Physician to the Hospital; and with him were associated Dr. Halsted, in surgery, and Dr. Kelly, in gynaecology. When the time came to offer systematic instruction, these gentlemen formed a nucleus of the Medical Faculty, and they added to their numbers Dr. Mall, in anatomy, Dr. Howell, in physiology, and Dr. Abel, in pharmacology, and afterwards, many special associates and instructors.

At the beginning it was decided that those only who were already graduates in Arts or who had an equivalent training should be received as candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Most of the medical schools in the country received pupils with very slight examination, and even the foremost required nothing like the conditions of a baccalaureate degree. But it was not considered that a baccalaureate degree would be by itself a sufficient evidence of preliminary knowledge. It was therefore required that all such candidates should have pursued courses of instruction that included chemistry, physics, and biology, with some knowledge of French and German. By these conditions it was

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intended to bring together a superior class of persons who had made such progress in the line of their life work that their future success might be considered as assured. In other words, the medical instruction was to be based upon an acquaintance with the laws of normal and healthy life, and the candidates were to have sufficient knowledge of French and German, at least, to read the scientific papers constantly appearing in these languages.