

HISTORY OF HOMOEOPATHY

AND

ITS INSTITUTIONS IN AMERICA

CHAPTER I

THE WESTERN COLLEGE OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE.

By David Herrick Beckwith, M. D., Cleveland, Ohio.

The feasibility of establishing a homœopathic college in Cleveland was discussed by the physicians of the new school of medicine in the west in May, 1849, though no definite action was taken. June 9 of the same year a circular was issued by T. V. Morrow, dean of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, in part as follows:

"Resolved: That we invite the homœopathic physicians of the United States, and of the west especially, to unite in recommending and nominating a professor to fill the chair of homœopathy in the Eclectic Medical Institute."

That same month a committee composed of Drs. B. W. Richmond of Chardon, John Wheeler and C. D. Williams of Cleveland, David Sheppard of Bainbridge and A. Plympton of Painesville, selected Storm Rosa, M. D., of Painesville, to take this professorship. He was well received by the trustees of the college, its president, Hon. Edwin Fletcher, being particularly felicitous in statements made concerning Dr. Rosa, characterizing him as a "clear, judicious and practical teacher, imbued with a liberal progressive spirit of the new schools, and desirous not of exciting idle and angry discussions of abstract theories, but of filling the minds with useful knowledge." Nor did he disappoint them. In fact, so thorough was his teaching that a number of eclectic students were converted to homœopathy, and March 6, 1850, six of them, David H. Beckwith, Lemuel Rosa, E. R. Fuller, George Storm, L. E. Ober and one other, received both the eclectic and homœopathic diplomas. These six homœopathic diplomas were the first given in the west, and the date preceded by just nine days the graduation of six men from the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rosa being homœopathy's pioneer in the west, it is appropriate that his work should be particularly noted in these columns. His work made a decided impression not only upon his class but upon those who were interested in either a friendly or an official way in the eclectic college. He had been instructed to prepare two courses of lectures for the institute, but upon consideration of the situation the trustees of the Eclectic Medical Institute abolished the chair of homœopathy, saying that

"A special homœopathic professorship is of no utility; the homœopathic party is in reality but a more subtle modern form of medical hunkerism, the progress of which tends to delude and contract the mind and to hinder the free progress of medical science. The homœopathic system is but a limited portion of medical science and contains practical errors, delusions and false philosophy; for these reasons and others the chair is immediately abolished."

Just what the strong personality of Dr. Rosa and the stronger truths of homœopathy in influencing the eclectic students toward homœopathy had to do with the decision of the board of trustees is not for us to say.

Meanwhile a college was being formed in Cleveland. March 20, 1859, a meeting of the physicians of the west was held at the Dunham house, now the Forest City house, at which an organization was effected with John H. Wheeler, M. D., president; A. H. Burritt, M. D., vice-president; Earl Tiffany, secretary, and Dudley Baldwin, treasurer. June 21, of the same year, the trustees presented a plan for formal organization, with a course of study for the session of 1850-1851. The following faculty was chosen:

Edwin C. Wetherell, M. D., Canandaigua, New York, professor of anatomy.

Lansing Briggs, M. D., Syracuse, New York, professor of surgery.

Charles D. Williams, M. D., Cleveland, Ohio, professor of institutes of homœopathic medicine.

Alfred H. Burritt, M. D., Burton, Ohio, professor of gynecology and obstetrics.

Lewis Dodge, M. D., Detroit, Michigan, professor of materia medica.

Hamilton H. Smith, M. D., Cleveland, Ohio, professor of chemistry.

Jehu Brainard, A. M., M. D., Cleveland, Ohio, professor of physical science.

Before the lecture term commenced A. H. Burritt resigned and Storm Rosa was chosen to fill his chair. Dr. Briggs also tendered his resignation and Arthur E. Bissell of Toledo accepted the chair of surgery.

A building at the corner of Prospect and Ontario streets was secured, and early in the fall was held the first session of the institution which to-day stands as the Cleveland Homœopathic Medical College. At the opening exercises a large, enthusiastic and fashionable audience greeted with cheers the opening address of Prof. C. D. Williams. This address was published in the daily press, and was made the subject of bitter criticism and discussion in which the members of the old school of practice took active part. The different chairs of the college were filled by men of marked ability.

Prof. C. D. Williams had the chair of practice of medicine. He was a strong man, having practiced for a number of years at Seneca Falls, New York. He located in Cleveland in 1846, very rapidly building up a fine practice. It was he who drew up the charter for the Western Homœopathic College. In 1854 he published a quarterly homœopathic magazine in the interests of the college. He held his chair until 1856, afterward continuing the practice of medicine in Cleveland until 1863, when he removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where on the 7th of May, 1882, he died suddenly from disease of the heart.

The chair of surgery was filled by Dr. Arthur F. Bissell of Toledo, a man well equipped for the work, giving during his course of lectures most eminent satisfaction. He remained with the college only one year, at the end

of that time removing to New York and giving up the practice of medicine for a business career.

In Dr. E. C. Wetherell of Canandaigua, New York, the trustees found a man of ability, energy and education, to whom they gave the chair of anatomy. He was an excellent teacher, remaining with the college until 1858, when he resigned and removed to Cincinnati. He fell a victim to the cholera epidemic of that year. Dr. Wetherell was president of the seventeenth session of the American Institute of Homœopathy, held in Philadelphia in 1860. He was one of the charter members of the Ohio Homœopathic Medical Society.

Materia medica in 1850 was just as difficult a chair to fill satisfactorily as it is to-day, but in Dr. Lewis C. Dodge of Detroit was found a



Arthur F. Bissell, M. D.

man whose education was exceptionally complete, and who was particularly interested in materia medica. He filled this chair in 1850-1851, and later was transferred to the chair of obstetrics and diseases of women and children, being at the time of his death dean of the faculty. In 1853 he resigned his professorship in the college, some years later removing to Chicago, and finally to Michigan, where he died recently at the advanced age of 82 years.

Jehu Brainard, A. M., M. D., was a very versatile man. He had a wide experience as a teacher, having at various times and in various colleges successfully filled the chairs of natural history, botany, medical jurisprudence, chemistry, anatomy and histology. He was a public man in the sense that he interested himself in matters which involved his appearance in

public roles. Having removed to Washington, District of Columbia, he interested himself in the repeal of certain laws passed by congress which were oppressive to all who practiced according to the homœopathic school of medicine, and as a result of his efforts the obnoxious laws were cancelled; he was a writer whose publications commanded attention; he was not educated at any seminary or college, but received degrees from several colleges for his scientific and practical work.

The president of the board of trustees, John Wheeler, M. D., was a broad, courteous, strong man, whose warmest interests could be always enlisted in that which was for the good of mankind. He never shrank from duty, and when assailed by enemies in the profession he knew no fear. During most of the time of the first ten years of its existence, he was at the head of the college, directing and advising its policy. In 1876 he "died in the harness" at the age of 81 years.

The first year of the college was very prosperous, some sixty students being in attendance, and twelve graduated on the 19th of February, 1851. They were George W. Barnes, Hilenio F. Bennett, George H. Blair, Ebenezer S. Brown, William Cain, Samuel Fulton, Jr., Zebulon Hollinsworth, Eli H. Kennedy, Horatio Robinson, Jr., Lester A. Rogers, Calvin Starr, Samuel A. Steward.

At that time there were about fifty homœopathic physicians in the entire state of Ohio. The next year showed an increase in the number of students in attendance. The faculty had been strengthened by the addition of H. P. Gatchell, M. D., former professor in the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati. He occupied the chair of general and special anatomy, while B. L. Hill, M. D., who also came from the eclectic institute, was elected professor of surgery. Dr. Wetherell was transferred to the chair of physiology. Otherwise the faculty for the second year was the same as that of the first.

Dr. Hill was a surgeon of national reputation. He was the author and the publisher of "Hill's Surgery," which was used as a text-book in the eclectic colleges. He proved to be an excellent teacher, a man of great energy and a decided acquisition to the strength of the college. It is interesting to note that he was associated with Dr. J. C. Douglas in the proving of black cohosh (*Macrotis racemosa*) in 1854-1857, the proving being made with great care upon forty students, male and female. He was a strong man in the state, having been twice elected a member of the legislature, and for one term was United States consul at San Juan. He died in 1871, at the age of 58 years.

Dr. H. P. Gatchell was a tower of strength to the institution. He had prepared himself for the pulpit, but finally decided to take up medicine. For six years before coming into the college he was a professor in the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, and in connection with Dr. J. H. Pulte, of that city, edited for two years a journal called the "American Magazine," which contained popular articles on hygiene, hydropathy, dietetics, anatomy, physiology and chemistry. He was in the college for some years, later removing to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and afterward to Asheville, North Carolina, where he died in 1885, at the age of 71 years.

During this year occurred the disgraceful episode which is remembered as a blot upon the treatment of the college by the citizens of Cleveland. As is well known, at that time there was no provision for the supply of

bodies for the dissecting room, consequently they were procured from various sources by outside parties and sold to medical colleges. A grave in one of the Cleveland cemeteries was found to have been opened and the body taken away. This act of vandalism created great excitement, and for some reason or other suspicion was directed to the homœopathic college. It did not take much effort on the part of those interested to gather together a mob whose purpose was to force an entrance into the college building and search the premises for the body. In a very short time a riot was in progress, the college doors being broken open and the mob swarming through the rooms in search of the body. Not satisfied with simply entering and searching the building, the work of destruction was begun, and before the mob



Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College.

was controlled the windows of the building were broken, the extensive chemical laboratory was dismantled and the contents destroyed, and a very fine museum, the property of Prof. Brainard and the result of years of collection, was entirely destroyed. All the anatomical models, manikins and charts were broken and ruined, and every piece of furniture in the rooms was either thrown out of the windows or carried away by the mob. Several times the torch was applied, and it was only by the greatest efforts on the part of the fire department that the destruction of the building was prevented. Just when the mob was starting for Prof. Williams' residence with the intention of destroying it, a force of state troops appeared on the scene and quelled the disturbance. It was afterward successfully proven that the

body which had been stolen from the grave never found a resting place in the homœopathic college. The entire loss sustained in the college building was borne by the faculty, no recompense having been received from the state or the city of Cleveland.

February 28, 1852, occurred the second annual commencement, twenty-one graduates receiving their diplomas. They were as follows:

Lewis Barnes, David I. Barr, Benj. W. Brice, Avery P. Clark, Charles A. Drake, Hiram E. Driggs, John M. Evans, Joseph McFarland, Terah J. Patchin, Hiram Beadle, J. Christy Peterson, Francis W. Skiles, John N. Thorp, John A. Williams, John N. Wheat, Frances Woodruff, Helen Cook, William Wolcott, Isaac L. Drake, Henry Sheffield, Jr.

The register shows an attendance of eighty students.

As a direct reaction from the spirit of persecution and revenge exhibited during the winter, came a revival—or rather a strengthening—of the good will of the citizens toward the college. With money contributed by these citizens the trustees purchased the building known as the "Belvidere," in what is now called the "hay market," and August 20, 1852, the property was deeded to the trustees of the Homœopathic Medical College. Late that year, after making many changes and improvements in the building it was occupied. The college was legally incorporated in March, 1852, by Drs. C. D. Williams, Lewis Dodge, Hamilton Smith, Jehu Brainard and Horatio P. Gatchell.

In preparation for the work of the year 1852-1853, a notable addition was made to the faculty, that of J. H. Pulte, M. D., who took the chair of clinical medicine. A change also was made in the time of study required before graduation, three years' study being demanded, with two courses of lectures. It is interesting to note that the fees for the year's instruction amounted to \$99, being divided as follows: matriculation, \$5.00; tuition, \$64.00; demonstration, \$5.00; graduation, \$25.00.

February 26, 1853, the dean presented the following names of students to the board of trustees for graduation:

Seth R. Beckwith, Asa W. Brown, Melancthon W. Campbell, Charles W. Taylor, John R. Jewett, Phillip Goff, H. P. Burdick, Alvin A. Lewis, Amastus R. Burritt, Samuel Landers, James L. Fuller, David J. Gish, Jephthera Davis, Benjamin B. Marcey, Orso D. Bostford, Eugene Bitely, Thomas F. Pomeroy, Joseph Watson, David S. VanRansellaer, C. L. Rawson, George S. Hill, James M. Johnson.

The class of 1853-1854 was a large one, the graduates being as follows:

Norman N. Getman, George W. Foote, Elizabeth J. Blanchard, James Melrose, C. C. White, Henry Bowen, W. B. Chamberlain, G. C. Field, J. P. Chase, F. T. McLain, S. S. Wheeler, Francis Wixson, W. H. Dake, Lemuel Eaton, Geo. W. Barker, S. M. Cate, W. W. Gray, Richard G. Nye, J. Kibby Morton, Josiah A. Blanchard, Elsie H. Barry, R. W. Spangler, F. D. Stowe, Alfred J. Sawyer, C. A. Jeeger, W. A. Jones, Susan Edson, W. H. Bacon, A. Plympton, P. E. Johnson, J. B. Walters, G. J. Joulin, Carroll Kendricks.

Some changes were made in the faculty, due to the resignation of Prof. Wetherill. Dr. Gatchell took the chair of anatomy, and Dr. Pulte the chair of obstetrics and gynecology.

The class of 1855 was composed of the following:

Charles Nubling, S. Bolivar Williams, Samuel C. Whiting, D. William Gulick, S. K. Rowland, David Joslin, Isaac N. Minor, John Babcock, Charles Morrell, Frederick Finster, Philip H. Morley, J. Wesley Failing, N. G. Burnham, Oliver A. Goodhue, Isaac Hollinsworth, Albert C. Barlow, Alvin Bagley, J. W. Woodbury.

Two changes were made in the faculty this year: The election of Dr. Seth R. Beckwith to the chair of surgical and pathological anatomy, and that of Hon. John Crowell to the chair of medical jurisprudence. Dr. Pulte, who during his professorship retained his residence in Cincinnati,



Seth R. Beckwith, M. D.

found that it was too much of a tax upon him to continue his relations with the college, and consequently resigned.

Dr. Pulte was one of the notable men concerned in the development of homœopathy in the middle states. He was a German, coming to the United States in 1834 and locating in Cincinnati in 1840, where he remained during the next thirty-five years. He was a prolific writer, having published the *Organon*, and a work of domestic practice which reached its seventh edition and was translated into several foreign languages. He also published a work entitled "Woman's Medical Guide," and an exhaustive monograph on diphtheria. He translated many German works into English, scattering them broadcast throughout the United States, thereby advancing the cause of homœopathy. His long and useful life ended in Cincinnati in 1874, he having reached the age of 73 years.

Dr. Seth R. Beckwith was no less notable in his relation to the homœopathic cause throughout the middle states. After graduating from the college in 1853, he located in Norwalk, Ohio, where he was practicing at the time of his call to take the chair of surgical anatomy in the Cleveland college. He interested himself particularly in surgical work and was the surgeon of the railways entering Cleveland. Later he secured the control of the county hospital, using it for clinical teaching for the benefit of his students. He became prominent in national circles, having been an officer of the American Institute of Homœopathy and of the Ohio State Homœopathic Society.

The session of 1855-1856 was a great success, a larger number of students being present than at any previous year. February 27, 1856, there were twenty-four graduates, as follows:

George B. Palmer, W. H. Eddy, L. H. Olds, O. H. P. Fall, D. D. Loomis, A. S. Hinley, C. Brown, C. S. Woodruff, L. W. Sapp, J. J. Carlow, P. Austin, R. D. Rhodes, Cyrus B. Herrick, A. P. Holt, J. J. Vinall, W. S. Potwine, W. Curran, A. R. Bartlett, J. E. Smith, C. F. Reed, H. Loomis, W. B. Disbro, W. Springer, R. B. Clark.

THE WESTERN COLLEGE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

During this year the name of the college was changed to The Western College of Homœopathy. Several of the men who this year occupied chairs in the faculty are worthy of notice.

Dr. J. S. Douglas, who was professor of materia medica and clinical medicine, was one of the strong men, paying special attention to the study of drugs. He was one of the provers of gelsemium and *Macrotis racemosa*. He remained with the college until 1859, removing afterward to St. Louis, where he accepted a professorship in the same chair.

Dr. James G. Hunt was professor of surgery in the college in 1855-1856, during that year publishing, in conjunction with Prof. Hill, a very creditable work on surgery, bearing the title "Hill and Hunt's Homœopathic Surgery." It was the first work on surgery published by any homœopathic author.

Dr. John Ellis was another of the strong men, retaining the professorship of principles and practice of medicine for six years in this college, afterward removing to New York, where he filled the same chair in the New York Homœopathic Medical College. He was author of "Ellis' Family Physician" and popular treatises on medicine, and also of other books which were circulated throughout the United States. He lived to the good old age of 82 years, dying in New York, December 3, 1895.

The year 1856-1857 was a successful one, at its close degrees being conferred upon twenty-eight students. They were as follows:

F. Baker, F. C. Kiger, E. Penfield, R. S. Sanderson, G. W. Parke, S. F. Guilbert, F. B. Gardner, J. H. Lewis, L. Springer, J. O. M. Cratsley, S. C. Watson, J. Hewitt, L. H. Fenner, D. C. Van Renssalaer, W. R. Patchin, S. S. Hatch, A. L. Avery, N. R. Seeley, W. Rowley, P. Covill, E. R. Ellis, C. Pearson, J. S. Beach, Peter B. Hoyt, J. F. Johnson, F. B. Hancock, Thomas P. Wilson, J. W. Lawin.

For the next year A. R. Bartlett, M. D., took the chair of physiology, pathology and diagnosis, and Dr. E. A. Gilbert the chair of obstetrics and

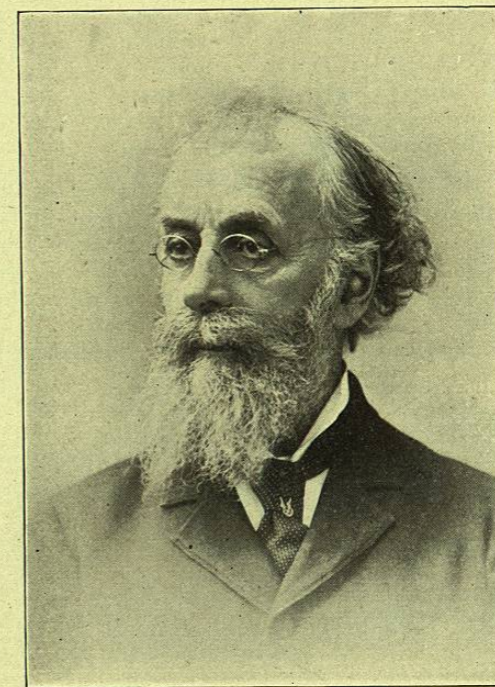
gynecology. It was during this year that Prof. Gatchell tendered his resignation, much to the regret of his associates.

February 20, 1858, the following were graduated:

M. G. Davis, T. Price Tisdale, H. Martin, J. T. Jones, W. H. Burt, J. H. Vanliew, R. C. Green, A. R. Segar, Charles Lusch, David Waldron, Alex. Duncanson, W. H. Richardson, O. G. M. Eells, E. C. Franklin, G. D. McManus, George W. Betterly, L. M. Jones, T. J. Linton, R. B. Leach, J. Stuard, S. A. Robinson, E. G. Painter, John Hall, Joseph R. Paddock, D. T. Brown, M. Tafel, Mrs. D. S. Hall.

The year 1858-1859 was a very successful one, the graduating class consisting of

Jonathan H. Hamilton, Benjamin C. Keys, Andrew B. Spinney, Jerome



Thomas P. Wilson, M. D.

B. Frazier, Edward P. Scales, David H. Gregory, Maria M. Gross, Anna M. Gatchell, David Cromlish, Vinia C. Wallace, Janet C. MacLean, Sarah M. Ellis, Orrin Fowle, Chester Smith, Frances Burrit, L. Caboche, Llewellyn Oliver, Eady Stevenson, George Pyburn, John M. Rucker, Frederick A. Lathrop, John Davis, Douglas S. Lowe.

Of the two new members of the faculty this year, Dr. A. R. Bartlett was notable. He had prepared himself for the ministry, but becoming interested in homœopathy took a course of study, graduating at the age of