

This useful career was terminated very unexpectedly. To all appearances she was in her usual health up to Monday, January 25, 1904, and that afternoon attended a reception given by Phalo, where she served as a member of the reception committee. In the midst of the luncheon she was taken ill. In reaching home a physician was immediately summoned, but pneumonia speedily developed and she passed peacefully away on the following Sunday morning, January thirtieth.

When the sad tidings of the sudden death of Dr. Wait reached her many friends, the thought voiced by one and all in their letters to the stricken family was that she was *so strong*. That word characterizes her every thought, word and deed. Her mind was clear and brilliant; she was always ready to give wise counsel when asked and every hour was filled with loving and efficient service for others. As a wife, mother and friend, she was ideal, always bestowing and never desiring a return for services rendered.

She was a charming hostess. No guest ever went from her home without feeling better, happier and more cheery for having been in her presence. Seldom did one pass hence leaving a larger circle of personal mourners than did Dr. Wait.

Another noble woman who gave freely of her time, strength and money was Mrs. Ellen Louise Demorest, who was for sixteen years a valued member of the board of trustees of the woman's college, and for fourteen years its honored treasurer. During the early struggles to maintain the work, her financial ability, supported by her interest in the education of women and her philanthropic sentiments for the needy poor of the hospital, largely contributed to the success and in a great measure to the present prosperity of the institution. In emergencies she was ever ready to render substantial aid and the frequency with which the phrase, "borrowed from the treasurer," occurred in her reports to the board, often provoked a smile from the members present; but it was that "friend in need" who was the "friend indeed." She was active and helpful in all good works, and an especially enthusiastic supporter of all temperance reforms; her sympathies were deeply interested in the welfare of the insane, and her efforts to improve their condition are well known to her collaborators in this most beneficent work. She was an ardent advocate of the higher education of women—social, political and industrial; and with the courage and zeal to carry out her convictions, she hesitated neither to condemn the wrong nor to defend the right; and the world is better for her having lived in it.

Among others of the pioneer women on the board of trustees, who by their faithful and devoted service helped the college through its dark days, may be mentioned Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Angelina Newman, Mrs. Emma Keep Schley, Alice B. Campbell, M. D., Amelia Wright, M. D., Mrs. Fowler Wells, Cordelia Williams, M. D., Mrs. Lucius E. Wilson, Mrs. Mary Knox Robinson and Mrs. H. L. Bender.

Mrs. Angelina Newman was one of the original incorporators and is the only one now living. Mrs. Mary Knox Robinson, Dr. Cordelia Williams, Mrs. Lucius E. Wilson and Mrs. H. L. Bender are still members of the board of trustees, after over twenty years of constant service, and they are still laboring untiringly for the best welfare of the institution. Dr. Williams as vice-president of the board, Mrs. Bender as secretary and Mrs. Wilson as treasurer. Their faithful, loving service is of inestimable value to the college and its hospital.

CHAPTER V

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

By John Preston Sutherland, M. D.

Boston University School of Medicine may be described in metaphor, as a stream, confluent from three contributing sources. Three apparently divergent interests united in its inception; the New England Female Medical College; the rise of homœopathy in New England; the founding of Boston University. These were the three great chapters in the "Book of the Beginnings of the School" whose history we are setting ourselves to record. A glance at each of these is necessary to the right understanding of the school's origin and traditions.

First, then, no sketch of Boston University School of Medicine can be considered in the least degree adequate that fails to include a tribute to the institution whose brave pioneer life contributed so materially to its own existence. This institution for a quarter of a century was known as the New England Female Medical College. It began its career as the Boston Female Medical School, but during the fourth year of its life its name was changed. It had the support of a society organized for the purpose of enlightening public sentiment, and enlisting it in favor of the professional education and employment of women; and of providing facilities for the medical education of suitable women.

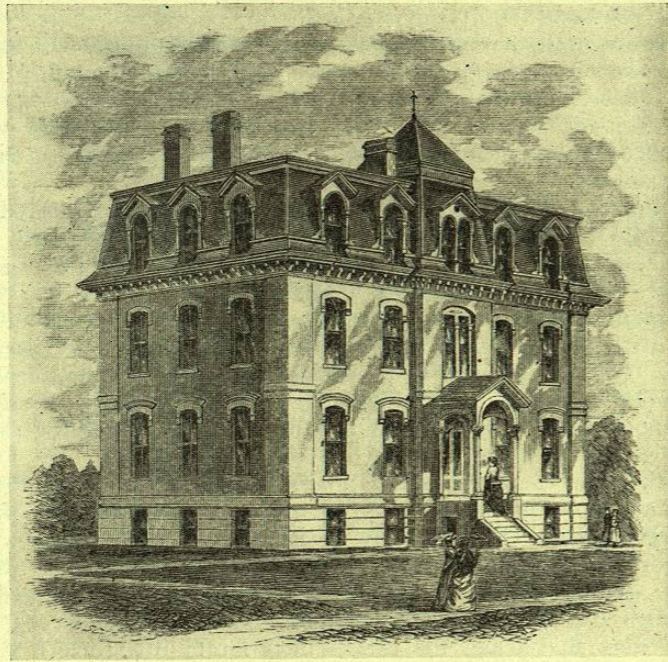
It was through the progressive, liberal spirit, broad-mindedness, faith, earnestness and unflinching activity of Dr. Samuel Gregory that the society and the college came to be. As early as 1845 preparatory steps were taken by Dr. Gregory, by the distribution of circulars and pamphlets, which culminated in the establishment of the Boston Female Medical School on November 1, 1848, and the Female Education Society, November 23, 1848. It is worthy of note that when the act to incorporate this society was before the Massachusetts legislature in April, 1850, after a thorough investigation and a protracted debate, it passed the senate with only four votes in the negative, and the house without a dissenting voice. The school was opened in Boston in 1848 with two lecturers and twelve pupils; "the first class of females ever assembled in America for the purpose of qualifying themselves to enter the medical profession." It seems fitting that so radical a departure from contemporary opinion as that which invited women so far from domestic interests as to the field of medical practice should date from Boston, "that three-hilled rebel town," so brave in new departures on the road to freedom. From its inception in 1848 to the time of its being merged with Boston University School of Medicine, in 1873, ninety-eight women completed their studies in this college and received its diploma, among them women widely and honorably known, thereafter, for notable usefulness in their chosen profession.

In 1854 the legislature appropriated the sum of \$1,000 annually for five years for the establishment of forty scholarships in the college.

In 1855 the legislature further appropriated the sum of \$10,000 "to be applied in providing a suitable building, library, and the necessary furniture and fixtures" for the college.

In 1856 a reorganization was permitted by an act of the legislature whereby the society was merged into the college and its affairs entrusted to a board of trustees.

In 1857 the trustees announced that the widow of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, a professor in the medical department of Harvard University, had generously started an endowment fund for the chair of anatomy, by a gift

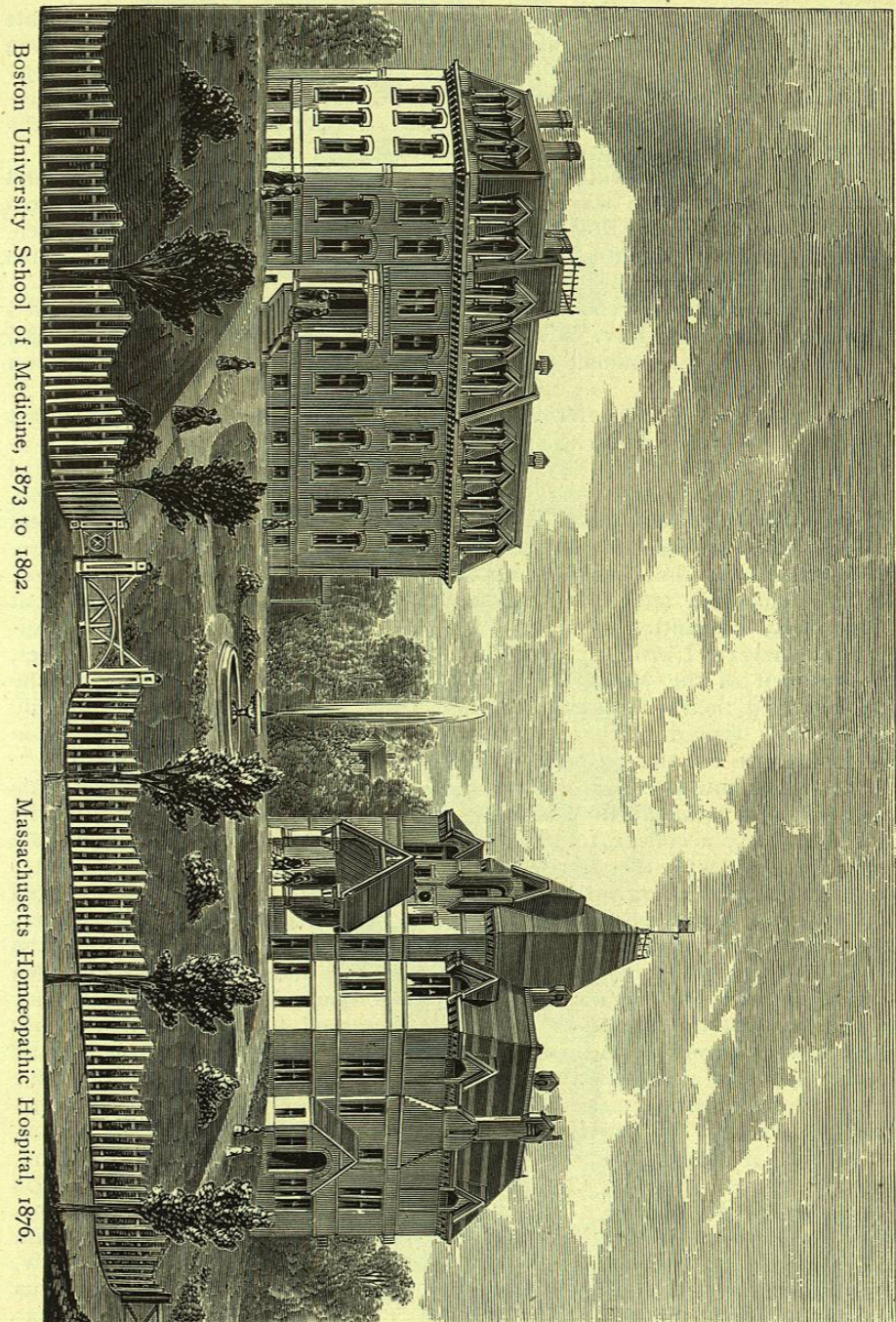


New England Female Medical College.

of \$1,000; which in 1864 as a bequest in her will, was raised to \$10,000; the first professional endowment fund in history to be established by a woman for the medical education of women.

In the annual report for the same year occurs the sentence: "The object of this college is not only to educate physicians and nurses; but to diffuse among women generally a knowledge of anatomy and physiology, and of the rational means of preserving and restoring health—a matter of vital importance in this generation of sickly women and superabounding quackery." Although these words were written nearly a half century ago, humanity has not yet outgrown the necessity for such an education.

Dr. Gregory advocated the technical education of women for work in the mission field. He claimed that women were needed as physicians in the female departments of our insane and other hospitals, and that the



Boston University School of Medicine, 1873 to 1892.

Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, 1876.

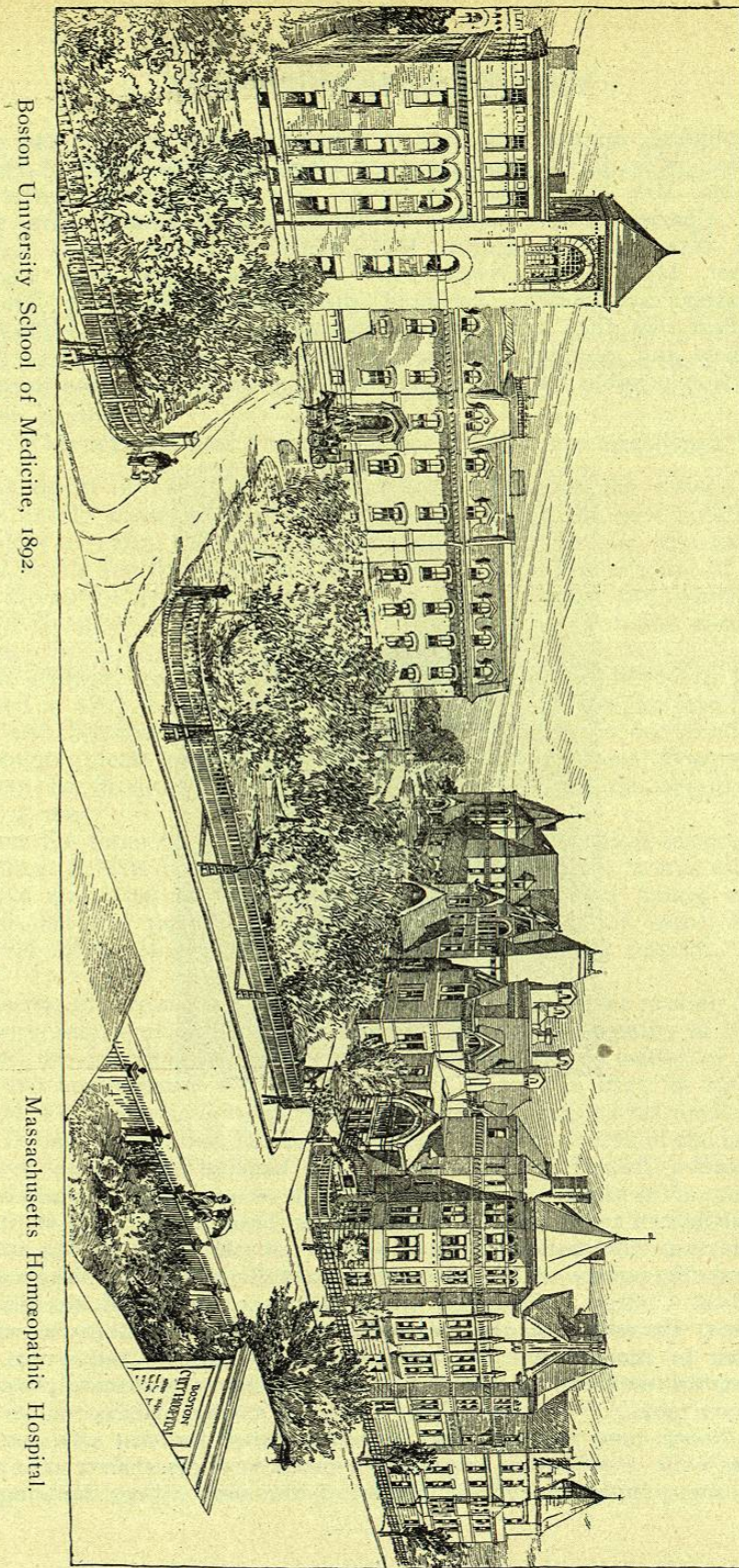
* * * "first and main object of the college is, of course, to educate women as physicians." He also claimed that the lectures should be open to young women who desired to obtain a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and health for their own benefit or domestic usefulness; also to those preparing to be teachers in the public schools, or qualifying themselves for the responsible vocation of nurses.

In 1870, in the twenty-third year of its existence, the New England Female Medical College was able to build and complete a home of its own on East Concord street, Boston, the corner stone being laid by Joshua Merrill, Esq., acting-president of the board of trustees, who was later an active and beloved trustee of Boston University.

The dedicatory exercises, held on November 2, 1870, were participated in, among others, by Rev. W. H. H. Murray, Rev. W. H. Cudworth, and the Rev. Dr. Eddy; eminent and brilliant men long remembered in Boston and New England.

In his scholarly "Quarter Centennial Address," June 1, 1898, President William F. Warren, referring to the New England Female Medical College, said, "In the year 1848, just fifty years ago, a movement that had been initiated some three years before reached the point of crystallization, and an application was made to the legislature for a charter. The object of the petitioners was to provide for another new departure in education. The petition was duly referred to the legislative committee on education, and this committee returned a favorable report. It is curious to note that of that small committee of seven, one was the father of the present president of Harvard University, and a second the father of General Walker, late president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Supported by such men and their colleagues, it is not strange that the petitioners readily obtained the desired charter. The object of the thus created corporation was to provide for the medical education of suitably qualified women.

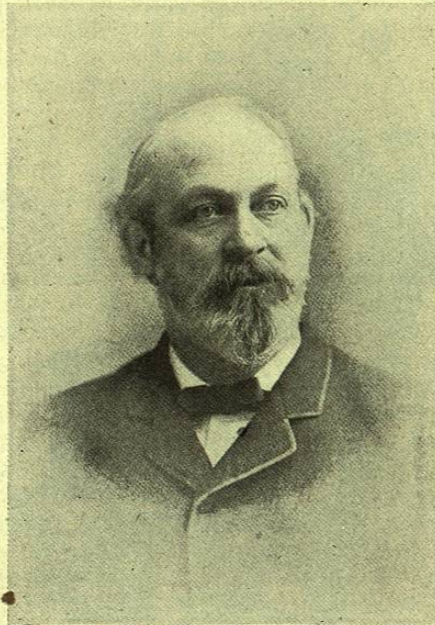
"As just intimated, it was decidedly a new departure. At that date there was not a medically educated woman in America; nowhere in the world was there a college for the training of such. Instruction was at once begun, but only with the narrowest resources. Indeed for the next twenty-five years the best energies of the corporation and of its friends were taxed to provide the money needed for the barest maintenance of the work undertaken. Only the most advanced minds seemed capable of appreciating the appeal. To the great mass of citizens, especially those of wealth, the idea of fitting women for medical practice seemed unutterably wild and fatuous. On this account the hundreds of names preserved to us as members, life members, or patrons of the pioneer organization, or as trustees and annual supporters of the college, have in these days a unique interest. They give a kind of municipal and national peerage, representing the progressive spirits of fifty years ago, the intellectual aristocracy of the city and of the nation. In this roll of honor stand the names of Horace Mann, Francis Wayland, Calvin E. Stowe, Wendell Phillips, James Freeman Clarke, Charles Francis Adams, Peleg W. Chandler, Theodore Parker, Lee Claffin, Josiah Quincy, Cyrus A. Bartol, William I. Bowditch, Isaac Rich, George W. Blagden, Ezra S. Gannett, Samuel E. Sewall, Rollin H. Neale, Robert G. Shaw, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Jacob Sleeper, Alpheus Hardy, Augustus Hemenway, David Snow, William Claffin, Octavus B. Frothingham, Alexander H. Vinton, Amos A. Lawrence, and others of like character. Of



Boston University School of Medicine, 1892.

Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital.

the contributing women, hundreds in number, I will mention but a few; the poetess, Mrs. L. H. Sigourney of Hartford, Miss Sarah J. Hale of Philadelphia, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mrs. Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw, Mrs. Dr. Charles Lowell, mother of James Russell Lowell, Mrs. Francis Wayland, Mrs. Mary B. Clafin, Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, Miss Katharine E. Beecher, Mrs. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Year after year with their modest contributions appeared these names. * * * The gifts were modest, but they educated the country and the world. They made possible new and stronger colleges and schools in other states and nations. They made it possible for a Johns Hopkins University to receive in the very



I. Tisdale Talbot, M. D.

next generation, the gift of \$100,000 from the hand of one woman, to secure the opening of its departments in medicine to women and men alike."

Dr. Gregory's work has probably never been appreciated at its full value. He was unquestionably the pioneer of the medical education of women, and the success of his efforts in establishing the New England Female Medical College encouraged others all over the world to follow in his footsteps. He opened a new and enormous field of usefulness to women; and it must be remembered that as far back as 1845 he began this work in the pamphlet entitled "*A Letter to Ladies*, in favor of female physicians, for their own sex." For over twenty years the college carried on its work in private houses and in halls, and in houses hired for that purpose, leading all the while a somewhat migratory existence. Less than a year and a half after the completion and occupancy of the new college buildings Dr.

Gregory died. The mural tablet to his memory, placed in the main hall of Boston University School of Medicine, bears this inscription:

" IN MEMORY OF

SAMUEL GREGORY, M. D.

Died March 23, 1872.

Aged 58 years.

To his efforts is due the origin of the NEW ENGLAND FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE. Established in 1848. Incorporated in 1850. This building erected in 1870. By his unceasing labors the institution was sustained from its commencement to the time of his death.

This was the first Female Medical College ever established."

The death of Dr. Gregory was a great blow to the college and the trustees hardly knew what course to pursue. Upon the new building there was a debt of many thousands unprovided for, and the one who had always solicited funds for the institution was taken away. The autumn of the year of Dr. Gregory's death was signalized by Boston's great fire, which left the city and its most responsible citizens in a state of profound financial depression.

The college, staggering bravely under burdens too heavy to be borne, welcomed in 1873 the offer of Boston University to be merged into that institution, and become its medical school. In so doing it sacrificed nothing of its unique ideals and purposes; for, as we shall later see, Boston University from its inception freely welcomed women to all the opportunities it offered to men.

Thus the torch of the advancement of women in medical science, kindled at the fires of New England idealism, never fell to earth; it was taken from the brave and tired hands which lit it first, by stronger hands, moved by identical will and purpose. And in the college of newer name, the name of the old college is held in affectionate and unforgetting respect.

Tracing the second and third streams which united to the making of Boston University School of Medicine—namely the rise of homœopathy in New England and the founding of Boston University—we find it matter of historical record that homœopathy was introduced into America in 1825, by Hans Burch Gram, M. D., who was born in Boston, Mass., but obtained his medical education in Denmark; and that Dr. Samuel Gregg was the pioneer of the new therapeutic system in New England. Dr. Gregg in 1838, through Dr. Vanderburgh of New York, became interested in homœopathy and began his studies of the system. In 1840 he moved from Medford, where for years he had been practicing his profession, to Boston, where he acquired a notable practice, and in addition wielded a potent influence in spreading a knowledge of homœopathic principles among the laity.

Dr. Gregg, however, did not limit his sphere of influence to the laity; he was particularly fortunate in convincing other physicians of the efficacy of the law of similars, and many younger physicians owed to him their introduction to the gentler and more successful therapeutics. Among the younger physicians who profited by his counsel and assistance and absorbed, as it were, of his enthusiasm and force of character, was Dr. I. T. Talbot, who later was to become a dominating spirit in the homœopathic profession.