

Boston University School of Medicine, 1892.

While to Dr. Gregg is credited the privilege of being the pioneer of homœopathy in New England, it so happened that through other sources and at about the same time (1838) knowledge of the new truth was making its way into Boston and its environs. It is a matter of record (Publications of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society, Volume 1) that chronologically homœopathy was "adopted" in 1838 by Drs. Samuel Gregg and Josiah F. Flagg; in 1839 by Dr. Charles Wild (through Dr. Flagg's influence) and Dr. J. P. Spooner; in 1840 by Drs. Daniel Swan and Luther Clark; in 1841 by Dr. W. W. Cutler, and on March 2, 1841, the constitution and by-laws of the "Massachusetts Homœopathic Fraternity" were signed by Drs. Gregg, Flagg, Wild, Spooner, Cutler and Clark. This fraternity was the forerunner of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society, the name being changed in 1851.

Among the early adherents of homœopathy must be mentioned Dr. Charles Frederic Hoffendahl, who became interested in the new medical doctrine before receiving his medical degree at Berlin, in 1829. In 1841 he settled in Boston and rapidly earned a wide and enviable reputation. Among those who, in whole or in part, received their homœopathic education in his office were Dr. E. B. de Gersdorff and Dr. David Thayer; men who later became "pillars of strength" to the cause they had adopted. The first homœopathic "dispensary" for the gratuitous treatment of the poor to be established in Massachusetts was opened by Dr. Hoffendahl, aided by Dr. Thayer in 1846, in a room over the Boylston market, at the corner of Washington and Boylston streets.

The professional and lay adherents of homœopathy in Boston and its neighborhood steadily increased in numbers and influence. In 1855 the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital was incorporated, followed in 1856 by the incorporation of the Homœopathic Medical Dispensary and the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society.

Gradually, as the popularity of the new medical ideas spread throughout the community, and as the adherents of the established, traditional school began their unreasonable demonstrations of enmity toward those who embraced the doctrine of similars, it became evident that education in homœopathic practice must be provided for in homœopathic schools. The first public plea for the establishment of a medical college was made by Dr. J. E. Linnell of Worcester, who in his presidential address on October 11, 1865, before the state society when referring to medical education, said: "The demand for homœopathic physicians is far in excess of the supply. * * *" "In this connection I would suggest for the consideration of the society the establishment of a New England Homœopathic Medical College. It is within our power to command talent and learning sufficient to establish and give character to such an institution; and the public demand for physicians of our school would, within a reasonable period, insure its prosperity."

This suggestion was referred to the executive committee of the society who at the semi-annual meeting held in October, 1866, reported that "the committee had carefully examined the various suggestions proposed (by Dr. Linnell), but were prepared to report on one of these only at this time," and this one was in connection with the establishment of a homœopathic journal in New England. The medical college suggestion was ignored completely by the committee. The seed, however, had been sown, and at the annual meeting held on April 10, 1867, Dr. David Thayer, who as

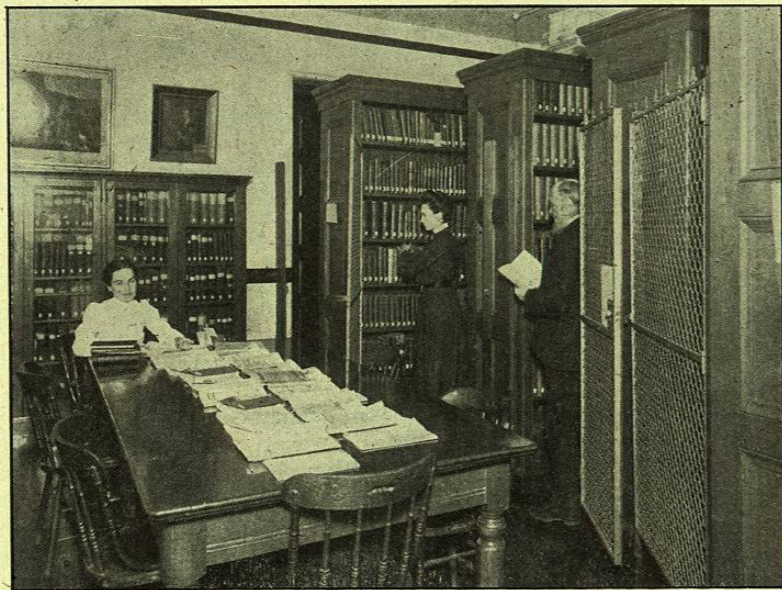
a member of the state legislature had been largely instrumental in securing the passage of the act, "congratulated the society on the prospective establishment of a medical college, a charter for which had just been granted by the legislature."

The act of incorporation to which Dr. Thayer referred is the following:

An Act to Incorporate the New England Homœopathic Medical College.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. Daniel B. Stedman, Otis Clapp, David Thayer, their associates and successors are hereby incorporated by the name of the New England Homœopathic Medical College; with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions and liabilities set forth in the sixty-eighth chapter of the General Statutes.



Library.

Section 2. Said corporation may hold real and personal estate to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars.

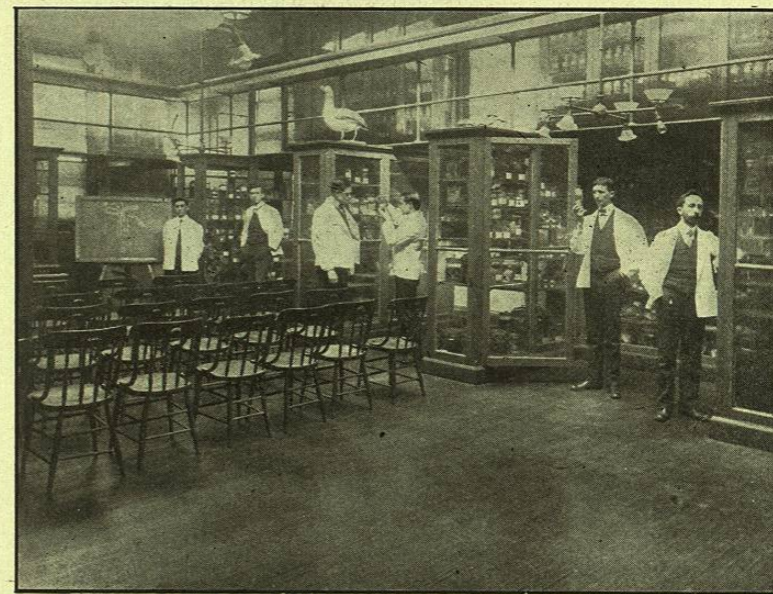
Section 3. The trustees, together with the regularly constituted officers of the New England Homœopathic Medical College, shall have power to confer the degree of doctor in medicine, subject to the restrictions and regulations which are adopted and required in conferring the same degree by Harvard College and the Berkshire Medical Institution.

Approved February 14, 1867.

At the same meeting of the society, April 10, 1867, the president, Dr. S. M. Cate of Salem, in his address said: "During the past year, an important step has been taken for the advancement of our science. Application was made to the legislature of our state, at its present session, for a charter for a Homœopathic Medical College to be located in Boston. The bill for

such a charter received the unanimous approval of the committee on education, who reported it to the house, through which it passed unopposed. But the faculty of the medical department of Harvard University, backed by other influential physicians of that school, made their appearance in the senate chamber, determined on its defeat. No proper cause for their attack was obvious. * * * Every effort was made to kill the bill outright; but, finding their efforts useless in this direction, they endeavored to have a clause inserted in the charter, limiting the degrees to be conferred under it. But in this, too, they signally failed; and a charter, as liberal as its friends asked for, was freely granted."

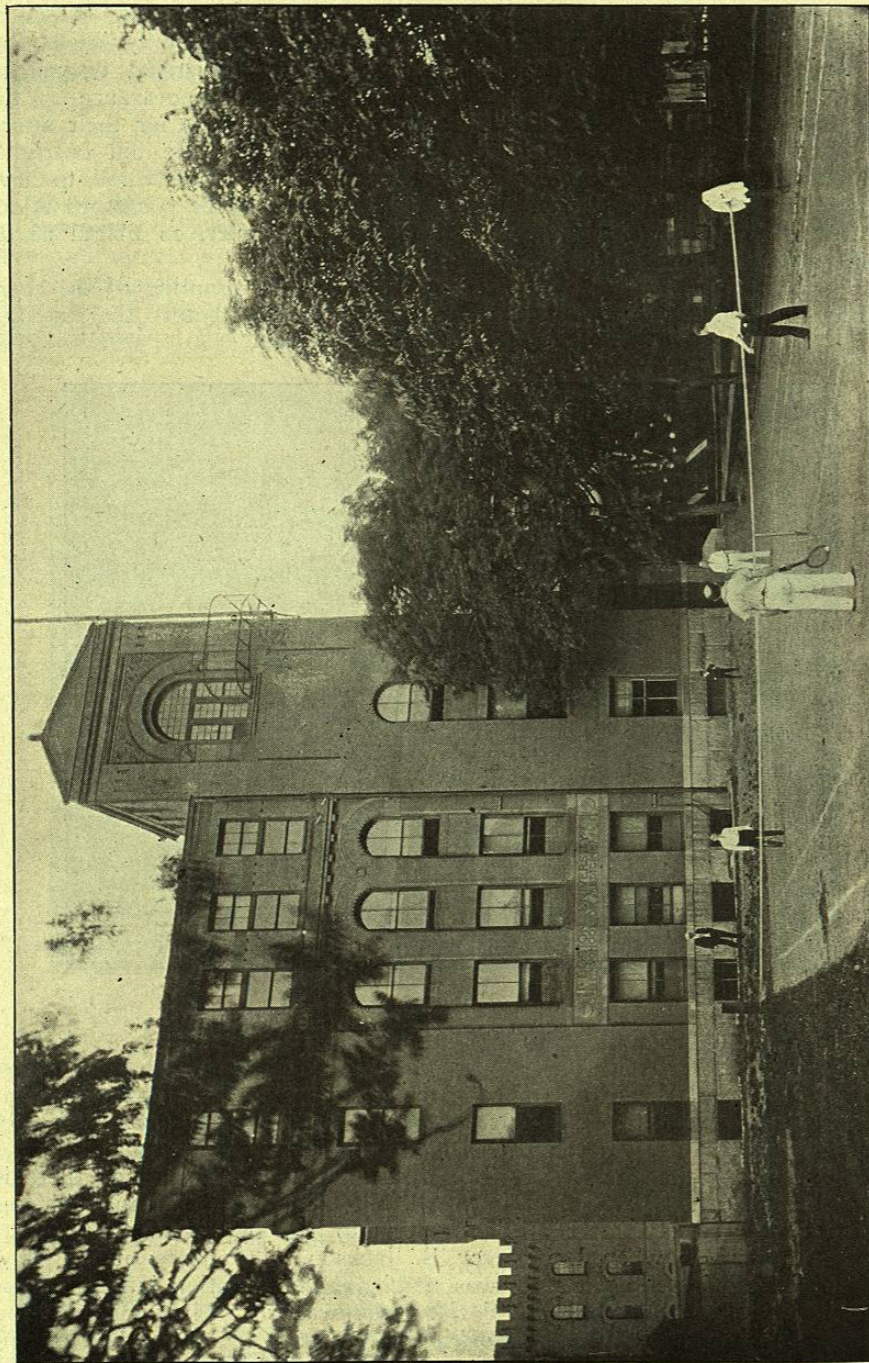
The rejoicing over the prospect opened up by the granting of the charter was voiced by Dr. de Gersdorff, who in an address before the state so-



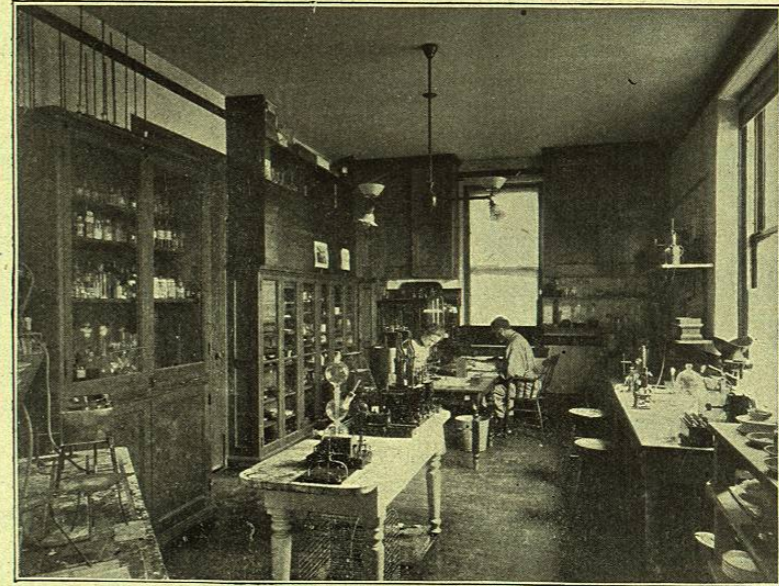
Museum.

ciety, April 10, 1867, said: * * * "It was, therefore, with thankfulness and joy that I lately heard of our prospect of having a medical college in our state, where homœopathy could be freely taught. * * * here, at this center of learning, where the old school has held a high rank for so many years."

It is curious that in so far as a medical school is concerned there is no word from Dr. I. T. Talbot in April, 1868, in his presidential address before the state society. It is also interesting to note that at this very meeting in April, 1868, when Dr. Mercy B. Jackson, a graduate of the New England Female Medical College, was nominated for election into the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society, she was refused membership by thirty-three to thirty-one votes, although the executive committee had recommended her. Hers was the first woman's name to be offered as a candidate



Laboratory Building (1892) with Tennis Court.



Professor Rockwell's Private Laboratory.



Private Physiological Laboratory.

for membership in the state society. In 1874 she was elected; and she later served on the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine.

The society was then twenty-eight years old. Six years later, in April, 1874, the society being thirty-four years old, at the first meeting the society ever held in the halls of Boston University School of Medicine, without discussion or dissenting voice, Mercy B. Jackson, M. D., Mary J. S. Blake, M. D., Caroline E. Hastings, M. D., and Anna Monroe, M. D., were elected to membership. Drs. Jackson, Blake and Hastings were members of the first faculty of the medical school.

In 1867 the question of "female medical education" attracted the attention of the American Medical Association and the American Institute of Homœopathy. At the annual session of the latter organization the well-known Dr. P. P. Wells, ex-president of the institute, offered the following resolution, which was supported by Dr. David Thayer of Boston (later president of the institute), and Dr. D. Holt of Lowell, both of whom had been favorably impressed by knowledge of graduates of the New England Female Medical College: "*Resolved*, That the American Institute of Homœopathy admit to membership properly educated females." The resolution was at that time lost by a vote of fifty-six to sixty-eight; two years later, in 1869, a similar resolution passed the institute by a vote of eighty to forty-five, thus anticipating by five years the action of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society.

Dr. F. H. Krebs (later a member of the faculty) in April, 1869, before the state society, said, "We hold also charters for the establishment of a hospital and a college. The question arises, how shall these charters be made of use? Shall we exert all our energies to set them in operation * * *? Mr. President, in order to accomplish our great purpose, I would move that a committee of five be appointed to devise a plan by which the necessary sum of money can be collected to establish a homœopathic hospital in this city."

Dr. G. W. Swazey of Springfield, in his presidential address before the state society, April 13, 1870, said, "We need no spoken word to remind us that we have laid no college corner-stone, nor made any other show of a determination to do our share in the homework of liberal education. The state waits for Boston, where, by the terms of the charter, the college must be located."

It was at this same meeting of the state society, in April, 1870, that Dr. David Thayer delivered an elaborate and memorable address in the course of which he made an exceptionally logical and effective plea for the recognition of woman in medicine. Among other things, he said: "There is one question daily assuming increased importance. I mean the recognition of woman as a fellow-practitioner with ourselves of the healing art."

"Everything points toward the wider usefulness of woman. Socially, in literature, in many channels of philanthropic effort, in that most important of all human concerns, *education*, woman's place has been generously recognized within the last century. Every year, and every great event, has contributed to bring her in closer and more important relations with the great moving world. * * * Another very special reason why we should welcome woman to our society, and invite her to full fellowship with us in the study and the practice of the healing art, is the great help *she will be as a prover of drugs*. Most of our provings have been made by men, and the

pathogenetic symptoms developed by these provings relate specially to men; and we never can know all the powers of drugs till women shall join in the very important work of drug-proving. And I venture the opinion, that the provings to be made by women will be quite as reliable as those made by men. * * * Science accepts help from every quarter, and shrinks from discouraging the slightest possibility of aid. * * * But I desire to record my judgment, that our school especially, and all schools of really scientific medicine, must inevitably accept and encourage the participation of woman in the study and practice of our art. We cannot put back the current of the age, even if we would; only the bigoted victims of a narrow and timid philosophy attempt it. * * * We must accept the tendency of the age, recognizing it as true progress, not dreading it as rash experiment. The civilization which produced and welcomed Maria Edgeworth, Mrs. Browning, Charlotte Bronte, Mrs. Child and Mrs. Stowe in literature, Mrs. Somerville, Maria Mitchell in science, Lucretia Mott, Mrs. Howe, Miss Dix, Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton in philanthropy, will not support us in the presumptuous assumption that aid from woman is not possible. Woman can help in medicine. I will not chronicle the women's names who have already done so here and in Europe, now as in past years. I only pledge homœopathy, I trust with your concurrence, to a ready sympathy with the age in accepting this new ally."

In 1869 Dr. F. H. Krebs called the attention of the state society to the fact that charters had been granted for the establishment of a hospital and a college, but that no use had been made of these charters. On his motion it was voted by the society to appoint a committee of five to devise plans for the establishment of a hospital. In April, 1870, this committee, consisting of Drs. F. H. Krebs, I. T. Talbot, David Thayer, J. T. Harris, and G. M. Pease, reported as follows: "The committee, appointed at the last annual meeting of this society to adopt plans to secure funds for the establishment of a hospital, beg leave to submit the following report:

"We have conferred with the trustees of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Hospital and have ascertained that the charter of that organization has been and is now in full force; that said trustees, as far as interviewed, are unanimous in their willingness and desire to co-operate under the existing charter, and they think it high time that measures be taken to that end.

"Your committee would suggest that the society should take such action as shall at once result in the immediate establishment of a hospital under the charter which has so long been kept in force, and therefore would recommend that a central or executive committee of seven be appointed to take active measures in securing a building suitable for the purpose.

"We would also recommend that local and county societies should appoint committees to report to the central committee, and that these committees should use every endeavor to raise funds among their patrons and friends, and also articles to be sold at a fair, which should be initiated upon as large a scale as the central committee may judge expedient; said fair to come off early in the coming winter.

"Should these suggestions and recommendations be entertained by the society, and the committee be appointed, we would earnestly entreat all members of this society, irrespective of the committee, to lend a strong helping hand in pushing forward so desirable a work."

Following the recommendation contained in this report a committee of