

*The Johns Hopkins Hospital
and
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*

A CHRONICLE

VOLUME I

EARLY YEARS

1867-1893

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Dr. Gilchrist and Dr. Lord were given jointly the conduct of the Department of Skin Diseases which at that time was organized as a sub-department of Surgery. Gilchrist soon became one of the best known dermatologists in the country and was still actively engaged in teaching at the time of his death, November 14, 1927.

Although abrupt in manner and inclined to be sarcastic, he was nevertheless an able teacher and most of the students who elected the course in Dermatology sought to take it on the afternoons when he was in charge.

As the Hospital's third year drew to a close the institution lost one member of its family to whom it was perhaps more indebted than any other person, namely, Francis T. King, the first President of the Board of Trustees. Mr. King's health had begun to fail several years before, and he had on more than one occasion offered his resignation, but the Board refused to accept it every time it was offered although arrangements were made to relieve him of some of the details of his office in order to lighten the burden that weighed so heavily upon him, for Mr. King took his duties as Trustee most seriously. In fact, it is impossible to read the official record without coming to have the utmost regard for this high-minded man. To an unusual degree he combined the qualities of wisdom, industry, unselfishness and devotion to duty, and the Hospital was indeed fortunate that he should have been selected by the Founder to be its first President.

He was particularly interested in the Training School for Nurses, according to all accounts, and doubtless would have been delighted to see the School of Medicine in operation, for he made a determined effort on at least one occasion to obtain funds from his friend and fellow citizen, Mr. Enoch Pratt, to establish the School. According to a paper in the archives of the University Mr. King had learned that Mr. Pratt had formed the intention of founding a Homeopathic Medical

School in Baltimore but had abandoned the enterprise on encountering apparently irreconcilable differences of opinion among the members of the homeopathic medical profession in the city. Thinking that he might interest Mr. Pratt in establishing a medical school in connection with the University, Mr. King called upon Mr. Pratt in the summer of 1891 to acquaint him with the opportunities which were presented by the University and the Hospital for the creation of such a school and followed up his visit with a letter²⁸ in which he mentioned the possibility of Mr. Pratt's name being attached to the School but nothing ever came of his effort, possibly because Mr. Pratt's chief interest was in the library which he had already founded, or in the Sheppard Hospital to which he left a large share of his estate. In any event it seems particularly unfortunate that Mr. King could not live to see the fulfillment of the wish of his friend, Mr. Hopkins, in the establishment of the School of Medicine, but such was not to be.

Only a few months before Mr. King's death the Hospital lost another of its original trustees by death, Judge George W. Dobbin. Judge Dobbin was a very active trustee and since he was President of the Board of Trustees of the University from 1881 to 1891 he was in a position to be very helpful in making the relations between the two institutions harmonious. Judge Dobbin's place on the Hospital Board was filled by the election of Mr. James L. McLane, a man prominent in the political, business and social life of the city and interested in the development of electric street railways in Baltimore. At the time of his selection to the Board Mr. McLane was President of the North Baltimore Passenger Railway Company. Mr. William T. Dixon, who was already a member of the Board, was elected to succeed Mr. King as President, and the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Mr. King was filled by the election of

²⁸ Letter from Francis T. King to Enoch Pratt, dated July 15, 1891. Archives of the Johns Hopkins University.

My dear Sir: -

Baltimore July 15th 1891

I avail myself of your kind permission to present in writing the verbal statement I recently made to you at your Bank. It was made upon hearing that you intended to found a Homeopathic Medical School in Balto, but owing to serious & irreconcilable divisions in the Homeopathic medical profession you had abandoned the idea of doing so.

Our-fifths, perhaps nine-tenths of medical ^{and} surgical teaching is the same in both schools, such as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Anatomy, Surgery, Medical Jurisprudence, Hygiene, Pathology, Obstetrics, Physiology, &c &c. Most of the leading Homeopathic Physicians of ~~both~~ our Country are graduates of both Schools.

They finish the ^{Regular} Allopathic Course on account of its large Hospitals & other advantages of instruction & then take a year in their own school.

The J. H. U. is making a special effort to establish a medical school of the highest grade, in keeping with modern discoveries in medicine & anti-septic surgery, where ^{person} ~~any~~ ^{one} can enter who has the necessary preliminary instruction. It is estimated that over 300 American students go to European Schools annually to get what they cannot obtain at home. The Johns Hopkins University proposes to give ^{similar} ~~such~~ opportunities for study & research here upon the most thorough & liberal scale.

Towards this Medical School the University now has halls for Chemistry, Biology & Physics crowded with students, who go elsewhere to

graduate in Medicine - The Hospital has ^a Dispensary, Pathological, ^{Intake, and} Amphitheatre ~~buildings~~ in active use, & seven wards ^{buildings} for the sick & injured in which bedside instruction can be given. ^{to supply these to a new} This ^{would cost} is worth to the school a million of dollars. ^{There are} ~~It is~~ further supplemented by a square of ground 300x300 ft, diagonally opposite the Hospital ^{on the} corner of Wolfe & Monument st., worth \$50,000, paid for by the University; by the Baxley fund, left by Dr Baxley to endow a medical professorship, \$35,000; ^{and} by the Women's Medical fund \$210,000, raised by the women of the United States - ~~in a~~ John Robbins in his letter to his Trustees says that the Hospital is to be used by the Med school when it is established. We need \$250,000 more to put up buildings ^{and} ~~and~~ supplement the professorships ^{from endowment funds} - ~~to which~~ the income from which will be added fees from students, \$150 a year each.

The University of Oxford England has 32 Colleges & Cambridge Eng^d has 17 Colleges, many of which bear the names of the founders. Harvard ^{University} College has the celebrated Dwyer Law School, ^{John} the ^{Shiffeld Scientific} ~~Harvard~~ ^{Columbia College in New York} The Vanderbilt Medical Dispensary in N.Y. which ^{Cornell University} ^{College etc} has cost over \$500,000 & I know that the JHU will give to the founder of its Medical College the founder's full name.