

J. I. King to Enoch Pratt  
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J. H. U. Medical School.

My Dear Friend:

*J.H.H. med. Sch.*  
Baltimore, 7th Mo., 15th, 1891.

My Dear Friend:-

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 Baltimore, but owing to serious and irreconcilable divisions in the Homeopathic Medical Profession, you had abandoned doing so.

Four-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, etc., etc. Most of the leading Homeopathic physicians of our country are graduates of both schools.

They finish the "regular" course on account of its large hospital and other advantages of instruction, and then take a year in their own school.

The Johns Hopkins University is making a special effort to establish a Medical School of the highest grade in keeping with modern discoveries in medicine and antiseptic surgery, where any person 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 opportunities for study and research here, upon the most thorough and liberal scale.

Towards this Medical School the University now has halls for chemistry, biology and physics crowded with students who go elsewhere to graduate in medicine. The Hospital has a Dispensary, Pathological Institute and Amphitheatre in active use, and seven ward buildings for the sick and injured, in which bed-side instruc-



tion can be given. To supply these to a new school would cost a million of dollars. These are further supplemented by a square of ground 300 x 300 feet, diagonally opposite the Hospital, on the corner of Wolf and Monument Streets, and 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. Johns Hopkins in his letter to his trustees says that the Hospital is to be used by the Medical School when it is established. We need \$250,000 more to put up buildings <sup>for the Medical School</sup> and for an endowment fund, to the income from which will be added fees from students, \$150. a year each.

The University of Oxford, England has 32 colleges and Cambridge, England, has 17 colleges, many of which bear the names of the founders. Harvard University has the celebrated Dane Law School, Yale has the Sheffield Scientific School, Columbia College in New York has the Vanderbilt Clinic, which has cost over \$500,000, Cornell University has Sage College, etc., and I know that the Johns Hopkins University will give its Medical College the founders full name. ~~Hospital finances are beyond all question.~~

In admitting women to the Medical School the Trustees believe that they have done the right thing, and that their course will assist materially in the medical education of women. It is probable however, that the high grade of this School will confine it to the comparatively few who can pass the requisite examination. Well educated, trained women doctors are certainly needed for heads of training schools for nurses, as physicians for the care of women patients in insane asylums and sanitariums, and especially in family practice for women and children. Experience has shown that there is no danger of their crowding the profession. The School



of Medicine of the University of Michigan organized in 1850, was the first to have co-education, and their last annual report (its 41st) shows but 47 women out of more than 400 medical students, and they are from all parts of the United States. It is one of the largest and best medical schools in America. Four women doctors who have very recently settled in Baltimore are graduates of the Paris, Vienna or Zurich Schools, because they could not get sufficient instruction at home. Women ought not to be compelled to go abroad for a higher education.

As regards the grade and success of our proposed Medical School I need only say that it will be organized by President Gilman, <sup>as a part of the University</sup> who has no superior as an organizer. In the interests of science and humanity he will place it at the head of all such colleges to promote both research and discovery, and the care of the sick and suffering.

The finances of the University since the sale of the Baltimore and Ohio Stock and the receipt of \$200,000 from the McCoy Estate and \$300,000 in other gifts in the past year, are now upon a sound basis, <sup>also</sup> and the Hospital finances are beyond all question. The funds for the Medical School will be invested and held separately for the special purpose for which they were given.

My interview with you and this letter are upon my individual responsibility, but I feel sure from what our Trustees and President have said in the past few months they will be cordially endorsed by every member of the Board, <sup>and</sup> especially ~~and~~ that the title "The Enoch Pratt Medical School" will be suitably inscribed upon the buildings.

I must refer to your very considerate and unselfish remark that we should give Miss Garrett's name to the School. She will



have obtained her noble purpose by your gift, securing to her sex the highest medical education, which otherwise might fail, as the ladies' fund will be withdrawn unless we get \$250,000 by <sup>Feb</sup>~~May~~ 1st, 1892, the conditions of their offer requiring this, so that the School may be opened in the following October.

I thank you sincerely for the kind manner with which you received me and listened to the statements which I made under the feeling that you had the heart and mind to grasp this subject. We are at the turning point in the development of medical education in this country and Europe. If your name could be associated with this movement, as it has been with the development of Free Libraries throughout the land, I believe it would be one of the most appreciated acts of your useful life.

With sincere regards,