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EDUCATION IN HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE
DURING THE BIENNIUM 1918-1920

By

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American Institute of Homeopathy.

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in the United States, 1918-1920]



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EDUCATION IN HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE DURING 1918-1920.

By W. A. DEWEY, M. D.,

Secretary of Council on Medical Education of the American Institute of Homeopathy.

Education in the homeopathic schools of medicine is under the direct guidance of the American Institute of Homeopathy, and the requirements of the American Federation of State Medical Examining Boards are fulfilled in all details, so that graduates may comply with the requirements of all the States and Territorial possessions. The Council on Medical Education of the homeopathic national organization recognizes only acceptable schools, requiring all to conform to a minimum standard. This procedure has tended to reduce the number of colleges and to improve their quality.

At the present time homeopathic medicine is taught in Boston University School of Medicine; New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital; Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia; Homeopathic Medical School of the University of Michigan; Homeopathic Medical School of Ohio State University; and Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Chicago.

Two other State universities include in their medical curriculums the teaching of the homeopathic system of materia medica and therapeutics, namely, Iowa State University Medical School and the medical school of the University of California.

In common with all medical schools, those of the homeopathic system have suffered during the biennium 1918-1920 from a fewer number of students, due to two circumstances, the war and the added two years of college work as a preliminary requirement. The 1918 freshmen classes were small, as the armistice was not signed until several weeks after the opening of the college sessions, sufficiently long to make it impossible to secure credit for a full year's work by matriculating at that time. In most schools the senior and junior classes were depleted by the draft, and the sophomore classes nearly wrecked thereby.

In 1919, however, there was a marked increase in the entering classes of all our schools, and the promise of much greater increase for 1920 is bright.

A survey of the various schools is of interest, as showing the actual status during the biennium 1918-1920:

Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.—This school had a total of 60 students in 1918-19 and 88 students in 1919-20, the increase being for the most part in the freshman class. This institution is in intimate connection with the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, and furnishes postgraduate work to many not enumerated above, which refers solely to undergraduates and excludes postgraduate and special students to the number of 25. Evans Memorial Hospital, with 30 beds; Haynes Memorial Hospital for Contagious Diseases, with 150 beds; and Westboro State Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane, with 1,300 beds, are affiliated with the school. During the past two years there has been improvement in the teaching of the fundamental branches of medicine, especially in anatomy, in which a new system of teaching has been employed.

New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital, New York.—This institution is now in its 60th year and has always ranked as one of the largest institutions of the homeopathic school in respect to the number of students enrolled. Its classes, however, have diminished from the causes mentioned, the war and additional requirement of two years of college work. This remark applies to all New York schools. The New York board of regents' certificate is necessary for admission.

The number of students attending during the past two years was as follows: 1918-19—freshmen 10, sophomores 54, juniors 36, seniors 42, total 142; graduates in 1919, 29. Year 1919-20—freshmen 31, sophomores 18, juniors 43, seniors 34, total, 126; graduates in 1920, 31.

This school, besides its own hospital, has affiliation with the Metropolitan Hospital, the New York Ophthalmic Hospital, and the Willard Parker Hospital. Maternity instruction is also furnished by the Lying-in Hospital, the Maternity Hospital, and the Sloan Hospital for Women. There are 18 full-time men on the faculty.

Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia.—Hahnemann Medical College, of Philadelphia, has two departments, a school of medicine and a school of science, which conforms to the request of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Medical Education and Licensure to the medical colleges of the State to give the required instruction in physics, chemistry, and biology. This enables this institution to offer a combined course yielding the degrees of B. S. and M. D. in six years under a legal charter. This is the custom with most State university schools.

This is the oldest homeopathic medical college in the world, and this report comprises the seventy-first and seventy-second annual sessions, the attendance in the medical school being 144 and 133, re-

spectively, and in the school of science 60 and 78, the totals being 204 for 1918-19 and 223 for 1919-20.

This institution is endowed to the amount of \$325,000, and the property valuation is approximately \$3,000,000. There is a loan fund of \$40,000, the income of which is lent to deserving students. The school places a limit of 40 students in each class. Besides the hospital intimately connected with the college, it affiliates with St. Luke's, Children's, and West Philadelphia Hospitals, and with the Allentown State Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane. In these and other hospitals, approved by the council, graduates secure the hospital intern year required by the Pennsylvania law as a prerequisite to the receiving the license to practice in the State.

Homeopathic Medical College of Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.—This college was the result of the union of the homeopathic schools of Cleveland and Cincinnati with the University of Ohio in 1914 and is one of the 10 colleges and schools of that university and is located on the university campus at Columbus. The first unit of a new hospital was opened in 1916 and has accommodations for 60 patients, in addition to the old hospital, which accommodates about 30 patients.

The chief event in the biennial period just closing is a gift of \$400,000 from Mr. Charles F. Kettering, of Dayton, which is to be devoted to scientific investigation of disease according to homeopathic methods. A fine laboratory devoted to homeopathic research, the best in the homeopathic school of medicine, already exists in this college, made possible by previous gifts from the same generous donor. The results of the work done in this laboratory as far as published have attracted much attention in the medical world.

Homeopathic Medical School of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.—The oldest homeopathic medical college connected with a State university was established 45 years ago. At the time of its establishment it had two teachers; its growth has been steady; and at present there are five full professors, two assistant professors, three instructors, and six assistants, all of whom are full-time men.

This school has ever maintained its position as one of the leading medical educational institutions of the homeopathic school.

The developments of the past two years include the erection of a new Children's Hospital, accommodating 70 patients, which was opened in November, 1918, for the reception of influenza patients occurring in the students' United States Army and Navy training corps connected with the university, and after the subsidence of the epidemic it reverted to its original purpose.

Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, of Chicago, Ill.—Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Chicago has become

the medical department of the University of Valparaíso. The college and hospital are owned by the same board of trustees, and the teaching staff of the hospital is the teaching faculty of the college. The out-patient department is conducted by the college for the hospital. The trustees have a fund of \$537,000, the income of which may be used in accordance with their judgment for the various departments under their jurisdiction.

The number of students for 1918-19 was 44, and 46 for 1919-20. The college has been in existence since 1860, and has a large and influential alumnus body which contributes each year liberally to its maintenance. It is one of the well-equipped institutions of the homeopathic system of medicine.

State University of Iowa.—The College of Homeopathic Medicine of the State University of Iowa was merged with the College of Medicine of the State university by an act of the legislature of 1919, to take effect at the opening of the college year 1919-20. The act of the legislature—

authorized and directed the board of education to establish and maintain in the college of medicine a chair of homeopathic materia medica and therapeutics; that suitable hours should be established in the clinic, and that during such hours as were occupied by the department of materia medica and therapeutics there should be no other lectures or recitations in the college of medicine.

The board also ordered that the head of the department of materia medica and therapeutics have the same privileges and rights as the head of any other department of the college of medicine.

The legislature also authorized that rooms and other equipments be provided so that the department could use clinics and have as many patients as they desired, at the hospital.

All this was faithfully carried out during the year 1919-20 as far as could be under the existing conditions of stringency of fuel. Ten students registered for the department, but many others attended; so that homeopathic materia medica and therapeutics were taught more hours and to a larger number of students than in recent previous years.

University of California, San Francisco, Calif.—Hahnemann Medical College of the Pacific, an institution of some 30 years' standing, with fine properties consisting of college buildings and a hospital of 100 beds, effected an agreement with the medical school of the University of California whereby homeopathic medicine might be taught therein. This plan is working out in a satisfactory manner. There are two homeopathic chairs, homeopathic materia medica and applied homeopathic therapeutics, each with assistants and hospital accommodations.

RÉSUMÉ.

There were 45 more students in homeopathic medical colleges in 1919-20 than in 1918-19, and the increase in the freshman class was the largest. The sophomore class was the smallest, which was the one entering after the declaration of war. There has been much improvement in hospitals, laboratories, and facilities in all the schools, and the aim of educating practical physicians rather than scientists and specialists has been carried on successfully in all.