

IOWA

Population, 2,192,608. Number of physicians, 3,624. Ratio, 1: 605.
Number of medical schools, 4.

DES MOINES: *Population*, 89,113.

(1) DRAKE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE. Organized in 1882 as an independent school, it became a university department in 1900.¹

Entrance requirement: A four-year high school education.

Attendance: 106.

Teaching staff: 16 professors and 29 of other grade; total, 45. There are no whole-time teachers. Student assistants are employed in the laboratories.

Resources available for maintenance: The school is practically dependent on its fees, the volume of which is not large,—for the funds of the university are too slender to permit any considerable allotment to the medical department. The total budget of the department was \$12,417, of which \$9505 came from student fees, \$1239 from interest.

Laboratory facilities: Modest laboratories, whose condition speaks well for the conscientiousness of those in charge, are provided for chemistry, anatomy, pathology, and bacteriology. The provision for physiology is somewhat more slender.

Clinical facilities: The school conducts clinics by courtesy at two hospitals, where instruction is given in a demonstrative way for some twelve to fifteen hours weekly. The opportunities are in every respect inadequate: the time is too short, the amount of material available too little, and the opportunities open to students too limited. A fair amount of obstetrical work is obtained.

The school owns and controls a small dispensary, fairly well equipped and painstakingly conducted.

Date of visit: April, 1909.

¹ As this report goes to press, it is announced that a fund of \$100,000 has been subscribed with which to improve this school.

(2) **STILL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHY.** Organized 1898. An independent school.

Entrance requirement: Less than a common school education.

Attendance: 115.

Teaching staff: 15, of whom 13 are professors.

Resources available for maintenance: Fees, amounting to \$17,250 (estimated).

Laboratory facilities: These are mainly limited to signs. "Anatomy" is painted prominently on a door which, on being opened, reveals an amphitheater; "Physiology" on a door which, on being opened, reveals a class-room with an almost empty bookcase, but no laboratory equipment; the key to "Histology" could not be found; "Chemistry" proved to be a disorderly elementary laboratory with some slight outfit for bacteriology besides. The dissecting-room was inadequate and disorderly.

Clinical facilities: The school makes no pretense of having hospital facilities. The catalogue states: "Cases"—pay cases of course—"needing hospital service are placed in the hospitals of the city,"—where the students cannot see them. The catalogue says of the infirmary: "The patient in no way comes in contact with the college clinic."

Everything about the school indicates that it is a business. One is therefore not surprised to find the following advertisement in the local newspaper: "Have your case diagnosed at Still College of Osteopathy, 1442 Locust Street." (Des Moines Register and Leader, Nov. 3, 1909.)

Date of visit: April, 1909.

IOWA CITY: *Population,* 9007.

(3) **STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.** Organized 1869. An organic department of the state university.

Entrance requirement: One year of college work.

Attendance: 267, 87 per cent from Iowa.

Teaching staff: 32, of whom 12 are professors. The laboratory instructors devote full time to their work; the clinical teachers are practitioners, some of them non-resident: the professor of surgery resides at Sioux City, the professor of gynecology, who is likewise dean of the department, at Dubuque.

Resources available for maintenance: The department is supported by state appropriations. Its income from fees is \$13,707; its budget, \$35,216; the university hospital budget is \$33,745. Chemistry, general expense (light, heat, etc.), and a share of expense of general administration are not included in these figures.

Laboratory facilities: The equipment and instruction in the scientific branches are,

in general, good. This is particularly true of anatomy, which is admirably cared for. The departments of pathology and physiology lack a sufficient number of skilled assistants. An excellent museum and books are at hand.

Clinical facilities: The university hospital is, as it now stands, too small; the amount of material available in medicine, obstetrics, and contagious diseases has been very limited. An appropriation of \$75,000 has, however, been made for the purpose of increasing the hospital capacity. The methods of clinical teaching hitherto pursued have not been entirely modern, mainly for lack of proper organization and material. Supplementary clinical material is obtainable at the Sisters' Hospital and the Tuberculosis Sanitarium.

The dispensary is just in process of development. The dispensary clinic is so far largely limited to the eye, ear, nose, and throat.

Date of visit: November, 1909.

(4) STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE. Organized 1877.

An organic department of the state university.

Entrance requirement: A four-year high school education.

Attendance: 42, 83 per cent from Iowa.

Teaching staff: 10 professors and 15 of other grade. The professor of materia medica and therapeutics, who is likewise dean of the department, resides at Des Moines, the professor of theory and practice at Davenport.

Resources available for maintenance: The department is supported by state appropriations. Its income from fees is \$1864, its budget is \$5453, its hospital budget is \$7847. The school budget does not include expense incurred for laboratory instruction for a reason that the next paragraph will explain.

Laboratory facilities: Homeopathic students receive their laboratory instruction together with regular students of medicine, though there is now a difference of one year of college work and there will be next year a difference of two such years in their preparation, unless a resolution adopted by the board of education establishing the same basis of admission in the two departments becomes effective before that time.

Clinical facilities: The department possesses a hospital of 35 beds, quite inadequate to its purpose. The dispensary is correspondingly slender. Operating during part of last year, it received only 134 cases, of which 101 were diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat.

Date of visit: April, 1909.

General Considerations

IOWA is a state in which there are now between two and three times as many doctors as are really needed. The population of the state is increasing slowly, if at all. There

is, then, from the standpoint of the public interest no reason why a great number of physicians should be produced; there is no reason why any physician should be graduated unless his entrance into the profession will actually improve it. Further dilution would be unpardonable.

Of the four medical schools in the state none is at this time satisfactory. The osteopathic school at Des Moines is a disgrace to the state and should be summarily suppressed. In the absence of police power to terminate its career in this way, its graduates, undertaking as they do to treat all sorts of diseases, should be compelled to meet whatever standards are applied to other practitioners. The medical department of Drake University and the homeopathic department of the state university are well intentioned but feeble institutions that only a large outlay could convert into acceptable and efficient schools. Elevation of standards will probably embarrass rather than aid; for the urgent necessity of additional outlay will coincide with a decrease in the revenues on which Drake, at least, wholly depends. It would be the part of wisdom to retire from a contest to which the institution is clearly unequal; at any rate, it ought to be content to limit its endeavor to the work of the first two years.

The homeopathic department of the state university has now a small attendance on a relatively low entrance basis. As its students receive their scientific instruction with the classes now on a one-year, and hereafter to be on a two-year, college basis, it is clear that the entrance standard of the homeopathic department must be correspondingly elevated. The already slender enrolment is therefore destined still further to shrink. For so small a body of students the state is not likely to provide increased clinical facilities and a resident faculty of its own. Wisdom would therefore counsel the adoption in Iowa of the Minnesota plan: the two medical departments of the state university should be consolidated, with a provision for special teaching in *materia medica* and therapeutics for students who desire the homeopathic diploma.

The two university hospitals could thus be added together; the smaller would perhaps be devoted to obstetrics; the larger, with the additional wing now to be added, would provide comfortably for general medical and surgical clinics. The creation of a strong resident faculty, and the adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy in dealing with the sick poor of the state, would place Iowa City in position to duplicate the honorable record which the University of Michigan has, under similar circumstances, made at Ann Arbor.