

HISTORY OF THE HOMEOPATHIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
AND SURGERY

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The Homeopathic College of Medicine and Surgery became a part of the medical department of the University of Minnesota at the request of the Board of Regents and members of the Medical profession who took a prominent part in its organization. There existed at this time a Homeopathic Medical College which was located in Minneapolis, incorporated under the laws of Minnesota, well equipped with a full corps of teachers and clinical instructors, a large dispensary with ample clinical material; with a satisfactory student body, increasing each year. In 1888 the college was taken over by the University of Minnesota, at the earnest solicitation of the organizers of the University medical department aforementioned. The Homeopathic College was promised fair treatment, and its board of directors unfortunately <sup>leaves</sup> behind these promises made them were made in good faith.

For 19 years the College of Homeopathic Medicine has existed at the University of Minnesota; for 19 years the College authorities have repeatedly told the board of regents that conditions as they existed did not admit of growth and have asked assistance. The last year they appealed to the board again, and again their requests were ignored: then they went to the legislature, they told the members of that body, as they had told the Board of Regents, their exact conditions; the exact number of students they had; they told them the reasons for lack of growth. The Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for a building for the College, to give it a home, a place to do business in by May 1st. Upon the strength of that action by the Legislature passed April 22, 1909, fifteen students had pledged themselves to take the course in the Homeopathic College next year.

## MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The homeopathic college of Michigan has had a similar experience. In 1895 its student body was below 10, but so soon as the state made provision for the care of Homeopathic students the number increased and today the Homeopathic department has 96 students, which is about 1/5 of the number of the students enrolled in the medical department of Michigan University. Like results would be obtained in Minnesota if proper provision were made for students. The general educational policy of this state has been to allow its institutions sufficient appropriations to provide means of growth. In 1902 the Allopathic College had 362 students, now their enrollment is 169, yet in spite of this great decrease the Board of Regents asked and obtained for them from the legislature two years ago \$400,000, and are asking for as much more this year. We have made no protest against the state giving her sons the best educational advantages possible, but we do insist that what is right for the Allopathic College is right for the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery.

### BOARD OF DISPENSARY

In 1893, a free University Dispensary, supported by state funds, was maintained in the basement of the medical building on the campus under impossible conditions. The Homeopaths called the attention of the Board of Regents to this and the Board graciously allowed them to establish and maintain at their own individual expense, a Dispensary for the benefit of the University at the present location. This was so maintained for a number of years with gratifying success. The Allopathic dispensary on the campus failed and because of its failure, not because of its growth, this same Board of Regents requested the legislature to appropriate funds for a building near our location and gave us sufficient room in the building to continue the Dispensary we had already established.

The prosperous agricultural department was conducted for years without success until buildings and proper conditions of growth were given them. There is every reason to believe that with the assistance given by the legislature the growth of the college of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery would be assured.

May 6th, 1909 the Board of Regents met and without consulting the college authorities, without giving them a hearing, abolished this College and established two elective didactic chairs in Homeopathy.

It is hard to explain the reason for this action of the Board, but some facts pertinent to it may well be stated. The Allopathic fraternity had been making an active and virulent campaign against the College and the use of the appropriation, though why this matter should so concern these self-styled, broad-minded gentlemen it is hard to understand.

At the Annual Session of the Minnesota State Homeopathic Institute held in May, 1909, a unanimous protest was made against the action of the Board of Regents in abolishing the Homeopathic Department of the State University, and resolutions demanding that this action be rescinded and that the appropriation of \$50,000 be used as directed by the State Legislature, were presented to this honorable body. Our Legislative Committee sought and obtained an interview with the Board of Regents at its meeting on June 9th, and there presented the demands of the Homeopathic physicians of the state.

The discussion which followed, Regents Lind, Butler, Wilson, and Northrop expressed their desire to establish a Medical Department on a broad, non-sectarian basis. As it was evident to all that the resolution of May 6th, to establish two optional didactic chairs of Homeopathic Materia Medica and Therapeutics, failed utterly to realize this ideal, President Northrop moved that a committee of two from the Board of Regents be appointed to confer with a committee of three from the

College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery and a like committee from the College of Medicine and Surgery, for the purpose of discussing and if possible uniting upon a plan sufficiently broad in its scope to satisfactorily include efficient instruction in all methods of recognized therapy, and Regents Lind and Northrop were appointed to represent the Board. After repeated requests for this meeting and finally upon the insistent demand of the chairman of our legislative committee, President Lind called a meeting for August 9th. This was a delay of two months, which brought the conference shortly before the opening of the fall term.

At this meeting the purpose for which the conference was held was ignored, and even knowledge of it denied by Regents Lind and Northrop, and instead it was sought to secure nominations for the positions created by the resolution of May 6th, although such positions were admittedly inadequate in their scope and known to be unsatisfactory to the Homeopathic profession of the state.

#### COMMITTEE ASK FOR CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS

The Committee from the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery insisted that Clinical instruction was absolutely necessary to properly equip a student to practice medicine. This was conceded by all the doctors present. Yet President Northrop, who, with John Lind, represented the Board of Regents, asked Dr. J. E. Moore: "Will you grant these men what they ask?" Dr. Moore replied very promptly, "No; we would be worse off than we are now." This terminated the conference.

The Board of Regents at the command of the College of Medicine and Surgery discontinued the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery against the expressed wish of the state legislature, and the earnest protest of one-tenth of the taxpayers of the state of Minnesota.

The excuse offered through the press and the argument used for discontinuing the department was expense. This is evidently false, for the expense of running the department was all told about ~~\$4000.00~~<sup>2700<sup>00</sup></sup> a year, and the Board of Regents are paying \$4000.00 a year to two men to teach two chairs, viz., Homeopathic Materia Medica and Practice.

What then was the true reason for discontinuing the Homeopathic department? We don't think we can express it better than Dr. J. E. Moore did at this conference which was held in President Northrop's office, he said, "We want to get rid of you, we don't want you on the campus." This is the true reason for discontinuing the department, the avowed friendship, the expressed regard, the University Medical department has for Homeopaths is the same that Judas entertained for the Master.

GRADUATES: In the 19 years the department was in existence we graduated our normal percent of all students graduated from the medical department of the University, based upon the number of physicians of both schools practicing in the state. We never graduated but one man in the 19 years who failed to pass the state board of examiners. We have never had a graduate fail to pass the competitive examination for internship of any hospital in this country, either municipal or private. One of our graduates served as interne in one of the largest hospitals in London, England. The charge of incompetency, however, was never made against our graduates.

What do the Homeopathic people of Minnesota receive for their expenditure of \$4000 per year of their money by the Board of Regents? Nothing except insult and injury, both of which can be obtained without taxation.

No students are required to attend these lectures. The teaching is so meager and training so inadequate that no students do attend them. Any student desiring a Homeopathic Medical training must go out of the state to secure his education.

*Rud Mattheus*

Chairman

Legislative Committee

We desire to call to your especial attention the reasons

WHY THE HOMEOPATHIC PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA DEMAND A  
COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY;

1st- Because one-third of a million of the citizens desire and employ Homeopathic physicians and since the State is educating medical men there, one-third of a million tax payers have the right to demand the education by the state of their kind of medical men.

2nd- Because Homeopathy is already recognized by the State in the Insane Asylum at Fergus Falls, Board of Health, one-third representation on State Examining Board, Staff of State Militia and locally on boards of health and various other hospitals and institutions in the State.

3rd- The demand for Homeopathic physicians in the State is much greater than the supply. There are communities in every section of the state seeking such physicians, which communities are paying taxes to educate physicians for whose services they have no need.

There are at least one hundred locations in Minnesota today asking that a Homeopathic physician be sent them.

The reasons given ostensibly by the Board of Regents, (but in fact by the University Medical Faculty) for discontinuing the Homeopathic College May 6th, 1909, are not sound or correct.

1st,- While our actual enrollment was but three, (two juniors and one senior) we were known to have among the underclass men, men who came to the University to study Homeopathy, but who were purposely kept from enrolling by the official report of the Board (1909), and the persistent rumor of our discontinuance. These men had to complete their education elsewhere.

The records of the University show in the two college years since the discontinuance of the Homeopathic college that the increase of the medical department has been but four, viz., - 165 to 169, for whose maintenance the state appropriated \$400,000 two years ago, and are asked for much more this year. 2nd, - The annual expense of the Homeopathic college during its existence never exceeded \$2700.00, and yet since its discontinuance, the Board of Regents have spent \$4,000.00 each year in two lecture-ships. This instruction was admitted by a senior member of the old school Faculty in committee conference to be wholly inadequate.

The old school boasted progress in modern medicine, we believe, is well exemplified by the statement made two years ago by Dr. McCormack, the National organizer of the American Medical Association, before a popular gathering in a Minneapolis church, that he could count on the fingers of one hand the drugs the medical value of which they had any positive knowledge.

If it has taken nineteen centuries to demonstrate the value of five drugs, the world will become sterilized by fire ages before a pocket edition of scientific remedies can be given to the profession.

The last cry is "Sectarianism", which from the beginning of history has been the argument used by individuals, parties or sects, to justify some unfair, dishonest request of demand. We emphatically deny, that Homeopathy is sectarian in any sense of the word, and on the other hand, insist that it is scientific, capable of scientific proof to any unbiased mind.

The arbitrary action of the Board of Regents in discontinuing the Homeopathic College is part of a nation-wide concerted attempt to establish State Medicine, an undemocratic and unsafe movement.

We appeal to your Honorable Body to grant the Homeopathic tax payer of Minnesota a "square deal".

Very truly yours,

Chairman

Legislative Committee

*R. D. Matheis*

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1902+20

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STATE OF MINNESOTA,  
DEPT OF STATE

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