

Medical Education in Philadelphia.

A casual visit to our sister city a few days since, was improved by a glance at the numerous chartered colleges for medical instruction, which at the present time are either commencing, or preparing to commence their collective labors for the ensuing winter. It has often been remarked, that there is about Philadelphia during the lecture season, a medical atmosphere, perceptible to the stranger, because the citizens of all classes seem to partake of its influence, and in some way, to give signs of its effects.

The epidemic, so to speak, has commenced thus early in October. The streets, especially in the area occupied by the six medical colleges, and which includes all that part of the city between 5th and 11th streets, and between Arch and Spruce-streets, are thronged with strangers, chiefly young men, who by their appearing usually in groups, and other unmistakable signs, are recognized as medical students. It is supposed that nearly *one thousand* of such have been added to the population within a few days, and who, by elective affinity, will presently be joined by matriculation, to one or the other of the medical schools.

A novel feature characterizes the annual gathering at the present session, which consists of there being some fifty or more *female medical students*, who are about to avail themselves of the course of lectures which has been announced for their exclusive instruction.

Having made a flying visit to each of the schools, it may interest our readers to give a brief notice of each, which is all that will be attempted at present.

1st. The venerable University of Pennsylvania is by seniority entitled to rank first in any reference made to medical schools, either in Philadelphia, or in the country. The regular course of lectures in this Institution has already commenced, and will continue *six months*. The opening of the present session is quite an era in this school, being signalized by the transfer of Professor Wood to the chair of Theory and Practice; and the introduction of the new Professor of Materia Medica, Dr. Joseph Carson, to his chair. Both these gentlemen, delivered their introductory lectures during the last week before a thronged concourse of students and physicians, in the hall of the University, and received a most cordial and enthusiastic reception. The large number of matriculants already reported give evidence that the class at this old University will be equal to that of any former period in the long and prosperous career of this justly celebrated school. The facilities for instruction in all the departments seem to have been greatly increased, and Professor Wood has returned from his late European tour, richly laden with new and valuable preparations for rendering his course of lectures demonstrative, which are said to exceed in variety and extent those of any other school in the country, their actual cost having been nearly twenty thousand dollars.

The enterprise and liberality of this Faculty, and especially their extension of their course of lectures to the

full term of six months, merit the high regards of the Profession, and will be rewarded by unprecedented success. Their noble example in thus extending the lecture term, will, we doubt not, be universally adopted, as it ought to be, in conformity with the expressed voice of the profession through the National Association.

2d. The Jefferson Medical College is entering upon the present session by preliminary lectures which are very numerous attended, and both the Faculty and Students are anticipating a larger class than ever before, the number of matriculants being already beyond that ever entered at so early a period in the session. The ample and extensive arrangements and preparations for teaching, by which this school has been ever distinguished, have been recently increased; so that the enterprise of this Faculty, by which they have been enabled so successfully to compete with their great rival in the extent of their classes, and in the number of their graduates, seems to have undergone no diminution. We could wish that they might after this year find it to be for the interest of their school to elevate their standard by adopting the *six months course*. They at least, like the University of Pennsylvania, occupy a position in which they could afford to introduce the innovation; and we are assured that they would be sustained, in so laudable an effort at reform, by the whole profession.

3d. The Pennsylvania Medical College have erected a new, and really elegant building, which is supplied with every needed facility for a thorough course of instruction; and the Faculty are preparing to enter upon the present session with very encouraging prospects. We learned that the number of students, who have reported themselves to this school, gives promise of a larger class than heretofore. If this faculty cannot command success, they evidently aim to do more by deserving it.

4th. The Philadelphia College of Medicine are progressing with their preliminary lectures, which are well attended, their regular course being about to commence. Their college building is well adapted to the purpose, and their museum apparatus, and other preparations for teaching, indicate a commendable spirit of liberality and enterprise on the part of the Faculty, which give promise of success and prosperity to this new school. From the number of students already matriculated thus early in the term, a considerable increase upon the class of the last year is confidently anticipated. To succeed in originating and sustaining a *fourth* medical school, beside so gigantic competition, affords evidence of no ordinary merit.

5th. HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE. This school occupies the old building, abandoned by the Pennsylvania Medical College, which has been refitted, and adapted by the present Faculty to the purpose of instruction. They are preparing to enter upon the present session, proposing to give a full course of lectures on all the departments in the usual way. Their chemical apparatus and preparations for anatomy, pathology, and surgery,

would seem to be ample. We were politely conducted through the building by the Janitor, from whom we learned that a larger class was expected than was in attendance last year.

6th. THE FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE! has commenced its session, and as we learn, some 40 or 50 women were in attendance as students; a much larger number of the sex having been present at the introductory lectures. The Faculty are all males, and we learn are pledged to give place to females, as soon as their fair pupils shall under their instructions, become qualified as teachers in the several departments. The gentlemen occupying the several chairs at present, are plain men of mature age, and appear to appreciate the novelty and difficulties of their undertaking, in which, however, they seem to be very soberly in earnest. We have heretofore expressed our misgivings in regard to the *marale* of this enterprise, but we see that "Professor Longshore," a prominent member of this Faculty, announces as the subject of his introductory lecture to the *female students*, "The immorality of obstetrical practice being conducted by men!" He seems to have overlooked the "immorality" of his own proposition, with his male colleagues, to demonstrate to *women*, the healthy and morbid anatomy of the sexes, and discourse before wives, widows and maidens, old or young, upon topics in relation to which, an inspired authority has taught that "they should not be even once named among you," obviously meaning in a promiscuous assembly.

We cannot envy the task self-imposed by these teachers, and we cannot refrain from the expression of our pity for their infatuated pupils. We opine that both the one and the other will become heartily ashamed of their imbecility and folly, and repent hereafter for their misspent time and labor, if no worse mischiefs result from their association as teachers and pupils. We saw in their museum, objects upon which no modest woman can look without a blush, in the presence of the other sex; nor any virtuous maiden study under the teaching of men, without mental impurity and moral deterioration.

These are our opinions, which we feel called on as public Journalists to record, in connection with the allusion to this female medical college, which under the circumstances is unavoidable.

These several colleges, six in number, are all chartered by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and located in the city of Philadelphia. It is computed that not less than 1800 students will be attracted to the city for the winter by these schools; and the amount of money expended by them all, directly and indirectly, for necessities and luxuries, has been estimated at little short of a million of dollars. Hence it is that the citizens generally feel and exhibit so great an interest in the success of their medical colleges, regarding them as an important source of income to Philadelphia, in which boarding-house keepers, tailors, boot-makers, and tradesmen generally participate; while booksellers, instrument makers, &c. realize annually large revenues from this influx of

population, for which they are indebted to these schools. We are not surprised to learn that all classes of Philadelphia society should manifest a readiness to encourage the erection of new buildings, &c. for these purposes, by subscribing to the stock with promptness and liberality.

But in this connection, it is proper to add, that in addition to the ample supply of medical colleges, in the number of which Philadelphia is in advance of any other city in the world, there are numerous private schools, in some of which, summer courses of lectures are delivered, as also in the Philadelphia College of Medicine, in which two courses are annually given.

Among the private teachers, there is no one more meritorious or useful than the gentleman whose card we here insert, and whom we hope soon to welcome to New-York.

MICROSCOPICAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

During the present Medical Session a Series of Microscopical Demonstrations of the Elementary Tissues will be given by Henry Goadby, M. D. F. L. S. late dissector of Minute Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The illustrations will include examples of Fibrous Tissue—white and yellow. Areolar Tissue. Epithelium. Glands. Lung. Skin. Nerve. Muscular Fibre. Cartilage. Bone. Teeth. Hair. Blood Discs. Capillary Blood-vessels. Mucous Membranes. Circulation of Blood in the Web of the Frog's Foot &c.

Fee to the course of 12 lectures, \$5.

120 South Eighth-street, Philadelphia.

An opportunity afforded us of witnessing the demonstrations of Dr. Goadby to Professor Mutter's class of private pupils, by his splendid microscopes, and extensive cabinet of wet and dry preparations, capillary injections, &c. was a source of very great satisfaction. We are not surprised at the eagerness with which physicians and students avail themselves of the instructions of this truly scientific teacher, on topics in which Dr. G. has few superiors, having long been associated with Professor Owen of London in these important pursuits.

Another Caleb Quotem.

A correspondent calls our attention to the fact, that one of the verdant M. D.'s of the Homœopathic list is a lawyer, Clerk of the United States District Court, a Commissioner of the United States, and a Homœopathic practitioner; and, in his own person, is actually employed in all these capacities; and he asks, "is not this another Caleb Quotem?" We do not perceive any incongruity in these several avocations being pursued simultaneously, provided they all pay; though if either of them yielded adequate remuneration, we suppose the gentleman would select the most profitable, and relinquish the rest. All his professions, except his quackery, are honest and honorable employments; though the last named may possibly yield the best fees, for the least labor, either of body or mind.