

*Medical Societies.*—An important influence upon the progress of medicine, and the relations of physicians to each other, and to the public, has been exerted by our medical societies, some of which date from the last century, and which are found almost everywhere. The first State medical societies, such as those of New Jersey, Massachusetts, Delaware, New York, etc., were charged with the duty of licensing persons to practise medicine, to which license an examination was a necessary preliminary. In this way these societies were the principal agents in fixing the standard of medical education, and although after the establishment of medical schools the diploma of one in good repute was accepted in lieu of an examination, this was by courtesy rather than law, and made it necessary that the standard of the schools should at least be equal to that prescribed by the society. For convenience of reference, we give a list of the most important medical societies of the United States, arranged in alphabetical order by States:—

	Organ- ized.	First publica- tion.	No. of vols. of publica- tions.
American Medical Association . . . . .	1847	1848	27
American Ophthalmological Society . . . . .	1864	1865	7
American Otological Society . . . . .	1868	1869	1
American Pharmaceutical Association . . . . .	1852	1852	24
American Public Health Association . . . . .	1872	1875	1
National Quarantine and Sanitary Convention . . . . .	1857	1857	4
Medical Association of the State of Alabama . . . . .	1847	1848	19
State Medical Association of Arkansas . . . . .	1870	1871	5
Medical Society of the State of California . . . . .	1870	1870	5
Territorial Medical Society of Colorado . . . . .	1871	1872	5
Connecticut State Medical Society . . . . .	1792	1844	20
Medical Society of Delaware . . . . .	1789	.....	...
Medical Society of the District of Columbia . . . . .	1833	1874	2
Clinico-Pathological Society of Washington . . . . .	1865	.....	...
Florida Medical Association . . . . .	1874	1875	1
Georgia Medical Association . . . . .	1849	1850	20
Georgia Medical Society of Savannah . . . . .	1804	.....	...
Illinois State Medical Society . . . . .	1851	1851	23
Drake Academy of Medicine . . . . .	1872	1874	1
Indiana State Medical Society . . . . .	1849	1849	27
Iowa State Medical Society . . . . .	1850	1850	10
Medical Society of the State of Kansas . . . . .	1858	1867	2
McDowell Medical Society . . . . .	1874	1875	1
Kentucky State Medical Society . . . . .	1851	1851	19
Société Médicale de la Nouvelle Orleans . . . . .	1812	1831	3
Medical Society of the State of Maine . . . . .	1834	1834	1
Maine Medical Association . . . . .	1853	1853	6
Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland . . . . .	1789	1853	4
Boston Society for Medical Improvement . . . . .	1828	1853	5
Boston Society for Medical Observation . . . . .	1846	.....	...
Boylston Medical Society . . . . .	1811	} 70 prize essays published in journals.	
Gynæcological Society of Boston . . . . .	1869		
Massachusetts Medical Society . . . . .	1781	1790	41
Michigan State Medical Society . . . . .	1819	1850	15
Minnesota State Medical Society . . . . .	1855	1870	6
Medical Association of the State of Mississippi . . . . .	1856	1870	1
Medical Society of the State of Missouri . . . . .	1850	1850	12
Nebraska State Medical Society . . . . .	1868	1869	6
New Hampshire Medical Society . . . . .	1791	1854	21
New Jersey State Medical Society . . . . .	1766	1859	17
Medical Association of Southern Central New York . . . . .	1847	1848	11



	Organ- ized.	First publica- tion.	No. of vols. of publica- tions.
Medical Society of the County of Albany . . . . .	1806	1864	2
Medical Society of the County of Kings . . . . .	1822	1858	2
Medical Society of the County of New York . . . . .	1806	.....	...
Medical Society of the State of New York . . . . .	1807	1808	34
Medico-Legal Society of New York . . . . .	1867	1874	1
New York Academy of Medicine . . . . .	1847	1851	8
New York Medical Journal Association . . . . .	1864	.....	...
Pathological Society of New York . . . . .	1844	.....	...
Physico-Medical Society of New York . . . . .	1815	1817	1
Medical Society of the State of North Carolina . . . . .	1850	1850	22
Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati . . . . .	1857	.....	...
General Medical Society of Ohio . . . . .	1827	1829	2
Medical Convention of Ohio . . . . .	1835	1835	13
Ohio State Medical Society . . . . .	1846	1850	26
Belmont Medical Society . . . . .	1847	1848	8
Medical Society of the State of Oregon . . . . .	1874	.....	...
College of Physicians of Philadelphia . . . . .	1787	1793	11
Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania . . . . .	1848	1851	15
Pathological Society of Philadelphia . . . . .	1857	1869	4
Philadelphia County Medical Society . . . . .	1849	.....	...
Philadelphia Obstetrical Society . . . . .	1868	1873	3
Rhode Island Medical Society . . . . .	1812	1859	1
Medical Society of South Carolina . . . . .	1789	.....	...
South Carolina Medical Association . . . . .	1848	1849	16
Tennessee State Medical Society . . . . .	1830	.....	...
Medical Association State of Texas . . . . .	1869	1869	4
Medical Society of the State of Vermont . . . . .	1814	1864	4
Medical Society of Virginia . . . . .	1821	1871	5
Medical Society of Washington Territory . . . . .	1873	1873	3
Medical Society of the State of West Virginia . . . . .	1867	1868	8
Wisconsin State Medical Society . . . . .	1842	1856	9

The formation of the American Medical Association was due to a wide spread and loudly expressed dissatisfaction on the part of the leading physicians of the country, with the low standard of medical education, and to a general conviction that the remedy for this lay neither with the schools nor the State medical societies. It was hoped that by forming an association which should represent all parties interested, a sufficient pressure of opinion might be brought to bear upon physicians and upon the schools, to secure the return to the requirements for graduation of the earlier medical colleges. After one or two futile attempts, the New York State Medical Society set on foot a movement which resulted in a meeting of a convention in the city of New York, in the year 1847, in which were present representatives of medical societies and colleges from sixteen States. A similar convention met the following year in Philadelphia, at which the title, by which it is now known, was assumed. The series of its annual volumes of transactions contains some reports and papers of much value and interest, mingled with much that is unworthy of publication under the auspices of our National Medical Society, or indeed of any other. Many of the reports of the chairmen of the several committees are of permanent historical value. Its most valuable contribution to our literature, has been the publication of a code of ethics, which is, theoretically at least, accepted as authoritative throughout the United States, and which, although some of its provisions have been objected to, is, as a whole, the most satisfactory exposition in existence of the proper relations of physicians to each other, and to the public.