

**An address delivered at the opening of the Rock Island Medical School :
November 7, 1848 / by M.L. Knapp.**

Contributors

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Knapp (M. L.) ^{AN}

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE

ROCK ISLAND MEDICAL SCHOOL,

NOVEMBER 7, 1848,

BY

M. L. KNAPP, M. D.,

PRESIDENT, AND PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

24279

CHICAGO:
CAMPBELL & FULLER, PRINTERS,
107 Lake Street.

1849.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., November 8, 1848.

At a meeting of the Students of the Rock Island Medical School, held this day, J. WOODWORTH, *Chairman*, and THOMAS KERR, *Secretary*; it was unanimously agreed to request a copy of Professor KNAPP's Introductory Address to the School, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to wait on the Professor for that purpose:

D. C. ROUNDY,
J. WOODWORTH,
B. E. DODSON.

J. WOODWORTH, *Chairman*.

THOMAS KERR, *Secretary*.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., November 8, 1848.

PROFESSOR KNAPP,

SIR:—

In accordance with the foregoing, we have great pleasure in requesting a copy of the Address delivered by you yesterday evening, for publication, that the public may be possessed of so interesting and eloquent an Address.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servants,

D. C. ROUNDY,
B. E. DODSON,
J. WOODWORTH, } *Committee.*

ROCK ISLAND, November 10, 1848.

To Messrs. D. C. ROUNDY, B. E. DODSON and J. WOODWORTH,
Committee of the Medical Class.

GENTLEMEN:—

Your note conveying the unanimous call of the Class for the publication of my Address was received with grateful feelings. It being the wish of the Class to honor me and the School, I am not at liberty to withhold the Address from publication, though conscious that it gives evidence of too much haste in the getting up to do me any credit, save through the merit of obedience to this feeling of the Class.

Accept for yourselves, and present to the Class assurances of my high consideration, and believe me,

Ever, Truly Yours, &c.

M. L. KNAPP.

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:—

It is customary at the commencement of a course of Medical Lectures to deliver a public Introductory Address. That which custom has sanctioned in all Medical Schools as proper, seems peculiarly so at the opening of a new one. It was not my intention to have been the organ of the Faculty on this occasion, but circumstances seemed to declare it expedient at the eleventh hour, and therefore this unmerited preferment has fallen upon me. No honor could be more congenial to my feelings, for since enduring some fifteen years of toil in the Profession in Illinois, and having held connexion with several Medical Schools, to find myself at last in this '*El Dorado*' of the flow'ry West, on the banks of a lovelier than the '*Blue Moselle*,' presiding as accoucheur at the birth of a *new* institution of Medical Learning, pure, promising, and undefiled by perfidy, comely in every feature and limb, matchless, indeed, at her birth, is, to me, a source of more unalloyed happiness than I could enjoy were I elected to the Chief Magistracy of a State.

Numbers of you, my young friends, I recognize as former pupils, who have listened to me before, and have chosen to follow my fortunes hither; whilst others are to me strangers. To the former, for this mark of high respect and friendship, I tender the offerings of a heart brimmed with emotions of the kindest, most grateful and most fervent sympathies that ever warmed the soul of a teacher towards his pupils; and to *all*, for myself, and in behalf of my colleagues, I tender a hearty and most cordial welcome.

It is on you young gentlemen, who have come to receive instruction in this new institution of our rearing, that our hopes rely for making a favorable first impression, and of having this impression reflected to the public. You are to be the arbiters of our merits as teachers, and of the fate of our School, or its comparative claims to public patronage. It is important,

therefore, to truth, justice, and the public weal that you should not be prejudiced, and only express your opinion after a full, fair and impartial trial of our capabilities. Some of us, it is true, have had experience in teaching Medicine, and would not fear or quake to stand before the united Profession of the world; but there are others of us who are beginners as public teachers, and for these we claim your indulgence until the hand-work of the stage shall become familiar to them.

Some of you may have seen in the Prospectus of the Rock Island Medical School, which, as Dean of the Faculty, it devolved on me to issue, a brief outline of our organization, and programme of instruction. Not to withhold anything in the outset that can enlighten you as to the general principles that have governed us thus far, and will still guide us in conducting the School, I take leave to bring before you a more elaborate exposition of the foundations on which we stand, and on which we hope to erect a superstructure worthy of the public confidence and trust.

The enterprise of establishing a Medical School in the upper valley of the Mississippi for the purpose of rendering instruction more convenient to surrounding students, and for the interests of the Profession in general, was conceived from a conviction that such an institution was demanded in consequence of the rapid settlement and growth of the Northwestern States. To answer these objects, and further, to satisfy the urgent solicitations of pupils who had attended, some two, some three courses of Lectures in neighboring institutions, with the courses of instruction, conduct and policy of which they had become dissatisfied, and had firmly resolved never to receive graduating honors from them—To fulfil these objects, to respond to these demands, the organization of this School has been carried into effect.

The Faculty herein associated for the purpose of teaching Medicine, derive their powers, privileges and appointments from the Madison Medical College, an Institution chartered by the sovereign State of Wisconsin, and possessing as full and ample powers for conferring degrees in the Profession of Medicine as any institution in the United States. A power is granted in said charter to create a branch, which power was exercised by the corporators at their meeting for organization,

and the Branch was located at Rock Island, and styled the **ROCK ISLAND MEDICAL SCHOOL**. This was done to gain a central position and not to interfere with any School already in operation. 'Discretion was here considered the better part of valor.' There are precedents enough in Medical School tactics for thus locating the School abroad from the parent institution, and even out of the State. We intend to give annual courses of instruction here, and eventually at Madison too, when the progress of the rapidly extending Northwest will justify it. The Degrees conferred will emanate from Madison. The same Faculty compose the Board of Instruction in both Schools, they also compose a majority of the Board of Trustees, and thus have the control and management of their own concerns.

In composing the Faculty it was the aim of the first movers in the enterprise, to enlist in the cause, Practitioners of Medicine of acknowledged talents and high standing in the Profession residing within the limits of country that would be accommodated by the School. It was believed that capable and competent teachers thus located could be found, each of whom would feel that he was uniting his exertions with the efforts of his associates in the cause of education and philanthropy at home, free from the sectional prejudices which State boundary lines are apt to create. The republic of letters acknowledges no such boundaries, and professional philanthropy is a gem of such 'purest ray' that it shines over all imaginary obstacles, and like the sun in the heavens seeks to illumine, warm and vivify the whole human family. That the selection of Instructors has been judicious, that each will sustain himself with credit before the classes of the School, and that each wears the gem of a comprehensive philanthropy in his bosom, we think there can be no doubt. We declare to you that we will spare no pains, will avoid no expense or sacrifice, in procuring every apparatus, and all the paraphernalia that can avail in illustrating the several branches of Medicine, for the inspiration is to EXCEL in teaching; and the magnitude and pride of our mission, to found a great Medical School on the 'FATHER OF WATERS,' with sound and unquestionable pretensions, and of scope commensurate with this large and unoccupied field, will give quantity to the inspiration, and comprehensiveness to our plans and arrangements. In the lo-

cation of our School, and the appointment of teachers from the surrounding States, it has been our aim to shadow forth this common sense principle—a *determination to avail ourselves of all advantages, both local and general, that can strengthen our cause and inspire confidence in our judgment.* We hope to convince students that we possess both an *out-door*, as well as an *in-door* ability to do the honors of a School adroitly. We wish to impress our classes with a feeling of respect not only for our abilities as teachers, but for our skill also as trustees, pilots, or engineers in steering our new and strange craft majestically among the rapids of the Mississippi waters, and amid the gusts and flaws of these Medical latitudes.

To proceed, then: Our location is at a noted point; is some two hundred miles from any Medical School; is central for the students of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, and of easy access. We count but little upon students from Missouri at present, it is true; but by and by, when it shall become disseminated through that State that there is a School convenient just above her northern boundary, where instruction is one-third cheaper, and equally good as at St. Louis; where board is one-half cheaper and equally good, and two or three dollars fare on board steamboat will take a student there; we shall expect, if there be any truth in Dr. Adam Smith's or M. Say's principles of political economy, a very respectable patronage from that State. We calculate but little, for the present, upon students from Indiana and Michigan; but anon, when we shall be in connexion by rail road, and the transit across shall be made in a few hours, and at an expense of only a few dollars, we shall expect numbers annually from those States, and farther East, to attend their last course, at least, and graduate with us, in view of seeking a location for practice in the progressive wave of population westwardly. Rock Island is the natural '*cross-roads*', in the upper valley, so declared by its geographical position as well as by the topographical formation of the country; and to this point and Davenport opposite the established mail routes converge. It is the point looked to as the terminus of a railroad from the East which is to divert the commerce of the Mississippi from as far down as the head of the lower rapids, and even from the rich valley of the Des Moines river, to this place; and should the grand conception of pushing such road onward still

farther to the West, through Bloomington and Iowa City, to Fortress Leavenworth on the Missouri river ever be carried out, as we are bound to believe it will, if not to Oregon, the trade and commerce of that mighty river of difficult navigation will be diverted and come over land to Rock Island, where the greatest facilities are found for bridging the Mississippi, to wit: rock bottom, inexhaustible quarries, and an island in the middle of the river. In addition to these commercial advantages there is the greatest amount of water-power for manufacturing purposes in this locality, improved and controllable, of which any locality in the world can boast. Then look at the surrounding region in an agricultural point of view. Place one foot of the dividers on the map at Rock Island and sweep a circle with the other of a radius of two hundred miles, and you encompass an agricultural region the equal of which is not to be found in the United States, if in the known world! And what do all these united advantages presage but an immense city at this point at an early future day? The present population of Rock Island and its environs, is estimated at some six or seven thousand inhabitants: There will therefore be no lack of a reasonable amount of clinical instruction in this School at once, whilst it promises soon to afford advantages in this respect superior to most country Schools.

It has been suggested that the permanent site of the Institution be upon the lower point of *Rock Island proper*, on the site of old Fort Armstrong, a prairie surface covering a perpendicular rock, mid way in the river, which is here three-fourths of a mile wide. Should this arrangement be adopted when the river comes to be bridged, an improvement certain to be effected, it would make the School as much an institution of Iowa in effect as of Illinois, the town of Davenport reaping equal advantages with Rock Island; and no fancy sketch which the imagination can paint may ever hope to compare with the beauty and eligibility of the site! (*See Note 1.*) The prediction, then, may not be looked upon as an idle day-dream, that a flourishing Medical School and Hospital, (*See Note 2,*) may, ere long, occupy the very same ground on which General Taylor was ordered a few years ago to seize and erect a fort in the then wilderness and hostile Indian country. It may not come to pass during the Presidency of General Taylor, whose policy, so far as regards internal improvements, is not very

lucidly revealed; or during the Presidency of General Cass, his worthy competitor, whose letter on river and harbor improvements was certainly very laconic; or, indeed, under the second term of service of the 'northern man with southern principles,' ex-President Van Buren, whose whereabouts on these small matters of river, lake, or Island improvements is not as well understood of late as are his views on the great 'Wilmot Proviso question!' But, nevertheless, at no very remote period, under the administration of some wise President, these things must all come to pass on Rock Island, and Medicine flourish in this panorama *par excellence* of beauty and promise, where but a few years ago a lone military post in the heart of the Indian country was the solitary herald of civilization. (See Note 3.) Thus much for the organization and location of our School. Now suffer me to introduce to you the teachers individually.

Our PROFESSOR RICHARDS, (Theory and Practice,) resides at St. Charles, Illinois, in the rich and populous valley of the Fox River, where, during a residence of eight years he has enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most distinguished Physicians and Surgeons of Northern Illinois, and of possessing extraordinary skill in the treatment of the endemic fevers of the country. An extensive practice of over twenty years in districts very subject to malarious fevers has given him opportunities of understanding the nature and treatment of these forms of disease, whether simple, complicated or masked, that few can claim. His views here are peculiarly his own, and differ essentially from the doctrines of the books, and their correctness is proved from the uniform success of his practice, and that of the numerous pupils who have read medicine with him. His office of late years, especially since he commenced public teaching, has been thronged with pupils, ranging at from twenty to forty in number, who have received daily instruction and examinations in the various branches of the medical sciences. As many as eleven subjects were dissected under his private instruction during the last spring months. The ardor with which he cultivates the Profession of Medicine is attractive and inspiring to students, and joined with his popular manners and devotion to their interests begets an immediate and enduring attachment. No student

ever forgets the doctrines and precepts he receives from this master. He is one of the first projectors of this school, and on its organization was chosen President. (*See Note 4.*)

Our PROFESSOR CHAPMAN, (Surgery,) lives at Madison, the seat of the state government of Wisconsin, and enjoys signal advantages for disseminating truthful impressions touching our institution and its claims throughout that state. He has been an indefatigable co-worker in most that has pertained to our existence as an institution, and has just now returned from a trip to the eastern cities to procure apparatus for illustrating the several chairs. His zeal is according to knowledge, and accompanied by those qualities of heart that you will, on acquaintance, be irresistibly led to love and admire, and those intellectual endowments that will command your respect. He has had an extensive medical and surgical practice for fourteen years, and accumulated a pathological cabinet that will enable him to illustrate almost every form of surgical disease. His associations are in the highest circles of society of the state in which he resides, his practice also, where he enjoys the reputation of possessing great skill as a physician and surgeon, refinement of taste and manners as a gentleman, and great purity of character. (*See Note 5.*)

Our PROFESSOR PIERCE, (Anatomy,) came to Rock Island and settled as a Practitioner, some several years since, and has won for himself a high reputation as a physician and surgeon, a gentleman and a scholar. He is in all respects a fair specimen of the sanguine temperament, physically capable of great endurance, with a mind active, buoyant and ardent, and restive for lofty achievements. Whatever he undertakes you may expect will be accomplished, and with a dexterity betokening the skill and touch of a master.

Our PROFESSOR SANFORD, (Midwifery, &c.,) resides at Farmington, Iowa, in the rich and fertile valley of the Des Moines river. He is a member of the State Senate, and enjoys the reputation of being one of the most able and ready debaters on that floor. His ardent love for the Profession, however, and teaching, has prompted him to resign his seat in the Senate after this winter, that he may devote his whole mind and energies to his duties as a Practitioner and Professor. You will readily perceive that the station he holds and the rank he sustains in public life, are sufficient guarantees of

his standing, talents and character, whilst his local residence, and extensive acquaintance at the seat of the state government, give him extraordinary opportunities to cast abroad to the Profession correct information regarding our school.

Our PROFESSOR GOUDY, (Chemistry,) resides at Taylorville, Ill., and has been long a resident of Sangamon and Morgan counties, where he enjoys the high reputation of being an apt scholar, a philosophic genius, and an erudite and good physician. I know his preceptor well and intimately, and in his judgment the fullest reliance may be placed. He says of him, "He is an apt scholar; continues, since a practitioner, to be a close and hard student; possesses clear and quick perceptions; is a young man of a very philosophic turn of mind; a gentleman in private life greatly beloved for his exceeding many virtues; and Chemistry is his hobby."

Our PROFESSOR ARMOR, (Physiology, Pathology and Medical Jurisprudence,) has resided for a few years at Rockford, Ill., and enjoys the highest reputation as a gentleman and physician throughout the Rock River valley. For two winters past he has lectured with great eclat in the Rush Medical College at Chicago; and, notwithstanding he had an urgent invitation to accept a Professorship in that school, he chose rather to embark his fortunes in this. After the close of his lectures last winter, he repaired to the New York Schools and Hospitals, where he applied himself to researches in Pathology and physical Diagnosis, and also to investigations in Microscopic Physiology, under that most able and distinguished Physiologist and Pathologist, Professor Alonzo Clark.—During the past summer he has been at his native place in Ohio, and the estimation in which he is held there, may be learned from the following notice from an Ohio paper:

"Dr. S. G. ARMOR, of our town, has been recently elected to a Professorship in the Medical College at Rock Island, Ill. In one respect, this we are sure, will be unwelcome news to hundreds of our citizens, in town and country—they will regret to part with him, but will rejoice to learn that he has succeeded to a station he is so well qualified to fill, with honor to himself, and advantage to the Institution. He is beloved by all who know him, for his urbanity of manners, gentlemanly deportment, his goodness of heart; and all, have the utmost confidence in his skill as a Physician. By diligent at-

tention to his Profession, and close application to his books, he has acquired for himself the reputation of one of the best read Physicians in this section of our State. His fine oratory and his talents will soon, we have no doubt, win him a proud name, and a wide reputation in his new home, and assist materially in establishing the reputation of the Institution at Rock Island. Success and good wishes attend him."

Our DR. EVERTS, (Demonstrator of Anatomy,) resides at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He is young in years, yet advanced in Medical Science and general scholarship: but it is in the department of Practical Anatomy that his services will command your admiration. His application and his enthusiasm, here, are of the Hunterian order. You will find him instant, in season and out of season, to do you service in the dissecting rooms; and his amenity of manners will soon enlarge the circle of his personal friends, by as many as the whole number who may gather around the anatomical tables for instruction, and hold converse over the dead with his quick mind and revealing scalpel.

There only remains one other of our corps of teachers of whom to speak, and this is the humble individual who addresses you. He resides at Chicago. It does not befit me to speak of him in language commendatory or otherwise. You will have to take him upon trust, or upon the sublime special pleadings of his enemies. Try him—prove him—weigh him—sift him—and so far as his merits as a teacher, and his deportment as a gentleman may commend him to your respect, so far extend to him the just tribute of your approbation, and no farther. All that he is, and is endowed with, he is indebted to God and himself for. Here it is—and so far as this poor compound of humanity can serve you, it shall be devoted to your interests, in the hope of not dishonoring either its author or its curator. He concedes to no one of the corps a priority of effort in this enterprize, and should his succeeding exertions be crowned with as fair results as his labors have been in getting up the school, the extent of his wishes will be answered, the measure of his hopes realized.

Thus are you formally made acquainted with our outlines, and briefly with us, in a little word of introduction at our first meeting. We are all western men, you see, domiciliated

in the 'upper valley,' around and on all sides of our enterprise; some out upon the periphery, as it were, of our geographical limits, the better to exert centripetal influences towards the school. Do you perceive any thing like strength in the plan of our organization? Is it adapted to the genius of the wide west? Have we given evidence of the exercise of good common sense, or of reasonable sagacity, in our arrangements, calculated to inspire you with confidence in the success of our great and philanthropic undertaking? If so, rest assured your manifestations of it will be received as the first fruit or reward of our labors. We expect but a meagre return at first in dollars and cents, and unless we start with your perfect confidence in the school, we shall be poorly paid and poorly stimulated to put forth our strength. The confidence of students we expect to gain by no arts or dissimulation, but rather by unbosoming ourselves and laying open our cause for them to judge of its merits. We shall not court the favor of students or the public by a trimming course of policy, or by pandering to prejudices. We shall pursue our straight forward purpose to accomplish the greatest amount of good we can to our species, despite the attacks upon us by some of our weakly-wise, selfish, short-sighted rivals; and we hope to be governed by that sublime, because difficult morality, that would return good for evil. We hope, especially, never to lose sight of the dignity, name, and true characteristics of the gentleman, by violating that principle which is the boast of polished life—the delicacy and even the generosity of its hostility: that principle which forbids to assault from ambush, or attack the unguarded: which consigns to dishonor those who wage war with poisoned shafts, and wantonly violate the peace and harmony of society by detraction of private character.

We hope to attract and to attach students to us by the exhibition of better offerings both of the heart and understanding—of purer motives and nobler impulses. I say *attach* students to us, for after all it is an ardent attachment of the pupils to the teachers that builds up a school. The hearts of the pupils must be warmed by a generous nobility of soul radiating from the teachers, that will bind them to return, though a thousand miles off, the next session. The school must have all the facilities and appliances for teaching, of course, and where

cannot these be had, and collected, by the well directed efforts of seven or eight adventurous spirits, whose reputation, hopes, pride, interests, are all involved in the success of their enterprise? This is our case exactly; and here we are before you—some of us yet in our youth, almost, quick with impulse, big with ambitious hopes; others in the noon-day of life, calm, confident, capable of great endurance in the carrying out of high resolves; and yet again others whose temples begin to be frosted with age, who have turned the meridian of life, and who, at times, begin to feel an ebbing interest in human affairs; but, rallying on the instant, stirred by the Divinity that is within us, and relying on the experience of years to have impressed on us the necessity of doing the stern duties of life to the end, till it shall please Heaven to call us to a nobler sphere, acting from principle, manfully resolve to fight on in the path of duty, fight ever, cheered and fortified by the consciousness of our integrity, of being actuated by good motives, and of having a high and noble aim—and in summing up, in a word, the measure of our united, deep, and abiding determination to carry our object, we here pledge to it, “OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR.” (*See Note 6.*)

A few words in conclusion, Gentlemen, and I have done. New schools are looked upon with a jealous eye, and their projectors are frequently made the target at which ‘bad eggs’ from other schools are hurled. I have some reputation this way—am a new-schoolsman—have assisted in getting up several—was a private pupil of the late lamented McCLELLAN who got up Jefferson College and sundry other medical schools in Philadelphia, and who was abused and vilified, and conspired against by his envious rivals, some of the very men, we opine, who now enjoy the fruits of his labors. I have had early lessons, and have had late lessons, and only wish I were indeed a more worthy pupil of so worthy a master. What I wish to say is, to define our position—declare our bill of rights. We hold it to be essentially our inherent and unalienable right to do just as we please—to get up a school on Rock Island or on Nantucket Island—on the Rocky mountains or in the city of Gotham, or at any place between—among our neighbors the Flat Heads, or among the high-heads whose facial angle comes up to the standard of our own—and

having established it, we hold that we have the unquestionable right to teach in it, so we do not teach the doctrines of the Flat Heads for true physic, but the posted up doctrines of the Fathers, seasoned of course with the salt and sage of our own experience to make our lessons sit well on the stomachs of students; and should the smoke of our incense rise and curl more gracefully around than that from some other medical wigwam, or in other words the offering of our firstlings prove more acceptable, like Abel's of old, we hold that no wicked, envious brother Cain should rise up and slay us outright with—a paltry paper pop-gun: Commit the horrid crime of fratricide and get a mark set on himself for life! Yea, verily, we hold that we have the inalienable right to do as we please—albeit, in these times of *reform* in Medicine we shall please to be found practically regarding all the reforms and usages of the enlightened and progressive age of Medicine in which we first draw our breath; as a matter of principle, in the first place, because we wish and please to do right; and as a matter of policy, in the next place, to prevent ourselves from being read out of the church as soon as christened. Other schools are reforming—we wish to start right and to be in communion, though not in very close communion with some. We have not taken our stand, be it understood, in this far-out, dark, and benighted corner of the world, where hardly a 'Rush-light' sheds its feeble ray, in order to be an outlaw and carry on a border warfare with our neighbors the Sacs, Foxes, or Pottowatomies, or any other tribe of Indians or white men, school, or professors, who may have claimed this as a portion of their stamping-ground, and raised the war-whoop, brandished the tomahawk, or issued anonymous scurrilous circulars. We war not with them. Let those make asses or Indians of themselves who will, and incur the just censure of public opinion. We have too much self respect, and too abiding a sense of what belongs to good manners and the proprieties of civilized life, to retaliate or even to respond. Not that our border foes are less vulnerable than border hordes in general, but our ambition runs not in this vein: Runs not thus low, malicious and grovelling. If we cannot devote ourselves to some higher purpose than a loathsome effort to inflict injury, let us and our cause be doomed to degradation. But ours is a nobler object—a broad effort to do good. And our

mission, be it known, is one of peace, order, and good will to all men, to whom these presents shall come or may in any wise concern. We intend to be strict conformists to law, human, medical and divine; to set a good example to all Professors and the rising generation of doctors; to treat our friends with true friendship; our foes with extraordinary, even Parisian politeness, and the more so, the more they abuse us; the Journals and Reviewers, with our thanks and patronage, whether they notice us justly, unjustly, or not all; our Indian neighbors as though we wished to civilize and christianize them; students of medicine with sound doctrine, line upon line and precept upon precept; and to continue to treat all mankind with gentleness and charity when well, and with the best of our skill and physic when it is their good fortune to employ us when sick. We intend to continue to pursue an honorable course in all things, in teaching or fighting, whatever others may do, and to take dame Fortunes favors with laughing good humor, though some few of them may come through tainted channels. We mean, especially, to keep up with our noble profession as closely as possible, and continue to teach it; and we intend to abet all consistent reforms.

The main reforms urged upon Medical Schools by the National Medical Convention, in order to ensure a higher standard of qualification in Practitioners, are these:

1. A higher standard of education in students commencing the study of Medicine.—This we shall unceasingly urge. We take leave in this connexion, to pay a just tribute due to medical students of the Northwest, with whom we have enjoyed an extensive acquaintance of late years, in saying that their primary qualifications are generally of a high order. A great many of them are school-teachers.

2. Clinical instruction.—This we shall have through our Dispensary which we expect to establish at once, to a reasonable extent, where both medical and surgical cases coming before the classes from far or near, will be treated gratuitously. We shall make efforts by and by to found an Hospital convenient. The State of Iowa may be induced soon to locate an Insane Hospital at Davenport, with a General Hospital ward, or the United States a Marine Hospital on Rock Island. We only wish to show our intentions, as conformists

3. Seven Professorships.—This we have. Many of the old schools have yet but six, the established former number, and some we believe have but five.

4. That the lecture-term be extended from four to six months.—This is not *virtually* adopted by any school, and is strongly objected to by some, on the ground, that such long terms would interfere with private instruction, and be too wearisome and expensive to students. We shall not therefore adopt it in the present state of medical opinion and the attitude of other schools.

5. Daily or weekly examinations.—This will be adopted.

6. That the final examinations be in the presence of some official person or persons qualified to judge of medical attainments, having no pecuniary interest in the school.—Should this regulation become general we shall adopt it, but we shall not lead off.

7. That the Inaugural Thesis contain a history of not less than five cases of disease, treated by the candidate, upon which he shall be duly examined.—This we acquiesce in, and think it will meet the approbation of our students, who generally practice a season or two before coming forward to graduate.

Our requirements for graduation conform as nearly to the recommendations of the National Association as possible, and allow us to hold fair competition with neighboring schools. Lawful age, three years study verified by the certificate of a regular practitioner, and two full courses of lectures we recognize—but as other schools allow *Practitioners* to come forward on attending one course, we have no alternative but to do the same. The requirement recommending “three months *steadily* devoted to dissections” not being adopted by our neighbors, we are forced to leave it optional with the student, though we strongly recommend it, and have made it obligatory to take the dissecting ticket one term.

This is all, gentlemen, that it seems necessary for me to say on this occasion to give you an insight into our school, its men and its measures, and having done this I again welcome you to it in the name of the Faculty, and hope you will have a pleasant and profitable winter.

NOTES.

NOTE 1.—No person can visit Rock Island without being struck with the beauty of the scenery on both sides of the river, presented as a whole. Until the Mississippi shall be bridged, the Medical School will have to remain located on one or the other side of the river of course. The citizens of Davenport generously offer to provide an ample College building of brick, free of all expense to the Institution, so long as its occupancy by the School shall be guaranteed which offer is now before the Board of Trustees.

The following is the action of the Board of Trustees of the town of Rock Island:

ROCK ISLAND, Jan. 8, 1849.

TO THE FACULTY OF THE ROCK ISLAND MEDICAL SCHOOL:—

GENTLEMEN—At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Rock Island the accompanying resolution was passed, and I was instructed to forward the same to you. Respectfully,

R. WILKINSON, Clerk.

Resolved, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Town of Rock Island, That they hail with pleasure the establishment of the Rock Island Medical School—that they desire it may be permanently located at this place—that they are willing to aid the enterprize by all the means in their power, and recommend that a private subscription be opened to pay for the necessary Lots and Buildings, in such manner as the Faculty may deem expedient.

NOTE 2.—A joint memorial has passed the Legislature of Iowa praying Congress to establish a Marine Hospital on Rock Island. A joint resolution instructing the Illinois delegation in Congress to vote for it, has passed the Illinois Legislature, and Wisconsin will doubtless feel equal interest in the matter. A Marine Hospital is much needed on the Upper Mississippi, and Rock Island is the proper point for its location.

NOTE 3.—“On the 22nd of August, 1814, Major Taylor received orders to take command of three hundred and twenty men, principally militia, provided with boats and a few pieces of artillery, to ascend the Mississippi as high as the Indian village at the mouth of Rock river, to destroy the villages and corn, to disperse the Indians, and erect a fort on the most eligible site to command the river.

“In pursuance of his orders, Major Taylor proceeded to the mouth of Rock river, against a rapid current and the dangers of a lurking enemy, five hundred miles above the highest settlement or post on the Mississippi. Contrary to his expectation, and those of the General in command, he found a detachment of British troops, well supplied with artillery, and an immense body of Indians in possession of the place. After skirmishing with the Indians, and being sometime cannonaded by the British, without a possibility of returning their fire with effect, he dropped down to the rapid Des Moines, and having landed his forces, secured his boats, and fortified his camp, he erected a fort commanding the Mississippi and mouth of the Des Moines, under peculiar hazard and almost incredible privation and toil.”

In the Black Hawk War in 1832, Colonel Taylor was detached by General Atkinson to pursue the Indians over the Wisconsin. An anecdote related of his conduct during this war by a writer in the *Literary World*, is as follows:

“Whilst pursuing Black Hawk with a mixed force of volunteers and regulars, Colonel Taylor found himself approaching Rock river then virtually the North-Western boundary of Illinois. They had driven Black Hawk out of the State with signal defeat, and the volunteers, as Colonel Taylor was informed, would refuse to cross the stream. They were militia, they said, called out for the defence of the State and it was unconstitutional to order them to march beyond its frontier into Indian country. Taylor therefore halted amid conflicting views of unconstitutionality and military expediency. During the night, however,

orders came to follow up Black Hawk to the last. To bring the mutinous militia proceedings to a head, a sort of town meeting was called and Taylor invited to attend, and in turn addressed the Chair. "He had listened with pleasure to several speakers who had maintained the independence and dignity of private American citizens—all gentlemen then present were his equals—some would be, in a few years, his superiors, and as members of Congress command the servants of the Republic, like himself. He should expect to obey, and the best proof he could give was to obey orders from those in authority now. In plain English, gentlemen and fellow-citizens, the word has been passed on to me from the city of Washington to follow Black Hawk, *and to take you with me as soldiers*. I mean to do both. There are the flat-boats, and here are Uncle Sam's men drawn up behind you. The militia crossed the Rock without delay."—*The War and its Warriors*, p. 228.

NOTE 4.—At the meeting of the Corporators for organization, GEORGE W. RICHARDS, M. D., was chosen *President*, and M. L. KNAPP, M. D., *Dean*. At the first annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Rock Island Medical School, held on the 4th of January, 1849, the following Officers were elected, to wit: MOSES L. KNAPP, M. D., *President*; JOHN F. SANFORD, M. D., *Vice President*; GEORGE W. RICHARDS, M. D., *Dean*; CHANDLER B. CHAPMAN, M. D., *Treasurer*; Mr. JOHN F. DILLON, *Curator*; and Mr. S. C. HAYNES, *Janitor*.

NOTE 5.—In a letter dated Syracuse, N. Y., Oct. 12, '48, Professor Chapman writes: "I am disposed to request that I may be excused from giving the opening lecture. In so doing you will accept my thanks for the kind intentions which induced you to propose this to me. I find I have not the time necessary to duly prepare for properly discharging so important a trust."

NOTE 6.—Inasmuch as many persons seem to feel a lively interest in the success and prosperity of this new institution, it will not be thought out of place to state that the number of matriculants this session will not fall short of fifty, of which number some twenty are candidates for the Doctorate. The projectors of the School have never entertained a doubt of its triumphant success and the experiment must now be looked upon by all as having succeeded.