



The University of Oklahoma's medical center occupies twenty seven acres in Oklahoma City. The hospital, shown on the adjoining page, was the first unit of the medical plant, being erected in 1919. It is purely the laboratory for the school of medicine. A nurses home was added later. The medical building itself, shown on this page, was occupied in 1928. Dr Leroy Long was dean of the school from 1915 to 1931.

The school of medicine as I have known it: a message to alumni

BY LEROY LONG

MY service in the school of medicine began with my election to the position of dean in May, 1915. At this time it would seem appropriate to recount a succession of events leading to my election.

In 1913 Dr W. J. Jolly, then acting dean of the school, and I were guests at the LaSalle hotel, Chicago, while attending a meeting of surgeons. In a conversation one evening, he told me that my name had been mentioned in connection with the position, and asked me if I would consider it. I thanked him, but replied that I did not think I could.

A little later the same year Dr F. B. Fite, of Muskogee, who had been designated a member of the state board of education, then in charge of the university, spoke to me at some length about the matter, presenting reasons why I should be willing to serve. I was grateful, but I told him that I did not think that I ought to agree to take the place.

In 1914 Doctor Fite called me by telephone. He said: "Long, the board of education meets tomorrow and we are going to elect you dean of the medical school." I thanked him, but told him that I could not accept. He insisted. I told him that I would be up to see

him on the next train which would leave McAlester (my home) in half an hour. Arriving at Muskogee, I saw Doctor Fite at once, telling him that I appreciated his kindness and confidence so much that I had made the trip to thank him and to explain why I felt that I should definitely decline. I pointed out that to abandon friends and clientele, and a perfectly satisfactory work that I had spent years in building up, would be a tremendous sacrifice; that I had no desire to be dean of a "B" grade school, and that to do the work that would have to be done to advance it to "A" grade would mean additional sacrifices, worry and expenditure of energy. He admitted the force of my arguments, and was good enough to let the matter rest for the time being.

In May, 1915, I was again requested to serve. This time Dr John W. Duke, of Guthrie, with whom Doctor Fite had been in communication, was spokesman. Great pressure was brought to bear. Appeal was made to my sense of duty to the medical profession. I hesitated and when I hesitated I was lost (if I may employ a figure that I hope is not quite applicable), and the next day I was elected.

Nearly seventeen years have passed

since then. The school of medicine has been transformed. The purpose for which I came was accomplished in 1920. At the same time, regardless of whatever success, I often think of the old hospital at McAlester and my many friends there. Sometimes I have been in the frame of mind of a friend who, after leaving his native land of France, said with much feeling: "Je regrette Paris."

Soon after my election, I met Dr Stratton D. Brooks, president of the university, at Oklahoma City. With him I visited both ends of the school (the work of the first two years was done at Norman), and made a canvass of the whole situation. I was greatly discouraged.

At that time the school was in "B" grade. After this hurried canvass, it was obvious that it could not even qualify for that rating without many improvements.

There was a lack of full-time teaching personnel. The school was housed in temporary quarters at Norman—all totally inadequate. Clinical work was done in a leased hospital of forty odd beds, the owner reserving certain rights and privileges. There was no hospital fund. Members of the staff were urged to treat private patients there in order to increase the income so that expenses



might be paid. But little room was left for the teaching service.

The combined school and laboratory was a tiny room with but little more equipment that should be found in a physician's office.

There was no X-ray equipment. There was no provision for bio-chemistry. Practically no conveniences were furnished members of the staff, it being necessary for each one personally to furnish apparatus and instruments for examinations, treatment and surgical operations.

I made it clear that I could not undertake the task without some definite provision for improvements. The president of the university helped all he could with the limited funds at his disposal. After a conference, Governor Williams authorized the board of affairs to take such steps as might be necessary to build and equip a chemical laboratory, to buy X-ray equipment, and to secure additional hospital and clinical facilities. As a result, the City hospital at Third and Stiles, Oklahoma City, was leased and converted into a combination school and hospital. A clinical laboratory was built and an X-ray plant installed.

The coveted "A" grade was our goal. None of us was satisfied to look forward to a career in a second class school.

Through the good offices of Dr A. W. White who was visiting in Chicago, a conference was arranged with Dr Arthur D. Bevan and Dr N. P. Colwell, president and secretary, respectively, of the Council of Medical Education. I asked Dr A. L. Blesh to accompany me, and wrote Doctor White requesting him to join us in Chicago. Unfortunately, he had left the city and did not receive my

letter in time; fortunately, he had already done much to assist.

We left the conference with a full and frank understanding. I did not ask for advancement in rating because at that time we did not merit it. I asked only for patience, advice and constructive criticism. I made the statement that as long as I was dean of the school the regulations and ideals of the council would be carried out; that if any circumstance making that impossible should arise, I would retire. That pledge has been kept.

With the co-operation of the president of the university and Vice-Dean Turley, additions were made to the full-time teaching staff. The entire faculty was systematized. Entrance requirements and standards were raised. The outpatient department and clinical facilities generally were improved, Paul Fesler rendering valuable service in bringing about system and progress in these departments.

After a good faculty, what we needed more than anything else was a school hospital. A bill providing for it was introduced in the senate in January, 1917. The committee to which it was referred reported with the recommendation "that the bill do not pass."

Through the influence of Governor Williams and a few friends in the senate, it was sent back to the committee and an arrangement was made for us to be heard. I asked the members of the faculty and the students to attend and most of them were there. The hearing was in the senate chamber during the noon recess. We made impassioned pleas, attracting the attention of many members of the legislature who were not on the committee.

Then for two months it was a hard battle. The medical profession of the state came to our assistance. Just before the close of the session the bill passed by an overwhelming majority.

The World war interfered with the construction of the hospital which we were not able to enter until August, 1919.

In March, 1920, we were inspected by Doctor Colwell of the Council on Medical Education. He was delighted with improvements at Oklahoma City, but was not pleased with housing at Norman. After the inspection at Norman, I rode with him on the Santa Fé to Oklahoma City. I promised him that if we could not quickly get the school together at Oklahoma City we would secure a building for the Norman end within two years. I believed that we had earned "A" grade, and I presented our case with all the earnestness I could command.

The next day I wrote down a complete analysis of the whole situation, pointing out that we had practically complied with the requirements for "A" grade rating. I put my soul into that letter which was sent for presentation to the council. A few days later we had the glorious information that the school of medicine had been advanced to "A" grade—We were a first class school!

The building for the first two years at Norman was secured as promised.

In 1927 we secured an appropriation for the construction of the present medical building. I designated Professor Turley chairman of a committee to supervise the plans. It was dedicated November 2, 1928, Dr Jabez N. Jackson, president of the American Medical

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It is the things taken for granted that differentiate people, and it is exactly the things that women writers take for granted and do not take the trouble to write down that admit me to their inner circle. I pride myself that I can read a novel, without knowing who the author is and tell whether it is a man or a woman.

Virginia Woolf has written a charming book in which she claims that a woman who writes should have an income of five hundred pounds a year and a room of her own, which is an ideal that few of us can realize in the early stages of our writing, at least as far as the income goes. We might manage a room of our own, but hardly the five hundred pounds.

The latest market gossip from New York is that publishers are eager for extra long novels of family life, like the *Calendar of Sin* by Evelyn Scott. The public seems to want a big thick book for its money, and the publishers, if not the public, are becoming interested in American life.

As to style, books are made of words. A sensitiveness to the qualities of words is the first requisite for lasting literature. Ideas are very fleeting and when all is said and done, all that remains is the words.

These are only my impressions on novel writing. There is no formula, no definition. If there were, the original artist would probably strike out a new one anyway.

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THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AS I HAVE KNOWN IT: A MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 185)

Association, delivering the dedicatory address. In a preliminary address I briefly summarized the progress of the school, my remarks terminating as follows:

"In an address at a meeting of students just after the school of medicine was advanced to 'A' grade in 1920, I referred to the custom in ancient Greece of bringing together Grecian youths every four years to take part in the foot races at Olympia. Only free born Greeks of unblemished reputation who had spent a prescribed period of training in a gymnasium could enter, and before the contest began each one had to swear that he would race fairly. And then, after the swift struggle down the long stadium, the victor was conducted to the feet of the statue of Zeus where he received the greatest gift that Greece could bestow. Not money or lands or houses, but a simple wreath of branches cut from the

sacred wild olive tree. The contestant at Olympia did not run for sordid gold or crumbling wealth, but for an ideal. And then, after the ideal had been attained, he had the right to build a monument in the sacred grove.

"We, too, had an ideal. It was attained in 1920 when the olive wreath of 'A' grade was laid upon the altar of our school. Then we claimed the right of the victor to build a monument in the sacred grove. It has been done, and we are here today to dedicate it. In this solemn hour I pledge the best efforts of this faculty to maintain our ideal, and to see to it that the work done in this house shall be useful to the people of the state."

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The statements put down here are based upon my knowledge of events during the period from May, 1915 to August 12, 1931. At the beginning of this period there was an insufficient number of full-time teachers, because there was no money with which to pay them. The equipment in both the pre-clinical and clinical years was most meagre. The school did not own any real property at all.

At the end of this period the faculty meets the requirements of "A" grade rating. The equipment is adequate. The school owns a campus of twenty seven acres in Oklahoma City and on it are the medical building and two large hospitals, and, in addition, it has a ninety-nine year lease on old City hospital and a half block of ground at Third and Stiles streets.

The future of the school will depend very largely upon the alumni—a powerful body which can, if united, absolutely determine its destiny. It remains with you, alumni of the school of medicine, to support its work and its ideals. It remains with you to make of it a lasting monument signifying our part in the progress of medicine in these days.

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OKLAHOMA MEDICAL EDUCATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 183)

paying \$1,000, with which the Angelo hotel on the northwest corner of Sixth street and Broadway was purchased for \$19,000.00, rebuilt and equipped for the medical school. Members of this corporation were Doctors A. D. Young, R. F. Schaefer, A. K. West, E. F. Davis, A. L. Blesh, L. H. Buxton, H. C. Todd, L. A. Riely, C. W. Williams, U. L. Russell, J. W. Riley, E. S. Ferguson, W. J. Wallace, Horace Reed, W. J. Jolly, R. M. Howard, J. M. Postelle, F. C. Hoopes, W. J. Boyd, and the Hon. A. H. Clasen, and Mr C. B. Ames.

After the purchase of the building at Sixth and Broadway, which was remodeled with class rooms and laboratories well equipped for teaching, the Epworth college of medicine grew with rapidity. None of the students' tuitions was paid as salary to any of the teachers. Their services were given free. All the money from tuition was put into equipment so that the school became quite creditably maintained in its laboratories and other appointments.

The task of operating and administering the school, however, was becoming a great burden to the men who had already given it so much of their time and effort.

A partial two years course was still being maintained at the University of Oklahoma. While Epworth college of medicine was graduating men with the degree of M. D. Not one of the graduates of the school ever failed to pass any state board examination. In 1910, a committee, composed of Doctors L. Haynes Buxton, A. K. West and H. Coulter November, 1931.

Todd, was named to confer with the authorities of the University of Oklahoma, to ascertain if the Epworth college of medicine could not be affiliated or taken over by the university. This arrangement was consummated by the board of regents of the university and the Epworth college of medicine became the school of medicine of the University of Oklahoma in 1910. The property of Epworth college of medicine reverted to the original incorporators and was sold for \$30,000.00 and the corporation dissolved.

The men back of the Epworth medical college were men of high ideals and had but one purpose, namely, to build up a creditable medical school in Oklahoma. They succeeded well and were able to turn over to the state university, over twenty trained medical teachers, and a student body of forty-seven. Some of the graduates of Epworth college of medicine are filling prominent places on the faculty of our present university school of medicine and are on the staffs of our leading hospitals.

In this brief sketch it has been our purpose to deal only with the work of Epworth college of medicine in the hope that the story of this first school of medicine in Oklahoma may not be lost. Becoming affiliated as it did with the school of medicine of the University of Oklahoma in 1910, the history of medical education at the state university, and in the state of Oklahoma would not be complete without this statement.

The records of the University of Oklahoma contain an account of medical education as it has been carried on in Oklahoma since 1910. It is a record of progress and achievement.