

Medical School Has 964 Graduates

By Dean R. U. Patterson

UNDER authority of an act of the State Legislature which created the University of Oklahoma, the Board of Regents of the University in 1900 established a medical school as one of the departments of the University. As thus established the course of study in the medical school covered only the first two (or preclinical) years of that prescribed for a standard medical school. Students who finished these first two years at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine then took the last two (or clinical) years in some other established medical school in order to obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine. There are still nine two-year medical schools in the United States whose students are obliged to follow the same plan.

The organization of Epworth University was accomplished in 1901. Following the completion of the first university building in 1904 in Oklahoma City, the university board decided to establish a College of Medicine and placed on that Faculty Dr. Archa K. West as dean and Dr. H. Coulter Todd as secretary. Drs. Lea A. Riely, U. L. Russell, F. C. Hoopes, J. A. Ryan, and W. J. Jolly were the other members. The school opened on September 7, 1904, with three medical students. Dr. West served as dean until the school became part of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1910. After the amalgamation he served as professor of medicine for twelve years.

In 1907 twenty-one physicians each paid \$1,000 to purchase the Angelo Hotel, corner of Sixth and Broadway Streets, Oklahoma City, and equipped it with laboratory and other facilities for the teaching of medicine. All students' fees were used for equipment and operating expenses of the school. No teacher received any salary. As this task became too great a burden for these men financially, and also made heavy demands upon the time needed for their private practice, a committee composed of Drs. L. Haynes Buxton, A. K. West, and H. Coulter Todd conferred with the authorities of the University of Oklahoma at Norman and induced that institution to take over the school.

When this was done in 1910 the University of Oklahoma took over twenty trained teachers and the direction of forty-seven students.

After absorbing the Epworth Medical School the University of Oklahoma established a full four-year course of medical study leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The first two years' instruction continued to be given at Norman, but the

Male Graduates	924
Female Graduates	40
Total, 1907 to 1939	964
Deceased	35
Medical Corps, U. S. Army	22
Medical Corps, U. S. Navy	9
U. S. Public Health Service	1
U. S. Veterans Administration	8
U. S. Indian Service	9

YEAR	NUMBER OF GRADUATES	YEAR	NUMBER OF GRADUATES
1907	1	1924	21
1908	1	1925	30
1909	7	1926	39
1910	7	1927	42
1911	14	1928	41
1912	10	1929	38
1913	9	1930	47
1914	14	1931	43
1915	20	1932	47
1916	20	1933	56
1917	24	1934	61
1918	13	1935	55
1919	12	1936	58
1920	15	1937	59
1921	17	1938	52
1922	15	1939	52
1923	23	Total	964

last two (clinical years) were carried on in Oklahoma City, utilizing the private home and hospital rented from the late Dr. Rolater at the corner of Fourth and Stiles Streets, Northeast.

In 1913 the City General Hospital located at Second and Stiles Streets, Northeast, was also leased by the medical school in order to increase the clinical facilities for teaching, and the offices, laboratories, library and out-patient department were moved to that building.

When the medical school of the University of Oklahoma was first organized at Norman in 1900, the president of the University was Dr. David R. Boyd, and the work of the medical school was placed under the general supervision of the head of the Department of Biology. In addition to quarters and teaching facilities, including a Department of Anatomy, the subjects of the then existing curriculum of the preclinical years were taught by instructors in the College of Arts and Sciences and of the School of Pharmacy, with other specially employed teachers. After a Department of Pathology and Bacteriology had been established, the professor of anatomy, Dr. Roy Philson Stoops, was appointed acting dean.

Dr. Charles Sharp Bobo was elected dean of the school in 1908, though the school still remained under the general supervision of the Department of Biology. Later in the same year, a Department of

Physiology was established, and the school then was given the complete status of a faculty or department of the University, no longer being under the aegis of the Department of biology.

The division of Bacteriology was separated from the Department of Pathology in 1912. The Department of Histology was created in 1920 and Biochemistry and Pharmacology in 1924. Pharmacology was made an independent department in 1935.

Many of the men who were the founders of and teachers in the Epworth Medical School became members of the faculty of the consolidated medical school and taught the clinical subjects of the last two years of the medical curriculum in Oklahoma City after it was taken over by the University of Oklahoma in 1910.

Ever since then these physicians and others appointed later have given their services as teachers and in the actual professional care of indigent patients for the state without remuneration. They were the men who have made it possible to continue to conduct a medical school as part of the University of Oklahoma for the past twenty-nine years.

Many of the physicians instrumental in forming the Epworth University Medical School are still active members of the present faculty, some have retired, and others are deceased. A partial list includes Drs. A. D. Young, R. F. Shaefer, A. K. West, E. F. Davis, A. L. Blesh, L. H. Buxton, H. Coulter Todd, Arthus Brown Chase, Lea A. Riely, C. W. Williams, U. L. Russell, J. W. Riley, E. S. Ferguson, W. J. Wallace, W. J. Jolly, Gayfree Ellison, Curtis Richard Day, John Smith Hartford, R. Mayburn Howard, J. M. Postelle, F. C. Hoopes, and W. J. Boyd.

In 1907 the president of the Board of Directors of the Epworth School consisted of Dr. L. H. Buxton, Dr. A. K. West, dean, and Dr. E. S. Ferguson, secretary, with Drs. Arthur W. White, A. D. Young, and H. Coulter Todd as committee on publications.

Ever since the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine moved part of its courses to Oklahoma City, other physicians, many now in the older group of practitioners in our City, have served it faithfully and unselfishly through all its vicissitudes. In this group, among many others, may be mentioned Drs. George A. LaMotte, E. S. Lain, John F. Kuhn, the late Samuel R. Cunningham, Robert Lord Hull, Frank Bruner Sorgatz, William Merritt Taylor, Joseph T. Martin, Wann Langston, W. W. Wells, C. J. Fishman, C. E. Clymer. In a younger group will be found

many of the institution's own graduates.

During recent years the students of the junior and senior classes have had the privilege of hearing special lectures given by some of the prominent physicians practicing throughout the state who, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, come to Oklahoma City for that purpose.

At present the faculty of the medical school consists of 189 physicians (including six Emeritus). The staff of the hospitals is composed of 158 physicians. All but three of these give their professional services to the Out-Patient Department, to the sick in the wards of the hospitals, and as consultants without remuneration. This service they have rendered most faithfully for many years because of the direct and inseparable connection of the care of patients in the hospitals as an essential part of work in a School of Medicine. In other words, the clinical and bedside teaching of medicine to medical students can only properly be imparted in hospitals.

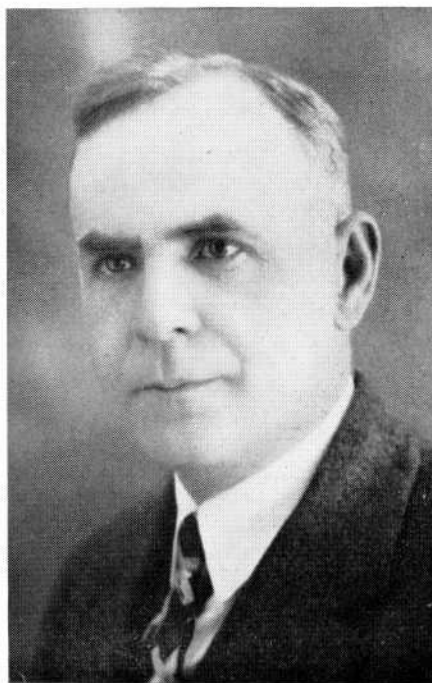
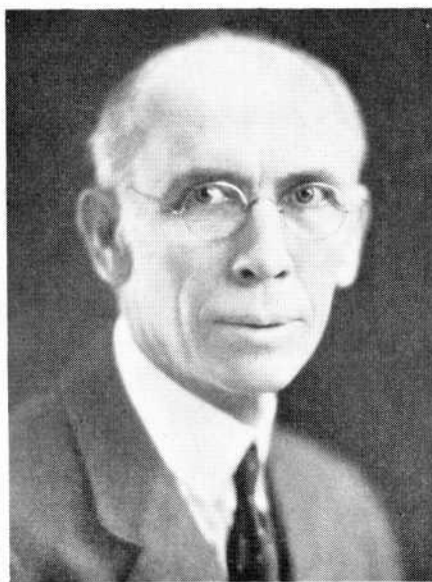
The teachers of the first two years (pre-clinical branches) are on a full-time basis and are housed in the medical school building. They form an unusually competent group of teachers, to such an extent that it is difficult to retain their services because of attractive offers made from larger and older fields of medical education.

Practically every other medical school in the country carries a certain number of clinical teachers on a full-time or part-time basis, sufficient in number to constitute a dependable nucleus around which can be built up, with the volunteer staff, a corps of physicians who will do their daily work. This makes it possible to care for the indigent patients who come to the hospitals either for admission to the wards or for out-patient treatment, within the limits of the physical facilities and capacity of these institutions.

The medical school entered upon a long and successful period of progress under the able administration of Dr. LeRoy Long who was dean from 1915 to 1931. Dr. Lewis J. Moorman succeeded him as dean and served as such from 1931 to 1935 and continued its high record of scholastic standing and accomplishments. The present dean, Dr. Robert U. Patterson, is now in the fourth year of his service.

The school was first inspected by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association in 1909 and was accorded what was known as a "Class A" rating at that time. The school lost that rating in 1910 and dropped to "Class B" because of lack of controlled clinical teaching facilities.

In 1917 the State Legislature set aside lands and made an appropriation for building and maintaining a hospital (University Hospital) in Oklahoma City under the complete control and management of the faculty of the medical school and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. After this building was completed and occupied the school was inspected



Two men who have played important parts in building the School of Medicine are shown above. At the top is Dr. LeRoy Long, who served as dean from 1915 to 1931. Below is Dr. Lewis J. Moorman who succeeded Dr. Long and served as dean from 1931 to 1935.

and promptly restored to a "Class A" rating which it has maintained ever since.

The State Legislature provided a building for the medical school on the University campus at Norman in 1923, which was built and occupied in 1924. In 1927 the Legislature appropriated funds for the construction of a medical school building in Oklahoma City. In the same year the Legislature also provided funds for the erection of the Crippled Children's Hospital on the campus of the medical school

about 300 yards distant from the University Hospital.

When these buildings were completed in 1928 the two first years of study of the medical school course were moved from Norman to Oklahoma City. Ever since that time the entire four-year course of study has been given in Oklahoma City, the preclinical subjects being taught in the medical school building, the clinical subjects in the two teaching hospitals. The students also have the privilege of seeing selected cases in St. Anthony and Wesley Hospitals, the Home of Redeeming Love in Oklahoma City, and patients in the Central State Hospital at Norman.

The school has been a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges since 1901 and endeavors to adhere strictly to the standards set up as "essential for an acceptable medical school," and likewise conforms to the established standards of scholastic qualification to be met by students who desire to enter upon the study of medicine.

The school's present and continuing ability to meet these standards largely depends upon the availability of funds which the legislature may be able to grant for the conduct of the medical school and its hospitals. The standards referred to are accepted by the medical world both in the United States and Canada.

It should be fully appreciated that the standards set for buildings, laboratory equipment, proportion of teachers to students, physical facilities, and availability and control of clinical material for medical schools—the educational requirements expected of candidates before they may enter upon the study of medicine, the obligation to hold a certificate from a Basic Science Board before appearing before a licensing board, the withholding of a license to practice in Oklahoma until a medical graduate has served at least one year as an interne in an approved hospital, all have one objective—the protection of the public.

One of the original purposes of the state when it created the medical school was to make it possible for students of limited financial resources to obtain a medical education in the hope that they would remain to practice in Oklahoma. The state has already and is now receiving a very gratifying return for the money expended. Slightly more than 58 per cent of the men and women who have graduated during the last ten years are now practicing in Oklahoma in ninety cities and towns in fifty-four counties. In a few years there will not be a county in the state in which there will not be a graduate of the school engaged in practice.

Including the handful of graduates of the Epworth School incorporated with the University of Oklahoma in 1910, 964 students have graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. Naturally, physicians cannot be expected to seek practice in localities in which the popula-

tion is so small that there is no prospect of earning a reasonable livelihood so as to support their families, but as the population of our state increases, the field for practice in every county will become more attractive.

Approximately 42 per cent of the faculty of the medical school are its own graduates and are repaying the state by teaching on-coming generations of physicians. Fifty-five per cent of the men who give their services to the state on the staff of the two teaching hospitals are graduates of this school, and are again rendering a service to the state.

In conformity with the definite trend among medical schools to require a longer time in college for premedical preparation, this school now requires three college years before a student is eligible for admission. Eventually it is believed that the majority of schools in the United States will require the holding of a degree obtained after a four-year course, before being eligible for admission to a medical school.

A minimum grade point requirement of an average of 1.5 in the prescribed subjects and an average of at least 1.5 in the general average (for all subjects taken in college), has been in effect in this medical school for several years. The transcripts of the scholastic work performed by applicants as premedical study are evaluated by a special committee at Norman which has been doing that work for many years. This committee furnishes grade point averages to the Admission Committee of the medical school.

Candidates are arranged by the admission committee in order of scholastic merit in accordance with the list furnished by the "grade-point-evaluating-committee," and the first sixty-five in order of scholastic merit who are physically qualified, are selected for admission to the medical school, provided that no one on the list falls below the minimum grade point average of 1.5.

The "Aptitude Test" which has been in force for many years, and which has to be taken by every candidate for admission to any medical school in the United States, and which test is conducted by a central board located in Washington, D.C., is of value only as an additional guide in selecting candidates; the main factor being the scholastic average.

The foregoing indicates that there has been a gradual raising of standards for admission in this medical school during the last eight or nine years in conformity with similar action by other medical schools. Where the number of candidates that can be admitted to the school is limited as it is in Oklahoma, the taxpayers who support the University have a right to demand that only such applicants will be selected as present the best evidence that they have the character and educational qualifications to enable them to profit by

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- *Cannon Armstrong Owen, B. S., M. D., Assistant in Surgery.
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 *James Richard Huggins, B. S., M. D., Assistant in Medicine.
 *Graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.



Medical School History

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

a medical education. This system is followed with great fairness. In this connection it should be realized that all medical standards of education and of practice are set up for the protection of the public.

The medical school is now turning out as graduates annually three and one-half times as many physicians as it was twenty years ago.

The hospitals of the medical school receive indigent patients from every county in the state. The beds are allocated to the counties in direct proportion to their population, the fairest plan to follow so that the whole state may be served. The only exception is that Oklahoma and Tulsa counties, which have many other facilities, are only allotted one-half of the quota to which they would ordinarily be entitled, so that more beds may be available for the use of other counties.

These hospitals are constantly obliged to refuse patients because of the absolute lack of bed capacity. Acute emergency cases are often placed in beds in the hallways; a most undesirable procedure for all concerned. There is constantly a waiting list for both hospitals. The situation can only be remedied by increasing the size of both hospitals, and of course depends upon the availability of state income from which appropriations can be made by the legislature.

Last year these two hospitals cared for nearly 7,000 patients in the wards, occupying a total of 141,000 hospital days, and gave 56,000 treatments in the Out-Patient Department.

Around the medical school, which forms the nucleus, with the other fine hospitals and the unusually competent group of physicians practicing in Oklahoma City, is gradually being built up a great medical center for Oklahoma and the southwestern states.

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