THE WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL, GLASGOW. V

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THE Western Medical School took its origin from a class in surgery, held by Dr. D. N. Knox in a hall over Mr. Stenhouse's bookseller's shop, in University Avenue, in the winter of 1878-79, and again in 1879-80. The students who attended in the first of these sessions were Messrs. Grier, Stanger, and Macvicar, and in the second Messrs. Guthrie Rankin, Anderson, and Macaulay. Dr. Knox's lectures were recognised by the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in January, 1879, as qualifying for their Licence, and by the University of Glasgow in May, 1879, as qualifying for degrees.

The University had removed from the eastern part of the city to the western in 1870; but Anderson's College, then the only extra-mural medical school, had not yet followed it, but was still housed in its old premises in George Street.

Before the winter session of 1880-81 began, Dr. Knox obtained as colleagues Dr. W. L. Reid to teach Midwifery and Diseases of Women, and Dr. (now Sir) David C. M'Vail to teach Practice of Medicine. Dr. M'Vail had been Professor of Physiology in Anderson's College, an appointment which he had resigned. An opening address, for this session, was given by Dr. Knox, with Dr. Scott Orr, the President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, in the chair. The number of students in attendance at the various classes was 16.

In the summer of 1881 a successful attempt was made to obtain efficient lecturers for the other branches of the curriculum. Mr. A. Ernest Maylard, M.B., B.S. Lond., formerly of Guy's Hospital, agreed to teach Anatomy; Dr. J. M. Milne, Chemistry; Dr. Neil Carmichael, *Materia Medica*; and Dr. Eben. Duncan, Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health. During the winter session 1881-82 lectures were delivered on chemistry, anatomy, surgery, practice of

medicine, materia medica, and gynæcology; and during the summer session of 1882 on anatomy, operative surgery, midwifery, and medical jurisprudence. During this summer Dr. Duncan also delivered on Saturdays a course of lectures on public health, which was largely attended by both practitioners and students. In June, 1882, the staff was completed by the election of Mr. William Limont, M.A., M.B., to the lectureship on Physiology.

Thus fairly launched, the Western Medical School pursued its way. The winter session 1882-83 was opened by an address from Dr. M'Vail on "Scottish Medical Teaching, Academic and Extra-Academic," Dr. J. B. Russell, Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, being in the chair. The session proved on the whole a very encouraging one; but at the end of it the School sustained its first loss in the resignation of Mr. Maylard, who had been appointed assistant to Professor G. H. B. Macleod in the University. During the summer of 1883 the work of the anatomy rooms was superintended by Dr. Knox, who had the assistance, as demonstrator, of Mr. E. J. du Moulin, of the Edinburgh School.

Before the opening of the winter session 1883-84 a new occupant for the lectureship on anatomy was secured in the person of Mr. J. T. Carter, L.R.C.S.Edin., who was recommended by Mr. Symington, Lecturer on Anatomy, Minto House, Edinburgh. Dr. Carter came from New Brunswick to take up his appointment. In the summer of 1884, Dr. J. Walker Downie joined the staff to lecture on the Ear and Throat.

In this summer of 1884 the School sustained further losses in the resignations of Drs. Duncan, Carmichael, and Limont, and was faced with the prospect of Anderson's College coming west, to the neighbourhood of the University. As Anderson's College was appealing to the public for funds for its new building, the lecturers of the Western Medical School discussed the propriety of their making a similar appeal, but finally decided in the negative.

There is something of a hiatus in the records of the school for three years from 1884 to 1887, but when the curtain is again raised by the resumption of the minutes in November,

1887, it is found that Dr. Freeland Fergus is on the staff for the Eye, Dr. Hugh Murray for Skin Diseases, and Dr. T. Kennedy Dalziel for Anatomy. Drs. Reid, M'Vail, and Knox were still in their places. Dr. Carter, however, had died. He was a very successful teacher of anatomy.

At the end of the winter session 1887-88 Dr. Dalziel resigned his lectureship, having been only on the staff since the commencement of that session. In October, 1888, Dr. P. Caldwell Smith became Lecturer on Public Health. The winter session 1888-89 passed off successfully.

The autumn of 1889 saw the School nearly in the throes of dissolution. Indeed, it was stated in a London medical journal that the School had ceased to exist, but this was promptly denied. A crisis had arisen in this way. Dr. Reid had resigned his connection with the School on his appointment to the Chair of Midwifery in Anderson's College, which had migrated to Partick. Chiefly through the exertions of Dr. M'Vail, St. Mungo's College was founded in September, 1889, and to it Drs. M'Vail, Knox, and James K. Kelly (Dr. Reid's successor) transferred their services. In doing so they were no doubt influenced by the expectation that Anderson's College in its new situation would render any further successful career on the part of the Western Medical School impossible—an anticipation which has not been realised. Whatever their reasons, the arrangements which had been announced on the part of the Western Medical School for the winter of 1889-90 were abruptly cancelled.

Thus suddenly deprived of its principal teachers, the School would have closed its door but for the intervention of Dr. J. Stuart Nairne and Dr. R. Cowan Lees, whom the retiring lecturers obtained as successors. While these new men provided the "sinews of war" to keep the school going, it would be idle to pretend that they were fitted as teachers to make it a success. It was not till Mr. R. H. Parry joined the School in 1891 as Lecturer on Surgery that matters began to take a different turn. In 1890, however, Dr. John Edgar joined the staff as Lecturer on Operative Midwifery, and Mr. Robertson as Lecturer on Chemistry. Dr. Edgar only remained on the staff for one summer session, namely, that of 1890.

Dr. Walker Downie resigned his post in 1891. In the same year Dr. Harry St. Clair Gray joined the staff to lecture on midwifery, and Dr. A. Brown Kelly as successor to Dr. Downie; and Dr. P. Caldwell Smith resigned his post on his appointment to Anderson's College.

In 1892 Dr. A. R. Gunn joined the staff as Lecturer on Insanity and Diseases of Children—a somewhat odd combination of subjects. Early in 1893 Drs. Lees and Nairne retired from the School, and Dr. Freeland Fergus rejoined to lecture on the eye as before.

Dr. John Morton became Lecturer on Physiology in 1893, and was succeeded in that post by Dr. John Munro in 1894; in which year also Dr. G. Balfour Marshall, from Edinburgh, became Lecturer on Midwifery, and Dr. A. Brown Kelly resigned.

The records of the School again present somewhat of a hiatus from 1894 to 1897, but the School was all this time progressing towards a career of greater usefulness. A highly efficient staff of lecturers was being completed; Dr. G. H. Edington (Anatomy), Dr. Ernest Thomson (Physiology), and Mr. H. V. Craster (Chemistry) joining in 1896. Dr. R. M. Buchanan also joined the staff in this year as Lecturer on Pathology, remaining, however, only till 1897.

It may be noted here that following on his appointment in 1894, Dr. John Munro taught in the School other subjects besides physiology, conducting a plurality of classes on various parts of the curriculum. It is to be feared that overwork contributed to his death in 1896 at an early age.

The staff was augmented in 1897 by the joining of Dr. R. S. Thomson (Medicine), and Dr. James Rankine (Zoology). In the following year Dr. Frederick Dittmar became Lecturer on Physiology,* and Dr. John M. Cowan on *Materia Medica*; and in 1899 Mr. Hugh H. Browning, M.A., and Dr. Carstairs Douglas also became teachers, the former of physics, and the latter of Forensic Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Hugh M'Laren in the same year became Lecturer on Pathology.

It will thus be seen that at this period the staff had increased. Ten classes were taught in the winter session of

* In succession to Dr. Ernest Thomson, appointed to the Chair of Physiology in Anderson's College.

1899-1900, and nine in that of 1900-1901, and seven in the summer sessions of 1899, 1900, and 1901. The number of enrolments of students in winter and summer session combined was at this time between three and four hundred, Mr. Parry having especially large classes. This prosperity as regards numbers continued for several years further. Something in the shape of a constitution was given to the School by the adoption of a set of rules at a meeting on 2nd October, 1900.

It is not our purpose to pursue the roll of teachers further at present. Changes in the staff were tolerably rapid; those who became lecturers frequently doing so only as a stepping-stone to further advancement. In this way the School has supplied teachers to the University, to Anderson's College, and to St. Mungo's. Of the three gentlemen who may be looked upon as the pioneers or founders of the School, Dr. W. L. Reid, Dr. Knox, and Sir David C. M'Vail, two have filled the chair of President of the Faculty, and two became members of the General Medical Council—one attaining the double honour.

Without entering into invidious comparisons with more pretentious institutions, it may be said that the Western Medical School has, while undergoing occasional vicissitudes, had on the whole a successful and very useful career—a path in which it still continues. Such success as it achieves is simply due to providing the student with the teaching he requires from it. The teachers in their arrangements have never been hampered by the presence of laymen in their governing body, all affairs being managed by the teachers themselves, with the assistance of a lay secretary. The School is thus more on the lines of the Edinburgh School of Medicine than is either of the other Glasgow extra-mural schools.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the Western Medical School has never been indebted for any pecuniary help to the public, having been self-supporting from the beginning.