
Toland's Medical College.

BEFORE this number of the **JOURNAL** reaches our readers they will have received a lithographic view of an edifice which is being erected by Dr. Toland, and which, as soon as completed, he intends donating to the City of San Francisco, and the profession of medicine, for perpetual use in Medical Education.

When the value of the property, the adaptation and beauty of the structure are considered, no ingenuous man, in or out of the profession, will withhold an acknowledgment that the act is almost unparalleled in real generosity and professional zeal.

In the circlings of selfish interests and personal gains, there is little encouragement generally given to schemes which are not more or less immediate in the fruits of investment. It is hard for any man to break away from those trammeling maxims of parsimony which are perpetually urging the accumulation of wealth, which allow no passing deeds of experimental generosity or indulgence in the surprises of benevolence, and which at the very end of exertion, seldom permit more than a half-delirious distribution of life's carefully-gathered productions.

The story of one man is the report of most men. If there be exceptions to the common rule, the explanation will always be found in the operation of some powerful motive, too strong for the antagonism of universal precept and selfish instinct.

That is, at any rate, the explanation of this munificent act of Dr. Toland. Throughout his entire professional life, he has steadily cherished the determination to accumulate money enough to enable him to build and establish a school of medicine which should be of perpetual benefit to his profession. It is the thought with which he came to California, and the stimulus that has inspired him to an industry and toil seldom manifested in the fields of exertion. Fortunately for the profession, fortunately for the cause of medical education upon the Pacific Coast, and fortunately for San Francisco, he has succeeded in the realization of a noble and glorious project.

The building is nearly completed, a Board of Trustees selected, a Faculty of Medical Teachers organized, and a regular Course of Medical Instructions advertised for the coming winter.

We have said that it was fortunate for San Francisco that the Doctor had succeeded in attaining this object. When we consider how intimately and seriously the interests of society are blended with the cause of Medical Education, and when we consider the influence of any school of science in attracting patronage, and in consolidating and extending the fame and distinction of any Metropolitan City, we would scarcely doubt the benefit which

the City of San Francisco would derive from the organization and maintenance of a good medical school.

In this respect San Francisco occupies a position in which she can make tributary to medical education a line of coast population of ten thousand miles, aside from the islands of the Pacific, and that vast mass of human beings, the Mongolians, who have shown such an intense and cordial appreciation of an American physician at Peking.

And while her commerce is continually increasing its area of intercourse with other people, while her connections of trade are blending her more intimately with foreign population, and thereby intensifying the moral influence which her position confers, she must see and feel the necessity of evoking and maintaining every source of accommodation, attraction and fame which are the common essentials of a centralizing power.

Among these necessities, none present a more captivating influence than the practically useful sciences, of which, the Science of Medicine is pre-eminently important, and in no place in the world at the present time is the establishment of a good Medical School more urgently demanded than in San Francisco; not alone demanded by the rapidly extending commerce of California and the prominence already given to her upon the Pacific Coast, but necessary in the proper qualifications of medical men who are to assume the responsibilities of medical practice in our Pacific States.

Any man who watches the modifications which are common to diseases in this country, will not deny the utility of a medical school, if for no other purpose than that of accumulating and diffusing information in respect to these morbid changes and their treatment.

A good school of medicine in this city would be of great present benefit and of incalculable advantage to the future necessities of the coast. And San Francisco has but little to do to develop and maintain such a school.

One of her citizens has done nearly all that is needed. A little encouragement upon the part of her citizens and the authorities, are all that is asked or expected. There is no climate in the world so admirably adapted, and no city in the world where there are greater facilities for medical schools. In every city of the United States where there is a Medical College, the people and the authorities are forward to place at the disposal of such institutions such hospitals and dispensaries as can be of service in the clinical instruction of students.

In New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore, the charity hospitals are not only put under the professional control of Medical Faculties, but the authorities emulate in seeing how far they can make these institutions the judicious and beneficent means of making men competent for the practice of medicine. The Faculty of this contemplated School have tendered gratuitous services in the City and County Hospital of San Francisco, for those privileges of clinical teaching which are enjoyed in every Eastern school. Will the authorities grant this small favor—and will the people encourage an effort to thoroughly supply the Pacific Coast with the facilities of medical education?

If so, we can secure to San Francisco a large and influential patronage which must otherwise drift into Eastern cities and schools. With the best climate for such an institution in the world, with the finest facilities in hospital practice, and the most obvious and urgent demands, a little indifference when encouragement is needed, may lose to us all the prestige of a timely and becoming effort.