

### **Three Medical Schools in San Francisco—The University of California.**

The first medical college on the Pacific coast was established in San Francisco in 1858, with a charter from the University of the Pacific, which also was the first collegiate literary institution on the coast. In 1864 the Toland Medi-

cal College was organized, and the former suspended operations, several of the Professors taking chairs in the Toland school. In 1870 these withdrew and re-organized the original school. The Toland College then applied to the Board of Regents of the University of California, and was accepted by them as the Medical Department of that University. A condition of acceptance was the transfer of the college building—the property of Dr. Toland—to the University. The transfer was understood to have been made accordingly. Thus there were two medical schools in operation in the summer of 1870—the summer and autumn having been chosen for the lecture term, in adaptation to the peculiar climate of San Francisco.

Opposition was made from without, to the adoption of any school by the Regents, and they were urged to follow the plan of the London University, and organize the Medical Department only as a Board of Examiners, before whom all candidates for the Degree, from whatever school, might present themselves for examination. But, captivated by the idea of possessing a valuable property, they rejected this plan. What benefit the University could derive from the property does not appear, unless the payment of taxes and repairs be a benefit. If the Regents will accept of property on the same conditions—that is, the University to be at the cost of repairs and taxes, and the grantors to have exclusive and perpetual use of it—they can probably get possession of three-fourths of all the property in San Francisco, if not of four-fourths.

Acting on the principle that teachers should not be judges of the qualifications of their own pupils, and that the students should be examined by an independent and impartial tribunal, the Regents refused to confer that power on the Professors, as the latter had requested them to do. Instead thereof they appointed a Board of fifteen Examiners, six of whom were selected from the Toland Faculty, and not one from among the acting Professors of the other school! The injustice of the proceeding was so manifest that most of

the appointees outside of the Faculty declined serving, and the examinations were conducted and controlled virtually by the Faculty. To suppose that the Regents expected or intended any other result would be an insult to their understanding.

The examinations completed, the Degrees were publicly conferred, under the auspices of the University. Thus the Medical Department of the University of California was fully inaugurated. It had completed one term of instruction and graduated one class of alumni. At this juncture the discovery was made that the property—the transfer of which was an essential condition of the proceedings—was still in the hands of Dr. Toland, who declined deeding it to the University except on condition that the college should continue to bear his name. It was not unreasonable, whatever may have been the objections to it, that he, having spent many thousands of dollars in providing an edifice for medical education, should desire to have his name associated with it. To this the Regents objected, and they proceeded to reconsider and annul the original resolution on which all the subsequent proceedings were based.

Dr. Toland, and probably one or two others of the Faculty, having withdrawn, the Medical Department of the University of California consists now of the remnant of the Faculty, and nothing more. Whether the Department will be put in operation or not, we are unable to say. It may not be too late for the Regents to organize it on the basis of an Examining Board, separate from the business of teaching. The past blundering has tended to destroy confidence in their capacity and judgment on this question, and to render the Profession in California indifferent as to their future course. It might be advisable for them to drop the entire subject until their past mismanagement shall have been forgotten.

In penning these strictures, we cast no censure on the Regents in general—any further than they, as a body, sanction or submit to the designs of a few members. Most unfort-

unately for the University of California, an impression prevails that it is managed by a ring, for the benefit of a few individuals. The shameful treatment of Professor Fisher has done much to confirm this belief. The scientific journals, both here and in the East, have condemned that treatment as a gross outrage. The cultivation of science and letters begets a spirit of independence in their votaries which rebels against being made a football for the sport of power, even if the foot that kicks be shod with gold.

We understand that Dr. Toland intends re-organizing his Faculty. Should he do so, and should the Regents of the University of California also open a school, there will be exhibited the preposterous spectacle of three medical colleges in California. At present, the University of the Pacific is the only school in working order.