

CHAPTER III

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL of New York City, with which since 1860 has been identified one of the nation's leading medical colleges, may lay claim to being the oldest hospital now existing in the United States, and originally as the Almshouse Hospital may be considered to have begun in 1658, when the poorhouse of New Amsterdam, with a population of about one thousand, was provided with a hospital, the first hospital built upon United States soil. Master Jacob Hendrickszen Varrevanger, surgeon to the Dutch West India Company, suggested its establishment, of which when opened he was appointed in charge. The early efforts were under church auspices, and depended upon voluntary subscription. In 1731 the city suffered its third epidemic of small-pox, attributed mainly to unsanitary conditions. As a remedial measure, a poorhouse was suggested, and on November 15, 1734, the Common Council of the city appointed a committee to consider the matter, but it was not until 1736 that a "Publick Workhouse and House of Correction of the City of New York," was opened. One room, 25 feet by 23 feet, was set apart as an infirmary, equipped with requisites, including six beds, and Dr. John Van Buren was appointed medical officer. As the city grew, so the Almshouse developed, and the medical department of the Almshouse grew in proportion. In 1811-16 the city built a new almshouse and two hospital pavilions, in a district known as "Bellevue." The hospital was of brick, 75 feet in length by 25 in width. The cost was \$421,109.56, and the buildings were adequate for many years.

The earliest reference to public instruction in Bellevue Hospital appears to have been in the "Medical Repository" of 1804, stating that a lying-in ward had been established in the almshouse, and that "as a sufficient number of cases occurred there," Dr. Valentine Seaman had begun a course of lectures on the "obstetric art, including anatomy, physiology, and practical parts." Three years later

the College of Physicians and Surgeons was established, and one of its early announcements made reference to the extensive clinical observations possible at the adjacent Almshouse Hospital.

Although for forty years certain clinical instruction was given by the resident staff of the Hospital, the fees private perquisites of the instructor, medical instruction was not systematically organized, and it was not until 1847 that certain medical men, aware that at the Bellevue Hospital and Almshouse were then about one thousand patients, deplored the fact that "such a wide field for clinical instruction should be lost to the city, to science, and to the world," which idea possibly influenced the Almshouse department, for in that year what may be termed the régime of the resident physicians was ended, and a medical board organized.

Prior to 1847, the Hospital staff consisted of a resident physician and six assistants, without salary, and appointed for one year. They were appallingly overworked, and unable to cope with the epidemics present each year. Over 14,000 cases were treated in 1846. Typhus fever was very frequent, and in 1847, distinguished in the Hospital history as that of the "great epidemic," carried off many of the young assistant physicians. There were 1,995 cases of typhus and ship fever from January 1 to August 3 that year, and tents were pitched on the adjacent green.

Certain doctors volunteered to supplement the resident staff, while others undertook to pay visits. Eventually the Board of Aldermen were constrained "to give the poor creatures at Bellevue some of their distinguished consideration." The Common Council appointed a committee of prominent medical men to present a plan for reorganization, which committee recommended the creation of a board of visiting physicians and surgeons, with authority over the resident staff. On November 17, 1847, a medical board was organized: Drs. James R. Manley and John W. Francis, consulting physicians; Valentine Mott and Alexander H. Stevens, consulting surgeons; Alonzo Clark, John T. Metcalfe, C. R. Gilman, S. R. Harris, A. G. Elliot, and William H. Van Buren, visiting physicians; James R. Wood, Willard Parker, F. Campbell Stewart, J. O. Stone, S. R. Childs, and Alexander Vachi, visiting surgeons. The officers were: Dr. James R. Manley, president; Dr. Valentine Mott, vice-president; Dr. John T. Metcalfe, secretary.

At their first annual meeting in December, 1848, the board looked forward "with confident expectation to a continuation of this lib-

eral system" by which the sick poor were cared for, the public interests safeguarded, and the cause of true science and sound medical learning steadily promoted." The minutes of February 28, 1849, had reference to the construction of an amphitheatre at the hospital for clinical instruction. This opened March 2, 1850, and it was announced that clinical lectures would be delivered by members of the Hospital staff every Friday. Thus was laid the first seed of that clinical teaching with which the name of Bellevue has since been synonymous.

During the fifties, Bellevue Hospital became the centre of clinical teaching in New York City. In 1855 a fourth story was added to the main building, and therein were established an amphitheatre, to accommodate six hundred persons, and an operating theatre "without equal in the United States" at that time. This was much appreciated by practitioners and medical students, and the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons was soon able to announce that students of the college would be permitted to observe the treatment of cases in the new amphitheatre, where the operations performed before the students would be "of the gravest nature." These and other facilities for medical instruction at Bellevue Hospital were encouraged by if not directly attributable to, the enactment of the "Bone Bill" in 1854, which legalized dissection of human material, thus removing the necessity of dangerous procedures to secure requisite material for anatomical research.

About that time, the authorities of the Almshouse decided to replace the noxious dead house with a larger building, but it was not until 1857 that it was completed. It was of brick, two stories in height, the upper story designed as a pathological museum, containing a lecture-room. This museum became the Wood Pathological Museum of Bellevue Hospital, so named in honor of Dr. James R. Wood, to whose energy its establishment was attributed. The building was inaugurated October 25, 1857, and addresses were delivered by Drs. John W. Francis, and James R. Wood, and by Profs. Valentine Mott, Stevens, and Parker, Dr. Mott's address being supplemented by a demonstration of the anatomy of hernia.

Although clinical instruction at Bellevue Hospital had considerably improved since the establishment of the medical board in 1847, instruction continued to be given under no well-developed scheme. The students varied in number from fifty to two hun-

dred. At the inauguration of the museum, October 19, 1857, Dr. Wood announced that a definite course of lectures would be available to students and practitioners, upon payment of a fee; that attendance at such lectures would be substantiated by the awarding of certificates to students who took the course; and "that the lectures instituted would be the first systematized series of clinical lectures ever delivered in this country." The lecturers included Drs. Clark, Parker, Metcalfe, and Wood, and the clinical courses developed so substantially that in 1860 upward of three hundred tickets had been taken out.

In that year, in consequence of the supersedence of the old board of ten governors by a new board of control called the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, the medical board of Bellevue Hospital became possessed of the care of all the medical departments of the various city charitable and penal institutions on Ward's Island, with the exception of the Lunatic Asylum and the Infants' Hospital. By this arrangement 960 additional patients came under the care of the Bellevue Hospital Medical Board, and the consequent enlarged scope for clinical instruction and observation prompted the medical board to seriously consider the expansion of its plan of medical instruction.

On December 18, 1860, a committee of physicians made reference to the great advantages present for the enlargement of the field of clinical instruction, and recommending the advisability of "advancing the cause of medical science" by establishing in connection with Bellevue Hospital "a college for the education of the young men . . . thus making it one of the best hospitals and medical schools in the United States—nay, in Europe."

In March, 1861, a committee was appointed to procure plans for a college building, and on the 30th the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction notified the medical board of Bellevue Hospital that they approved of the erection of such a building within the hospital inclosure. Consequently, the medical board considered the formation of a faculty. Some of the board were professorially identified with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and with the Long Island College Hospital; others were disinclined to add teaching to their professional duties. However, Drs. B. W. McCreedy, J. E. Taylor, J. R. Wood, L. A. Sayre, S. Smith, A. B. Mott and A. L. Loomis were ready, and on April 1, 1861, the faculty was organized by electing Dr. I. E. Taylor to

the presidency and treasurership, and Dr. B. W. McCready to the secretarieship. A committee was appointed to ascertain what members of the hospital staff would become members of the faculty, which committee reported that ten, of the eighteen, would participate in the instructional responsibilities. Consequently, on April 2, 1861, chairs were assigned as follows: Principles and Practice of Surgery, S. Smith; Surgery of Bones and Accidents, F. H. Hamilton; Operative Surgery, and Surgical Pathology, J. R. Wood; Surgical Anatomy, A. B. Mott; Orthopedic Surgery, L. A. Sayre; Obstetrics, J. E. Taylor, Fordyce Barker and G. T. Elliot, Jr.; Materia Medica and Therapeutics, B. W. McCready; Anatomy, J. W. S. Gouley. Later in that month three of the professors of Long Island College Hospital joined the faculty, as follows: Principles and Practice of Medicine, Austin Flint; Physiology, Austin Flint, Jr.; Chemistry and Toxicology, R. O. Doremus.

These thirteen constituted the original faculty, as recorded in the minutes of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, April 11, 1861, but the "First Annual Announcement and Circular" issued that summer shows that certain changes had been made. Dr. R. Ogden Doremus had become treasurer, vice Dr. Isaac E. Taylor, who retained the presidency; and Dr. Timothy Childs had been appointed to the chair of Descriptive Anatomy, in place of Dr. Gouley, who resigned June 1, 1861, considering it his duty to remain in the army during the continuance of the war. Further appointments for the opening session were: Charles D. Phelps, Curator of the Museum; N. R. Moseley, Prosector to the Chair of Surgical Anatomy; and Sylvester Teats, Prosector to the Chair of Operative Surgery and Surgical Pathology.

The charter was granted April 8, 1861, with the following trustees: Samuel Draper, James B. Nicholson, Moses H. Gunnell, and Isaac Bell, Jr., who were appointed by virtue of their capacities as Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction; Robert H. Haws, Comptroller of New York, James T. Brady, the Most Rev. Archbishop Hughes, John J. Astor, Moses Taylor, William B. Crosley, John Ward, Samuel D. Cook, D.D., E. H. Chapin, D.D., Geo. F. Talman, Edward Minturn, J. P. Giraud Foster, Anthony L. Robertson, R. M. Blatchford, Robert S. Hone, Watts Sherman and Matthew Morgan.

On April 11, 1861, the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction granted permission to the Trustees of the College to

erect a suitable building on the southerly part of the hospital grounds, and five days later the trustees passed plans for the building. They also elected Simeon Draper first president of the board of trustees, in which capacity he served five years.

During the summer the first building was completed, and the preliminary term was announced to commence on Wednesday, September 18, 1861, to continue four weeks, and to be followed by the regular term, to continue until early in March of 1862. As a matter of fact, the first exercises of the college, as such, were short courses given during April and May, 1861, by Profs. Wood and Hamilton, upon points connected with military surgery, then rendered important by the commencement of the Civil War. These were attended by about two hundred practitioners and students.

In many particulars the "First Annual Announcement and Circular" is interesting. It is a sixteen-page pamphlet, on front outside cover a woodcut of Bellevue Hospital, represented as "containing 1,200 beds," and on back outside cover a like illustration of Blackwell's Island Hospital, "containing 1,500 beds." The announcement opened with assurance by the trustees and faculty that Bellevue Hospital Medical College "will command the approbation and warm interest of the medical profession of this country," and that by "systematizing the mode of instruction . . . the future success of the institution will satisfy the highest expectations of all who are interested in medical education." It stated the plans of the College to be mainly that instruction in all branches of physics and surgery would be "eminently practical," and that the "vast resources" of the Bellevue and allied hospitals would be utilized in combining "to the fullest extent thorough didactic with demonstrative teaching." It declared that "this plan has recently been adopted in this country, but in no other instance on a scale so extensive." The circular further announced that "the salubrious situation of the Hospital, with its spacious grounds fronting on East River, renders attendance at lectures as early as September and October perfectly comfortable for the student." The aggregate fees for tickets to all the lectures were \$105, students who had attended two full courses in other accredited schools to be admitted for \$50. To qualify for graduation the student must have studied for three years with "a regular and respectable practitioner of medicine," during or after which he must take two full courses of medical lectures, the last at Bellevue

College; in addition, he must present an acceptable thesis in his own handwriting, and to substantiate his authorship thereof must undergo a satisfactory examination by professors of the faculty. Prospective students were informed that "comfortable board and lodging" could be obtained in the vicinity of the college for from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per week.

At the New York Academy of Medicine is a pamphlet recording the inaugural exercises of Bellevue Hospital Medical College. These took place October 18, 1861, in the lecture room. The guests made a tour of inspection of the charitable institutions on Blackwell's and Randall's Islands, the inmates participating in a number of exercises, some patriotic in spirit, and later gathered in the lecture room of the new college building. Professor Taylor, president of the college, presided. An address was delivered by Prof. B. W. McCready, who referred to the Guy's and St. Thomas's (London) hospitals as examples of the hospital-college advantages, and said that while the authorities of Bellevue Hospital had been discussing the project of initiating a like system in the United States, "our enterprising neighbors on the other side of the East River—the City of Churches—stole a march upon New York, and . . . in the Long Island College Hospital set an example to the Union." Speeches were also made by Simeon Draper, Archbishop Hughes, Rev. E. H. Chapin, James T. Brady, the Rev. Chancellor Ferris closing the exercises with prayer.

The college building within the hospital grounds had been erected at the expense of the trustees and faculty of the medical college, and the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction were unable to exercise any effective degree of control over the institution. Deeming such a condition inadvisable, they bought the building from the faculty in May, 1862, and in return leased it to the faculty for a term of years. Ten months later, those interested in the project met to consider the erection of a larger building and on a different site. The Commissioners of Charities and Correction, not wishing the college to go outside the hospital grounds, proposed to erect a new building therein and lease it to the college. This was accepted, it being agreed that the lower floor should be devoted to dispensary requirements. A few months later a "Bureau of Medical and Surgical Relief for Out-door Poor" was established, but it was not until the winter of 1865-66 that the new building was erected. The lower floor was for the

dispensary, and on December 2, 1865, the upper part of the building was leased to the faculty for the purposes of the college. Certain alterations were made to the old college building, and the former auditorium was used for the requirements of the museum, which by the presentation of many large private collections had become an important asset of the college; in addition to the miscellaneous accumulations, it contained the collections of Profs. Wood and Mott, and, through purchase by the trustees in 1864, the Museum of the New York University Medical College.

No faculty changes occurred during the first four years, except that in 1862 Prof. B. Silliman, Jr., of Yale, substituted for Dr. Doremus, who was in Europe. Dr. Childs' death, which occurred at Norwich, Conn., September 3, 1865, created a vacancy, and Dr. Stephen Smith was appointed lecturer upon anatomy, being advanced to the chair of anatomy two years later; as such he remained until 1872. The Principles of Surgery department, formerly under Dr. Smith, was assigned to Prof. Hamilton, in addition to his other duties. In 1866, Dr. Henry D. Noyes, Demonstrator of Anatomy, was made Professor of Ophthalmology. A summer course of lectures having been inaugurated, it was necessary to supplement the regular faculty; Dr. Freeman J. Bumstead was appointed Professor of Syphilology; Dr. Foster Smith, lecturer on diseases of the skin; and Dr. J. Lewis Smith, lecturer on morbid anatomy. Later, Dr. Bumstead resigned, and Dr. W. H. Van Buren was called to the newly-created chair of diseases of the genito-urinary system. In April, 1867, the chair of diseases of the mind and nervous system was created, and Dr. W. A. Hammond was elected to it. President Taylor, who had tendered his resignation, was constrained to withdraw it upon release from some of his professorial duties, and as his administration was invaluable, he was held in the presidency by being appointed to an emeritus professorship. In April, 1868, Prof. Wood became Emeritus Professor of Surgery, and in the following autumn Professor Barker resigned, but undertook the lessened responsibilities of the chair of clinical midwifery and diseases of women. Prof. Elliot, during the sessions of 1868-70, undertook the full didactic course on obstetrics, in place of Drs. Taylor and Barker; in 1870, however, he was incapacitated by illness, and in the following year succumbed. Dr. William T. Lusk, an alumnus of the college and formerly lecturer on physiology in the Long Island

College Hospital and at Harvard University, was appointed to the vacancy, and Dr. Foster Swift having resigned, Dr. Edward L. Keyes became lecturer in dermatology. In 1871-72, Profs. McCready and Stephen Smith resigned, and Dr. W. A. Hammond became Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System, and Dr. Alpheus B. Crosby became Professor of Anatomy. Professor Mott retired from the chair of surgical anatomy, and became Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery. At the Bureau for the Relief of the Outdoor Poor a medical clinic was established, under Prof. Austin Flint, Sr., and a clinic for diseases of children was taken by Prof. Lusk. The chair of pathological anatomy having been established, Dr. Edward G. Janeway was appointed, and Dr. Keyes became Professor of Dermatology.

The development of the college during the first decade was substantial. In instruction, the faculty indefatigably sought expansion, and established many new departments. The inauguration in 1867 of the summer session was an important advancement, although it entailed additional heavy responsibilities to the faculty, the following members of which assumed the additional labors: Drs. Noyes, J. L. Smith, Swift, Van Buren, Elliot, Flint, Jr., and Doremus. In 1871, recitations superseded the systematic lectures entirely, the course being made up of clinics, practical instruction in diagnosis, surgical operations, chemical manipulations, and recitations.

In that year, the Commissioners of Charities and Correction erected a larger amphitheatre, and the clinics became more and more varied. In February, 1872, Dr. B. W. McCready was honored by admission to emeritus rank, and Prof. Janeway became examiner in the summer recitation class, in place of Dr. N. R. Moseley, resigned. Joseph D. Bryant, A. Hammond, and LeRoy M. Yale were appointed lecturers for the summer session. The department of obstetrics and diseases of women and children having become too laborious for Prof. Lusk, Dr. D. Warren Brickill, formerly Professor of Obstetrics in the New Orleans School of Medicine, was appointed associate professor, thus enabling Dr. Lusk to carry through his intention to deliver a systematic course of lectures on the diseases of children during the subsequent summer session. Prof. Hammond resigned on August 11, 1873, and soon left the college altogether. The department of diseases of the

mind and nervous system was abolished, and to the department of materia medica and therapeutics, vacated by Prof. Hammond, Ed. G. Janeway was appointed lecturer. During 1873-74, Prof. Mott ceased his didactic lectures, and devoted himself to his surgical clinic. On April 7, 1874, Prof. Brickill resigned, and Prof. Janeway entered the faculty as Professor of Pathological and Practical Anatomy; on May 12, 1874, the chair of gynecology was created, and Dr. Edward Randolph Peaslee, formerly a professor of the University of Vermont and New York University Medical College, was elected to it. On April 21, 1875, the chair of the practice of surgery and operations and clinical surgery, until then occupied by Prof. Hamilton, was declared vacant, and the chairs of the principles and practice of surgery were united, and Prof. Van Buren placed at the head of the reorganized department, Dr. Wood resuming didactic teaching so far as to lecture upon hernia, etc., Prof. Sayre taking fractures and dislocations, in connection with orthopedic surgery. On May 20, 1875, the chair of Physiological Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, then newly created, was filled by appointment of Dr. John P. Gray, and Dr. Beverly Robinson became instructor in Laryngology. On March 1, 1876, Prof. Janeway resigned the professorship of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Dr. William M. Polk succeeding him. Also in March, 1876, Dr. J. Lewis Smith was appointed Professor of Diseases of Children. Prof. Crosby died in August, 1877, and Dr. J. D. Bryant was appointed lecturer on Anatomy for the winter session. In September, Dr. Erskine Mason, surgeon to Roosevelt and Bellevue hospitals, was appointed Clinical Professor of Surgery, and later Dr. Bryant was confirmed to the chair of General Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy.

Early in 1878, Prof. Peaslee passed away, and his chair of Gynecology was again taken by Prof. Lusk. In February, 1879, Prof. Janeway resigned the chair of Practical Anatomy, and its duties were entrusted to Drs. Fred S. Dennis and William H. Welsh. In that spring Dr. Polk resigned, and the department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics was placed in charge of Dr. Abram A. Smith, as lecturer; Dr. Joseph W. Howe was appointed Clinical Professor of Surgery. In 1880 Dr. A. A. Smith was appointed Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and of Clinical Medicine, and Dr. Charles A. Doremus adjunct to Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

In 1880 the faculty established permanent lectureships under Drs. Wm. H. Welsh, T. H. Burchard, A. R. Robinson and C. S. Bull. The preliminary classes were abolished, and the regular course lengthened, students to assemble about the end of September, instead of in mid-October. Three courses of lectures were to be essential for graduation, with the other customary evidences of proficiency. These alterations in the plan of instruction were not decided upon until after considerable deliberation. The desire of the faculty was to send out only thoroughly competent practitioners, and the expansion of the departments made it almost impossible for the student to obtain within the two-year period an adequate grasp of all the subjects he should know. In 1878-79 adding a third year to the qualification was considered by the faculty and the State Regents. In due course it was announced that such would become necessary, and the entering class of 1880 enrolled under the new requirement.

In the following year the College, for reasons not clearly stated, but probably financial (as the first-year enrollments of 1880 were not satisfactory), reverted to the two-year system, and although recommending the three-year course did not make it compulsory for graduation. The faculty was perhaps to some extent influenced in their decision by the fact that the other two medical colleges of the city still adhered to the two-year course as the essential to graduation. However, they held to the extension of the regular session to six months. That the standard of education had been of very high grade, is verified in an announcement made by the faculty in 1872, that thereafter the diploma of the College would be recognized by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, for those who had passed a regular matriculation examination in classics, mathematics, etc. In that year, the matriculation requirements at Bellevue were: English language, including grammar and composition; Arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions; Algebra, including simple equations; Geometry, first two books of Euclid; Latin, translation and grammar, and one of the following optional studies: Greek, French, German, Philosophy, including Mechanics, Hydrostatics, and Pneumatics.

In the announcement of 1880, the year in which was inaugurated the three-year requirement, the main regulations governing the granting of the degree were emphasized, the faculty stating that "to prevent any misunderstanding, the only course of lectures

recognized are those taken at regularly organized medical colleges, empowered to confer the degree of M.D., the courses embracing practice of medicine, surgery, obstetrics, materia medica, physiology, anatomy, and chemistry. The tickets and diplomas of Eclectic, Homœopathic, or Botanic colleges, or colleges devoted to any peculiar system of medicine, or who advertise, or violate in any way the code of ethics adopted by the profession, will not be received, under any circumstances, even if the preceptors be regular graduates in medicine. The three years of study are required by the charter of the college."

The fees for 1880-81 were fixed at \$140, the same for second year, and \$100 for the third. At that time almost all the professors gave additional private tuition once or twice weekly. These classes were not in the regular curriculum, and the students who attended them made payment of additional fees. The class of 1880-81 was considerably less than that of the previous year, and the full enrollment was only 379, but in the following year the enrollment of 480 again approached the normal registration, and satisfied the faculty that the appropriate time for the adoption of the three-year requirement for graduation had not yet arrived.

In 1883, Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, Professor of General Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy, was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, and Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery.

In 1884, Andrew Carnegie gave \$50,000 for the erection of a building for laboratories, and apparatus for its equipment. The trustees purchased a lot on East Twenty-sixth Street, 50 ft. by 100 ft., adjoining the Hospital, and the erection of the building soon followed. It was devoted mainly to laboratory work in physiology, pathology, therapeutics, and other departments of medicine, and its five stories, containing three general laboratories and private rooms for original research, and a large auditorium for teaching by lectures, constituted a very valuable adjunct to the facilities of the College. The inauguration ceremony took place during the winter session of 1884-85.

For 1886-87, many departments were reorganized, resulting in certain changes in positions held by some of the faculty, but no new names were added to it. The enrollments for 1884-85-86 were poor, but thereafter the advancement was substantial for some years. The matriculants of 1884-85 were only 365, those of the

session 1887-88 were 415, and the register of 1889-90 showed 519 students.

In 1890, the faculty agreed with the State Regents to again attempt to raise the standard of graduates, and announced that beginning with the session of 1891-92, three courses of lectures would be compulsory for graduation, explaining that "to keep pace with the progressive advance in medicine, it has been found necessary to constantly extend the course of instruction, until it has become difficult for students to adequately prepare themselves for the final examination, without attending more than two courses of lectures." As a matter of fact, the course to all intents and purposes had been one of three years, seeing that more than eighty per cent. of the students had found it necessary to take the optional course of three years. Under the new plan, the fees were increased to \$150 per annum, with additional fees for the spring session, and use of laboratory.

Although the change caused a considerable reduction in the number of enrollments and a consequent loss in fees, the authorities held resolutely to the decision. The three-year course involved important modifications in the curriculum, and effected a considerable extension of practical teaching at the bedside and in surgical operations and dressings, greater efficiency in the regular college recitations, with more time remaining for laboratory instruction and dissections. However, generally, and particularly from the professional viewpoint, the faculty welcomed the higher standard.

During 1890-91 two of the oldest members of the faculty passed away. Drs. Alex. B. Mott and Isaac E. Taylor had both been professorially associated with the College from its inception, in 1861, the latter having also been president since its organization. Dr. William T. Lusk, Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children and Clinical Midwifery, succeeded Dr. Taylor in the presidency, just as he had succeeded him in the department of Obstetrics when Dr. Taylor became emeritus professor.

In 1892, Prof. A. Alex. Smith, Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, was appointed to the chair of Principles and Practice of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, formerly held by Prof. Ed. G. Janeway; and Dr. Herman M. Biggs, Demonstrator of Anatomy, assumed the responsibilities of the chairs of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Pathological Anatomy, and Clinical Medicine.

In 1893 the State of New York enacted even more stringent requirements for graduation, and during the next two sessions the enrollments continued to hold discouragingly at about four hundred. The session of 1895-96, with its register of 461 students, gave indication that the new standard could not more than temporarily affect the enrollments, and during the session of 1896-97 the attendance was abnormal, 713 students taking the course. There was a particular explanation of this considerable increase, the circular of that year announcing that that would be the last year of the three-year standard; that the following session, 1897-98, would usher in a higher standard, in which the requirements for graduation would entail attendance at four courses of lectures, and certificates for four years' study of medicine.

In 1897 was begun the construction of a new building on the corner of First avenue and Twenty-sixth street, opposite Bellevue Hospital, adjoining and connected with the Carnegie Laboratory. The winter session of 1897-98 began in the old college building, and was the first of the four-year system; that, in addition to the lengthening of the session from twenty-six to thirty-two weeks, appreciably enhanced the standing of the College, and the faculty looked forward to the future with confidence. But as the session neared its end, the building was partially destroyed by fire, and accommodation in the adjacent New York University Medical College building was extended to the Bellevue authorities. This led to important results to both institutions; it suggested the merger of the two medical schools, a suggestion furthered by the action of the Chancellor of New York University, who asked Dr. John P. Munn, an alumnus of Bellevue, to introduce the subject to the faculty of Bellevue College. After much discussion, and the surmounting of seemingly serious hindrances to the union, the amalgamation was consummated.

The first winter session of the consolidated college began October 1, 1898, in the new Bellevue Hospital Medical College building, and although the teaching staff of the new combined college, which was thereafter to be known as the "University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College," embraced the majority of the faculty and instructors of Bellevue, it is historically important here to record in full the constitution of the teaching staff of Bellevue Hospital Medical College for the last session, 1897-98, of its individual operation. It consisted of:

Lewis A. Sayre, Emeritus Professor of Orthopedic and Clinical Surgery; Edward G. Janeway, Professor of Medicine, and President of Faculty; Austin Flint, Professor of Physiology, and Secretary of Faculty; A. Alex. Smith, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine, with Robert J. Carlisle, as Chief of Clinic; Hermann J. Biggs, M.D., Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, and Adjunct Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, with J. H. Huddleston, as Chief of Clinic; Frederic S. Dennis, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery and Clinical Surgery; Joseph D. Bryant, Professor of Practical Surgery, Operative and Clinical Surgery, with Wm. C. Lusk, as Chief of Clinic; Austin Flint, Jr., Professor of Obstetrics and Clinical Midwifery; Geo. D. Stewart, Professor of Anatomy; Charles L. Dana, Professor of the Diseases of the Nervous System; Henry C. Coe, Clinical Professor of Gynecology, with Wm. E. Studdiford, as Chief of Clinic; William P. Northup, Professor of Pediatrics, with Rowland G. Freeman, Chief of Clinic; Henry H. Rusby, Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacology; Samuel Alexander, Professor of Genito-Urinary Surgery, with O. D. F. Robertson, as Chief of Clinic; John A. Fordyce, Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology; Henry D. Noyes, Professor of Ophthalmology; John E. Weeks, Lecturer on Ophthalmology; Ed. B. Dench, Professor of Otology; Reginald H. Sayre, Lecturer on Orthopedic Surgery; Carlos F. Macdonald, Professor of Mental Diseases and Medical Jurisprudence; Beverley Robinson, Clinical Professor of Medicine; Francke H. Bosworth, Professor of Diseases of the Throat; Edward K. Dunham, Professor of General Pathology, Bacteriology, and Hygiene; D. Hunter McAlpin, Jr., Professor of Gross Pathology and Clinical Registrar; John A. Mandel, Adjunct Professor of Physiological Chemistry; William H. Park, Adjunct Professor of Bacteriology and Hygiene; George P. Biggs, Lecturer on Special Pathology; John F. Erdmann, Professor of Practical Anatomy, with William C. Lusk, R. Harcourt Anderson, H. F. Quackenbos, Demonstrators of Anatomy; R. Kalish and W. N. Berkeley, Assistants to the Chair of Principles and Practices of Medicine; H. M. Archer, Assistant to Chair of Principles and Practice of Surgery; William C. Lusk, Assistant in Practical Surgery and Operative Surgery; George P. Biggs and W. J. Pulley, Assistants in Therapeutics; H. A. Haubold, Assistant in Physiology; C. B. Slade, Prosector to the Department of Anatomy; H. A. Purdy and D. Bovaird, Assistants in Pediatrics; W. Ayers, Assistant in Genito-Urinary Surgery; O. H. Holder, Assistant in Dermatology and Syphilology; J. F. McKiernon, Assistant to Chair of Otology; W. J. Furness, Assistant in Mental Diseases; E. H. Griffin and H. Brooks, Instructors in the Carnegie Laboratory.