

CIRCULAR.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO.

THE FACULTY of this Institution have the pleasure of announcing that its organization is at length effected, and that full courses of lectures on the various branches of medical science will be delivered during the ensuing winter.

The assignment of the different departments for the first session, will be as follows :

INSTITUTES and PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, including OBSTETRICS and the DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, *Daniel Drake*, M. D.

ANATOMY and SURGERY, *Jesse Smith*, M. D.

MATERIA MEDICA and PHARMACY, *Benjamin S. Bohrer*, M. D.

CHEMISTRY, *Elijah Slack*, A. M. (President of the Cincinnati College,) assisted by Mr. *Robert Best*, Curator of the Western Museum.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE will be divided among the different professors, according to its relation with the branches which they teach.

After the termination of the session, should a sufficient class be constituted, a course of BOTANICAL LECTURES will be delivered, in which the leading object will be to illustrate the MEDICAL BOTANY of the United States.

The Medical College of Ohio was incorporated by the Legislature of this state in the beginning of the year 1819; and but for an unexpected and serious disaster, would have been in operation the succeeding Autumn.

The considerations which originally suggested the establishment of a Medical School in Cincinnati, and which doubtless induced the General Assembly to give it Legislative sanction, were, first, the obvious and increasing necessity of such an institution in the Western Country; and, secondly, the peculiar advantages and fitness of this city for the successful execution of the project. These are, its central situation, its northern latitude, its easy water communication with most parts of the Western Country, and, above all, its comparatively numerous population. This already exceeds ten thousand—more than double the number of any other inland town in the new states; and from the facility of emigrating to it by water, the proportion of indigent emigrants is unusually great. The professors, placed on this ample theatre, will, therefore, have constant opportunities of treating a great variety of cases, and thus be able to impart to their classes those principles and rules of practice which are framed from daily observations on the diseases which the student will have to encounter after the termination of his Collegiate course.

The same state of things has compelled the guardians of the poor to collect their sick into one edifice, and thus to lay the foundation of a permanent hospital, the care of which has been confided to one of the professors. In this hospital, which is never without patients, the students will have many opportunities of hearing *Clinical Lectures*, and of witnessing illustrations of the various doctrines which are taught in the College.

Finally, every medical man will perceive, that amid so mixed and multiplied a population, the opportunities presented to the western student for the study of *Practical Anatomy*, will altogether exceed any which he can enjoy without incurring the expense of a journey to the schools of the Atlantic states.

To these solid and pre-eminent advantages, the Faculty have added several others which they deem worthy of consideration.

The LIBRARY provided for the institution, already consists of more than five hundred volumes in the English and French languages, and embraces most of the text and elementary, and many of the rare and curious works in *Anatomy*, *Physiology*, the practice of *Physic*, *Surgery*, *Obstetrics*, *Chemistry*, *Materia Medica*, *Medical Jurisprudence*, and *Botany*, both *general* and *medical*.

The lectures on *Anatomy*, in addition to demonstrations on the recent subject, will be illustrated by a variety of preparations made expressly for the purpose by the professor.

The Lectures on *Surgery* and *Obstetrics* will be elucidated by numerous operations, instruments, and models

The Laboratory of the professor of Chemistry is well supplied with the apparatus necessary to an extended course on that science, including Electricity and Galvanism, as an introduction.

Lastly, the collections of the *Western Museum Society*, will furnish those who may be disposed to devote a part of their time to the study of *Mineralogy, Geology, and Zoology*, with many favourable opportunities of improvement.

The session will commence the first week of November, and end the first week of April. This extension of the term a month beyond the usual period in the United States, cannot but be readily approved by the respectable physicians of the Western Country. In the best schools of Europe, indeed, the length of a session is generally still greater; and it is a matter of notoriety, that in the otherwise excellent institutions of the eastern cities, four months have been found too short a term to permit the student to arrange, and to appropriate to himself, the multitude of facts and speculations which are imparted by six or seven professors during that limited period. The innovation which is here proposed, essentially consists in lessening the number of professors, and extending the duration of their courses; whereby the student will be burthened with no more lectures, daily, than he can well comprehend and retain. By this arrangement, nearly as many lectures will be delivered each session, by *four* professors in this College, as are delivered by *six* during a session of the University of Pennsylvania; and when a fifth professor is appointed, a measure that is in contemplation, the number of lectures in the two institutions will be about the same, while the expense of an additional month's residence here—giving ample time to prepare for graduation—will not amount to that of the ticket of a sixth professor. The faculty have selected, as a standard of comparison, the Philadelphia school, which has six professors, from its being the oldest in the union; but there are others, which, with a session of four months, have *seven* professors. In these, the student is not only overwhelmed and confused by the number of lectures to which he is obliged to attend every day; but the expense of his collegiate course is considerably greater than it would be, were he, conformably to the regulations of this college, to attend a smaller number of professors for a longer term. As it respects both expense and improvement, then, it is quite evident that this arrangement is exclusively for the benefit of the pupil.

The commencement for conferring degrees, will be held immediately after the termination of the session.

The candidate may write his thesis in the Latin, English, or French language. He will not be compelled to print it, though the practice is strongly recommended.

Two full courses will be requisite before graduation, to all candidates, excepting those who have been practitioners of physic for four years, of whom but one course will be required.

Students who have attended a single course in any other institution, must attend a second in this before graduation. Those who have attended two courses elsewhere, may become candidates here, without further study, and will be allowed to graduate upon the same terms as *alumni* of the College.

No fees will be exacted of any student after his second course in this school, should he see proper to attend any subsequent session.

To promote emulation, the Faculty, will award annually a silver medal, for the best *experimental* inaugural thesis, provided they consider it worthy of being printed; and to awaken the attention of the profession in the Western Country, to the cultivation of *classical literature*, they will award, yearly, a similar prize for the best inaugural dissertation in the *Latin* language, should its excellence of composition entitle it to publication.

The lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, and those on the Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, will be delivered daily. Those on *Materia Medica*, and Chemistry, four or five times a week. The price of each ticket will be twenty dollars: the matriculation fee, including the use of the Library and admission to the Hospital, will be five dollars.

The expense of residing in Cincinnati will certainly be as little as in any other town in the Western States.— Comfortable subsistence, with all necessary contingences, can be obtained for three dollars, or three dollars and fifty cents a week. The whole expense of a full course of lectures and five months' residence here, need not exceed one hundred and sixty dollars.

It may not be unimportant to inform the distant student, that the booksellers' and druggists' shops of the city, are well supplied with medical books, medicines, and surgeons' instruments, and that graduates can at once supply themselves with all that may be necessary to their commencing the practice of the profession.

By order of the Faculty,

DANIEL DRAKE, *President.*

To the Practitioners and Students of Medicine in the Western Country.

By the publication of the Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, you will perceive that the first session of that Institution will open the beginning of November next.

That you may estimate more fully the advantages which it will afford, I beg leave to communicate to you some information concerning the gentlemen who have united with me in this important enterprise.

Mr. SLACK is an experienced teacher of Chemistry. For several years he was Professor of that Science in Princeton College; and more lately in Cincinnati, amid his Academical and Collegiate duties, his industry has enabled him to deliver two courses of Chemical Lectures. His knowledge of Chemistry and of Natural Philosophy, is extensive, and his labors unwearied. His assistant, Mr. BEST, the Curator and principal Artist of the Western Museum, a gentleman not yet known to the Scientific public out of this city, possesses all the qualifications which can be required to enable him to fill the station to which he has been appointed. His ability to manufacture apparatus and tests of every kind; as well as his ingenuity and success in the performance of Chemical experiments, exceed those of any man with whom I am acquainted. From the united labors of these gentlemen, I anticipate a course of experiments, in the ensuing winter, far more extensive and brilliant than have yet been performed in the Western Country; and not inferior to those which are exhibited in many of the Eastern Schools.

The character and standing of Dr. BOHRER, the Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, may be seen from the following document.

"We, the officers of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, take pleasure in stating our candid opinion of the character and professional merits of Benjamin S. Bohrer, M. D., a member of this Society.

"Dr. Bohrer, has received a regular Medical education, and graduated in the University of Pennsylvania in 1810. Since that time, he has pursued the practice of Physic in Georgetown, D. C., with success and industry; and from great application, indefatigable attention and discriminating observation, he has acquired a fund of professional information, which has justly placed him on high grounds as a practitioner of Medicine, and fully entitles him to the respect and confidence which he so eminently enjoys.—As a gentleman he is correct, and honorable in the highest degree.

"CHARLES WORTHINGTON, *President.*

"TH. HENDERSON, *Recording Secretary.*

"JAMES H. BLAKE, *Vice President.*

"WILLIAM JONES, *Treasurer.*

"FREDERICK MAY, *Vice President.*

"N. W. WORTHINGTON, *Librarian.*

"HENRY HUNTT, *Corresponding Secretary.*

In support of this respectable testimony of professional merit, the following extract of a letter from the Hon. Josiah Meigs of Washington City, may be cited.

"I consider Dr. Bohrer a man of such qualities, mental and corporeal, as would not only justify any respectable Literary Institution, but to do it credit, if he were entrusted with any important department in it."

The succeeding extracts and certificate in favor of Dr. Smith, will show what expectations may be entertained of his performance, as Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

Dr. George C. Shattuck, one of the eminent practitioners of Boston, observes.

"If your Medical School bid fair to rise rapidly into public favor, I know a person who has the qualifications you want. The gentleman to whom I allude, has as great a passion for practical Anatomy, as Linnaeus had for Botany. To a strong mind and vigorous constitution, he unites habits of the most patient labor and a sound discretion. He received his Academical education at Dartmouth College, and his Professional, at Harvard University. During the autumn of 1819, he delivered a course of Lectures on Anatomy at Dartmouth, to a class of seventy or eighty pupils. Dr. Nathan Smith, the founder of that school, now attached to Yale College, and Dr. Cyrus Perkins, at present of New-York, had both lectured for some time on the same branch, in that Institution. Many persons who had heard the Lectures of those respectable Professors, have expressed a decided preference for those of this gentleman. His name is Jesse Smith, a nephew of the late governor Smith of New-Hampshire."

The following extract of a letter from Dr. Thomas Sewall, a gentleman of high respectability, at present resident at Washington City, fully corroborates the testimony of Dr. Shattuck.

"Dr. Smith gave a course of Anatomical Lectures last autumn at Dartmouth College, and so far as I have learned, with considerable eclat. He must have done well, or he could not even have given satisfaction after so good a Lecturer as Dr. Perkins. His knowledge of Anatomy is undoubtedly minute and particular; and his zeal in the cultivation of the Science uncommonly great.—His energy and decision of character, are as great as could be desired, and his constitution is such as will bear him out in the arduous labors that must be imposed by the chair of Anatomy and Surgery. He has many very good Anatomical preparations, and my opinion is, that he would do better than any other person you can readily find."

The succeeding certificate from the President and Medical Faculty of Harvard University, exhibits the estimation in which this gentleman is held at that celebrated Institution.

"Jesse Smith, M. D., who received his Medical Degree at this University, has an undisputed reputation, for talents, diligence, and patience in all the studies and pursuits pertaining to his vocation as a Medical man, for *uncommon skill in Anatomy*;—and for, good morals and prudence in the affairs of life. We have reason to think he has excellent qualifications as a teacher in a Medical School.

"JOHN T. KIRKLAND, *President.*

"JOHN GORHAM, M. D., *Professor of Chemistry.*

"JOHN C. WARREN, *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

"JACOB BIGELOW, M. D., *Professor of Materia Medica.*

"JAMES JACKSON, *Prof. of Theory and Practice of Physic.*

"WALTER CHANNING, M.D., *Prof. Midw. & Med. Juris.*"

Such is the character of the Professors for whom, as friends to the advancement of Medical Science in the West, your patronage is solicited. That the Medical College of Ohio, in its infancy, can equal the matured Institutions of Philadelphia, New-York and Baltimore, it would be preposterous to assert; but that a skillful improvement of the advantages of Cincinnati, for such a school, will in a few years elevate it to their exalted level, there can be no doubt. For this purpose the chief remaining *desiderata* are the encouragement and support of those, who guide the destinies of such of our young men as are designed for the profession of Medicine.

DANIEL DRAKE, *President.*

