

The Medical School Situation

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Editor's note: The following is excerpted from an editorial published in *WMJ*, Volume 9 (No. 4), September 1910, pp. 227-229.

In an editorial in the August *Journal* the situation of Medical Education in Wisconsin was considered in connection with the Carnegie Report and the obvious suggestion was made that a single medical school was highly desirable....

...As Flexner has so clearly pointed out in the Carnegie Report a school entirely dependent upon the fees of its students for its support must sacrifice its independence. It must have students, and therefore must sometimes take them on their own terms. When in addition the student body is expected to carry the burden of a large bonded indebtedness the school's hands are completely tied. It can compel neither adequate preparation for the work nor conscientious completion of it.

Medical education today is extremely expensive. A good course costs all that the student can possibly pay. In fact the income from students ought to be supple-

mented by aid from endowments, instead of being depleted by interest charges.

By those whose ears are open the call of today can be heard to be not for more doctors but for better ones. We must ever strive to do better and better work and we must urge those who are to join us in the ranks to give themselves the most thorough and efficient training within their means.

Whatever truly tends to elevate the standards and ideals of medical education and medical practice in Wisconsin can count upon the support of a united profession, but to start a school with a burden of half a million of indebtedness, without a hospital to call its own, dependent on a great number of students for its very existence, is to pay too high a price for a reduction of one in the number of medical schools in the state. Surely some better plan can be devised.

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