

M. C. Leonard (L)



To the Medical Profession:

The regular Medical Faculty of this University, feeling deeply that not merely their own private interests and those of the University are involved in the present struggle in which they are engaged, but that the interest and the honor of the profession as a whole are at stake, they are extremely desirous of securing the support and co-operation of their brethren, as without this all their struggles and all their sufferings will have been in vain, regular medicine will suffer an ignominious defeat, and be driven from its high position here, and a fraudulent and delusive system will flourish in its stead.

With the hearty co-operation of the profession in the present crisis, the faculty feel the utmost confidence that a victorious conclusion to their life-long struggle with homeopathy is absolutely certain. The maintenance of homeopathy in this University is utterly impossible unless the regular profession shall prove recreant to their own highest interests. If proof of this assertion is wanted reference may be made to the petition to the Board of Regents which the homeopathic fraternity are at present circulating for signature among themselves. Unfortunately the faculty have too good reason to know that there are parties in the profession who are ready and willing to see regular medicine disgraced and driven out of this stronghold and homeopathy established in its place, if only they can gain some little temporary advancement of their own petty interests. The accompanying reprint demonstrates beyond all question that the State Medical Society allowed itself to be led into an inconsistent, unjust, and unwise course of action in this matter. The simple fact that the Detroit Medical College has taken such a prominent part in the attacks upon this faculty, and in manipulating the State Society, is sufficient to warrant the condemnation of all those who have united with them in their unholy crusade. That these manipulators were actuated by hatred of homeopathy and anxiety for the interests of the profession is now hardly claimed by them. Had this been the case, or had they been gifted with one spark of true loyalty to

our noble profession, they would have generously gone the length of waiving, for the time being, their own private interests and rallied around those of their brethren who were perforce engaged in a hand to hand combat with an insidious and dangerous common foe. Had they chosen this course, the battle would before this have been won for regular medicine, and they, the allies of the University, would have received the well-merited thanks of the whole profession, and at the same time would have vindicated their claims to true nobility of character.

They have chosen a very different course, as the following sentence from the Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal goes to prove, if further proof were necessary :

“It is somewhat surprising that the editors of the Detroit Review” [the organ of the Detroit Medical College] “will give currency to statements which every one acquainted even superficially with the University of Michigan must know to be false and disreputable.”

A new college at Fort Wayne openly avows that one of the chief reasons for its inception and the main hope for its existence is the possible decadence of this school through the success of homeopathy. Of course its promoters take the warmest interest in the success of Homeopathy here. The same remark applies with equal force to the friends of *two prospective* medical colleges in Michigan, the necessity for whose establishment is to be estimated by the anxiety of their future professors to attain notoriety!

Rush Medical College has condescended to place itself on a level with these fœtal prodigies, and its meanness is not unappreciated, as the following letter from a student to them shows :

“SIR—I was surprised last evening on receiving a card and communication from you in which you took the most shameful advantage of Michigan University Medical College, by publishing the substance of their letter of inquiry, thus sacrificing as a faculty, every trace of confidence or honor in a most unmanly effort, both to crush a very rightly envied sister college and to satiate your appetite upon its carcass. The Rush and Detroit Medical Colleges seem to have subsisted in part upon the refuse of the envied University College; and as a man in the delirium of starvation will eat his own hand, so you propose to slay and eat one of the branches of the great professional tree of which you are but an ill-nourished twig. By a determined effort of the University to lead out in higher medical education in the west, together with her thorough drill in chemistry and anatomical classes, of which you seem to exhibit but a trace, she has attained a position which the pro-

profession too highly appreciates to be likely to annihilate her for any visionary cause, especially the claims of soreheads. Had you sent me simply an announcement, as Wooster Medical College did by the same mail, I could, in spite of its innocent appearance and moderate requirements, at least have looked on you as gentlemen; but under this appalling exhibition of the cloven hoof, and narrow views, I should certainly retire from any effort to enter the profession at all were Rush Medical College an approach to a fair representation of the medical schools of America.

E. H. COLLINS."

The venerable Prof. Gross said to the writer on the 9th of June last, "You and your colleagues are placed in a peculiarly delicate position, and you are entitled to great consideration and sympathy from the profession."

All the leading journals of the country have endorsed this opinion of the great surgeon, and the latter have gone further, and have justified our policy; for example, the *Canada Lancet*, which may be regarded as a thoroughly impartial journal, has expressed its views, as follows:

"We must confess that our sympathies are strongly with the Medical Faculty who refuse to give over the University of Michigan, hand and foot to the homeopaths. We, in Ontario, have not long since passed through a similar crisis. We have discovered that the true way to crush out "pathies" and "isms" is to educate all up to the same standard—to adopt a leveling up process, instead of the antagonistic one. Drop the insane cry of *humbug, deceit, knavery, quackery*, and the like. Such a policy serves but to perpetuate the evil, so to speak. Raise the standard of education for all who desire to enter the profession, and you will soon extinguish all pathies, isms, and men of one idea in medicine. Educate them thoroughly and they will be the better able to discover the errors in each system, and gather up the truth from all. It is too late in the nineteenth century to endeavor to put down quackery by any other means. All the vile phrases, all the obnoxious epithets, and all the penal codes that can be devised, are of little avail. Neither should the regular profession stand idly by with folded arms and allow the enemy to have full sway. What has the Society (State Medical) or the members of the Faculty at Ann Arbor to fear from the homeopaths and a small following of students which is sure to become less every year? Nothing whatever. No! let them rather stand manfully at their post of duty, let them have faith in their own profession, let them be true to themselves and those under their instruction, and let "time, the arbiter of all things," be judge of the result."

Moreover, all the respectable medical schools have come to our aid in the most practical manner by retaining their former relation to us. In these circumstances the faculty are encouraged to hope that in spite of the extraordinary conduct of the State Society; in spite, also, of the unscrupulous efforts of a few selfish and narrow-minded faculties, backed as they are by such medical journals as the "Detroit Review," nevertheless, students will be sent here in such numbers as will convince the people that truth has nothing to fear by contact with error, and at the same time demonstrate to the friends of homeopathy that if their college is to stand it must do so entirely on the merits of their own system (if it has any), and not upon the internal feuds and follies of the regular profession.

This letter is addressed to the profession by the undersigned on his own responsibility.

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