The Medical School Situation

Nin 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 supplemented 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.
The mission of WMJ is to provide a vehicle for professional communication and continuing education for Midwest physicians and other health professionals.

WMJ (ISSN 1098-1861) is published by the Wisconsin Medical Society and is devoted to the interests of the medical profession and health care in the Midwest. The managing editor is responsible for overseeing the production, business operation and contents of the WMJ. The editorial board, chaired by the medical editor, solicits and peer reviews all scientific articles; it does not screen public health, socioeconomic, or organizational articles. Although letters to the editor are reviewed by the medical editor, all signed expressions of opinion belong to the author(s) for which neither WMJ nor the Wisconsin Medical Society take responsibility. WMJ is indexed in Index Medicus, Hospital Literature Index, and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

For reprints of this article, contact the WMJ at 866.442.3800 or e-mail wmj@wismed.org.

© 2012 Wisconsin Medical Society