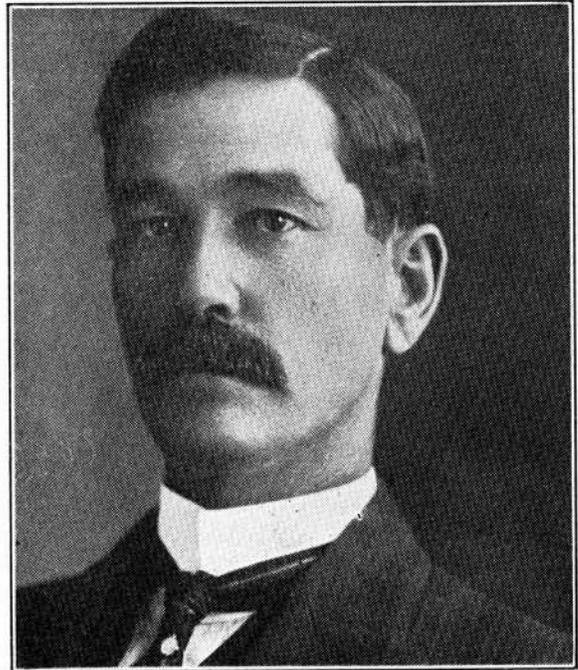


Dr Archa Kelley West was dean of the Epworth college of medicine during its entire history and later, when the college was merged with the University of Oklahoma in 1910, continued to serve until his death in 1925, as professor of medicine in the university medical school

## Oklahoma medical education

BY H. COULTER TODD



H. Coulter Todd, A. M., M. D., F. A. S. C., L. L. D., has been intimately connected with the history of medical education in Oklahoma, beginning in 1904, and he with others have assisted in developing the system of medical education which started in the two territories which now constitute the state of Oklahoma, until today, Oklahoma may claim a medical profession equal in intelligence and training to that of any other state in the Union.

Doctor Todd, feeling that a history of the development of medicine in the state should be preserved for those interested in medical education and the development of schooling, has written an accurate history of Epworth University college of medicine which later was taken over by the state university and developed into the school of medicine of the University of Oklahoma. Material for the history was compiled from the catalogues and records of Epworth university and Oklahoma City university, which was formerly Epworth university and the Epworth College of Medicine. A resume of the history follows:

**Y**OUNG as Oklahoma is, sincere and honest efforts to teach medicine and surgery existed nearly a quarter of a century ago. In 1914, no Association of American Medical Schools then existed, so it was entirely in the hands of various institutions or groups of doctors to organize medical schools or colleges and maintain for them any degree of efficiency they chose. It was in territorial days in Oklahoma and Indian territories that the first school of medicine was established, at a time when the right to practice this profession in each territory was given into the hands of one man appointed by governors and who bore the title of secretary of the territorial board of health. No examination was required of those seeking admission to practice medicine then; nor was a di-

ploma from a recognized school necessary. Notwithstanding such conditions, the standard of medical men in the two territories was never far below that of the various states of the Union. By the painstaking development of our system of medical education and the careful revision of the laws regulating the practice of medicine and surgery, our medical profession is, today, equal to that of any state.

Pioneers in medical education in Oklahoma worked hard for many years, and received no money compensation for time and effort to build up a reputable school of medicine in Oklahoma. These men underwent hardships. Hospital facilities were lacking, and the men were compelled to use their private patients to teach the students. Territorial laws were such that it was practically impossible to obtain dissecting material, and yet the anatomical laboratories were never without material. At one time the local press made a violent attack upon our laboratories and it looked as though every teacher in the medical school might become involved in serious legal complications.

Early in the spring of 1900 it was suggested that a Methodist university be founded and located in Oklahoma City. During May, 1901, joint action of the Methodist church, North and South was discussed in Edmond, toward the establishment of the university. J. B. Thoburn is credited with suggesting that the name Epworth university be given the new school and the committee adopted this name.

In 1903 and 1904, Epworth university building costing over \$40,000.00 was

completed upon the campus of fifty-two acres, now known as University addition. The university board elected as the first president of the university, Rev. R. B. McSwain, then a professor in Southwestern university, Texas. The territorial university at Norman, already conducted a preliminary or partial medical course covering part of the first years work with Doctor Upjohn teaching anatomy and physiology and Dr Edwin DeBarr teaching some medical chemistry.

The board of Epworth university, however, without consulting the medical profession, decided to make a beginning in the teaching of medicine, and on July 6, 1904, elected to the faculty as members of the college of medicine, Dr A. K. West, Dr H. Coulter Todd, Dr Lea Riley, Dr U. L. Russell, Dr F. C. Hoops (now deceased), Dr J. A. Ryan, and Dr W. J. Jolly, Dr A. K. West was chosen dean and Dr H. Coulter Todd was chosen secretary of the faculty. School opened September 7, 1904, with three medical students registered, none of whom later obtained a degree in medicine. The school, however had a continuous course from the day of its opening until its present existence as an important part of the University of Oklahoma, with its full quota of students and nearly three million dollars invested in grounds, hospitals, medical school buildings and equipment.

In 1906 and 1907, the school established a full four years course and had students in all the classes. In 1907, Epworth college of medicine became a separate corporation from Epworth university, each member of the corporation

(TURN TO PAGE 200, PLEASE)

It is the things taken for granted that differentiate people, and it is exactly the things that women writers take for granted and do not take the trouble to write down that admit me to their inner circle. I pride myself that I can read a novel, without knowing who the author is and tell whether it is a man or a woman.

Virginia Woolf has written a charming book in which she claims that a woman who writes should have an income of five hundred pounds a year and a room of her own, which is an ideal that few of us can realize in the early stages of our writing, at least as far as the income goes. We might manage a room of our own, but hardly the five hundred pounds.

The latest market gossip from New York is that publishers are eager for extra long novels of family life, like the *Calendar of Sin* by Evelyn Scott. The public seems to want a big thick book for its money, and the publishers, if not the public, are becoming interested in American life.

As to style, books are made of words. A sensitiveness to the qualities of words is the first requisite for lasting literature. Ideas are very fleeting and when all is said and done, all that remains is the words.

These are only my impressions on novel writing. There is no formula, no definition. If there were, the original artist would probably strike out a new one anyway.

▲ ▲ ▲

## THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AS I HAVE KNOWN IT: A MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 185)

Association, delivering the dedicatory address. In a preliminary address I briefly summarized the progress of the school, my remarks terminating as follows:

*"In an address at a meeting of students just after the school of medicine was advanced to 'A' grade in 1920, I referred to the custom in ancient Greece of bringing together Grecian youths every four years to take part in the foot races at Olympia. Only free born Greeks of unblemished reputation who had spent a prescribed period of training in a gymnasium could enter, and before the contest began each one had to swear that he would race fairly. And then, after the swift struggle down the long stadium, the victor was conducted to the feet of the statue of Zeus where he received the greatest gift that Greece could bestow. Not money or lands or houses, but a simple wreath of branches cut from the*

*sacred wild olive tree. The contestant at Olympia did not run for sordid gold or crumbling wealth, but for an ideal. And then, after the ideal had been attained, he had the right to build a monument in the sacred grove.*

*"We, too, had an ideal. It was attained in 1920 when the olive wreath of 'A' grade was laid upon the altar of our school. Then we claimed the right of the victor to build a monument in the sacred grove. It has been done, and we are here today to dedicate it. In this solemn hour I pledge the best efforts of this faculty to maintain our ideal, and to see to it that the work done in this house shall be useful to the people of the state."*

●

The statements put down here are based upon my knowledge of events during the period from May, 1915 to August 12, 1931. At the beginning of this period there was an insufficient number of full-time teachers, because there was no money with which to pay them. The equipment in both the pre-clinical and clinical years was most meagre. The school did not own any real property at all.

At the end of this period the faculty meets the requirements of "A" grade rating. The equipment is adequate. The school owns a campus of twenty seven acres in Oklahoma City and on it are the medical building and two large hospitals, and, in addition, it has a ninety-nine year lease on old City hospital and a half block of ground at Third and Stiles streets.

The future of the school will depend very largely upon the alumni—a powerful body which can, if united, absolutely determine its destiny. It remains with you, alumni of the school of medicine, to support its work and its ideals. It remains with you to make of it a lasting monument signifying our part in the progress of medicine in these days.

▲ ▲ ▲

## OKLAHOMA MEDICAL EDUCATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 183)

paying \$1,000, with which the Angelo hotel on the northwest corner of Sixth street and Broadway was purchased for \$19,000.00, rebuilt and equipped for the medical school. Members of this corporation were Doctors A. D. Young, R. F. Schaefer, A. K. West, E. F. Davis, A. L. Blesh, L. H. Buxton, H. C. Todd, L. A. Riely, C. W. Williams, U. L. Russell, J. W. Riley, E. S. Ferguson, W. J. Wallace, Horace Reed, W. J. Jolly, R. M. Howard, J. M. Postelle, F. C. Hoopes, W. J. Boyd, and the Hon. A. H. Clasen, and Mr C. B. Ames.

After the purchase of the building at Sixth and Broadway, which was remodeled with class rooms and laboratories well equipped for teaching, the Epworth college of medicine grew with rapidity. None of the students' tuitions was paid as salary to any of the teachers. Their services were given free. All the money from tuition was put into equipment so that the school became quite creditably maintained in its laboratories and other appointments.

The task of operating and administering the school, however, was becoming a great burden to the men who had already given it so much of their time and effort.

A partial two years course was still being maintained at the University of Oklahoma. While Epworth college of medicine was graduating men with the degree of M. D. Not one of the graduates of the school ever failed to pass any state board examination. In 1910, a committee, composed of Doctors L. Haynes Buxton, A. K. West and H. Coulter November, 1931.

Todd, was named to confer with the authorities of the University of Oklahoma, to ascertain if the Epworth college of medicine could not be affiliated or taken over by the university. This arrangement was consummated by the board of regents of the university and the Epworth college of medicine became the school of medicine of the University of Oklahoma in 1910. The property of Epworth college of medicine reverted to the original incorporators and was sold for \$30,000.00 and the corporation dissolved.

The men back of the Epworth medical college were men of high ideals and had but one purpose, namely, to build up a creditable medical school in Oklahoma. They succeeded well and were able to turn over to the state university, over twenty trained medical teachers, and a student body of forty-seven. Some of the graduates of Epworth college of medicine are filling prominent places on the faculty of our present university school of medicine and are on the staffs of our leading hospitals.

In this brief sketch it has been our purpose to deal only with the work of Epworth college of medicine in the hope that the story of this first school of medicine in Oklahoma may not be lost. Becoming affiliated as it did with the school of medicine of the University of Oklahoma in 1910, the history of medical education at the state university, and in the state of Oklahoma would not be complete without this statement.

The records of the University of Oklahoma contain an account of medical education as it has been carried on in Oklahoma since 1910. It is a record of progress and achievement.