

## CHAPTER XXX

### THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS

**T**HE history of medicine in Brooklyn constitutes an unbroken service of physicians to the city since July, 1644, a period of two hundred and eighty years. The Medical Society of the County of Kings is the oldest scientific organization in Brooklyn.

The first physician was a West India company's surgeon—Paulus Van der Beeck, of Bremen. He accompanied one hundred and thirty soldiers who came on the ship "Blue Cock" from Curacao to add hope and strength to Peter Stuyvesant's colonists. He was probably the second medical man in the colonies, Hans Kierstede having preceded him in 1639 and settled in New Amsterdam. Paulus Van der Beeck also ran a farm near Third Avenue and Twenty-eighth Street. Three months after his arrival he married Mary Bennett, twice married previously. He held many offices and accumulated such wealth that in 1675, only nine Brooklyn citizens paid a higher assessment than his—£133, 10s. He died in 1679.

The second physician of Brooklyn was Gerardus Beekman, who settled in Flatbush and became a deacon of the Reformed Dutch Church. An active politician, he held many offices until his death in 1724. That he was a man of courage is evidenced by his stand in the Leisler controversy, for which he was imprisoned.

Of the third practitioner, John Nerbury, practically nothing is known except that he resided at Brooklyn Ferry and removed to Staten Island in 1746.

The fourth physician, Henry Van Beuren, revealed that he was a man of ideals by combating "irregular" and "quack" practitioners who abounded in that day. This was caused by the fact that the profession was under no kind of legislation; that medical attention was in demand for epidemics of yellow fever, smallpox, intermittent fevers and dysentery in summer, and throat and lung troubles in winter; and because public credulity was great. The number of legally qualified physicians up to 1849 was seventy, even though the consolidation of Brooklyn, Williamsburgh and Bushwick gave a population of 205,250. Yet no

one complained of the shortage of physicians, because so many men were practicing whose standing was open to question. A count of those calling themselves physicians up to 1860, as shown by Kings County records, was made by Dr. William Schroeder some time ago, who found the total number to be seven hundred and twelve. A writer in 1753 declared that "New York boasted above forty gentlemen of the faculty, by far the greater part of whom are mere pretenders to a profession of which they are entirely ignorant."

Dr. Van Beuren's campaign went so far that he published a letter in the "New York Gazette" or "Weekly Postboy" of May 20, 1754, setting forth that daily and innumerable abuses were being committed "on the bodies of our fellow creatures" by men "more dexterous at murdering or maiming their patients than at terms of art." They assumed the appellation of doctor "with no small degree of arrogance, until a gentleman of the faculty in New York might well disdain the term when compelled to share it with such Pretenders, and with apothecary apprentices."

Other physicians contemporary with Van Beuren were John Lodewick and Henry Van de Water, an ardent Patriot. His zeal brought him pecuniary loss, social ostracism and death on a prison ship.

Three army surgeons established themselves in Brooklyn after the Revolutionary War—Barbarin, Duffield and Beck. Doubt exists concerning Beck, but it has been established that an English army surgeon located in Flatbush was successful in practice. He became dissipated and met a tragic death, his body being found in a well. Barbarin, also an English army surgeon, resigned from the service and petitioned the Assembly for citizenship. He married a Brooklyn girl, theirs being a war romance. He was fastidious in attire, it having been written of him: "His dress was plain, though rich, and garnished at the wrists with lace." He kept records of his obstetric cases in French. He was a trustee of the incorporated village, and Lawrence Street was named originally for him. A street was also named for Dr. Duffield, and it still bears his name.

Little is recorded of John and James Van Beuren, contemporary with these physicians. It is probable that one of them was the keeper of the County Court House and jail at Flatbush, and resided therein.

Records give no hint of methods or conditions of practice in those pioneer days, though physicians naturally struggled with primitive surroundings and small-town hardships. There were neither omnibuses nor street cars. They had to combat smallpox in 1680 and 1739; something resembling plague in 1702, and two epidemics of "Angina" in 1743 and 1769—possibly diphtheria. No records convey any idea of the exact nature of this disease. Not till 1804, when yellow fever was raging, were systematic records kept. Epidemics of this disease, causing a number of deaths, recurred in 1809 and 1823. Physicians' chief records constituted bills rendered the County or the "Overseer of the Poor" for "sick and vagrant poor"—usually including medicine furnished.

In the early days of the last century, physicians became more numerous. These names stand out: Creed, Clussman, Hunt, Wendell, Ball, Low, Osborne, Carpenter, Vanderveer and Peter. Some of them played an important part in the shortly-to-be-organized Medical Society of the County of Kings.

New Utrecht was the neighborhood Dr. Peter chose for his activities. He built between that section and Fort Hamilton a structure which he used not only for his practice, but wherein he conducted an academy. He also served Gravesend. Arriving at that suburb, he would loudly ring a dinner bell from the door of the

hotel so that the inhabitants could spread the news that medical service was available.

Hunt was the first Health Officer of Brooklyn, with a salary of \$200 yearly. As a surgeon in the navy, he was stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He had fought under Decatur in the Algerian War and was aboard the "Chesapeake" when she was captured by the "Leopard." On his resignation from the navy, he opened an office at Fulton and Concord Streets. When the County Medical Society was organized in Kings, he became a charter member and its second president, holding office from 1825 until his death in 1830—a longer period than any subsequent president has held the post.

Osborne removed to New York after having become involved in a heated controversy with Drs. Wendell and Ball concerning the yellow fever epidemic in 1809.

Wendell, a native of Albany, was Ball's partner at Fulton and Sands Streets, and also at Columbia and Cranberry. A licentiate of 1804, he began practice about 1806. A Health Officer for many years, he has a place in history as Brooklyn's first exponent of mild therapy as opposed to drastic drugging, customary at that time. He had the dignity and reticence of the old-style practitioner without pomposity. He was tall and elegant almost to fastidiousness, and was referred to as a "model physician." He was free vaccinator in 1815-1816, and the former year president of the Society for the Prevention of Vice in the town of Brooklyn. He became first vice-president of the County Medical Society and its sixth president.

Ball became one of the organizers of the County Medical Society and its president in 1833. Guy's painting of old Brooklyn when there were about 4,500 inhabitants, shows the three-story brick building he erected at Fulton and Main Streets, the first in the city. It was surrounded by beautiful grounds. Ball was the richest physician of his time, owned all of what is now Brooklyn Heights, and introduced the first doctor's carriage in 1816. A public-spirited citizen, he was a prime leader in a public movement in 1824 through which Brooklyn accomplished the regrading and paving of streets with gutters which replaced the watercourses in the middle. He was a member of the Society for the Prevention of Vice.

Vanderveer, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, began practice in Flatbush, his home town, in 1819. Being immensely successful, his Brooklyn office was shortly crowded with a clientele from all parts of Kings County. The seventh president of the County Society and its initial Secretary, he was the first physician to abandon general practice and specialize (1838). This aroused much opposition among his confreres. However, he persisted and accomplished much. He was appointed Health Officer of Flatbush during the epidemic of Asiatic cholera in 1832. His home housed the first meeting of the County Society, and was formerly the seat of Brooklyn's embryonic theological seminary of the Reformed Dutch Church, now a part of Rutgers College, New Brunswick. When divinity students were there, the house was occupied by Dr. Livingston, professor of Divinity of the Reformed Dutch Church. Dr. Vanderveer organized the Flatbush "Sabbath School," and was its superintendent from 1825 to 1857.

It was such types of medical men who fought disease in the county in the first two decades of the eighteenth century when practice was under no control and practically every housewife was a "yarb-doctor" in herself.

The General Assembly first enacted legislation in 1760 when it decreed

that no person should practice surgery or medicine without examinations. In 1806, the Legislature struck a blow at the increasing number of quacks, irregulars and charlatans by a statute permitting the incorporation of a State and of County Medical Societies. The State organized forthwith, and Queens and Suffolk followed with county organizations. Dutch conservatism caused Kings to move slowly, so that it was not until February 22, 1822, that the first steps for organization were taken.

Assembled at the preliminary meeting to organize the Medical Society of the County of Kings were Drs. Charles Ball and Matthew Wendell of Brooklyn; Drs. John Carpenter and Francis H. DuBois, of New Utrecht; and Drs. William D. Creed and Adrian Vanderveer, of Flatbush. Dr. Ball acted as president, the meeting being in Dr. Vanderveer's home in Flatbush.

The second meeting—March 2—was in the residence of William Stephenson, Fulton and Nassau Streets, known as the Auld Lang Syne Tavern. Present were Drs. Ball and Wendell, Carpenter, DuBois, Thomas Wilson Henry, Joseph Gidney, Tarleton Hunt, Cornelius Low, William Duryea and Adrian Vanderveer.

Only one other meeting of the society was in Flatbush—July 8, 1822—while one was at New Utrecht, July 11, 1825. With these exceptions, all other conclaves have been held in Brooklyn. These gatherings were in the middle of the day, traveling being slow and tedious and road lighting unknown. They were assembled pursuant to public notice. Many gatherings were at Willie Stephenson's Inn, where "Biddy" Stephenson's famous turtle soup was delectable. The physicians also met at the Van Beuren Inn, kept by Samuel Voris, in Flatbush. The first officers were: Cornelius Low, president; Matthew Wendell, vice-president; John Carpenter, treasurer; Adrian Vanderveer, secretary and corresponding secretary.

The first physician presented for membership was Nelson L. Hurd, in 1823. By 1849 there were sixty new members. The first Board of Health was organized in Flatbush in 1832 by Dr. John B. Zabriskie. Dr. Vanderveer, who was Health Officer, had as his associates Drs. Creed and Robert Edmond.

The Society then began to meet at the offices of the members, in turn. From 1827 to 1837, it convened in the Apprentices' Library, Henry and Cranberry Streets, and from 1837 to 1865 in the Brooklyn Institute. Next it assembled at the Phenix building, 16 Court Street, during which time there were sixty-two members. The Hamilton building, Court and Joralemon Streets, was used from 1866 to 1873, with one hundred and fifty-one members. From 1873 to 1887, meetings were in Everett Hall, 398 Fulton Street, where the possessions and affairs of the Society were carefully looked after by Captain Charters, due to his friendship for the old veterans who were members, with two hundred and sixty-eight members.

Tired of wandering, the members purchased a home of their own in 1887, at 356 Bridge Street, for \$7,600. A committee consisting of Drs. William Thallon, Joseph H. Hunt and A. Ross Matheson collected subscriptions totalling \$5,300, all of which, except \$250, came from the members themselves.

The step proved the greatest incentive to new life. Membership increased until, eleven years later, when the building was sold, it had reached five hundred and eighty-three. Apollo Hall was the next meeting place.

It had been a struggle during those early years of the Society's life to regulate the practice of medicine. The law compelled all practitioners to belong to the County Society, and conferred on the society the power, through its censors, to license practitioners. A diploma was granted, the fee being \$5, and a copy

had to be deposited with the County Clerk. This diploma, written either in Latin or English, was signed by the society's president and secretary. Upon its receipt, the licentiate signed a declaration to "honestly, virtuously and chastely conduct himself, and with fidelity and honor do everything in his power for the sick placed in his care." Notable among these early declarations is that of Dr. Henry J. Cullen, father of Chief Judge Edgar M. Cullen. The duties of the censors were far more onerous than the general public can realize. The first board consisted of Drs. Joseph G. T. Hunt, Thomas W. Henry and Charles Ball.

Despite the fact that penalties became more severe, many quacks continued to practice without license. In 1827, the Legislature decreed that the presidents of the County Societies serve written notice on every practitioner not affiliated with their organizations that he must apply for membership within sixty days after notice. Failure meant forfeiture of license, and all penalties imposed for unlicensed physicians.

This law continued until 1844. Then the cry of "monopoly" was raised. The legislative halls became crowded with petitioners for the repeal of the statutes. The main argument was that the clause preventing unlicensed practitioners from suing and collecting fees was unjust, this "being urged by men of education and talent."

Under the pressure, the Legislature removed all bans on the suing for and collecting of fees by unlicensed physicians. However, as the act also made them liable for an action for malpractice, small comfort was afforded. The new law created confusion among medical men. The impression was that the duties and prerogatives of the county societies had been curbed materially. But the Brooklyn doctors studied the question exhaustively and analytically, and their committee made a report to the State Society in 1858, that the Act had not altered the status of the County Society in any sense. The report attacked the licensed practitioner who did not affiliate with the County Society, declaring that by such act he degraded himself and voluntarily descended into the ranks of the unlicensed—a motley group of botanics, electricians and animal magnetizers.

Early meetings were devoid of scientific study or discussions. Though cholera raged in 1832, 1849 and 1854 with a death list of 1800, one reference only to the disease occurs in the annals of the Medical Society of the County of Kings. This was a suggestion that cholera be discussed, as was being done by some other societies. The situation finally leading to comment by live members of the organization, a scientific committee was appointed. For the first time, case reports and papers were read. So interesting became proceedings that the "New York Journal of Medicine," after 1858, began to publish accounts of the Society's work. Notable among such papers were two revealing that "orificial surgery" existed even then. A surgeon described a new instrument for removal of foreign bodies from the larynx, and discussed dilatation of strictures of the urethra.

In 1856, the Brooklyn Medico-Chirurgical Society was formed, its purpose devoted exclusively to scientific programs. It ceased to function in 1866.

The Society published its transactions in pamphlet form from 1858 to 1865; and from 1876 to 1884, a small monthly periodical called "The Proceedings" was distributed among the members. It gave accounts of the scientific and executive work of the organization. The first copy of the "Brooklyn Medical Journal," relating transactions of the Society, was issued January 1, 1888. This monthly was an enterprise undertaken shortly after the purchase

of the Bridge Street property, and took high rank among similar productions of America. It has been superseded by the "Long Island Medical Journal," published by the Associated Physicians of Long Island.

In the meanwhile, an especial urge for a permanent headquarters for the County Society was increasing. This was caused by the accumulation of an invaluable library. A fireproof place to house it was urgently required. While the society had been established in 1822, it was not till twenty-two years later—in 1844—that any attempt to collect medical volumes was made. Dr. Bradley Parker, president in 1844, was first to act, and a committee consisting of Drs. J. Sullivan Thorne, T. L. Mason and J. W. Carson was appointed to collect books and money. A year later the committee had collected sixty volumes and \$50, and arranged with the city library of the Brooklyn Lyceum (the Brooklyn Institute), to place the library there—the Society's meeting place. For nearly thirty years thereafter, interest lagged and little was done to increase this collection. The library was managed by a standing committee until 1859, when an elective librarian was installed in Dr. George I. Bennett, who held the office from 1859 to 1868 inclusive.

In 1867 a special library committee recommended that a medical department be established in the library of the Long Island Historical Society, title in the books to be vested in that society for its housing and care of the volumes. The recommendation adopted, the committee collected two hundred volumes and nearly \$1,000. Two years later, nine hundred volumes were added in the gift of Dr. D. C. Enos' library. This special collection soon reached 3,500 books and pamphlets and so remained for a period of thirty years.

Fraternity with the Historical Society did not prove as satisfactory as had been hoped. Only those who were members of that organization could consult the medical books. Dr. William W. Reese, elected librarian in 1869, sought to remedy this situation and thereby became father of the present County Medical Library. In 1874 he purchased a portable bookcase and placed it in the meeting room of the society in Everett Hall, asking contributions. Shortly it was filled, these volumes being the nucleus from which the great library now containing more than 100,000 volumes dates its growth. The Society acknowledges its great debt to Reese, also instrumental in founding its "Proceedings," from which library additions of great value accrued. Dr. Reese was also prime mover in the establishment of a free reading room—open from 10 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock at night—when the Society met at Everett Hall.

Under successive librarians—Drs. W. H. Thayer, T. R. French, A. Hutchins, H. N. Read, and chiefly Joseph H. Hunt—the library began to exceed expectations. When Dr. French took it over in 1879, it contained five hundred and eighty-five volumes. On his recommendation, a committee of ten was appointed, which raised \$500 for its increase. Dr. Hunt more than doubled the library in his five years' tenure of office from 1886. During Dr. Browning's incumbency, from 1891 to 1901, the valuable Cutter library of 1,000 volumes and the Watson collection of over 5,000 books and pamphlets and some tons of material from the New York Academy of Medicine were acquired, giving the library more than 20,000 volumes in 1900. He added the library of Joseph Jones, Surgeon-General of the Confederate Army, as his personal purchase and gift.

A salaried part-time assistant librarian in the person of Miss Estelle K. Provost was installed in 1886. In 1900 the title of the elective officer of the Society was changed to "Directing Librarian," and Mr. Albert T. Huntington was engaged as the salaried full time librarian, in which position he continued

until 1917. Accessions in 1900 numbered 17,401 books and pamphlets and 33,900 journals.

When Dr. James MacFarlane Winfield became Directing Librarian in 1901, that year's accessions amounted to 23,960 books and pamphlets and 66,222 numbers of journals. This included the Purple collection, the library of Dr. A. J. C. Skene; the Fisher library, comprising works of great antiquity; and the Physicians' library of the German Hospital and Dispensary of New York, which greatly augmented the library's foreign section. Through the influence of Drs. Joseph H. Raymond and William Browning, the Long Island Historical Society placed on the library shelves as a permanent loan the collection of 2,041 volumes of medical books and some 1,400 pamphlets, to which reference has already been made, which had so long remained in their possession. Drs. Harris, Tilney, Warbasse and Sherwood followed as directing librarians, and then again Dr. Browning, to whom the Society was so deeply indebted.

Although the directing librarian often referred to the deplorable way the library contents had to be stored and the danger of its loss by fire or theft, it was not till Dr. George MacNaughton became president of the Society in 1894 that action was taken. This followed a stirring and forceful address in which he pointed out that a medical building was an imperative need. His enthusiasm and courage banished inertia. An investigating committee recommended a Committee for New Building, by appointment of two members from each ward, to devise ways and means, consider the site and building. This committee was to co-operate with the Board of Trustees and report from time to time. Dr. William Maddren was made chairman, Dr. David Myerle secretary, and Dr. Francis H. Stuart treasurer. Despite the country's financial depression, which particularly affected the medical fraternity, a large amount of money was subscribed, all of which represented personal sacrifice. The movement was given its basic financial impetus by the "conditional subscriptions" of one hundred members of \$100 each. This conditional fund was fully met and formed a part of the more than \$20,000 contributed by two hundred and fourteen members of the Society.

A site was found at 1313 Bedford Avenue. An executive building committee consisting of Dr. Frank E. West, chairman; Dr. William Browning, secretary; Dr. Charles Jewett, Dr. William Maddren, and Dr. MacNaughton, represented the original building committee and the trustees in matters concerning the new structure. The cornerstone was laid November 10, 1898, exercises being in the armory of the 23rd Regiment, Bedford Avenue and Pacific Street. The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, president of the Long Island Historical Society, offered the invocation, and the address was made by Seth Low, president of Columbia University, the first institution which ever granted a medical degree in the state. Dr. Frank West, Dr. MacNaughton, Dr. Joseph Hunt, president of the Society, each spoke.

The dedication of the completed building took place about a year and a half later—May 19, 1900—with the Rev. Dr. A. J. Lyman offering the invocation. Dr. Lewis S. Pilcher, president of the Society, was chairman, three notable addresses being made by Dr. George M. Gould, Philadelphia, president of the Association of Medical Librarians; Dr. James R. Chadwick, librarian of the Boston Medical Library; and Dr. Abraham Jacobi, chairman of the board of trustees of the New York Academy of Medicine. Others on the program were Drs. William Maddren and Dr. Frank E. West. Benediction was pronounced by

Rev. John P. Chidwick, U. S. N., chaplain on board the battleship "Maine" when that ship met her fate in Havana harbor.

The total cost of the building and site was \$90,000, the greatest help being given by "the Woman's Auxiliary to the Committee on New Building," which raised \$17,130 through a Graeco-Roman festival which lasted two weeks and ended with Olympian games. This auxiliary was composed of the wives, daughters and relatives of the members of the Society. The festival, held at the 13th Regiment Armory, Sumner, Putnam and Jefferson Avenues, was the most imposing spectacle, outside of the Sanitary Fair, ever seen in Brooklyn. Its arrangement suggested days of Athens and Rome. All manner of attractive articles were for sale in settings like Roman marts and bazaars. There was a Trojan horse decked in the grandeur and mystery of the East; fountains played; a Parthenon looked down upon a bustling improvised Roman city. Laces and antiques and mysterious old-world rugs formed apartments for Greek and Roman dancers. Even Cleopatra dreamed under a Sphinx, and there was a dark-browed prophet from Turkey. Upstairs and down, the panorama was so true to alien things that it was like traveling to a distant world. On the first—or official night—Monday, January 23, 1899, the Auxiliary's guests were state and civic dignitaries. On Greek night, the Greek consul and other foreign consuls were especially entertained. The Italian Consul and other foreign diplomatists were honored on Roman night. On Clerical night, noted clergymen were invited; on Legal night, prominent judges and lawyers, and on Medical night—which followed a Children's Carnival—the brightest lights in the Brooklyn medical world were present. Prominent merchants were guests of the Auxiliary on a special evening, while on Auction night, great hilarity and fun was the program. At a Graeco-Roman ball, officers of the army and navy were lions of the occasion, and on Olympian night, the spectators witnessed a review of the 13th Regiment, Major George D. Russell commanding. The art loan exhibition was magnificent. Practically the whole city turned out.

Officers of the Auxiliary under whose management the fair was put on were: President, Mrs. J. Elliott Langstaff; vice-presidents, Mrs. Homer L. Bartlett, Mrs. I. H. Barber, Mrs. Cornelius N. Hoagland, Mrs. John L. Zabriskie, Mrs. Alexander Hutchins, Mrs. George A. Evans, and Mrs. J. A. Hamilton. The recording and corresponding secretaries, respectively, were Mrs. William Simmons and Mrs. Frank E. West, their respective assistants being Mrs. Joseph A. Kene and Mrs. Sidney Allan Fox. Treasurers were Miss Alice Jewett and Mrs. H. Beeckman Delatour. These were chairman of the various committees: Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Geo. R. Fowler, Mrs. J. W. Hamilton, Mrs. Joseph Hunt, Mrs. Wm. Schroeder, Mrs. John E. Sheppard, Mrs. Jas. W. Fleming, Mrs. J. C. Cardwell, Mrs. Wm. M. Hutchinson, Mrs. J. M. Staebler, Mrs. E. A. Day, Mrs. W. H. B. Pratt, Mrs. H. B. Bayles, Mrs. Alexander Hutchins, Mrs. Victor A. Robertson, Mrs. William B. Lane, Mrs. Samuel H. Olmstead, Mrs. Charles C. Henry, Mrs. Homer L. Bartlett, Mrs. William Maddren, Mrs. Frederick Cranford, Mrs. George Wackerhagen, Mrs. H. P. Bender, Mrs. Daniel Kissam, Mrs. Charles P. Peterman, and Mrs. Frank H. Milbury. Silas B. Dutcher was special treasurer of the press committee.

When the new library was erected, it put the Medical Society in a position to strive for and house a collection of books which should be an outstanding contribution not only for the benefit of the Brooklyn public but for the aid of the State and County as well. With such ideals the library has become the



fifth largest medical library of the United States. It houses the library of the Medical Society of New York State as well.

Charles Frankenberger, present librarian and superintendent, who took office September 1, 1917, has done an enormous work during his seven years' incumbency to build it up from a service standpoint, stimulating greater interest among officers and members of the society and other local medical organizations in the acquisition of books and periodicals. Many gifts of material and monetary contributions have been received, and interchanges of publications established with other medical libraries and periodicals throughout the world. The library is now making accessible to Long Island physicians and the public productions concerning medicine written in all languages and from practically all foreign countries. Regularly over 1,000 current periodical publications are on file, a hundred per cent increase since Mr. Frankenberger's incumbency. The number of books consulted is three times larger than in 1918. In the last five years, the usefulness of the library to the public has more than tripled. The only medical library on Long Island, it regularly supplies information to about 3,300 members of the medical profession. The first library endowment was the Dr. John Lloyd Zabriskie Memorial Fund of \$2,000. The following library endowment funds have since been established: Alexander J. C. Skene Memorial; George MacNaughton Memorial; William Browning; James M. Winfield; George Ryerson Fowler Memorial; William Jarvie Dental; Burton Harris; Dr. John E. Sheppard Memorial, and Lewis Stephen Pilcher Funds.

Otherwise, the library is largely supported financially by the dues of the members of the Society. Since its foundation, the Society has received but two bequests, that of Dr. George MacNaughton of \$1,000, and that of William Jarvie, D.D.S., of \$1,000 for dental literature. Except accessions from the "Brooklyn Medical Journal," most of the books have been individual donations, and the large collections, such as the Watson, Purple, Fisher, and German Hospital, were purchased by personal contributions of interested members of the Society.

It occupies the second and much of the third floor of the medical library building, the whole of which, from basement to roof, has become a beehive of medical activity and scientific study. Immediately upon the building's completion, no less than seven distinctly medical organizations besides the mother society began to assemble therein, these being the Pathological, Neurological, Laryngological, Gynecological, Surgical, Dermatological, and Brooklyn Medical Book Societies. Now these additional organizations also meet there: Pediatric, Internal Medicine, Italian, Urological, Ophthalmological and Homoeopathic. The two local dental societies, the Second District and the Kings County, make the building their headquarters.

The large auditorium on the first floor—which bears the name of MacNaughton—is capable of holding four hundred persons. It has been and is now, month by month, the scene of all the regular meetings of the society. All the Practical Lectures are held here, and it has been marked by many stirring celebrations and discussions of interest in the scientific world. From its platform have spoken eminent men of the medical fraternity from all parts of the United States and foreign countries, and outstanding specialists in all branches of medical healing, as well as prominent laymen interested in community health matters. The Professional Guild for Long Island occupies an office on the first floor, its labors being to keep an eye on legislation that would be detrimental to the work of physicians, dentists and druggists of the island. It also frames

constructive measures looking toward public health. The third floor has section rooms for meetings of smaller societies. The building is one of the finest specimens of Colonial architecture in New York City.

As the oldest scientific organization in Brooklyn, the Medical Society of the County of Kings took a step in its centennial year that put it ahead of all the county medical societies in the world. Through the efforts of Dr. Frank D. Jennings, who conceived the idea that graduate medical education could be carried to every doctor in Brooklyn through properly established methods, the County Medical Society, in conjunction with the Long Island College Hospital, now provides graduate extension courses.

As president of the Society in 1922, Dr. Jennings appointed a committee to initiate a program. It arranged a Practical Lectures Series. These lectures are clinical, cover the problems of everyday practice, and are sound from a teaching standpoint. Lecturers considered the best qualified are chosen to expound the selected subjects. Beginning in 1922, and continuing each succeeding year, twenty lectures have been delivered on Fridays at 5 o'clock, the hour when the greatest number of physicians could be present. The response was so overwhelming the MacNaughton auditorium would not hold those who sought to attend. So the Society extended its program for clinical teaching to educational work that would include the various Brooklyn hospitals. The Commissioner of Public Welfare, Bird S. Coler, took keen interest and helped by opening the wards of the departmental hospitals of Brooklyn to the work, granting teaching privileges to the Long Island College Hospital as the only Long Island institution chartered for and actually engaged in medical education. The Society affiliated with the College and established a school for graduate teaching. Acting for the Medical Society was this committee: Dr. Charles A. Gordon, chairman; Dr. Russell Story Fowler, Dr. Leon Louria, and Dr. Thurston Scott Welton. The committee from the medical college faculty who worked with it included: Dr. John O. Polak, chairman; Dr. Luther Fiske Warren, Dr. Emil Goetsch and Dr. Henry Mitchell Smith. This joint committee decided to continue the practical lectures and intensive courses, and offer extension courses to the medical profession for fees to cover cost of administration and materials.

In 1923 there were two formally announced sessions. In 1924, more departments and courses were added and the Committee projected courses for winter and spring. Thus Long Island physicians can constantly advance in all branches of their profession, courses being framed for what is most helpful for doctors with small time for study on account of routine practice, but who desire to familiarize themselves with the most recent advances in the solution of their every-day problems. Departments in which instruction is offered are anatomy, dermatology, genito-urinary diseases, medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, pathology, pediatrics, and surgery. Courses are now offered at thirteen hospitals on afternoons between four and six o'clock and are open to any physician, regardless of whether he is a member of the County Medical Society.

Notable among the celebrations of the Society through the years was a dinner for Dr. Andrew Otterson, April 25, 1895, to honor his fifty years of active practice in Brooklyn. The Jenner Centennial, May 14, 1896, commemorated the inauguration of vaccination, all the guests receiving bronze medal souvenirs. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Society was honored April 11, 1897, while the centennial celebration, October 7, 1922, was a notable occasion, Dr. Nicholas

Murray Butler being present. Dr. Jennings arranged the program, a valiant endowment drive for \$100,000 being launched under the guidance of a centenary committee under Dr. Russell S. Fowler's chairmanship, through which over \$60,000 were subscribed. The organization at the time contained 1,250 members.

No one can estimate the vast amount of work done through the years by medical men of Long Island for public health. They have labored unstintedly, with or without fees, the work being monumental. Some have died in their fights to save men and women stricken with disease when scourges struck the city. Among these were Drs. John L. Crane and James E. DuBois. They gave their lives at New Utrecht during the yellow fever epidemic of 1856. Others serving in dangerous capacities were Joseph C. Hutchinson, who took charge of the Brooklyn Cholera Hospital in 1854 and retained the management for some years. In the 1866 epidemic, Dr. William Henry Thayer devoted his energies to the Hamilton Avenue Cholera Hospital. William J. Swalm took charge of the Cholera Hospital called the City Park Hospital, near the Navy Yard.

Even though early charged with enforcing the law, the Medical Society of the County of Kings found time to aid the poor even as early as 1835—which practice it still continues—since it was instrumental in 1839, through Dr. Isaac J. Rapelye, president, in having the Common Council establish the Brooklyn City Hospital. The first hospital building in Brooklyn was on Clarkson Street, and is still in existence for another purpose as part of the present Kings County Hospital. The first Brooklyn dispensary was carried on after 1833 at Jay and Sands Streets, with these attending physicians: Drs. J. Sullivan Thorne and W. A. Clark, with Dr. Matthew Wendell as consulting physician. The Long Island College Hospital also owes its inception to medical men of the County Society, Drs. Daniel Ayres, Louis Bauer and John Byrne, together with the first council, and all its first faculty were members of the Society.

When the Department of Health was reorganized in 1873, the work of the Society was given official recognition by constituting the President of the Medical Society of the County of Kings and the Mayor of Brooklyn, together with the regular Board of Health, an extraordinary commission to act in the presence of great and imminent peril to the public health in the city. From 1824 until consolidation, almost every Health Officer or Commissioner was a member of the Society—a long record of public service. Dr. Frank J. Monaghan, a member of this Society, is the present Commissioner of Health for New York City.

The Hoagland laboratory, across the street from the hospital, was founded by Dr. Cornelius Nevins Hoagland. The ambulance system in Brooklyn is due to Dr. Joseph H. Raymond. While an interne at the Brooklyn Hospital he became interested. The Brooklyn newspapers took up the subject and the Common Council inaugurated the present system, which has been perfected through the years.

Brooklyn physicians have also given much time to the improvement of the public schools, always having been represented on the school board. Dr. Theodore F. King was the first president of the Brooklyn Board of Education upon its organization in 1843. When he moved to Perth Amboy, he became superintendent of New Jersey's public school system. The second president of the Board of Education was Dr. John Sullivan Thorne in 1845, who again served from 1868 to 1870. Two vice-presidents of the School Board were also physicians—Drs. John Moriarty and John Harrigan, while among the members of the Board of Education from 1843 to 1898, there were nineteen physicians. This reveals how physicians helped lay the foundation of Brooklyn's educational system. Dr.

John A. Ferguson, a Brooklyn physician and member of the Society, is a member of the present Board of Education of New York City.

The second offspring of the County Medical Society was the Brooklyn Pathological Society, founded in 1870, and these societies have come into being since: Neurological, Pediatric, Internal Medicine, Gynecological, Surgical, Ophthalmological, Urological, Italian Medical, and local neighborhood societies which have had careers of splendid medical service—the Brooklyn Association, Brooklyn Society, the North Brooklyn, Flatbush, East New York, New Utrecht, Bay Ridge, Williamsburgh all serving well defined and useful purposes.

Among famous physicians developed here whose work has benefited the entire country have been Hutchinson, Skene, Benjamin Westbrook, Squibb, Raymond, Stiles, John Byrne, Jewett, George R. Fowler, Bristow, MacNaughton, Mason, Thorne, Cullen, Otterson, Speir, Isaacs and many others. A monument has been erected to Skene facing Prospect Park and a tablet in the Kings County Medical Society Building; a memorial tablet in front of the Hoagland laboratory memorializes that great philanthropist; George R. Fowler and Isaac Henry Barber are honored with tablets at the Kings County Medical Society building; a bronze tablet at the Long Island College Hospital perpetuates the name of Samuel G. Armor, and one at the Brooklyn Hospital that of Dr. Joseph C. Hutchinson. The medical library building forever suggests MacNaughton, after whom the auditorium has been named and over the entrance of which hangs a beautiful bronze memorial.

The record of the Brooklyn profession during the Civil War was notable, as it was during the Spanish-American and World Wars. Loyally, tirelessly, faithfully did they labor behind the front lines of No-Man's-Land, in the hospitals of the war zones and throughout America. Brooklyn medical men sent nearly \$1,400 for the relief of Chicago fire sufferers, being among the first contributors. They also forwarded a substantial sum when yellow fever ravaged the South.

Many Brooklyn physicians have been called to fill positions of honor demanding highest integrity and intellect, both in the state and national societies. The following have been presidents of the New York State Medical Society: Joseph Chrisman Hutchinson, Edward Robinson Squibb, Alexander Hutchins, Lewis Stephen Pilcher, Algernon Thomas Bristow, Charles Jewett, William Francis Campbell, John Richard Kevin, now a member of the State Board of Charities—another public service.

These have been presidents of Medical Societies outside of Kings County: Theodore L. Mason, American Association for the Cure of Inebriety; Elias H. Bartley, American Society of Public Analysts; Alexander J. C. Skene, American Gynecological Society and Honorary President International Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics; John Byrne, American Gynecological Society; Samuel Sherwell, American Dermatological Association; Thomas R. French, American Laryngological Association; Charles Jewett, American Gynecological Society and honorary president of the Obstetrical section of the Pan-American Medical Congress; Agrippa N. Bell, American Congress of Tuberculosis; Lewis D. Mason, American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Narcotics and the American Association for the Cure of Inebriety; Arthur Mathewson, American Ophthalmological Society; Landon Carter Gray, American Neurological Society; Glentworth R. Butler, American Climatological Society, and the American Congress on Internal Medicine; James MacFarlane Winfield, American Dermatological Association; William Browning, Association of Medical Librarians; Lewis S.

Pilcher, American Surgical Association; Robert L. Dickinson, American Gynecological Society; Hubert Arrowsmith, American Bronchoscopic Association; H. Sheridan Baketel, American Medical Editors' Association; William H. Donnelly and Harris Moak, both of whom have been president of the American Association of Medical Milk Commissions.

At monthly evening meetings, through the Kings County Medical Society, Brooklyn physicians now consider economic and public health questions and developments of modern medicine, pay clinics, administration of the compensation law, medical education of today, pure food, industrial medicine and surgery, garbage disposal and contamination of city waters, and similar subjects.

As life has become more complicated and the city expanded, many Brooklynites have ceased to be general practitioners and become specialists in various branches of medicine. Among such special branches they have chosen are: Surgery, which probably commands the largest following; gynecology and obstetrics, pediatrics, dermatology, urology, ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat specialties, neurology, psychiatry, proctology, X-ray operating and interpreting, radium therapy, physio-therapy, pathology, bacteriology, and many others, which reveal how far medical science has advanced since the catnip tea era.

The council these days at the Medical Society of the County of Kings that manages the affairs of that body is an outstanding group of men. They are: President, John E. Jennings; vice-president, O. Paul Humpstone; secretary, Thomas M. Brennan; Associate secretary, James Steele; treasurer, Charles H. Goodrich; associate treasurer, Eliot Bishop; directing librarian, William Browning; associate directing librarian and curator, Jaques C. Rushmore. The trustees: William Linder, chairman; Arthur H. Bogart, Frank D. Jennings, Charles E. Scofield and Charles A. Gordon. These are censors: Robert F. Barber, senior censor; William V. Pascual, Howard T. Langworthy, Henry Joachim, and Thurston S. Welton. The Society in 1924 numbered 1,530 members, the organization being the only County Medical Society in the United States which maintains a building and library of its size.