

History of Medical Education in Indiana. By Burton D. Myers. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1956. Pp. 203. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

This book is a scholarly contribution to Indiana historical research, to the subject of medical education, and to the history of medicine in America.

Prior to 1817 there was not a medical college west of the Allegheny Mountains. The students of that day selected for their teachers the best physicians in the United States and carried out private dissections and apprenticeship under their preceptorship. Many of the most successful practitioners had never seen a medical college. Less than 10 per cent of the physicians of Indiana were graduates of medicine in 1825, and less than 25 to 30 per cent had ever attended one course of lectures. This situation existed during the first forty years of the nineteenth century in Indiana. Dr. Myers' book tells the story of the organization and development of medical education in Indiana from its beginning with the preceptorial system, through the period 1806-1906 when some twenty-four medical colleges were chartered in Indiana to the final union of all schools with the Indiana University School of Medicine in April, 1908.

This book is a complete and thoroughly documented account written by Dr. Burton D. Myers, who came to Indiana University from Johns Hopkins in 1903 to become professor and head of the department of anatomy. The material was gathered over a period of thirty-five years by this distinguished member of the medical school faculty. Dr. Myers' book was written after his retirement in 1940 and was completed in 1949. His death in 1951 prevented him from seeing the book through the press and no effort has been made to carry the historical record beyond 1949.

Two passages should be quoted to illustrate the giant span in medical education covered in this book. From Part One: "The difficulty which brought an untimely end to many early medical colleges whose auspicious beginnings had been hailed with elation was the fact that these early doctors, like doctors of today, were individualists; they had had no experience with or training in the team play, the collaboration necessary for the successful maintenance of a medical college. And when dissensions began to develop and discord appeared in the faculty, the college soon ceased to function and expired, or the faculty divided and formed two schools" (p. 1). However, even these early schools advanced medical education in Indiana, for they were responsible for promotion of legislation providing for licensure and for the establishment of a State Board of Medical Registration and Examination as well as the enactment of the very important State Anatomical Law. From Part Two: "At no time was there the thought that the Indiana University School of Medicine should develop chiefly as a research institute. But at no time was the hope lost that the day would come when the staff and physical facilities would be such as to provide time and encouragement for investigative work . . . this last paragraph. . . is written, therefore, with the happy conviction that the time long hoped for is at hand when research, which has

been conducted under difficulties and inadequate support, is to be made a major objective of the Indiana University School of Medicine" (pp. 202-203).

The chapters are divided into Part One consisting of sixteen chapters covering early medical education in the state from the Indiana Territory days of 1806 through all the minor medical colleges (including two fraudulent schools—the Bennett Medical College, New Albany, 1833, and the Indiana College of Medicine and Midwifery, Indianapolis, 1878). Part Two consists of twelve chapters and a section of addenda covering the organization and growth of the present Indiana University School of Medicine on both the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses. The text is free from any major technical errors except for one noted on page 6 where Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Kentucky, is referred to as the man who performed "the first laparotomy" in America. Certainly this should read the first *ovariotomy*. The Indiana University Press is to be congratulated on the quality of the book from every aspect of the book publisher's art.

Indiana University
School of Medicine

William McWhorter Loehr

The Liberal Arts College. By George P. Schmidt. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1957. Pp. 264. Notes, index. \$6.00).

In these days of soul-searching on the part of higher education this book is a timely contribution indeed. The author is chairman of the history department of Douglass College (Rutgers University). The present volume is obviously a sequel to his doctoral dissertation published under the title *The Old Time College President* (Columbia University Press). It is good for a change to have a history of the liberal arts college by a professional historian, by someone equipped to evaluate American higher education within the total structure of American history. Whatever his limitations in the eyes of educationists—this reviewer is not aware of any—Professor Schmidt has done an excellent piece of work which will have to be consulted by educators and historians alike, as well as by others who wish to be informed about the development of higher education in the United States.

Lest any be inclined to find fault with the scope or depth of this study, the author serves notice in advance that "it cannot be considered a general history of higher education. Many aspects of the larger subject are treated lightly or not at all" (p. viii). Nor can it be considered a history of the liberal arts college in America; its compass is too modest for that. In view of the fact that there are about a thousand institutions of higher learning offering instruction in the liberal arts, it ought not to be difficult to overlook the omission of one's own alma mater in a study of this kind.

The liberal arts college is portrayed in its "casual beginning" and "haphazard growth" as a typical product of the frontier, as completely American as the log cabin or the camp meeting. Although patterned after English schools, notably Cambridge and Oxford, the