

MEDICAL COLLEGE IS MERGED

Existence Here Came to a Close This Morning and is Now Part of Drake University in Des Moines.

FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS

The Contract Was Signed up Last Night Turning College Over to the Des Moines Institution.

The Keokuk Medical College, College of Physicians and Surgeons, has been merged into Drake University of Des Moines, the contract being signed last evening and the announcement made to the students this morning.

In short, this means that the Keokuk Medical College is no more as a Keokuk institution, after sixty years existence and the buildings will be vacated.

By the terms of the contract, the Keokuk schools turn over to Drake University, all of its equipment, students, alumni, the Hughes museum and everything excepting the real estate. Of course the students are not compelled to enter Drake University, but the provisions of the contract are advantageous to them, that most of them will go to Des Moines and finish their terms there.

Within the past few years, the medical schools of the country have undergone a similar experience to that of the Keokuk school. The regulations have become stricter, the admission requires greater standards and the study of medicine has been elevated.

Class a college is an endowed school or a branch of a university, it almost surely dooms.

The Keokuk school, one of the best in the country, has seen the blow coming for several years and has been able to run as an independent school much longer than a great many of the others on account of its old and splendid history and excellence of instruction.

In Kentucky and Indiana, there are but one medical school in each state, the others having been merged from time to time.

Independent Colleges. All independent colleges in the country have been having fewer students each year and the majority of them have long ago merged with other schools.

This term opened at the Keokuk college with but sixty-five medical students and eighteen dental students registered. A loss of \$10,000 would have been involved had the school continued with this small class and the faculty began to seek for a merger some weeks ago.

In looking over the field, Drake University of Des Moines seemed to be one of the best schools and negotiations were commenced, resulting in the deal being completed last evening when President Bell arrived and the contracts were signed.

The merging of the college is a relief to Keokuk for the college has long been one of the leading institutions of the west and has brought much prominence to the city, besides the material done by the living here of hundreds of students who brought at least \$100,000 into Keokuk each year.

But it was entirely unavoidable and the Keokuk school but adds its name to the history of other medical schools which have passed out of existence because of the increasing standard required.

The college does not pass out of existence however, for it becomes a part of Drake University which is now the main matter of the three thousand alumni and forever after stands as the precursor of the Keokuk school.

The announcement was made this morning to the students at a meeting held at 9:30 o'clock when Dr. George F. Jenkins, president of the school, and President Bell of Drake University made addresses to the students.

It was at that hour that the Keokuk Medical college closed after a history of sixty years.

Announcement Made. Dr. Jenkins stated at the start that he would not do anything in the world unless it was for the good of the students and announced that the Keokuk Medical college had been merged with Drake University.

The two colleges have combined their appliances, teaching force, alumni, everything. For fifteen years the medical journals have been saying that the proprietary schools must go out of business.

In Kentucky the five schools have been merged into the Louisville University, the only medical school now in the state. Indiana has but one college now. We had to either merge or get an endowment.

This latter was tried but the nest egg of \$100,000 could not be secured, so we determined to merge the school.

We found Drake University with a large endowment, a good faculty and in a large city. Three weeks ago we began negotiations and last evening signed up the contract to turn over to them everything excepting the real estate.

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Some of our faculty may go to Drake and do some teaching there. We have made it possible for our alumni to perpetuate itself in Drake.

It is to your interest to go to Drake. If you have paid your full fees here, no charge will be made at Drake although the fee there is higher than in Keokuk.

If you have paid but part of your fees, the addition to be paid will be at the Keokuk rate. Your credits and credentials will be carried to Des Moines and you will be treated as well as any men could treat you.

I have pledged my support and loyalty to Drake, the same as to this school. There is a wonderful difference between dying and merging. We have perpetuated this school by the merging and it will no doubt last forever.

This school is closed right now and we would like to have you transfer yourselves in a body to Drake next week.

Dr. Jenkins spoke with much feeling and his voice quivered at times when he spoke of his long connection with the school and his interest in the students. He explained that at present there was no dental department at Drake but the Keokuk equipment had been turned over and Drake would open up a dental department as soon as arrangements could be made with the state board.

For that reason, the dental school here will be continued for a couple of weeks, but the medical school is now closed.

President Bell. President Bell of Drake University then addressed the students. He said that the merging was not thought of until three weeks ago and that they would not consider a proposition that the students would have to go to Drake whether they wished to or not.

He stated that they would make it to the advantage of the students to come to Drake in a body, although they were not compelled to, but can go wherever they wish.

The time has come, he said, when a medical school must be connected with a university. Standards are being raised and it has become harder to enter a medical school. You are fortunate in getting started when you have.

We will do all we can to assist you if you come to Drake. We have unexcelled clinics, good laboratories and good instructors. You can come at the same fees as you pay here and are free to leave at the end of the term if not satisfied and we will help you if you wish to change.

Great Regret. Great regret was being expressed in Keokuk today when the news began to leak out of the merging of the college and its abandonment here.

For years the Keokuk Medical college has been one of Keokuk's most useful institutions.

It has been a great advertisement to the city as well as a most profitable thing to the community for the students spent considerable money here each year.

The faculty, composed almost entirely of Keokuk physicians, have done noble work in keeping the institution up, with no profit to themselves and standing a loss during the past few years.

Since the establishment of the college, over three thousand graduates have been given diplomas and members of the alumni are scattered all over the world.

Drake University and Des Moines is to be congratulated upon securing this school which is so rich in history and memory in the medical profession. Over five hundred Iowa physicians hold diplomas from this school.

History of the College. The early history of the Keokuk Medical College, College of Physicians and Surgeons, harks back to Indiana. There, in Laporte, was its cradle and birth.

At the end of a year the weak infant was taken to Madison, Wisconsin, where it gained strength and became the medical department of the Wisconsin State University, then an institution on the edge of civilization in the far west, for this was before gold was discovered in California and about the time that Fremont was exploring the Rocky Mountain country.

In a year or two, in 1847, the medical department at Madison decided to establish a branch at Davenport, and in 1848, only a year later, the branch

became the whole college, the college by this amoeboid movement traveling across the Mississippi river. Its name then was the Medical College of the Upper Mississippi, the medical department of Wisconsin University, and it was the first medical college west of the Mississippi river.

It has always been a pioneer in advancement, being also the first college in the world to admit women on the same terms as men. After a year at Davenport, which the minutes of the faculty meetings disclose as an unsatisfactory year, a committee was appointed, say these same minutes, to go spy out the land in search of a more favorable location for the pioneer medical institution.

The committee reported a few months later and recommended Keokuk as the best place for the nurture of the medical college. The recommendation was adopted at the same meeting at which it was presented, and in 1849, the college came to Keokuk, taking the name, The College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk.

The greatest force in it then was Dr. D. L. McGugin, who had just come from Mount Vernon, Ohio; he was a scholarly scientist and literateur with a breadth and depth of learning that would make him famous today. He sent for his son-in-law, Dr. J. C. Hughes, who began as demonstrator of anatomy in the college, was soon after its dean and its executive for many years.

This man had wonderful capacity to organize and conduct large affairs, and not only wrote his name large in the medical history of the nation, but made the college one of wide influence and high reputation. Upon his death in the early eighties, his son, also Dr. J. C. Hughes, became dean and remained in that position until just before the amalgamation of the two Keokuk colleges, in 1899.

In the first faculty list occurs the name of Dr. Samuel G. Armor, afterwards of Long Island. Among the graduates are some famous names, including some who achieved success in other professions, especially in the practice of law. Justice Samuel F. Miller, of the United States supreme court, was a graduate of this college; Judge John Gibbons, of the Chicago bench, was also a student here.

A number of the clergy of Iowa, from Catholics and Episcopalists to Methodists, graduated in medicine from this college.

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In the meantime, certain changes in the status of the college occurred. Soon after coming to Keokuk, the legislature of Iowa made it the medical department of the State University of Iowa and it was all of that University at that time.

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where other departments had been built up and were in operation. So, the subtle of the medical department of the state university was dropped by this college, the name, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, having never varied from its incorporation originally.

Early in its history it graduated two classes each year. But it kept constantly in the front rank of advancing medical education, lengthening its terms and increasing the number of courses before graduation, as the times changed, to equal those of the most advanced schools in the country.

And thus it kept upon its historic way until 1899, just half a century from its arrival in Keokuk after the journey from Indiana through Wisconsin and Davenport.

The first building was at Second and Palean streets, an ideal building spot on a high bluff overlooking three states and the most powerful portion of the Mississippi river.

This frame building afterward burned to the ground. It was used for college purposes from 1849 to 1859. In the latter year what is now the Seventh street building of the college was finished and used for the first time.

It is one of the most solidly constructed buildings in the country, the admiration of building contractors today. Its architecture was a model for the building used by the Jefferson Medical college in Sanson street, Philadelphia, twenty-five years ago.

Its internal arrangement has been changed by the present administration, but it remains one of the best medical college buildings in the country.

On the organization of the Keokuk Medical College, that corporation bought the large building on Sixth street which was remodeled at great expense to suit the requirements of a modern medical college with its many laboratories and class rooms.

The Sixth street building was in use to date, all the buildings of the former two colleges being utilized under the larger plan of teaching now in use.

In 1890, the Keokuk Medical College was organized by men who had been successfully teaching in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Possessed of abundant capital, experience and energy, they were successful from the first, the year's enrollment being 143 students.

Of the incorporators of this college, Professors Jenkins and Scroggs are still in the faculty. For a few years there was the most intense rivalry and competition between the two colleges in Keokuk, this competition resulting in the improvement of both, as well as in the fight for supremacy which is now looked upon as only an interesting reminiscence by those who were its chief factors—and most of them were engaged in working for the resulting greater college, until it's close at the present time.

The Keokuk Medical College flourished to the great satisfaction of its faculty, students and alumni, constantly enlarging and improving. In 1899, diplomacy replaced more strenuous opposition. The College of Physicians and Surgeons was then owned by Mrs. Amanda T. Hughes, the widow of its real builder, the elder J. C. Hughes, the daughter of its first president, Dr. D. L. McGugin, the mother of its later executive, the younger Dr. J. C. Hughes.

A proposition that the Keokuk Medical College buy the College of Physicians and Surgeons was considered and debated by the two institutions during the spring of 1899, and finally terms were fixed for the sale of the older college to the corporation of the younger and the combination of the two colleges under the name, The Keokuk Medical College, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

It had graduates in every state in the union, and an alumni list of over three thousand.

So well known had Keokuk become known as a medical center that in 1897 it was determined to add a dental college to the corporation owning the medical college. Some of the best dentists and most practical and scientific teachers in the west became the first faculty of the Keokuk Dental College.

In 1900, the demand for a college pharmacy caused the installation of the Keokuk College of Pharmacy, as another department of the institution.

A school for trained nurses was also added.

The college property consists of the building on the corner of Seventh and Blondeau and the building occupied by The Gate City. These two buildings are retained by the faculty.

Several industries which have sprung into prominence and have increased in size and capacity have caused a great boom in the coal importation and a railroad man stated this morning that during the coming winter the railroads expects to bring more carloads of coal to Keokuk than in any year previous.

This condition will be gratifying to the railroads as there is no freight that they would rather haul than coal.

On last Monday the Wabash brought 23 carloads, or 920 tons, or 1,840,000 pounds of coal from the Springfield coal mines to Keokuk. This was one of the largest days for the transportation of coal for some time, but the

business has continued heavy throughout the week although the market established Monday is far ahead of that for any other day of the week.

The Burlington has also been bringing in much coal from the Iowa mines this going to local dealers.

The large consumers of coal in Keokuk are Hubinger Bros., the Water Works, Keokuk Electric Light Plant and Gas Co. The local dealers also come in for a large share of the coal received at this point and all consumers combined make a grand total of many cars a week during the winter months.

Possibly the largest consumer is Hubinger Bros. At the cereal works almost 100 tons are used each day. This means regularly two car loads and helps increase the total material.

This is a source of revenue for the railroads and especially during the winter months although many of the large consumers used a great deal of coal the year around.

Had a Close Call. Mrs. A. G. L. Croon, the widely known proprietor of the Croon hotel, Vaughn, Miss., says: "Fort several months I suffered with a severe cough and consumption seemed to have its grip on me, when a friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery. I began taking it, and three bottles affected a complete cure."

The fame of this life saving cough and cold remedy, and lung and throat healer is world wide. Sold at Wilkinson & Co.'s drug store, 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Keokuk merchants can buy a guaranteed circulation for their advertisements if they use The Gate City. There is no secrecy about the circulation of this paper. It is open to patrons.

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Winter will soon be with us, and with it your requirements for heavier wearing apparel can be supplied at this store, where great care has been taken to assemble all that is good in their respective departments.

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FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE

Will cure any case of Kidney or Bladder Disease not beyond the reach of medicine. No medicine can do more.

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Wabash Railroad Brought 920 Tons Here on Last Monday Which is a Record For Single Day.

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Breathe Hyomei and Kill the Loathsome Catarrh Germs.

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