

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL PROFESSION
1783 to 1850

BY

HENRY BURNELL SHAFER, A. M.

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THE
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TO MY FATHER
GEORGE BURNELL SHAFER
AND MY MOTHER
LOUISE McGINNIS SHAFER

PREFACE

DURING the years from 1783 to 1850, the medical profession was in transition from medieval customs to modern methods. The American medical profession shared in the problems of world medicine. At the same time, it faced the problems of a new and expanding country. This monograph examines medical practices in America during these years and traces the history of the American medical profession. As such, it is concerned with the regular, or allopathic, physician; other practitioners are discussed only incidentally as they impinge upon the development of the regular profession.

For the inception of this work and for scholarly guidance in much of it, I am deeply indebted to Dixon Ryan Fox, formerly Professor of History in Columbia University. After his departure to become president of Union College, Professor John A. Krout generously and helpfully gave his time and attention. I am also indebted to Professor E. B. Greene for many suggestions. Elizabeth Whitney Walther, Chester G. Curtiss and Wade B. Martin gave invaluable advice on the form of the manuscript. Dr. Francis R. Packard, editor of the *Annals of Medical History*, very kindly read the chapter on "The Practice of Physick." Helen C. Wilson has given constant help and encouragement. Naturally, I am fully responsible for any errors which may appear.

For reference material I am especially indebted to the staffs of the library of the Surgeon-General in Washington, D. C., the Philadelphia College of Physicians, the University of Pennsylvania, the Law School of the University of Penn-

sylvania, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the New York Academy of Medicine, the New York Historical Society, the Buffalo Historical Society, the Boston Medical Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the New York Public Library and the Library of the State of New York.

The section dealing with medical magazines is reprinted here with the permission of the *Annals of Medical History*.

Finally, no list of acknowledgments would be complete without an expression of gratitude to Kata Bokor and Andre Halász. I am indebted to them not only for valuable criticism, but for a friendship without which the preparation of much of this work would have been impossible.

H. B. S.

HADDON HEIGHTS,
24 MAY, 1936.

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Continuation of: *Philadelphia Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*.
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- Tennessee, Transactions and Proceedings of the Medical Society of the State of* . . . (Nashville, 1830-1850).

COLLEGE CATALOGS

The following is a list of the colleges and the years for which their catalogs, circulars or announcements, whatever their current name might be, have been used. The list begins with the New York Regent's report since that item includes: the Albany Medical College, Columbia Medical College, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City (with the exceptions of 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1837), the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District, Geneva Medical College and the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York.

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 Childs, Timothy, Day Book 1813-1834.
 Boston Medical Library, Boston, Massachusetts.
 Adams, Charles G., Ledger, September, 1824-1834.
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 Aspinwell, William, Account Book, 1791-1797.
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 Fox, George, Wallingford, Vermont, Day Book, 1809.
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 Pierson, A. L., Letter Book, 1823-1828.
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 Shattuck, G. C., Account Books, 1824-1842.
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- Kunz and Hayes, Day-Books, 1819-1828.
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- Turk, William, Journal, U. S. Surgeon.
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- Etting Collection, Physicians.
- Gratz Collection.
- Johnston Collection, 1824.
- Peters Manuscripts.
- Wallace Papers.
- The Day Books of Dr. Henry Pleasants for 1815 at Hamiltonville, Pennsylvania and Hamilton Village, 1834, have been used through the kind permission of the present Dr. Henry Pleasants, of Westchester, Pennsylvania.

FEE-TABLES

The following is a complete list of the fee-tables which have been used :

- Belmont (Ohio) Medical Society, 1847.
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- Charleston, 1792, 1804 and 1850.
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V I T A

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