

CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE

—
MEDICINE
—

MEDICAL EDUCATION STATISTICS FOR 1914.

The Journal A. M. A., August 22, 1914, the annual Educational Number, contains statistics of medical colleges, students and graduates for the year ending June 30, 1914. There were 16,502 students studying medicine this year, 513 less than in 1913. These are divided into 15,438 in the non-sectarian colleges, 794 in the homeopathic colleges, and 270 in the eclectic colleges.

There were 3,594 medical graduates this year, 387 less than in 1913, and 889 less than were graduated in 1912. The non-sectarian colleges had 3,370; the homeopathic had 154, and the eclectic had 70. This is the lowest number of graduates since 1890.

There are six less colleges than in 1913, the total now being 101, consisting of 87 non-sectarian, 10 homeopathic, and 4 eclectic colleges.

Since 1904, 85 medical schools have been closed, 49 of which were merged into other medical schools and 35 became extinct. During the same time twenty-four new colleges were organized, making a net reduction of 61 colleges. This reduction in the number of medical schools is not restricting the opportunities of students to study medicine but is insuring them a better training. The large over-supply of medical schools in this country, is giving way to a more normal supply of better equipped colleges. Of the 85 colleges which closed, 62 had been rated in Classes B and C by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association. A large majority of those closed, therefore, were inferior colleges.

The marked reductions in the numbers of medical colleges, students and graduates is the reaction which would naturally follow the stupendous over-supply which this country possessed ten years ago. There would be no possibility of a scarcity of physicians in this country for years to come, even though the number of medical schools was again reduced by half.

Women students constituted 3.8 per cent. of all students, and of all graduates, 3.4 per cent. were women. Statistics show that college terms are being gradually lengthened. In 1901, 100 colleges had annual sessions of only 23 to 28 weeks each. Now only two colleges have such short sessions and about 95 per cent. have sessions of from 31 to 36 weeks. In 1904 only 42 per cent. of the colleges had sessions of 31 or more weeks.