

### WOLCOTT ANSWERS MEDICAL COLLEGE REMOVAL REPORTS

IN LETTER TO THE LEGISLATURE TAKES EXCEPTION.

### CREIGHTON DOES NOT CONTROL

Equipment for This Branch of Work at Lincoln Does Not Compare With Other Schools.

Considerable comment has been caused by different rumors concerning the removal of the medical college. There have been many arguments both pro and con, and several so-called "reports." The Nebraskan last Wednesday published a report which has not met with favor and which, with others, has been excepted to by members of the faculty. The following letter has been addressed to the legislature by Dean Wolcott:

Lincoln, Neb., March 22, 1911.

To the Members of the Legislature, Capitol, Lincoln.

Gentlemen:

Two circular letters referring to the medical college situation have recently been sent you, and both require some explanation and correction.

The "report" from the "alumni" as it appears in the public press might be understood to indicate that the signers were a committee of the Alumni association of the university, or of the Alumni association of the college of medicine. Such an inference is, however, unwarranted. It should be understood that the signers, if they represent any persons except themselves, represent at most a small group of men. While they are graduates of the academic colleges of the university, only one of them was ever registered in the college of medicine, the others having taken their medical work at eastern schools.

#### Objections Answered.

Taking up certain of their objections by number:

First: It would not be necessary to amend the university charter, since the general enactment requiring that all buildings be located within four miles of the state capitol would be repealed, in so far as the building under consideration is concerned, by any specific enactment which provided for its location on the Omaha medical campus.

Fourth: Not all the work of these departments would need to be duplicated; some of the work outlined could be transferred to Omaha without great extra cost to the state.

Seventh: The circumstances that lead fewer students to go to Omaha each year are due to the fact that that portion of the college receives no state support. If this support were forthcoming it would be possible to correct this condition. The falling off of the attendance at Omaha was due at first to the fact that in 1902 the first two years of work there were discontinued and prospective students advised to go to the university at Lincoln. Since that time there has been a steady increase in the entrance and course requirements which has held the total figures much below the former attendance at Omaha. The number of students in the "report" referred to is given at 165. The total, however, registered in the college of medicine this year is 198, which number includes students registered in the medical college from the affiliated school of dentistry and in the school of pharmacy. The number of students that would be moved to Omaha if they were transferred now with the transferring of the two middle years of the course would be 50.

Circular by Lincoln Doctors.

In addition to the above corrections and explanations, the circular signed by some forty Lincoln doctors de-

serves attention. Taking the points up again by number:

First: The present equipment of the university for medical work at Lincoln is by no means ideal, and is not to be compared with the equipment at Minnesota, Iowa, Washington university at St. Louis, and many other institutions in the central states. The medical laboratories share with all the laboratories of the university, cramped quarters and inadequate equipment, and that the university and the college of medicine have been able to maintain the rank among other universities and colleges which they have maintained in the past and hold today, is due to the ability and hard work of the members of the faculty rather than to the equipment with which they have to work.

Fourth: The argument against the divided school applies to conditions at Omaha as well as at Lincoln. If a complete four-year course is given at Omaha it seems from past experience and conditions as they exist in the student body today, that students will cease almost entirely to go to eastern schools.

#### As to Creighton College.

Creighton Medical College does not "control practically all the clinical material in Douglas county."

Of the "doctors" signing the circular, approximately one-third are eclectics, many of them connected with an eclectic medical college; six are dentists; two are homeopathic physicians; two are osteopaths; one is a graduate of Creighton university. The names of four are not in the standard medical directories. It would appear that of the 42 signers, only 16 are regular physicians, or have been in the practice of medicine long enough to have their names admitted to the current medical directories. The total number of physicians in Lincoln according to Polk's last medical directory is 140.

The writer does not wish to enter into any controversy in the matter, but desires the legislature to have these facts in mind in coming to a decision. He vouches personally for the accuracy of the statements made in this letter, but at the same time it should be understood that this is written after consultation with the authorities at the head of the institution, and is sent with their permission and approval.

Very sincerely yours,  
ROBT. H. WOLCOTT,  
Acting Dean, College of Medicine.

#### LAW BASEBALL TEAM BUSY.

Several Games This Week and Lincoln League in Line.

The law baseball team has been practicing daily at 3 p. m., and is getting down to mid-season form. Several games, one to be played this week and the Lincoln league team is to be taken on some time next week. Inasmuch as varsity ball has been eliminated the lawyers are determined to turn out a team of equal caliber from their own ranks. From an account of the wealth of material to be had in the law school, it seems almost certain that they are to succeed in their endeavors to put forth a representative school team.

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