

'Far East' Campus Trains Doctors, Nurses

EDITOR'S NOTE: Miss Morian is completing a journalism internship with United Press International in Omaha this summer. She wrote the following story in her time off last week.

By Lynne Morian

When Ag College surrendered its maiden name to the more sophisticated title of East Campus, speculation arose that the College of Medicine in Omaha would naturally be called the Far East Campus.

The University of Nebraska College of Medicine, located nearly 50 miles from the hub of Lincoln activity might as well be located in the Far East for as much as Lincoln students know about their metropolis co-college.

The College of Medicine is located in the Omaha Medical Center on 42nd and Dewey Avenue in what has been tabbed the "medical capital of the central west."

Surrounding the sister campus are the Children's Memorial Hospital, Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital, Doctors Office Building and the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, itself a University sibling.

New Approach

The Omaha Medical Center uses a relatively new approach to teaching. That is to build a diversity of private hospitals around a col-

lege of medicine, providing the medical students a wider spectrum of medical education, treatment and research. The hospital complex, so to speak, brings the ailments to the interns, giving them exposure to many different health problems in a variety of special settings . . . all necessary for a well-rounded medical education.

Pete Boughn, public relations director for the College of Medicine said that through the cooperation of the different hospitals in the medical complex, the students are given exposure to most medical problems.

The surrounding buildings were built on more than 30-acres of University-owned property which was sold to the individual institutions for purposes of building the complex. The land itself forms a self-contained campus.

The history of the College of Medicine closely resembles the territorial capital struggle between Lincoln and Omaha.

On May 22, 1889, the same year that the Universitas Nebraskensis was founded, an attempt was made to establish the first school of medicine in Nebraska. It was called the Omaha Medical College, which was incorporated under the laws of the state but never actually opened.

The trustees who had arranged the preliminary work felt the enterprise was premature. They visualized many

obstacles and abandoned the work.

However, historic records say at the end of the 20 weeks, the students found they had learned something of medicine and the Nebraska School of Medicine was judged an unqualified success.

The success of the founding medical school convinced many that a well-equipped medical college was demanded by the state.

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Last year 25 per cent of the graduates went into general practice compared to 65 per cent in 1940.

But Boughn said, "Small towns don't have a demand for specialists."

On May 1, the College of Medicine became the third medical college in the nation to create the position on their faculty for a professor of general practice.

The College of Medicine has a full-time faculty totaling 111. There are 59 part-time faculty members and 341 volunteer instructors who practice medicine full-time and lecture occasionally. They are unsalaried.

In addition to working with students, faculty members work on research projects. In fact, almost every faculty member has at least one research grant.

The Nebraska Psychiatric Institute gets the most and largest grants.

National Attention

A recent project won national attention and acclaim when Dr. Henry Lemon, director of Eppley Cancer Institute at the College of Medicine, attended the American Medical Association convention in New York City in June.

Lemon said that research at the Eppley Institute discovered that breast cancer may be inhibited by a better balancing of sex hormones.

The Eppley Institute for Cancer Research and Allied Diseases is the newest building on the campus. It formally opened in 1963 and is an integral part of the college devoted to basic research leading to the further understanding of cancer and other diseases associated with it.

The Institute was built with a \$2.5 million grant from the Eugene C. Eppley Foundation, plus some state and federal money.

Patients Charged

Patients are charged for the University's services. State law says the college can only charge four dollars a day to care for patients.

Patients sent to the college by a welfare agency are billed through that same agency which determines how much the patient can afford, depending on his income.

The hospital and clinics provide a full range of service

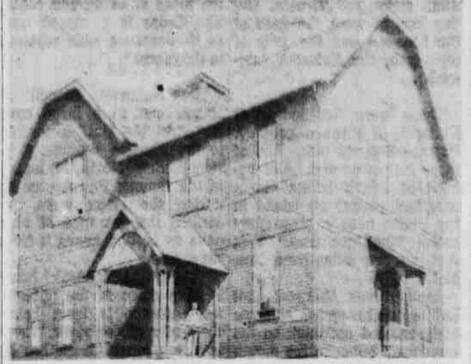
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Expand Facilities

Boughn said, "You can't expand the medical students



The College of Medicine got its start in this building in 1881.

ed May 22, 1881, was called the Omaha Medical College. The modern medical college relocated in a building that contained two large lecture rooms, laboratory, library and museum room, patients' rooms, dissecting and anatomists' rooms and cost the sum of \$4,266.

The Omaha Medical College opened its door to eight students in October, 1881, and the following March, the first commencement was held.

Degree Requirements

Requirements for the degree of Doctor of Medicine were somewhat more lenient than modern times. Any 18-year old with a creditable English education and good moral character could obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

About the same time, the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, supposedly wanting to ride the crest of success of medical schools, established the University Medical College in 1883 in University Hall in Lincoln. At the time, everything was housed in University Hall . . . it being one of the only buildings on campus.

The medical school was allotted half of the two largest rooms on the first floor of the north wing. The museum occupied the other half. A partition was thrown across the middle of the room and an amphitheater built.

Although University Hall was heated by stoves, the room was cold and just as well, for the anatomical material for the professor of anatomy was kept in the space under the raised seats.

Murder Mystery

Records describing the University's medical college read like a murder mystery.

"The dissecting room was in another part of the city (Lincoln) and was in constant danger of the police looking

were out our good "subject." The details of many of these and other experiences would make interesting reading for the modern medical student."

The University Medical School in Lincoln only lasted four years, but the Omaha pioneer still prospered. By 1893 the Omaha Medical College had again moved, this time into a \$20,000 new brick and stone building at 12th and Pacific.

In May, 1902, the University of Nebraska entered into an agreement of affiliation with the Omaha Medical College which was terminated in 1913 when the University of Nebraska formally took over instruction in medicine in Omaha.

Beginning in 1902, medical students took the first two years of their four-year medical course in Lincoln and the last two in Omaha. The move in 1913 changed the Omaha Medical College to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

Legislature Appropriates

In 1909 the Nebraska state legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of a medical campus in Omaha, but the building endowment did not materialize. And in 1911, the legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the first building on the medical campus.

The 1911 appropriation encountered opposition from two sources. Lincoln opposed the bill because it wanted the medical college located in Lincoln with the University. Creighton University, the only other medical college in Nebraska located in Omaha, also urged the defeat of the bill because they felt that one medical college in Omaha was enough.

Despite Creighton and Lincoln efforts, the College of Medicine stayed in Omaha.

Proposed for the future are a new hospital, library and basic science building.

The state legislature has approved a proposed new hospital and basic science building for late 1968. The University of Nebraska has not yet applied for a new library for the Omaha campus.

According to Pete Boughn, the federal government will match funds for construction of the hospital and basic science building, and if Congress passes the Medical Library Assistance Act, the government will also match funds for the proposed library.

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Five-year old Larry Kennedy of Omaha relaxes while senior student Bruce Rice examines him in the Pediatrics Clinic at the College of Medicine. Overseeing the student's examination is Dr. Dorothy Smith, assistant professor of Pediatrics at the College.

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College Born 1880

Not until 1880, was the real medical college born under the name of the Nebraska School of Medicine and Surgery.

The aim of the institution was expressed in the following record. "It is the mature judgment of our leading physicians, as well as prominent citizens of other business pursuits, that the time has arrived for the establishment of a medical school in our state."

So the Nebraska School of Medicine began in a building later known as the Dewey Hotel at 13th and Farnam Streets in Omaha with the first class consisting of one dentist, one preacher, one old Eclectic, a shoemaker, a druggist, a clerk, two women and two young men. The

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in obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, orthopedics, urology, dermatology, physical medicine radiology, neurology, psychiatry, plastic surgery and dental surgery.

College of Medicine plans to take two interns from the College of Pharmacy in Lincoln and both graduate and undergraduate dental students.

A 1964 report to the Medical College by the Liaison Committee on medical education read, "The physical facilities are still grossly inadequate for the needs of a modern medical school. The plans for the future sound encouraging."

The College of Medicine responded. "There have been improvements in the physical facilities but they do not keep pace with the rising standards of medical school. The need for a new library and a basic science building is widely recognized. We feel it is urgent."

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