

A Look At The Record

Diligence Achieved Medical School

Foundation Pursued Objective Through Long, Tortuous Paths

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WHEN the Ohio Senate on Thursday passed the bill which created a state medical school in Toledo, it brought to a successful conclusion one of the most difficult and prolonged promotional projects ever undertaken by a group of local citizens.

The medical school is established by state law, bringing to an end the initial—or state—phase of the project. The next major step will be to seek and obtain federal funds for construction of the medical center.

For more than four years the Toledo group sustained a drive to locate a medical school here, surviving all sorts of problems and unexpected circumstances. When the project started, a Democratic administration controlled the state government. At that time, the plan was referred to an advisory commission on higher education.

ABOUT MIDWAY in the campaign, the administration changed to Republican and an entirely new and powerful body—the board of regents—was created to deal with higher education.

Even at the end, anxiety was not entirely lacking, for no one could be completely sure that a partisan battle in the legislative special session would not, somehow, kill off the medical school.

The idea of a medical college in Toledo of course is not a new one. Just 50 years ago, the first Toledo Medical College closed its doors, unable to maintain standards with slender resources in an age that was becoming increasingly exacting about the training of doctors.

DURING THE latter part of its 32 years (1882-1914) of existence, the old Toledo Medical College was affiliated with the University of Toledo.

Still in existence is the board of trustees of the old Toledo Medical College. A self-perpetuating body, the board appointed new members to fill vacancies as old members died or retired. Chief function of the board is to administer the fund which derived from the sale of the old medical college building on Cherry St.

The medical college building fund now amounts to about \$45,000, according to Dr. Howard H. M. Bowman, secretary of the old Toledo Medical College board of trustees.

Dr. Bowman said that when the new medical school gets under way, the fund will be turned over to

the new board, and the old Toledo Medical College board will cease to exist.

THE DESIRE and need for a medical school at the university did not end with the old college, and many interested themselves in trying to get a new institution started. An effort in this direction was made about 10 years ago. A committee was appointed, experts were consulted, and state and local aid was solicited. But the financing problem remained unsolved, and the project came to nothing.

The present successful campaign for a medical school was launched more than four years ago, in September, 1960. Following preliminary discussions by interested persons, the TU board of directors asked Mayor Michael Damas to appoint a committee to look into the matter.

THE MAYOR named a 12-member group which subsequently elected Dr. Frank F. A. Rawling chairman. In November, 1961, the committee incorporated as the Toledo Area Medical College and Education Foundation.

The first expert consulted by the TAMCEF was Dr. William R. Willard, vice president of the University of Kentucky and dean of its medical school. In Novem-

ber, 1960, Dr. Willard recommended that a survey be made, and was hired to do the job the following summer.

Dr. Willard made his report in October, 1961. In it he demonstrated that Ohio needed a new medical school and pointed out that Toledo had a number of qualifications. Dr. Willard thought it would be 10 years before TU would have a graduate school of the proper quality to supplement the medical school.

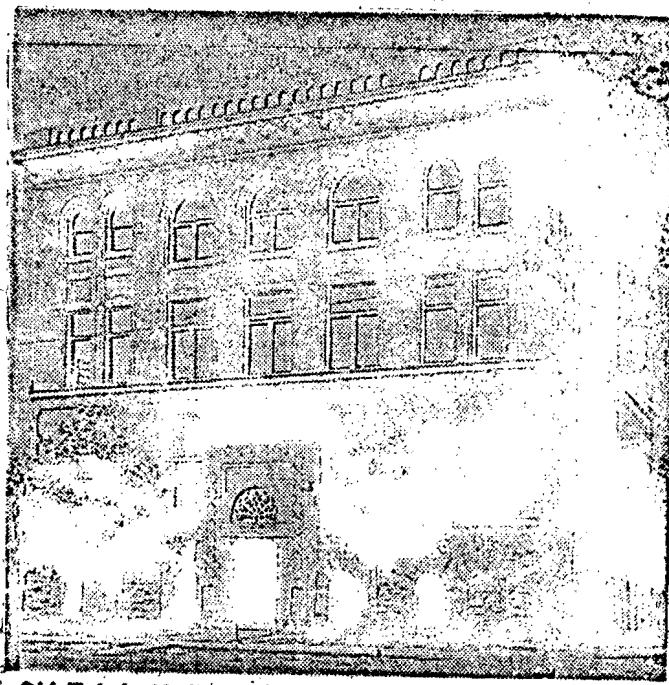
In February, 1962, a state consultant recommended that Ohio begin at once to plan for two new medical schools. Dr. John W. Patterson, dean of the Vanderbilt University medical school, told Governor DiSalle's Interim Commission on Education Beyond the High School that Cleveland, Akron, Dayton, and Toledo all deserved consideration as possible sites.

A few days later the TAMCEF formally voted to work for a medical college in Toledo. The TU board of directors set aside about 60 acres as the site for the school.

IN MARCH, Dr. Patterson came to TU accompanied by Dr. John B. Truslow, dean of the University of Texas medical school, and Dr. Gordon H. Scott, dean of the Wayne State University medical school.

The Toledo presentation made a good impression on the visitors, but there was plenty of competition. The president of Ohio State informed the Interim Commission that the OSU medical school should be expanded before any new school was built. Kent State, Akron, and Dayton all put in claims.

Turn to Page 2, Col. 6



Old Toledo Medical College on Cherry Street, since razed

Medical College For Toledo

Continued From First Page

But in April, the Patterson committee recommended to the Interim Commission that Toledo be the site for a new medical school. Toledo was to learn, however, that this was only the beginning.

IN SEPTEMBER the Interim Commission held hearings at which Toledo and its rivals presented their competing claims. In December the Interim Commission recommended Toledo as the site of a new medical school, but said first priority should go to improving the OSU medical school.

State Sen. Frank King (D., Toledo) was a member of the Interim Commission and was influential in obtaining a favorable recommendation from that body.

Dr. John D. Millett, then president of Miami University, and State Sen. Ross Pepple (R., Lima) were two commission members who disagreed with the majority verdict for Toledo. Subsequently both became supporters of the Toledo project.

EARLY IN January, 1963, the new General Assembly convened and legislation was prepared authorizing a Toledo medical school. Akron and Dayton supporters, ignoring the recommendation of the Interim Commission, also prepared bills favoring their communities.

All bills were introduced in the House, and hearings on them were held by the House Education Committee. Dr. Rawling, Dr. William S. Carlson, TU president, and other Toledoans appeared before the committee in April, but it was already apparent that the Legislature was not going to act on the Toledo bill, or on any of the others.

A new factor was in the process of creation—the Ohio Board of Regents. The new Rhodes administration and the Legislature decided that the medical school question should be reserved

for the regents as soon as that body was ready to function. The Toledo bill was allowed to die in committee.

THE NINE-MEMBER Board of Regents, designed to be the coordinating and controlling agency for public higher education in Ohio, was named in September. The same month Congress passed a federal aid for medical schools bill, and action on the TU project became a matter of some urgency.

Federal money could be used to build the medical school, but the state would have to authorize the school before application for federal funds could be made.

In November, the regents for the first time took official cognizance of the proposed medical center in Toledo. But the real need was for Toledo to be formally designated as the site for a new state medical school. In January of this year Dr. Carlson requested such designation from Dr. Harold Oyster, chairman of the regents.

THE REGENTS' answer came at their March meeting, and was buttressed by an attorney general's opinion—the regents could only recommend a medical school site as an integral part of its master plan for higher education in Ohio.

This study was just getting under way, and it appeared that another long delay was ahead. Would the experts' study made for the Interim Commission now be duplicated by the regents?

Finally, a group of Akron citizens appeared at the March meeting and petitioned the regents to put a medical school in their city. The competition had not quit.

IN APRIL the regents made it plain that they were going to move quickly. Dr. K. E. Penrod, head of the medical center at West Virginia University, was appointed to make a master

plan survey of medical education needs in Ohio, and the regents gave his project high priority. The results could be made public and acted upon before the master plan as a whole was completed.

Dr. Penrod made his survey in May, and made full use of the material prepared for the Interim Commission, which shortened the time. Dr. Penrod also recommended Toledo, but the summer recess intervened, and the regents did not act until September.

THE REGENTS then recommended Toledo as the site for a new state college of medicine. Instead of operating the institution on contract with TU, which had been the original plan, the regents recommended a separate state institution with its own board of trustees. But close association with the university was assured with the school to be built on the TU campus.

Governor Rhodes accepted the regents' recommendation, and made it an administration measure. His steady support got the bill through the Legislature and made the medical school a reality.

WHEN THE General Assembly convened in special session last month, the medical school bill quickly cleared hearings in the House Education Committee. The Toledo bill passed the House 112 to 0 on Nov. 11, and went to the Senate State Government Committee.

The bill became bogged down in politics, and was held up by the Senate more than a month. But when it finally cleared the Senate on Thursday, the vote was 33 to 0.

As an emergency measure it went into effect on Friday when the governor signed it. Governor Rhodes soon will appoint a board of nine trustees.