QUINQUENNIAL CATALOGUE OF THE DENTAL SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 1869-1900

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Quinquennial Catalogue of the Dental School of Harvard University, 1869-1900 by Waldo E. Boardman

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WALDO E. BOARDMAN

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Quinquennial Catalogue

OF THE

DENTAL SCHOOL

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

1869–1900



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CONTENTS.

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223.0000.000																								4
PREFACES																								
	1.1																					•	•	1
HONORARY DEGREES																							•	1
CHRONOLOGICAL LIST																						÷		5
GEOGRAPHICAL LIST .																	٠		•					1
ALPHABETICAL LIST .	• •	•	•	Š	•	•	•	1	1	٠	*	•	•	٠	•		•	•	*	•	9	٥	ð.	1
						_	_	_	_	-11														
				5	31	I	Ω	1/	\ F	2Y														
Whole number of past	теп	b	ere				114				:					114	÷				·		696	
Graduates of the S	cho	Ic	•			•				•										4	28	Ď.		
Non-Graduates .																								
	8183		95		36 36			250	3	28		68		929	48		80	05		-				
and the contract of the contra		1																						
Graduates of Harvard																					11			
Graduates of other Uni							- 17		- "		11.7	- 11	1.7		771						17			
Non-Graduates					٠				÷		٠						•			€	68		696	
Graduates of Profession	nal f	Se	ha	ol	R	002	150			521	32	83	252	233		82	21	45	2	13.	100		146	
Non-Graduates from a																							185	
					36	_	_		00.=															
Number known to be de	ead				9 	٠.															69			
Number known to be li																				6	05	ě		
Number not accounted	for		•																		22	ĕ		
āi.																							696	
	12 142122	10.00			293	650			its.				0000		1150	Ť.								
Number of graduates o																					82			
Number of graduates of																					29			
Number of past member																					29			
Number of past member																					63			
Number of graduates r	esidi	ng	3 11	b	rou	ıd	٠	٠	٠	٠	9	٠	٠	٠	٠		•	٠	•		76			
Number of non-gradua	tes r	es	id	in	g	ab	ro	ad	٠	٠	•			٠	٠	•	•	•	Ť		28		99	
Number of countries in	wh	icl	ı t	he	v	re	sic	le		0	89	3	50		:	90	5				18		99	
Number of past member																					69			
Transpor or boot memor		-		-				-	-61	~31	~11	-	-4.			•	•	•			00			

PREFACE TO QUINQUENNIAL OF 1897.

The preparation of the present catalogue was first suggested by the President of the University early in the past year and brought before the Alumni Association at its 25th Annual Meeting June 22, 1896 — who voted that the Council have charge of the subject. At the first meeting of the Council in July, the Secretary was instructed to prepare the Quinquennial Catalogue for publication. The Secretary entered upon this work in the following August, and in March, 1897, had the complete manuscript ready for the press after a laborious task in searching the records of the School from Nov. 1, 1868.

Of course the objects of the Association made it important that as many as possible of the former students of the School should be immediately communicated with; and yet there was in existence only a partial printed list of such students, and the only manuscript list in existence was that contained in the original records of the School, in which the names of the students were given only in the order, in point of time, in which they entered the School. As nearly as possible the precise date is given when every student entered the School.

A systematic effort was made to ascertain, not only who of the former students of the School were dead, but also when and where they died. It was evident, however, that this effort would involve ascertaining, so far as possible, the present addresses of those who were still living; for, as there could seldom be certainty that any particular person was dead unless the time and place of his death were known, so there could seldom be certainty that any particular person was still living, unless his address was known. Moreover, it was evident that those who were still living would be among the very best sources of information as to those who were dead. Accordingly, the labor was entered upon of ascertaining either the present address, or the time and place of the death, of every man who had ever been in the School.

As to those who were graduates of colleges, recourse was first had in many instances to their respective colleges. This method was the means of ascertaining very fully who of the graduates of colleges were dead, and, in many cases, when and where they died. In some instances the addresses of living men have been obtained through their respective colleges of which they were graduates.

Recourse was next had to directories; and the list of dentists in every city and town of the United States, including the published Dental Register of the United States, and the Medical Register of the United States, wherever such list could be found in any printed directory, was carefully examined: in this way the addresses of a large number of living men were obtained. No address obtained in this way could be used, however, without further evidence that the person whose address was found was the same person who was in the Dental School, and not a different person with the same or a similar name.

Accordingly the next step was to address cards of inquiry to all persons whose addresses had been obtained from directories and registers; and no address has been given in the catalogue on the authority of a directory alone.

The next step was to send to every man whose address had been obtained, either in one of the ways just indicated or in any other way, printed lists of the men who left the School in the same year that he did, or in the years immediately preceding or following.

Printed above the lists was an explanatory clause, indicating the amount and kind of information wanted, accompanied by a printed postal card requesting a return of the card, with such of the desired information as the recipient was able to give.

These circulars were responded to in a manner which was very gratifying. Fears were entertained that many of those gentlemen best qualified to give the information desired would be too heavily burdened with professional or official duties, or would be unwilling to undertake the labor which a compliance with the request contained in the circular would impose upon them. Experience, however, soon showed that these fears were wholly groundless. In numerous instances, gentlemen whom, for one or both reasons just stated, it seemed wrong to trouble at all, not only returned the postal cards filled, and in some instances with their margins crowded with valuable information, but also wrote long and interesting letters.

It was inevitable, however, that much of the information obtained through these circulars and lists should be incomplete, and also that much of it should be given only by way of hint and suggestion, and as a basis for further enquiry; and therefore there resulted an enormous amount of correspondence, having for its object the obtaining of precise information as to particular men. Not unfrequently as many as from five to twelve letters have been written with reference to a single person. This was owing to the fact that many did not understand the circulars, as many had entered and left the School, or afterward changed to the Medical or some other School.

Nearly 1500 letters, postals, and circulars have been sent out with reference to this catalogue, and the number from whom answers to these circulars have been received is 510; therefore there can be no doubt as to the present correctness of their addresses as given in this issue. The addresses of the remaining 34 are given in accordance with the latest information in my possession.

In the case of men whom the circular could not have reached (it having been returned to me through the post) the address as given in the catalogue is followed by a note of interrogation. The number of addresses so marked is 4.

A great amount of information having been thus obtained, both as to the addresses of living men and as to deaths, it was still a question how far this information should be embodied in the catalogue; but it was concluded that it would be a mistake to omit any of it; and accordingly the present addresses of all living men have been given in the chronological list, so far as they have been ascertained, and the names of all those who are known to be dead are not only marked with an asterisk, but the times and places of their births and deaths are given so far as known.

While it would be too much to hope that the information thus given is free from errors, it is proper to say that no pains have been spared to avoid mistakes and to insure correctness. In particular, great care has been taken that the name of no one as to whose death there was supposed to be any doubt, should be marked with an asterisk.

In the chronological list, to the name of every graduate of a college or other educational institution are added his degree, the college from which he received it, and the year in which he graduated; to