

11/01 Medical Education

What is the Medical Profession?

- Privilege and responsibility: right to perform duties, restrict membership
- Now regulated by state and federal governments
- Complex education and licensing

The Colonial Profession?

- Professional status and prestige in London, but not elsewhere in England
- Massachusetts: licensing regulations in 1649
- Lack of real oversight or regulation

Colonial Education and Licensure

- No medical schools in colonies until 1765
- Apprenticeships
- European medical schools: an option for wealthy elites
- Self-education and self-profession as doctors
- Limited regulations, with major loopholes
- Professional self-improvement? Massachusetts Medical Society, 1781

Medical Education in the 1800s

- 3 schools in 1800, 22 by 1830, 42 by 1850, 162 by 1906
- Proprietary schools and the profit motive
- Competition and declining standards: diploma mills
- Erosion of prestige, loss of licensing regulations
- Demoralization and failed reforms

Prospects for Change?

- German model of scientific medicine
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 1893