American Medical Institutions

Kill or Cure
University of Warwick
Outline

❖ Social and Political Context: America 1830-1920
❖ Medical Education and Medical Schools
❖ Hospitals in America
❖ Early 19th Century Hospitals
❖ Clinical Hospitals of the mid-19th Century
❖ Hospitals and the Medical Revolution in early 20th century
❖ Summary
Overview

- Trace transformation of American hospital from undesirable, charitable institution for the poor to mecca of modern medical technology
- Highlight social, political, educational, technological forces that define and drive this transformation
Hospitals in America: Then and Now

- 2000
  - Primary site of medical care
  - Primarily serve paying patients
  - Registered hospitals in America: 5564
  - Dominated by tools, scientific testing and techniques, technology
Hospitals in America: Then and Now

- **1800**
  - Insignificant aspect of medical care
  - Primarily serve sick poor
  - Total Hospitals in America: 2
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Changes in the American Context
1800-1930

❖ Geographic Change
❖ Population Growth
❖ Economic Changes
❖ Progressivism (roughly 1890-1920)
Progressivism, Medicine, and Health

- Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)
- Re-organisation of American Medical Association (AMA)
- Changes in Medical Education
  - Johns Hopkins University (1873), Hospital (1889), and Medical School (1893)
  - Flexner Report (1910)
Johns Hopkins, Medical Education, and the Teaching Hospital

Johns Hopkins, 1795-1873

Johns Hopkins Medical School, 1893
Medicine, Laboratory Science, and Clinical Practice

William Halsted, 1852-1922

William Osler, 1849-1919
Teaching Hospitals

1889

Johns Hopkins Hospital
Flexner Report, 1910

MEDICAL EDUCATION
IN THE
UNITED STATES AND CANADA
A REPORT TO
THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING
BY
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
HENRY S. PRITCHETT
PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION

BULLETIN NUMBER FOUR (1910)
(Reproduced in 1950)
(Reproduced in 1978)

437 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY 10022
First American Hospitals: Early 19th Century

- First American Hospitals
  - Pennsylvania Hospital (1756)
  - New York Hospital (1771)
  - Massachusetts General Hospital (1811)
- Charitable institution, focused on care of sick poor
- Hospital admission policy reflected ecology of desperation
Hospital and Medical Revolution, early 20th Century

- Social Factors
  - Economic opportunity
  - Women in the workforce
  - Urbanisation

- Medical / Scientific Factors
  - Medical Education
  - Laboratory Science
  - Surgery, antisepsis, asepsis
  - Technology in the hospital - New instruments
Summary

❖ Shift from charitable, social institution to care for the sick-poor in the early 19th century to scientific, medical institution for the care of sick, paying patients in the early 20th century

❖ Hospital was response to social, economic, cultural, and educational forces

❖ To survive turn-of-the-century transition to costly modern medicine, hospitals adopt strategies to increase revenue

❖ Next week: Discuss early insurance programs and 20th century healthcare reform in America