DR. LYDIA ALLEN DE VILBISS
Who ranks as a major on the inactive service list of the United States Public Health Service, and who is one of the foremost public health authorities in the country, now occupies the chair of Public Health Administration at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

DR. MAUDE E. ABBOTT
Formerly Lecturer in Pathology, and successor to the late Sir William Osler as Curator of the Pathological Museum of McGill University, Montreal, Canada, who, on leave of absence from McGill, is now Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN*

LILLIAN WELSH, M. D.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to share with you today the formal opening of the seventy-fourth year of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Of the 95 medical colleges in the United States, only 14 are older than this one. No chapter in the history of the feminist movement in our country beginning in the first quarter of the last century and extending to the time when the thirty-sixth State ratified the Susan B. Anthony amendment will make a human document of greater interest and value than that which traces the origin and progress of women in medicine. It is largely in the records and publications of this college that the historian of this movement must seek material. The history of the College itself can be briefly stated. It was organized in 1850 as the first college in the world to train women for the practice of medicine and surgery; it was made necessary by the practical exclusion of women from existing schools for men. Incorporated by a board of men with a broad vision and a deep sense of justice; opened in a small building on Arch street purchased and adapted for the purpose; forced to provide its own clinical facilities for teaching its students; persecuted and ostracized by the profession-at-large, it had by the year 1875 been so firmly established that it was able to erect what was then an adequate building for teaching purposes. This was made possible primarily by a bequest of Isaac Barton, one of its faithful and devoted corporators. In these twenty-five years the College had

*Address delivered at the opening of the Seventy-fourth Annual Session of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, September 26, 1923.