

Alfred Garlock, in 1849; C. J. Fearing, in 1851; Oscar H. Chipman, February 28, 1852; Sterling W. Allen, in 1852, and D. W. Bliss, in 1854. Dr. Bowman was a classmate of Dr. O. H. Chipman, and had practiced in Canada. He practiced here for nine years, dying in 1859. Dr. Fearing was a Rhode Island man. He lived here only two years.

The practice of medicine and surgery in Grand Rapids has kept pace with the advancement of the science elsewhere, the physicians who located here when Grand Rapids was an Indian trading post were educated and progressive. More than fifty years ago both common and caroted arteries were successfully ligated by local doctors, the patient living in good health for many years afterward. A medical society was early organized, bringing the physicians together for interchange of thought and experience. This organization, under different names, has been continuously maintained, and at present, known as the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine, consists of forty-one members. The Kent County Medical Society, an auxiliary branch of the State Society, was instituted three years ago. It has a membership of about 100. The hospitals of the city have been largely built up by the gratuitous work of the medical profession, as no one of them is endowed. Five Grand Rapids physicians have been honored with the Presidency of the State Society, and Grand Rapids surgeons and specialists are among those most widely known of Michigan practitioners.

The trials, discouragements, difficulties and dangers which those old medical heroes were compelled to undergo can scarcely be comprehended in these days of advanced civilization. The inhabitants of the village being too few to furnish sufficient support, the surrounding country, for miles in every direction, must be traversed by the overworked, underfed doctor. Nor were the dangers incident to long country trips insignificant; for with angry rivers to ford and primeval forests to traverse where, oftentimes, the only indication of a path^{way} through would be the blazing of trees, in addition to which the liability of losing one's way, and the possibility of a personal contact with wild beasts ever forced itself upon the mind, the doctor had anything but an easy life. The pecuniary return, also, for such labor was meager and uncertain; many of the accounts in those days being paid in shingles and orders on Amos Roberts