

#DM2002-14

"FIRST DENTAL SCHOOL"

IN THE EARLY 1800'S, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 1,200 DENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY WERE TAUGHT BY TEXT BOOKS, AND FEW PRACTICED DENTISTRY EXCLUSIVELY.

HORACE HAYDEN AND CHAPIN AARON HARRIS WERE TWO MEN WHO FELT THAT THROUGH PROPER DENTAL TRAINING, THE PUBLIC COULD BE SERVED BETTER. THEY SET OUT WITH HOPES OF OPENING A DENTAL SCHOOL INDEPENDENTLY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

IN 1840, THE BALTIMORE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGERY WAS FOUNDED. STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE COLLEGE FOR 2 YEARS, AND IN TOTAL, PAID ABOUT \$95.00 FOR THEIR EDUCATION.

BEFORE GRADUATION, STUDENTS HAD TO PASS EXTENSIVE EXAMS IN BOTH THEORY AND PRACTICE, AS WELL AS, DEFEND A THESIS. THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS CONSISTED OF 2 STUDENTS.

TODAY THERE ARE OVER 400 STUDENTS ATTENDING THE BALTIMORE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGERY. THEY'RE CONTINUING A TRADITION OF DENTAL CARE STANDARDS SET OVER 160 YEARS AGO.

FOR THE ADA DENTAL MINUTE, I'M DR. MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL.

Copyright 2002□

American Dental Association