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**About the Cover**

In celebration of Black History Month and the ongoing recognition of its 100th anniversary, *JNMA* is proud to display the Class of 1908 of Meharry Medical College on this month's cover. This photograph includes the faculty as well as the students from the medical, dental, and pharmacy schools. You will note the name of Walden University at the bottom of the photograph. Walden began as a school for freedmen under the sponsorship of the northern Methodist Episcopal Church in 1865. The school was chartered as Central Tennessee College in 1867 and operated until 1900. In 1876, the Meharry medical department was added to the college under the direction of Dr George Whipple Hubbard (1841-1924), former principal of Nashville's first Negro public school. This medical school was made possible in part by a promised endowment from the 5 Meharry brothers—Samuel, Hugh, David, Jesse, and Alexander, who provided more than \$30000 and property to Central Tennessee College in 1875. This gift fulfilled Samuel Meharry's promise to a Kentucky slave family in 1826 that provided him with lodging and meals after his wagon slipped off the edge of the road and became mired in a swamp. He is reported to have told the family that, "I have no money, but when I can, I shall do something for your race".

During the 1880s Central Tennessee grew rapidly and added schools of law (1877), dentistry (1886), pharmacy (1889), and nursing (1892). In 1900 the name was changed to Walden University in honor of Bishop John Morgan Walden, formerly a freedmen's missionary. At that time the school had 13 departments, a faculty of 68 and 1360 alumni. After the state opened Tennessee Agricultural, Industrial, and Normal State College (now Tennessee State University) in 1912, Walden, a private school, found it increasingly difficult to attract students. In 1915 the Meharry faculty decided to form a separate institution, secure its charter, and occupy the old campus. In 1922 Walden University was renamed Walden College, relocated to a 12-acre campus, and operated as a junior college until it closed in 1925. Trevecca Nazarene College now occupies this site.

As depicted in the photograph, Meharry had a significant number of dental and pharmacy students. Other black pharmacy schools of this era included Leonard Medical School at Shaw University, Louisville National Medical College, Flint Medical College in New Orleans and the University of West Tennessee. West Tennessee, which was founded by Dr Miles Lynk, a driving force behind the creation of the National Medical Association (NMA), also had a dental school. Dr Lynk and Dr Robert F. Boyd of Nashville invited as many professional people as they could locate at the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1895 to meet at the First Congregational Church, and the NMA was born. The 1908 graduating class was the last before a review of the institution by Abraham Flexner in January of 1909. Flexner noted a teaching staff of 26 including 12 professors, and opined that, "of the three 'negro' schools in the state, two are without merit. The third, Meharry, is a most creditable institution". The 2 schools that Flexner said were "without merit" were Knoxville Medical College and the University of West Tennessee College of Medicine and Surgery.

The editorial board of *JNMA* would like to thank Christyne M. Douglas, medical archivist at Meharry Medical College, for providing this photograph.

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