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Thomas Ordway, M.D.
Dean 1915-1937

Dr. Thomas Ordway became Dean of Albany Medical College in 1915 during a tumultuous time in the college's history. At the time of Dr. Ordway's appointment as Dean, the Albany Medical College was experiencing a breakdown academically through an unfavorable Flexner Report (a report used to evaluate medical schools issued in 1910) and a divided faculty threatening to resign. Born in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1877, Dr. Ordway graduated from Harvard University for both his BA and MD degrees. Prior to his appointment as Dean, he served as the Director at the Bender Laboratory and Professor of Pathology at the College, in 1909. Under his leadership, he reorganized the College, modernized the teaching laboratories, alleviated the tension between rival faculty members, and advocated the development of a hospital medical school, which closely united Albany Medical College with Albany Hospital. Through his actions and effort he not only saved the medical school from a complete breakdown, but also laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Albany Medical Center that exists today.