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James H. Armsby M.D.
Dean 1874-1875

Born into a farming family in Sutton, Massachusetts, James Armsby was the youngest of six children, and the only son. He graduated from Vermont Academy of Medicine at age 20 and while there studied medicine with his brother-in-law, Dr. Alden March. Following graduation, he took over the job as Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in Castleton Medical College at Castleton, Vt., after Dr. March vacated the position, in addition to assisting Dr. March with his new private medical school established in Albany. In 1832, during the Albany cholera epidemic, he served as the Resident Physician of the Cholera Hospital and participated in the post-mortem exam of the first Albany citizen to succumb to the disease. In 1833, Dr. Armsby resigned his position at Castleton, and joined Dr. March in Albany full-time to establish a medical school and hospital in that city. Dr. Armsby began his campaign for a medical school and hospital with the circulation of a petition and followed up with a series of lectures to prominent Albany citizens and the New York State Legislature. In addition to medicine, he also involved himself in the betterment of the general community, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Young Men's Christian Association in Albany. Additionally, in 1851-1852 he was very influential in the establishment of the Dudley Observatory and through his leadership helped to raise the necessary funds for the new organization. He remained active at Albany Medical College until his death in 1875, serving as Dean from June 29, 1874 to December 3, 1875.