Facts to remember:

• On November 6, 1869, a group of female students from the Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania went to the auditorium at Pennsylvania Hospital in Center City to attend a lecture.

• Medical students would attend classes called **clinical** lectures, like the one in 1869 at Pennsylvania Hospital, to learn about how to treat sick people.

• Woman’s Medical College was started in 1850 because most medical schools around the country would not accept female students. By 1869, almost twenty years later, the number of female medical students and female doctors was still very small compared to the number of male medical students and male doctors.

**Vocabulary**

amphitheater/amphitheatre: auditorium

blackguard: a rude person who uses abusive language

blackguardism: the use of abusive language and insults

caterwaul: to proclaim or protest noisily, often a loud and harsh cry

caterwaulings: loud and harsh cries

deportment: behavior; the manner in which one conducts oneself

disciples of Esulapius: medical students. Esulapius was the Roman god of medicine, so medical students are called “disciples,” or students, of Esulapius.

jeer: to taunt or make fun of

Neuter/sexless/genderless: the author uses these words to describe the female students whom he thinks seem unladylike

pandemonium: a wild uproar

preceptor: teacher

ruffian: a bully. One who acts like a bully