



Born in Hartum, Germany, to poor Jewish parents who educated him at great sacrifice, Abraham Jacobi (1830-1919) received his medical degree in 1851 from the University of Bonn. Interpreting his idealistic oath to the practice of medicine to include curing his nation's political ills, Dr. Jacobi plunged into the midst of the German Revolution of 1848. He was forced to serve a prison sentence on a charge of high treason (1851-1853). In 1853 he emigrated to the United States and set up a medical practice in New York which was to last for nearly sixty-six years. Jacobi's work

in the area of children's diseases earned him, in 1860, an appointment as the first professor of diseases of children in the United States at the New York Medical College. With this appointment Jacobi not only began a distinguished career as a leading teacher and authority in that field, but his activities were considered "the starting-point of clinical and scientific pediatrics in this country." In 1862, Jacobi, the "father of American pediatrics," established a clinic for the treatment of infants and children.