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MONTREAL, APRIL, 1874.

A SMALL-POX HOSPITAL FOR MONTREAL.

Montreal is a very progressive city—it has made gigantic strides within a few years, and it still pushes forward its claims for pre-eminence with a vigor which plainly shows that the present is but the prelude to that magnificent future which is in store for it. But it is also a peculiar city; for, when a person is taken sick within its limits, it must needs be ascertained whether the unfortunate is a Catholic or a Protestant, before the proper means can be arranged for his treatment. At least, we should judge this to be the case, from the fact that among a portion of the population there is a loud denunciation of the proposed erection of a Small-Pox Hospital, to be under civic control, and to be used for the admission of patients, irrespective of creed. Those who thus oppose this measure are desirous that \$30,000 out of \$50,000, set apart by the amended City Charter for a Small-Pox Hospital, should be donated to the very estimable ladies of the Hotel Dieu, who would engage to erect on their grounds a Small-Pox Hospital. The remaining \$20,000 they are willing should be given to the authorities of the Montreal General Hospital—to be used in the erection of another Small-Pox Infirmary. This division of opinion has, we regret to say, manifested itself very strongly among a portion of the City Council, and the unfortunate consequence of this state of things has been, that, for a considerable time, this question has been allowed to remain in abeyance. The result has been the disease, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, has carried off, during the past year, many whose lives might have been saved, had they been placed where they would have received good medical attendance, and, what is very essential, good nursing, and been surrounded by favorable hygienic conditions. Such a state of things, so detrimental to the interest of the city, attracted the attention of our new Mayor, Dr. Bernard, and he sought counsel from the various Medical Faculties of the city. In seeking their advice, he doubtless did so because they were more easily reached, and would

be more likely to come to unanimous conclusions, than could possibly be arrived at by a meeting of the general profession. In doing so, we think he acted wisely, for among those consulted were nearly all the hospital physicians of the city, and none, therefore, more competent to express an opinion upon the subject. In accordance, therefore, with the request of the Mayor, the Faculties of McGill College, the Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery, (Victoria College,) and Bishop's College, met, and discussed the question, and on the 8th of April, by invitation, delegates from these various bodies met the Board of Health. McGill College was represented by its Dean, Dr. Campbell, and Dr. Howard; Victoria College, by Drs. Peltier, Munro and Rottot; and Bishop's College, by its Dean, Dr. David, Dr. Godfrey and Dr. F. W. Campbell. The reports from these various bodies are so important, and may in the future be referred to, we therefore clip from the *Montreal Gazette*, the following:

"The Mayor, in opening the proceedings, stated that the meeting had been called especially to consider the question of the spread of small-pox and the establishment of a small-pox hospital. The dread disease still prevailed extensively in the city, and must be stamped out. The medical gentlemen present would enlighten the Board as to the best means for doing so. He had, as Mayor of the city and Chairman of the Board of Health, called upon the Deans of the different medical faculties, and requested them to obtain an opinion from their faculties on the establishment of a hospital, and the mode of stamping out the disease. The need of doing so had long been felt, and the Board would be glad to have, on this subject, the advice of skilled and learned men. The moot point was, should the hospital be isolated and under civic control, or should the funds voted for its establishment be divided between the Hotel Dieu and the Montreal General Hospital? They would now hear the opinion of the Medical Faculties.

Dr. CAMPBELL, as Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill, and as the oldest member of the profession in Montreal, spoke for McGill College. Three questions had been submitted to them by His Worship the Mayor.

1st. Should the hospital be isolated?

2nd. Should compulsory removal of small-pox patients to the hospital be insisted on?

3rd. Should vaccination be made compulsory?

He himself and Dr. Howard had been deputed by the Faculty to meet the Board of Health and lay the answers before the members.