

Dr. Holmes as his assistant in the chair of Chemistry and *Materia Medica*, and in the following year the subject of *Materia Medica* was placed entirely in the hands of Dr. Hall. In 1842 on the retirement of Dr. William Robertson, Dr. Holmes was made Professor of the Practice and Principles of Medicine. In the year 1844 too, he took up Dr. Robertson's work as official head of the Faculty, and at its re-organization in 1854 he was made its first Dean. The duties of the diaconate he had thus long been discharging with fidelity, and he had added to them the voluntary duties of treasurer, registrar and librarian, besides looking after all the economic arrangements within the College. The Library owes its very existence to his fostering care, while the Pathological Museum was his cherished object and contains to-day specimens of rare value donated by him. The finances of the University were so closely looked after by him that at his death, which occurred unexpectedly, the accounts balanced to a sixpence.

In preparing his lectures also, Dr. Holmes spared no pains. His effort always was to bring his material up to date and to give his hearers a critical survey of the most recent views upon his subject, and to this end he was an indefatigable student, working far into the night. "Few," says a biographical note, "have longer burned the midnight oil." His style in lecturing is said to have been too detailed and conscientious to have been brilliant or even absorbingly interesting to his hearers, but every word that he gave them was of value, and his lectures were literally compilations of research matter. Dr. Holmes was the author of no large work. But scattered through the contemporary journals are many articles from his pen written in a polished style and in classical English, and based on such an accurate and discriminating observation of facts that they remain of standard value to-day.

With the Montreal General Hospital he was connected from the year 1823 until his death. After twenty years as an attending physician he retired on the consulting staff, to make way for a younger member of the profession.

In 1853 he was elected President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada and he held this office for the usual period of three years. He was a member of the following societies:—Extraordinary member of the Medico-Physical Society of Edinburgh, (1819); Non-resident member of the Wernerian Society of Natural History of Edinburgh, (1820); Corresponding member of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, (1825); Corresponding member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, (1823); Member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, (1827); Member of the Connecticut Academy of the Arts