

the Montreal Medical Institution, the first course of lectures in the Canadas, forming the session of 1824-25. The branches were apportioned as follow: Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, by Dr. Robertson; Principles and Practice of Medicine, by Dr. Caldwell; Surgery, Anatomy, and Physiology, by Dr. Stephenson; and *Materia Medica*, and Chemistry, by Dr. Holmes. The number of students in attendance on this first session was 25; and of these I believe only three are now living,—Dr. Weillbrenner of Boucherville, Dr. Bélin of L'Assomption, and Dr. Badgley, now of Malvern in England; and it was not until the year 1844 that the number of students reached 50. I need not say that it could not have been private emolument which could have induced these founders of this School thus to work year after year with receipts barely sufficient to cover their annual expenditure. A higher principle was at work, one which was Dr. Holmes' most striking characteristic—the conscientious discharge of duty. Knowing the privations which, as a student, he himself had to suffer, his grand object was to lessen them for those who were to follow; and well do I remember the fidelity with which he worked in those days, when little else than the approbation of his own conscience was his reward.

We have now to consider another incident occurring about the same time. In the year 1819, “from the increase in the population of this town, the Hotel Dieu nunnery was found to be inadequate to the reception of the indigent sick; an inconvenience further augmented by the great influx of emigrants from the United Kingdom, some of them labouring under fevers of a contagious nature, and other diseases that were not admissible into that Hospital.” I quote this from the first Annual Report of the Montreal General Hospital. Accordingly, that year a subscription was taken up for hiring a house to serve as an Hospital; and the Report further says, “that though this was only on a small scale, the good