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THE PATHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE LATE SIR
WILLIAM OSLER AND HIS RELATIONS WITH
THE MEDICAL MUSEUM OF MCGILL
UNIVERSITY

I. THE PATHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

IN the passing of Sir William Osler, Canada mourns the loss of one of the greatest of her sons and the Canadian profession its most beloved and distinguished member; one whose name has been as a household word among us, whose scientific enthusiasm has leavened, and clinical acumen inspired the medical teaching of the past three generations and whose warm-hearted hospitality has been shared by the Profession of two continents these many years. Those portals now are darkened, and the light of mingled human kindness and genius that shone from those burning eyes has been forever quenched. To us there remains a great sadness, and an inheritance that is inviolate,—the name of the great Canadian physician, and the tradition of his early formative years.

At this time of retrospect it is of great interest to know that this country possesses what may be termed a unique memorial of these first twelve years of his professional life, in the form of the Pathological Collections which he made during his term as pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital, and which are housed, in an excellent state of preservation and with full records pertaining thereto, in the Medical Museum of McGill University. These collections are of the utmost biographical interest, and as such they are an asset of immense value in the history of modern medicine.

It is common knowledge that Dr. Osler came from Toronto to McGill in the final years of his medical course, graduating from this school in 1872; that after two years of post-graduate study in Berlin and Vienna he returned to Montreal in 1874 and was appointed, at McGill, Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, which Chair comprised the subjects of Physiology and Pathology; that in 1877 he became Pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital, and that he held these two posts until he left Montreal for Philadelphia in 1884. So that, as in the case of so many of the great clinicians and Masters of Medicine who went before him and whose lives