

**THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.**

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**MONTREAL, JULY, 1893.****THE FRENCH MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF CANADA.**

Within a year or two ago there were no less than three distinct and separate medical schools in the Province of Quebec, one being at the city of Quebec and two at Montreal. That at Quebec was known as the Medical Faculty of Laval University, which furnished a large sum annually for its maintenance. Of the two medical schools at Montreal, one was known as the Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery, or more generally as Victoria, owing to its being in affiliation with Victoria University at Cobourg. The other was called the Laval branch, being affiliated with Laval University, Quebec, but receiving no financial support from it. For some years somewhat bitter rivalry existed between these schools, but at last an amicable arrangement was arrived at by which they were amalgamated, thus forming one great school with a large attendance of students. For it not only educates the medical men required for the wants of the province of Quebec, but it also provides nearly all the physicians required by the millions of French Canadians now residing in the New England and Western States. We have it on good authority that in the near future the Quebec faculty will join its forces with the Montreal one, thus concentrating all its resources on the one great French University at Montreal. It will then be in quite as good a position as McGill to afford a medical education second to

none in the world. It may not be generally known that Laval University was for nearly twenty years the only medical school in America which gave a course of four years consisting of ten months each.

The greatest difficulty she had to contend with was the reluctance of students to spend so much time in obtaining a degree when they could obtain it in a much shorter time elsewhere. Now, however, with only one French University, all students speaking only that language must make up their minds to submit to the longer and more thorough course of instruction. Another advantage resulting from the amalgamation of the two French schools is that the two large Hospitals, the Hotel Dieu and Notre Dame, are available for all the students, thus affording an immense amount of clinical experience. We predict for this great and influential school greater prosperity than it has ever yet enjoyed.

**VITAL STATISTICS IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.**

In conformity with a law passed during the last session of the Legislature, the Provincial Board of Health will begin, with the 1st of July next, the collection of vital statistics in the 346 municipalities of the Province.

The important point in this law of statistics is to require that before, any burial is allowed, a certificate signed by the physician who attended the deceased, and establishing the cause of death, be furnished to the person entrusted with the registers of civil status (the clergyman). When no physician has been called, two credible persons or the clergyman give a certificate establishing to the best of their knowledge the cause of death.

These certificates, which will be forwarded monthly to the Provincial Board of Health, will be a source of precious information for the Board. They will show what localities of the Province have the highest death-rate, which diseases have caused a heavy mortality in certain places and not in others, which are the diseases prevailing in certain districts, which seasons are most fatal, what ages and sexes suffer more, and what are the professions mostly affected, etc., etc.