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YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

AN ADDRESS TO THE UNDERGRADUATES' MEDICAL SOCIETY, JUNE, 1898.

BY

FRANCIS J. SHEPHERD, M.D.,

Professor of Anatomy, McGill University ; Senior Surgeon to the Montreal General Hospital.

I have thought for some time about various subjects on which to address you this evening ; some dry and heavy, others light and airy ; and I concluded, after due consideration, that you had enough of sermons preached to you during your course, and enough advice to last you for some years after graduation. The more frivolous forms of address, I considered, were ill suited to the dignity and traditions of these college halls ; so, to make my address instructive as well as entertaining, I, decided to give you a short account of what the Medical Student saw twenty-five or more years ago, and to compare his opportunities and advantages with those so richly accorded to you, Medical Students of the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. I am not so sure, however, that you have so great an advantage over the men who were educated here twenty-five to thirty years ago. In the first place, they had not so much to learn and had more time for clinical work in the hospitals, for, outside of the dissecting-room, the hospitals were the only laboratories they possessed ; even practical chemistry, at that time, was not taught. Again, although you have many methods and instruments to aid in diagnosis, such as clinical thermometers and temperature records, cystoscopes, double barrelled stethoscopes, instruments and methods for estimating the proportion of white and red corpuscles in the blood, bivalve specula, urinometers, laryngoscopes, the typhoid reaction of blood, centrifugal machines, sphygmographs, fluoroscopes, X ray apparatus, and many other novelties which it would be wasting time to mention ; still, it seems to me, that the older men trusted less to mechanical means of as-