

A CANADIAN HOSPITAL IN FRANCE*

Members of Convocation, Undergraduates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

IT has been customary during recent years to have the Annual University Lecture, which is called for by the Regulations of Corporation, delivered on our Founder's birthday. It ought to have been given on Friday of last week, for Friday was the 6th October and James McGill was born on 6th October, 1744. And if recent usage had been followed, it would have been delivered by some new member of the staff—a rule which has borne excellent fruit in lectures on such extensions of the curriculum as Music, Architecture, Education and other subjects. But McGill has this year no new professors, and no additions to the curriculum: she has enough to do at present in trying to keep herself going on the old lines. And on Friday of last week I had to be in Quebec, so if, in default of any other offers, the lecture was to be given by me, it became obvious that it would have to be postponed.

Our Founder would have been greatly surprised if he could have foreseen what was to happen in the world not much more than a hundred years after his death. When he passed away in 1813, Britain was still at war with Napoleon; to-day she is fighting for France, on French soil, and in the foremost ranks are hundreds of those who bear our Founder's name—the men of Old McGill. The McGill yell is at all times a cry that appeals to us; but to hear it, as I have heard it, in French surroundings gives one a new sense of the far-reaching influence of a well-considered and wisely-directed bequest to education. Truly, James McGill "builted better than he knew." The McGill men who are working and fighting for

* The Annual University Lecture, delivered in the Royal Victoria College, 12th October, 1916.