

happiness and real pleasure as I have had while holding the reins of office. As I look over the list of noble names which have in the past graced this chair, I realize it is no small honour, indeed, to follow in their train.

In no way can one form a better estimate of the medicine of the earlier days of Montreal than by going over the pages of the old minute books of this Society. What a story their pages unfold! They give sketches of the master minds in medicine of early days—the men who laid the foundation of everything great, and good, and scientific, and solid in the medicine of this city.

It is a story of struggle, of temporary defeat and final triumph. On these pages are written the names of all the great men who have been actors in the drama of local medicine for the past half century. As one reads, it is shown that "there is no exemption from the common doom for him who holds the shield to protect others. The professor from the chair, the practitioner in his busiest period hears a knock more peremptory than any patient's midnight summons, and goes on that unreturning visit which admits of no excuse and suffers no delay."

It is interesting to note that this is the 49th annual meeting since the earliest beginnings of the Society in 1843, and the 40th anniversary of the final reorganization in 1870. It is stated in the old minute book "that at a meeting of the members of the Medical Faculty of Montreal, held at the house of Dr. Crawford, in Little St. James Street, on Saturday, 23rd September, 1843, it was unanimously resolved 'that it is very desirable that the members of the Medical Faculty of Montreal should have an opportunity of meeting in a friendly manner, for the purpose of communicating together in subjects connected with their profession, and the undersigned agree to form themselves into a Society for that purpose: A. F. Holmes, O. F. Bruneau, J. B. C. Tressler, Archibald Hall, Henry Mount, Wm. McNider, J. G. Bibaud, Jas. Crawford, Geo. W. Campbell, C. S. Sewell, Wm. Sutherland, Francis Badgley, Arthur Fisher, David B. Logan, Wm. Fraser, C. A. Campbell, M. McCulloch, F. C. T. Arnoldi, Peter Munro.'"

The following are the fundamental laws of the Society: That the Society be denominated "The Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal;" "That the objects of the Society's meetings be the communication of any interesting subject connected with the medical profession, whether in the form of cases in actual practice, details of post mortem examinations, the exhibitions of preparations in morbid anatomy, chemistry, natural history, or any branch bearing on the profession."

Of the original members all are dead with the exception of Arthur Fisher, of Montreal. The Society at this time was in existence for eight