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Introductory Lecture at the opening of the Medical Session (1871-72)
McGill University. Delivered October 3rd, 1871. By GEORGE
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GENTLEMEN,—In commencing this the 39th Session of this University by these introductory remarks, I must express my gratification at being selected by my Colleagues to address you, and more especially does this become a pleasing task as it is incumbent upon me in the first place, to welcome the return of our respected Dean, Dr. Campbell, after an absence of a few months in his native country. I feel certain that this sentiment is fully endorsed by every person present. It would be uncalled for to allude more pointedly to our Dean, or to the high position he holds in this country and abroad as a Surgeon of eminence. Suffice it to welcome his return amongst us, and to express a hope that to him may be long spared the vigour of health, to give us all the benefit of his experience and wise counsel. To those of you who return to follow up or complete your studies, I trust that during the recess you have laid in such a stock of health, that with renewed energies both mental and bodily, you will during the present Session exhibit that full measure of talent and industry which has hitherto characterised the Student of McGill University.

To the junior members of the class, and those about to commence your studies—I trust that you have weighed well this most important step in your career, that you have fully considered the responsibilities about to be assumed, and the life of labour, anxiety and unrest, of the Physician and Surgeon, as also the want of sympathy or thankfulness on the part of the public for services which no price can remunerate.

At the outset of your medical studies you will have many things to contend with, many difficulties to overcome, and you may rely upon it that if you neglect the ground