

His contributions to medical literature were numerous and of a high order of merit, and he took an active part in the work of the Natural History Society.

Dr. Holmes's death, which was sudden and unexpected, occurred on the 9th day of October, 1860. Whilst he was seated at his desk addressing circulars calling a meeting of the Faculty, Mrs. Holmes, who was sitting near him, heard him sigh deeply, and, on looking up, saw him throw up his arms, which instantly fell to his sides, and his whole body collapsed in the arm-chair in which he was sitting, his head rolling over to one side. When she reached the chair he had breathed his last. A *post mortem* examination was subsequently held, and revealed advanced fatty degeneration of the heart.

A curious circumstance in connection with the suddenness of his death was that, a short time before it occurred, he had expressed at a Faculty meeting a wish that his life might end in such a way, and that he might be spared a lingering illness. I have a vivid recollection of the expression of deep and pained surprise in the countenance of Dr. Campbell as, in his brusque manner, he said: "You don't mean to say, Holmes, that you wish to die suddenly—that you would select, if you had the choice, this mode of having your life terminated." Dr. Holmes, with a placid smile, evoked apparently by Dr. Campbell's impetuous, out-spoken question, quietly replied: "Certainly, it has long been my desire that when the end comes to me the passage from life to death may be momentary and without any premonitory symptoms."

It is quite probable that Dr. Holmes, with his wide knowledge of the etiology of diseases, had previously observed in himself symptoms pointing to serious cardiac debility, and his expressed wish was in consonance with what, in his judgment, would be the probable ultimate result.

In the year 1864, the members of the Medical Faculty of McGill, in order to perpetuate his memory in connection with the Faculty to whose success he had so materially contributed, and to mark the affection and esteem which they entertained for him personally, established a gold medal to be known as the "Holmes Gold Medal"—this medal to be awarded yearly at the termination of the medical session to the student who had obtained the highest aggregate number of marks in all the subjects of the medical curriculum.

*Dr. George W. Campbell* was preferred to the chairs of Midwifery