



GIRLS OF MISS BARNJUM'S CLASS EXERCISING.
GYMNASTICS IN MONTREAL.

The Women's Medical College of Toronto.

The Women's Medical College of Toronto, of which we are happy to give an excellent view in our present issue, together with the ladies of the final year, and several of the Faculty, owes its existence to the noble-mindedness of a few members of the medical profession in Toronto.

In the year 1883 an unpleasantness at the Kingston Medical School, where co-education in medicine was tried, offended the sense of justice of the gentlemen referred to, among whom may be mentioned the late Dr. Michael Barrett, one of the first pathologists of his time; Dr. Adam Wright and Dr. George Wright, and they determined to found a college where women could receive a medical education equal in all respects to that of the other sex. Calling to their aid several ladies known throughout the city for their devotion to the advancement of their sex, a canvass for funds was opened; but as it had to fight against a strong prejudice, which, thanks to the perseverance and patience of the ladies and the excellent conduct and marked ability of the graduates, no longer exists, only a small sum could be at first raised. This was expended in purchasing the site now occupied by the new building, on which stood at that date a small cottage only. This cottage was fitted up into lecture rooms, etc., the woodshed became a dissecting room and work began. The advantage of the site pitched upon consisted in its immediate contiguity to the Toronto General Hospital, whose enlightened and liberal superintendent, Dr. O'Reilly, placed all the advantages of that institution at the service of the Women's Medical College.

The marked advance in public opinion in regard to women in the medical profession is well illustrated by the difference in the amount of subscriptions to the college within certain periods. From 1883 to 1889 only \$2,000 rewarded the indefatigable exertions of a host of ladies; from 1889 to the beginning of the present year the collectors received a sum of \$3,000, and within a few weeks Mrs. James Gooderham, a warm friend of the college, has raised \$800 with no difficulty at all.

In 1887, despite the apathy of the general public, the Board of Directors determined to supersede the cottage structure, which had become quite inadequate to the increased number of students, by a new building of collegiate style and appointments. This building was opened by appropriate ceremonies on the 25th April, 1890, a large company of guests being invited, who were afterwards entertained by the faculty and students of the college.

The Women's Medical College possesses one of the best appointed laboratories in America. A large sum has been expended in bringing superior apparatus from Germany, and it has a "dark room" excellently equipped with ophthalmoscopes, mirrors, etc., for the practical use of the students. This department has for lecturer and instructor Dr. J. Gibb Wishart, one of the most prominent among our younger medical men, and the indefatigable and devoted secretary of the college.

In addition to hospital privileges, which include also those of the Mercer Hospital for Diseases of the Eye and Ear and the Burnside Lying-in Hospital (350 beds), the students of

the Women's Medical College have access to the Hospital for Sick Children (160 beds), the Home for Incurables, the House of Providence (Roman Catholic), the Infants' Home, Girls' home, and some other charities.

To successful students the College awards diplomas and prizes, and as it is in affiliation with Trinity University (from the beginning) and Toronto University (since its admission of medical schools to affiliation) the degrees are taken from these universities.

The testimony of the examiners for degrees are most conclusive with regard to the fitness of women for the medical profession and the excellence of the education they receive. Rev. Provost Body more than once has said at the presentation of prizes that the University was proud of the high standing the students took in every examination conducted by it, and at the recent presentation Dr. Temple spoke highly in their praise, saying that in such examinations as he had conducted he always strove to be just, distributing neither praise nor blame except on the truest data, and he had always found the students of the Women's Medical College come out more than equal with their competitors of the other sex. The same testimony is borne in every quarter, so that the reason of its existence is well justified by the results the College can show.

Notwithstanding its small beginnings, and the fact that never yet have its funds allowed of the allotment of salary or reward of any kind to its teaching staff, the college has acted most liberally in the matter of lady missionaries, giving them all the lectures, etc., at two-thirds the usual fees.

The curriculum of the college embraces courses of lectures in a university, college or school of medicine approved

by the council, viz.: Anatomy, practical anatomy, physiology (including histology), theoretical chemistry, materia medica and therapeutics, prin. and prac. medicine, prin. and prac. surgery, midwifery and diseases of women and children, clinical medicine, clinical surgery. Also from its own staff: Two courses in medical jurisprudence, one course in practical chemistry, including toxicology and botany; one course medical and surgical and topographical anatomy; one course in physiological, histological, pathological histology; one course sanitary science.

In addition, certificates of practical work are required at each examination, such certificates being accepted from a registered practitioner, the apothecary of a public hospital or of a public dispensary, or from a member of the Pharmaceutical Societies of Ontario or Quebec.

The college has already graduated eleven ladies at Trinity University and one at Toronto University. It has thirty-five enregistered regular students, and has had five occasional students; that is, who take one or more special courses, without intending to enter the profession.

Several of these students are graduates of Toronto University, thus adding to the lustre of high medical standing that of a previous university training in arts.

In every case graduates of the Women's Medical College have entered upon a successful practice of their chosen profession, four being settled in Toronto, one in St. Kilda, Australia, and one as medical missionary at Indore, India.

From the beginning the faculty of the college have inducted such ladies among their graduates as were at liberty to assume the duties into the staff. The first demonstrator of anatomy was Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, who, taking her fourth year in Trinity Medical School, there being no woman's college in the Dominion, was, as soon as she had received her degree, offered the position by those among the founders of the new institution who had seen Dr. Stowe-Gullen's ability, as her examiners. She was followed in 1887 by Dr. Alice McLaughlin, the first graduate of the college, becoming herself lecturer on diseases of children and associate lecturer on medicine. Dr. Susanna Boyle, Toronto, is assistant in practical anatomy and histology, as is also Dr. Emily J. Irvine, Brantford. At present these are the only lady members of the faculty, but as opportunity occurs it is intended to follow out the original intention of making the teaching staff mainly, if not entirely, female.

The Board of Trustees of the college consists of three gentlemen and four ladies—Rev. Dr. Cavan, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Wishart, Mrs. Harvie, Mrs. Jas. Gooderham, Mrs. McEwen, Dr. A. Stowe-Gullen, with Dr. Nevitt as secretary and Jas. Beaty, jr., Q.C., D.C.L., as chairman, and it would be a difficult and thankless endeavour to discriminate among them in the matter of unselfish devotion to and undaunted exertion on behalf of the interests of the college; for, as has been indicated, the question of woman's fitness for, and right to, a medical education has had to be fought out by its promoters before a women's medical college could hope for support. The courage and generosity which fought the battle has, however, at length been rewarded, and the justice of the claim amply vindicated by the results to which the faculty and friends of the college may now proudly point.

Visitors to Toronto are always welcome at the college, the first summer session of which has just opened.

"Honour a physician with the honour due unto him for the uses ye may have of him * * * * The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth."—ECCLES., 38 Chapter. S. A. C.



THE LION AT HOME.