

his marriage recently, under circumstances then detailed in *Gossip*. The union I have every reason to believe will be a happy one, and the Doctor and his pretty bride have the good wishes of all his medical friends. He is one of the junior professors in Bishop's College.

HERBERT L. REDDY, M.D., L. R. C. P. L.,
M.R.C.S.E.

Is the son of the late Dr. John Reddy, and has an excellent practice. Being descended from Irish parents he possesses the ready wit of his race, As yet he is a bachelor, but rumor has it is not to remain much longer so, having secured the heart of one of Montreal's fair daughters. The sooner all is *ready* the better.

FRANK BULLER, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

Devotes his entire attention to the eye and the ear, and has every reason to be satisfied with the return these two organs have given him since he came to this city. Coming here a bachelor, and his prospects good, many a pair of eyes, sent toward him their most bewitching glances, but the ears did not hear the wished-for words. From without our city came his bride, who is a welcome addition to Montreal society. He takes an active interest in all that tends to promote good feeling among the profession, and is a liberal contributor, when the Doctors make a "call." Dr. Buller is connected with McGill College.

ALEXANDER PROUDFOOT, M.D.

Is also a specialist on the eye, ear and throat, and has quite an extensive practice. He married a Boston lady, who has endeared herself to a large circle of friends here, and takes an active interest in many of our charitable institutions. The doctor does not roll himself up in his professional rug, and look at every thing with a professional eye. He enjoys the socialities of this world, and, with his wife, are welcome visitors at many of our household entertainments. He lectures on his specialities in Bishop's College.

My task is ended, I have tried not to be inquisitorial, and I have put down naught in malice. Towards all whose names I have mentioned I bear nothing but good-will. Medical men are a kind of public property, and the brief sketch which I have made of some of Montreal's prominent physicians, will, I trust, not be unwelcome reading to those who take. *Gossip*.—*Montreal Gossip*, Dec., 25, 1884.

Progress of Science.

SURGICAL DELUSIONS.*

By JOHN B. ROBERTS, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the Philadelphia Polyclinic.

Many surgeons' theories and procedures have become traditional, and are accepted as true and correct, merely because reverence for antiquity, or careless acceptance, has not questioned their right to be classed as surgical facts. The present age is an incredulous one, and demands accurate investigation of all such claims. The field of investigation is large, for progress has been retarded by the influence of theorizing writers, with monochromatic vision, the example of non-seeing and non-looking devotees of the fetiches of surgical superstition and the convincing effect of a repetition of false statements. I shall select a few topics which have greatly interested me, and concerning which I probably differ quite widely from many of you.

CHLOROFORM ANÆSTHESIA.

Many still cling to the delusion that chloroform is a safe anæsthetic, because they have never seen a patient die from it. Is one man's experience to weigh against the physiological, the experimental, the clinical experience of the whole world? Dare we employ chloroform, instead of ether, when recognized authorities state that in chloroform anæsthesia death occurs without warning in the hands of experienced administrators; when some five hundred deaths have already been reported; when Schiff and Dalton reject it in physiological laboratories, because of its mortality, when the Scientific Grants Committee of the British Medical Association assert that chloroform is a more dangerous anæsthetic than ether.

Adherence to chloroform in the face of such facts is criminal when circumstances permit ether to be obtained. The assertion that it is often impossible to produce anæsthesia with ether, is the result of inefficient methods of administration. Ether, if given as chloroform, is and should be given, is, in truth, a useless anæsthetic, but given properly it is efficient.

VALUE OF STYPTICS.

The belief in the necessity of styptics is a delusion less dangerous than that first mentioned, but it is given more extended credence. Such agents are seldom, probably never, needed in general

*An abstract of the address in surgery of the Medical Society for the State of Pennsylvania, for 1884.