

The thermometers were checked once or twice a season by comparison with standards from Kew, England. This was especially done ~~in winter~~ with the maximum in summer and with the minimum there, in winter. All thermometers were many years old before results were used for the records and the proper corrections were always applied.

Time clock errors were checked every clear night. I was asked by Mr. Sproul, father of Prof. Sproul, to obtain all possible data on the effect of weather on the River St. Lawrence and on the production of floods at Montreal.

In my search for early information, I asked Dr. Fenwick, professor in Medical faculty. Dr. Fenwick offered me the manuscript records of Dr. Bethune (formerly of McGill) showing the records of temperatures taken by him, beginning 1839. Dr. Fenwick gave them to me only on condition that they were to be kept in McGill College Library with archives -

Dr. Fenwick told me that the observations "were made by a man of extreme accuracy, who would never use a thermometer unless it was a standard obtained from Kew, England and accompanied by a certificate." Dr. Fenwick opened the book and pointed out the handwriting which was clear and firm at first and then he pointed to the last entry in shaky figures and said: "his last entry on the day he died."