

In short, Gregory, Home, Duncan, and the other Edinburgh teachers at the end of the 18th century were those who trained the original staff of the General Hospital, and of our medical school here in Montreal. They brought with them from Edinburgh the methods of ward work and from the very origin of the McGill Medical school up to the present time we have continued along the lines which they laid down.

Personally, I believe that we could go yet further than we do at present, though in saying this I speak with considerable hesitation knowing that the hospital staffs are altogether too fully occupied and that many of you cannot be regarded as ideal scribes. It seems to me, however, that we could make the study of cases in the wards count more definitely in the marks for the final years. I would be glad to see students, not merely recording the history of cases but handing in along with their case reports, short discussions upon some given topic in connection with each case—upon the diagnosis, or it might be upon certain special features in connection with the individual case, or again upon the results of treatment; and I would be prepared to see certain of the younger members of the staff appointed by the University to give special instruction at the different hospitals in note taking, as well as to read over and criticise the notes and essays handed in. This may, however, seem a counsel of perfection and impossible of realization in the immediate future. In the meantime let me urge upon you to recognize the great value of this ward work and let me once more say that it is this which has given our school its peculiar standing upon this continent and only by our keeping and developing this ward work shall we keep and develop our standing as a medical school, and will you as alumni of the school develop your individual standing in practice.