

The various charitable institutions of this city were for several years found inadequate to the increasing wants of the population, due to the increase of immigration. The termination of the war in 1815 brought to our shores vast numbers of persons who through sickness on their passage or poverty on their arrival were incapable of reaching their destination. Unable to procure either support or medical attendance from any funds of their own, they made an urgent appeal which prompted the benevolent inhabitants of our cities to devise means for the relief of these miserable exiles. An association of women in Montreal designated as the "Ladies' Benevolent Society" was formed expressly for the relief of the indigent immigrants; but more than this was needed. The sick required medical aid; and to attain this object, some medical men of the city agreed to give their assistance, provided a house could be obtained where the most necessitous cases of sick poor could be relieved. A small building of four apartments was then hired, and called the "House of Recovery." Small as it was, and inadequate to meet the numerous cases that needed relief, it became the germ of that noble institution which redounds so greatly to the benefit and honor of the city of Montreal—the Montreal General Hospital. This building was soon found totally inadequate to relieve all those who made request for assistance, and means were taken of raising a sum of money which, when sufficient, enabled them to rent a larger house in Craig street. The medical department was placed under the direction of four physicians who attended monthly in rotation; one of them as house surgeon attended daily in cases of accident. On the 1st May, 1819, such patients as were in the House of Recovery, together with the little property belonging to that establishment, were