



Published for the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, by EUSEBE SENECAL & FILS, 20, St. Vincent St. Montreal

Vol. VI. No. 11.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1884.

\$1.00 per annum, in advance.

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

Montreal Veterinary College,—by D. McEachran, F.R.C.V.S

Subject:—*The Veterinary Profession and Cattle Disease in North America.*

GENTLEMEN,

I need not attempt to disguise the feelings of pleasure with which I meet you this evening, when I compare this bright intelligent assemblage of students before me with the small beginnings of eighteen years ago. I can well feel proud that I did not yield before the many discouragements which had to be surmounted. Gentlemen, from the province of Quebec, from Ontario, from different parts of the United States, from the West Indies, from England and from distant Japan, now fill our benches, so that we may infer that we are known abroad and that the reputation of the school is such as to merit the confidence of others besides our own people. Why is this the case? Chiefly on account of two great names which honour our aspect. Of the one, it needs no eulogium from me. Our Sovereign Lady the Queen in acknowledgement of his great services in science and education has but recently conferred the honour of knighthood on him. I

refer to the distinguished Principal of McGill University, Sir William Dawson; the other is one not yet so well known but like him a scientist by nature, he perhaps was not born with a microscope in his hands, but at an early age he showed, when a student with the late Dr. Borel, an extraordinary aptitude for histological and pathological investigation, even when a mere boy his predilection for P. M.S. (sic) was strongly manifested. Having enjoyed the advantages of the teachings of Virchow, Zurn, Gerlach, and others, while a student in Germany, he was well fitted for the Chair of Institutes of Medicine in McGill University, which he has so ably filled for about ten years. It is with no little feeling of regret that I am obliged to inform you to-night that we have in the mean time lost him. I am sure that those of you who know him feel like myself that our guide and leader is gone, for while he belonged more particularly to the medical school, I doubt very much if his learnings were not with the veterinary branch of the medical science, as affording him better opportunities of prosecuting his researches in pathological anatomy.

Well, in the mean time he is about to leave us, and we trust he will be happy and prosperous in his new sphere, but I should feel sorry indeed if I supposed he would not come back to us. Canada cannot afford to lose such men, and had the value of such a scientist been but known to the country, he would never have been allowed to be taken from us. Osler is the *Paseur* of Canada, the pathological investigator who has stimulated medical science and led the way to every advance in pathological research. It cannot be that the country will let him be lost to us. Do we not want him in the public employment in connection with the quarantine services, medical and veterinary, as consulting pathologist for the Dominion? It is a new position, but nevertheless, one of the most vital importance, and in making such an appointment, Canada would be but honouring herself and taking a progressive step which would be greatly in the interests of the public health.

It is usual on such occasions as this to enter somewhat in detail into explanations of the numerous studies which form the curriculum of your educational course. I hope you will excuse me to-night if I depart from that custom, and instead,