

# CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING,  
MONTREAL, 1897.

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## ADDRESS IN SURGERY.

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## THE SURGEON OF OLD IN WAR.

I am indeed greatly honored by having to deliver to you to-day an Address in Surgery. Fortunately for me the title is a wide one, and I shall take advantage of that fact to diverge from the strict consideration of surgical disease, and shall offer you instead a brief sketch of some of the most notable work done of old by a body of members of our profession who have never received their due reward—those, namely, who have devoted their lives to the succor of the sick and the wounded in war.

## MILITARY SURGEONS IN THE ROMAN ARMY.

Twelve months ago my friend, Dr. Barnes, of Carlisle, ex-President of this Association, made me acquainted with a remarkable paper by the late Sir James Simpson, entitled "Was the Roman Army provided with Medical Officers?"—a paper exhibiting such profound learning, so charmingly written, and so little known, that I need not make any apology for acquainting you with some of its chief points of interest.

The most careful investigations have failed to make out from their writings whether the Romans regularly appointed physicians and surgeons to their armies or not, although nearly every other question relating to their military organization has been treated of, sometimes very fully. Curiously enough, what little information we possess on the subject comes mainly from mortuary or from votive tablets. Borcovicus, in Northumberland—now called Housesteads