

Historical Sketch of the **Progress of Medicine** in Newfoundland

Address by Dr. L. E. Keegan, President of the Newfoundland Medical Society---At the Opening of its Second Annual Convention on Monday, July 13th, derson, father of the present well

'I have been censured by illiterate

In 1874 Dr. Forbes, father of the

at the age of 69, forty-four years of

was Moore, a Jersey man, referred

to before. He was succeedd by Dr.

Sterling, as the following clipping

"Mr. Sterling, Surgeon, Harbor

Grace, having applied to me for

permission to occupy a piece of

land in the rear of that which he

at present holds is granted per-

Sterling may have been there for

ome time previous to that date. He

vas an Irishman of much ability, was

he founder and first president of the

ciety, and was the life of the second

city. He married the daughter of Dr.

Mayne, of Bonavista town, and in his

old days he and his wife went to

Twillingate where he passed the re-

mainder of his days with his son.

William, who was a medical graduate

of Edinburgh University. All the pres-

ent generation of Sterlings are des-

cendants of Sterling of Harbor

Grace. The next practitioner in the

scond town was J. S. Taylor, who

resided there in 1832. Following him

came Lombard, Molloy, Dow and Allan

(Sr.); both of these latter were grad-

uates of Edinburgh. Allan first set-

tled at Brigus, having returned there from an Arctic expedition. Then came

Thompson, Toussaint, who was edu-

cated at Paris, Wm. Allan (Jr.), and

finally Martin, who had previously

been in Heart's Content. In 1832

there was a cholera scare and pub-

lic meetings were held all over Conception Bay, subscriptions were raised

and a Hospital was built in Harbor

Grace on the Carbonear Road. This Hospital was afterwards used as a barracks for soldiers up to 1862, when it was given over as a residence

.

Carbonear was also well looked af-

ter from a medical standpoint in the early days, and I find the names of bor Grace), Fenlon, Donegan, Han-

Harbor Grace Benevolent Irish So-

Governor Hamilton.

which he spent in Bonavista.

shows:-

Nov. 14, 1818.

(Continued.)

When James felt his health failing and unprincipled persons for discharging my duty as an upright and he requested Dr. Herbert Smith to impartial man ought to do." take over the district and once more Burin was fortunate in obtaining an Bonavista town had Medical men able medical man. Smith was known as far back as 1796 in the person of to many present here to-day. He was Dr. Mayne, an ex-naval surgeon, who a graduate of Harvard, a man of expractised there in that year. He ceptional ability, of sterling character brought up his family there, his and devoted to his profession. Over daughter marrying Dr. Sterling of Harbour Grace. He is supposed to be of meeting him at Burin, where toburied in the Anglican Cemetery at gether we performed a Trephining Bonavista. Following him came James operation for depressed fracture of Oakley, an Englishman, who went the skull. His skill and great know-Bonavista as Medical Officer on a ledge impressed me very much and French warship. His granddaughter is his account of the successful Caesarliving in Bonavista to-day. For some ean operation performed on a very years before his death Oakley was cripple woman, without an anaesthparalyzed, and was carried in a chair etist or skilled assistant stands out to visit his patients. This chair and a triumph in the medical annals the medicine case that always accom-Newfoundland. I saw the woman panied him are still in existence. He then I was over there. She was a very died in 1829 at the age of 74. For forty rious case of Potts disease of the years his remains lay in the Anglican iower dorsal vertebral, her body Cemetery, but as the grave was at the entrance to the new Anglican Church, the remains were removed to the man's name by an extraordinary coin-Methodist Cemetery, the relatives recidence was Caesar, and when the fusing "to have a good man trampled her Jane Porro Caesar, and Jane is John Skelton (Sr.) was a contemthe mother of a family to-day. This operation was performed thirty-three porary of Oakley. He died in 1859, leaving two sons, Drs. George and years ago, the year of the great fire.

It was the first laparotomy in this John, who succeeded him in Bona-In the quiet little village of Burin and its surrounding rugged hills, worthy Vice-President, took up prac-Herbert Smith spent his life in reliev- tice there, being a partner with Skeling suffering humanity, and when the ton. Forbes was a graduate of Harcall came he passed away without vard and had the great luck of being any signal honours, but his name taught his anatomy by Oliver Wendell will be remembered by the Medical profession of this country for many and had a very high reputation as a generations to come. practitioner. Dr. Forbes died in 1918

Conception, Trinity, Bonavista and Placentia Bays also had medical men in these early days. The appointment of Doctors as magistrates appears to have been the usual course adopted. this being due to the fact that they were the most highly educated men to be found, so this custom has been handed down from past generations to the present time. I find the Commission of magistracy was issued by the Governor to John Edgar, Greens pond, early in 1800, for Dr. Edgar writes a letter to Governor Keats dated July, 1813 asking to be relieved from the unpleasant situation of Magistrate of Greenspond and states:

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troubles of this kind. I cannot praise the Vegetuble Compound toohighly for the good it has done me. Whenever I knowed a genua suffering Pam glad to tell her of it. Mrs. Witt RIDSDALE, R. R. No. 1. Mount Forest, Ontario.

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We have in Grays are seducits propa-reache-just so to and herbs—and it can be taken is safely even by a nurs-ing mother. For sale by all druggists.

later dead. The late Mr. Justice Emer son was a grandson of Hanrahan. Fraser, a student of Harvard University. He is well remembered in Bay were Doctors and they were all sons of Rev. Donald Fraser, who was the first Presbyterian Minister in Newfoundland. The present Dr. Fraser of

St. John's is a grandson. William

native of New Ross, Ireland, He

first went to Burin, but later settled

n Carbonear. On the twentieth of January, 1844, he perished in a snow

the time he was accompanied by one

man, who by walking all night around a tree succeeded in keeping

alive, but Dr. Hanrahan was found

Heart's Content was slower than the other settlements in obtaining medical aid, for the first regular practitioner there was Dr Buchanan in 1864. He was followed by Dr. Martin. Martin was well known in Dublin, being a graduate in arts and medicine of Trinity College and was the chosen one out of 300 applicants in London, when the Anglo-American Telegraph Company made their first appointment in Heart's Content This was in 1865 Martin left Heart's Content in 1880, afterwards practicing in Harbor Reids on construction work. Dr. Anknown doctors Arthur and Tom, took over the work at Heart's Content in that year. He was a graduate of Glasgow and had the privilege of spending some time in Lord Lister's wards at the Royal Infirmary, in ompany with the late William Mc-Ewen, Anderson went to Brigus originally at the instigation of the Grieves of Greenock, and his responsibilities were from Brigus to Kelligrews. As a all over Conception and Trinity Bays. Dr. Leonard Smith practiced in Heart's Content in 1876, but died the

Turning to Fortune Bay we find Harbor Breton being looked after by Dr. Clinton. He was born in London England, in 1815, graduated from the London College of Surgeons in 1837 and came out to Newman & Company. Shortly afterwards he died quite young, at the age of forty-two. Dr. Knight of this city is a grandson of Dr. Clinton. Dr. Sheehan was also stationed at Harbour Breton, He was a native of Waterford, Ireland.

In Placentia proper, Francis Bradshaw referred to before, practised until 1825. He was an Irishman, an exnaval surgeon, and was succeeded by his son Francis L. Bradshaw, who was there from 1825 until 1873, when he died at the age of 74. Next came Adam MacKeen. He had been prac-Placentia three years when he died. work. He was a remarkable man, of a very retiring disposition. He led a of the present general Hospital, and of a boarding house, rather than that humble life, devoting himself alto-gether to the sick of Placentia Bay. remember first meeting him in 1890 ally. He was a man of much ability

at his little surgery in Placentia, when he told me of the hardships and trials he had, often in storms on land and sea, travelling on horseback through blizzards to relieve some suffering patient, very little remuneration for the work he did, but withal perfectly satisfied and happy. Several years before he died he suffered from malignant disease of the stomach, for which a gastro-enterostomy was performed, but the disease recur-red, and in spite of his sufferings he carried on work, up to a few months acted on the proclamation issued by

remembered throughout Placentia And now we will return to St. John's, where in 1811 the inhabitants



SNOODLES

were somewhat interested in establishing a Hospital for sick persons, and this as a result of Carson's agitation. Prior to 1811 the only Hospitals in existence were Military ones and

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will deal with these first. The military Hospitals were used almost diers of the garrison, and from all the Staff in 1818 and was connected the information obtainable, I am con- with the Hospital for years after. Edvinced there must have been two. One, ward Kielly was well known in St. small one, was situated at the foot of Patrick Street on the site of the naval man, and was a student under present gas house. Moreover there David Soughlin who was Medical of was a military burial ground in a line ficer in charge of the Military Hospdirectly South from this, at the foot ital around 1815. He was somewhat of of the South Side hills, because, some years ago, when excavating grounds in following rhyme published when he this spot, workmen found skeltons was at the pinnacle of fame. and the remains of coffins together with many military buttons. It is "Oh did you see Dr. Kielly O, quite reasonable to conclude that this His boots all polished so highly O. building may have been used for in-

time isolated from the main garrison,

the site of the present skating and curling rinks The other and principal military built, was situated on Military Road, William. This building I find was It contained, I should say about fifthe shooting grounds in Torbay.

The townspeople of St. John's be ing new forced to make provision for before his death. He was beloved by the people and his name will be long lowed on the notice published by Carson and others, and on June 4th, 1813. the foundation stone was laid at the Riverhead of St. John's in the grounds now known as Victoria Park. The Governor at the time was Sir R. G.

It was a red letter day in the history of the town; there fas a procession from the Court House to the site, and a speech was made by Chief Justice Colclough, the prayer was offered up by the Rev. D. Roland of the St. John's Episcopal Church. On the foundation stone was affixed a plate with the following inscription.

"The foundation stone of the Newfoundland Hospital was laid by his Excellency Sir Richard Goodwin Keats, on the 4th of June in the year of Our Lord, 1813 and in the 52nd year of the reign of our sovereign Lord the King, in the presence of a

OUR YOUNG FRIEND IS A VICTIM
OF A COMMON AILMENT CALLED
SELFISHNESS

numerous assemblage of the friends of the Institution." The cost of the onstruction of the building was 2135 ands sterling. It is gratifying to oberve that in these days the labore took his tot, honestly, and above board for amongst the items of expenditure I find, without any camouflage whatver, "19 pounds sterling to cover rum for the men who hauled the me." Since the introduction of higher education and prohibition, such items generally appear under the head of "stationery".

The first medical men charged with the Superintendence of the Hospital, were William Carson and Dr. N. Pow-They were visiting physicians during the first sixty years of the Hospital's growth. The first medical eport issued, covered the period from June 10 to August 30, 1814, it stated that forty persons had been admitted to the Institution, that 21 had been discharged cured, that two had died and that seventeen remained in the

The Committee in charge reported that the cost of operations for this period had been 210 pounds. In 1820 there were black clouds on the horizon and a public meeting was called ounts and state of the Nfld. Hospital. There was a balance against the Institution then of £80.12.0 unprovided for. One of the resolutions passed at the meeting was to the effect-"That any person who may hereafter pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of six pounds, should have the privilege of sending into the Hospital one patient for a month free of charge." Another resolution was to the effect-"That Drs. Carson, Warner and Kielly be requested to report to the Committee what utensils may be necessary for running the Institu-

Surgeon Warner appears to have this time, but I cannot find much

With his three cocked hat and his ectious diseases only, being at the And his fiddle to coax the ladies O."

It was a desperate fight to keep the which was situated at Fort William, Hospital going in these times and as Hospital and undoubtedly the first bundled in with the sick. I take the following from a report of the Grand sold by Public Auction on June 11th Hospital was founded in the year 1813, 1852 and was then taken down. To has for want of funds, been wholly dereplace this a new military Hospital parted from and that it has for sever-

teen or twenty beds and sometimes the Lunatics are very unsuitable, be- resign any rights of Government | Civilians were treated there, and it ing so near to the sick wards, that is interesting to note that in 1913, an the lives of the Patients have been old man was admitted to the General. endangered and from the total want who told me he had been treated in of fires and the open state of the the Military Hospital for a fractur- building, it is only wonderful that ed leg, when seven years old being run these poor creatures have not been over by an officer who was driving to frozen in their beds." This document

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IF EVER THERE WAS A SHOW YOU SHOULD NOT MISS. HERE IT!

man of the Grand Jury. In 1836 the Speech of the Governor at the opening of the Legislature con- Rochford was appointed. I remembe tains, the following. "The Hospital at the second Dr. Bunting well, a typical Assembly appointed a select Riverhead in the present state is I re- old time physician, always wore a tall tee to enquire into math gret to say rather a disgrace than a hat and white gloves when visiting chairman of the Committee it to your protection and will joyfully | years of age when he died. therein, provided you will convert it into a public institution" By this means he meant that the colonial Government should take charge and finance the Institution, but nothing seems to have been done for years, except the passing and repealing of acts for the relief of sick and disabled persons. In 1838 I find the appointment of Dr. Sam Carson, Dr. H. Stabb and Dr. O'Dwyer as District Surgeons, they together with Dr. Kielly formed the visiting staff of the Hospital, at this time. Dr. Rochfort's name appears in this year also as District Surgeon, he was an Irishman, who entered largely into the public life of St. John's and who together with Sam Carson fought hard for Responsible Government and afterwards was in the

. In 1845 some progress was made, for in this year the insane were removed from the hospital to a place called Palko House on the Waterford Bridge Road. Dr. H. Stabb, father of the late Dr. Fred Stabb, was appointed

Legislative Council.

In 1847 the Hospital directors appointed Dr. Bunting as Keeper of the Institution at a salary of £100 a year, he did not reside there, but had general Supervision of the place, but Typhus fever broke out in the Intitution that year and Bunting died rom the disease contracted while dis-

Hospital affairs were in a had way

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ed the Assembly, showing t evidence were Edward Kielly Carson, John Rochford, C. H. F. Bunting, Joseph Shea, W. and Henry Stabb. They all ut the St. John's Hospital should verted into a General Hospital anced by the Government. there should be a resident

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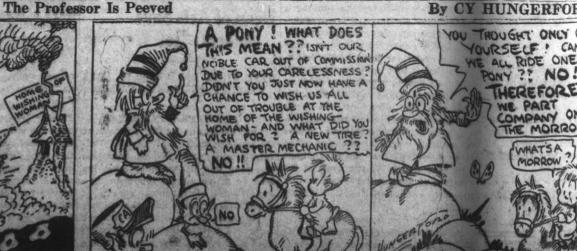
uf was the f

Dr. Stabb in his evidence following statement. "It quire probably 1000 pounds p o run a General Hospital lines I suggest, and that clude all charges and expense such an institution would mer wants of the country." The grievance was that charity a source of revenue to the Ins from the Government, had moved from the Hospital, an in boarding houses, the average allowed for their up-keep being pence a day. Thus history re

As a result of the select tee's report the Colonial Gor inanced the Hospital until then took it over as a Govern

In 1870 the garrison was M rom St. John's and the militar pital was handed over to the nent. The Staff and patients Riverhead Hospital were rem the Forest Road Hospital. ime of the transfer Dr. C. C (Continued on 7th page)

By CY HUNGERFORD



HOUGHT ONLY OF URSELF! CAN ALL RIDE ONE. PONY ?! NO! HEREFORE-THE MORROW

years.