

# Toronto Orthopedic Hospital

Decennial Report, 1898-1908.

The Toronto Orthopedic Hospital was founded in 1898. The first Board of Trustees consisted of widely known, public spirited gentlemen, who have since that time passed away. They were: Rev. John Potts, D.D., who was elected President of the Board; Judge MacDougall, Warring Kennedy, Rev. Frank Ryan, and Rev. John Gillespie. A little later Mr. Timothy Eaton came upon the Board and assisted both financially and by his counsel in establishing the Hospital. These gentlemen, though busily occupied with important concerns in their own spheres, yet gave much time and effort to interest the public in the purpose and needs of the work. Finding that no institution existed in Canada designed and equipped especially for the care and treatment of persons lame, crippled and deformed, and that many of such were going away to cities in the United States for treatment, they undertook to provide the means whereby all persons—rich or poor, in childhood or maturity—so afflicted could have the advantages of such modern learning and surgical art as are required in the treatment of this difficult class of cases. It meant much more than providing a site and a building, as the work could not be accomplished as in a hospital for general diseases, but it required special equipment, as shown in future pages.

An appeal to their friends, resident chiefly in Toronto, resulted in procuring the present property on Bloor street, and in building and equipping it for its special work at a cost of nearly \$50,000.

The Hospital has entered upon the tenth year of its history. The Trustees consider it an opportune time for reviewing the work done and for laying emphasis upon the unique place which it occupies among Canadian philanthropic institutions. The Hospital is designed to alleviate a very distressing class of ailments, and not only to free suffering ones from their afflictions, but to render them more efficient for the performance of life's work. Illustrations shown in this report are chosen as representative of hundreds of persons who have been rescued from a condition in which life was found to be a burden, and restored to one of activity, confidence and happiness; from one of almost hopeless disability to one of busy usefulness. Young persons so disabled by paralysis and deformity as to be entirely unable to walk, have been restored to a degree of activity which made life a renewed delight, and enabled the individual to take up duties and responsibilities necessary to a livelihood. Hundreds more who were burdened by greatly disfiguring deformities—some of whom had carried their burdens half a life time, not knowing previously that relief could be obtained—have been so completely restored to normal conditions that the disability is not observed by those who had not known them previously.

The fact that it is the only hospital in Canada whose equipment and efforts are designed exclusively to cure or benefit persons who are lame, ruptured, crippled or deformed, gives it a place peculiar to itself. In harmony with the great general advancement made in medical science, orthopedic surgery, by specializing in the attention given to this most difficult class of affections, has provided means of treatment, and has attained results which could not otherwise be secured.

It is chiefly among the young that this work is called for, yet the number of disabled persons in adult life presenting themselves for treatment is found to be nearly as great as the number under *Forty* years of age.