

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE,

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## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

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SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

W. B. DAWSON, TREASURER.

## The College Grounds.

It has been the custom of the College for some years past to allow the public, or that part of it who cared to pay, free access to the grounds. It only needs a walk through them on a bright afternoon to discover the results of this policy. On the football ground will be discovered some fifty or sixty school-boys playing a game of their own, invariably interrupting the students. If the day is hot, the observer, by shutting his eyes, and slightly exciting his imagination, could readily fancy himself in Pandemonium, on account of the fearful yells and screams with which the youngsters accompany their exertions. Let us suppose the observer is a modest freshman of somewhat extensive reading. He has read of the classic walks of Oxford and Cambridge, paced by grave dons and hard-working students; if he has a turn for philosophy, he has often in imagination strolled about the shady walks of the Lyceum with the great Peripatetic, or has listened, in the museum gardens of Alexandria, to the fair Hypatia, the last of the Platonists. He thinks he will find the same surroundings to some extent at McGill, and looks forward to peopling her walks with the poets and philosophers of the past, or its picturing to his mind the academic distinctions the future will bring within his grasp. He hurries away from the play-ground, and crossing the drive, he sees—what? Not that scene of quiet seclusion he fancied would exist, but all over the grounds some fifty nurses (we counted fifty-four one day last week) with their infantile charges. Instead of the shouts of yells fourteen, the quavering treble of four and under thrills through his ears; a gust of wind brings the yells of the boys to him; the nurses, in all dialects from *patois* to Erse, comment on his appearance as if he were an intruder, and their infant charges redouble their efforts, in which they succeed perfectly, to make *day* hideous with their howlings.

The shock to his auditory nerves and his modesty is too much for him; he turns into the path along the brook and escapes from the spot where his eye is refreshed by the rustic beauty of the scene, and his mind free to revel in whatever scene it may call up. He enjoys this for a short time, but it is too pleasant to last; he sees a bevy of boarding-school misses. This is the crowning trial; under it he breaks down, and with averted face he rushes past them home to his lodgings, the ideal college gardens of his imagination being in reality a play-ground for boys and a nursery garden for babies. In sober earnest this is an evil, and it is one that might easily be remedied. We suppose that it will be admitted that our grounds are for the use of University men. The question is to what extent they should be open to the public. If they were large enough no one could object to all being allowed access to them; but as they really are now too small for the use of the students, we must object to any policy which for a small pecuniary profit causes the students great annoyance, if it does not altogether prevent them from using grounds which they naturally think were originally provided for their benefit, not to increase by a paltry fraction the revenues of the College. One of two courses is open to the University authorities—either to close the grounds against the public entirely, or to utilize the unimproved part of the grounds as a playground and garden which should be open to all on the sole condition of good behavior; and thus allow us to enjoy the remainder of the grounds without encountering in our walks bawling infants and “bread and butter” misses. We hope that whatever they may resolve on, they will abandon a policy which to us at least appears hardly consistent with the dignity of the College.

EDITOR.

## Operations at the Hospital.

As the Montreal General Hospital is essentially a University institution, being under the care of the Medical Faculty of McGill, the members of which alone are its attending and consulting physicians, its affairs, I think, will be of some interest to the readers of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE; while some contributions of this kind will convince its subscribers that the students of all the faculties take an interest in its object, and co-operate with the editors to ensure its success. I will speak now of the surgical operations that have been performed in the Hospital during this last month. Small as the Hospital is, and limited as is for that reason the number of patients, yet we need never be ashamed of the record of operations, the mortality rate in which is as small as in any hospital, although the crowded state in which the wards frequently are, and the confined situation of the building, are most unfavorable for the after-treatment of surgical cases. The low rate of mortality may justly be said to be due in great measure to the skill and care of Drs. Roddick and Chipman, our House Surgeons. In the last month we have had, in addition to several minor operations, such as ligation of hemorrhoids, operations for Fistula in Ano, and amputations of fingers, a good number of legs below the knee, all of them for Caries of bones of the leg, except one, which was for crushing of the ankle and foot. In this case Dr. Fenwick, who is now one of the attendant physicians, tried a method for controlling the hemorrhage that has been recently introduced in London, which has the advantage of rendering the operation entirely bloodless, and also saving for the patient the blood which was in the limb at the time. This is done by bandaging the limb with a roller as tightly as it can be pulled, from the toes up to within three inches of Poupart's Ligament, and there applying a rubber band as tightly as possible. This controls the hemorrhage completely, and the flaps, when cut, are bloodless. Of course the bandage must be taken off again where the flaps have to be cut. In the case referred to, the rubber tubing used for drainage was employed, being wound around the limb several times. The advantage of this is evident, particularly when the patient has lost a quantity of blood by the accident.

I cannot here refrain from speaking of Dr. Fenwick, who is a credit and honour to the Faculty and to the city. The boldness, and at the same time judgment with which he undertakes an operation, and the coolness and deliberation with which he handles the knife, are alike the admiration of all who see him operate. He performed, a short time ago, with the utmost neatness and success, an operation which has never been attempted before by any surgeon in Canada, and has been very rarely attempted in the States. It was the operation of Colotomy, that is establishing an artificial anus by cutting into the colon. The object in this case was to relieve from the constant irritation of the fecal discharges some syphilitic ulcers in the rectum which could not possibly heal so long as they were subjected to this irritation. Dr. Fenwick performed the operation called Omussat's, since the operation, though previously much reduced by the disease.

Another operation this month, also by Dr. Fenwick, was that of Trephining for a depressed fracture of the skull. The symptoms of compression, however, persisted, and in the *post mortem* examination the cause was found to be a clot under the dura mater. In addition to these, the operation of excision of the knee-joint for disease of the ends of the femur and tibia, was performed by Dr. Drake. This is a very important operation—and especially difficult in subsequent treatment, from the size of the wound and the profuse suppuration which is apt to ensue.

Here is an array of cases which show the means which a student of McGill has of gaining experience in surgery in the Montreal General Hospital, while at the same time it shows the work which that much-abused institution is doing.

## Notes.

We have received a letter from “Trebtor.” Lack of space compels us to leave it over until our next issue. The Editor wishes Trebtor to send his name to the GAZETTE before the 15th instant.

We have several articles of interest which we are compelled to leave over. They are now in type.