

ratories, numbered as many as 6,000 students at one session, in the latter part of the eighth century.

In the eleventh century one of the most celebrated was the University of Salerno. Its medical lectures were very numerous attended during the Crusades, the place being then a fashionable resort. It awarded its degrees to students of seven years standing.

I shall not steep you in the Cimmerian gloom which rested upon later endeavours to diffuse professional learning, as it rested upon whatever else was calculated to ennoble mankind, till the middle of the fifteenth century; nor, pleasant though the task might be, trace the subsequent establishment throughout Europe, in the sunshine that succeeded, of medical schools which still continue to win the admiration of the whole world; but I propose to engage in what, I trust, will be to you still more agreeable. I propose to turn your attention from foreign seats of learning and bygone days to our own; for, as of the patriot and his country, so of the Alumnus and his college it may be sung,

“Such is the ” *Alumnus*’ “boast where’er we roam;
His first, best ” college “ever is at home.”

Before 1824 a few occasional lectures had been given in Montreal, but without the order, or regularity, or union that was afterwards manifested. In that year four of the most competent practitioners resident here, viz., Drs. Caldwell, Robertson, Stephenson, and Holmes, associated themselves to deliver, annually, courses of lectures upon certain branches of medicine. The school, thus initiated, was conducted with signal ability from the first. Many were its struggles, but the wisdom and energy of its brave founders triumphed over all. It was named the Montreal Medical Institute. Its pupils had the advantage of walking the General Hospital, which had been opened two years previously. Its powers were limited, however, to those of extra-academical bodies. This institution is of a peculiar interest to us. It was the child to the man of which the present one is father. Four years ended its nonage. Then it was grafted as a flourishing scion into the University of McGill College, of which it afterwards constituted the Medical department. It now had the privilege of procuring, for successful competitors, the *summos honores*, in the form of the degree of M.D. Its first graduate was William Logie, in 1833; he was the harbinger bud of the wreaths of flowers that blossomed in succeeding springs. Its usefulness was greatly promoted by the formation of a Library and Museum, which its Faculty made more extensive year by year. It began with four chairs, viz., Practice of Medicine, Midwifery, Chemistry and *Materia Medica*,