

The passing day; should learn to put aside
Her trappings here, should strip them off abashed
Before antiquity and steadfast truth
And strong book-mindedness; and over all
A healthy, sound simplicity should reign,
A seemly plainness, name it what you will,
Republican or pious.

MCGILL AND MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

McGill University has always pursued the prudent policy of living at peace with all men in so far as this was possible. It has even been willing to forego something of its just due in following out this commendable course, and in no case has it ever been found insisting upon untenable claims. This attitude of justice and forbearance lends greater weight to its cry of remonstrance when the rights of English education are threatened. From private information it would appear that the time is at hand when the University will again have to raise its voice not only in defence of one of its own faculties but also in the cause of sound Medical Education.

At the last session of the Legislature of Quebec a Bill was introduced to amend the law respecting the College of Physicians and Surgeons of this Province: the Bill passed the Lower House, but was defeated in the Legislative Council by a vote so narrow that one shudders at the nearness of the danger. The Legislature it is announced by C. B. De Boucherville, the Premier, will meet early in January, and in all probability the attempt will be renewed. In view of the nearness of the session it is worth stating what were really the provisions of this Bill which so nearly became law, what would be the immediate effects upon our own University, and finally what would be the extent of the disaster to Medical teaching and practice in this Province.

The Bill attempted to prescribe for the Students the following course of study:—

General anatomy or histology: one course of one hundred and twenty lectures or two courses of sixty lectures;

Descriptive and topographic anatomy: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

Practical anatomy: three annual courses or fifteen months;

General and special physiology: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

General pathology: two courses of sixty lectures;

Chemistry: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

Materia Medica and therapeutics: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

Medico-chirurgical clinics: three courses of eight months;

Midwifery: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

That he was present at at least twenty accouchements in a lying-in hospital;

Internal pathology: two courses of one hundred and twenty lectures;

Surgical pathology: two courses of twenty lectures;

Diseases of the mind: one course of forty lectures;

Diseases of the aged and of children: one course of sixty lectures;

Ophthalmology and osteology: one course of thirty lectures;

Gynaecology: two courses of sixty lectures;

Operative surgery: one course of sixty lectures;

Pathologic histology: one course of sixty lectures;

Practical chemistry: two courses of thirty lectures, or one course of sixty lectures;

Medical jurisprudence and toxicology: two courses of sixty lectures;

Practice at the dead house: one course of ten lectures;

HISTORY OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEONTOLOGY: ONE COURSE.

According to the current calendar, the requirements at McGill Medical School are Anatomy, Practical Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Therapeutics, Principles and Practice of Surgery, Midwifery and diseases of Women and children, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Clinical Medicine, Clinical Surgery two courses each of six months duration, Medical Jurisprudence one course of six months, Practical Chemistry, Botany or Zoology, Hygiene one course of nine months duration, Histology ten lectures and twenty-five demonstrations, Surgical pathology twenty-five lectures, six autopsies, six accouchements.

Now let us compare with these the requirements demanded by the Examining Board of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England: Anatomy, six months; dissection, twelve months; Physiology, six months; General Anatomy and Physiology, three months; Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery including Diseases of women, each six months; Pathological Anatomy and Forensic Medicine, three months; "Instruction" in Chemistry, Practical Chemistry, *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy. "Systematic Practical Instruction in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery" demonstrations in the *post mortem* form.

So far as appears in the Bill, the Quebec College requires no hospital attendance, while McGill requires eighteen months and the English Board twenty-one months.

It will of course be open to the advocates of the Bill to urge that the course they propose is better than that actually in vogue in England and at McGill. To this it would be hard to give a suitable reply unless one followed the proverbial advice and answered a fool according to his folly. To take a few examples. According to the Calendar, and taking one year with another, a six months course contains about seventy lectures. Thus in England, they require seventy lectures in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery, at McGill one hundred and forty, while the advocates of this Bill require two hundred and twenty. But at McGill and in England the difference is adequately provided for by "Practical instructions" and "Clinical work."

The whole Bill is a reversion to the days when Students of Medicine wore flowing cloaks of scarlet silk instead of foul-smelling dissecting coats when physicians talked of humors phlegm and spirits, and surgeons provided their operating rooms with ample tanks for blood, searing irons and boiling fluids.

If this Bill became law, and anyone were absurd enough to attempt to enforce its provisions, the whole course of study at McGill will have to be revised, the hospital wards will have no attraction for Students, and physicians will know nothing of disease as it really is till they come to practise. It may be hoped, upon these same advocates of this Quebec Bill.