

BODY SNATCHING.

The daily papers in the City of Montreal have lately teemed with accounts of body snatching in its vicinity, and naturally enough the public mind has been considerably excited. The desecration of graves is a matter which, of course, harrows the feelings of all right-minded persons, and even we who know the necessity which compels the act, cannot say aught in its favor. All we can do is to raise our voice, and urge upon the Provincial Government the absolute necessity which exists for the enforcement of the present Anatomical Act. This Act might be improved upon, but even as it now stands upon the Statute Book, if properly enforced, the various medical schools in Montreal would have an abundant supply of anatomical material. If we are rightly informed there is one institution in our immediate vicinity which, if it complied with the Act, could alone give the amount of required material. The entire difficulty, it seems to us, lies in the utter inefficiency of the present Inspector of Anatomy. This gentleman does not like his office, and is perfectly willing to be replaced. The Government, although repeatedly applied to to do so, have so far failed to name his successor. Till this is done, in spite of all that may be said against it, body snatching will continue.

SIR THOMAS WATSON, BART.

To the entire profession the death of this eminent physician, which occurred on the 11th December, will be a source of deep sorrow.

Thomas Watson was born at Kentisbeare, in Devonshire, on the 7th March, 1792.

In 1820 and 1821 he attended the medical classes in Edinburgh, and in a letter to his sister dated from Edinburgh he speaks of his intention to return thence in a sloop as being more economical and allowing the carriage of an unlimited amount of luggage. He was married in 1825, and in the same year he took his M.D. degree. In the following year Dr. Watson was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians, and in May, 1827, physician to the Middlesex Hospital, an office which he continued to hold until November, 1843. For some years after he settled in London practice came very slowly, patients and fees were few, and he was not free from pecuniary cares and anxieties.

At the opening of the medical school of King's College in the autumn of 1831 Dr. Watson was appointed Professor of Forensic Medicine.

In 1836, Dr. Watson was appointed Professor of medicine at King's College, and he continued to hold this office until the spring of 1840, when, at the opening of the newly founded King's College Hospital, he had to resign either his office of physician to the Middlesex Hospital or his chair at King's College, and he preferred to retain the former office. The resignation of his professorship, which was felt as a calamity by King's College, was attended with this great benefit to the entire profession and the public, that it led to the publication of his admirable lectures on the "Principles and Practice of Physic." The lectures were first published week by week in the *Medical Gazette*. The first lecture appeared on September 25th, 1840, and the last of the series on September 23rd, 1842. In the following year, 1843, they were collected and published in two volumes.

The publication of these lectures, admirable as they were universally acknowledged to be, not less for the soundness of their teaching than for their lucid, elegant, and scholarly style, greatly increased the reputation of their author, acquired for him the well-merited title of the Cicero of English medicine, and led at once to a large extension of his practice.

At the College of Physicians Dr. Watson held numerous offices before he was elected President. From 1858 to 1860 he was the College representative on the Medical Council. In 1862 he was elected President, and he held that office for five successive years.

Dr. Watson was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the Queen in 1859, and in 1870 one of the Physicians in Ordinary. On the 9th December, 1861, he was summoned to attend the Prince Consort at Windsor in consultation with Sir James Clark, Sir Henry Holland, and Sir (then Dr.) William Jenner, and his attendance continued until the lamented death of the Prince on December 14th. In 1866 Dr. Watson was created a baronet, the honor having been offered to him, as he was informed by the then Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, by the express desire of Her Majesty.

During the last ten or twelve years of his life he had retired from the active practice of his profession, but continued to take great interest in all that concerned it.