

ilton, Ont., who died on active service in South Africa in 1900, occupies a conspicuous place in the room.

It is of interest to note that the growth of the reading room kept pace with the growth of the faculty. The Medical Society was formed in 1879 through the efforts of Drs. Osler and Buller, and shortly afterwards undertook to support a reading room. The first room was a small apartment in the basement of the building and the literature provided was one daily newspaper and the Illustrated London News. In 1885 the room used as the Registrar's office until the present year was fitted up as a students' reading room and the reading matter was considerably increased. In 1886 the faculty were induced to collect a dollar from each student as part of his yearly fees and to devote it to the support of the reading room and since then the finances of the Society have been in a satisfactory condition. When the Molson wing was built in 1894, a reading room was fitted up in the rear of No. 3 Lecture Theatre and the number of periodicals was greatly increased. This room was used until the present year, when the present quarters already described were obtained.

THE EARLY HISTORY AND PROPHYLAXIS OF SYPHILIS.

BY

W. A. GARDNER, '02.

Syphilis, synonymously known as lues venerea, morbus gallicus, pox, bad disorder, and by various other terms, is derived from two Greek words meaning swine and love.

This name syphilis by which it is most often recognized in all languages was first employed in 1521, in a poem in which a herdsman named Syphilus is afflicted by some mysterious malady by the god Apollo.

The existence of syphilis in prehistoric ages has been inferred after close study of certain bones exhumed in various parts of the world, exhibiting lesions identical or similar to those found in bones which there is no doubt of the process. Such bones have been found in different parts of the United States, and the lesions have been interpreted by many, as unequivocally due to syphilis. Other views, however, have been taken on this subject and microscopical examination suggests the idea that the changes induced might have been caused by simple inflammation.

In the ancient literature of the Chinese and Japanese, according to some French writers, not only were the initial lesions and their subse-