

Every practical man hails after-pains as salutary, especially after quick and painless labors, and would not dream of interfering with their wholesome action, unless very severe, for some hours after delivery; yet those misguided chloroformists think nothing of interfering with that safe action at times when the advent of hemorrhage would complicate matters more seriously. The other objections to its use at other times, under certain circumstances, are equally admissible here. I think I have now demonstrated not only by my own experience but also by some of the highest obstetrical authorities in the land, that chloroform inhalation is far from being a safe remedy in childbed, and should not then be employed.—*Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science.*

## Canada Lancet.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 15, 1863.

In the city of Montreal there are two Medical Colleges, an English and a French one, the former being in connection with McGill University, and the Montreal General, and University Lying-in Hospitals. In the latter, "L'Ecole de Medicine et de Chirurgie," the lectures are delivered in the French language: it has the great advantage of having under its control one of the largest and finest hospitals in the Province—the Hotel Dieu; it has also the Ste. Pelagie Hospital for Midwifery, practice, and La Dispensaire de la Providence, where over 800 out-door patients have been prescribed for within the past three months. And another is about to be opened under its guidance in connection with Les Dames des Sœurs Grises.

The English College gets the greater credit for superior physicians, because they practice among ourselves: the French too consider theirs the more excellent for a similar reason: the truth probably lies midway—for talent is not made in either.

To the student in medicine, McGill College possesses many advantages over its rival—unfair advantages, gained by partial legislation. They may be briefly stated as follows:—

*Firstly.* Whilst a student attending the English College requires but three years and a half of study to obtain his degree and license to practice, the law demands four full years if he attends the French one. And this three years and a half may be made a month or two less if desired, for matriculation tickets are granted as late as Christmas; and last winter we learn that they were given up to the month of February. Again, this three years and a half may be further shortened to two and a half, by producing a certificate from any medical man that the applicant has studied for a year previously; this cannot be done in the other school.

*Secondly.* A student in the English College has his time counted from the moment of commencing his studies, and has the privilege of receiving his classical examination at any period up to the time of the final one for his degree. But when attending the French school his studies can only be reckoned from this examination, which must be by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada.

And should a student be rejected by the board of examiners, he would get no credit for his time were he to attend the French lectures, but he can at once enter McGill College, and go on with his studies. The classical examination of McGill College is very easy, certificates being readily obtained after a month or two spent in the study of Latin. We have never heard of a student being prevented from graduating for want of knowledge of this kind; and have known students to have passed it who were unable afterwards to translate their diplomas, or understand the Hippocratic oath they were compelled to take before receiving them. It would be better were this part of the ceremony put into English.

*Thirdly.* The English College has the power of granting degrees—the French one possesses no such right; this want it feels more than any other: were they enabled to confer degrees they would be the more valuable from the extra labour necessary to their attainment.

*Fourthly.* The English College has the right of examining its own students, whilst those of the French are compelled to go before the College of Physicians and Surgeons even for the examination for license to practice.

It will then be seen that "L'Ecole de Medicine" labours under many disadvantages, notwithstanding which its classes are always well attended, and its professors stand deservedly high among their countrymen. In the appointments of professorships, the French school possesses a decided superiority over the English one, as they are always made for ability and fitness for the chairs to be occupied. In McGill College, on the contrary, they are put in by routine, as in the army, without regard to qualification or talent. Any young man may become a professor in McGill College with patience and a constant effort to flatter and please those above him, provided he can get elected as apothecary to the Montreal General Hospital. Each vacancy occurring in the College makes one step of advance for every one beneath it, and consequently for him. We have had a demonstration of the working of this system within the past few months: the house surgeon resigned—the apothecary was quietly installed into his place—nobody knew anything about it until it was all over. The demonstratorship of anatomy is about to be vacated; it is not necessary to inquire who is to receive it—none but the house surgeon will be appointed to it—he is already preparing his round-robin—'tis the fashion—all the students will sign it—they ask for his appointment—what is it to them who gets in? It will be done—not for the petition,—not for his experience and fitness,—not because he is the best man that can be found,—but because it is his turn next. Another vacancy occurring, this young man gets a clinical professorship—perhaps of surgery, without ever having performed half a dozen operations in his life. It has been done before—it will be done again.

The result of all this is, that the talent of the country is not represented in this institution, for what man of spirit much less of ability and experience would, for the sake of a professorship, consent to accept a place beneath a lot of younger men, his inferiors in all these respects, and on whose will he must depend for future advancement. We do not say but that some of these young men may occasionally turn out good lecturers; but possessing no power to remove the incompetent ones, the college is suffering from the burthen. And were it