

We have now to consider another circumstance which exerted a marked influence on this School, and, in truth, mainly contributed to its establishment. I now allude to the erection of the Montreal General Hospital. In the first annual report of that Institution, I find the following:—"In the year 1819, from the increase in the population of this town, the Hotel Dieu Nunnery was found to be inadequate to the reception of the indigent sick; an inconvenience further augmented by the great influx of emigrants from the United Kingdom, some of them labouring under fevers of a contagious nature, and other diseases, that were not admissible into that hospital." Accordingly that year a subscription was taken up for hiring a house to serve as an hospital; and the report further says: "That though this was only on a small scale, the good effected by it was, after one year's trial, so evident, that it was deemed an object highly desirable to erect a building, which might give permanency to the establishment." Accordingly ground was purchased, subscriptions were opened to raise the sum of £2200, the estimated cost of the building, and in January, 1821, a special committee, appointed for the purpose, entered into contract for the erection of the edifice now known as the Montreal General Hospital. Like most other large buildings, the actual cost of its erection exceeded the estimate by the large amount of nearly £1500, but it was finished for the reception of patients in the year 1822; and that there must have existed an urgent necessity for its erection, is proved from the fact, that between May, 1822, and May, 1823, 421 indoor, and 397 outdoor patients received medical assistance from its officers. The medical gentlemen who thus early gave their services were Drs. Robertson, Caldwell, Holmes, Loedel, Stephenson, and Lyons.

With an hospital at their command, in which clinical instruction might be afforded, the thought was now conceived to establish a school of medicine in connection with it; and the following extracts from the early "Minutes of meeting" of the Faculty will prove the best introduction to what follows. On October 20th, 1822, a meeting of the medical officers of the hospital was held, consisting of "W. Robertson, W. Caldwell, A. F. Holmes, J. Stephenson, and H. P. Loedel, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a medical school in this city," in which it was unanimously resolved "that the considerations which seemed to warrant so desirable an object should be drawn out, and laid before the next meeting of the Board, to be held on the 27th of the same month, and that Drs. Stephenson and Holmes be appointed a committee for the said purpose." Such then was the actual commencement of this School of Medicine; and I imagine that it will prove a