

The lecturer then entered into a minute description of the building, which we omit, as we allude to it in our editorial columns. The lecturer then said:—

“Medicine was a mere chaos till 600 years before the Christian era, or a little earlier. Then the attempt was made to bring it into cosmos, or under the comprehension of philosophy. The asclepiades were the true originators of science, and in helping on the work Pythagoras was famous. Eight hundred more years passed by, however, before medicine was so digested or so trimmed as to be able to be publicly taught in a systematic manner. Then the philosophical school, or sect, which had in the meanwhile flourished, was superseded by the empirical, under the guidance of Serapion and others. And when the third century dawned, there sprung up the first institution for medical education. It was founded at Jondisabour. It brought up many eminent men, among others, some centuries after, was Rhazes, the Prince of physicians. But its teachings were soon opposed by those of the methodics, and afterwards by the dogmatics and others. For of it, as of others, it is true—“*Nec saire fas est omnia*. The attendance upon some of the ancient colleges far exceeded that of any single one in modern times; perhaps from their being not so many then as now to divide the palm. That of Bagdad, with which was associated an infirmary and laboratories, numbered as many as 6,000 students at one session in the latter part of the 8th century. In the 11th century one of the most celebrated was the university of Salerno. Its medical lectures were very numerous attended during the Crusades, the place being then a fashionable resort. It awarded its degrees to students of seven years' standing. I shall not steep you in the Cimmerian gloom which rested upon later endeavors to diffuse professional learning, as it rested upon whatever else was calculated to ennoble mankind, till the middle of the 15th century; nor, pleasant though the task may be, trace the establishment throughout Europe in the sunshine that succeeded, medical schools, which still continue to win the admiration of the whole world; but I propose to engage in what I trust will be to you still more agreeable. I propose to turn your attention from foreign seats of learning and bygone days to our own. For as the patriot and his country, so of the Alumnus and his college, it may be sung—

“Such is the ‘Alumnus’ boast where'er we roam
His first best college ever is at home.”

Before 1824, a few occasional lectures had been given in Montreal, but without the order or regularity or union that was afterwards manifested. In

that year four of the most competent practitioners resident here, viz., Drs. Caldwell, Robertson, Stephenson and Holmes, associated themselves to deliver annually courses of lectures upon certain branches of medicine. The school thus initiated was conducted with signal ability from the first. Many were its early struggles; but the wisdom and energy of its brave founders triumphed over all. It was named “the Montreal Medical Institute.” Its pupils had the advantage of walking the General Hospital, which had been opened two years previously. Its powers were limited, however, to those of extra-academical bodies. This institution is of peculiar interest to us. It was the child of the man of which the present one is father. Four years ended its nonage, when it was grafted as a flourishing scion into the University of McGill Collège, of which it afterwards constituted the medical department. It now had the privilege of procuring for successful competitors the *summos honores* in the form of the degree of M.D. Its first graduate was William Logie, in 1833; he was the harbinger bud of the wreaths of flowers which blossomed in succeeding springs. Its usefulness was greatly promoted by the foundation of a library and museum, which its Faculty made more extensive year by year. It began with four chairs, viz., Practice of Medicine, Midwifery, Chemistry and Materia Medica, Anatomy and Surgery. With the exception of a suspension during the rebellion which broke out in 1837, the lectures were delivered unremittingly every year. The last two branches named were subsequently divided, so that Chemistry, Anatomy, and Materia Medica, were taught separately. Surgery, however, was only released from its old bone to be joined to a new one, midwifery. In 1842 the union was severed, and each consigned to its own guardian. In November of the following year the efficiency of the school was materially increased by the opening of the University Lying-in Hospital, which afforded students the opportunity of attending cases of labour.

Since the origin of this Faculty to this, the 40th year of its existence, it has enlisted 26 Lecturers or Professors, including its founders. Upon 14 of these honored men Time has executed his commission.

“He undermines the stately tower,
Uproots the tree and snaps the flower,
And sweeps from our distracted breast
The friends we loved—the friends that blest.”

The last we have had to mourn the loss of has been Dr. Fraser, and because the last I feel that no apology from me is needed while paying a short tribute to his memory, that it may be the more surely preserved among us.