

nary member. Botany, Geology, and Mineralogy, were during this period of his life, Dr. Holmes' favorite pursuits or studies, and he brought with him to this country a very extensive herbarium of plants, emblematic of the Flora in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and a large collection of minerals and geological specimens, which formed the nucleus of the splendid collection, which he, a few years ago, made over to the University of McGill College, and which now constitutes so striking an ornament of its museum.

Shortly after his return to Canada, he entered into partnership with his former instructor Dr. Arnoldi, which was continued for several years, becoming at length finally dissolved, since which Dr. Holmes continued his practice alone, to the period of his decease. During the early period of his practice here, he was not unmindful of his early loves, and a rich mineralogical and geological collection, and a very complete herbarium of the Flora of Montreal, perhaps without exception the largest and most extensive private collections in the Province, attest his zeal in these departments of Natural Science. Indeed his indefatigable industry in Mineralogy was so conspicuous as to have led the late Dr. Thompson of Glasgow, to apply his name to a new mineral obtained, we believe, in the neighbourhood of Ottawa, and, we believe also, of Kingston, and which was sent to him for analysis. Dr. Thompson called this mineral *Holmesite*. In conjunction with a number of other scientific gentlemen of Montreal, he applied to the Legislature for an Act to Incorporate the Natural History Society of Montreal, which was obtained in the year 1827, we believe, and of this Society, he was for a long period one of its most active members, fulfilling at various and long periods, the duties of corresponding member, curator of museum, and President. If this Society possesses anything of value, its chief acquisitions are its cabinets of mineralogy and geology, and its zoological cabinet, the latter of which is particularly rich in its quadrupeds and birds, of local habitudes. To the formation of a catalogue of the minerals and geological specimens Dr. Holmes especially addressed himself, while Dr. Hall, at his request, undertook the same duty in regard to the mammalia and birds. Dr. Holmes' labours are a monument of his untiring assiduity, and the evidence of his labour is still extant. Until his death, Dr. Holmes took a deep-felt and warm interest in the progress of the Society, which, in the earlier part of his career, was manifested in the labour and time spent in its behalf.

About the year 1823 or 1824, conscious of the want, experienced in this Province by Medical students, of lectures on the different branches of medical study, Dr. Holmes, together with Drs. Robertson, Stephenson and Caldwell, organized themselves into a body; and, under the name of the Medical Institution of Montreal, they delivered, for the first time in 1824, forming the session of 1824-25, a course of lectures, which were recognized by the University of Edinburgh afterwards, on the principle of two courses for one of that University. These early courses of an Institution, which became in 1828 merged into the University of McGill College, and was the means of retaining to this Institution the benevolent bequest of its founder, were delivered as follows:—Dr. Holmes, on Chemistry and Materia Medica, Dr. Stephenson, on Ana-