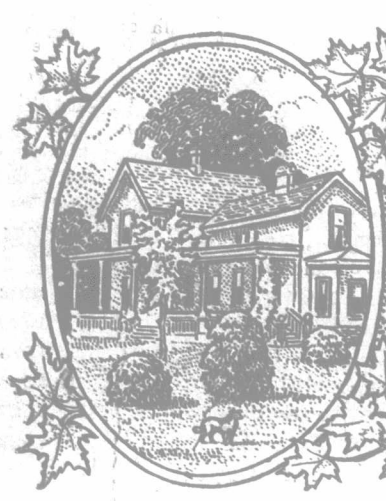

HOME MAGAZINE

Life, Literature and Education.

[Contributions on all subjects of popular interest are always welcome in this Department.]

Dr. R. Tait McKenzie.

PEOPLE, BOOKS, AND DOINGS.

It is said that the Princess Victoria, the only daughter of Emperor William, is to marry Prince Leopold, son of the Princess Henry of Battenburg.

Prof. Blylle, of the Ohio State University, has announced the discovery of an anti-toxine that will kill diphtheria germs in the living body in three minutes. The discovery was made by a German chemist, Theodore Wolfram, who resides in Columbus, Ohio.

The engagement has been announced in Ottawa of Lady Ruby Florence May Elliot, second daughter of His Excellency the Viceroy of India and Lady Minto, to Viscount Errington, eldest son of Lord Cromer.

Mr. J. Macdonald Oxly, the well-known writer of books for boys, died recently in Toronto, at the age of 51 years. Mr. Oxley was born in Halifax, and was educated at the Halifax Grammar School and University of Dalhousie, from which he was graduated in 1874. Subsequently he studied law in Halifax and at Harvard, and was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia. For about five years he practiced law in Halifax, then in 1882 he received an appointment in the Marine and Fisheries Department at Ottawa. Later he went into the employ of the Sun Life Assurance Co., and was transferred in 1893 to that company's Montreal office. For the past eight years he lived in Toronto. His literary work was carried on in conjunction with his other employments. He contributed to Atlantic Monthly and other magazines, and also gained some repute as a lecturer. As a writer of boys' books he divides favor with the well-known Henty.

ROBERT TAIT McKENZIE, M. D.

A GIFTED AND VERSATILE CANADIAN.

By Jean R. Laidlaw.

Amongst the Canadians who are doing original work abroad, and gaining recognition, Dr. R. Tait McKenzie holds a quite unique place. At barely forty he has achieved distinct success in three different fields, and is "still growing." He is known as an original worker in the Department of Physical Education, as a specialist in Orthopedic Surgery, and last, but not least, as an artist who has produced some very original sculpture of such rank that it has been accepted by the New York Academy, the London Academy and the Paris Salon.

Since September, 1904, Dr. McKenzie has been director of the Department of Physical Education of the University of Pennsylvania, as such occupying a chair in the Faculty of the College Department. To accept this position he resigned the Chair of Anatomy at McGill University, to which he had recently been elected, after serving for some years as demonstrator and senior demonstrator in Anatomy. He had also, for ten years, been in charge of the physical training of the students at McGill University.

Dr. McKenzie was born in Almonte, Ont., in 1867, of a line of Scotch Presbyterian ministers. His mother, who now makes her home with him in Philadelphia, is a woman of unusual charm and breadth of culture.

Dr. McKenzie received his preparatory training at Almonte High School and the Ottawa Collegiate Institute, entering McGill in 1885. He received his degree in Arts in 1889, and three years later his degree as Doctor of Medicine. The year following his graduation he served as house surgeon in the Montreal General Hospital, and afterwards began private practice in Montreal, his official connection with McGill beginning in 1894. In 1895 he gave up his private practice to accept an appointment as house physician to Lord Aberdeen, then Governor-General of Canada. When he resumed his practice in 1896 he began to specialize in Orthopedics.

As a student he was prominent in athletics. At McGill, in 1887, he won the junior all-round gymnastic contest, and in 1889 the same event for seniors, and the Wicksteed medal. In 1890 he won the high jump five times in open competition, and cleared 5 ft. 9 in., as McGill's representative at the University of Toronto. This stands as the record in Canada for the intercollegiate amateur high jump. Dr. McKenzie managed McGill's 'Varsity eleven in 1891, and belonged for two years to the tug-of-war team.

As part of his work in physical training at McGill he introduced the Sargent system of scientific measurements—with original modifications. This was the beginning of the scientific training for athletics in Canada. In the University of Pennsylvania every one of the twenty-nine hundred students is measured and tested at entering, and regularly thereafter, and two hours a week of physical training required throughout the course, the time counting as laboratory work. Dr. McKenzie supervises the work, which is practically carried out by a staff of eight assistants. The aim of the training is to give, not only physical development, but intellectual culture also. The temper and civilization of a nation are revealed in its games and sports, its contests of strength and skill, as surely as in its literature. Dr. McKenzie thinks it quite as desirable to understand (by doing) something of the contests through which the race has developed, as to be able to read Plato in the original. Out of his work with the students at McGill grew what is certainly his most surprising achievement, the sculpture that embodies Canadian and American athletic types. Modern athletics have developed a type quite different from the Greek athlete, but equally worthy of being perpetuated in art. Dr. Phillips, of Amherst, had compiled in 1901 a table of measurements of eighty-nine champion sprinters of the previous decade. Dr. McKenzie determined to embody these measurements in artistic form, and, although unused to clay-modelling, set to work. He had the hearty interest and co-operation of the students, several of whom posed for him during the long months when The Sprinter was taking shape. In 1902 it was sent to the Society of American Artists, by whom it was accepted and exhibited (in plaster). In 1903 it was exhibited (in bronze) at the London Academy, and in 1904 was shown at the Paris Salon. This first work has been followed by a number of fine figures, as well as some strong relief-work.

The College Athlete represents an athlete taking hold of a dynamometer to test his grip. This, like The Sprinter, is exactly one-quarter life-size. There are also The Boxer, The Supple Juggler, and The Competitor. This last, half life-size, the artist counts his most satisfying work. Amongst the portrait-medallions are several Canadian writers who have been numbered amongst his friends — Robert Barr, Archibald Lampman, William Wilfrid Campbell and Dr. W. H. Drummond.

The Sprinter and The Athlete are given as trophies in some of the intercollegiate sports in the United States, and some interesting medals used as awards by the Public School Athletic League of New York have been designed by the same artist.

Incidentally, Dr. McKenzie has contributed numerous articles to medical journals and other periodicals. He has also lectured extensively, chiefly on Artistic Anatomy. He has given courses in Montreal; in the University of Cambridge, England; in the Harvard Summer School, and in the Olympic Course at the St. Louis Exposition. He contributed a paper at the meeting of the British Medical Association last month, and represented the American Athletic Association at the London Conference. His trip abroad this summer means the beginning of a new life for him, as a recent cable announced his marriage at the Chapel Royal, Dublin, to Miss Ethel O'Neil, of Hamilton, Ont., a young lady of unusual musical gifts. The marriage ceremony followed the regular Sunday morning service, Lord Aberdeen giving the bride away.

If genius be the capacity for hard work, Dr. McKenzie's claim must certainly be allowed. Few men accomplish more in the three-score years and ten, and it should be a matter of interest to Canadians proud of their birthright, to watch and encourage their gifted countryman.

THE FASHIONABLE WORLD.

I have been watching you this last ten minutes, while your carriage has been standing still, and have seen your smiling face change twice, as though you were about to say: "I am not accustomed to be stopped like this"; but what I have chiefly noticed is that you have not looked at anything all these minutes except the persons sitting opposite, and the backs of your flunkeys on the box. No, clearly, nothing has distracted you from following your thought: "I am mounted in this expensive chest, on these expensive wheels; there is pleasure before me, I am told!" Yours is the three-hundredth carriage in this row that blocks the road for half a mile. In the two hundred and ninety-nine that come before it, and the four hundred that come after, you are sitting, too—with your face before you, and your unseeing eyes.

Resented while you gathered being; brought into the world with the most distinguished skill; remembered by your mother when the whim came to her; taught to believe that life consists in caring for your clean, well-nourished body, and your manner that nothing usual can disturb; taught to regard Society as the little ring of men and women that you see, and to feel your business is to know the next thing that you want, and get it given you—you have never had a chance.

You take commands from no one; your heart gives you your commands, forms your desires, your wishes, your opinions, and passes them between your lips. From your heart well up the springs that feed the river of your conduct; but your heart is a stagnant pool that has never seen the sun. Each year, when April comes, and the earth smells new, you have an odd aching underneath your corsets. What is it for? You have a husband, or a lover, or neither, whichever suits you best; you have children, or could have them if you wished for them; you are fed at stated intervals with food and wine; you have all you want of country life and country sports; you have the theatre and the opera, books, music, and religion! From the top of the plume, torn from a dying bird, or the flowers made at an insufficient wage, that decorate your head, to the sole of the shoe that cramps your foot, you are decked out with solemn care; a year of labor has been sown into