

HISTORIC SKETCH



NOT least amongst the many features of natural beauty of which Owen Sound may reasonably congratulate herself, are the magnificent double-tiered hills, at the base and on the first terrace of which is built the splendidly substantial metropolis of the south shores of the Georgian Bay. Those who chose the site of this embryo city may have had some conception in their minds of the magnificent possibilities, even when the dense forest covered the area. When the first white settlers came nearly three-quarters of a century ago, and descended into the valley, they may have been more concerned for their personal safety and sustenance than for the future possibilities of the little hamlet which grew on the banks of the silvery stream; but could they have seen the transformation of a half dozen decades, with the advancement from the tallow dip and the pine knot to the electric light, from the slowly conveyed missive by ox team to the latest long distance phone equipment, from the rudely constructed ox-jumper to the parlor car of the great railways, they might have grasped the meaning of the advancement from the crude home nursing of the log-cabin and the early science of the pioneer physician, to the splendidly equipped hospital and an efficient trained staff and the present day skilled surgeon and learned medical practitioner. The association of these magnificent surroundings, which have given the town a wide reputation for its natural beauty, with the great modern medical institution, the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, is natural, for one of the most superb locations