

(*Can. Med. Jour.* p. 396) I will be happy to exhibit it before our Pathological Society, and would most religiously return it to him again.

LONDON, 4th April, 1861.

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EDINBURGH CORRESPONDENCE.

By FRANCIS WAYLAND CAMPBELL, M.D., M.R.S.E.

'Tis true, as was remarked by the Professor of Midwifery in the University of McGill College, in his introductory letter of the present session, Edinburgh does not now hold the position in the medical world that she did twenty-five or thirty years ago. This is due to the greater practical advantages which the immense practice of the London hospitals affords to the student, for every year the immense benefit conferred by good clinical instruction is being better understood, and more thoroughly appreciated. But so long as the Edinburgh University has men like Simpson, Miller, Syme, Bennett, Christian, Balfour, and Goodsir, to fill their various chairs, it will ever occupy a leading position, only excelled by the great English metropolis. The number of medical students in Edinburgh this winter, is computed at a little over seven hundred; of this number rather more than five hundred are at the University, the remainder at the Royal College of Surgeons, who among their lecturers number some rising young men. I may mention Drs. Bigbie, and W. T. Gairdner. Of all the many universities on the American continent, I am glad to know that the University of McGill, which I am proud to claim as my *Alma Mater*, sends the best and most continual stream of graduates to this city in the further pursuit of medical knowledge. An eminent medical gentleman, a few days ago remarked to me, that he thought there had not been a single year, for some years back, in which there had not been a McGill College graduate in Edinburgh, and I was proud to hear the other morning from the lips of the President of one of the Royal Colleges here, that McGill College ranks in Edinburgh as the best and most complete Medical University in America. Good clinical instruction is to be obtained at the Royal Infirmary, their best clinical medical teacher being Dr. Bigbie, who usually spends between two and three hours daily in the hospital; the great teacher of clinical surgery is of course Mr. Syme. His lectures delivered twice a week are in their style quite novel to me. Instead of selecting some one or two cases in the hospital, as the foundation of his remarks, to occupy the hour, he will during that time exhibit on an average at each lecture, some seven or eight new cases, making but few remarks on each, but whatever he does say is most thoroughly practical, while those which require operations of a somewhat minor character, are there and then performed. Major operations are as a rule postponed till the succeeding day. Mr. Syme's class is very large, and he seems to be quite a favorite with the students; while he is speaking, as a rule, silence reigns supreme, indeed the slightest whisper annoys him, and when a student thus disturbs him, he does not fail to reprimand him before the class. As a speaker Mr. Syme is a very poor one. So much so, that a stranger has to attend several lectures before he can distinctly hear him. I have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Syme perform his operation for disease of the ankle joint, several times.