

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

EDITOR:

FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

MONTREAL, AUGUST, 1872.

In presenting to the Profession the first number of the *Canada Medical Record*, we desire to offer a few words of explanation, which, although to some extent of a personal character, are yet not without interest and importance to the Profession at large. In doing so we will be as brief as is possible, and while we will state facts plainly, we can but express our very deep regret, that circumstances compel our doing so. As most of our readers are aware, for the past eight years we have, in conjunction with Dr. Fenwick, conducted the *Canada Medical Journal*, published by Messrs. Dawson Brothers. In 1864, when the *Journal* was started, Dr. Fenwick was connected with McGill College, while we were simply a plain member of the Profession. This position of affairs continued till January, 1871, when we accepted a chair in the New Medical School, which was then formed in Montreal, and which was afterwards accepted by the University of Bishop's College, as their Medical Faculty. At this time Dr. Fenwick explained to the publishers, that our having joined the new School rendered it impossible for him to continue longer associated with us in the editorial management of the *Journal*, and suggested our withdrawal. After some consideration the publishers affirmed that, as the *Canada Medical Journal* was published by them at the joint request of Dr. Fenwick and ourselves, it was impossible for them to request us to retire, but that if Dr. Fenwick found it impossible to continue associated with us in the editorship of the *Journal*, they would either suspend its publication or continue it under entirely new editorial management. In this state we approached the close of the volume in 1871, when, just before the last number of the volume was issued, we were waited upon by Dr. Fenwick, who for the first time informed us of what had been transpiring between himself and the publishers. He, however, expressed his desire, arrived at after much deliberation, that our editorial association should continue, and as we were perfectly willing, we together waited upon the Messrs. Dawson, and informed them of the fact. Thus the eighth volume of the *Canada Medical Journal* was entered upon. During its course no questions of a controversial character were discussed between the editors.

Indeed, owing to circumstances, which it is needless to mention, it was beyond our power to engage actively in its management, and Dr. Fenwick had all but its entire control. As the eighth volume drew to a close, we were informed by the publishers that a lock similar to what existed the previous year was again threatening, when we insisted that it should be settled definitely one way or another, without delay. We were shortly after seen by Dr. Fenwick, who informed us that after much deliberation he had decided not to continue longer associated with us, in conducting the *Journal*, our being connected with the New Medical School being the only reason assignable. We used every argument we could think of to induce him to change his mind, but without avail, and, entirely powerless to prevent it, the publishers determined to suspend the publication of the *Canada Medical Journal*. Under these circumstances, we appealed to a few friends outside of the School with which we are connected for advice. We went to them first because we have invariably felt that those who are the main support of a Medical Journal are they who care least about matters, which to most School men appear of momentous consequence. This being our conviction, ever since we have been connected with Canadian Medical Journalism we have avoided treading upon ground which we felt was dangerous, and till the *Journal* ceased to exist such was the course it followed. This being the case—not only willing, but anxious, to even go out of the way to avoid school questions, our friends saw no good reason for the action of the “Senior Editor of the *Canada Medical Journal*,” and their advice was to start a new medical periodical, which would carry out the principles we have just enunciated, especially as Dr. Fenwick had determined to issue another journal, which, from the course he had taken, they felt must partake at all events, in great measure, of the feelings which must have prompted him to the action we have with much regret and pain just detailed. We next sought the advice of a few of our confrères of the New School, and as it coincided with that already tendered us, we determined at once to launch the *Canada Medical Record* upon the sea of Canadian journalism. It is now before the Profession, to whom we with confidence appeal. We wish it to be distinctly understood that, although connected with a Medical School, we will in the future, as we have in the past, keep that fact as far from our mind as possible, while working for the *Record*, and that our platform pure and simple will be, elevation of the standard of Professional Education, fair play