

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN KINGSTON.

Foreword. The following sketch is compiled from letters and diary written at the time of the occurrences recorded and from newspaper articles and calendars of the same period. Pardon is asked for any personal note that occurs since to a limited extent it is autobiographical.

In the Toronto newspapers of 28th May, 1879, a paragraph stated that "three ladies presented themselves before the Council of Physicians and Surgeons for matriculation examination. Two of them, Misses Augusta Stowe and Elizabeth Smith, were successful."

This was a pioneer occasion in the way of regular medical matriculation for women who were to enter on a full course of medical lectures in Canada. Previously to this, two ladies, Dr. Emily Stowe and Dr. Jennie K. Trout, practised medicine in Toronto. Both were graduates of American Colleges and were allowed to practise in Canada by virtue of having attended one session in a Canadian School of Medicine. They were given permission to attend these lectures in Toronto on condition that whatever happened they would make no fuss. From the lips of one of these ladies I heard the most staggering accounts of their experiences. Little incidents, such as having to observe their seats from a conventional loophole before entering the classroom, lest, as occurred on more than one occasion, they had to be cleared and cleaned before being occupied. Other playful activities of some members of the school were in the way of obnoxious sketches on the wall. There were so many artists, or at least sketches, that the walls of a classroom had to be whitewashed four times during that session. But more trying and more frequent were the needless objectionable stories told by 'enemy' lecturers to the class to instigate its worst element to make noisy and vulgar demonstration. It was so unbearable on one occasion that one of the ladies went to the lecturer afterwards and asked him