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MEDICAL MEMOIRS OF BYTOWN.

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Our city was known as Bytown from its foundation in 1826 until 1854, and this affords a very suitable period for consideration. It embraces a generation unknown to us, as our oldest confrère, Sir James Grant, began his career at its close. It was the era of what we know as the "Old School"; the days of the bolus and lancet; the days prior to chloroform; the days of heroic methods, and, I think I may say, the days of heroic men.

Prior to 1826, the site of Bytown was occupied by two or three settlers. In that year Colonel By commenced the construction of the Rideau Canal, and within twelve months there was a population of over two thousand.

The land was swampy and wet, and although malarial fever is unknown to us, we are not surprised to learn that ague in its most severe form became prevalent. Dow's Swamp was much more extensive than at present, and extended from the Rideau to the Ottawa River, by what is now Preston Street; the land around Patterson's Creek, as far as Concession Street, was a swamp; Slater and Maria Streets were a swamp; what is now the Canal Basin was a wet beaver meadow, and from it, extending across lower town to the Rideau River, was low, wet land.

The laborers engaged in excavating the canal were soon attacked by this disease.

John McTaggart, an engineer upon the canal, in a book describing the year 1826-27-28 in Canada, furnishes us with a description of the disease as it then prevailed. He says:—"This is the most prevalent disorder; sometimes it proves fatal, but not generally so. It leaves, however, dregs of various kinds. In the summer of 1828, this sick-

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