

MUSEUM NOTES.

(Notes on Specimens of Interest and upon Work done in the Pathological Museum,
McGill University.)

BY

MATTHEW E. ARBUTHNOT, B.A., M.D., Assistant Curator.

I.

UNIQUE CASE OF CONGENITAL MALFORMATION OF THE HEART?

*Defect of the Interventricular Septum; Rudimentary Right Ventricle; Patent
Foramen Ovale; Great Dilatation of Right Atrium and Right Auricular
Appendix.*

From a Case Reported by A. F. Holmes, M.D., Montreal, Lower Canada, in the
Transactions of the Medical-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, 1824.

This specimen which presents a condition of great pathological rarity as well as of clinical significance, is also most interesting to Montrealers and to those at McGill from a historical point of view. For the name of Dr. Andrew Holmes is well-known to most of us as that of one of the four medical men who, in 1824, initiated courses of lectures for medical students in this City, which, in 1828, became incorporated as the Medical Faculty of McGill University. The incorporation of the already fully organised medical school, securing to the College the bequest of its Founder.*

Dr. Holmes was also one of the pioneer founders of the Montreal General Hospital and was connected with that institution from his 26th year until his death in 1860. He with others founded the Natural History Society of Montreal, and was its first President.

Alfred Sandham, writing of the Holmes' Gold Medal in 1872, speaks as follows:—"The medal was founded by the Faculty of Medicine in 1864 in honor of the late Dean, Professor Holmes, than whom, it may be said, that no man ever lived more conscientiously and few have died more beloved. It is a most deserving and grateful tribute to the memory of departed worth, associated as it is with the name of one who was the Founder of the first medical school in Canada, and who for nearly forty years remained in connection therewith."

Dr. Holmes is said to have been a detailed and conscientious rather than a brilliant lecturer and he was an indefatigable student. The

* The bequest of the Hon. James McGill was to take effect on condition that there should be erected within ten years on the estate of "Burrhead" a university or college for the purpose of education and the advancement of learning in this Province with a competent number of professors and teachers to render such establishment effectual and useful for the purpose intended."