

III DESCRIPTION OF MUSEUMS OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

1. THE MCCORD NATIONAL MUSEUM.

The McCord National Museum is housed in a building adjacent to the campus, on the north side of Sherbrooke Street, erected as a private house. Eleven rooms, the hall and passages are occupied by the collections, and there is a small room used as an office. The collections were presented to the University in 1919, the donor, David Ross McCord, having been honorary Curator until his death. Subject to certain life interests, he bequeathed the major part of his estate to the University "as an Endowment Fund for the maintenance and development of the McCord National Museum." The bequest has now taken effect and, though the annual revenue now barely covers running expenses, it is, I understand, probable that a large sum (estimated at \$25,000) will in a few (say five) years' time, be available for the purposes named. The collections consist, in the words of the donor, of "articles illustrative of the history and social life of Canada." It is indeed a Canadian Historical museum.

The Indian material is comprehensive, representing the western tribes (and the Eskimo) as well as the eastern (Micmac, Iroquois, Algonquin, and Huron).

The historical material includes objects illustrating the French régime; the conquest of Quebec; the period of the American War of Independence, and that of the War of 1812.

One room illustrates the activities of the early Protestant Churches of Canada and their missions; another those of the early Jesuit missions and the Roman Catholic Church in Canada. There are also exhibits illustrating the work of the Arctic explorers of Canada and of the fur-trading companies. There is also historical material relating to Europe. At the time of my visit, a special exhibit (James McGill and his times) and a loan exhibit (Watercolours and Prints, lent by Mr. R. W. Reford) were also on view.

The Museum is now managed on behalf of the University by a Committee consisting of members of the staff of the University and others interested in the history of Canada and the preservation of its monuments, presided over by the Principal of McGill University and in his absence by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., executor of the donor's will.