

Mrs E. B. Greenshields

in Dr. MacCallum's Compliments

REMINISCENCES

OF THE

MEDICAL SCHOOL

OF

McGILL UNIVERSITY

With a slight sketch individually of the
members of the Medical Faculty
of 1847-50

BY

MacCallum
Compliments
D. C. MacCALLUM, M.D., M.R.C.S.Eng. (1824-1904)

Emeritus Professor of Midwifery and the
Diseases of Women and Children,
McGill University, etc., etc.

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McGILL MEDICAL FACULTY, 1847-50.

In the year 1847 when I entered McGill College as a student of medicine, there were two buildings on the University grounds, one of which, surmounted by a cupola and forming at present the central part of the Arts' building, was occupied by the two Faculties existing at the time—the Faculties of Arts and Medicine. The second, now the east wing of the Arts' building, was the residence of several university officials. These buildings were reached from Sherbrooke Street by a road at the side of the grounds, now forming University Street. East of this entrance towards St. Lawrence Street there were a few scattered buildings. On the south side of Sherbrooke Street, extending from the McGill grounds to Dorchester Street and from Union Avenue westward to Mountain Street, there were open fields and gardens in a state of cultivation, and a few dwellings—the two most notable of which were "Burnside Cottage," the former residence of the Hon. James McGill, the Founder of the University, and the "Protestant Infants' Home," on St. Catherine Street.

A small stream of water passed through the grounds. It entered from the east at a point just above the situation of the present University Street entrance, and was increased in volume by the water from a spring which was situated near where the Macdonald Engineering Building now stands. It then passed down the campus and across Sherbrooke Street, where it was joined by another small stream from the south-west. It then took a course towards the city, passing close to "Burnside Cottage." It is probable that the relative position of

this stream and the Hon. James McGill's cottage was the origin of the name of "Burnside" given to the latter.

All the lectures, with the exception of the clinical lectures and those on chemistry, were delivered in the central Arts' building. The clinical lectures were delivered in the operating theatre of the Montreal General Hospital and the chemical in a building in Fortification Lane, about two or three hundred feet east of Place d'Armes Hill, well known as Skakel's School, an institution at which many of the foremost of the English-speaking men of the community of Montreal, living at that time, had received their education. It was here that Professor Hall, assisted by Dr. Sterry Hunt, made before the class the first chloroform manufactured in Canada. Dr. Sutherland, who was appointed to the chair of Chemistry in the year 1849, delivered his lectures in a room in the Mechanics' Institute, St. James Street, until the Côté Street building was erected for the use of the Medical Faculty. The funds for the erection of this building were not furnished by the governing body of the University, but by three members of the Medical Faculty, Drs. Campbell, MacCulloch, and Sutherland. The Faculty were merely tenants of the Côté Street building, which they leased from the proprietors.

The removal of the Medical Faculty from the Sherbrooke Street building to that of Côté Street was a decided relief, not only to the Professors but also to the students of the Faculty. As the first lecture of the day, that of Dr. MacCulloch on Midwifery, was delivered from eight to nine o'clock a.m., the student had to rise early on the cold winter mornings, often before daylight, in order to dress himself and breakfast to enable him to reach the college in time for the commencement of the lecture. At all times the roads were heavy and not favourable to rapid walking, and not unfrequently heavy snow-storms rendered them almost impassable for many days. This was especially the case with the road leading from Sherbrooke Street to the college. This locality was much exposed to any prevailing wind, which piled the snow in drifts, and made it impossible to reach the college until they had been partially removed by a shovel brigade. On such occasions our kind-hearted Professor, Dr. MacCulloch, who drove to the college in one of those winter sleighs known as a berline or cariole, and which are now used, but of a larger size, by the carters of Montreal, would pick up as many struggling students as he could possibly

accommodate, and drive them to the lecture. I have seen as many as half-a-dozen students at one time occupying and clinging to his sleigh.

Another great inconvenience resulting from the distant and isolated position of the college building, was the difficulty the student laboured under of prosecuting his studies in Practical Anatomy during the early part of the night. Dissections and demonstrations were made only at stated times during the morning and afternoon of the day. There evidently existed a marked disinclination on the part of both demonstrator and student to work at night in the highest story of a lonely building, far removed from other dwellings, imperfectly heated, and lighted by candles—the light being barely sufficient to render the surrounding darkness visible.

Having occupied for two seasons the position of Prosector to the Professor of Anatomy, I had to prepare, during the greater part of the session, the dissections of the parts which were to be the subject of the Professor's lecture on the following day. This necessitated my passing several hours, usually from nine to twelve o'clock at night, in the dismal, foul-smelling dissecting room, my only company being several partially dissected subjects, and numerous rats which kept up a lively racket, coursing over and below the floor and within the walls of the room. Their piercing and vicious shrieks as they fought together, the thumping caused by their bodies coming into forcible contact with the floor and walls, and the rattling produced by their rush over loose bones, furnished a variety of sounds that would have been highly creditable to any old-fashioned haunted house. I must acknowledge that the eeriness of my surroundings was such that I sometimes contemplated a retreat, and was prevented from carrying it into effect only by a sense of duty and a keen dislike to being chaffed by my fellow-students for having cowardly deserted my work.

Another existing circumstance, namely, the great distance of the college from the Montreal General Hospital, was a source of annoyance and dissatisfaction to the student, as it seriously interfered with the time allotted for his dinner or mid-day meal. The last lecture in the morning series was delivered between the hours of eleven and twelve. The first of the afternoon series was delivered between two and three o'clock. The student had, therefore, only two hours at his disposal to walk from the college to the hospital, make the visit to the

hospital wards, dine, and return to the college in time for the lecture at two o'clock. This arrangement was especially hard on him on two days of the week—Wednesday and Saturday, on which a clinical lecture was given at the hospital from twelve to one o'clock. This lecture was seldom commenced before fifteen or twenty minutes after twelve, and was extended to the same number of minutes after one o'clock, so that the student had only thirty or forty minutes to eat his dinner and be at the college at two o'clock for the lecture, and as this lecture was on Anatomy, few students were disposed to be too late. On his part it was certainly a two hours' rush. McGill at this time had a great reputation for the thoroughness of instruction in anatomy, which reputation has been fully sustained to the present day, and, I need scarcely remark, will not suffer while the chair of Anatomy is filled by a teacher with the abilities of the present incumbent, Dr. Shepherd, supported by as able a staff of demonstrators.

During the time the Faculty of Medicine occupied the Côté Street building, the students were not subjected to this annoyance, as they had sufficient time at their disposal to take their mid-day meal in comfort. On the Faculty being removed to the new building erected on the college grounds in 1872 for their use and accommodation, all the old difficulties recurred, and, I have no doubt, exist at the present day.

It was customary at this time for the student to be indentured to a practising physician, or, if not so bound notarially, to make a private arrangement with him to be allowed to study in his office and to be considered as his pupil. For this privilege a fee of one hundred dollars was usually demanded. Apart from the *éclat* which was supposed to be attached to the position of student under a popular physician, and the belief of the possibility of the patron being able to forward the interests of his pupils, there were, as a rule, few advantages derived from this association. It is true that, in exceptional cases, if the physician had a large *clientèle* and took a warm interest in his students, he could, by arranging their studies, occasionally examining them on the work done, and directing them in the routine of office work, be of material assistance to them. The office work of a physician in large practice, however, offered an excellent opportunity to acquire much practical knowledge. As, with few exceptions, physicians prescribed and dispensed their own medicines, the articulated student had the opportunity of making up all the prescriptions. He compounded pills, a

variety of which were always kept prepared for use, and he made the different tinctures and ointments. He had the privilege, also, of assisting at minor surgical operations, such as were performed in the office, of making physical examinations, of applying tests; in short, office practice offered the same facilities for acquiring practical knowledge, although in a minor degree, than the out-door practice of an hospital or the practice of a dispensary affords.

The *personnel* of the class was markedly different from what it is in present times. Then, a large proportion of the students were men verging on, or who had passed, middle age. Indeed, several of them were married men and the heads of families. There was sufficient of the youthful, however, to keep things lively. "Footing Suppers," practical jokes, and special country excursions to secure material for practical anatomy, were of frequent occurrence. The last, involving as it did a certain amount of danger, commended itself particularly to the daring spirits of the class, who were always ready to organize and lead an excursion having that object in view. These excursions were not at all times successful, and the participators in them were sometimes thwarted in their attempts, and had to beat a precipitate retreat to save themselves from serious threatened injury. They contributed, moreover, to the unpopularity of the medical student.

"Footing Suppers" were functions of the simplest and most unpretentious character. Each new matriculant was expected, although many failed to conform to the arrangement, to select an evening on which to entertain his fellow students, the entertainment consisting generally in furnishing biscuits and beer—the old time-endorsed "cakes and ale." In partaking of these, smoking, relating humorous stories, chaffing each other and singing rousing songs, the evening usually passed with much *bonhommie*. But sometimes they were rather boisterous, or, at least, noisy and exciting. They certainly could not lay the slightest claim to be classed with "the feast of reason and the flow of soul." Happily, these "Footing Suppers" have been relegated to the realms of forgetfulness, and have been succeeded by the decorous, high-toned, respectable dinners, *conversaciones*, and balls of the present day.

The examinations for the degree of the University were conducted orally, ten minutes being allowed to each examiner. The janitor, supplied with a watch and a large bell, was placed in the hall outside

the door of the library, the room in which the examinations took place. At the expiration of each ten minutes he rang the bell, and the candidates went from one examiner to another. This was repeated until the student had completed the round of examining professors. Immediately on the termination of the examinations, the professors met and decided then and there the fate of the candidates. The latter, in the meantime, waited in the college in a rather painful state of suspense. They were summoned separately before the professors, and the result, favourable or unfavourable, in each case made known to the individual. It did one good to see the effect which the announcement had on the successful student—the straightening of the body, the brightening of the eye, and the happy smile radiating rapidly over his face as he rushed around giving each professor an energetic pump-handle shake of the hand, followed, as he disappeared through the door of the room and was received by the crowd of waiting students, by a shout that made the college ring. On the other hand, I believe the professors never passed a more miserable quarter of an hour than when announcing his failure to the unfortunate candidate. It was painful to a degree to witness the depression produced by the announcement, especially when contrasted with the joy and elation of the successful man. The decision, as a rule, was received quietly, and, without a word, the unfortunate one, with bowed head and with countenance painfully expressive of deep disappointment, slipped from the room and was received silently by the waiting crowd of sympathizing students.

The ceremony of conferring the Degree in Medicine was imposing and dignified, and much more impressive than the method adopted of late years. Instead of the candidates being called up in relays and ranged in line, the Principal passing along the front of the line and hastily repeating the words conferring the degree, followed by a slight touch with the university cap on some part of the candidate's head, each candidate was called up singly, and knelt on a hassock in front of the Principal. The Principal then, in a clear tone and deliberate manner, pronounced the words conferring the degree, following them with a solemn invocation: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* The cap was then placed so as to cover the graduate's head, and on its removal the ceremony was completed.

The professors who occupied chairs in the Faculty of Medicine

during my novitiate were Drs. Andrew, F. Holmes, George W. Campbell, James Crawford, Michael McCulloch, Archibald Hall, Olivier T. Bruneau, Stephen C. Sewell, William Fraser, William Sutherland, Robert L. MacDonnell, Francis Badgley, and Francis O. T. Arnoldi.

With one exception, these members of the Faculty had received severally their licenses or diplomas from the medical schools of Great Britain and Ireland. The exception was Dr. O. T. Bruneau, who commenced his professional studies in Canada and completed them in Paris. In contrast to this, and as evidence of the thoroughness of the teaching at McGill at this early stage of her history, and of the distinguished ability of the home student, it is worthy of record that of the *twenty-eight* professors who have been preferred to chairs in the Faculty since that time, *twenty-two* have been selected from the *alumni* of the University and *six* only from among those who have received their professional education at other institutions. The *four* Deans also, who have succeeded Drs. Holmes and Campbell, have been graduates of the University. *Three* of these, Drs. Howard, Craik and Sub-Dean Ross, have, by their talents and distinguished administrative abilities, maintained the prestige and advanced the interests of the Medical School of McGill, and thus proved themselves worthy successors of the two eminent men who preceded them in the Deanship. The *fourth*, our present esteemed Dean Roddick, will, I venture to predict, discharge the duties of his office with equal ability, and command as notable and as successful a career as any one of his predecessors.

To her *alumni* in Medicine McGill has proved herself to be a faithful and generous *Alma Mater*. Her students have at all times had the advantage of being instructed in their profession by men who were devoted to their work and who were perfectly conversant with the conditions of medical science in their time. This was certainly true of the professors who constituted the Medical Faculty during my student days. Of course, there were among them individuals who were more fluent and brilliant as lecturers than their fellows—some who were more profound thinkers or more successful investigators—some who were more elegant and forcible writers, and some who excelled in the art of teaching. But all were equally enthusiastic in their work to advance the interests of McGill, and to maintain her in the front rank of medical educational institutions. In this lofty endeavour they were markedly successful. Following, as they did, the immediate founders

of the school, the future of the institution largely depended on the position which they assumed and were able to maintain in the educational work of the profession.

These were the times when it had to be decided whether McGill as a medical school was to be a success or a failure, and the solution of the question was in the hands of the men whose names I have enumerated. Nobly did they respond to the demand made on their energy and abilities, and they succeeded in handing down to those who followed them a flourishing, progressive, and stable school of medicine.

They were men of strong individual character, and possessed of that spirit of resolve which seems only to be intensified and strengthened by obstacles; otherwise the difficulties they had to overcome would have proved too serious to allow of the establishment of any institution which might at one and the same time be regarded as worthy the name of a medical school, and as containing sufficient vitality to make the future prospect hopeful. It seems, therefore, fitting to outline briefly the personal character of each, and to give some idea of his work, and thus to present a portrait gallery of McGill worthies who ought not to rest in obscurity because their date is early, or because the University has made such progress since their time.

Dr. Holmes, who was one of the founders of the Medical School of McGill, filled the position of Secretary to, and was recognized as the official head of, the Faculty from the time he succeeded Dr. Stephenson in the year 1842 till the year 1854, when the title of Dean was accorded to the position he occupied, and he thus became the first incumbent of the Deanship of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University. In the formation of the School of Medicine in 1824, he was appointed to the chairs of Chemistry and Pharmacology, and Therapeutics, and to these was added, in 1829, the chair of Botany. He held the chair of Chemistry concurrently with that of Botany for a period of thirteen years, and with that of Pharmacology and Therapeutics for a period of six years; so that for many years he lectured on three different subjects—a most onerous task, which nevertheless was discharged faithfully and satisfactorily.

He was an indefatigable worker. Notwithstanding the labour demanded in preparing the lectures for, and discharging the duties

appertaining to, these several positions, he found time to devote to original work in his favourite science of Botany. The extent, value and success of that work are embodied in his fine herbarium of the flora of Canada, now deposited in the museum of the University of McGill. He was a man of medium height, slender in figure and delicate in appearance, with the slightly stooped body and rounded shoulders of the student. In manner he was grave and reticent. His was one of those quiet and undemonstrative natures that attract not the giddy and thoughtless many, but are appreciated thoroughly by the discriminating few. Around men such as he was cluster home affections—the loves of kindred and the truest friendships. The deep, warm current of feeling underlying the cool and placid surface of mere manner is only known to those who have taken the trouble to sound carefully the depths of such hearts.

As a lecturer, Dr. Holmes was painstaking and thorough. His voice, however, was weak, and his delivery wanting in animation; but these imperfections did not in the least detract from the intrinsic merit of the text, every word of which was worthy of being noted by the student. Had his lectures been published after his death, as they ought to have been, the medical profession of Canada would have been furnished with a volume on the practice of medicine fully up-to-date and written in classical English. As an example of his style, his simple, vigorous diction and the lucidity with which he presented his views to those he addressed, I shall give a short extract from his valedictory address delivered to the graduates of medicine at the Convocation held on May 4th., 1854. Warning the graduates against the evil of routinism, he said:—"There are two errors to be avoided: an overweening prepossession that we are very wise, which leads to dogmatism and quackery; and want of self-reliance, which leads to inefficiency. In our approaches to one or other of these errors, a great deal will depend on temperament; both of them, however, lead to one result, a system of routine—the one, asserting the supremacy of its knowledge, will not condescend to alter; the other, fearful of untried consequences, prefers the beaten track. Routine is not the part of a scientific physician whose decisions and directions should always have a base of reason; it is manifestly unfitted for emergencies, and frequently injurious in ordinary cases; it leads to the treatment of mere symptoms, or is guided by mere names."

His contributions to medical literature were numerous and of a high order of merit, and he took an active part in the work of the Natural History Society.

Dr. Holmes's death, which was sudden and unexpected, occurred on the 9th day of October, 1860. Whilst he was seated at his desk addressing circulars calling a meeting of the Faculty, Mrs. Holmes, who was sitting near him, heard him sigh deeply, and, on looking up, saw him throw up his arms, which instantly fell to his sides, and his whole body collapsed in the arm-chair in which he was sitting, his head rolling over to one side. When she reached the chair he had breathed his last. A *post mortem* examination was subsequently held, and revealed advanced fatty degeneration of the heart.

A curious circumstance in connection with the suddenness of his death was that, a short time before it occurred, he had expressed at a Faculty meeting a wish that his life might end in such a way, and that he might be spared a lingering illness. I have a vivid recollection of the expression of deep and pained surprise in the countenance of Dr. Campbell as, in his brusque manner, he said: "You don't mean to say, Holmes, that you wish to die suddenly—that you would select, if you had the choice, this mode of having your life terminated." Dr. Holmes, with a placid smile, evoked apparently by Dr. Campbell's impetuous, out-spoken question, quietly replied: "Certainly, it has long been my desire that when the end comes to me the passage from life to death may be momentary and without any premonitory symptoms."

It is quite probable that Dr. Holmes, with his wide knowledge of the etiology of diseases, had previously observed in himself symptoms pointing to serious cardiac debility, and his expressed wish was in consonance with what, in his judgment, would be the probable ultimate result.

In the year 1864, the members of the Medical Faculty of McGill, in order to perpetuate his memory in connection with the Faculty to whose success he had so materially contributed, and to mark the affection and esteem which they entertained for him personally, established a gold medal to be known as the "Holmes Gold Medal"—this medal to be awarded yearly at the termination of the medical session to the student who had obtained the highest aggregate number of marks in all the subjects of the medical curriculum.

Dr. George W. Campbell was preferred to the chairs of Midwifery

and Surgery in the year 1835. These he held concurrently for a period of seven years. He then resigned the chair of Midwifery, but retained that of Surgery until the year 1875, a period of forty years, when, in consequence of advancing age and impaired health, he resigned this chair, but retained the Deanship of the Faculty, to which he had been appointed, on the death of Dr. Holmes, in the year 1860. It was in 1835 also that he was appointed to the staff of visiting physicians to the Montreal General Hospital; so that his work in connection with the Medical Faculty and with the General Hospital commenced in the same year, which was just eleven years from the date of the inauguration of the Medical School.

Dr. Campbell was pre eminently what is known to the profession as a practical man. By this term, however, it is not to be inferred that he was deficient in his knowledge of medical literature. On the contrary, there were few men of his day more thoroughly conversant with the works of the classical writers on medicine, or who kept more fully in line with all the recent discoveries and improvements of modern investigators. The term merely expresses that he was governed in his practice by a deep-seated desire to make his knowledge entirely subserve what shou'd be the aim of all medical effort—the removal of disease and the saving of life.

As a teacher Dr. Campbell excelled. His lectures were delivered in an earnest, impressive manner. His language was clear, terse, forcible and instructive. With him there was no redundancy of words, and the student had no difficulty in carrying away and recalling the subject matter of the lecture. By his distinguished abilities as a surgeon he laid the foundation of that great reputation which the Montreal General Hospital has long enjoyed as a school of practical surgery. Endowed with rare powers of observation, with a powerful intellect and a cultured mind, his decisions as to the nature and proper treatment of the cases of disease that came under his notice were singularly prompt and correct, and his opinion was always invoked and held in the highest respect by his colleagues.

Invariably generous and considerate to his *confrères*, and especially so to the junior members of the profession; kind and encouraging to the student of medicine, and just and honourable to all with whom he was in any way associated, he was universally regarded with a degree of affection and esteem that is seldom accorded by men to their

fellows. This affection and esteem was markedly demonstrated by the munificent act of his warm friend, Lord Mountstephen, who added a new wing to the Montreal General Hospital as a memento of Dr. Campbell's distinguished services in connection with that institution, and named it the Campbell Memorial Wing. In 1883 a sum of \$48,906 was subscribed by members of the Medical Faculty and a number of their friends to commemorate the services rendered by him to the Faculty during the forty years he was connected with it. This fund (the Campbell Memorial Endowment) has been invested, and the income from it utilized for general expenses of the Faculty.

His death occurred at Edinburgh on the 28th. of May, 1882. He was, therefore, an active member of the Medical Faculty for a period of *forty-seven* years. For several years he had been subject to occasional slight attacks of pneumonia, and a short time before leaving for England, he had suffered from one of his usual attacks, from which he had apparently completely recovered. On reaching London, however, the pulmonary congestion re-appeared with increased severity, and he decided, with the consent of his medical advisers, to proceed at once to Edinburgh, to be under the care of his daughter, who resided in that city. The end came shortly after his arrival at Edinburgh. His remains were brought over from Scotland, and interred in Mount Royal Cemetery.

Dr. Michael McCulloch.—Dr. Michael McCulloch was appointed to the chair of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children in the year 1842. He commenced the study of medicine in the University of Glasgow. Subsequently, he removed to London, where he became a student at Brooks', a distinguished private school, and in due time obtained the diploma of the "Royal College of Surgeons of England." He also attended closely the practice of the celebrated Farre, the founder, in conjunction with Saunders, of the London Ophthalmic Institution. While at London he formed an intimacy with Mr. Barnsby Cooper, from whom, on his departure for Canada in 1824, he received letters of introduction to the Bishop of Quebec and other gentlemen. On his arrival in this country he commenced practice at Ste. Thérèse. Here he remained until 1833, at which time he was in possession of one of the most extensive rural practices in the Province. This he relinquished to establish himself at Montreal. On his departure from Ste. Thérèse, so endeared was he to the inhabitants by his many excellent

qualities, that they presented him with a valuable piece of plate, as a token of their high esteem for him as a friend and physician. He had not been long in Montreal ere he found himself in large practice, and the same confidence and esteem which he won from his patients in the country were freely awarded to him by those with whom he became professionally connected in his new sphere of action. From 1833 to 1854, he maintained a foremost position as a practising physician, and was greatly and deservedly respected by his professional *confrères*. In 1841, during the administration of Lord Sydenham, he entered the political arena, and was returned to parliament for the important county of Terrebonne.

Dr. McCulloch was of full habit of body, inclined to *embonpoint*. His movements were slow and deliberate, in keeping with, and a reflex of, the operations of his mind which were never influenced by prejudice or enthusiasm, but which calmly and dispassionately weighed all the affirmatives and negatives of questions that were ever presented to him for solution, and almost invariably arrived at solid and trustworthy conclusions.

He was particularly fond of the study of Zoology, and always took a deep interest in the Natural History Society. He was quite successful as an ornithologist, and his fine collection of the birds of Canada, collected, arranged and mounted by himself, was, after his death, presented by his family to the University, and is now in the Redpath Museum.

As a lecturer he was somewhat monotonous. The subject of the lecture, however, was always up-to-date and essentially practical. He excelled as a teacher of practical midwifery, and his instructions were clear, well-defined and always readily grasped and retained by the student. He was conservative in his views, and reluctant to have recourse to operative measures. The Report of the Montreal Maternity Hospital, while under his guidance and control exhibited a mortality of one in 354 cases—certainly a most remarkable result, and one that is not often attained even in the present day of antiseptics and modern improved appliances.

Dr. McCulloch fell a victim to cholera, which prevailed epidemically in Canada in the year 1854. He was seized with premonitory symptoms of this fatal disease on the morning of the 11th. of July, but of so slight a nature that he paid but little attention to them, and ordered his carriage with the intention of proceeding to make his morning visits. In

two hours, however, the disease had assumed a most serious character, and he summoned to his aid his staunch friend, Dr. Campbell. From that time, notwithstanding all the unwearied care and attention bestowed on him by his many professional friends, the disease continued with unabated severity, and terminated fatally at five o'clock on Wednesday morning, the 12th. of July.

The "Montreal Gazette," in announcing his death, thus feelingly referred to the sad event:—"It is with the deepest feeling of regret that we have to announce the death of Dr. McCulloch of the prevailing sickness yesterday morning. He fell emphatically the victim of over-exertion. For some nights previously he had hardly been able to obtain an hour's rest. On Monday evening at ten o'clock as he was getting into a cab, weary and worn out, he said to a friend, 'Don't you pity me?' and narrated at the same time the heavy labours he had to undergo. These were bestowed on rich and poor alike. At one o'clock the same night he was again called out, and the previous evening, so fatigued was he, that he fell asleep as he was talking to a friend. So that when it is remembered that physicians are but composed of flesh and blood as other men, it is little wonder that Dr. McCulloch is a victim. Thus fell one of the foremost and oldest and most loved and respected of the physicians of Montreal, a heroic sacrifice to the welfare of others. His loss will be long and deeply felt as well by his family as by the citizens. But if anything can give balm to mourning or mitigate grief for his loss, it is the reflection that he died in the too arduous and faithful performance of the humane and Christian duty of endeavouring to soothe the pains and save the lives of others."

Dr. James Crawford.—Dr. James Crawford, when the chairs of Clinical Surgery and Clinical Medicine were established in 1845, was appointed to discharge the duties pertaining to the two. He retained the chair of Clinical Medicine till the year 1849, when he relinquished it, and Dr. Robert L. MacDonnell succeeded him. That of Clinical Surgery he retained till his death, which occurred in the year 1855. Before coming to Montreal, Dr. Crawford had served for years as assistant surgeon of the 24th. Regiment, and he always retained a military bearing and manner that were quite characteristic. He was a keen discriminating observer and a clear forcible writer. His contributions to medical literature were fairly numerous, and essentially practical, consisting mainly of well recorded cases of disease, interesting from their rarity or from the light which they shed on the etiology, pathology or treatment of morbid conditions. He was the first to recommend

tincture of iodine as an ectrotic in small-pox. The preparation he recommended was a saturated solution of iodine in spirit of wine, which was to be brushed freely over the face once or twice daily from the earliest day of the eruption that was practicable, and the application to be repeated daily or oftener during the period of the maturation of the pustules. The earlier the application was commenced, the more efficacious it proved. This application of tincture of iodine is at present considered by several authorities to be attended by quite as good results as can be obtained by any other ectrotic that has been recommended in the treatment of small-pox. It modifies or entirely prevents the "pitting," which is so disfiguring to the face after a severe attack of the disease.

Dr. Crawford had quite a taste for mechanics, and contrived several surgical apparatus that suited admirably the objects for which they were intended. One was a modification of Carte's apparatus for compression of the femoral artery in popliteal aneurism, and another was an adjuster for fractured clavicle. He deservedly held a prominent position as a practising physician among the members of the medical profession of Montreal, and enjoyed the confidence of the public, which was manifested by the satisfaction with which the announcement was generally received of his appointment to accompany to England the Governor-General, Lord Metcalfe, who was suffering from a painful, and, which subsequently proved, a fatal disease.

Dr. Crawford's death occurred on the 28th. of December, 1855, and was the result of an unfortunate accident. On the 2nd. of December, leaving the Montreal General Hospital with a colleague, he was invited by this gentleman to take a seat in his vehicle and be driven home. While they were taking their places, the reins of the horse were allowed to hang loosely over the dash-board. A sudden noise caused the horse to leap forward, and the reins not being secured, they were drawn over the dash, and fell between the horse and the carriage. The horse, a young and spirited animal, finding he was free from control, dashed down St. Dominique Street at full speed. As the runaway neared Craig Street, Dr. Crawford pressed his hand on his colleague's knee, and said, "Don't move, William." At the same time he rose to his feet and leaped from the vehicle, the back of his head coming into violent contact with the hard road. He was perfectly unconscious when he was removed to his residence, and remained in that condition,

with an occasional slight manifestation of returning consciousness, giving rise to hopes of a possible favourable termination, for a period of twenty-six days. Gradually, however, he became emaciated, marked failure of the vital powers occurred, and death quickly followed. An autopsy was held. There was no fracture of the skull. The conditions were attributable to injuries produced by *contre-coup*.

Dr. Hall.—Dr. Hall's first appointment was to the chair of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the year 1835. He occupied this position until the year 1842, when he was transferred to the chair of Chemistry. In the year 1849 he returned to his former position, which he retained till the year 1854, and was then appointed to the chair of Midwifery, rendered vacant by the death of Dr. McCulloch.

Dr. Hall was an ardent participator in medical polemics; in fact, he was a very Rupert of controversy. A keen incisive writer, a man of acute perceptive powers and of sound judgment, a powerful but, at the same time, a courteous and even a generous critic, he was admired as well as feared; and in the solution of questions which agitated the profession during the years 1847-50 he was an important factor, and proved himself to be an intrepid and successful defender of the interests not only of McGill College, but of those also of the general profession. In the year 1845 he established the "British American Medical and Physical Journal," of which he was the proprietor and editor. Previously to this time there had existed a journal called the "Montreal Medical Gazette," which lived only for a period of fifteen months. Dr. Hall may be fairly considered as the principal pioneer medical journalist of the old Province of Lower Canada.

The Act incorporating the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada," which was passed by the parliament of Canada in the year 1847 contained a clause securing to graduates of local universities, and to those of the universities of Great Britain, the privilege of obtaining a license to practise medicine in the Province without being subjected to an examination as to their qualifications. A determined attempt was made in the years 1850-51 by a number of Lower Canadian physicians, supported in parliament by Dr. Laterrière, to have the clause repealed, and the following instituted:—"No person shall, after the passing of this Act, receive a licence from the Provincial Medical Board to practise Physic, Surgery or Midwifery in Lower Canada, unless he shall have undergone an examination before the said

Board, and obtained a certificate of qualification from the said Board." Dr. Hall in his journal opposed this move with all his accustomed ability and energy, and the result was that parliament refused to adopt Dr. Laterrière's amendment, and the original clause was allowed to remain unaltered, thus securing to university graduates the right to receive a licence from the Provincial Board to practise their profession in Lower Canada without having to submit to an examination as to qualifications. This right has been secured in the Act as it exists at the present day, with this provision attached:—"That the diploma has only been given to the holder thereof after four years of medical study, from the date of admission to study, and, furthermore, that he must satisfy the Board that he has passed an examination preliminary to the study of Medicine equivalent to that exacted by the Board from students entering on the study of *Medicæ*."

Dr. Olivier T. Bruneau.—The chair of Anatomy having become vacant in the year 1842 by the death of Dr. John Stephenson, one of the founders of the medical school, Dr. Olivier T. Bruneau was appointed to succeed him. He occupied this position as long as he was connected with the University, which was until his death in 1856.

Dr. Bruneau, who was a native of the Province of Lower Canada, and of French extraction, laboured under the great disadvantage of being obliged to deliver his lectures in a language with which he was not familiar. This was especially the case when he first entered on the duties of his position. By close application to the study of the English language, and by availing himself of every opportunity which presented of conversing in it, he eventually became able to form and express his ideas in English, and to lecture fluently and correctly in that language. The flow of words was never rapid or tumultuous, but glided along slowly, smoothly and expressively, as became the character of the man, for his was a calm, reticent, self-possessed, self-respecting individuality, which, under all circumstances, challenged and had awarded to it respectful recognition. There was no more orderly class in the Faculty than the class of anatomy, and a student would have been surprised at his own temerity, if he had even harboured the thought of annoying the lecturer in any way. In lecturing, Dr. Bruneau had a wonderful facility of aiding the verbal descriptions of the different portions of the human subject by the motions of his fingers and hands. The tortuous courses of nerves—the anastomoses

of vessels—the relations of organs, and the intricacies of minute parts—were made more intelligible and instructive to the student when thus illustrated by the motions of the hands. The motions, however had certainly the effect of attracting and fixing the attention of the students. The class was always greatly impressed by the manner in which he exhibited the ossicula of the middle ear, and the lucidity with which he described them. He placed them side by side on the palm of his left hand, which he had the power of arching forward in a most peculiar manner. On the summit of this arch the *malleus*, the *incus* and *stapes* rested, and were brought clearly within the range of vision of the class. He kept them steadily in that position, his arm outstretched, until he had fully demonstrated the character and peculiarities of each—a feat which few would be capable of accomplishing. This manner of treating small objects of anatomy strikingly illustrates the thoroughness with which all parts of the human subject were brought before the class, and the completeness with which human anatomy at this time was taught in the Medical Faculty of McGill by Dr. Olivier T. Bruneau.

Dr. Bruneau had an extensive and select practice, principally amongst the leading French-Canadian families of Montreal, to whom he was endeared by his mild, gentle manner, his sympathetic nature, his hopeful disposition, and especially by his devotion to his patients and the unwearying care he bestowed on them.

Dr. William Sutherland.—Dr. William Sutherland graduated at McGill College in the year 1836, and was the first graduate in Medicine in course, of that University to become a professor in the Medical Faculty. Of the many graduates who subsequently attained a similar position he was one of the most brilliant. After obtaining his degree he proceeded to Upper Canada, and entered upon a mercantile career. He soon discovered, however, that this was not his “vocation,” and he became thoroughly dissatisfied with business pursuits and business transactions. He returned to Montreal, and commenced the practice of his profession. For several years his practice was very limited, and his income was barely sufficient for the support of his family, but eventually he acquired an extensive and lucrative practice, and the fortune he accumulated was probably greater than that of any one of his contemporaries. In the year 1843, in conjunction with Drs. Badgley, Arnoldi and others, he established a school of medicine,

which was subsequently incorporated under the name of "The Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery." The organ of this school was the "Montreal Medical Gazette," which had, as I have already mentioned, an existence of only fifteen months. Under the able editorial management of Drs. Sutherland and Badgley, this journal maintained a high-toned and, as much as could be expected, an impartial character. To the accusation that, in establishing a school of medicine, they had been actuated by a factious opposition to McGill, they returned an indignant denial. "Of this," they said, "we are not guilty. We unequivocally disavow all intention of opposition or hostility. Is our undertaking treason? Is our course stratagem? Is our end spoil? We acknowledge not any sovereignty, any divinity in science which we may not attempt to reach. Have we done aught in secret or in malice? Our deeds have been open as the noon-day; our acts are beneficent as those of mortals may be. Are we agrarians in the field of intellectual acquirements—levellers of the standard of mental excellence? Are we not engaged in attempting to extend the range of intelligence? Are we not labouring to elevate our profession by all our humble efforts?" They were nevertheless powerful advocates of the interests of incorporated schools of medicine, unconnected with chartered universities, claiming for such schools especially the privilege to be conferred by legislative enactment, of issuing diplomas or certificates to be acknowledged as *ad practicandum* licenses, entitling the holders thereof to practise Medicine and Surgery in Lower Canada without being obliged to submit to further examination by a Provincial Board. This question remained an open one, giving rise to much animated and even acrimonious discussion, until it was finally settled by the Act passed in 1847, incorporating the profession of Medicine of Lower Canada under the title of "The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada." By this Act, as I have already mentioned, the only medical diplomas carrying with them *ad practicandum* rights are those issued by chartered universities.

In the year 1849, Dr. Sutherland severed his connection with the "Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery" to accept the chair of Chemistry in the Medical Faculty of McGill College. This position he occupied until the year 1867. Possessed of a striking physique, and of a fine-toned, resonant voice, these, in conjunction with a remarkable command of language and a fluent, impressive delivery, made him

easily the finest and most admired lecturer in the Faculty. It was a pleasure to listen to him in the class-room, as he presented the dry details of Chemistry with an attractiveness that commanded the unflagging attention and admiration of his hearers. Not only did he excel as a speaker; he was as well an elegant and forcible writer, and a formidable controversialist. One of the most admirable lectures I have met with is his lecture introductory to the second session of the "School of Medicine and Surgery." As an example of his eloquent diction, and particularly as an evidence of his having been imbued with deep religious feeling, and with a firm belief in the great fundamental truths of religion, with the possession of which many of his friends during his lifetime probably did not credit him, I shall give the following quotation from this lecture:—"The physician as well as the astronomer, but more particularly the anatomist, has been accused by many of being more prone to atheism than any other class of men, simply, I believe, because it has been imagined that the beautiful mechanism of the frame was nothing more to him than a mere machine—the intellect than a physical elaboration of the brain! Than this imputation, I need scarcely say, none can be more gross. If the unerring and undeviating course of the planetary system, if the good everywhere visible around us, cause us to admire and wonder, will not even a slight acquaintance with the structure of man prompt us to adore and bless? To no class of men can the philosopher's words be more justly applied than to physicians—*qui studet orat*. He who reads the book of nature must worship Him who impressed it with this character and type. We feel, aye, and equally with his peculiar apostles on earth, that the Almighty is everywhere present at all times; that His past years are countless; that His future days are unnumbered; we inwardly know from our daily occupations, amidst pain and disease and death, that His life is eternity—a never-ceasing youth without the helplessness of infancy or the decay of old age, an entity, a Being, without birth or death. And is this not so? Has the inbred monitor ever whispered in vain? Are not the living letters written on all the infinity of space above, on all the earth around, and in his own resemblance on the features of his own creature—man? What can account for those 'longings after immortality' which elevate our aspirations to conditions more lasting, more holy than the present—to another and to a better world? Is it a physical terrene fear, which,

causing a dread of death, compels us to forge a doctrine which reconciles our doubts and dispels our apprehensions? No! it must be the moral conviction, emanating from God's own Spirit, which induces a man to feel that he is possessed of a soul." A clearer or more forcible presentation of a lofty religious creed could not possibly be given.

Dr. Stephen C. Sewell.—Dr. Stephen C. Sewell, a graduate of Edinburgh University, was appointed in the year 1842 to two chairs in the Faculty—that of Physiology and that of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. These he occupied until the year 1850, when he succeeded Dr. MacDonnell in the chair of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Sewell was a man of prepossessing, even handsome, physique, and largely endowed with the *suaviter in modo*; indeed, he was noted for his agreeable and polished address. He performed the duties of his position thoroughly and with marked ability, and although not the object of much enthusiasm on the part of the class, he was deservedly respected and highly esteemed by the students. He contributed many excellent papers to the medical journals, not any of which were controversial or speculative. They were essentially practical, dealing generally with the records of cases of disease interesting to the physician in active practice from their pathological peculiarities or from the results of their treatment. He was a pleasing lecturer, with a smooth, ready delivery, a finely modulated voice and a good command of language. He had an excellent memory, as his lectures on *Materia Medica* were delivered without the aid of notes. Dr. Sewell, about the year 1850 (I am not certain as to the exact date), was the subject of a most painful and distressing experience, which invoked the deepest sympathy of his colleagues and that of the public generally. During an epidemic of scarlet fever of a malignant type, which prevailed at the time, his whole family of children, seven in number, fell victims to the disease. Plunged in the deepest grief, almost in despair for his loss, it was long before he could shake off the incubus which weighed down his spirit and paralyzed his energy. Gradually, however, with the lapse of time, he regained to all appearance much of his former cheerfulness and activity. After a few years two more children were born to him, but these also were attacked by, and succumbed to, scarlet fever, making in all nine children whose lives were cut off prematurely by this dread disease. This last blow, which, for a second time, bereaved him of his children, had a most depressing effect upon him. He lost all interest

in his profession, and entered on a course of preparation for Holy Orders. This he never completed, but, returning to the profession of Medicine, he quietly continued in its practice during the remainder of his life. He removed from Montreal to Upper Canada, and died either in Ottawa or Toronto, I am not certain in which city.

Dr. William Fraser.—Dr. William Fraser, of all the professors of the Faculty, was best entitled to the “honourable distinction” of being a “self-made man.” He commenced the study of Medicine in the “College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.”

Like many a student from the Highlands of Scotland, of respectable parentage but of straightened circumstances, he had a hard struggle to overcome the difficulties he met with in his efforts to secure an entrance to the profession of his choice. By carefully husbanding his slender resources to make ends meet, by the practice of a rigid self-denial, by unremitting attention to his studies, by availing himself of every opportunity that presented of acquiring a knowledge of medicine, and by a closing of the teeth with a firm determination to succeed, he eventually reached the goal of his ambition, and received from the Glasgow institution a licence to practise Medicine and Surgery. After receiving his licence, he sailed for Canada, and arrived at Montreal, a young man without friends, without influence, and without the prospect of being able to earn a bare living. The courage, however, to adapt himself to circumstances, no matter how discouraging and trying they might be, the capacity to perceive and take advantage of any event that would conduce to his well-being or advancement, the self-reliant spirit that inspired confidence in his own efforts, and the firm determination to succeed, if success were within the limits of possibility, were all there, and by their influence and exercise he eventually triumphed over all obstacles, and secured for himself an honourable position amongst his fellows. His first appointment to the Faculty of Medicine was to the chair of Medical Jurisprudence, at the date of its foundation, in the year 1845. This he held for a period of four years, and was then transferred to the chair of Physiology, vacated by Dr. Robert L. MacDonnell. He occupied this position till his death, which occurred in the year 1872. Previously to his having attained a position in the Faculty, he had attended the course in medicine of the University, and had obtained the Degree of M.D., in the year 1836.

Dr. Fraser could not lay the least claim to oratorical abilities. He was an earnest, unemotional, emphatic speaker. In lecturing he

appeared to be governed, in the presentation of his subject, by a strong desire to fix the attention of his students and to impress upon them the importance of the matters brought before them. In this he certainly succeeded, and it was generally acknowledged by the students that notes of his lectures could be taken more correctly and with greater facility than those of the lectures of the other professors. And the notes, when taken, were preserved and treasured, for they were found to be a carefully arranged and valuable epitome of the science of physiology as it existed at that day. And when we consider that the two principal text-books in use were the two large volumes of Müller and Carpenter, we can readily understand how much the student was benefitted and his work lightened by having the cream of these works presented to him in a concise and understandable form. Dr. Fraser undoubtedly excelled as a teacher; and although his voice was rough and unmusical, he was listened to with marked attention by his class, who were, moreover, deeply impressed by his earnestness, and his evident desire to do full justice to the subject he might have in hand.

As a general practitioner (or family doctor, as the public were wont to style the physician of the time) he was eminently successful. Although his first attempt to form a practice was modest and unpretentious—the starting point being a small drug store on McGill Street—he gradually added to the number of his patients, until he had eventually one of the most numerous and most respectable *clientèles* of the city, and on his death he left those of his family who survived him a handsome fortune, considered from a professional point of view.

Dr. Robert L. MacDonnell.—Dr. MacDonnell, who was a Licentiate of the “King and Queen’s College of Physicians” and of the “Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland,” was appointed to the chair of Physiology in the year 1845, which position he held for four years, and was then transferred to the chair of Clinical Medicine in the year 1849. This latter position he retained for one year, so that his connection with the Medical Faculty of McGill existed only five years. Brief in duration however, as was this connection, it sufficed to enable him to introduce and establish on a permanent basis improvements in clinical teaching, which placed in this respect the Medical School of McGill on a plane with the schools of the most advanced European and American medical institutions.

Coming to Montreal directly from the distinguished clinical school

of the Meath Hospital, Dublin, presided over by the celebrated Graves and Stokes, whose teaching and methods were the admiration of the profession the world over, he entered enthusiastically on the work of introducing the same method of clinical teaching into our Montreal General Hospital. And he was admirably fitted for the work. To a familiar acquaintance with medical literature, and to an intimate knowledge of the methods of investigating disease, he brought the advantage of practical experience, having for some time served as clinical assistant to Drs. Graves and Stokes. Under his directions and instructions, clinical teaching in the hospital was, in a measure, revolutionized, and the reputation of the Medical School of McGill for sound clinical instruction was firmly established; and that reputation, I am happy to say, has been sustained and even increased, up to the present day, by his successors in the chair of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. MacDonnell contributed largely to medical journals, and many of his articles were of exceptional value and interest. Among those specially deserving of notice are:—(1) Contributions to Clinical Medicine; (2) The Use of the Microscope in the Practice of Medicine; (3) Electro-galvanism in Dysmenorrhœa; (4) Injections of Nitrate of Silver in Chronic Cystitis. He first pointed out also the value of contraction of the pupil as a symptom of thoracic tumour, aneurismal or other, involving the recurrent laryngeal nerve. For one year he was associated with Dr. Hall in the editorship of the "British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science," and, with Dr. David, established and edited the "Canada Medical Journal," which publication existed only for one year. When the St. Patrick's Hospital was opened in August, 1851, Dr. MacDonnell was appointed surgeon of the institution. This hospital was established by the nuns of the Hotel Dieu, who purchased for that purpose a fine building on Guy Street between St. Antoine and Dorchester Streets, originally built for a Baptist College, and now converted into an educational institution of the community, known as "Mont Ste. Marie." St. Patrick's Hospital was subsequently transferred to the extensive buildings of the Hotel Dieu on Pine Avenue. Previously to its removal, Dr. MacDonnell's connection with it had ceased. Dr. MacDonnell was a fluent and an agreeable lecturer. In his command of language and ease of delivery he was quite the equal of Dr. Sewell, and, like that professor, he never had recourse to notes. His death was painfully tragic. The accident which led to it occurred on Craig Street while he was attending the funeral of the late Dr.

Peltier. Having suffered from a painful affection of the knee-joint, which at times incapacitated him from walking any distance, he was seated in his sleigh waiting for the funeral procession to leave the house. While so seated, a runaway horse rushed down the street, and came into violent contact with the back part of his sleigh, the shaft of the vehicle to which the runaway was attached striking him forcibly on the back part of his head and throwing him violently forward. He was taken up in an unconscious state, and removed to his house. He lived for several days. A *post mortem* examination revealed a fracture of the base of the skull, with extensive effusion of blood.

Drs. Badgley and Arnoldi.—Drs. Badgley and Arnoldi were two able and highly-educated professional men, who, for many years, had openly and squarely combated the interests and opposed the progress of the Medical School of McGill University, but who eventually accepted positions in the Faculty. The former was appointed to the chair of Medical Jurisprudence in the year 1849, and held the position for one year. He resigned in 1850, and was succeeded by Dr. Arnoldi, who retired in 1851.

Such, then, as I have briefly and imperfectly described them, were the environments of the medical student in the early years of the existence of the Medical School of McGill, and such the men who, in the face of the greatest difficulties and discouragements, succeeded in establishing the school on a firm and enduring basis. Comparing the conditions existing in the years 1847-50 with those existing at the present day, one cannot but be deeply impressed with the magnitude and importance of the changes that have taken place. To-day, by the munificence of wealthy friends, notably by the generous contributions of Lord and Lady Strathcona, the Hon. Mrs. Howard, and J. H. Molson, Esq., the Faculty is housed in a magnificent building, which has been fully described by Dr. Maude Abbott in her valuable historical sketch of the Medical Faculty of McGill, recently published. This building contains within it all the most modern improvements, and includes all the most modern facilities required to assist the student in his effort to acquire a thorough knowledge of his profession; and in the Faculty are able men fully competent to do justice to these facilities for teaching—men who are as devoted and as enthusiastic in their work as their predecessors, and as determined to keep old McGill in the very first rank of medical educational institutions.