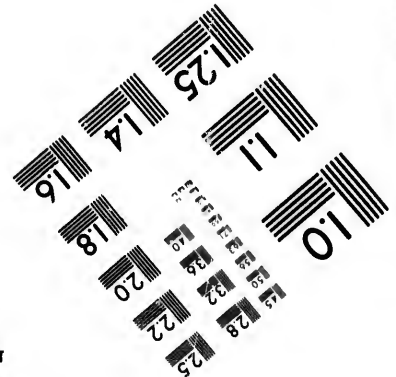
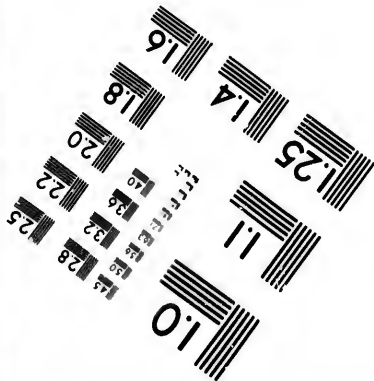
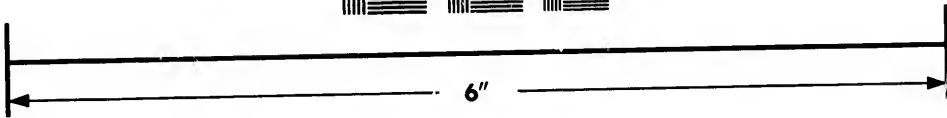
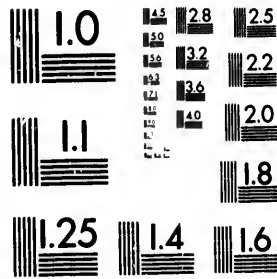


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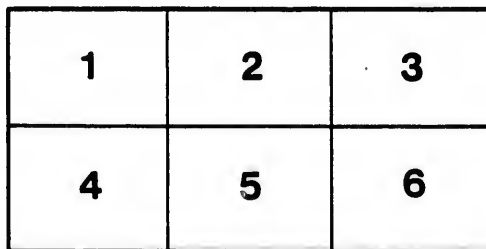
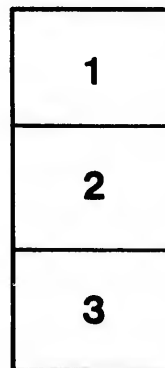
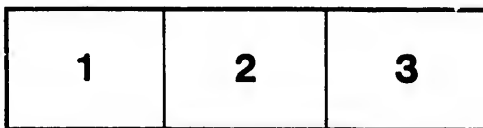
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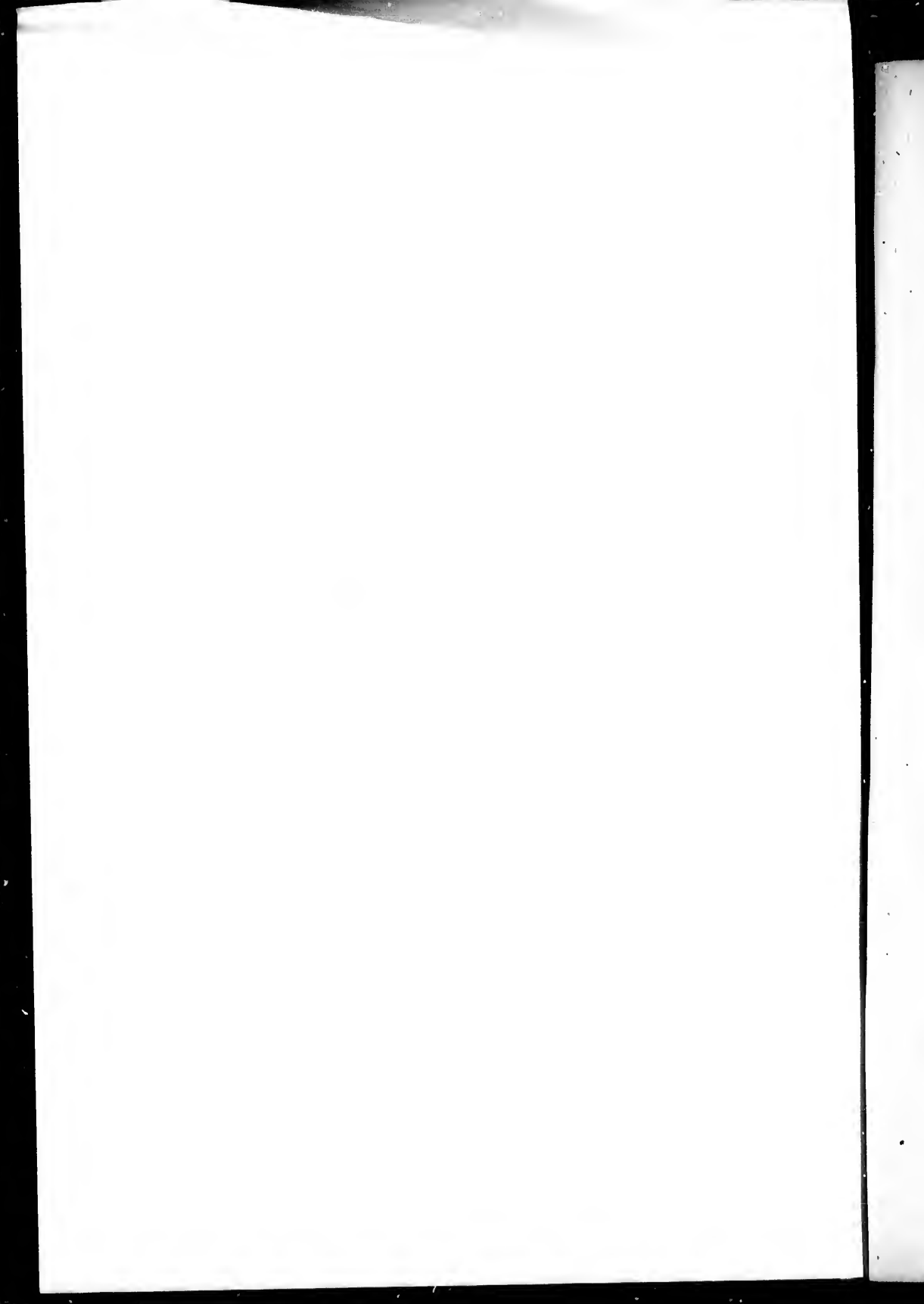
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ON
THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
OF THE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF M'GILL UNIVRSITY.

An Introductory Lecture delivered at the opening of the Session of 1866-67.

BY ARCHIBALD HALL, M.D., EDIN., L.R.C.S.E.,

Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, McGill University; Honorary Fellow of the Obstetric Society of London; Associate of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, &c., &c., &c.

GENTLEMEN,—The delivery of the introductory lecture to a course, marks, in a most incontestable manner, the lapse of time, and reminds me that this is the *thirty-first year* since this annual duty has devolved upon me. During this long period of time, in which Dr. Campbell, our present esteemed Dean of Faculty, and myself, have been associated—what changes have taken place in it! Not *one* of the early founders of this School now remains. They have all gone to the “mountains of myrrh, and the hills of frankincense, until the day breaks, and the shadows flee away;” but “though dead, they yet speak,” and in unmistakable language they tell us to be diligent while “*our day*” lasts. Such thoughts impel me to deviate from my customary plan of lecture, and to devote this one to a sketch of the Past, the Present, and the Future of our Faculty; and I trust that the narrative may prove of some interest.

It feels strange to review scenes long passed away, bespeaking, as it does, the mutability of all sublunary affairs. But if there is one point more than another which is most forcibly proclaimed, it is the unswerving fidelity of the early founders of this School of Medicine to their self-imposed task—one undertaken with the merest shadow of remuneration, and which has now culminated in the fact that their work has prospered in a remarkable degree; and that this School is undoubtedly the first one in

British America, and its lectures may unquestionably vie with those of Great Britain, while I believe them superior to those of most, if not all, of the Colleges of the United States. I speak this with no sentiment of egotism. I but repeat what is now a trite remark. But now to our task.

In the year 1813, died one of the merchant princes of this city, the Hon. Jas. McGill, bequeathing for the endowment of a University or College, to retain perpetually his name, the property known as Burnside, consisting of a dwelling and appurtenances thereon erected, with adjacent land to the extent of about forty-six acres. This property was valued at the time at £5000; but over and above this bequest he also left the sum of £10,000 in money, intended apparently for the endowment of Professorships. There were two stipulations in the will: the one that the residuary legatee, Francis Desrivieres, should enjoy the whole for a limited time; and, secondly, that unless the University was put in operation within ten years, the whole bequest should revert to the residuary legatee. It is now necessary to remark that in the year 1801 a Provincial statute organized "The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning," but the Institution was not constituted until the year 1819. The trustees under the will now demanded the bequest from the legatee for the purpose of handing it over to the Royal Institution, an application which was refused by him—the refusal ending in a protracted law suit, which was not terminated until after the lapse of some sixteen or seventeen years. In the meanwhile, the Royal Institution applied to His Majesty George the Fourth for a Royal Charter, which was granted in the second year of his reign, 1821, and thus established the University with full powers. In this connection, I should observe that it was the intention of His Majesty George the Third to have established two Universities in this Province—one at Quebec, and the other in this city; and that Mr. McGill merely contemplated in his noble bequest the endowment of a college in the latter. This intention appears never to have been carried out in Lower Canada, although by the persevering energy of the venerable Bishop of Toronto, the University of Toronto became established in the Upper Province, and most richly endowed with Crown lands. Such was the intention of His Majesty, however; and the intention was also to have endowed these in a similar manner; but, as already observed, from what cause soever, it was never realized, thus furnishing another example of the truthfulness of the Scottish poet's observation, that—

"The best laid schemes of mice and men
Gang aft a-glee."

We have now to consider another circumstance which exerted a marked influence on this School, and, in truth, mainly contributed to its establishment. I now allude to the erection of the Montreal General Hospital. In the first annual report of that Institution, I find the following:—"In the year 1819, from the increase in the population of this town, the Hotel Dieu Nunnery was found to be inadequate to the reception of the indigent sick; an inconvenience further augmented by the great influx of emigrants from the United Kingdom, some of them labouring under fevers of a contagious nature, and other diseases, that were not admissible into that hospital." Accordingly that year a subscription was taken up for hiring a house to serve as an hospital; and the report further says; "That though this was only on a small scale, the good effected by it was, after one year's trial, so evident, that it was deemed an object highly desirable to erect a building, which might give permanency to the establishment." Accordingly ground was purchased, subscriptions were opened to raise the sum of £2200, the estimated cost of the building, and in January, 1821, a special committee, appointed for the purpose, entered into contract for the erection of the edifice now known as the Montreal General Hospital. Like most other large buildings, the actual cost of its erection exceeded the estimate by the large amount of nearly £1500, but it was finished for the reception of patients in the year 1822; and that there must have existed an urgent necessity for its erection, is proved from the fact, that between May, 1822, and May, 1823, 421 indoor, and 397 outdoor patients received medical assistance from its officers. The medical gentlemen who thus early gave their services were Drs. Robertson, Caldwell, Holmes, Loedel, Stephenson, and Lyons.

With an hospital at their command, in which clinical instruction might be afforded, the thought was now conceived to establish a school of medicine in connection with it; and the following extracts from the early "Minutes of meeting" of the Faculty will prove the best introduction to what follows. On October 20th, 1822, a meeting of the medical officers of the hospital was held, consisting of "W. Robertson, W. Caldwell, A. F. Holmes, J. Stephenson, and H. P. Loedel, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a medical school in this city," in which it was unanimously resolved "that the considerations which seemed to warrant so desirable an object should be drawn out and laid before the next meeting of the Board, to be held on the 27th of the same month, and that Drs. Stephenson and Holmes be appointed a committee for the said purpose." Such then was the actual commencement of this School of Medicine; and I imagine that it will prove a

matter of no little curiosity to see upon what reasons their conduct was subsequently based, a fact in which not themselves alone were immediately concerned, as far as we may glean from the subsequent proceedings, but one in which other eminent individuals of this city were at the time intimately interested, doubtless from the influence which it might exert upon their own children at the time. At a meeting of the same Board, held on October 27th, 1822, the same officers present, the subjoined resolutions were adopted:—

“The medical officers appointed by the President and Directors of the Montreal General Hospital having seen the great difficulties which the student in medicine in this country has to encounter before he acquires a complete knowledge of his profession; knowing the great inconvenience resulting to many from the necessity at present existing of spending several years in a foreign country to complete a regular medical education, and being convinced of the advantages which would result from the establishment of a Medical School in this country, have met to consider of the possibility of founding such an institution in this city. After due deliberation, they conceive that the following considerations warranted an endeavour to promote so desirable an object:

“1st. There can be but one opinion concerning the utility and necessity of a School of Medicine in this Province, seeing that the condition of Medicine in many parts sufficiently attests the want of opportunities of medical instruction. Such an Institution will tend very much to remove this growing evil, by the facility it will afford of acquiring medical knowledge.

“2nd. There can be little doubt that students from different parts of this Province, as well as from Upper Canada, and probably from the adjoining States, would eagerly profit by the opportunities thus afforded of acquiring a sound medical education. Those who might not intend to pursue their studies at a foreign University would be enabled to obtain an adequate knowledge of all the useful branches of medicine, while those who, after attending this Institution, might wish to enjoy the advantages of study in other countries, would be better able to benefit by them.

“3rd. They consider that the Montreal General Hospital is an Institution which much favours the establishment of a School of Medicine in this city. It affords the student a facility of acquiring a practical knowledge of physic never before enjoyed in this Province, an advantage which will be greatly enhanced by the establishment of lectures on the different branches of the profession.

“4th. If such a plan should be carried into effect, a pecuniary benefit

would result to the funds of the Hospital, highly advantageous in their present state.

"5th. They are further encouraged to attempt the formation of a medical seminary, when they reflect that the Medical School of Edinburgh, the basis of which they would adopt for the present Institution, now justly considered the first in Europe, is of comparatively recent formation, it being little more than one hundred years since medical lectures were first delivered in that city. And the early history of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is not dissimilar to that of the Montreal General Hospital.

"6th. In the event of the establishment of a Classical and Philosophical Seminary in this city, the two institutions would be materially benefitted.

"7th. To ensure the success and permanence of such an institution, it would be highly desirable that the persons composing it should be associated by Royal Charter or act of incorporation.

"8th, and lastly. Should such a desirable object be attained, the following gentlemen, in furtherance thereof, have agreed to deliver lectures in the several branches of the profession :

Anatomy and Physiology,.....	Dr. Stephenson.
Chemistry and Pharmacy,.....	Dr. Holmes.
Practice of Physic,.....	Dr. Caldwell.
Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children,...	Dr. Robertson.
Materia Medica,.....	Dr. Loedel
Botany,.....	Dr. Holmes.
Surgery,.....	Dr. Stephenson.

"It was finally resolved that the foregoing resolutions and opinions be forwarded to His Excellency Lord Dalhousie (then Governor in Chief) for his consideration."

On the 30th November, 1822, a letter was received from His Excellency, through his secretary, Mr. Cochrane, approving, among other matters, "of the scheme proposed by the medical officers of the Montreal General Hospital for connecting with that establishment a medical school for giving a course of lectures in the different branches of medical science." The letter further remarks that "His Excellency will readily give his support to this desirable object, and will do all in his power to assist the endeavours of the medical gentlemen who have come forward in so liberal a manner."

On the 4th February, 1823, at a meeting of the gentlemen aforesaid, it was resolved to issue an advertisement, to be published in the princi-

pal. Upper and Lower Canada newspapers, announcing the organization of the "Montreal Medical Institution," and the intended delivery of a course of lectures during the subsequent winter. I will read you the advertisement, which, before publication, was sent to the Governor-in-Chief for his approval, which was cordially granted, and which was the first public announcement of a course of medical lectures in this Province:—

"MONTREAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

"The medical officers of the Montreal General Hospital having seen the great difficulties which the student of medicine in Canada has to encounter before he can acquire a competent knowledge of his profession; knowing the inconvenience resulting to many from the necessity at present existing of spending several years in a foreign country to complete a regular medical education; considering that the recent establishment of the Montreal General Hospital affords the student a facility of acquiring a practical knowledge of physic never before enjoyed in this Province, and that this advantage will be greatly enhanced by delivering courses of lectures on the different branches of the profession, held a meeting to consider the practicability of founding a medical school in this city.

"The circumstances which rendered the success of such an institution probable, and the measures intended to be adopted for carrying the same into effect, having been submitted to His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, he was pleased to signify his entire approbation of the plan.

"It is therefore resolved to deliver lectures on the following branches of the profession, to commence on the second week of November next ensuing:

Anatomy and Physiology,.....J. Stephenson, M.D.
 Chemistry and Pharmacy,.....A. F. Holmes, M.D.
 Practice of Physic,.....W. Caldwell, M.D.
 Midwifery and Diseases of Women & Children, W. Robertson, Esq.
 Materia Medica,H. P. Loedel, Esq.
 Surgery,.....J. Stephenson, M.D.

"In the course of the summer, 1824:

Botany,.....A. F. Holmes, M.D.

"Montreal, February 4th, 1823."

We thus observe, that in its origin, from its very commencement, this school was literally established under vice-regal auspices. The earliest session, however, of which I can trace a record, was that of the year following, viz., 1824-25; and had in attendance but twenty-five students, a number which scarcely augmented for years. This fact was anything

but flattering or encouraging; but the indomitable perseverance thus early displayed, under most discouraging circumstances, speaks most highly in praise of these early founders of the school. Like in our days, so in those, they were met with an opposition, in the establishment of a French Canadian school. There can be no question but that an opposition in any walk of life, or in any enterprise, may prove not only healthy, but useful, and especially if based upon generous principles; but in this case the motives, so far as we are permitted to judge, would appear to have been very much the reverse, as it was based upon a national peculiarity, that of difference of language. Looking at the subject now, in its broadest point of view, and considering the peculiar circumstances in which every one practising in Lower Canada is placed, a knowledge of the French language appears to me as indispensable to an English student, as that of the English is to a French one. The law of 1847 demands a knowledge of both languages on the part of every student. To say the least, it is but the educational accomplishment of every gentleman; and to base an opposition upon such a pretext, is but a paltry excuse for a more hidden reason. The effect, however, was not advantageous to either party. The Institution became weakened, while the French School acquired no increase of strength. The Institution, however, despite of all obstacles, 'pursued the even tenor of its way;' and in 1828, to prevent the lapse of the bequest to the residuary legatee, and as it was found impossible to fill up the chairs in the several faculties of Law, Arts and Divinity, the Montreal Medical Institution became the Faculty of Medicine of the McGill University, a position which it has ever since held. During the few years which had now elapsed, the only change of moment was the retirement of Dr. Loedel from the chair of *Materia Medica* (in fact, he never discharged its duties), and the substitution of Dr. Lyons in his place. The tickets of the lecturers were acknowledged in Edinburgh, but at the ratio of two courses for one of that University; and as in those days it was a customary practice for every young man whose parents could afford it to complete his studies in some European school, and this chiefly the Edinburgh one, a high tribute was thus awarded to the labours of the lecturers. From this period, however, the tickets were accepted at par.

In the year 1843 was founded the University Lying-in Hospital, the domestic control of which was placed under a Committee of Ladies who kindly undertook the supervision, while the professional duties were discharged by the Faculty of Medicine of the University, the Professor of Midwifery being the attending Physician, there to exemplify by practice the principles inculcated in his class-room. This Institution

has been very successful, and has effected a vast amount of good by the relief of an immense amount of suffering and distress, which, except for its existence must have been encountered. Originally intended for married women, its advantages have been extended to others. Last year 128 patients were admitted and partook of its advantages, while, since its establishment, upwards of 3000 patients have availed themselves of them. All that we want now is a new and proper edifice, erected upon principles recognized as imperative in the construction of all Hospitals, based upon the better acknowledged rules of Hygiene of the present day; and, when this takes place, which I trust will be in the course of another year or two, we shall hear less of the incursions of puerperal diseases, which have been unfortunately too frequent in the rooms of the private dwelling, which for years past has represented its "local habitation."

The origin of our library, now a very fine one, and containing upwards of 4000 volumes, deserves a passing notice. It was founded by a resolution of the members of the Medical Institution on the 27th August, 1823, and is the property of the members of the school collectively, who, by agreement, debarred themselves from all capability of personally alienating their right or interest in it. To exhibit the judicious foresight and care of the founders of the school, I will transcribe the rules by which they bound themselves, the fruits of which we are now reaping. They are few in number, but concise:—

"1. The library is exclusively the property of the members of the Institution collectively.

"2. No member can transfer his share in the library.

"3. The library cannot be dissolved without the unanimous consent of the members.

"4. Any member of the Institution dying or resigning his situation, loses all right as proprietor of the library.

"5. Any person becoming a member of the Institution, becomes likewise a proprietor of the library, with rights equal to those of an original proprietor, provided he pay to the treasurer one-half of the amount of subscription paid by the original proprietors; and

"Lastly. Should the Medical Institution be dissolved, the library shall still remain, unless dissolved by unanimous consent. In case of the dissolution of the Institution, it may be lawful for the proprietors to admit a greater number of proprietors, and new-model the library."

And finally, at a meeting of the members, held on the 6th October, 1824, the minutes furnish the following information in regard to the Institution and the Library: That each member should pay to the

treasurer the sum of £7 10s. for contingent expenses; that each member pay annually to the library the sum of £2 10s.; that students pay a fee of 10s.; and that the profession in the town be notified of the existence of a Library, and that every member of it may avail himself of its advantages by paying the annual fee of £1 1s. At present no fee is demanded from the student, and its exclusive sources of maintenance and enlargement are the matriculation and graduation fees. I have only to say that the Library was the late Dr. Holmes' especial care and pleasure, and its present condition is mainly, if not entirely, due to the self-denying exertions of that most estimable friend and colleague.

In 1828 I began the study of medicine, and at the session of 1831-32 I was a student of three years' standing. The latter year was a memorable one for Canada, and especially for the city of Montreal. The population of this town was that year 30,000, when the epidemic of Asiatic cholera broke out, and carried off in less than three months 3000 of the inhabitants. During that memorable summer, both students and physicians, all worked hard both by night and by day. During the day, in conjunction with a fellow student of the name of Logie, the first graduate of this University in 1833, I had charge of and attended the Cholera sheds, two long wooden buildings at Point St. Charles, while we alternately slept every week at Dr. Robertson's house to do his night work, as he was so hard wrought in his professional duty during the day, that he was glad to seek and obtain as much repose at night as possible. I never can forget the still quietude of the town, when called out during the night to visit for the doctor some new and unfortunate case. Nothing broke the calm serenity of the summer night, while walking or riding through the streets, except the occasional clatter of the feet of some man running for professional aid, or the pitiful cry of another labouring under the disease, and calling for assistance. The arduous duty of that summer proved too much for the constitution of Dr. Caldwell, and I heard in Edinburgh, to which place I had gone that autumn to complete my studies, of his decease from typhus or typhoid fever. Dr. Racey, a young physician, filled up the vacancy; but his connection with the Faculty ceased in 1836, when he returned to Quebec, his native place, and Dr. Campbell and myself were associated with some alteration of the chairs—the former lecturing on Surgery, and myself on *Materia Medica*, doing, in fact, that session Dr. Holmes' duty, so far as that branch was concerned. Repeated alterations have taken place in the composition of the Faculty since that period of time, the object of them all having been the gradual extension of the curriculum, with a proportionate augmentation of the staff, so that from the original five who composed it, the number has

now increased to nine or ten, the object of this increase having been to develop more thoroughly each branch of medical study, and to harmonize the system of instruction here more intimately with that of the schools in Great Britain.

The next important circumstance connected with the College was its formal opening in 1843, and a pamphlet now before me contains the address of Dr. Bethune, Principal, on the occasion. The organization of the College appears now to have been completed, with the exception of the Faculty of Law. Among other matters, he observed that "a Professorship has been established in the Faculty of Medicine, with a competent number of lectureships in its various branches, and the Governors entertain a strong hope of being enabled shortly to establish a professorship in the Faculty of Law. In the Arts, professorships of Classical Literature, and of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, have been established; and to all these appointments have been made, with the exception of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy." A professorship was also established in Divinity, which gave rise to a vast deal of acrimonious discussion, and was one, among other causes, which led to an amendment of the charter in 1852, with the abolition of the Divinity chair. These are matters, however, with which *we* have nothing to do. I will only, in conclusion of this division of our subject, say that, with the exception of some three years, at the time of the rebellion in 1837, the sessions of our faculty have been regularly held. Commencing in 1825 with twenty-five students, it was not until the year 1844 that the number became increased to fifty. Since then its numbers have steadily progressed, and the matriculation register of this year exhibits the large number of 181, while the number of graduates settled over the Province, and in foreign countries, some of whom are practising with distinguished success, is upwards of 400. I need not say that the success which attended our efforts created great opposition. I have already alluded to the French School of Medicine, established simultaneously with the foundation of this School, and which continued in operation for many years, but it was succeeded, if I remember rightly, after a temporary suspension, by the present one, which was founded in 1843, and incorporated by an Act of the Provincial Parliament in 1845. This was succeeded by the Incorporation of the St. Lawrence School of Medicine in 1851; but the latter, in the course of a few years, was discontinued, from the want of support, and soon "paled its ineffectual fire."

The last subject which I desire to notice in regard to the past history of our Faculty is the relative position of this School of Medicine and the French School of Medicine; and I am the more anxious to notice it, as

the facts connected with it have been a good deal misrepresented. I must notice the restless activity of the members of the French School, who regularly every session of the Legislature, since its Incorporation in 1845, had applied for the power of granting diplomas, a measure which, in the interests of the Profession, we felt it our duty to oppose—as experience has universally demonstrated this fact, that, in accordance with the number of Institutions possessing the power of granting degrees or diplomas, so has the profession degenerated; while another very powerful argument against the delegation of any such power consisted in the fact that the same privilege could not have been justly withheld from every other school of medicine existing and to exist. In order to put an end to the wrangling, which was continually going on, in the year 1847 an alliance was entered into between the two Schools, by which the School of Medicine became virtually the French Department of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill College. The terms of the agreement were embodied in a paper, copies of which were mutually interchanged; and I will take the liberty of quoting certain portions of it.

The third clause states “that the students of the School of Medicine shall be entitled to become candidates for graduation at McGill College, fulfilling only the requirements necessary to bring them within the class of students of the University, which are, first, matriculation during one session, and, second, during that session, having taken out any two of the six-months courses required by the curriculum, which together form an *annus medicus*.”

The fourth clause states that “the examination of the students of the School of Medicine for the degree shall be conducted by the Lecturers in that School, but shall be held within the College, and in the presence of the Medical Faculty, and generally be in accordance with the statutes of the Medical Faculty.”

“Fifth. The students of the School of Medicine thus obtaining the privilege of becoming candidates for the Degree, the School of Medicine will cease to grant certificates of qualification.”

[I should here remark, parenthetically, that the School was in the habit of going through the farce of examining such students as presented themselves to the Lecturers, granting them a regular Diploma, pocketing a fee for it, and this without the slightest legal authority.]

The sixth, seventh and eighth clauses relate to the mutual enjoyment or use of the respective libraries; that the class fees should be the same in both Schools; and that the graduation fees accruing from their students should be paid over to the School of Medicine, for the sole use of its library.

During the three years in which this arrangement was in operation, fourteen of the students of the School of Medicine availed themselves of its advantages—advantages superior to any which it could have obtained from the Legislature. In 1850 the Members of the School virtually annulled the agreement with the Faculty in again renewing their agitation for an alteration of their Act of Incorporation, so as to enable them to issue certificates of qualification. On the 26th August, 1850, at a meeting of the Faculty, the following minute will at once explain the proceedings:—“The question of the late proceedings of the School of Medicine, as regards their attempt to procure an alteration of their Act of Incorporation, by which the agreement between it and the Medical Faculty was virtually annulled, was then considered; and the Secretary was directed to write to the Secretary of the School of Medicine, informing him that, in consequence of the School having virtually withdrawn from their engagement, especially in reference to their granting a certificate, the Faculty will no longer continue to them the privilege of examining their students seeking graduation, nor of receiving the graduation fee as formerly; *but that no abridgment of the privileges of the students will take place.*” Upon the strength of this resolution, whatever the Lecturers of that School may say, the student enjoys the same privilege now that he had before the breach of faith took place. All that was done by us was to withdraw from an alliance with parties who could keep no faith with us; but as it would have been unjust to punish the students for what was no act of their commission, their relationship with the University has been ever since maintained by the Faculty, although not one since 1850 has taken advantage of this opportunity, doubtless from some misconception or misrepresentation, one of which actually occurs in the answer of Dr. Meilleur in the “Report of the Special Committee on the Laws relative to the practice of Physic, Surgery and Midwifery in Lower Canada,” dated October, 1852. Dr. Meilleur’s report concludes with “an extract from the registers of the Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery.” I will merely quote as much as suits my present object and to save time:—“A certain number (fourteen) were examined by the Professors of the said School, and the rest by those of McGill College’ (not one was examined by any Lecturer of the College, although one, and sometimes two of them were present, and who were usually indifferent to the proceedings), “in pursuance of an arrangement entered into between the School and McGill College, but *which arrangement was broken by McGill College, since the request made in 1851 to the Legislature by the School of Medicine and Surgery, in order to obtain the right of granting to its pupils a certificate which the Provincial Board would be bound*

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to receive without requiring the possessor to submit to further examination." This extract from the register of the school was signed by Drs. Munro and Boyer, and is a thorough condemnation; but it told only a *part of the truth*, by no means the *whole truth*; and I feel assured that if the students of that school only knew the privileges to which they are even now entitled, quite a number during the last sixteen years would have availed themselves of them. Such then, gentlemen, is the last relationship of the Medical Faculty to the School of Medicine, a school which has now effected an affiliation with Victoria College. For what purpose? To obtain for its students a collegiate honour, one which they could have obtained at any time from our own University at a less expense than by a visit to Cobourg.

Such, gentlemen, is a sketch of the *past* history of the faculty of Medicine of this University. It is chequered at the best, and exhibits a protracted struggle in favour of the Profession, with whose best interests it has been always identified. The present class, as well as those of preceding years, attests in the most marked manner that its labours are appreciated. As Professors, the present members of the Faculty pretend to nothing more than a faithful delineation of those branches of medical science which have been severally committed to their trust; and if our College has enjoyed a name second to that of none in British America, or even on this Continent, it is simply attributable to the fact, that its Professors have done their duty—a fact moreover demonstrated by the numbers present this day.

But what shall I say of the present and future of the Faculty? No change whatever has been made in the curriculum for the degree, except as regards the classical attainments of the candidates for it. This again is a move in the right direction: one which I have long wished to see. There can be no doubt of the truth of the saying, that the more highly educated a young man is before commencing the study of Medicine, the better prepared his mind will be to profit by the lectures. Of this there can be no doubt. The General Council of Medical Education and Registration of Great Britain required a few years ago a severe test on the part of a candidate, and the Upper Canada Act, passed during the last session of the Legislature, has adopted very nearly the same scheme. To these we have been compelled to conform. Among the requirements is a knowledge of the Greek language. I must confess that none can compare with this one in beauty or sublimity. Its study is most seductive; and when I remark that by far the greater portion of our medical terms are Anglicised compounds from its words, its importance to an educated physician can scarcely be overrated. In fact,

a single word derived from the Greek language will be found to be more expressive, and to convey to the educated mind ideas which no word in the English language would be adequate to effect, and which a whole sentence would be required sometimes to convey. No, gentlemen, if there is any truth in the old quotation—

“ A little learning is a dangerous thing ;
 Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.”

The Graduates of this University *must not* be inferior in mental culture to those of any other University. In this, as in other matters “ *nulli secundus*,” must be as it has ever been, our motto ; and although, it may seem difficult to acquire that primary educational knowledge which is now demanded, and however much its utility may be doubted, this would never be questioned by a scholar, that a perusal of some of the old authors is in reality in leisure moments a source of extreme and unalloyed pleasure.

And now another quotation from the same admired poet most aptly expresses the ideas which I have been attempting to convey :

“ Be Homer's works your study and delight ;
 Read them by day, and meditate by night.
 Thence form your judgment, thence your maxims bring,
 And trace the Muses upwards to their spring.
 Still with itself compared, his text peruse,
 And let your comment be the Mantuan Muse.”

Time now warns me to be brief. What shall I say of the future ? Judging from the past, a splendid future lies before this Faculty ; but to secure it, everything depends upon the present. If we are true to our duties, the future can be easily foreshadowed—one of unwavering success ; but if recreant, then the opposite condition must follow. But let me trust that the same energy will be exhibited in the future as in the past ; and that in subsequent years, when *we* are gathered to our fathers, our young men may point to this City, as we do now to Edinburgh, and pronounce it, as well from its edifices as from its educational establishments,—the modern Athens of Canada. “ So mote it be.”

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