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## Original Communications.

## THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF ALCOHOL.

BY DR. W. E. BESSEY.—(Continued.)

If alcoholic medication could be shewn to lessen the mortality rate in fevers it would have much to recommend it; but, on the contrary, hospital statistics, wherever observations of the kind have been made prove the contrary.

The elaborate statistics of Dr. Gairdner, professor of physic in the University of Glasgow, published in the *Lancet*, 1864, shew that in several hundred cases (nearly 600) of all ages, the mortality lessened exactly as the dose of alcohol diminished, milk or buttermilk being the staple food. Wine, reduced from an average of 34 ozs. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  oz., and spirits from 6 oz. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  oz., was followed by a reduction of deaths, from seventeen to ten per cent.; while of 210 children under the age of fifteen, treated without any alcoholic stimulants, not one died, though the very same class of cases treated with alcohol in the Infirmary had a mortality of six per cent. Dr. Gairdner remarks upon this subject as follows: "The habitual use of drugs and stimulants has a great tendency to mask the disease, to disturb or retard the crisis, and to increase the mortality. This is an opinion formed after a most careful observation of particular cases, in detail, over many years. I venture to put it forward as a law, that, in a large proportion of cases, typhus fever, left to its natural course and treated without drugs or stimulants, will have its natural crisis before the twelfth day. Milk or buttermilk is, with me, the staple food in typhus. I know no other food that can be depended upon. To give wine, whiskey, and beef tea, while withholding milk, is simply, in my opinion, to destroy your patient; and the more wine or whisky you give while withholding milk, the more sure you will be to destroy your patient speedily, because you are thereby superseding the natural appetite (or what remains of it) for a nourishing and wholesome diet, by a diet, if it can be so called, which poisons the blood and checks the secretions and alters, for the worse, the whole tone of the nervous system, and of digestion and assimilation." The official account of the Russian epidemic of typhoid and relapsing fever states that quinine and stimulants had no effect, the deaths rising to forty per cent. Dr. Mussey, in his Prize Essay on the Physiological Action of Alcohol, says: "In the remission of the paroxysm of continued fever, there are probably but few physicians in our country, who have seen a large febrile practice during the last twenty-five years, who have not had

occasion to regret its unfavourable effects. Under the stimulant practice, trains of morbid symptoms are often aggravated and new centres of irritation established, which, if not sufficient to destroy the patient, prolong the period of fever, and frequently cause relapse, or a lingering convalescence." To this rule, however, there will be exceptions, as there is to every observation; for there will always be found exceptional cases in which because of peculiar idiosyncrasies in the patient, the most commonly received therapeutic aphorisms may be reversed, and we may meet with patients in whom alcoholics are well borne, and exert a temporary beneficial influence, but these are always the exception and never the rule.

Dr. J. B. Russell, of Glasgow, commenting upon the results of experiments with and without alcohol says: "Alcoholic stimulants are a two-edged sword in the hands of the practitioner," (agreeing with Dr. Anstie, he says,) "If employed within the range of their stimulant action they are helpful; if pushed beyond into their narcotic action, they impair the vitality, which it is our duty to augment." (This calls for the use of the sphygmograph to assist in determining when this point has been reached.) "Even as pure stimulants, he says, they may be used unnecessarily, so as to push and urge the labouring energies of the system, maintaining an unnatural excitement in a journey, which could, with leisure, have been more easily accomplished."

On this point, Professor Lehman observes: "When once the fact is admitted that the first thing in many diseases is to furnish a copious supply of oxygen to the blood, which has been loaded with imperfectly decomposed substances, and to remove as quickly as possible the carbonic acid which has accumulated in it, these observations will have afforded us true remedial agencies which exceed almost every other in the certainty of their action."

Dr. C. Murchison in a recent article in the *British Medical Journal*, after advocating cold water baths and quinine to lower the temperature, and aconite, digitalis and veratum viride to reduce frequency of pulse—remarks that: "The nutrition of the body must be maintained by appropriate food as milk, beef tea, eggs, farinaceous articles, &c." With Graves he recommends feeding fever, but with Parkes he does not approve of over-feeding especially with pure nitrogenous diet, as beef tea. He thinks it doubtful if wasting nitrogenous tissue can be fed, in which case such food must be cast off by already over-tasked organs. *Milk he considers to be the best of all diet.* My own observations with beef tea, has

been that it aggravates, if it does not actually induce diarrhoea.

And on the use of stimulants he remarks as follows: "In many cases of fever it will be necessary to give stimulants. You must not give stimulants *simply because the patient has fever. Many patients with fever do better without them.* But you must not refrain from giving stimulants when the heart shows signs of weakness, as happens in the advanced stage of most protracted fevers," and recommends first *ammonia*, next *ether*, and lastly. (or as if a *dernier resort*) alcohol,—“in quantities proportionate to the weakness of the heart and pulse,” also cautioning against errors as follows: “You must take care that the remedial measures which you adopt in no way thwart the natural mode of recovery or favor the natural mode of death, which a too free use of alcoholic stimulants invariably does.

M. L'Ambert, in a recent article advocates the use of cold ablutions in fever, either in the form of cold water baths, or by the use of a cold wet sheet, as an anti-febrile, sedative, and soothing agent. He claims for them that they naturally lower the temperature, reduce the pulse from 8 to 30 beats, allay cerebral and nervous excitement, stimulate the secretory organs, and, in the exanthems, favor the appearance of the eruption.

Dr. Murchison also considers that cold and tepid sponging or cold affusions are remedies deserving further trial for reducing the frequency of the pulse and lowering the temperature in fever.

Coming back to hospital statistics: we have statistics of the London Hospital, extending over a series of years, which show a gradual advance in the rate of mortality in accordance with the gradual advance in the quantity of alcohol prescribed. From 1862 to 1864, the deaths rose from 7 to 10 per cent. In the surgical department, from 1854 to 1864, from 4.48 to 6.55, an increase in ten years of nearly one-third.

Statistics as published by Dr. Fraser regarding the employment of stimulants and the mortality in the London Hospital during the few years preceding 1865.

“In 1851, there were 4,051 in-patients in the London Hospital; that in 1857, there were 3,935 in-patients, and the mortality was greater in 1857 as 8 to 6.5 per cent., although £962 more were spent in 1857 than in 1851 for articles of luxury.

The summaries of these statistics stand thus:—

From 1854 to 1858, each *Physician* employed 12,803 ounces of wine annually; the deaths being 11.88 per cent. From 1860 to 1864, he employed 48,136 ounces; the deaths being 12.65 per cent.

During 1854 to 1858, each *Surgeon* employed annually 38,016 ounces of wine; the deaths being 4.48 per cent.

During 1860 to 1864, he employed annually 142,951 ounces; the deaths being 6.65 per cent.

In 1862, the general mortality of the hospital was 7.4 per cent.; the consumption of stimulants being 1,281 gallons of wine, 162 brandy, 38 gin.

In 1864 the mortality was 10.5 per cent.; the quantity of stimulants consumed being 1,558 gallons of wine, 359, of brandy, and 62 of gin.

Dr. Fraser remarks the steady rise in the mortality rate coincident with a steady increase of the use of alcoholic stimulants, and goes on to make the following pertinent observations:

“Well knowing the fallacies so often edited through an erroneous interpretation of statistics, we do not pretend to connect the increase of deaths with the increase of stimulants consumed. But, when we reflect upon our modern advancement in medicine and surgery (especially as mis-called ‘Conservative’)—when we think of our great modern hygienic efforts,—*we may fairly ask for some explanation of the fact of a general advance in the mortality of a London Hospital.*”—Dr. Fraser, in *British Medical Journal*, Dec. 9th, 1865.

On the other hand, the treatment of particular diseases without spirits, or with vastly reduced quantities, has been, without exception, followed by a largely lessened mortality. This has been true in the case of cholera, rheumatic fever, typhus and typhoid fevers. Vol. II, third series of Guy's Hospital reports, contains a report of thirty-six cases of rheumatic fever, treated for the most part with simple diet and mint water, by Sir W. Gull, M.D., and H. Sutton, M.D.

On the reading of a paper, in 1862, before the London Medical and Chirurgical Society, by Dr. Dickenson, on the treatment of acute rheumatism, considered with regard to the liability to affections of the heart under different remedies, Dr. (now) Sir W. Gull, observed that in his hands the alkaline treatment had proved a failure. “He had used colchicum, Dover's powder, nitrate of potash, opium, &c., without satisfactory results, and was therefore content to keep the patient quietly in bed, so as to avoid disturbing causes, and to support him on the simplest diet, giving him a mixture to please and satisfy him, and lead him to believe that something was being done, and he usually gave them a little extract of *Taraxacum* mixed with peppermint water. Amongst 64 cases so treated he had scarcely had a case of heart disease.” Dr. Wilks and Dr. Rees, of Guy's Hospital, have also treated rheumatic fever exclusively without drugs and stimulants, and instead of the common, frightful sequel of heart disease it has been cured in half the usual time, and with less than one per cent. of that malady. Hence if the frightful, sequel, heart disease, is favored by alcoholic stimulants then surely this is another of those disorders (one of retained effete matters in the blood), in which alcohol-

hol is contra-indicated. The *Medical Times*, commenting on the Guy's Hospital Reports of 1866, says: "Two of the most important papers, are by Dr. Rees and Dr. Sutton, who have recorded cases of rheumatic fever, complicated and simple, *treated without active medicines*. We say 'treated' because we hold that rest, a regulated diet, temperature, &c., are no mean aids to recovery in acute diseases."

While on fevers I may quote Dr. Wilks' remarks in *Lancet*, 1865: "At the present time there are advocates for a universal method in favor of alcohol in all cases of fever. In my intercourse with medical men, I judge that very many are scarcely alive to the fact that typhus fever is very rarely fatal in young persons, and therefore that they are apt to attribute recovery to their medicine. Young persons always do well if let alone; (this opinion is also put forward by Dr. Beale in a recent paper) of this fact I could quote a larger number of cases in proof; and on the contrary the few instances which I have seen end fatally have been those *in which a large amount of stimulants have been given* from the commencement of the disease, and, what is perhaps even more to the point, the withdrawal of stimulus in some cases where it was adopted as the method of treatment has been attended with the most decided advantage." The late Dr. Bentley Todd is responsible, more than any other, in recent times for the stimulating doctrine, and Dr. A. W. Barclay, in his work "Medical Errors," points out the fact that the mortality rate in Dr. Todd's own practice in rheumatic fever was always very large: that of 18 cases reported 15 were complicated with heart disease, while in common continued fever eleven deaths occurred among 24 of Dr. Todd's cases. Gastric fever, or rather, the gastric form of typhoid fever in which the local parts affected are the mucous follicles and glands of the stomach, is another of those peculiar phases of low continued or paludal fever, in which alcoholic stimulants are not well borne, and prove prejudicial and not beneficial. And it will be within the recollection of many how rapidly, under this stimulating plan of treatment, the Prince Consort sank, furnishing an illustration of a patient, who it is possible may have been "stimulated (as Dr. Ainstie remarks) off the face of the earth."

The fact that medical opinion has been rapidly undergoing a profound change on the subject of alcoholic medication, in the mother country, is patent to any one who watches closely the opinions put forth in medical reviews, hospital reports, &c., and such comments as the following, by a leading journal like the *British Medical Journal*, so long ago as June, 1868, is sufficient to shew in what direction medical opinion has been drifting for the past few years in England.

In reporting a lecture by Dr. Gardner, of Glasgow, on the limits of alcoholic stimulation in acute diseases, it says: "The author condemned the practice, and also the theoretical views leading to the practice of the late Dr. Todd, and continues: "It is nearly as possible a demonstrated fact, that much of what is spent in wine and spirits for the sick in hospitals, and, therefore, probably in private practice, is unnecessarily, if not injuriously, spent."

(To be concluded in our next.)

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE TO THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF McGILL COLLEGE.

DELIVERED 1ST. OCTOBER 1872, BY THE REV. WILLIAM WRIGHT, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.

(Reported for the *Canada Medical Record*.)

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for your warm greeting, and in acknowledging it, let me assure you that the joy of meeting is mutual. Your Professors are as happy as you are at the introduction now taking place on this the first day of the Session. And in return for your applause which we accept as your welcome, I have great pleasure, in their name, in extending to you a most cordial welcome. This day begins a future which we trust will enrich you with an abundant harvest of professional usefulness, and when a little while has rolled by we hope to place in your hands the sickle by which its golden fruit may be gathered into your garner; or to change the figure, we trust that before a long while we shall find you round our necks with other esteemed jewels in the long race of graduates who are our sons in medicine. May the morning you first crossed these halls of learning be ever a red letter one in your life's calendar; may enthusiasm so swell at the remembrance of the time spent here that you will be eager to exclaim: "We hail from McGill." And may others read the great fact in your superiority, so that they too will be constrained to confess that from McGill, and McGill only, could you hail. This day, again, will ever appeal to our hearts because it marks a new era in our position. We now inaugurate the stately building wherein we are met. It has been built by the Governors of the University out of the funds at their disposal, at a cost of \$27,000. They have placed it exclusively as a free gift in the hands of the Medical Faculty. Long will the memory of their liberality be green. Whenever we look round, we read in every part of the substantial structure their good will towards us, and the munificent scale by which our wants should be met. "*Si videres monumentum, circumspice.*" As part of the College buildings, it forms a handsome wing being where medicine should always be, conspicuous in the company of the learned. No more healthy, no more picturesque site could have been chosen.

The lecturer then entered into a minute description of the building, which we omit, as we allude to it in our editorial columns. The lecturer then said:—

“Medicine was a mere chaos till 600 years before the Christian era, or a little earlier. Then the attempt was made to bring it into cosmos, or under the comprehension of philosophy. The asclepiades were the true originators of science, and in helping on the work Pythagoras was famous. Eight hundred more years passed by, however, before medicine was so digested or so trimmed as to be able to be publicly taught in a systematic manner. Then the philosophical school, or sect, which had in the meanwhile flourished, was superseded by the empirical, under the guidance of Serapion and others. And when the third century dawned, there sprung up the first institution for medical education. It was founded at Jondisabour. It brought up many eminent men, among others, some centuries after, was Rhazes, the Prince of physicians. But its teachings were soon opposed by those of the methodics, and afterwards by the dogmatics and others. For of it, as of others, it is true—“*Nec scire fas est omnia*. The attendance upon some of the ancient colleges far exceeded that of any single one in modern times; perhaps from their being not so many then as now to divide the palm. That of Bagdad, with which was associated an infirmary and laboratories, numbered as many as 6,000 students at one session in the latter part of the 8th century. In the 11th century one of the most celebrated was the university of Salerno. Its medical lectures were very numerous attended during the Crusades, the place being then a fashionable resort. It awarded its degrees to students of seven years' standing. I shall not steep you in the Cimmerian gloom which rested upon later endeavors to diffuse professional learning, as it rested upon whatever else was calculated to ennoble mankind, till the middle of the 15th century; nor, pleasant though the task may be, trace the establishment throughout Europe in the sunshine that succeeded, medical schools, which still continue to win the admiration of the whole world; but I propose to engage in what I trust will be to you still more agreeable. I propose to turn your attention from foreign seats of learning and bygone days to our own. For as the patriot and his country, so of the Alumnus and his college, it may be sung—

“Such is the ‘Alumnus’ boast where'er we roam  
His first best college ever is at home.”

Before 1824, a few occasional lectures had been given in Montreal, but without the order or regularity or union that was afterwards manifested. In

that year four of the most competent practitioners resident here, viz., Drs. Caldwell, Robertson, Stephenson and Holmes, associated themselves to deliver annually courses of lectures upon certain branches of medicine. The school thus initiated was conducted with signal ability from the first. Many were its early struggles; but the wisdom and energy of its brave founders triumphed over all. It was named “the Montreal Medical Institute.” Its pupils had the advantage of walking the General Hospital, which had been opened two years previously. Its powers were limited, however, to those of extra-academical bodies. This institution is of peculiar interest to us. It was the child of the man of which the present one is father. Four years ended its nonage, when it was grafted as a flourishing scion into the University of McGill Collège, of which it afterwards constituted the medical department. It now had the privilege of procuring for successful competitors the *summos honores* in the form of the degree of M.D. Its first graduate was William Logie, in 1833; he was the harbinger bud of the wreaths of flowers which blossomed in succeeding springs. Its usefulness was greatly promoted by the foundation of a library and museum, which its Faculty made more extensive year by year. It began with four chairs, viz., Practice of Medicine, Midwifery, Chemistry and Materia Medica, Anatomy and Surgery. With the exception of a suspension during the rebellion which broke out in 1837, the lectures were delivered unremittingly every year. The last two branches named were subsequently divided, so that Chemistry, Anatomy, and Materia Medica, were taught separately. Surgery, however, was only released from its old bone to be joined to a new one, midwifery. In 1842 the union was severed, and each consigned to its own guardian. In November of the following year the efficiency of the school was materially increased by the opening of the University Lying-in Hospital, which afforded students the opportunity of attending cases of labour.

Since the origin of this Faculty to this, the 40th year of its existence, it has enlisted 26 Lecturers or Professors, including its founders. Upon 14 of these honored men Time has executed his commission.

“He undermines the stately tower,  
Uproots the tree and snaps the flower,  
And sweeps from our distracted breast  
The friends we loved—the friends that blest.”

The last we have had to mourn the loss of has been Dr. Fraser, and because the last I feel that no apology from me is needed while paying a short tribute to his memory, that it may be the more surely preserved among us.

William Fraser was born in Perth, Scotland, I believe in the year 1814. After having completed his general education, he entered upon the study of Medicine,—which he pursued chiefly in Glasgow, attending lectures both at the University of Glasgow, and also at the Andersonian University. He was remarkable for the ardor, industry and perseverance he displayed in attaining a knowledge of his profession. His tenacity of application and constancy in learning were such as if he had “set his life upon a cast” and was resolved that by no fault nor short-coming of his, should there be any hazard of the die.

Upon the outbreak of cholera at Rosneath, in 1832, he was sent down to the parish by the late Dr. Lawrie, his Professor of Surgery, to officiate in a temporary infirmary opened for cases of the Epidemic then raging. I mention this incident because it shews the high opinion entertained of him, at that early time judging him worthy to be trusted with a post of responsibility. And I mention it for another reason. Rosneath is the native place of our Dean, and there he made his acquaintance. As they then grasped their right hand of fellowship for the first time neither one nor other had a glimpse of the brilliant future that awaited them in a far-off land across a thousand miles wide bridge of sea, where they were to be colleagues for more than a quarter of a century, to supply the wants of the Dominion and parts which far outlie her borders with troop upon troop of skilful and accomplished practitioners.

In 1834, young Fraser received the license of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, which is a double qualification, the same as the Medical degree of our University. It entitles the holder to the position with all the privileges of a general practitioner, in that city, so that with it he can there practice Physic, Surgery, Midwifery. Fraser, however, used it more as an honor than a power. Having heard of Canada, where “worth by poverty depressed” rises not so slow as in the Mother-Country, he left home and came out here. Soon after his arrival in this city he was made Apothecary or House-Surgeon of the General Hospital, or rather both, for in those days the offices were fused together and held by one person.

While gathering experience of disease in its protean forms in this new situation, he decided upon extending his theoretical acquirements by re-attendance upon lectures. With this view he matriculated in this University, followed the courses and, having qualified, graduated in 1836.

The graduation class of that year contained another member of high distinction, I mean Dr. Wm.

Sutherland, our Emeritus professor of Chemistry. Dr. Fraser seemed to be so drawn towards him, that an intimacy sprang up which time served to brighten; the tendrils of his heart being ever ready to cluster round the charms of a social, manly, philosophic nature. And whenever memory recounts the pleasures of a bye-gone oratory, that fell in brilliant gleams upon admiring pupils, or a physician to whom the hearts of his sick were gratefully knit in warm affection, or a friend who tenderly felt for another's smart, and could cheer the lonely way with his winsome words, then will it recount some of the graces of a Sutherland!

Having obtained license to practice in Lower Canada, which is got by proving ownership to one's degree, Dr. Fraser gave up the Hospital and engaged in private practice. He realized the fond dreams of hope, and from a slender perch climbed up to an uppermost branch to rejoice in all the pleasures which first-class success could yield. Ever ready to heed the call of the sick, to act upon the rule “*labor omnia vincit*,” and to do the best for his patients, he took at the flood the tide in his affairs which led on to fortune, and after 36 years toil, he was worth £40,000 or £50,000.

In 1845 he was chosen to fill the chair of Medical Jurisprudence. I had the benefit of his maiden course, together with your able Professor of Medicine, and four others whom I can recall. It was new and not obligatory retrospectively, and for these reasons, the attendance was so thin. Here he gave the first marks of aptness for lecturing that after years only rendered more prominent. I well remember the zeal with which he threw himself into his work, the pains-taking he exhibited in its discharge and the faithfulness with which he carried it through to a satisfactory close. His aim was to afford his class a clear, curt, well digested view of his subject, abreast with the progress of the day.

In 1847 he was elected by the board of Governors, one of the Medical staff of the Hospital. Though that year was a very busy one for doctors, owing to the spread of an extensive epidemic of typhus or ship fever imported by emigrants who had suffered from famine, consequent upon the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, Dr. Fraser showed himself equal to the emergency. In other outbreaks, as those of cholera, in 1849, and afterwards, he was also always under arms, and effective in the path of duty. His patients had great confidence in his wisdom, and his humane treatment won their esteem. He was fond of surgery, and as an operator was daring, bold and resolute; he was also fond of trying

new remedies, in order to determine their real merit, or ascertain some new point in their action.

In 1849, yielding to the wish of the Faculty, he was translated to the lectureship of Institutes of Medicine, which he filled during the 23 years following. He there displayed the characters that were so marked in his former post, but more developed by the training he had there received. Thousands of students have borne away his teachings, and with their deep science have drunk in the spirit of enquiry they caught from him, and profited by the example of diligence he set before them.

Dr. Fraser had a lofty idea of the dignity of Medicine. He was a stern foe to empiricism under every guise, and a strong upholder of Rational Medicine. To his mind its pillars were physiology and pathology, or they were the streams through which the fountain was to be supplied. Partiality, however, did not close his eyes to the inestimable value of Clinical study. He was a useful member of the several Medico-Chirurgical societies that rose and sank during his career, and occasionally contributed original articles to the local journals. The first was in the Montreal Medical Gazette, for May, 1844, about "a case of ovarian tumor." In the same journal will be found his account of a case of castration, and of one of spasmodic croup. In the British American Journal, he published two papers, one on erysipelas, treated by Venesection, and another entitled: "Observations on fever prevalent among immigrants." In the Medical Chronicle, he wrote upon "Galvanism in paralysis of the bladder;" "Amputation of the forearm;" "Strychnine in Cholera," and "Perineal section in stricture of the urethra." In this journal and in those that succeeded it, several Hospital cases are reported under his name, treated by him, but written by others who had watched them.

For several years, Dr. Fraser was a Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Canada East, and of the Natural History Society of this city.

And here the sable line must end this rude sketch. His long life of activity having been embittered by prostatic hypertrophy for some time; at length urinary infiltration set in; and in a few days more, on the 24th of last July, he was removed from among us

"To that mysterious realm where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death."

"until the day break and the shadows flee away."

We deeply deplore the breach made in our ranks. We have done what seems to us best towards its repair. The admirable way in which

your new Professor of Institutes managed his former offices flatters us with the florid hope that you will soon realize his appointment to have been the best that could have been made. The blank he has left, in turn, Dr. Ross, a gold-medallist, fills. He brings with him the clinical experience he gained during the years he was in the Hospital, where he won for himself garlands of praise.

A feature of this school is she does not forget her students, nor pass them over for strangers. Her chairs are her highest prizes, and when her own can fill them she glories with maternal pride in drawing them still closer to her bosom. Of her eleven professors eight have been her offspring. And these eight have sat at the feet of one whom they still thank for his invaluable lessons. That one is the acknowledged Nestor of Canadian medicine, beyond whose professional opinion there is no appeal; but to them he is far more. He is as a fond father whom they dearly love, a sincere and faithful friend in whom they delight, and while he is there that one is also the one whom they esteem as their dean.

As motion causes heat, heat light and chemical action, chemical force electricity and magnetism, so in the progress of this School several other Schools have started up,—or rather I should say as life-force by acting on matter, brings out these cosmical forces, so our existence has been followed by the birth of others. That is what I should have said, for life-force has its origin from no other force, nor into it can any other be turned, nor can it be merged into any other, and that is just the case with this school. It owes its start to no other in the Dominion; no other can take its place; and it has lost nothing by developments; on the contrary "*Crescit crescendo.*"

The relation of Medical Schools to Universities, is in this country unlike what it is in the great model institutions of the British Isles. There, there are few Universities and many Schools. Here every School is part of a separate University. I do not object to many Schools. I would always rejoice to find many were needed, and would gladly welcome the efficient; but I hold, and very strongly too, that nothing is more calculated to make them engines of destruction than to constitute each one a Faculty of a distinct University. Legislation could not inflict upon a people a greater evil than to multiply bodies having unlimited power to grant degrees to whom they please, and as they please, without hindrance or supervision where, as in Canada East, these degrees procure for their holders a license to practice without further examination, however great may

be the measure of their incompetence. Through its University each Medical School has this unlimited power, and having it there is to be apprehended the liability that the maintenance it could not expect because of its sterling worth or established reputation it will seek to acquire through the lavish exercise of the power unwisely placed in its hands; especially is this to be expected when competition springs up late in the day. Look now at the appalling consequences of such an evil once perpetrated. Look at them as they are to be seen in its ultimate working. Were they but the boasts of the gourd against the oak of a century's root, of a thing that must wither at the end of its summer's birth, against what is to live on in full vigor, of the swellings of voices over their masters—were they these, there would be nothing worth notice; but unhappily, the gourd, while it lasts, has the power to plant the flag that means an easy time with M.D., sure, and to make good these offers. And, while it lasts, such a School may shew its disregard or sacrifice of the health or happiness, or life of the public by periodical drains of incompetent physicians whom it sends out to deal with these essentials upon which the security and prosperity of a country necessarily depend.

What you want in a respectable Medical School is firstly, that it shall have abundant opportunities for imparting a practical acquaintance with diseases and injuries, through actual observation and clinical teaching. For this an Hospital is indispensable. In the Mother-land it is the Hospital originates the School; the School is the School of the Hospital, and from it gets its worth. There no eminent men would presume to teach medicine who were destitute of the resources of an Hospital.

What, again, you want in a useful Medical School is an extensive library, where the periodical literature of different places may be referred to, where the classics of the profession may be consulted, where there is some thousands of volumes of standard books, and where the works last issued are annually added.

What you want further in a reliable School is that it should be thoroughly equipped in means of illustration. It ought to have a museum largely stocked with both anatomical and pathological preparations; the latter to be so varied as to comprise with the more common, the rarer lesions; in short such a display as can only be acquired gradually, after tens of years of collection. And in addition to these there should be as many series of the best executed plates or drawings, as well as such varied

objects or models, or instruments as are generally serviceable.

As you pursue your studies you will find them very entertaining; you will find our abode is in a crust twenty-three miles thick, the cooled scum of molten blazing rock beneath, one hundred and sixty times hotter than red-hot iron, our life a vortex of change kept up by tearing from milk, or flesh, or fruits, the atoms of our anatomy to make good the piece-meal wear of what we once called ourselves; you will find that we are kept warm by our unlocking the sunshine from the cellars of food or fuel, in which it has been stored, after it has ridden upon its beam through space that would take a railway train two hundred and thirty years to cross; and that we are ever in motion, travelling with the earth with a speed sixty-eight times as great as that of the bullet fired from a rifle. Your studies will also fill you with interest as they shew you how wonderfully you are made, as they lead you stage by stage through the work of building the human frame, from the time of the fertilized ovum cradled in the Graffian vesicle onwards; as they point out the outlay of myriads of nerves, of vessels, blue, red, white, and colorless, meandering in leashes over mountain-like organs, valley-like dips and plain-like surfaces. They trace the finger of design, give every measure down to the 400th part of a line, and tell of every function.

Medicine, however, chiefly commends itself because of its utility. It points out the laws of health, how to stamp out the decimating plague, to cause the air or water of a town to be pure, and to promote the salubrity of its people. It takes you on the wings of contagion to its strongholds, shields from its venom, tracks it in its progress, and fits you to enter the lists against it, sure of victory. It gives you power over the ills to which flesh is heir. It takes you where Flora spreads her treasure, and down the mines of the earth, and into the noisy shop of the factor, and many a place besides to cull remedies. It learns you what they can do, when to use them and how to give them. It speaks of the insane root that takes the reason prisoner, of Keksie, or Conium, that killed Socrates; of the finger of Hermes which is the anima articulorum of the Masch Allah or "Gift of God," that first provokes pleasure, then lulls to rest; of one that in fractional parts arches back the body into the rigid locks of death; of another that relaxes every part, and of very many more. It arms you with the Surgeon's skill and strength where the question is what has been the injury, when the cry for relief is importunate, and

when, if the right aid be not afforded the case must be lost. It enables you to staunch life's current in its wasteful flow; to rid the air-pipe of the struggler for breath from its foreign body; and in countless other ways to prove the friend of distressed humanity.

Marvel not that such a science, such an art, should be richly strewed with encomiums. Let me read you two or three. One of the oldest says: "Honor a physician with the honor due unto him." "The skill of the physician shall lift up his head, and in the sight of great men he shall be in admiration." "Give place to the physician; let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him." Among the Romans, Cicero was exuberant in his praises of the profession. According to him "nothing brings man nearer to the Gods than in giving health to his fellow creatures." And in more modern times Dr. Johnson, the leviathan of English literature, thus beautifully records the memory of a practitioner.

"When fainting nature call'd for aid  
 "And hovering death prepared the blow,  
 "His vigorous remedy displayed  
 "The power of art without the show.  
 "In misery's darkest cavern known  
 "His useful care was ever nigh  
 "Where hopeless anguish pour'd his groan  
 "And lonely want retir'd to die."

These are a few of the inducements that prevail to urge you to attain to the object before you. The path is made easy in proportion to the thoroughness of your previous education. Where that has been liberal it the best preparation to future study. The higher the preliminary training the more easily will you acquire your professional learning, and the more surely will it be remembered. When possible a Collegiate course in arts should be added to the instruction of the Grammar and High School. The benefit conferred is not merely the grasp of a larger fund of knowledge, but also the better culture of the mental faculties, whereby knowledge will be more efficiently apprehended, retained, and turned to profit. The tentacula by which it is secured will be more expanded, effective and polished. Graduates in arts should, therefore, be able to acquire the profession sooner than others, and upon the belief that such is the case they are granted the benefit of one year off from the four, which in other cases must be spent in the study of medicine. And while urging the advantages of the highest preliminary education permit me to point to the superior opportunities this University affords to those in search of such a gain; and also permit me to add that they are opportunities for which in a great measure the Dominion is indebted to our learned Principal, whose successful labors in elevating education among us, and promot-

ing its diffusion in its varied departments have won for him the gratitude of all by whom they can be appreciated.

Once entered upon the study of medicine act out the note of Lucretius, "a falling drop at last will cave a stone." Avoid the mistake of attempting too much. The celerity that makes the ocean cable or circular saw valuable will mar the student. Impatience is one of the giants he has to war with. The last lecture, the capping day, the start in life, the first fee—all seem so far off that the desire is to draw them nearer—to shorten time and pile on studies. A forcing system is apt to be instituted; the most jejune compendium, the most condensed notes, are most pondered. Such a plan may help to pass an examination, but it will fail in after life. What is got by it will be like snow, quickly gathered and quickly melted away. In winter you may not have time for much more, but in summer you have, and then your reading should extend to the best modern authors on important subjects, and your time be largely spent in the Hospitals. Your memory is to be the infirmary, from the resources of which your patients are to be treated, *secundum artem*, and therefore you cannot too richly store its cells. Depend upon it a year or so more, when this is the object, will not eventually be regretted. In my time it was not unusual to study five years; and when I look across the almost quarter of a century that has lapsed since my five ended I have no regret because they were so many.

Again:

"Like an inverted cone  
 "Wants the proper base to stand upon,"

do not invert the order of your studies. Another error to be shunned is to study the final branches before the primary. It is the loss of method, and that is a cause of imperfection; even haste is here no excuse. Though these be the days of electric speed and steam force, yet in their haste there is method. The telegraph message or river propeller run their course in order; so, whatever be the haste to get through medicine, the student should go, like them, right straight through his course in the proper way without either slip or skip. Get such an acquaintance with the rudiments, that they shall be the firm scaffolding or frame of the edifice you are to surround and fill in with all that will complete its structure. Undoubtedly you will have knotty things to master, but be not faint hearted; what others have accomplished you can achieve. They were just as raw and verdant at the start. But they won the victory in time, by constant application, diligence.

during lectures, and persevering study. Therefore "*nil desperandum*;" the same means will as surely carry you through. If "*perge et prospera*" be your watchword you will cross the Alpine ridges of ignorance with a splendid array of forces, and be so able to marshal your army of medical lore as to meet any move on the chess-board of disease and accident. Do not drop what is hard, but study it the harder. and, though but two courses be exacted, fail not to add a third on the branch you feel to be to you as the heel to Achilles.

At your lectures be punctual, be regular, be constant, be exemplary. It is a bad prognostic to see a young fellow who has paid out his father's money, got usually after much toil on the old man's part, instead of reaping the advantages it procures for him lounging his time about the College premises or sauntering through the streets. I know of no student who was attentive at his lectures with a fair share of intelligence, who was ever plucked. A chronic system of neglect, however, will inevitably ruin anyone. Be diligent in every useful way. At your lectures carry off all the information you can; from the wordy flood poured forth make rivulets on paper from which the brain may drink in afterwards; otherwise the whole will probably slide over both ears unheeded and uncaught. Often try to recall what you have learned, digest it, sink it deep into your mind; and from time to time hold an assize with yourself as to your proficiency by constituting yourself both the examiner and the examined.

It is often said of a physician, his popularity is due to his manners; while then you are preparing for his position attend also to their culture; as you would have them then so you should trim them now. Let the shadow that falls from you upon others be gentle, kind and genial. Let it not be coarse nor repulsive, for the sick you will have to attend may be of delicate feeling, cultivated taste, and refined minds. Let it leave no remembrance of vulgarity to wound the tenderest nature. Let it always be humane and sympathizing. Let it not exhibit any kindred with a spirit of Vandalism, that delights in wanton wrong; and let it not mar its influence by any occasional burst of rowdiness or wild puerile folly. And while the shadow that falls from you should have these traits let it also have a quiet, grave cast. Your manners should leave such a shadow, for the business of the physician is no sport; impending death is no joke; the responsibility of having a man's life in your hands is no farce; the guilt of not having done all you should have done is no trifle.

As nothing is harder to escape than the snares of

bad habits, once their coils have been spun, so medical students should not form habits unsuited to practitioners. In no other profession than the medical is there greater need for a man to be sober. Unless the upper decks be kept clear for action his wits are not fit to meet an engagement. If I could gain the ear of an inebriate who prefers intemperance to reason I would tell him to aim to be almost anything but a drunken doctor. I would tell him that as such sooner or later he will inflict injury and reduce himself to penury. What more unfit than him when muddled or half mad to rule where every hope lingers upon his words; where bleeding hearts look to him to save a dying mother; where his groggy fingers try to impart news to his maudlin brain or shake out its behests! Who that could avoid him, would have him?

Now for a few words on smoking. I do not say "thou shall not smoke tobacco," after the authorities of Berne, who caused these words to be written on a tablet of their church; nor will I uphold to your imitation the pattern of Dr. Parr, who, unless asleep or eating, was usually found burning the weed; but I advise those of you who smoke to do so at the right time, and in the right place, and so that it will not weaken your energy nor fog your mind. Dissection would be finer if while being done the hand were not weakened by the narcotic. The atmosphere of the class-room would be more pure and bracing, more conducive to attention and memory if it were not soiled with deadening nicotin.

Set a proper estimate on the worth of life. No study can be too great which will enable you to save life, or make it more enjoyable; these are the objects of medicine; these are the merits you must affirm you have before you can be enlisted into her ranks. Before you can be graduated you will have to swear "*coram Deo*" that you possess "*Omnia ad aegrotorum corporum salutem conducentia*," in other words that you are masters of the skill and art which conduce to the recovery of the sick. What a motive is this to urge you to turn your advantages to the best account; to give the full benefit of all the resources science places within your reach to your patient who looks to you, under the Great Physician, to prolong his days, and avert the calamity his death would cause. Be no respecter of patients. Treat all alike. Destitution may mask the noblest front. Some physicians were once consulting over a loathsome looking object upon the pallet of an Hospital, and when their prescription was given it was added in Latin "let the experiment be made upon the vile body." Instantly the mass of woe I started from disguise, and in the

same tongue remonstrated "let not that body be called vile for which Christ died."

Think highly of your profession; think of its interest and learning; think of it as honorable and noble, as useful and God-like. Its fields are ripe with opportunities to grace a life of true religion. There are rare chances for being unspotted when gold would tempt to purloin or to pay unnecessary visits, or to needlessly officiate, or to speak falsely. There, where there is "a constant interruption of pleasure," self-denial can shine out in full splendor. There may be kindled the flame which will cause your breasts to burn with fellow-feeling, tender pity, and kind compassion. There may be sown broadcast the seed that will richly store your garnerers with the praises of benevolence, humanity and philanthropy. And there can be conferred such acts of charity as may well challenge others to excel them in being more disinterested and less ostentatious.

Be heroes in the strife; your reputation is not to be won at the cannon's mouth, nor your breast adorned with valor's clasp; but a heroism may glisten in your eye the world's brave heroes never knew; when pestilence causes the eagle eye of the soldier of the forlorn hope to quail, or his lion heart to fail, then, like one of old, you may stand between the living and the dead. Your spirit is not to be fired by the carnage of a nation, nor the wails of the bereaved, nor the triumphs of might over the weak, nor the panegyrics of the press, but by the prospects of recovered health and happiness and prosperity; by the promptings of conservatism and by kind concern at human pain.

Let your life be as a sun of wisdom shining out upon the world to which your influence extends; let it be unsullied by a cloud of suspicion against your worth or sincerity; and when the crimson of the sunset sky paints the evening, when you shall no more go forth to work, then, in the night that follows, the bright stars that have treasured up the light of the past will shine for to welcome you home to "the Mountain of Myrrh and to the hill of Frankincense."

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BISHOPS COLLEGE,

DELIVERED ON THE 2ND OCTOBER, 1872, BY FRANCIS WAYLAND CAMPBELL, A.M., M.D., L.R.C.P., LONDON, PROFESSOR of Physiology.

MR. PRINCIPAL, DEAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—Deputed, as I have been, by my colleagues to deliver the opening lecture of the Second Session of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bishop's College, allow me on their behalf to wish you, one and all,

a cordial welcome. To those who return to us, after a comparative rest of six months, we extend our greetings, as to old and well tried friends. We feel that to you we owe much of the position which we occupy to-day. At a time, when many had much to say against the establishment of a new Medical School in this the Metropolitan City of the Dominion, you rallied around our standard, and enabled us to carry to completion, the most successful first session of any Medical Faculty ever established in Canada. When I pause and look back upon the well nigh two years which have elapsed since the nucleus of this School was formed, I am free to admit that the success which has attended us, has been far beyond even what we felt sure would follow our efforts to establish in this fair and flourishing city, a new School of Medicine. It would be idle, gentlemen, to say that we did not feel anxious, for I can assure you that, among those who took part in the early work of organizing this Faculty, there was much anxious consideration, many hours of perplexing consultation. It was not all smooth sailing. Difficulties, many of which we never dreamed of, were constantly rising in our path, and I do not think that I make an admission of cowardness or of weakness, when I say that more than once it seemed as if all our weeks and months of toil were going to be for nought. We, however, felt that it was for the interest of the general Medical Profession of this city, as well as your interest, gentlemen, that we should persevere, and open our school. Had it not been that we felt this most strongly, I fear we should have abandoned the idea. But having once put our hands to the plough, we determined to look steadily forward, and with faith in our cause, abide the issue. That we were right in doing so, has, we think, been most satisfactorily attested by the twenty-five gentlemen, who, last year, enrolled themselves upon our matriculation register, as medical students of Bishop's College. With the exception of those who last spring took our diploma, I believe every member of the class of 1871-72 return to continue their studies with us. I need hardly say that to us this is an extremely gratifying fact, as it proves that the exertions which were made upon their behalf have been appreciated. I trust that the months which have intervened since the close of last session have not altogether been devoted to pleasure; that the warm and oppressive months of summer did not curdle the youthful blood within your veins, but that some little time was devoted to work, and that now you return to us, laden with the knowledge that you have acquired.

To those who come to us for the first time, who to-day enrol themselves as students of medicine, we likewise extend our hearty welcome. At the very outset of your student's career, I would not wish to say one word which will dampen the ardor which I feel sure pervades each breast. Yet I feel that my duty would not be performed did I not ask each one of you if you have well considered the very important step which you are now taking. If you have, and it seems to me that your answer is in the affirmative, I welcome you to the work which, though arduous and entailing constant toil, has much about it which is pleasant and agreeable. Indeed, gentlemen, in after years, when the cares and anxieties of practice surround you, you will often look back upon your student's life as being one of the green spots, an ever-to-be-remembered landmark in your existence. To-day you enter upon your work, full of energy and of hope, and it is well you should do so, for on the very threshold of your studies, you will meet with not a little which will perplex and worry you. Be not dismayed, gentlemen, but persevere; remember the proverbs "*There is no Royal road to learning,*" and "*What is worth having, is worth fighting for.*" In the words of Dr. Williams, "I almost envy the pleasure, in young and ardent minds, of rising step by step, in knowledge, and delighting in the wonders of the enlarging view. I admit that the ascent is arduous, that it requires hard labor, and no little self-denial. But is there no compensation in the delight of acquiring knowledge and intellectual power? No gratification in learning and contemplating the intricate beauties of the most perfect part of the creation? Is there no moral and religious good to our own minds in tracing out and unveiling its frailties, weakness, decay and death? No satisfaction in learning of means which a gracious Providence, supplies for preventing and removing the ills which flesh is heir to; for relief of pain, suffering, and weakness, and the restoration of health and strength? And if from present studies, you carry your anticipations onward to their final object in practice—under heaven, yourselves to ease suffering humanity, and to invigorate and prolong life—is the pursuit less noble, or less worthy of your highest thought? Need I say more, for the moral and intellectual greatness of our art.

"Is a study noble in proportion to the breadth and depth, and diversity of the knowledge on which it is founded? Then think of medicine! how she levies her contributions from every branch of knowledge. The human body exhibits a machinery

so perfect, that the most skilful mechanical philosopher may take lessons from studying it. It contains a laboratory so diversified, and chemical processes so subtle, that therein the ability of the most expert chemist is far surpassed. But the knowledge of the student of medicine must go beyond that of the mechanical and chemical philosopher. He must study those vital properties of which they can tell him nothing. He must become acquainted with the attributes of life operating in matter. In animal generation, nutrition, growth, secretion, motion and sensation; in the variations of these processes; in their decay, and in their cessation, which is death, he has a complicated study, peculiarly his own. He has, besides, to contemplate the body under disease, and to bring to his aid the three kingdoms of nature, and almost every art and every science, for agents and means to counteract and control that which disturbs its well-being. But if you would see the moral influence of medicine depicted in its liveliest hues, I would ask you to contemplate a domestic scene, a family whose hearts are wrung with a dreadful anxiety for one vibrating between life and death. What a ministering angel does the physician seem! How they watch his every look! with what breathless earnestness do they hang on his words; and those words how they wing themselves to the souls of the hearers for sorrow or for joy. Yet such scenes are passing daily, yes, hourly, in every class of society, in the mansion and in the cottage; they open the hearts of all; for the moral influence of medicine is bound up with the treasures of life and health, and with all those endearing ties that make these treasures doubly precious." Such, gentlemen, is a very brief description of the profession whose study you this day enter upon. I trust it has given you a clearer conception of the grandeur of our mission, and has increased your determination to be no laggard in acquiring that information, which it is necessary you should obtain, before this University can confer upon you the degree of Master in Surgery, and Doctor of Medicine. Every day of your student's life will have its duties, which if neglected and postponed will accumulate so rapidly upon you that it will soon be out of your power to overtake them. Let me therefore impress upon you, with all the force I can command, not to procrastinate, but to arrange in a methodical manner, your daily routine of work, and, having so arranged it, let no trivial circumstance cause you to deviate from it. This plan of methodicity is one which is invaluable at all periods of our lives, and I know of no better time to adopt its practice than when commencing the study

of medicine. It is really surprising what an amount of work can be gone through with, when this course is followed; but, as an additional inducement, I would say that men who are methodical in their habits are generally of a practical turn of mind, and that practical men are usually not only those who deserve success, but who have it. Let not the allurements, the temptations of a great city, its gilt and glitter, dazzle your eyes, and draw away your attention from that, which for the next six months should be uppermost in your mind. Fix your eyes steadily at the point towards which you are aiming; turn your head neither to the right hand, nor to the left hand, press steadily forward, and, when the session closes next spring, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your time has been well and profitably passed, and that you have stored up not a little information, which will enable you next year to proceed to the more practical part of your studies. This session, to a very extent, your attention will be directed to those elementary branches which constitute the ground work of our profession. It is very essential that you should pay the closest possible attention to Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Physiology. Under the head of Anatomy, I include not only the regular course given by the professor of that branch, but the continuance of its study, upon the dead body in the dissecting room. The importance of this portion of your studies cannot be over estimated, enabling you, as it does, to examine in *situ* those parts with which surgeons should be perfectly familiar. In being able to prosecute this study openly, you are placed in a position of great privilege, compared with those who, even a comparatively few years ago, occupied the same position that you do to-day. To the public mind, however, there is still the same horror connected with this use of the dead subject as there was when Herophilus, a Greek physician, 570 years before Christ, first used for the purposes of dissection the human body. Nor is it likely that with the great mass of the public this feeling will ever be overcome. It is so thoroughly engrafted in human nature, that nothing but a thorough realization of its absolute necessity can, I believe, ever reconcile any one to its adoption. While, therefore, I recommend close attention in the room which is devoted to Practical Anatomy, I also ask you to look with reverence upon those poor relics of humanity, which are its occupants, and which the law of the land has appropriated for your use. Remember that the cold inanimate form which will then lie before you was once tenanted by an immortal soul, and walked erect,

the image of its Maker. But, gentlemen, although I speak thus strongly about the attention due to Anatomy, do not for one moment imagine that I do not attach the utmost importance to the other branches which constitute the remainder of your elementary medical education. I have first brought Anatomy before your notice, and urged your particular attention to it, because among students it is generally considered somewhat dry and uninteresting, and the subject which, above all others, they can most readily neglect. A greater mistake was never made. Its importance cannot be too strongly brought before you, while I assure you the interesting character of the study will certainly be appreciated by those who honestly and conscientiously set themselves to work to study the wonderful mechanism which the Almighty has created.

Chemistry, another elementary branch, will command a portion of your time, and is sure to rivet your attention from the interesting character of the study itself. Its importance, in connection with the science of Medicine, is every year becoming more evident. The gigantic strides which it has made within a comparatively few years has enabled much that was before of a somewhat dubious character in other departments of Medicine, to be settled definitely.

Materia Medica, or that branch of the Science of Medicine which treats of the nature and properties of all the substances that are employed for the cure of disease, is also an elementary or primary branch, and should be one of the lectures taken by all first year students. Its study is deeply interesting, and when we consider the vast number of drugs and herbs which now comprise the Materia Medica, and the very important purposes to which they administer, it is an absolute necessity that it should be completely mastered. I need hardly say one word, how necessary it is that every medical man should be able to know the general properties of the great majority of these drugs, for it is self-evident, and requires no amplification.

Physiology, which I have the honor to teach in this University, is the last on the list of primary branches, and, of all the subjects comprised in the elementary course, it is the one which, in my opinion, has most to commend it, as a purely interesting study to the student of Medicine. In ancient times, Physiology formed part of Astronomy, Alchemy and Physics, and was conducted or formed by speculative reasoning, without having any basis of established facts. The ideas of ancient philosophers, who attempted to unravel the

mysteries of nature by what is generally known as the intuitive method, have gradually been swept away. To-day, after ages of observation and the collection of facts by intellects capable of understanding, or, at all events, to some extent unravelling them, we find ourselves as it were still but on the threshold of the door. But as we stand there—knowing as we now do, that all nature works by immutable laws—we strain our eyes and look hopefully towards the future. Here and there, we see in the distance, light glimmering, and as those true and faithful workers in the field of Physiological science, who to-day are laboring so nobly—in the front rank of which stands Brown-Sequard—add new facts, this light will grow brighter, until theory is banished from Physiological domain. During the early history of this department of medicine, the progress and development of Anatomy did much to advance it, giving valuable information concerning various functions of the body. Within the last fifteen years, the microscope has laid physiological workers under great indebtedness, and it is destined in the future to lead to still greater discoveries. Chemistry also, has a most important bearing on the advancement of Physiology. As a most striking example of this, I would mention the discovery of the properties of the gases of the atmosphere, and the relations which they have to the blood. To Lavoisier, we are indebted for this discovery, which was the first definite idea ever enunciated to account for the phenomena of Respiration. Modern Physiological Chemistry has given us the knowledge of many of the essential phenomena of life, and ere long it will explain many questions concerning nutrition which at the present moment are shrouded in obscurity. In a word, you trace the works of nature through every gradation of their development; you define the limits between the organic and inorganic kingdoms, the connexion between the animal and vegetable kingdom, and trace out the latter from the mere germinating corpuscle, to that wonderful and complex machine—the human body. You will learn the functions of the brain and of the nerves. You will by it be taught how the body is fed, how the food is converted into material with which to nourish the body; the modifications which this material undergoes, and how it circulates through every part of the body. In a word, you will have brought in review before you, the functions of every part and of every organ of the human body, and the relation which each bears towards the other. I have thus briefly glanced at the four subjects, which are known generally under the name of primary branches, and which will form the ground work of your me-

dical education. I trust that you are convinced of their importance, and of the very intimate relations they bear to each other, and how essential it is that you should be masters of them before entering upon the study of the practical part of your profession. How, for instance, could you undertake a difficult and delicate operation in Surgery, or even the comparatively easy one of amputating a large extremity, without having a perfect knowledge of the Anatomy of the parts upon which you were about to cut. How could you understand pathological or diseased conditions, if destitute of a good comprehension of those Physiological laws which govern the human body in a state of health. How could you dare venture to interfere with an organ in a diseased state, if you were unacquainted with the manner in which its healthy function was performed. Gentlemen, it would not only be wrong, it would be madness in any one to attempt it. It will, therefore, be the constant aim of the Medical Faculty of this University, to thoroughly prepare their students in the elementary portion of their profession. When this has been done, the acquisition of the remaining or final branches will not be attended by half the toil that would have been required, had your first year or two been allowed to pass without close devotion to study. It is not my intention to allude at all in detail to the final branches, that task will more properly become the duty of some final professor, who may, upon some future occasion, occupy the position which I do to-day.

I cannot however allow this opportunity to pass without expressing my very strong conviction upon one portion of final study—I mean Hospital attendance. I am the more anxious to do so because within the few weeks preceding the first session of this University, and during the past few weeks, the question has been very prominently brought before me. I have been asked by students, some of whom are present here to-day, whether I would advise attendance upon Hospital practice during the first year of study. My answer to this enquiry has invariably been in the affirmative, and my reasons for doing so may be very briefly stated. In passing from bed to bed, and from ward to ward, the eye of a first-year student is being gradually, though almost unconsciously educated to the appearances presented by the different forms of disease; he becomes familiar with the methods adopted to elucidate symptoms in something like regular order; he is soon able to distinguish a hard, a soft, a small, or a wiry pulse; his ear is gradually being educated to the use of the stethoscope, and long before he fully comprehends the causes which

give rise to "*mucus ruls*" or a "*Fine crepitus*," he is aptly able to distinguish the one from the other; technical words, some of them difficult of pronunciation, get familiar to him,—in fine his faculty of observation is being educated, and I know of no faculty more worthy of being taught, or more necessary to the physician. If properly cultivated during your student's career, it will render the diagnosis of cases comparatively easy to you, when thrown entirely upon your own responsibility. By closely following the Hospital wards from the commencement of your pupilage, this faculty will be constantly brought into play; it will thus expand, and, to the keen observer, with one half the trouble, signs and symptoms, which may have escaped the attention of those in whom observation is dormant, will be brought to the surface, and receive due attention.

Hospital attendance is every year assuming more importance in the eyes of those best qualified to judge, and I hope the day is not far distant, when the amount of it which is at present required by the law of Canada, viz., one year will at least be doubled. Two years practical illustration of the doctrine inculcated in the lecture room is not more than enough, and in after life will be well appreciated by all who take it. In fact, gentlemen, when I look about me, and see the course of those who attended lectures with me, I am struck with the fact, that those who have been most successful are those who upon every possible opportunity were at the bedside, examining, watching and recording cases. If I could urge no higher motive than that pecuniary and professional success was the sure reward of the close hospital student, I would still press you to it. But there is a nobler motive still, and when I mention it I am sure it will find a response in every breast. You accept a high and holy trust, when the parchment, which certifies your qualification to practice the healing art, is placed in your possession. For the proper fulfilment of this trust you will one day have to give an account. It is therefore your *duty* to your fellow men to prepare in every possible way, so that when called to practice your profession, you may be able to bring to your aid every possible element of success. I know of none more likely to come to your assistance, when you first commence practice, and lack that which will alone give you confidence—experience—than the hours and days you have passed in Hospital attendance. At the very commencement then of your student's career I would advise your commencing "to walk" the Hospital. Not in the too literal application of some students, who walk the wards without ever making an attempt to listen

to the clinical remarks, passing their time in frivolous amusement, but with an honest determination to avail yourself of every opportunity to increase your store of practical knowledge. If you do this, gentlemen, I have no fear of the result, when you commence practice, and are thrown upon your own responsibility. No matter how sudden or how great the emergency, which may call for instant action, you will be found prepared, and will never cease to be thankful for the long and close attention you gave to the Hospital wards. I cannot leave this subject of Hospital attendance, without a word or two with regard to a complaint, which was becoming common, even while I was a student. I allude to the comparatively small number of clinical teachers, when compared to the number of students, at the Hospital attended principally by the English speaking students. Only two Physicians attend at one time, and as the number of students is seldom much under one hundred, even if equally divided, it would give about fifty each. I need hardly express my opinion that this number is a half more than any one man can do justice to, and that when students complain that from the numbers crowding around the bed they are deprived of much information, which they might otherwise obtain, there is reason in their murmuring. I have good reasons to know that this fact is well known and appreciated by a number of the influential governors of that institution, and I much mistake the spirit of those men, and of the age in which we live, if the system, which has so long prevailed in that institution, and which has prevented a fair representation of the general outside profession upon its staff, and a thorough utilization of its material for the purposes of Clinical teaching, is not fast drawing to a close.

Having said so much with reference to the profession of Medicine as it concerns ourselves, I desire, before closing, to say a few words with regard to its proper function in society. At a time like the present, which by all is acknowledged to be one of rapid transition, and when everything is investigated with the keenest scrutiny, the question is often asked, and but seldom answered, whether the medical profession, as a whole, really does perform what it professes; whether it lowers the rate of mortality, diminishes the total amount of sickness, and favors the growth of a robust and healthy population. Even in ancient times this question occupied the attention of some of the wisest men of that period, who came to a conclusion, which I think we will hardly admit was satisfactory. They asserted that one office of the state was to ensure that all members of the com-

munity should be well trained and fitted to discharge what ever duty their station in life called them to perform. Health was absolutely requisite for them. They, therefore, saw that to rear the sickly or to prolong the career of the intemperate, to enable the constitutionally diseased to protract a useless existence and to beget children, which in all probability, would be as unhealthy as themselves, was not the way to make a people healthy. They therefore maintained "that the healing art was revealed by the gods, for the benefit of those whose constitutions were naturally sound, and had not been impaired by their habits of life, but who, attacked by some specific complaint, might be speedily restored to the discharge of their duties. But for the constitutionally diseased and the intemperate, they looked upon the existence of such a man as no gain either to himself or to others, therefore they thought that to attempt to cure such a one was wrong."

Such was the opinion of very wise ancient philosophers, and it certainly will be admitted that such a system, if properly carried out, would attain the desired end. By weeding out those who were sickly, and only bringing up the children of healthy parents, there is little doubt but that many of the ills by which we are afflicted might be eradicated. Indeed, at the present day, this is precisely the plan adopted to rear a particularly fine race among the lower animals. But, thank God, we have learned a higher morality than was taught at the time of Socrates, and, holding deeper views of the sanctity which attaches to each individual life, would shrink with horror from any proposal of that kind. What then is the alternative? Are we to continue to exhaust all the resources of our art, all the improved means which the advance of science has placed at our disposal, in rearing the scrofulous, training the idiotic, enabling the phthisical to marry, to do, in fact, all in our power to counteract that law of nature which provides that in the struggle for existence, the strongest and the healthiest shall survive and carry on the race? At the present time, we have a clearer knowledge of the powers of the remedies we employ, and the objects to be aimed at in their administration. We now know that many of the effects which in former times were attributed to our remedies, are really due to the natural course of the disease. A better knowledge of Pathology, and an improved means of diagnosis, have taught us that many manifestations of disease which, in former times, would have been looked upon as group of symptoms amenable to treatment, are really due to disorganization of vital organs. Though many diseases

are quite under our control, and our means of successful treatment are being constantly increased; there is sure ever to remain a large class of cases, whose condition was hopeless, long before the physician was called in, and in whom the disease will run its course, unaffected by any treatment which we may adopt. But while we admit that our power of curing disease, will in all human probability, always be limited, it is a grand, a glorious satisfaction to know that our power of preventing it admits of indefinite extension. This is the true answer to the objections against the utility of our art, on the ground that, by enabling the feeble and sickly to live and breed, we are really promoting the growth of an unhealthy population.

Recognising, as we now do, that all forms of sickness—whether it be those awful visitations of epidemic pestilence which our ancestors regarded as caused by the direct interposition of supernatural power, or those far more mysterious and inexplicable constitutional taints which, handed down, from parent to child, are the fruitful cause of so much disease—all these, I say, are really due to material causes, and governed by natural laws, which are to a great extent in our control. If, therefore, we can succeed in removing these causes, and so cut off any fresh developments, we may expect the gradual extinction even of the most distinctly hereditary diseases—for, do what we will, the tainted part of the community is far too heavily weighted to prevail ultimately in the race of life. Such, then, being our objects, I think that, so far from being excluded from the state, we deserve a place among its guardians.

Our knowledge, indeed, of the causes of diseases, and of the means of preventing them, rudimentary as they are, are yet far in advance of our actual practice. For this we are not responsible; it is due to ignorance and consequent apathy or prejudice on the part of the great body of the people, who, it seems, to me will never comprehend that thousands and thousands of lives are annually lost, sacrificed to ignorance, often to prejudice. To see this illustrated in all its horror we have not to go far from home, for during the past year in our own good city of Montreal, close upon 1000 lives were sacrificed to that terrible scourge, Small Pox, nearly every one of which might have been saved had vaccination and re-vaccination been performed.

We meet to day, gentlemen, in this beautiful building, and in this spacious lecture room for the first time. The Faculty of Medicine feeling the inconveniences to which the students were placed last session, not having proper accommodation, determined to

provide a building specially devoted to the purpose of Medical instruction. It was a bold undertaking, for a school only one year old, to put up such a building as we occupy to-day, but the promises of support were so general, that we felt justified in assuming the responsibility which its erection entails. It is not more than seventeen weeks since the first stone of the building was laid and its erection has taken place with wonderful rapidity. Although not yet out of the hands of the contractors, it is so far advanced, that the college work can go on without interruption. When completed it will be excelled by only one Medical School in the Dominion of Canada. Gentleman, I must close. Use the opportunities which will soon be presented to you, so that, when your period of training is over, and you leave these walls to begin the great battle with disease and death, you may be well armed and equipped for the contest. With moral principles strengthened by habits of industry and perseverance, with your intellect free from prejudice, clear seeing, well furnished with scientific and practical knowledge; with your faculties disciplined for the work you have to perform, you will show yourself not unworthy of this University or of that profession which is confined to no people and to no country, but whose object is the relief of evils common to the whole human family.

Do not, gentlemen, think that I have painted in too glowing colors the profession whose study you this day enter upon. Morally and intellectually I cannot over-rate it; and now, when toil and exertion is required, I would cheer and encourage you, by reminding you of the very great intrinsic gratification which these studies may afford, and of the nobleness of the objects for which they prepare you.

A late writer says "it is the fashion to decri our profession, to call it a poor, a degraded profession. If it be poor and degraded, is that the fault of the calling or of those who practice it? Is the art of healing in itself less noble, because its practitioners, too often unsustained by a consciousness of their own dignity, have not raised it to the place in society which it ought to hold? Poor it may be! Slighted it may be! but degraded it cannot, shall not be, so long as its foundation is science, and its end the good of mankind."

Montreal, 2nd October, 1872.

#### MONTREAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

SYNOPSIS OF THE INTRODUCTORY LECTURE DELIVERED ON THE 1ST OCTOBER, BY J. E. D'ORSONNENS, M.D.,  
Professor of Chemistry.

After having spoken of the position attained by its professors, and of the experience acquired by

each in the particular branch they taught, and actually by the same men who accepted them at the foundation of the school, the learned lecturer remembered with delight some of the old pupils of the Montreal School of Medicine. Everywhere, said he, we see them in the highest positions as men of science and good physicians. Drs. Rottot and Brosseau, two of our old pupils, have been admitted with us. The medical schools of McGill and Victoria University, have had no other rivalry but that dictated by noble emulation, a national sentiment and real patriotism. The University of Bishop's College is another impetus, and each of these schools will make constant efforts to maintain the first place in society by the superiority of the pupils they will send forth. We hope to have this honor by the superior classical education which young men receive in our Canadian Colleges. When they leave these institutions after eight years of hard study devoted to classics and kindred sciences, they are apt to undertake the difficult and extended study of our profession. It is by the advantages of this classical education, that in medical instruction we can always distinguish our pupils, and foresee the future for them. Without calling upon the national sentiment and patriotism, interest ought to guide them within these precincts where they will hear spoken their maternal language; where seven or eight hundred French Canadian medical men have studied and learned their profession, scattered all over the country and foreign cities where a great number of whom are advantageously known. Seven of the professors of this school count more than twenty-five years' professionship, each in the same branch, which they teach to-day. Where is the school of medicine that can show the same record to-day? This long experience of the professors is applied to the Maternity, the Dispensaries, and the Hotel-Dieu, this large hospital where operations kind are practiced daily, and where clinical instruction (medical and surgical) is given. The pupils of this school always came out with honor before the college of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, when obliged to answer to its examiners before we had the power of granting degrees. From them they received, as well as from their professors, compliments and felicitations upon their success. At the conclusion of his lecture, Dr. D'Orsennens spoke of the place acquired for the erection of the medical school, opposite the Hotel Dieu, and of the necessary funds for building; thanks to the liberality and great interest that the Ladies of the Hotel-Dieu have always shown towards this institution. The lecturer was loudly applauded on its conclusion. After the lecture, the president,

Dr. Beaubien, spoke in appropriate terms, also did Drs. Munro, Peltier, Bibaud, Rottot and others, and they all left the school amid great applause.

## THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

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EDITOR:

FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

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MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1872.

#### OPENING OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

Below we give a brief account of the opening of such of the Medical Schools as have been kind enough to forward us information, or which we have ourselves obtained. As regards the Montreal schools, we believe all are satisfied with the number of students. The older school, McGill, has, we understand, about the same number as last year, there being, however, a larger number of freshmen than usual. The Montreal School of Medicine has about ninety; while the new school, Bishop's College, for its second session, has close on forty students. In Toronto, we have been informed, Victoria has received considerable augmentation to its number, compared with last year.

#### MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

The fortieth session of this University, was opened on the 1st October, by Professor Wright, a report of whose introductory appears in this issue. The classes this year meet in the new building, which has been erected on the college grounds, by the governors of the University. The structure is in keeping with the other University buildings, and has been arranged so as to combine every modern improvement. The building is 80 feet front by 84 feet 8 inches deep, and 48 feet high to the top of the cornice, with a further elevation of 7 feet in the roof. The latter is a half mansard, broken up by three pediments, and covered with slate. The walls are solidly built, and are all of cut stone. On the east side, facing University street, is the students entrance, leading into the basement. The lobby lands into a passage which, like the other halls, is 12 feet wide. On its left is a waiting room 30 feet wide by 32 feet 6 inches, furnished with chairs and tables. It is intended for resort during the intervals between lectures, where students may fill up their notes or otherwise profitably occupy themselves. A

strip is partitioned off and fitted to serve as a cloak room. On the right are the apartments of the caretaker, and on this floor are also spare rooms, closets, furnace and fuel cellar. On the south side of the main entrance, facing Sherbrooke street, are two apartments, one on either side. One measures 30 feet by 34 feet, the other 32 feet 6 inches by 30 feet. They are to be used, for a Library and Museum. Dr. G.W. Campbell, the Dean of the Faculty, having contributed a thousand dollars for the purpose of furnishing them. Behind these is the Chemical Class room, with professors room, the former, 30 feet by 44 feet, seated to hold 190 comfortably, and the laboratory, 32 feet 6 inches by 32 feet, for the practical chemistry class. It is provided with furnace, balance room, and all other necessary requirements. On "the first floor," is the general class room. It is 33 feet wide by 43 feet 2 inches deep. It has 11 tiers of seats, arranged, as in the other class-rooms, in trilateral shape, with desks and backs: regularly graded, and able to contain 208 persons. Into it two doors open, the uppermost one being exclusively for the convenience of students. Close by are two side rooms, one for the use of professors, the other for the Materia Medica Cabinets. On the opposite side is another class room, the Anatomical, 32 feet 10 inches by 43 feet, seated for 180. It is supplied with seven tiers of seats, and is well lighted with front and side windows and a glazed sky light. Behind is the Dissecting Room, 55 feet 10 inches long by 30 feet 2 inches broad, provided with sink, lift, as well as all other essential appointments, and having its floor covered with lead. At its end are two small rooms, one for the professor, and the other, which opens into it, for the Demonstrator. The building will be warmed by hot water in circulation through coils and pipes of iron. We understand that it cost about \$27,000. Altogether the building is a really splendid one, and we congratulate the Faculty upon the acquisition of it.

#### BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY.

This Faculty inaugurated their second session in the handsome new building which they have erected on the corner of St. George and Ontario streets. The introductory lecture was delivered by Dr. Francis W. Campbell, Professor of Physiology, and will be found in the present number of the Record. The building of the Faculty is not yet out of the hands of the contractors, so that several weeks must elapse before the sound of the hammer will cease to be heard. Its situation is very central, especially as regards the facility for Hospital attendance, being within a very few minutes walk of both the hotel

Dieu and the Montreal General Hospitals, and was erected under the superintendence of Mr. Hodson, Architect. The first stone was laid on the 27th of May last, and the fact that it was in a condition to be used for the opening lecture on the 2nd of October is a most creditable fact to all engaged in its construction. It is built of very fine brick, with a rock face a foundation, and has a frontage of 61 feet 9 inches on Ontario street, with a depth of 50 feet on St. George street. The basement contains the janitor's apartment (four rooms) with fuel cellar, closets and store rooms. Upon the ground floor, which is entered through a handsome portico, are situated the general lecture room, which can with comfort seat one hundred and fifty students, student's waiting room, Materia Medica Laboratory, Practical Chemistry Room, and Library. The latter is being handsomely fitted up with book-cases, which contains already some five hundred volumes. The passage on the ground floor is eight feet wide. On the second story is the Anatomical Lecture Room which is admirably adapted for the purpose it is intended, the Museum—which already contains a number of pathological specimens contributed by friends, and collected by the Curator, Dr. Perrigo—and the Dissecting Room, off of which opens a room for the use of the Demonstrator. The Dissecting Room has its floor covered with zinc, and is supplied with hot and cold water, in fact has every modern appliance used to facilitate the study of Practical Anatomy. Upon the third story is a large Smoking Room, and a Reading Room. The arrangement of the building is admitted by all who have visited it to be admirable, and the Faculty have certainly shown an energy, which has never been equalled, in obtaining, in the second year of their existence, a structure, second to only one other Medical School in the Dominion of Canada.

MONTREAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL FACULTY VICTORIA COLLEGE.

The thirtieth session of this school was opened on the 1st instant, by an introductory lecture by Dr. D'Orsennens, Professor of Chemistry. Besides the Professors of the school, there were present Drs. Archambault, Meunier, Plante, Boissy, Desjardins, Quintal, Sarriers, also a number of friends of the institution and many students. The lecture being in French, we are unable to reproduce it in full, but give a brief synopsis in another column. We understand that next spring this school, stimulated by the example set them by the two English schools, intend erecting a building for their accommodation

on Upper St. Urbain street, opposite the Hotel Dieu and St. Patrick's Hospital.

VICTORIA MEDICAL COLLEGE, TORONTO.

This school also inaugurated its new building on the first of October, by a celebration, in which a very large number of the friends of the institution, ladies and gentlemen, took part. It had outgrown the premises previously occupied at Yorkville, and the present building is situated on Don Street, in close proximity to the Toronto General Hospital. The building is not yet complete, but it is in such a state of perfection as fully to warrant the opening ceremony. It is a handsome block of brick with a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of forty-five feet.

The entrance hall is wide, and from that there is access to the lecture room, the laboratory, the professors' private room, and the students' room. Up-stairs there is the dissecting room and the lecture room, with a ceiling sixteen feet high, and the benches are so arranged as to give the greatest amount of accommodation within the space.

Dr. Canniff, Dean of the Faculty, took the chair, and called upon the Rev. S. Rose to open the proceedings with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN then said that he expected to have had the presence of the President of the University, but as he was unable to be present it devolved upon him (Dr. Canniff,) as the chief medical officer of the college, to take the chair. He begged to say that this was not the opening of the session, but only the opening of the new buildings; and he and his colleagues thought that they might open, as had been pre-arranged, and on the following day enter upon the regular college course. He would not say anything with regard to the building, but the inception of it was a happy one, and the difficulties that were in the way, he was glad to say, had been removed. He had no doubt that success would attend the medical department of the college, and he was glad to see so many able gentlemen present to give their countenance to the institution. (Applause.)

Dr. BERRYMAN came forward, on being called upon, and said he was happy to be at the inauguration of what he might call a new era in the history of Toronto. The new college had been got up in a year, and he thought that was highly creditable to the city. And not only was the effort creditable, but the complete character of the building, with its appurtenances, was equally satisfactory, and gave all accommodation for learning how to benefit mankind.

He had no doubt that many of the students in that school would be benefactors of their race, and, under these circumstances, he had great pleasure in being present.

The Rev. Professor GREGG, of Knox College, in the course of some remarks, said that he was fully persuaded that medical students had it in their power, more than all others, to illustrate the goodness of God, and bring home to the human heart the benign purposes of the Deity. It was not easy to get medical missionaries, but when men who had the great object of curing the body also took into consideration that they could benefit the immortal soul, then their mission to humanity was one that was inestimable.

The Rev. Dr. PUNSHON said it seemed to him to be a sort of mutual laudation society. Everybody had been offering their congratulations at the opening of the college, and he could say that he never had seen a better lecture-room. It was not too large to be inconvenient for the lecturer, nor was it too small, but it was about as complete as any room of the kind he had been in. To his mind, it was the happy mean that suited both the man who had to speak and those who had to hear. There were some people who talked of difficulties, but he doubted whether any lexicographer fully understood the meaning of that term. With men who meant to succeed the word had no meaning, and so he hoped it would be with the students at that college. All great men saw the difficulties that to ordinary mortals were insurmountable, but by them they were easily overcome. Great artists would have found some material to paint on had there been no canvas, and Michael Angelo was a sculptor without marble, for he carved out of a pillar of snow. Different races of men had different ideas of what was great, but the great idea that all students should keep in mind was to be best and first. Of course all could not be first; but just as the competitors in the Olympian games got strength by trial, so all men who tried would be benefited. The real merit in anything was not in the immediate success, but in trying to succeed. He predicted for the college a great future, and hoped that the young men who entered upon their studies there would attend to the healing of the souls as well as to the bodies of their patients. This was known to be a realistic age, but with all its utilitarian tendencies, he hoped that all the poetry of human nature was not departed.

The proceedings were brought to a close by Dr. Barriek moving a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had taken part in the proceedings, and Dr.

Archibald seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, ONT.

The thirty-first session of the University of Queen's College, Kingston, opened on Thursday, October 3rd, by the customary ceremonies, in the Convocation Hall. In the unavoidable absence of Principal Snodgrass, the Rev. Professor Williamson occupied the chair. There were present on the platform the Rev. Professor Mowat, Rev. Professor Mackerras, Rev. Professor Ferguson and Professor Dupuis, of the Faculties of Theology and Arts; Dr. Fowler, Professor of Materia Medica and Registrar; Dr. Yates, Professor of Medicine; Dr. Lavell, Professor of Obstetrics; Dr. Neish, Professor of Anatomy; and Dr. Dupuis, Professor of Botany in the Medical School. The attendance of students was as large as usual. After prayer by the acting Principal, the opening address was delivered by Professor Dupuis, who chose for his subject the rise and progress of the sciences and their applications to the purposes of life. It was an exceedingly clear and interesting discourse on this subject, ending with a reference to the requirements of university education as affected by the progress of physical and natural science. After its delivery the Rev. Chairman and Dr. Fowler made some announcements, and the proceedings were concluded by the benediction.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

The second annual meeting of this Society was held on Saturday evening, the 5th of October, in its room, in the Natural History Society building. There was a large attendance of members. Dr. Peltier, President, occupied the chair. After routine business had been transacted, the retiring President, Dr. Peltier, addressed the meeting, thanking the Society for the great honor which it had done him, one year ago, in electing him its President. He felt at the time of his election, that there were many others of their number who would far more worthily have filled the chair, who were more conversant with the duties of such an office. But the unanimity with which his election had been made left him no alternative but to accept, and if at any time he had failed in performing his duty, they would put it down to want of experience. One thing he could affirm, and he believed all his friends would give him credit for it, and that was that he had honestly and conscientiously performed his duty to the very best of his ability. From every member of the Society he had received the greatest kindness and consideration,

and he would ever look with pride upon the time when he filled the office of President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal. During his term of office, a number of papers had been read by the members, which would have done credit to any society in the world, and from which an amount of discussion had followed which had been exceedingly instructive. Dr. Kennedy gave a paper "On a case of Brain Laceration," which was written in as thorough and scientific a manner as could be. Dr. Howard followed by "Two cases of Aneurism," which were treated in the manner which would be anticipated from the position he occupies as Professor of Practice of Medicine and Pathology. Dr. Fenwick, always foremost in contributing to the Society, read "A case of Aneurism of the Arteria Innominata;" while Dr. Sewell contributed a report of "Abdominal Aneurism." Papers were read by Dr. Girdwood, on "A case of supposed Criminal Abortion;" Dr. David, on "Locomotor Ataxy;" Dr. Hingston, on "Re-vaccination;" Dr. Reddy, on "Embolism;" Dr. Trenholme, on "Irregular Uterine Contractions," proving that he was a master hand in uterine diseases; Dr. Drake, on "Eratie Erysipelas;" Drs. Gardner, Howard and Reddy, on "Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis." The President complimented Dr. Gardner upon the excellency of his paper, and stated that as the Society was composed of those who filled professional chairs, and those who were attached to hospitals, as well as a great number of private practitioners, the materials upon which it depended for its prosperity were so extensive and so varied, that its proceedings were of very great interest, not only to all the profession in the city, but throughout the country, who were enabled by the enterprise of Drs. Fenwick and Campbell, editors, to read its proceedings.

The Treasurer then read his report, shewing a balance in hand.

The election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:

President—Dr. R. Palmer Howard.

Vice-Presidents—Drs. Reddy and Craik.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. T. G. Roddick.

Council—Drs. Godfrey, Schmidt and Fenwick.

A notice of motion given by Dr. F. W. Campbell, to the effect that, in future, all papers read before the Society, should become its property, was then brought forward. It elicited considerable discussion.

After which, a motion moved by Dr. F. W. Campbell, and seconded by Dr. Craik, was carried, to the effect that, in future, the reader of any paper before

the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, should either place the original or a copy in the hands of the Secretary.

Dr. Godfrey enquired from the President whether the papers thus placed in the charge of the Society would be open to the inspection of members.

The President replied that, in his opinion, they would.

Some members having expressed themselves as dissenting from the opinion of the President,—

It was moved by Dr. Hingston, and seconded by Dr. Reddy:

That all papers read before the Society shall be open to inspection by members, on an order from the President.

#### MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 1872.

Dr. R. Palmer Howard, the newly elected President, took the chair, and opened the proceedings by an admirable address, in which he thanked the Society for the honor they had bestowed upon him, which was all the more acceptable to him, as it was unsolicited and unsought. They had doubtless elected him upon the ground that it was well those who had occupied other positions in the Society should be promoted. One great use, which he felt sure would be accomplished by it, was in keeping those who were busily engaged in general practice from becoming mere routinists, and cultivating in them habits of reflection. There was much to learn yet in medicine, and all should stimulate themselves, and contribute their mite towards the general fund. Especially was this the case among young practitioners, who should note cases that came under observation, and if this was enthusiastically and carefully done, no half dozen reports could be produced that would not develop some fact of material importance. This was especially *their* duty, because epidemics, as a rule, were seen principally among the poorer classes of society, among whom, during the first few years of his practice, a physician finds his occupation. It was due to ourselves, Montreal being the great centre of medical education, that all should actively engage in the work for which the Society was formed.

Drs. Simpson, Mondelet, Bull and Alloway, were elected members of the Society.

Dr. Fenwick exhibited a specimen taken from a case in the Montreal General Hospital. A gun exploded on board the S.S. *Georgia*, while firing on entering the port of Sorel. The patient was lying in bed, with his arm extended, and was struck either with a piece of the gun or of the deck. The arm

was greatly shattered, and was amputated. There was fracture of the neck of the radius, with dislocation of its head.

Dr. Fenwick then read a valuable paper on Bronchocele, in which he stated that for fully fifty years little or no advance had been made on the subject, the latest contribution being a paper by Dr. Mackenzie, which was published a few months ago in the *London Lancet*. He mentioned that Erichsen gave four divisions of the disease, viz., simple hypertrophy, cystic bronchocele, pulsating bronchocele, and acute bronchocele, while Mackenzie gives seven varieties or stages of development of the same disease, he excluding exophthalmic goitre as a distinct disease. Although he did not call in question this division, he considered that it did not at all simplify matters. He next alluded to the localities where goitre generally was found most prevalent, such as in valleys, surrounded by high hills, where the sun only entered for a small portion of each day. The treatment of goitre was then rapidly passed in review. When small, and of recent formation, and the patient was anemic, the best thing to do was to improve the general health. Iron and iodine internally were useful sometimes, as was also the application of tincture of iodine externally, in the simple form of the disease. Iodide of lead ointment was also a useful external application; and within a few years, comparatively, in India, the biniodide of mercury ointment was recommended to be applied, and the patient be exposed for some time to the rays of the sun, and was said to have had very beneficial results. He mentioned that authorities generally advised non-interference, but it sometimes had to be done, and there was now in the Museum of the London College of Surgeons, a specimen, where the lateral lobe of the tumor so pressed on the trachea that a small probe could not be introduced. Dr. Fenwick stated that if examination was given to the subject, it would be found that all the major operations of the present day were, a few years ago, condemned. He felt confident that, if the subject was earnestly taken up, it would be found that the operation for the extirpation of goitre would not only be justifiable but would be recommended. Dr. Roddick, who had but just returned from a visit to Edinboro', had informed him that when there Dr. Patrick H. Watson had told him that he had operated upon three cases of bronchocele, and that they all succeeded. This, he thought, strongly strengthened the position he had taken. He then detailed the case at length, but the following contains the pith of the case: Marie L., aged twenty-one years, was admitted into the Mon-

triel General Hospital on the 23rd of last May, with an enormous fibro cystic tumor of the neck. She is a stout, healthy-looking girl, and is the second of twelve children. Her father is a butcher, which, according to the clinical clerk who reported the case, was the cause of her being so well nourished. She was, in fact, the picture of health, and if she had not been in first-class health, she would never have survived the terrible operation through which she passed. The tumor began to grow when she was three years of age, and continued to increase in size till she was sixteen years of age. Since then it had apparently been stationary. It consisted of four lobes, two large lobes on the left side, one in the centre or isthmus, and one very large lobe on the right side. It measured seventeen inches in circumference. There was much pulsation through the mass, the veins being very large, and the entire mass was raised by the larynx in the act of swallowing. After a careful examination he came to the conclusion that it might be removed, but at great risk. On the 29th May the middle lobe was tapped, and about two ounces of bloody serum obtained, after which four drachms of strong tincture of iodine was injected into it. Two punctures were made on the border of the right lobe, but very little fluid was got. Into each of these punctures about one drachm of tincture of iodine was injected. She had sharp symptoms of iodism, but soon got perfectly well and left the hospital. She, however, returned on the 8th of June, and on the following day the operation was performed. She was placed under the influence of chloroform, and the operation commenced. Following the plan of Professor Green, of Portland, an incision was made in the median line, commencing at the upper portion of the tumor and extending down its full length. Getting on to the tumor, the fascia propria, as he calls it, was divided. Scarcely any muscular structure was to be seen, the muscles being spread out, and all but absorbed from pressure. It was so in Professor Green's cases, and it was likewise so in the present one. He found a plexus of veins running over the tumor which were thin and brittle. They tore readily and bled freely. He dissected with his finger and the back of his knife, in fact enucleated the tumor, with little difficulty getting to its pedicle, which was as thick as two thumbs. It was transfixed, and the tumor removed. There was fearful hemorrhage, but the results of the operation have been very satisfactory. She was, as might have been anticipated, prostrated to such an extent that brandy and champagne had to be given in quantities really so enormous as to amaze the

worthy steward of the hospital. Life was, however, saved, which was very satisfactory. During the operation eight ligatures were used; three of these came away on the 20th of June, three on the 21st of June, and the last two on the 14th and 15th of July. Even after this there was slight hemorrhage, to the extent of four or five ounces, which occurring during the night, was promptly attended to by Dr. Roddick, the house surgeon, without sending for Dr. Fenwick. There was not any skin sacrificed, and, as might be imagined, there was considerable redundancy of it when she left the hospital; but, as she intends returning some time during the present fall to the city, he intended removing a portion of it, so as to give her a better appearance.

Dr. Hingston asked what was it that induced Dr. Fenwick to perform the operation. The patient had consulted him, being sent to him by a medical friend in the country, and, as he found her the picture of perfect health, and not suffering any inconvenience, he had advised her to go home, and not bother her head about it. The operation was certainly performed with a coolness and a steadiness worthy of all praise, and he congratulated Dr. Fenwick on having got through without fatal hemorrhage.

Dr. Trenholme remarked that Dr. Hedenus, of Germany, had operated six times in very much the same manner as just described by Dr. Fenwick. Dr. Howship mentions a case where the jugular passed through the gland, and caused great suffering from congestion of the head. The great difficulties met with in performing the operation, especially where the jugular vein passes through the gland, has inclined Mr. Holmes Coote to rank this operation, except in extreme cases where their presence was threatening life, as scarcely admissible in modern surgery; and Dr. Trenholme was inclined to coincide with this opinion. With regard to ex-ophthalmic goitre, although not directly connected with the subject of the paper just read Dr. Trenholme remarked that it had been ingeniously suggested by Dr. Graves that the "globus hystericus;" so commonly accompanying nervous palpitation, was probably due to this gland being congested and pressing upon the trachea, and therefore that this affection was not entirely a nervous sensation. In the treatment of this last affection, iodine and its compounds were found useless. As it is a disease dependent upon an impoverished state of the blood and associated with uterine derangement, change of air, tonics, especially strychnine and iron, were indicated, and had been followed by the best results where employed. Iodine, or its

compounds, were of service only in the adenoid form of this disease, or goitre proper.

Dr. R. P. Howard (President) confessed that he could not conscientiously advise the performance of the operation, except in cases where, like Dr. Green's, the tumor placed life in jeopardy. While he said this he quite agreed with the other view, that if we were always to stand where we are, we would not progress. He would, however, add that operations that were once condemned are now performed, simply in the interest of life, principal among which was the operation for ovariectomy. The cases are, however, not parallel. Bronchoecle seldom proved fatal. The operation of Dr. Fenwick was a brilliant one; it required a cool head and a steady hand. Although he was opposed to it, it was right to mention that others of the consulting staff of the hospital, who had more experience than he had, supported it. With regard to the causes of goitre, pathology left us in the dark; it was a puzzle. The more generally accepted idea was that it was due to lime water. If, however, this was correct, why was it so common in females. This fact was against either the theory of locality or water. The disease generally began at puberty, and stopped growing at about forty-five. It was a singular and an interesting fact, this connexion with the development of the sexual function. It was a disease seldom seen in boys, and still more seldom in men. As regards its treatment, he thought that iodine was of essential service in the simple form of the disease.

Dr. Fenwick said, in reply to Dr. Hingston's question, as to why he had performed the operation, he did so, for two, perhaps three, reasons. First, because of the effect the tumor was having upon the voice; it was changed, completely altered; it was squeaking in its character. This induced him to believe that the function of the re-current laryngeal nerve was affected, and the trachea pressed upon. The second reason was, that she insisted upon the performance of the operation; but the third reason was the conscientious belief that the tumor would be far better away, and that, if left much longer, it would seriously interfere with the act of swallowing. The operation, to a certain extent, proved that this idea was correct, as fully two inches of the oesophagus was left bare when the tumor was removed. No matter what the result of the operation might have been, he would have felt that he was perfectly justified in performing it.

Dr. Roddick said that, when asleep, the patient's breathing was so stertorous as to awake patients in the ward, who thought she was choking.

Dr. Fenwick said that the external jugular vein passed through the tumor in his case, but he did not think such being the case was any valid reason for not operating.

Dr. Scott thought Dr. Fenwick had not stated how exceedingly anxious and determined the patient was to have the operation performed.

Dr. Howard stated that one of the consulting staff was deputed to wait on the patient, and lay before her the danger of the operation. She was told that she might die under it; to which she replied she was determined to have it done.

Dr. Hingston said he took precisely the same view of the case as did Dr. Howard. When he (Dr. Hingston) saw the patient, there were no urgent symptoms, no stridor nor any squeaking of the voice; in fact, she appeared to be in perfect health. He, however, did not exactly remember the time when he saw her, so could not say what time had elapsed before she consulted Dr. Fenwick.

Dr. Reddy thought that the fact that the tumor embraced the œsophagus, a perfect justification for the operation.

The Society then adjourned.

#### BRANTFORD COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The County of Brant Medical Association, at its last meeting, elected the following gentlemen as the officers of the Society for the ensuing year, viz.: Dr. Henwood, Brantford, President; Dr. Clarke, Paris, Vice-President; Dr. Philip, Brantford, Secretary; Dr. Griffin, Brantford, Treasurer.

This Association is in a most flourishing condition, numbering among its members nearly every registered practitioner in the County. It has now been in existence about four years, and is in a thoroughly organized condition and able to exert a beneficial influence in bringing the members into more intimate relations with each other, and thus to a great extent doing away with those jealousies which so often tend to mar professional life. A committee, consisting of Drs. Henwood, Philip and Griffin, were appointed to draw up a report of the present sanitary condition of the town of Brantford, to be submitted to the Mayor and Town Council, and reported at the next regular meeting. An interesting discussion took place upon typhoid fever at present prevalent in many parts of the West. A good deal of miscellaneous business was disposed of, after which the Association adjourned, to meet again in the Town Hall, Brantford, on the first Tuesday in December. Dr. Lawrence, the late President of the

Association, was chosen at the last election as representative of the Erie and Niagara division in the Ontario Medical Council. We will give a full report of the next meeting of the Association in the *Record*, and a synopsis of the papers that are to be read.

It is with deep regret we have to chronicle the death, by cholera, in India, of Dr. W. W. Dickson, son of the much respected Dr. J. R. Dickson, of Kingston. Dr. Dickson graduated at McGill University, in 1863, having previously studied in Queen's College, Kingston. He soon after entered the army, and proceeded to India, where he served till, suddenly attacked by cholera, he passed away, far from relatives and home. To his bereaved parents we extend our heartfelt sympathies.

#### CLINICAL LECTURES AT THE TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.

We notice, by the *Toronto Globe* and the *Canada Lancet*, that an arrangement has been entered into by the three Toronto Medical Schools, whereby combined clinical lectures are now given at that institution, upon four days of the week.

#### MONTREAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

This Association, composed of the Chemists and Druggists of Montreal, held its annual meeting on the 3rd of October, when the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President, John Gardner; Vice-President, Richmond Spencer; Treasurer, John Kerry; Secretary, James Mattinson; Council, Messrs. H. Lyman, R. Bolton, N. Mercer, E. Muir, J. Harper, B. E. McGale, R. Belmay, and J. C. Patton. They have appointed Dr. A. H. Kollmyer, lecturer on Chemistry and Materia Medica, and the lectures will commence on the 4th of November.

#### PERSONAL.

Dr. Robert MacDonell, F.R.S., of St. Stephens' Hospital, Dublin, was in Montreal about the 20th of September. It was the intention of some of his medical friends, who are not unacquainted with the doctor's researches in Physiology, to have entertained him at dinner. Indeed the preliminaries were arranged, when the doctor was unexpectedly obliged to leave Montreal, thus depriving them of that pleasure. He visited the Hotel Dieu Hospital during his stay.

Mr. Gascoyen, of St. Mary's Hospital, London, was in Montreal for a few days the end of September. He called upon one or two medical friends.

Dr. Patton, of Quebec, who has practised in Cacouna, the fashionable Canadian watering place, during the past two summers, has commenced practice in Montreal.

Dr. Farrel, Professor of Surgery in Dalhousie College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, was in Montreal about the middle of October, for a few days.

### Medical Items and News.

#### HYPOPHOSPHITES IN THE TOOTHACHE OF PREGNANCY.

Dr. Sterling believes that the toothache so common in pregnancy results from the abstraction from the blood of the salts requisite for the construction of the bones of the foetus; and accordingly recommends  $1\frac{1}{2}$  grain of hypophosphite of lime, soda, potash, and manganese daily. (*American Journal*.)

#### SULPHATE OF IRON IN ERYSIPELAS.

Mr. Hulke, at the Middlesex Hospital, has lately tested the great efficacy of iron sulphate in extensive erysipelas. He uses it as a lotion of ten grains to an ounce of water, applied warm on a rag; and believes it acts as a local styptic, astringent, and sedative, as well as a constitutional tonic. In circumscribed erysipelas on small surfaces, he applies the ordinary coating of collodion and castor-oil. He deprecates the application of flour to any part, as a source of dirt, blebs, and maggots. So many cases of erysipelas have lately occurred in and around the hospital, that he thinks it must be caused, in wounded and weak patients, by a deleterious atmospheric influence. What the nature of this influence is, he is unable to say.

#### REMOVAL OF CORNS.

Hard corns may be carefully picked out by the aid of a small sharp-pointed scalpel or tenotomy knife, and if well done the cure is often radical, always perfect for the time. But they may be equally successfully removed by wearing over them for a few days a small plaster made by melting a piece of stick diachylon (*emplastrum plumbi*), and dropping it on a piece of white silk. The corn gradually loosens from the subjacent healthy skin, and can be readily pulled or picked out. Soft corns require the use of astringents, such as alum dissolved in white of egg, or the careful application of tincture of iodine. Prevention, however, is in regard to them better than cure, and can be readily attained by daily friction with cold water between the toes.

#### THE TREATMENT OF HYPERÆSTHESIA OF THE VULVA AND VAGINA.

M. GUÉNEAU DE MUSSY (*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*), is strongly opposed to the treatment adopted in

vaginismus, by Sims, and he thinks<sup>2</sup> that a wise combination of therapeutic agents, together, if need be, with progressive or sudden dilatation, will often render resort to deep incisions unnecessary. He has often obtained the most happy results from the action of vaginal suppositories:—

Cacao butter . . . . .	2 gram.
Bromide of Potassium . . . . .	30 centigr.
Extract of Belladonna . . . . .	10 "

This suppository he introduces every night, and its use is continued for two or three weeks.—*Birmingham Med. Rev.*

#### GALVANIC TREATMENT OF BED-SORES AND INDOLENT ULCERS.

Dr. WM. A. HAMMOND, of New York, recommends for indolent ulcers and bed-sores, the galvanic treatment as first suggested by Crussel, of St. Petersburg. He says: "During the last six years I have employed it to a great extent in the treatment of bed-sores caused by diseases of the spinal cord, and with scarcely a failure; indeed I may say, without any failure, except in two cases where deep sinuses had formed, which could not be reached by the apparatus. A thin silver plate—no thicker than a sheet of paper—is cut to the exact size and shape of the bed-sore; a zinc plate of about the same size is connected with the silver plate by fine silver or copper wire six or eight inches in length. The silver plate is then placed in immediate contact with the bed-sore, and the zinc plate on some part of the skin above, a piece of chamois-skin soaked in vinegar intervening. This must be kept moist, or there is little or no action of the battery. Within a few hours the effect is perceptible, and in a day or two the cure is complete in a great majority of cases. In a few instances a longer time is required. I have frequently seen bed-sores three or four inches in diameter, and half an inch deep, heal entirely over in forty-eight hours. Mr. Spencer Wells states that he has often witnessed large ulcers covered with granulations within twenty-four hours, and completely filled up and cicatrizations begun in forty-eight hours. During his recent visit to this country I informed him of my experience, and he reiterated his opinion that it was the best of all methods for treating ulcers of indolent characters and bed-sores."

#### BIRTHS.

In Toronto, on the 20th Sept., the wife of H. E. Buchan, M.D., of a son.

In Montreal, on the 1st October, the wife of Dr. McBean, of a son.

#### DEATHS.

At Bagatelle, Greenock, Scotland, on the 21st September, Eliza Buchanan, widow of the late Alexander Rodger, and mother of Mrs. (Dr.) Francis W. Campbell, of Montreal.

In Montreal, 29th September, Mary Frances Chipman, wife of R. P. Howard, M.D. Professor of Medicine McGill University.

At Hemmingford, Q., on the 14th September, Reginald Grant, youngest son of Dr. Glover, aged eleven weeks.