

THE EARLY MEDICAL HISTORY OF EDMONTON

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Edmonton

Before the first transcontinental railway pierced the Canadian Rockies Edmonton was the last supply depot on the long overland journey from the prairies to the trading posts on the Western Sea. For over a century and a half this outpost gleaned the rich fur harvest of the Great Lone Land. Even now one of the oldest cities in English-speaking Canada, having been founded in 1795, it is close to the last fast-vanishing frontier. Here the prospector and trader outfits for the Great Bear Lake country, and the big game hunter may obtain his supplies from the same company that bartered with the Indians before the white man discovered the fertility of the prairie soil. A surgeon now in active practice, as he rode past the site of the present Medical Building, some forty years ago, heard frequently the tom-tom of the Indian Medicine Man; so closely are the old times linked to the new; so recently did the scientific method of healing overlap the primitive in Western Canada.

The first medical reference to Edmonton is in the diary of Dr. John Richardson, who was Sir John Franklin's medical officer on his overland journey to the Polar Sea. He wrote in 1820 that goitre was prevalent there and was not due to the drinking of snow water. In 1857, Dr. Hector accompanied the Palliser expedition to the plains and visited this Fort. In 1859 he left there to make the trip to Jasper House. Dr. Cheadle, who with Lord Milton passed through Edmonton on his way to the Coast by way of the Yellowhead Pass in 1863, said that there were about thirty families engaged in the service

of the Hudson Bay Company, and that a large body of hunters was constantly employed in supplying the establishment with meat. His services were required for the chief factor's child who was suffering from remittent fever. Then having attended three women and six children with secondary syphilis, he remarked: "The Fort will be in a nice state eventually."

By many traders and Indians Edmonton was called the Fort of the Prairies; some knew it as Beaver Hole House. Subsidiary to it was the village of St. Albert, settled first by a colony of freemen, *i.e.*, half-breeds, who had left the service of the Company. Here, in 1857, Father Lacombe built a mission to replace that at Lac St. Ann, the site of which was considered unsuitable. At Edmonton boats were built for the conveyance of the annual shipment of furs down the Saskatchewan to Lake Winnipeg, on their way through the forts on Hudson's Bay to the markets of Europe. These furs had come from the far-northern posts by dog-train in winter and by York boats from the Rocky Mountain House district in summer. Ox-carts creaked over the 980 mile winding trail from Fort Garry with supplies for the posts from which Edmonton was the logical distributing point.

By this route, in 1872, came Dr. George Verey in company with George McDougall, son of the pioneer Methodist missionary. The McDougall house was at that time the only one outside the Fort and was situated on the top of what is now McDougall Hill. Dr. Verey, a graduate of St. Bartholomew's, London, became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1859 and after practising medicine in Australia he served as a military surgeon in the China War. Following his discharge from the army in the Far East, he joined that of the United States in Montana as a medical officer and signal observer. His experiences here were recorded in the form

of letters sent to his family in England and were unfortunately lost later. References to them are found in letters written to him, and it is only from these, in which his life in the west is reflected, and from the local newspaper that one gets some idea of the hardships incident to his practice in Edmonton. Soon after his arrival he worked as a clerk in the Company's office. Then he opened a school which he continued to conduct until the spring of 1875, when he went to the Red River Colony. Returning, he proceeded to the Methodist mission at Morley, near Banff. During the winter of 1876 Mr. Hardisty, chief factor at Edmonton, fell seriously ill of rheumatic fever and sent by dog-train for Dr. Verey. The doctor remained at the Fort with his patient till spring when he accompanied Mr.



FIG. 1.—Dr. George Verey, 1872-1882.

Hardisty to Winnipeg, returning again in the fall. He married a friend of the McDougalls at this time, and after spending the winter in teaching he became disheartened and back again he went to Winnipeg, to become a partner in a drug firm, where he remained for a year. Once more Edmonton lured him, and he was soon engaged in school-teaching, practising medicine, and farming on the land now occupied by the Municipal Golf Course. His time was fully occupied for several years in the practice of medicine and farming, but there was little remuneration, and with a growing family financial difficulties beset him and he gave way to fits of depression. He died in November, 1881, and the *Edmonton Bulletin* said of him that "In his medical practice he was singularly successful and the greater part of the people had every confidence in his skill." He died apparently of an overdose of chloral taken during an acute illness.

Within a month of his demise his loss as a

medical man was so keenly felt that a successor was desired. For the purpose of considering the question and of inducing another doctor to locate in Edmonton, a meeting was held at Ross's Hotel. This was the first hotel in the small settlement which was forming in the district where the Alberta Hotel now stands. It may be of interest to read the advertisement of this hostelry:

EDMONTON HOTEL
THE PIONEER HOUSE OF ENTERTAINMENT
WEST OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

Pemmican and dried Buffalo meat have long been a stranger at the table and its place has been taken by substantial more in keeping with the onward march of civilization.

A cosy billiard room where the
Edmonton coal can be seen burn-
ing to advantage.

Good stabling attached.

The meeting was attended by twenty-eight persons. The chairman pointed out that Dr. Verey had left a fine stock of drugs which it was thought would act as an inducement to a new-comer. A Dr. Herchmer, then near Fort Saskatchewan, had been approached regarding practice in Edmonton. He would not purchase the drugs, but if they were given him would consider the proposition. The name of Dr. Lauder, of Bow River, was suggested to the meeting. It was said he was the best man available and possessed a medical degree. Mr. Hardisty heard that the doctor was highly spoken of and the chairman believed he owed his life to Dr. Lauder. Finally it was decided that a messenger should be dispatched to ask if he would consider engaging in practice in Edmonton. Thirty-six dollars were collected to defray the expenses of the messenger.

Dr. Lauder, who is still living in Alberta, had been a veterinary surgeon with the Mounted Police and at the time of the meeting was ranching in the south. A month passed before there was any news. At this time the correspondence relative to the matter appeared in the *Edmonton Bulletin*.

"Jim, the Indian messenger sent out to Bow River for Dr. Lauder, got back on Monday last."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN—

Sir:

Will you kindly publish the enclosed letter from Dr. Lauder in answer to my letter sent by request of the meeting held here on the 6th of December.

W. J. Jarvis.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of the 14th inst., inviting me to take up the practice at Edmonton. Conditions on which I would accept your very kind offer would be a guarantee of two thousand dollars per annum. Should these terms meet the views of the citizens of Edmonton, I will be happy to accept their kind invitation.

John W. Lauder.

That these terms suggested by Dr. Lauder did not meet with approval can be seen by an editorial a week later in the *Bulletin*, which paper was founded and edited by Frank Oliver, who was later Minister of the Interior and is now a member of the Railway Commission of Canada.

"The population here is large enough now to give a good man a fair practice with every prospect of a large increase in the near future, and, while we could not give a well-established practitioner sufficient bonus to induce him to come here, anyone who has not got a good practice could not do better than take the opening that offers. If we give a man a bonus to come, how can we be secured that he will not use the money merely to take a pleasure trip and return, or, even if he does stay, that he will build up a practice to that amount."

This view evidently was general, for Dr. Lauder did not go to Edmonton to practice. An appeal was made to Dr. Lynch, a member of the staff of the Winnipeg General Hospital. In response a doctor was engaged. Again we have aid from the *Bulletin* in getting the details.

Winnipeg, Feb. 16, 1882

Dr. Munro, formerly of the Winnipeg General Hospital, leaves for Edmonton by the next stage.

Mr. G. S. Wood received a telegram on Monday last from Dr. L. Munro, house surgeon of the Winnipeg General Hospital, to the effect that he would start by stage for Edmonton on the 28th inst., and asking that the stock of medicines left by Dr. Verrey should be secured for him. Mr. Wood telegraphed in answer, "Executor late Dr. Verrey estate secures medicines left by Dr. Verrey for you at low and liberal figure as possible."

Just how long it took Dr. Munro to reach Edmonton is not known, but on April 8, 1882, appeared the first professional card of a medical man in that settlement which consisted of the Fort and twelve log cabins (Fig. 2).

DR. MUNRO

Late House Surgeon, Winnipeg General Hospital.
Office—Hudson Bay Buildings.

Dr. Lawrence John Munro was born in Fergus, Ontario, the son of Dr. John Munro. He graduated from Victoria University, Cobourg, and became then a house surgeon in the Winnipeg General Hospital. He remained in Edmonton about four years, marrying there a sister of Mrs. Frank Oliver. The immediate cause of his retirement was the death of an uncle who had a well-established practice at Green Bay, Wisconsin. There he died and his remains now rest at Fergus. Two daughters survive and live in Winnipeg.

In December, 1881, a hospital building was commenced at St. Albert. It was a frame structure, 80 by 40 feet, with a projection in front, 20 by 14 feet, and a church behind, 20 by 30 feet. The estimated cost was \$10,000. This was the first hospital in Northern Alberta. Only the hospital at Fort McLeod, erected by the Royal North West Mounted Police, antedated it

in the Province. The Grey Nuns were in charge, and although none of these sisters were qualified nurses they performed their acts of mercy with efficiency. To this hospital the early doctors of Edmonton sent their patients, and they themselves rode the nine miles of bush trail for fourteen years, at the end of which time the same Order built the General Hospital at Edmonton.

Before the settlement of the west small-pox had several times paid visits to the Indian encampments. Early in the nineteenth century this scourge swept the Missouri and Saskatchewan regions, wiping out completely many tribes. A second visitation in 1869 and 1870 spread throughout the whole of the prairie provinces, striking with particular vehemence the inhabitants of the Edmonton district. Captain Butler, dispatched by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North West Territories to report on the situation, gives a vivid description of the condition.

"It is difficult to imagine a state of pestilence more terrible than that which kept pace with the moving parties of Crees during the summer months of 1870. By streams and lakes, in willow copses, and upon bare hillsides, often shelterless from the fierce rays of the summer sun and exposed to the rains and dews of the night, the poor, plague-stricken wretches lay down to die—no assistance of any kind—for the ties of family were quickly loosened and mothers abandoned their helpless children upon the wayside, fleeing onward to some fancied place of safety."

At St. Albert, out of a total population of 900 as many as 600 were infected, and before the end of the year over 311 had died. On the recommendation of Captain Butler a Board of Health was established at Edmonton, and was composed of ten clergymen and two Hudson Bay factors. This was the first in the Territories. Such well-known pioneers as the Reverend George McDougall, Father Leduc, Father Lacombe, Bishop Grandin, Reverend Peter Campbell, and John McDougall met to outline a plan of action. Their first act was to prohibit the exportation in that year (1871) of buffalo robes, leather and furs, since it was believed the contagion was communicated by these commodities. They allowed no person to leave the district who had had small-pox within three months. For twelve years after small-pox was not epidemic, but in 1883 it returned in Manitoba.

One of the most pressing problems in these early days was the care of the insane. An editorial in the *Bulletin* of December 13, 1884, deals with this question:—

"At every session of Parliament for the past three or four years there has been a re-vote of the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of a lunatic asylum in the North-West. The money has never been expended, and the lunatics are still lodged in lock-ups through the country, or shipped off to the Manitoba penitentiary. Worse still, there seems to be no method of legal procedure in cases of lunacy, or if there is anything of the kind it is not known or not made use of either for the

disposition of the persons or their estates It is a sin and a disgrace that in these North West Territories a man must be held in jail or sent to the penitentiary for misfortune as well as crime."

Dr. Herbert Charles Wilson, the third practitioner to settle in Edmonton, arrived in the fall of 1882. The son of C. S. Wilson, a banker of Picton, Ont., and a mother of United Empire Loyalist stock, he was born on December 7, 1859. After attending Picton High School and Upper Canada College, he entered the Ontario College of Pharmacy from which institution he graduated. Immediately he commenced his medical studies at Trinity Medical School, Toronto, which granted him an M.D. degree in 1882. Leaving then for Edmonton by the overland route from Winnipeg, he entered practice. Having defeated Frank Oliver in 1885, he took his seat in the North West Council at Regina, of which he remained a member until its abolition in 1888. The new assembly instituted to take its place received him as a member and he was appointed its first Speaker, a position he held until his retirement from ill health in 1891. Taking a keen interest in municipal affairs he became mayor of Edmonton, and was for several years president of the Cricket Club, a sport which he enjoyed. In 1886 he married Miss Emily C. Lee, of Toronto, and the same year saw Dr. H. L. McInnis join him in partnership. The Alberta Medical Association was formed in 1906 under the presidency of R. G. Brett. The next year Dr. Wilson became president. Ill-health followed him during his later years, and he died on December 17, 1909.

Between 1882 and 1885 little is known about the practice of medicine in Edmonton. Drs. Munro and Wilson no doubt endured the hardships consequent on the rough methods of living so far from the centres of distribution. Their drugs came by stage, ox-cart, or, on occasion, by river steamer from Winnipeg, which was becoming the chief business centre of the west. Lethbridge was commencing to supply coal to the villages of the west. Only once did Edmonton receive a supply from that place in the early days. In June, 1885, nine teams arrived, six yoke of oxen in each, hauling two wagons, each loaded with 7,000 pounds. This supply, which had spent weeks of travelling over the prairie trails a distance of 345 miles, was for the Alberta Field Force. Why this force required so much coal, and why it was stationed in Edmonton while a coal train wandered unprotected through a hostile Indian country has not been explained. Besides, the banks of the Saskatchewan were bursting with an inexhaustible supply of equally good coal within shooting distance of their ordnance.

Calgary, Pincher Creek, and McLeod were increasing in size. The Mounted Police surgeons served these settlements until civilian doctors found sufficient inducement to attempt practice

under such adverse conditions as then existed. The Canadian Pacific Railway construction was being pushed rapidly across the plains, and many young doctors on construction remained in the villages, where temporary hospitals had been constructed, and became permanent residents. Surgeons of the police, too, left the force to settle in the most advantageous points of population. So the profession grew in Alberta.

Meanwhile, Dr. W. M. McKay, the pioneer of pioneer medical men in the Territories, who had arrived at Hudson's Bay in 1864, acted as surgeon and factor throughout the wild north. For a time he was in charge of the Peace River district, and then for ten years he was stationed at Fort Chipewyan. Once he was sent to visit a tribe of Indians reported to be suffering from some epidemic disease. Over one year was spent in travelling before he reached his destination. His wife, who is still living, remembers his strapping on a pair of skates and striking out to visit a patient 200 miles away. For thirty years Dr. McKay went up and down the MacKenzie and the Peace, across Great Slave Lake or Lake Athabasca, in winter and in summer, by dog-train or canoe, the only surgeon in a region two thousand miles removed from Winnipeg and many thousand miles in area. In 1898 he retired to Edmonton where he practised under more favourable conditions until his death in 1916.*

On January 10, 1885, an event of great importance occurred when the first telephone line in Alberta was opened. In the spring of this year there were the rumblings of the Riel rebellion, and with it the making of plans for defending the various settlements surrounding the fur trading posts. Edmonton itself was unmolested. The only casualties to reach Edmonton arrived by river steamer and were placed in a temporary building designated "The Military Hospital." Six patients were under treatment by Dr. Tofield. Dr. James Henry Tofield, who gave his name to the present town of that name, was born in Yorkshire in 1849. He attended Oxford and later was a demonstrator in Cook's College, Dublin. After a period of study in St. George's Hospital, London, he obtained a position in the Civil Service in India. Returning to England in 1882, he came to Canada and until his death he was one of the well-known practitioners of the Edmonton district.

Dr. A. E. Porter, of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, now a resident of Edmonton, was defeated in the North West Territories Council of 1885. He was described by the *Toronto Mail and Empire* as a "white rebel," because on the capture of Louis Riel a petition was found asking him to speak at Prince Albert. Dr. Porter was one of the petitioners.

In 1885 a Medical Ordinance was passed by

* See also Jamieson, this *Journal*, 1929, 20: 188.

the North West Council which was the beginning of medical legislation in the west. The editor of the *Bulletin* scored the Council for its passage.

"The Medical Ordinance," he writes, "as it now stands is a one-sided affair, having no regard whatever for the peculiar circumstances of this North-West country. As in the case of the legal Ordinance, no one would object to a duly qualified physician being allowed a large percentage of advantage over a quack; much greater even that should be allowed the lawyer over the pettifogger, for in his case life itself, not merely money, is at stake. But that in a country such as this, where for instance, the three hundred miles between Edmonton and Battleford and for the two hundred between Edmonton and Calgary there is no qualified physician, nor is there likely to be for years, it should be made a punishable offence for a person to receive pay for doing some necessary act of medicine or surgery, it is an outrage."

The editor was particularly severe when he discussed Sub-section of Section One which reads as follows:

"Persons residing and practising medicine in the Territories for one year previous to December 18, 1885, who shall before the 18th of December 1886, pass an examination before any two medical practitioners registered under the ordinance, appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, on the subjects of anatomy, surgery, midwifery, chemistry, physiology and materia medica, paying such examiners a fee of \$10.00 each, receiving from them a certificate and paying a registration fee of \$25.00."

The editor says:

"It is nonsense to say that a certificate granted by two ordinary practitioners, who in all human probability would be biased for or against the applicant, should rank as high as the diploma conferred by a first-class university, and yet that is the intent of the ordinance. The most uncalled for feature of the ordinance however, is that of classing midwifery with ordinary medicine and surgery."

The reason for the last outburst of the *Bulletin* editor is not far to seek. From very early times midwifery, as the name implies, was left in the hands of the women. The North American Indians leave this branch of medicine to the squaws. On the Indian Reserves to-day, when a medical man is appointed, it is understood that obstetrics is not included in his work.

The total population of the Edmonton census division then was given as 5,616. Deducting the Indians, who numbered about 2,000, there was a white and a half-breed population of about 3,600. This was exclusive of the Battle River and Peace hills settlements which should be counted by Edmonton. Counting Battle River gave Edmonton a total count of 6,616 against Calgary's 4,467 and McLeod's 4,503.

There were then three ways of travelling in the North West—by Canadian Pacific Railway to Calgary, by stage overland from Winnipeg, and by steamer. The fare on the *North-West* from Winnipeg to Edmonton was at this time \$30.00 cabin and \$20.00 deck. But travellers were now able to come from the east by Canadian Pacific Railway to Calgary, and from there to

Edmonton by stage at a cost of \$10.00. Thus came the mail. At this time no bridges were in existence on this road, which was then, and even now, called the Calgary Trail. Muskeg, bush, and river combined to make travelling difficult and hazardous at all seasons of the year, but this was particularly so in the spring. A number of the *Bulletin*, in May, 1886, explained that the mail which left Edmonton on Thursday arrived in Calgary all right on Tuesday, only one day behind time, but the return mail was four days late.

In April, 1886, seven medical practitioners were registered under the North West Territories ordinance of 1885. They were William M. Bain, Wolseley, Assa., Geo. Eliot, Grenfell, Assa., O. C. Edwards, of Qu'Appelle Station, R. Cotton and H. Dodd, of Regina, L. S. Munro and H. C. Wilson, of Edmonton. The following comment was made by the *Bulletin*: "An ordinance which

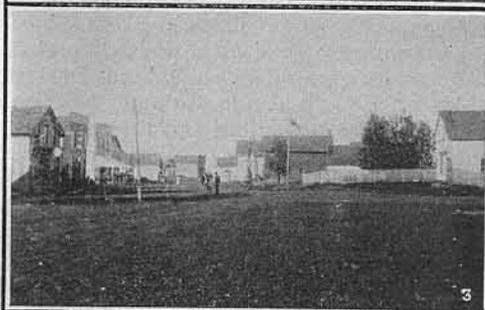
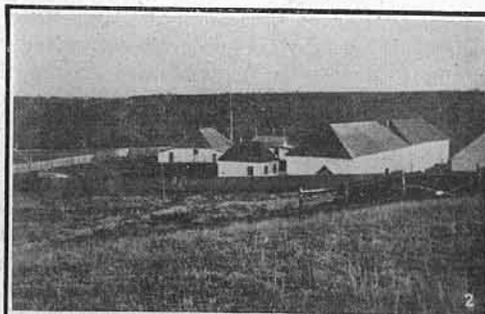


FIG. 2.—The Fort where Dr. Verey worked and where Dr. Munro had his office.

FIG. 3.—Edmonton in 1890. This street is now part of Jasper Avenue.

FIG. 4.—"The Hermitage." The first hospital with a trained nurse.

gives seven men a monopoly of the medical practice of the North West is a case of law-making run wild."

In view of the criticism of the placing of midwifery with medicine and surgery, it is interesting to read this in the same paper for August 7, 1886:—

"Miss Newton, who has lately arrived from England to reside with her brother, the Rev. Canon Newton, is a regularly trained nurse in the Church of England. Miss Newton has practised in several London Hospitals, and she holds diplomas and testimonials of efficiency from the leading physicians. Besides she was, until her health broke down, lady professor in the Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London. Miss Newton, should her health permit, hopes to resume her hospital duties at the Hermitage." (Fig. 4).

The Hermitage here mentioned was advertised as a school for children. Canon Newton was in charge. It was situated about eight miles down the river from Edmonton, and was often spoken of as the "Lower Settlement." Miss Newton had a small log hospital here. Shortly after the opening of this rude hospital and during the absence of Dr. Wilson at Regina, Miss Newton advertised that she was prepared to treat patients, particularly women and children, and that her fees were moderate.

During this summer a Joseph Rogers, after having been seriously ill for a month, left The Hermitage by rowboat for Winnipeg, a distance of 1,800 miles. He was accompanied by James Rogers and Dr. Arton. This mode of conveyance was chosen as being easier on the invalid than the journey by stage to Calgary and then by train. At a later date we find that Dr. Arton had returned to England. No other mention of him is made as far as one can find out, and it would appear as if he were on a visit to Edmonton.

The withdrawal of Dr. Munro left an opening which was soon to be filled. Dr. D. Tullock arrived and had a card in the paper of October 23, 1886. For some years Dr. Tullock, who graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1883 and registered in the North West Territories in 1887, practised in Fort Saskatchewan. During 1887 and 1888 he was Acting Assistant Surgeon to the Mounted Police. He apparently met with very indifferent success in his profession.

At this time Dr. Peter Aylen arrived in Edmonton. He was born at Aylmer, Quebec, in 1862, the son of Peter Aylen, a lawyer. After attending the schools of Ottawa he entered McGill University in 1882. At the end of the third year he went to the North West to serve with the Mounted Police as hospital sergeant during the Riel Rebellion. Returning to McGill, he finished his course, graduating in 1886, and set out immediately for Regina, having obtained a commission as a surgeon in the Force.

Stationed first at Fort Edmonton, then at Fort Saskatchewan, eighteen miles down the river, he was moved to Battleford, to remain for the next two years. The years 1889 and 1891 were spent in Calgary. Fort McLeod was his next post, and in 1894 he was back at Regina, his original starting point. Resigning the following year, Dr. Aylen returned to Edmonton to spend a year in civilian practice before moving to Fort Saskatchewan, where he spent the remainder of his life, which ended on May 5, 1925. The doctor came of a medical family, two uncles and three cousins all having taken a medical degree from McGill. During the years of his professional life he served faithfully and well the white and halfbreed settlers of two provinces, and was widely known for his surgical skill.

In January, 1887, Dr. Augustus Dukes and Dr. Henry Dodd, both of Regina, were appointed examiners under the recent Medical Ordinance and the first men to receive licence under their hand were Drs. A. E. Porter, of Prince Albert, Henry A. Wright, of Qu'Appelle Station, and Hermon L. McInnes, of Edmonton.

Scotland and England supplied the North West with its first two physicians; eastern Canada educated the next; but in 1886, Manitoba, having established a medical school, sent one of its first graduating class in the person of Hermon L. McInnes to join the medical fraternity in Edmonton. Dr. R. G. Brett, later a Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, was the first professor of therapeutics in this institution.

Dr. McInnes was a druggist in New Brunswick, and later in Winnipeg, before studying medicine. As a student he served as an Assistant Surgeon on Canadian Pacific Railway construction on the prairie. In 1885 the call for surgical aid in the Rebellion took him again from his studies. However, October, 1886, saw him engaging in a most exacting professional life in Edmonton. In 1890 he left for London and Vienna to spend a year and a half in post-graduate work. On his return he added to his other medical duties the care of the Indians from Red Deer north. Taking a keen interest in public affairs he served as an alderman for four years. Business also engaged his attention and he organized a large and prosperous lumber company. A partnership was entered into with Dr. H. C. Wilson which was only terminated by the death of the latter. In the earlier days of his practice Dr. McInnes endured much hardship—long hours in the saddle on rough and uncertain trails, or long treacherous river cut-banks, or by Red River cart, to carry surgical or perhaps obstetrical help to some family half hidden in the woods or on a distant sunlit hillside where it seemed that there was promise of a fertile soil. But no matter where he went, no matter how sore and weary his body, he carried not only skill but a sustained and stimulating cheerfulness which meant much to his ailing clientèle.

When he died in 1923 not only the profession but the public as a whole felt the loss keenly.

Dr. Joseph Potvin commenced practice in May, 1888. A graduate of Victoria University, Cobourg, the doctor was the thirty-first man to receive a licence in the North West Territories. Little is known of his life in Edmonton or in the east. He died at the age of 49 of an unknown cause on May 13, 1891. One incident only of his local career has been remembered. During an illness shortly after his arrival, one of his confrères, who was in attendance, wished a consultation and suggested a member of the Mounted Police staff. Dr. Potvin shrugged his shoulders—"What! That horse doctor!" The supposed horse doctor was at one time a hospital sergeant in the Police, then a surgeon, and now the only Honorary Surgeon of the Force, as well as Chief Coroner of Alberta—Dr. A. E. Braithwaite. While surgeon of the Mounted Police Dr. Braithwaite was for a time situated at Fort Saskatchewan, and many times rode post-haste to Edmonton to give emergency treatment during the absence of the local practitioners. In 1892 he and Dr. John Darley Harrison entered upon careers which were to carry one to the highest position in the medico-legal, and the other to an equally eminent place in surgery, that of Honorary Consulting Surgeon to the University of Alberta Hospital, and a membership in the Board of Governors in the University.

While these men were beginning to make medical history in Edmonton settlement was taking place rapidly in the surrounding country. The building of stores engaged the attention of newly arrived merchants and a railway was being rapidly pushed north from Calgary, 200 miles away. Organized development gave an impetus to the growth of Edmonton. The little Fort on the banks of the North Saskatchewan, where for a hundred years traders, trappers and *coureurs des bois* had renewed friendships after long winters spent in the recesses of the northern woods, out on the windswept prairie or in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, was losing its prestige. Soon only its picturesque log buildings were to be left as a monument to the adventurous men of an earlier day who first opened up the trade routes in the great west.