

# Surg Gyn Obs 1935 V-60

## EARLY AMERICAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

### THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

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THE Medical Faculty of McGill University is the outcome of a brilliant piece of executive work which established it, in the third decade of the nineteenth century, as the first medical school in Canada. This was the organization of the Montreal Medical Institution, an earlier teaching body, of which the McGill Faculty is the direct continuance, and which was founded in the year 1822-23 by the first medical staff of the Montreal General Hospital, Drs. William Robertson, William Caldwell, Andrew F. Holmes, and John Stephenson; the two former, British military surgeons of reputation and experience, the two latter, young Canadians who were graduates of Edinburgh University and who had qualified for the degree by serving local apprenticeships and by several years of European study.

Organized on a singularly broad and effective basis, with the sympathetic co-operation and under the enlightened administration of Lord Dalhousie, the then governor-in-chief, the young institution had sprung at once into activity and carried on with a full curriculum but without University status, until the year 1829. At this time a critical juncture had arisen in the affairs of McGill College which, though founded in 1811 by the will of James McGill and incorporated in 1821, as yet existed only on paper, a nominal teaching staff having been appointed in 1823, one of whom, the distinguished Dr. James Fargues of Quebec, himself an Edinburgh graduate, did not even reside in Montreal. Now, however, in order to fulfill the conditions of the will and to secure the bequest of the founder, it had become essential for the university to institute academic activities, although owing to litigation instituted by the heirs-at-law of the estate, finances were still entirely lacking. In this dilemma, the attention of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, a body framed by Act of Parliament in 1801 and the trustee under the will, was directed to this sturdy young teaching body of established reputation active in its midst, and correspondence was accordingly instituted,

with the result that, at the first meeting of Governors of "Burnside University of McGill College," the members of the Montreal Medical Institution were formally "engrafted upon" the College as its Medical Faculty; "it being understood and agreed upon between the said contracting parties, that, until the powers of the Charter would be altered, one of their number only should be University professor, and the others lecturers." This historic event took place on June 29, 1829, at Burnside House, the residence of the Founder, in the presence of a distinguished gathering, William Robertson being appointed professor, and Caldwell, Stephenson and Holmes, lecturers in their respective subjects. Through this arrangement the new Faculty by its activity literally saved the property of James McGill to the educational purpose for which it was designated and thereby rescued the College from protracted litigation, if not from final defeat.

The medical school was thus the pioneer Faculty in the University and it continued to be the only one in active operation during the next 25 years of the latter's existence. It was also, through its devoted secretary, Dr. John Stephenson, the instrument whereby the requisite authority to confer degrees was obtained. Its founders are therefore to be regarded as the founders also, in the academic sense, of the University as a whole. In these particulars its record is, so far as we know, unique in the history of early medical schools on this continent.

In other ways also, the story of its origin reveals an honorable and heroic past, that establishes a great tradition. It was founded in a time when political dissensions were rife, under great material difficulties and at the cost of much personal labor and sacrifice, by men who, as in the case of the Medical Faculty of Pennsylvania, were of high professional status, and, following the methods of the parent Edinburgh school, made clinical instruction at the bedside an integral part of the hospital routine and an essential feature of their curriculum. So faithfully was this principle ad-

hered to by this early teaching staff and their successors, that it remained the hall-mark of this Faculty, and, during the ensuing 50 years, the "clinical advantages" of McGill were recognized both in England and America as among the greatest available. It was indeed this early reputation that brought it, at a later period, the distinction of numbering among its graduates and on its early professoriate one of the greatest clinical teachers and leaders of medical thought of his time, William Osler, who graduated from McGill in 1872, and held the appointment of pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital and the chair of the Institutes of Medicine here during the first 10 years of his academic life (1874-1884). In Osler's own view this early experience was fundamental to his later progress to the status of a great clinician, and it permeates and lives again in nearly all his later medical publications. His loyalty to his Alma Mater and his acknowledgment of the value of this early influence in shaping his later career, found fitting expression, after his death in 1919, in the gift under his will to his old school of his great collection of books on the history of medicine, now housed in the Osler Library of the Faculty, and in the touching bequest of his ashes, which repose there behind his portrait, surrounded by the most beloved of his books.

The following is a brief outline in detail of the sequence of these events:

#### THE RISE OF THE MONTREAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION AND THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

As indicated previously, this Faculty was the result of three different public movements emanating from the philanthropy and foresight of the English speaking citizens of Montreal in the early years of the last century. These were: the foundation of the Montreal General Hospital; the organization of the Montreal Medical Institution; and the establishment by James McGill of his University.

The story goes back to the year 1819. Montreal was at that time a thriving little city of some 20,000 inhabitants, with a rapidly increasing English speaking immigrant population, among whom disease and destitution were distressingly prevalent, and with educational establishments and hospitals dating from the old French régime and adapted only to the needs of the French Canadian population, for whom also the latter provision was entirely inadequate. In that year the "House of Recovery" a small four roomed cottage which had been opened in the previous year, 1818, by the Female Benevolent Society for

the care of the Protestant indigent sick, was replaced by a larger building situated on Craig Street and containing 24 beds, to which the name "*Montreal General Hospital*" was first given. It was provided with a code of regulations and an attending medical staff, and "one Dr. John Stephenson was installed as House-Surgeon, to visit the Hospital every day in case of accidents."

From now on events moved quickly. The site of the present Montreal General Hospital was bought by private generosity in August, 1820, and the Government was memorialized for support; on June 6, 1821, the corner-stone was laid, and on May 1, 1822, the central block of the present building, erected by funds obtained from public subscription, was thrown open to patients, with an attending staff of the men already named, with the addition of Henry P. Loedel, who resigned a few months later.

*The Montreal Medical Institution.* From the beginning it was clearly formulated that the hospital was to be used as the actual headquarters of a medical school and for the instruction of students, who were to be admitted freely to the wards for teaching and study. That this was understood as far back as 1819 is evident from the discussions in the House of Assembly in that year. Thus Dr. Charles Perrault speaking in support of the motion introduced by Mr. Molson for the establishment of a public hospital in Montreal, said: "Independent of the good which must result from the establishment of a well regulated hospital to humanity at large, another no less important object is obtained by establishing in such an institution a school for teaching the healing art in all its branches." The initiative in teaching was taken by Dr. Stephenson, whose name appears in the Hospital minutes on August 6, 1822, as receiving permission to advertise lectures for the ensuing winter in the subjects of anatomy, practical anatomy, surgery, and physiology, with an introductory lecture to be delivered by himself at the hospital on October 7, 1822. Advertisements to this effect ran through the *Montreal Gazette* for the entire year, and the announcement of a course of "experimental" lectures on chemistry given by Dr. Holmes at the house of Mr. Alexander Skakel, appeared on December 14, 1822, and was continued until the following spring.

The first steps in the organization of the Montreal Medical Institution itself were taken on October 20, 1822, when, at a meeting of the medical officers of the hospital held "to consider the expediency of establishing a medical school in this city," Drs. Stephenson and Holmes were deputed "to draw up the considerations that

seemed to warrant such an endeavour at this Hospital." This historic document was accordingly submitted a week later and approved. Its opening words are of great interest, as are also the references to the Edinburgh School and to the part which the new Institution was to play a few years later in the stabilization of the infant college of James McGill. It read in part as follows:

The Medical Officers of the Montreal General Hospital, having seen the great difficulties which the student of medicine in this country has to encounter before he acquires a competent knowledge of his profession; knowing the great inconvenience resulting to many from the necessity at present existing of spending several years in a foreign country to complete a regular medical education, and being convinced of the advantage which would result from the establishment of a medical school in this country, and considering that the Montreal General Hospital affords the student a facility of acquiring a practical knowledge of Physic never before enjoyed in these Provinces, an advantage which will be greatly enhanced by the establishment of lectures on the different branches of the profession, have met to consider of the possibility of founding such an institution in this city. . . .

They consider that the Montreal General Hospital is an institution which favors much the establishment of a school of medicine in this city—it affords the student a facility of acquiring a practical knowledge of Physic never before enjoyed in this Province—an advantage which will be greatly enhanced by the establishment of lectures on the different branches of the profession.

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

In the event of the establishment of a classical and philosophical seminary in this city, the two institutions would be materially benefited.

To ensure the success and permanency of such an institution it would be highly desirable that the persons composing it should be associated by a Royal Charter or Act of Incorporation. . . .

On November 2, 1822, a copy of this Memorandum signed by all five members of the medical board of the hospital was forwarded the governor-in-chief, Lord Dalhousie, by Dr. Robertson with a covering letter in which he suggested that in order to give the new institution legal status, the board of medical examiners for the District of Montreal should be reconstituted and made to consist of the medical officers of the Montreal General Hospital. Lord Dalhousie, whose enlightened attitude in educational matters was well known, approved, and on February 22 a Royal Commission was issued appointing "the said Wm. Robertson, William Caldwell, John Stephenson, A. F. Holmes and H. P. Loedel . . .

any three or more of you to be the sole Medical Examiners for this District."

On February 4, 1823, an advertisement announcing the prospectus of lecture courses for the ensuing session 1823-24 for publication in the newspapers "of the Lower and Upper Canadas," was submitted to His Excellency and duly approved. It was headed "The Montreal Medical Institution" and after repeating the introductory paragraphs in the Memorial of Holmes and Stephenson upon the imperative necessity for the establishment of this School, it continued:

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

"It is therefore resolved to deliver lectures on the following branches of the profession to commence in the second week of November ensuing: Anatomy and Physiology, J. Stephenson, M.D.; Chemistry and Pharmacy, A. F. Holmes, M.D.; Practice of Physic, W. Caldwell, M.D.; Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, W. Robertson, M.D.; Materia Medica, H. P. Loedel, Esq.; Surgery, J. Stephenson, M.D. In the course of the summer 1824: Botany, A. F. Holmes, M.D."

Montreal, 4th February, 1823

On August 23, 1823, following, the resignation of Dr. Loedel from the Board of the Hospital and Institution was received and Dr. Wm. Lyons was appointed in his place, a medical library was established, and an announcement of the lecture courses for the session 1823-24 to "commence at the House of the Institution, No. 20 St. James Street," was ordered published in the Montreal, Quebec, Kingston, and Toronto papers. Figure 2 is a photostat copy of this advertisement from the *Quebec Gazette* of October 13, 1823. It effectually settles the date of the first session of the institution.

The original minute book of the Montreal Medical Institution containing all its proceedings and copies of correspondence with the Government during the 2 years of its organization has, fortunately for posterity, been preserved in the archives of the Faculty, constituting its greatest treasure. These minutes were transcribed in part in an "Introductory Lecture" delivered at the opening of the session 1866-67 by Dr. Archibald Hall<sup>1</sup> and they have been published in full by the writer<sup>2</sup> as an appendix to her "Historical

<sup>1</sup> The Past, Present and Future of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University. By Archibald Hall, M.D., Edin., L.R.S.C.E., Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women, McGill University; Honorary Fellow of the Obstetric Society of London; Associate of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, etc. Dawson Bros., 1867; also, Canada M. J., 1866-67, 3: 289-299.

<sup>2</sup> An Historical Sketch of the Medical Faculty of McGill University. By Maude E. Abbott, B.A., M.D., Montreal M. J., August, 1902, pp. 561-672; also, Gazette Printing Co., 111 pages, 28 illus. Appendix xvi, pp. 657-665.

Sketch of the Medical Faculty" which appeared in 1902.

The matter of the incorporation of the Medical Institution was dealt with subsequently. In the summer of 1826, at the instance of Lord Dalhousie, a form of charter was drawn up and presented through him to the Solicitor-General for an opinion. The reply, received after a delay of 18 months, was unfavorable, objections being raised on the ground that the school was not associated with any seminary of learning, nor had it any endowment or foundation. After pleading in vain the similar beginnings of the College of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, and Paris, the officers of the institution suggested to the Government, as a means of obviating their difficulties, "the appointment of the members of the said Institution as Professors of the University to be established at Burnside, near that city, one of the Colleges of which is established by Royal Charter, dated March 31, 1821, and called the McGill College." As indicated previously, this proposal came at the psychological moment for the young University of James McGill, and accordingly the memorable step was taken which gave the Medical Institution a charter and foundation and McGill an active and highly qualified medical faculty. As a result also the estate of Burnside was handed over to the university by the law courts in 1829, but the financial part of the bequest remained for several years longer in the possession of the contestant and residuary legatee, François Desrivières, the son of the widow of James McGill.

*The Medical Institution as a Faculty of McGill.* The first session in which the old medical institution functioned under its new guise as the Medical Faculty of McGill University was that of 1829-30, when it opened with the same teaching staff and some 25 students, its inheritance from the earlier school. The following year, on October 29, 1831, a memorial was presented by its members to the Legislature asking that measures be taken to give effect to the authority granted by Royal Charter for the conferring of degrees to the candidates who had successfully passed the examinations and fulfilled the requirements of this school. On November 7 following, the Solicitor-General advised that under its charter the university must first secure the royal sanction of its statutes. Two days later "the statutes, rules, and ordinances of the Medical Faculty of McGill University" was presented at Quebec in person by Dr. Stephenson and forwarded to London. The reply, received on July 23, 1832, conveyed His Majesty's approval of these stat-

utes and sanctioned the conferring of the title of "professor" on all four members of the faculty. The first McGill degree was thereupon conferred on May 24, 1833, in medicine, on Mr. W. Logie. In that year also, the Governors passed a resolution "that the Medical Faculty be authorized to use all the means necessary to forward the suit now pending touching the ten thousand pounds bequeathed by the Honorable James McGill to this College," and appointed Dr. John Stephenson university registrar. Shortly thereafter, the money so long withheld, was at last paid over with accrued interest. It now amounted to £22,000. Other changes promptly followed. Edinburgh, which had from the first given official recognition to the Montreal Medical Institution by counting two of the latter's courses as equal to one of her own, now at once, on the joining of the school to the university in 1829, accepted the certificates of the faculty at their face value. The other British schools immediately followed this lead. Almost from the beginning also the obligatory course of study was changed to 4 from 3 years, each consisting of a 6 months' session.

#### THE FOUR FOUNDERS

Before proceeding to later developments a glance is necessary at the life history of the four men who figured so largely in the foundation of this school and university.

*William Robertson (1784-1844)* who was called by his biographer<sup>1</sup> the Nestor of the famous quartette, was born at Kindrochet, Perthshire. He saw military service at a very early age, having been an ensign in a Highland regiment at the age of 13, and he qualified in medicine at Edinburgh while still under age. He came to Canada in 1806 and served through the War of 1812, in the capacity of surgeon to the 41st Regiment, and he was present at the battle of Queenstown Heights and the storming of Fort Niagara. He retired from the army in 1815 and settled in Montreal and took, as we have already seen, a prominent part in the epoch-making educational developments of the next 30 years. He was a member of the Board of examiners from 1817 on and was from 1829 the official head of the Faculty and succeeded Dr. Caldwell in the chair of medicine in 1833. He led the arduous life of a family physician with the largest practice in the city, and was distinguished by his thoroughness and punctuality, generosity and charitable character, which made him universally beloved.

*William Caldwell (1782-1833)* had been a surgeon in the 13th Regiment of Dragoons and was a veteran of the Peninsular War. He was born in Ayrshire and held the M.D. of Marischal College, Aberdeen University. Retired from the army after the War of 1812, he took out his license in the District of Montreal in 1817 and had settled in that city before 1819. His name is famous locally because of a duel which he fought in that year as the result of a quarrel with a Mr. O'Sullivan who had opposed the petition presented in Parliament by the "Inhabitants of

<sup>1</sup>William Robertson. By R. F. Ruttan, McGill University, 1902 pp. 2-178.

Montreal" on February 19, 1819, praying for the establishment of an English public hospital. Both participants were wounded but recovered. Dr. Caldwell was the first lecturer on the principles of medicine in the McGill School. He served during the great cholera epidemic of 1832, but died of typhus contracted in the wards of the General Hospital in the following year.

*Andrew Fernando Holmes (1797-1860)* is probably the most outstanding from the scientific standpoint of the four, and with Dr. Stephenson has been universally considered one of the two real founders of the Faculty. He was born at Cadiz, Spain, where his parents were detained as prisoners of war from a British vessel captured on its way to Canada where they arrived only in 1801. Given a good classical education at Mr. Skakel's famous school in Montreal, he was articled at the age of 14 to Dr. Daniel Arnoldi, known at that time as the dean of the profession in Lower Canada. Five years later, in 1816, he presented himself for the Licentiate and qualified by examination for the practice of "physic" as well as surgery. Proceeding immediately thereafter to Edinburgh, he obtained his diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons there in 1818, and in 1819 the degree of M.D. of that university. Along with John Stephenson he studied also in London, Paris, and Dublin. In 1818-19 he was made an extraordinary member of the Royal Physical Society and in 1820 a non-resident member of the Wernerian Society of Natural History of Edinburgh. An untiring worker in his profession, he was also an expert botanist and mineralogist and made large collections along both lines which are still housed in the University Museum at McGill, the "Holmes Herbarium of Canadian Plants," containing 500 species collected by him in the vicinity of Montreal and representing the entire flora of the district. A catalogue of this was published by Dr. James Barnston in the *Canadian Naturalist* for 1859. Dr. Holmes was also a scientific author of repute and has many articles in British and American as well as local journals, written in a polished style and classical English and based on such accurate and discriminating observation of facts as to make them of permanent value today. His articles on "The Cholera Epidemic as it appeared in Montreal in 1832," and "Choleric Diarrhoea" published in the *Boston Medical Journal* 1833, 8: 53-65; 236-238, and that on a "Unique Form of Cardiac Malformation" (still unique in the literature) in the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical* for 1824 are masterly productions. On his return from Edinburgh, Dr. Holmes was for 5 years in partnership with his former teacher, Dr. Arnoldi. At the organization of the Montreal Medical Institution he was appointed lecturer on chemistry and he held this chair until 1843 when he succeeded Dr. Robertson as professor of medicine. In 1853 he was elected the first president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada and in 1854 he became the first dean of the medical faculty of McGill University. He died in harness, when in the middle of calling a meeting for the latter. In 1864 this faculty established the Holmes gold medal which remains today the highest student award within its gift, in memory of their late dean, "than whom no man ever lived more conscientiously or died more beloved."

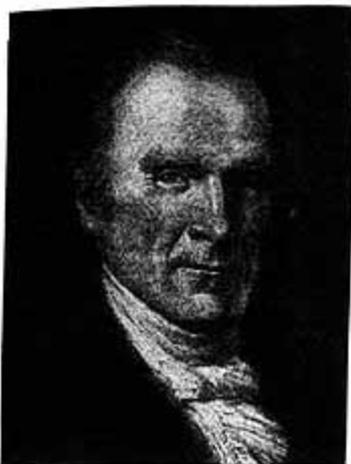
*John Stephenson (1797-1842)*. The close friend and lifelong co-worker of Dr. Holmes, and, in the words of an eminent contemporary, "the man to whom above all others we owe McGill College," was a native Canadian, having been born in Montreal. He was articled under Dr. William Robertson until July, 1817, when having finished his apprenticeship he joined Holmes in Edinburgh. He took his degree of M.D. from that University in 1820, having meantime qualified for the license of the Royal

College of Surgeons in London in 1819. On returning to Montreal in 1821 he immediately entered upon a large practice as a surgeon and he lectured on this subject and on anatomy at the medical school from 1823 to 1835 and after this on anatomy alone until his death. As secretary of the medical institution and faculty from their inception, and registrar of the university itself from 1833 on, he did devoted service and it was universally recognized by his contemporaries that the successful issue to the university of the contest over the will of James McGill was chiefly, if not entirely, due to his energy and influence. He was a man of culture and of great industry and integrity and an enthusiast in the cause of medical education. As a surgeon of experience he had the confidence of the public and his name is said to have become in this regard as a household word in the homes of all nationalities in this city.

#### PERIOD OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The tragic death of Dr. Caldwell from typhus, in 1833, made the first break in the ranks of the four veteran teachers. The gap was temporarily filled by Dr. John Racey and on his removal to Quebec 2 years later, in 1835, by the appointment of G. W. Campbell to the chairs of midwifery and surgery and Archibald Hall to that of materia medica. Both these men were graduates of Scottish Universities, Dr. Campbell of Glasgow, and Archibald Hall an M.D. of Edinburgh, and their activities in the succeeding 30 odd years were probably the most essential factors in the rapid expansion and stabilization of the medical school that now ensued, and in the organization of the Canadian medical profession on a conservative educational basis. Dr. Campbell held both his chairs until 1842 and then resigned from midwifery but retained that of surgery, which he filled until 1875, a period of 40 years. As a member also of the visiting staff of the Montreal General Hospital during this entire time, he is said to have laid the foundation, by his great skill and distinguished abilities, of the high reputation enjoyed by this hospital as a school of practical surgery.<sup>1</sup> In 1860 he succeeded Dr. Holmes as Dean, an office he retained until his death. Dr. Archibald Hall (1812-1868) was likewise transferred in the reorganization of the faculty that took place in 1842 on the death of Dr. Stephenson and the retirement of Dr. William Robertson, to the chair of chemistry and in 1854 he succeeded, on the death of Dr. McCulloch, to that of midwifery, a position to which he had been specially trained, having served his apprenticeship under Dr. William Robertson, the most accomplished accoucheur of his day. Dr. Hall's most important contribution lay, however, in the field of medical legislation and Canadian medical journalism of

<sup>1</sup>See the charming article entitled "Reminiscences of the Medical School of McGill University. With a slight sketch individually of the members of the Medical Faculty of 1847-50." By D. C. MacCallum, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng. *McGill University Magazine*, 1903, 2: 124-135.



Dr. William Robertson, 1784-1844, official head of the Faculty (1829-1844) and first professor of medicine.



John Stephenson, M.D., F.R.C.S., 1797-1842, first registrar of the faculty and university.



Andrew F. Holmes, M.D., LL.D., 1797-1860, official head of the faculty from 1844 and first dean (1854-1860).



Fig. 1. Portraits of three of the four founders of the Montreal Medical Institution and medical faculty of McGill University, from oil paintings in the possession of the McGill medical faculty; and signatures of the four founders of the medical faculty: W. Caldwell, M.D. (1782-1833); A. F. Holmes, M.D.; John Stephenson, M.D.; and W. Robertson. (From their Memorial dated October 29, 1831, praying that the governors of McGill College be given authority to confer degrees.)

which latter he may be said to have been the founder. A keen and incisive writer with a clear sense of educational values and a determined though generous opponent of what he considered professional irregularities, he took a leading part in the bitter medical polemics of the day that waged, especially in the years 1847-51, about the rights or otherwise of incorporated medical schools to confer diplomas carrying the right to the license to practice without further examination or university degrees. As editor and owner from 1845 on of that grand old periodical the *British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, he fought in this and other ways the battle of his college and of the profession at large and became the intrepid defender of the rights

and interests of both. In 1855 he was made vice-president and in 1859 president of the "College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada East" whose Act of Incorporation and Charter he had guarded so vigorously and well. He was also an honorary fellow of the Royal Obstetrical Society of London and an associate of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

The real growth of the medical school did not begin until 1841-42, when the yearly attendance of students, which had averaged 25 up to this time, rose to an enrollment of 39. For some time thereafter progress still remained slow, there being only 44 students in 1849-50. In 1850-51, however, there were 53 enrollments, and from then on the numbers advanced steadily to 108 students

**MONTREAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.**  
**T**HE Lectures will commence at the House of the Institution, No. 20, St. James' Street, on MONDAY, the 10th of November next.  
 Materia Medica, and Dietetics, Thursday 11th, at 9 A. M. Wm. LYONS, Esq.  
 Practice of Physic, Thursday 11th at 10 A. M. Wm. CALDWELL, M. D.  
 Chemistry and Pharmacy, Monday 10th, at 11 A. M. A. F. HOLMES, M. D.  
 Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery, Monday 10th at 2 P. M. J. STEPHENSON, M. D.  
 Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, Wednesday 12th at 5 P. M. W. ROBERTSON, Esq.  
 Lectures on Botany will given by Dr. HOLMES, during the Summer.  
 N. B.—Visiting hours at the Montreal General Hospital, Noon.—11th October.

Fig. 2. Advertisement from the *Quebec Gazette*, October 13, 1823, announcing the first courses of the Montreal Medical Institution for the ensuing session 1823-24. (The sign "r S" written across this advertisement was inscribed by the publishers of the paper and indicated that the charge for its insertion was one shilling.)

in 1859-60; 141 in 1860-70; 166 in 1870-80; 261 in 1880-90; 312 in 1890-93; 401 in 1894-95; and 650 in 1902-03. At the present time, under the limitation of the yearly registration to 100 students, the enrollments at the opening of the present session 1934-35 numbered 480.

The decided impetus that thus took place in the middle of the last century may be ascribed to three different causes. First of these was the growing superiority of the clinical teaching consequent on the activities of an enlarged and competent hospital staff, among whom must be especially mentioned Robert L. Macdonnell, a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, who though only 5 years on the staff of hospital and college left upon these a lasting impress. Trained in the distinguished school of clinical medicine of the Meath Hospital in Dublin, where he served under the celebrated Graves and Stokes, he became deeply imbued with their teachings and added to a familiarity with the current medical literature and an intimate knowledge of the methods of investigating disease, a valuable practical experience gained in their wards as an assistant of these great clinicians. On his appointment to the staff of McGill in 1845, he immediately set about introducing their methods at the Montreal General Hospital with a contagious enthusiasm that quickly resulted in the reorganization on a permanent basis of the teaching in clinical medicine along lines that placed the McGill School on a plane with the most advanced European and American institutions. Other factors of importance in the acquiring of this reputation were the eminence, already referred to above, of G. W. Campbell as a teacher

skilled in the practice of surgery, of Drs. James Crawford and Sewell in clinical medicine, as also the brilliant William Sutherland; and last but not least the sterling qualities of Dr. Michael McCulloch of Glasgow, an L.R.C.P. of London and an honorary M.D. of McGill, who was professor of midwifery from 1842-54, and who in those pre-asepsis days was yet able to reduce the mortality at the Montreal Maternity Hospital to 1 death in 354 cases.

No less important was the emergence at this time of the University itself from the depression that had until then engulfed it, to an era of relative prosperity and financial security under the powerful administration of McGill's first great principal, Sir William Dawson, whose appointment dates from October, 1855. From the first he took a highly constructive interest in the medical faculty. The appreciation with which he viewed its pioneer labors was expressed in his inaugural discourse at this time as follows:

"It is second to none in America and presents one of the noblest instances anywhere to be found of the results which may be attained by the almost unaided exertions of able men thoroughly devoted to their work. Its announcement for the present session (1855-56) shows a staff of 11 Professors, a library of 2,200 volumes, an extensive series of Museum preparations, and excellent arrangements for hospital practice and dissection. It has sent forth since the conferring of its first degree in 1833, 150 graduates. Nothing in connection with education in this city offers more just cause of pride or hope for the prosperity of our Institution than the success which has attended the labours of the Medical Faculty."

The third element in the expansion of the Faculty which began with the sixth decade of the last century and has never ceased up to the present time, is described in some detail below. It was the removal of the school to a more convenient location in the vicinity of the hospital and to the occupation of a building in its own personal possession, the old Coté Street School.

#### THE BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY THE MCGILL MEDICAL SCHOOL

The first lectures were delivered, as its advertisements state (Fig. 2), at "the house of the Institute" No. 20 St. James Street, a small building (Fig. 3) on the north side of what is now Place d'Armes Square. The School remained here for some years and then removed to a tall narrow building on Fortification Lane just behind the present Bank of Montreal. Later, some time after 1833, the Faculty established itself in a large three-story brick building which is still standing on the west side of St. George Street, three doors above Craig Street. The accommodation here



Fig. 3. "No. 20 St. James Street," believed to be the first home of the Montreal Medical Institution and the medical Faculty of McGill University. (From a drawing by Professor J. C. Simpson, in the possession of the Historical Medical Museum of the School.)

seems from the first to have been unsatisfactory, but the question of ways and means was at this time of paramount importance. It was probably on this account that the medical faculty was invited to occupy in the year 1845 the Arts building of the university, itself erected in 1843, and the only one except the principal's office then standing. The first session of the medical school in the college building was that of 1845-46, and there it remained for the 5 succeeding years. During this time the student body suffered greatly under the inconvenience of the location, which at that time lay far out in the country, for the university grounds were a mile and a half beyond the then city limits. A lecture at the college ending at 12 noon, a rush through often untravelled winter snow, and a vain attempt to dine and attend a one o'clock clinic at the Montreal General Hospital, were a daily trial even to the bravest; as also were the eight o'clock morning lectures, to be reached frequently only through almost impassable snow drifts, and the attendance by night in the dissecting room on the top floor of this lonely building which lay far removed from other dwellings and was lighted only by candles. On March 19, 1847, the students set forth these disadvantages in a petition asking that the lectures be again given in town. Action was not taken, however, until the spring of 1851, when the St. Lawrence School of Medicine, a rival institution

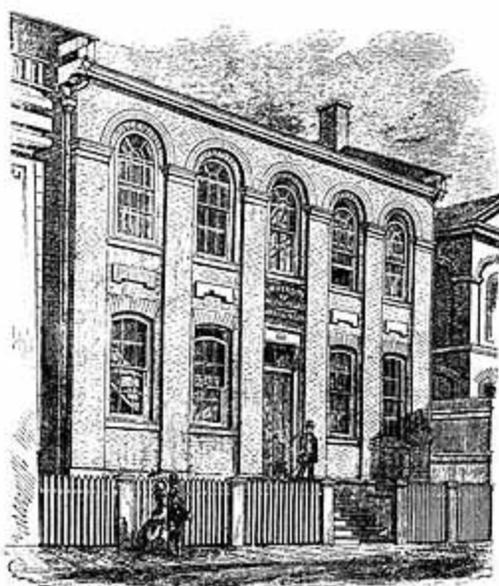


Fig. 4. The Coté Street Building, owned by the Faculty of Medicine and occupied by it from 1851 to 1872. It was from this building that William Osler graduated in the spring of the latter year.

with headquarters in the city, was organized. The McGill School then decided to leave its out-of-the-way situation and return to town rather than risk competition under such unfavorable circumstances. Three members of the faculty, Drs. Campbell, McCulloch, and Sutherland, accordingly undertook to erect a suitable building at their private expense, and to rent this to the faculty, the rent received to be 10 per cent on the outlay, and the faculty to pay the assessments. The lot purchased for the purpose was on the east side of Coté Street in the close vicinity of the Montreal General Hospital, and a brick building, No. 15 Coté Street, was promptly erected upon it, in time for the opening of the session 1851-52. Here the school remained until the autumn of 1872, and here during these 21 years, passed in an unbroken circle of steady work and gradual progress, the sure foundations were laid for the later era of relative prosperity that ensued. Here in 1853 all ten of its lecturers were appointed professors, and here in 1854 Dr. Holmes became its first dean. New appointments were made and new courses opened, examinations divided into primaries and finals, a summer session established and the number of students rose from 64 in 1851-52 to a roll-call of 184 in 1866-67. Here Dr. R. Palmer Howard, professor of medicine and dean of the faculty from 1882 on, by his



Fig. 5. The first building of the McGill medical faculty in the University grounds. Erected in 1872 and destroyed with its extensions by fire in 1907.

sound and up-to-date teaching at the bedside in close correlation with the autopsy findings, inspired with his own zeal a galaxy of youthful intellects, and gave the first impetus to the foundation of a chair of pathology. Here Osler graduated, George Ross and Richard L. Macdonnell taught, and F. J. Shepherd was an undergraduate—members all of a group of eager young clinicians who were, a few years later, to take a leading part in the coming of age of scientific medicine and surgery on this continent.

In the year 1860 the university took over the Coté Street building and made extensive improvements in it at a total outlay of £9,360, of which £1,200 was paid the proprietors for its purchase and the balance expended on the enlargements that had become necessary. The number of students continued to increase steadily, however, and again overflowed its capacity, so that further space became again essential. And now the faculty themselves began to look upon the university grounds as their proper home. The rapid growth of the city to the westward had removed the old objections to this location, and even rendered it a more suitable spot than a place nearer the hospital, in what promised to become one of its poorer quarters. Accordingly after considerable preliminary negotiation the university decided in the year 1871 to build within its own precincts for the accommodation of its medical faculty. Accordingly a square stone building of commodious proportions was erected by the Governors at a cost of \$27,000 on the University Street side of the college property, and thrown open for occupation in the autumn of 1872 (Fig. 5). Most of the university funds had been de-

rived from the sale of the historic Burnside House, the faculty on its side binding itself to keep the building insured up to \$16,000, and to pay all assessments, taxes, and repairs.

The material advancement of the School after this epoch-making step is measured by the extensions of this modest single block of 1872, through three successive additions—that of 1885 for the accommodation of 300 students, that of 1895-96 for the establishment of pathological and public health laboratories to the fine new building of 1902 (Fig. 6). Funds for these operations were obtained from the Lean Choil endowment of \$50,000 given by Lord Strathcona in 1882, and the G. W. Campbell Memorial Fund of \$50,000, raised among graduates and friends of the University in 1883; from \$60,000 contributed by Mr. J. H. R. Molson in 1893 for building and equipment of the laboratories, rendered necessary by the endowment earlier in the same year by Lord Strathcona of the chairs of pathology and public health with \$100,000. In 1899 the same generous donor contributed another \$100,000 and this together with \$3,000 from the faculty funds was all expended upon the construction of the "new" building or extension of 1901-02.

In 1907 this fine Medical Building, the pride and joy of the Faculty, was destroyed by fire, the only part remaining intact being the extensions for laboratories and lecture room at its rear and the library and historical part of the Museum. In 1911, the present "Strathcona" Medical Building was erected from funds obtained from the fire insurance and \$450,000 from Lord Strathcona, on a site farther up on the hillside commanding a fine view of the city and in closer proximity to the Royal Victoria Hospital, which institution had been founded under the aegis of the university by Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount Stephen in 1894. This "new Medical Building," a handsome stone structure of modern construction, was made to house the administration offices, library, and museums, and the departments of anatomy, pathology, pharmacology and public health, the other parts of the school being taken care of in the parts of the older building that had escaped total destruction and which were temporarily repaired for the purpose.

#### THE PRESENT ERA OF EXPANSION

The new building of 1911 was erected and opened under the able administration of Dr. F. J. Shepherd (1851-1929), professor of anatomy for the 30 years from 1883 on, and dean of the faculty from 1908 to 1914, whose eminence both as a surgeon and educationalist were important



Fig. 6. The New Building of 1902, showing that of 1872 forming its first block, and behind this the extensions made in this and the previous year. The front and middle parts of this building were destroyed by fire in 1907.

factors in the advancement and growing reputation of the school, and were acknowledged by the conferring upon him of the honorary fellowships of the Royal College of Edinburgh and London and the honorary LL.D. of Harvard. This year, 1911, marked also the commencement of what has been termed a golden age for McGill, for, in the 23 years that have elapsed since, an immense expansion has taken place largely in the direction of medical research, the first impetus to which may be said to have been given by the work of Wyatt Johnston (1860-1902) and Prof. J. G. Adami (1862-1926). During the last 15 years, that is, since the appointment as principal in the year 1920 of the late General Sir Arthur Currie, with his fine spirit and splendid initiative force; and in 1923, as dean of the faculty, of Dr. C. F. Martin whose gift of organization and distinguished services to the cause of medical education were recently recognized by Harvard University by the conferring upon him of its honorary LL.D., this expansion has become nothing short of colossal. So swift indeed has this been alike in new departments organized, in generous benefactions received, and in the appointment of men endowed with the spirit of enquiry and the faculty of leadership, that a mere enumeration of these events is almost beyond the compass of this article. However, the contrast with the day of small things described above is so picturesque and the

outcome of the latter has been so spectacular that an outline must be attempted here.

Financial support was supplied in 1911, by the Robert Reford Endowment of \$100,000 for the department of anatomy, and by the establishment of the Arthur A. Browne (\$10,000) and the James Douglas (\$35,000) research fellowships; in 1912, by the gift of \$14,000 for the establishment of the Eddie Morrice Laboratory of Pharmacology; in 1913, by the gift of \$12,566 subscribed by the friends and graduates of the medical faculty to meet the fire loss of 1907; in 1917 by the George Ross Endowment Fund; in 1919, by the bequest of Sir William Macdonald of \$500,000 to the funds of the faculty, a year marked also by the invaluable gift of the Osler library, bequeathed to McGill on the death in that year of its beloved owner and founder. In 1921 came the great centenary celebration when \$6,000,000 was given to the University, of which \$4,000,000 was subscribed by the graduates and friends of the Institution, \$1,000,000 was given by the Province of Quebec, and \$1,000,000 was donated from the Rockefeller Foundation, the latter sum being a grant for the special uses of the medical faculty. In 1922 the Biological Building, erected on the site of the original medical building destroyed by fire, was opened, housing the new department of biochemistry in which the researches of Prof. J. B. Collip and his associates have brought such

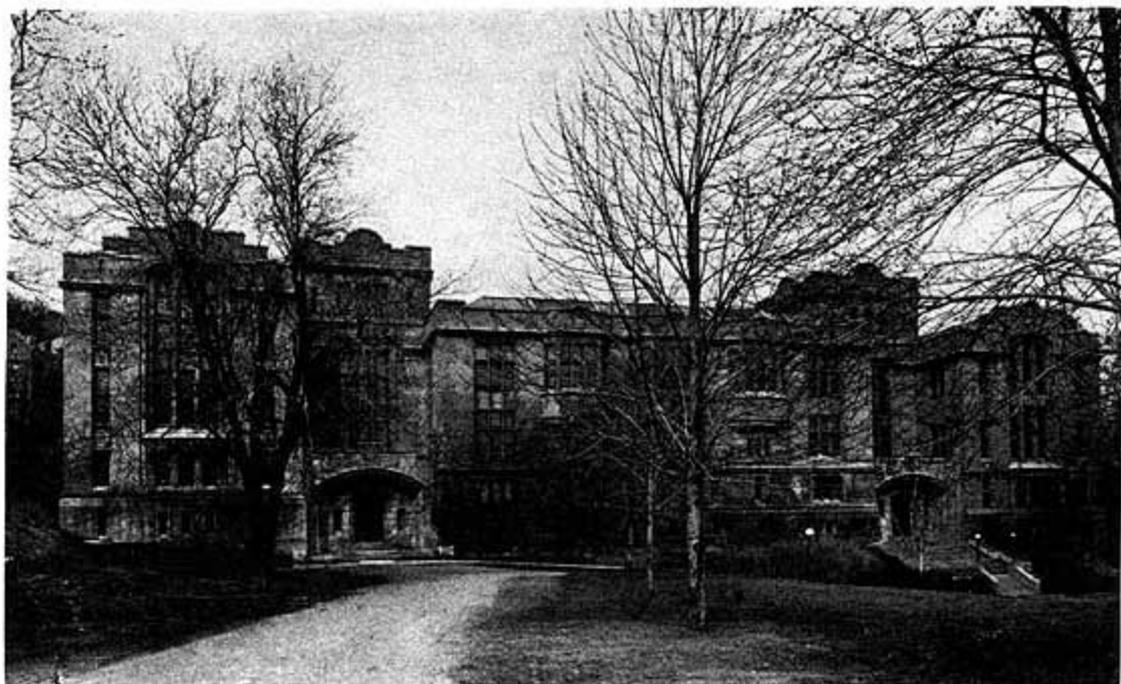


Fig. 7. The Strathcona Medical Building erected in 1911 and in occupation today. Contains the administration offices, medical and Osler libraries and museums and the departments of anatomy, histology and public health.

well deserved fame to the School; in 1923, was built the fine Pathological Institute; in 1924, the University Clinic for Researches in Internal Medicine was established under the direction of Prof. J. C. Meakins, with the help of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$500,000; in 1925, came the erection of the Royal Victoria Montreal Maternity Hospital, with accommodation for 200 patients and presenting the last word in equipment, under Prof. W. W. Chipman; a department of child study was instituted with the help of a grant of \$56,500 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund; in that year also the departments of public health and preventive medicine were united under the directorship of Prof. Grant Fleming, whose wide contacts with every health organization in the city as well as on the National Committee of Mental Hygiene, and as a member of the Advisory Health Board of the city, make this a center of far reaching influence; in 1927, a subdepartment of industrial medicine with an industrial clinic at the Montreal General Hospital was established by a grant from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of \$25,000; in 1928, the department of bacteriology was recognized as a separate chair and has acquired in the person of Prof. E. G. D. Murray

of Cambridge an occupant of international fame; in 1929, a laboratory for experimental surgery was built and equipped by friends of the Faculty and \$85,000 was donated by the Rockefeller Foundation for surgical researches therein. During 1932-33 an additional \$100,000 was granted from the same source to maintain the research activities of the department of neuro-surgery.

Finally, there has but now come to pass, as the crowning event of the benefactions listed above, in the opening on September 27 last of the Montreal Neurological Institute under the direction of Profs. Wilder Penfield and W. V. Cone, what may well be described as the best and noblest achievement in the history of McGill's great Faculty. Just as, long ago, in the stillness of the committee room of the old Montreal General Hospital, measures were promulgated and activities instituted by public spirited men of vision that gave birth to a great educational movement, so today the hour has once again struck, and opportunity has met, upon its crest, the men. Dr. Penfield was "enticed" to McGill in the year 1928, on the initiative of Dr. E. W. Archibald, professor of surgery, under the promise of financial support from a few public spirited citizens and the help of the research funds of the

faculty, and in company with his devoted associate Dr. W. V. Cone. Immediately on arrival they organized an effective laboratory service within the necessarily restricted space available, and instituted an extremely active neurosurgical service with headquarters at the Royal Victoria Hospital, but having relations with practically all the hospital units in the city. The creation of the present magnificently equipped neurological institute has been the result of incessant labor of all concerned in the 6 intervening years and was made possible by large endowments for its building and upkeep, which include a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$1,232,652, and liberal yearly grants of \$15,000.00 from the City of Montreal and \$20,000.00 from the Province of Quebec as well as munificent gifts from several private donors—Sir Herbert Holt, Mr. J. W. McConnell, Mr. Walter Stewart, and four others who wish to remain anonymous. The Institute is thus a civic, national and international

affair, in affiliation with McGill but independent of it in funds, and functioning for the benefit of the community at large without restriction of place or creed. None who had the privilege of taking part in the great function of its inauguration, of listening to the first neuro-surgical foundation lecture by Dr. Harvey Cushing and the addresses of Drs. Gordon Holmes, Martin, Archibald, and others, and Dr. Penfield's own clear cut utterances on that occasion, and who had surveyed the perfect adaptation of the building and its contents to the objects in view, can doubt that there is here developed on a sound and enduring basis an international center, in which the study and practice of clinical neurology and neurosurgery, together with scientific investigation in these fields on the highest plane of inquiry, will combine to shed light over this entire continent and to introduce a new era in the understanding and treatment of these most obscure and potentially tragic of all human disorders.