

## WILLIAM GARDNER, M.D.

1845-1926

Dr. William Gardner died at his home in Montreal, on Monday morning, September 20, 1926. His illness was but a short one and, at the age of eighty-one, he quietly passed from among us. It can truly be said of him that he died as he had lived, in the same cheerful, courageous, and unostentatious spirit.

His death marks almost the entire disappearance of his own medical age and generation; for of his contemporaries, on the medical staff of McGill University, there are very few who still survive. He belonged to a distinguished medical generation, a generation of men who were famous, not only in Montreal and in Canada, but who were recognized throughout the world. These men did much to elevate the tone of medical practice in this country, to improve the quality of service in our hospitals, and to add distinction to our medical schools. William Gardner was not the least among all these.

There are several pictures of the man that rise before us. First, the boy on a farm, in the county of Beauharnois, the eldest of a large family, the studious boy with the admonition of his grandmother in his ears, "Laddie, laddie, dinna read sae much. Ye'll jumb'le yer judgment." And then, at McGill, shy and studious still, and compelled to wait a year for the medical degree on account of his youth. And, after graduation, a time of general practice in this city. A large practice it soon became, by reason of his ability, his industry, and his kindness. Dr. Gardner never ceased to be a student, and he soon heightened these activities of general practice. We see him next in an academic position, as a Professor of medical jurisprudence, first at Bishop's College, and afterward at McGill. In addition to this, he began his surgical career in the Montreal General Hospital. He created there the Department of Gynecology, and whatever this specialty may have achieved in Canada is largely due to his endeavor. Lawson Tait, of Birmingham, the greatest gynecologist of that time, always spoke lovingly of William Gardner, as a postgraduate student. In 1885 Dr. Gardner was appointed the first Professor of gynecology in McGill University, and ten years later, he became Gynecologist-in-Chief to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The above represents very shortly the successive phases of his professional life; and they all bear witness to an untiring zeal, and a

painstaking devotion to his work. These high qualities were the outstanding marks of his surgical career, and they afford an ample explanation of his signal success. He was beloved alike by his students and his colleagues, for through his strict and unswerving loyalty there radiated always the quaint and kindly humor of his Scottish inheritance.

Dr. Gardner was possessed of many interests outside of his profession. The French language always attracted him, and he became proficient in its use. He was widely travelled, was fond of books, and had a genuine love for pictures, his own private collection affording him the utmost pleasure and gratification. At one time he was President of the Art Association of Montreal, and for many years served on its council.

In 1882 he married Miss Cantin of this city, and to Mrs. Gardner was largely due the special charm of their home-life. Dr. Gardner's social gifts were enhanced by those of his wife, and the influence of this home will be long remembered in Montreal.

W. W. CHIPMAN.

## WILLIAM GARDNER, M.D.

Born in 1845. Honorary Fellow, 1905.

A native of the Province of Quebec, Canada, of Scottish descent. Educated at McGill University. Graduated in medicine in 1866.

Emeritus professor of gynecology in McGill University, Montreal. Consulting gynecologist to the Montreal General Hospital. Appointed professor of medical jurisprudence in Bishop's College medical faculty in 1870. In 1875 appointed to the same chair in McGill University. Four years later assumed in addition the work of the chair of hygiene. Resigned these positions in 1883 on being appointed to the newly created chair of gynecology, the earliest in the Dominion of Canada. Appointed assistant physician to the Montreal General Hospital, he served several years. When the office of gynecologist to this institution was created, he was the first incumbent. Resigned this position in 1894 to accept the same office in the newly opened Royal Victoria Hospital.

Died, September 20, 1926.