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MEDICINE IN CANADA.

BY

M. CHARLTON.

The first physicians of New France were not remarkable for any great brilliancy in the profession, but without doubt they possessed indomitable courage. Dr. Bouchard's name is remembered because he was the one who failed to diagnose the case of Jeanne Mance, who was then in charge of the Hotel Dieu of Montreal, which had been established in 1643. But from the end of the seventeenth century the medical profession began to assume and make for itself a place in the new country. In 1690 there were practising at Quebec, Drs. Gervais, Beaudoin (physician to the Ursulines), Roussell (physician to the Hotel Dieu), Léger de la Grange, Dumain and Pierre du Roy, and lastly, and most noted of all, Nicolas Sarrazin. He was, without doubt, one of the most talented

men of the day. Born in France in 1659, he came to Canada immediately after receiving his degree, and here remained until his death in 1736. He was a noted botanist, and published several works on Natural History as well as Medicine. The pitcher plant was discovered by him and is named after him, *Sarracenia purpurea*. Dr. Gauthier, of Quebec, was also an eminent botanist.

The name of Philippe Badelard, a famous surgeon, brings us to the period which precedes and follows the conquest of Canada by the English in 1759. The following account may, perhaps, be worthy of notice as it brings one into touch with the old City of Quebec. "Badelard was present at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham; seeing that the French troops to which he was attached were about to yield, he retired to the rear, where he found a wounded Highlander, named Fraser, who was bleeding abundantly. The surgeon first dressed the wounds, then gave himself up to Fraser as a prisoner of war. Both these men afterwards became firm friends.

It was in the house of Dr. Arnoux that Montcalm's wounds were dressed after he had been carried through the Gate of St. Louis.

THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH.—1759.

After the Conquest of Canada by General Wolfe in 1759 the history of the English medical profession began to establish itself. As the British settled in the country English doctors commenced to practice. The first to do so were the surgeons attached to the army, from which quite a number retired and settled in the cities and towns. But hardly had the country recovered from the Conquest (a little over twenty-five years) when the American Revolution broke out, and by 1790 about fifty thousand U. E. Loyalists had come over to Canada to settle, principally in what afterwards became Upper Canada. "The British Government, knowing that the Loyalists would not rest without some form of representative institution, and wishing to separate the new comers from the French settlers, passed in 1791, the Canada Act, by which it was provided that the country should be divided into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada." It is a noticeable fact that in all this large number of refugees there were very few doctors, for the simple reason that although many of them were ardent Tories, yet they were not banished from the revolted Colonies as the rest of the people were. The few doctors who were banished settled in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

As the colonists began to settle in the western part of the country they experienced untold hardships for the want of medical attendance, as the only doctors within reach were those stationed with the garrisons

at Kingston, Niagara and Detroit. The Military Hospital at Kingston was used for a time by Sir John Johnston for the Indians, but was afterwards restored to the town for its original purpose.

In these early colonial days the history of medicine was beset with all the difficulties of a newly settled country, inhabited by an alien race, for Wolfe's Conquest gave to England a colony of 60,000 French settlers with French customs and French laws. As the country developed and the population grew, subjects of dispute became more frequent. Party spirit ran high and made its influence felt in the medical profession as in other professions; especially was this the case in the Province of Quebec.

Up to this time there were no medical colleges in the country. The young men who wished to enter the medical profession were articulated as pupils to some of the leading physicians, subsequently going abroad to finish their education. The fees paid for being thus articulated were from thirty to fifty pounds. A great deal of work was gone over in the four, or, as it sometimes happened, five years the student spent with his teacher. They read together for a certain number of hours, and for clinical work the student would accompany his teacher on his visits to his patients, and not infrequently was called upon to assist in some minor operations. The consulting rooms of these pioneer doctors often resembled a dispensary.*

COPY OF THE INDENTURE OF THE LATE PROFESSOR WM. WRIGHT:

* On this day of the Second of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-three. Before us, the undersigned Public Notaries, duly commissioned and sworn in and for part of the Province of Canada, heretofore constituting the Province of Lower Canada, residing in the City of Montreal, in the said Province.

Personally came and appeared, William Wright, Junior, aged fifteen, on the second day of July last, declared to have bound and engaged, and by these presents doth bind and engage the said William Wright, Junior, to and with James Crawford, of the said City of Montreal, Esquire, Doctor of Medicine, party hereto, and accepting the said William Wright as his covenant student and apprentice to the Study and Science of Medicine and Surgery for and during the term of five years, to be computed and reckoned on and from the 1st day of May Instant month, to all which the said William Wright, Junior, here also present, is perfectly consenting; these presents having been entered into with his will and voluntary accord, as testified by his signature hereto.

This stipulated and agreed that the said William Wright shall and will at all times during the continuation of his present engagement willingly serve the said James Crawford, obey his lawful commands, do not hurt or damage to him in any manner whatsoever, nor suffer nor see it done by others without giving information thereto to the said James Crawford; shall follow his directions, attend regularly every day during the said term the laboratory and all and every the particular and special duties which may from time to time be assigned to him by the said James Crawford. And finally, demean himself in all things as a good attentive and faithful apprentice and student ought to do.—

And the said James Crawford on his part doth hereby promise to teach and instruct, or cause the said William Wright to be well and sufficiently

taught and instructed in all and every matter and thing touching and concerning the Profession of a Doctor of Medicine and Surgeon as far as in him the said William Wright, and to that end shall allow him the use of such books from out of his Library as may be fit and proper, and also the use of such instruments and materials as he the said James Crawford may have and which shall be deemed requisite and necessary in the prosecution of his the said William Wright studies during the continuation of the present engagement, and for the execution of these presents the said parties have elected their domiciles as their ordinary places of residence above mentioned.

Done and Passed at the said City of Montreal, on the day, month and year first above, and before written and signed by the said parties hereto, with and in the presence of us said Notaries these presents having been first duly read.

Signed,	W. WRIGHT.
"	JS. CRAWFORD, M.D.
"	WM. WRIGHT, JR.
	J. J. GIBB, N.P.

Signed, F. X. LEFAIVRE.

A true copy of the original hereof remaining of record in my office.

J. J. GIBB, N.P.

Those students who could not afford to go abroad went to the United States, where a number of colleges had sprung up. The study of medicine was introduced into Harvard as early as 1683, about forty-five years after its foundation. As for the French students, unless they understood the English language they could not avail themselves of the advantages offered by the American colleges. It is worthy of note that as far back as the year 1674 the French doctors had pupils articulated; for instance, the case of Jean M. de Fonblanche, who was at that time practising surgery in Montreal, received as his apprentice, Paul Prud'homme, promising to teach him in the space of three years his art of surgery and all that appertained thereto.

FIRST MEDICAL ACT (1788).

Under French dominion the medical profession was under no particular regulations, but in 1788, thirty-eight years after the Conquest, under the administration of Lord Dorchester, it was judged opportune to legislate on the practice of medicine, in order to put a stop to the abuses which then overran the country. This Act of 1788 forbade any person to practise medicine or surgery within the Province of Quebec or Montreal without a license from "His Excellency the Governor, or the Commander-in-Chief of the Province, for the time being, which license shall be granted, but upon certificate of the person applying for the same, having been examined and appointed by such persons as the Governor or Commander-in-Chief, for the time being, may be appointed." Under this Act Boards of District Examiners were appointed yearly for each of the two districts of Quebec and Montreal. A very full account of the Boards which followed these early ones has been written by Dr. William Osler on "The Growth of the

Profession," published in the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. 14, 1885. The great advantage of these boards can be realized when one considers the numerous quacks and so-called doctors who applied for licenses. Many of them had never been inside a medical college; others had no knowledge of Latin, while others, with a certain knowledge of medicine obtained from medical books, had never dissected.

There were now about this time quite a number of practitioners settled in the cities and large towns. These were mostly well educated men and able doctors. In the country places matters were deplorable, as the so-called doctors were utterly unfit for their duties. Many of them had been connected with the Hessian troops, where they had performed the minor duties of dressers and such like occupations.

BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY—FIRST ENGLISH HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL.

At the close of the war of 1812-1815, English emigration, which had ceased during these years (in 1813 the number of vessels had fallen off to 9; in 1816 the number of vessels was 63) began once more. Owing to the crowded state of the ships and unsanitary conditions prevailing, the emigrants brought a deal of sickness with them, so that many persons died of the dreaded emigrant fever, similar in many of its features to the deadly plague. It was not until about 1849 that the Government awoke to the great necessity of having inspectors appointed to see after these emigrant ships. Their duties were to limit the number of passengers and to inspect the provisions, water, conveniences for cooking and ventilation, and also to have a surgeon on board. These surgeons were to be taken from the Navy Medical Department, the period of service on such ships to count as service on their own ships. Although the Passengers' Act was passed it was not at all times carried out. Sometimes as many as forty deaths would occur from typhus fever on a ship containing five hundred emigrants, and the conditions on board were simply awful. The medical superintendence was very defective. Occasionally the so-called surgeon was but a student with very little knowledge of medicine. On one ship which had just arrived at Quebec it was found that several of the passengers had their limbs bandaged for supposed fracture; the Captain's arm was in a sling, but on examination there was found to be nothing the matter with it beyond a slight bruise. The surgeon being called to explain, said, "I assure you the tibia and fibula are broken"!!

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Quebec had its marine and emigrant hospital, but many of the emigrants came straight to Montreal, and, consequently, the need was felt

of some suitable place where the sick would be promptly attended to. Up to this time the English residents of Montreal had no hospital of their own. The Hotel Dieu was, like most of these early hospitals, rather the abode of the poor and incurable. In this critical state of affairs, when every ship load brought out those who required immediate attention but had no hospital to receive them, Dr. T. P. Blackwood and several other well known medical men of the city came forward and offered their professional services if a house was provided for them. This was immediately done, and a small house of four rooms procured in the St. Joseph suburbs, chiefly through the efforts of a society called "The Female Benevolent Society." This society afterwards undertook to receive convalescents from the hospital, when room had to be made for others. The place was called "The House of Recovery." This house soon proved too small, and a larger house was taken on Craig Street. It consisted of three wards and held about twenty-four patients. All the expense of moving and rent was covered by a sum of money raised by a subscription list sent round the city. The place was ready for patients in May, 1819, when the name, House of Recovery, was changed to the Montreal General Hospital. From these small beginnings grew the now famous Montreal General Hospital. It was, in these first years of its existence, an experiment. The public anxiously awaited results. At the end of the second year, after moving into the larger house, the results were so gratifying that the public felt that it must be conducted on a still larger scale. It was now no longer an experiment; it had proved its usefulness, and the decision was that it should become a permanent institution. Subscriptions began to come in more freely, and in August, 1820, through the generosity of three citizens, the Hon. John Richardson, the Hon. William McGillivray and Samuel Gerrard, Esquire, ground was purchased in the St. Lawrence Suburb. The foundation-stone was laid with great Masonic ceremonies in June, 1821, by the celebrated Sir John Johnston who, at the time of the American Revolution, brought out a large body of U. E. Loyalists from the Mohawk Valley and settled in Upper Canada. One of his descendants, bearing the same title, is now residing in Montreal. In less than a year the new building was ready for use. In May, 1822, the hospital was opened, free of all debt, thanks to the ready response of the citizens.

In the library is the original manuscript of the first report of the hospital showing the different diseases which were treated from May 1st, 1822 to May 1st, 1823. The list shows that 412 cases were treated with 36 deaths during the year. In this report the nurses are instructed to be clean and decently clad.

The first great step in the progress of medicine in Canada was taken by the establishment of this hospital. By its inception, the medical college became possible, for the idea of giving a systemized course of lectures originated with the doctors composing the medical board of the hospital. About this time Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Holmes gave a course of lectures; Dr. Stevenson on Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery, at the hospital, and Dr. Holmes on Chemistry, at the home of Dr. Shakel, who also lectured on Natural Philosophy. Previous to this, in 1817, we find that Andrew Smythe gave a course of lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, at his house on the corner of St. Gabriel Street. These lectures were illustrated by a series of anatomical preparations. In 1819 Dr. Sleigh lectured on Anatomy, Surgery and the Practice of Physic.

MONTREAL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

Some months later the officers of the medical board of the hospital met and considered the question of starting a regular medical school, formed along the lines of the Edinburgh Medical School, which was then coming into great notice. His Excellency, the Earl of Dalhousie, gave his sanction to the plan which the medical board of the hospital had drawn up for his approval, appointing at the same time the medical officers of the board of the hospital to be examiners of licenses for the District of Montreal.

No time was lost by this little band of pioneers in medicine in carrying out the second great undertaking, and the first organized lectures were given in 1823, at No. 20 Little St. James Street. It was not until 1824, however, that the new school was really opened under the name of the Montreal Medical Institution. The founding of this school was watched with great interest by not only those in Montreal, but in Upper Canada as well. The young men realized that now they would be able to get their medical education in their own country, and in course of time many of the Upper Canada men became graduates of the McGill Medical Faculty. The first regular session of 1824-5 was attended by twenty-five students; unfortunately the records of the previous session are not available. The staff of this new school was practically the same as that of the Montreal General Hospital—Drs. Holmes, Caldwell, Stevenson and Robertson.

Dr. Stevenson was one of the most enthusiastic of those concerned in these two great enterprises. He graduated at Edinburgh in 1820, about the same time as Dr. Holmes; Dr. Robertson and Dr. Caldwell were retired surgeons of the British Army, and were the leading physicians of the day. Shortly after the founding of the medical school

Dr. Holmes, who had taken an active part in both these institutions, now became one of the most active in starting a Medical library.

THE FIRST MEDICAL LIBRARY.

“We have now a hospital and school, let us at once begin forming a library.” Such were the words uttered by Dr. Holmes at a meeting of the doctors of the school. Then and there it was decided that a collection of books and journals should be at once started, and that Dr. Holmes be appointed Secretary and Librarian. Dr. Holmes entered into this undertaking with his untiring energy and zeal for any cause which would advance medical education in Canada, and it was an undertaking when it is considered how scarce at that time were medical books and journals. A room was set apart by Dr. Holmes behind his consulting office in his house (which stood where the Molson's Bank now is), and here was the beginning of the library.

THE FIRST MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Up to this time no Canadian medical journal had been published, though in the United States there were several, the earliest being published about 1798. The first Canadian journal was published in 1826, and to the City of Quebec is the honour due for this first venture in Canadian Medical journalism. It was called “Le journal de Médecine de Québec,” and ran from January, 1826, to October, 1827. The journal had two title pages, and was published in both languages. Copies of this journal are now exceedingly rare, but we are fortunate in having a very good specimen in our library. Owing to the death of Dr. Tessier, the editor, shortly after the first volume was printed, no further issue was printed. One of the most enthusiastic promoters of this journal was Dr. Blanchet, he it was who prepared the number of meteorological charts which this journal contains. At that time great importance was attached to the nature of the atmosphere.

Dr. Blanchet was one of the first Canadian doctors to graduate in the United States, and his name must ever rank one of the first in the medical history of Quebec. The basis of medical teaching in Quebec was started by him when he gave private courses in chemistry in the Emigrants' Hospital. These lectures were largely attended, many coming from great distances to hear them. Dr. Whitelaw at the same time was giving lectures in the old theatre.

Previous to this, in 1823, Dr. A. Von Iffland had, with Dr. Blanchet and several others, established the Quebec Dispensary, and had given a course of lectures on Surgery, Medicine, Anatomy and Physiology. The

Dispensary, after two years, was obliged to close because of the need of funds. Owing to the urgent request of the students and several of the doctors, Dr. Von Iffland continued to give his lectures on Anatomy for two years longer. The recent war of 1812 had only too plainly shown the great want of knowledge in this important subject of the surgeons who had attended the wounded. Yet Dr. Von Iffland was not allowed to procure subjects for dissection without having his life harassed and even threatened by an irate population, and finally he had to flee from Quebec and take refuge elsewhere. He says, "Not only were my private apartments ransacked, myself held in durance for some days, but nearly the whole of my anatomical preparations were ordered to be interred, under the surveillance of a military (27th regiment) and civil escort! And, what must appear most surprising, is, that the very *subject*, that gave rise to so scandalous a proceeding, had been, but a few days before, one upon whom an inquest had been held by that very coroner. He had been found lying dead at Point Levis, a stranger, totally unknown to everyone, but, through some connivance or other, had found his way to the dissecting room."

(*To be continued.*)

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M. CHARLTON.

II.

Dr. Blanchet was one of the first doctors to publish a medical work in Quebec; it was called, "Recherches sur la Médecine ou l'application de la Chémie à la Médecine." This work was published in 1800. Another work "Is Typhoid Fever Contagious" showed great originality. He took much interest in education and was the father of the first law on education; he also published a pamphlet of forty pages, called, "Appel au Parlement Impérial et aux habitants des Colonies anglaises dans l'Amérique du Nord, sur les prétentions exorbitantes du Gouvernement Executif et du Conseil Législatif de la Province du Bas-Canada."

In 1806 Dr. Blanchet with four other French Canadians founded the first French newspaper in Canada, called "Le Canadien." All these men were active and somewhat troublesome members of the House of Assembly. It followed, therefore, that the columns of this newspaper were devoted to the French party and led the House of Assembly. Although the political tone of the paper was temperate and by no means aggressive, it certainly helped to widen the breach between the two races, which, unhappily, at this time was beginning to show itself.

The state of the Government was a particularly stormy one under Sir James Craig, and such complications arose at this time as were afterwards to find vent in the rebellion of 1837. Eight months after the arrival of Sir James Craig, Blanchet and his four friends were dismissed from the militia on the ground of being proprietors of a "seditious and libellous publication."

In 1810 their paper was seized by the Government, and two days later three of the proprietors, namely, Blanchet, Bedard and Taschereau were arrested at Quebec. This proceeding was due to the advisers who surrounded Sir James Craig; for although these men had given a great deal of trouble, they were by no means traitors. We find that in 1812 Dr. Blanchet was acting as Chief Medical Officer of the Province.

In the same year that the journal and the medical lectures were inaugurated, a medical society was formed at Quebec, and in one of the minutes at a meeting of this society, these three events were referred to as "remarkable in the scientific history of Quebec." This society was known under the name of the Quebec Medical Society, and its formation seems to have happily escaped the spirit of division which

so marked that of the Montreal Society, which was formed at a later date. The first president of the society was Dr. Joseph Morrin; Dr. C. N. Perreault was vice-president, and Dr. Xavier was secretary. The laws of the medical society were published in 1830. Dr. Joseph Morrin had taken his degree at the London and Edinburgh universities. He rose to the highest eminence in his profession; was twice elected Mayor of Quebec, and, as we shall see later, took part in establishing the Beauport Lunatic Asylum. Morrin College was founded by him. In 1831 he was elected honorary librarian to the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, being the second doctor thus elected.

This Literary and Historical Society played an important part in the history of Quebec and was formed two years before the medical society. It was founded by His Excellency, the Earl of Dalhousie in 1824. The society's aim was to encourage literature and science, but in their transactions other curious and interesting matters found their way and, thanks to the "Ordinance" which was passed in 1790 at Quebec, by which all the ancient documents of the French *régime* had been preserved, many of these important documents appeared in the Transactions. From time to time many well known members of the medical profession contributed papers to this society. Dr. Joseph Skey, Inspector of Hospitals, was chairman of the Natural History Section. Dr. William Kelley, surgeon R. N., contributed several interesting and valuable papers. There is one "on the Medical Statistics of Canada." In another paper "On the Climate of Canada," he quotes Humboldt as saying, "Quebec has the winter of St. Petersburg and the summer of Paris." In one of the later numbers of the Transactions there is a paper by Dr. Archibald Hall, on the Georgian Springs. A great deal of attention was given at this time to the different mineral springs throughout Canada, and the analysis of the water was often published in full.

A very full account is also given of the epidemics which appeared between the years 1775 and 1786 at Mal Baie and then rapidly spread to other parts of the province. To a student of Canadian archæology the Transactions are fascinating, and one feels tempted to notice many other interesting details.

This society flourished for many years and then lapsed into obscurity, but was restored to its former place by Dr. Anderson who became its president and contributed many papers on Canadian history. Before coming to Quebec, Dr. Anderson was the Medical Officer of the Port of Pictou, Nova Scotia; during that dreadful summer of 1847, when typhus fever spread throughout Canada to such an alarming extent.

The earliest vaccination in Canada was performed at Quebec in the year 1768, by a Mr. Latham, Surgeon to the King's Regiment of Foot. This was just forty-seven years after the first inoculation took place in London. Twenty-nine years later the practice of inoculating had spread throughout Canada. It was not an unusual thing for several inoculators to travel together throughout certain districts, their arrival being announced by the local papers, and always the announcement was made that the poor would be inoculated free of charge. The inoculation was, as rule, performed during the winter or spring months. Although the introduction of inoculation into Canada was not attended with the antagonism it elsewhere created, yet at times letters appeared complaining of the practice. In 1812, a Mr. Freedling wrote to the *Kingston Gazette* complaining of a doctor who, having no one to practice upon, "induced one of his daughters to be inoculated for small-pox, by which, the disease devastated the neighbourhood." In 1815, A. Macdonald, Secretary of the Institution of Inoculation, published a pamphlet on "Instruction for Vaccine Inoculation." Some years later we find the newly established Maternity Hospital at Montreal, advertising in the local paper that they had fresh vaccine and that country physicians might be supplied with fresh vaccine by addressing a letter to Mrs. Buchanan, matron of the University Lying-in-Hospital, enclosing the sum of five shillings. The proceeds from these sales went to the support of the institution.

In those early days of the nineteenth century we were indebted to Quebec for the development of the sciences, literature, and art; nor must we forget that Quebec had the first hospital in North America, the famous Hotel Dieu, founded in 1639; the second newspaper in Canada which was established in 1764, the *Quebec Gazette*; and the first school in Canada, which was founded in 1632; and this brings us back to the French *régime*. This school was founded by Father Lejeune, and was the beginning of the famous Jesuit College. The first pupils were a negro boy and an Italian boy. The medical profession had established the first medical journal and the first Medical Society in Canada. Besides Dr. F. Blanchet others were bringing out medical works. Dr. Michel Underwood, who was a graduate of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and practised at Quebec, published a work on "*Traité sur les Maladies des Enfants*," in 1803.

In 1826 Dr. E. Pascal Taché published a work on "Studies in Hygiene and the Development of Physical Strength." The numerous diseases, or rather plagues, which at this time were sweeping over the country prompted Dr. Taché to bring out this work.

The Board of Immigration authorities published "An Act for the

relief of the indigent sick emigrants" in 1823. Such were some of the first ventures in medical literature in the beginning of the nineteenth century in the old city of Quebec.

In 1827 Dr. Charlton Fisher, who was at this time, editor of the *Quebec Gazette*, obtained the medal, which was offered by the committee of subscribers to the Wolfe and Montcalm monument of Quebec, for the most appropriate inscription, in the fewest words in Latin, French, and English.

The inscription prepared by Dr. Fisher is as follows:—

HUNC LAPIDEM
Monumenti in Memoriam
Virorum illustrium
WOLFE ET MONTCALM
Fundamentum
P. C.

Georgius Comes De Dalhousie
in Septentrionalis Americae partibus
ad Britannos pertinentibus
Summam rerum, administrans.
Opus per multas annos praetermissum,
Quid duci egregio convenientius
Auctoritate promovens exemplo stimulans,

Munificentia fovens.
Die Novembris XV.
A.D. MDCCCXXVII.
Georgio IV Britannorum Rege.

John Charlton Fisher, LL.D., had been invited to Quebec by His Excellency Lord Dalhousie, to take charge of "*The Quebec Gazette*." He was secretary and afterwards president of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.