

THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF TORONTO*

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Toronto

It is difficult or impossible for the observers of public matters in Ontario to-day to form a correct opinion as to the conditions in Upper Canada from 1820 to 1860. The game of politics was more strenuous one hundred years ago than it is at the present time. The medley of questions pertaining to higher education, land and money grants, the diversified opinions of the various religious denominations, the alarming situation in politics, and the rebellion of 1837, created conditions quite extraordinary, associated with almost endless controversy of the bitterest kind.

The educational difficulties began with an attempt to establish a university organization on purely British lines, which were not acceptable to the majority in Upper Canada.

Bishop Strachan, a man of fine character and great ability, was so prominently associated with the establishment of two medical faculties that it seems fitting to give something of his life history. Mr. John Strachan, not a clergyman, as many suppose, but simply a schoolmaster, came from Scotland to Canada, on the invitation of Governor Simcoe, acting on advice from the motherland, to assist in the organization of a number of grammar schools and a state university for Upper Canada. As a boy he had completed a course in the University of Aberdeen, then at the age of nineteen had settled down as a schoolmaster in Fifeshire, where he taught with great success.

When he reached Canada, on the last day of 1799, he went first to Kingston, where he met Mr. (afterwards Sir Richard) Cartwright. But Governor Simcoe had been removed from Canada by the Home Government, which meant that the university project was postponed.

Mr. Strachan then spent three years at private tuition, after which he entered the ministry of the Church of England, and in 1803 went to Cornwall, where for nearly ten years he discharged double duties, as a clergyman of the parish, and as headmaster of the Cornwall Grammar School, which gained under him a high reputation.

In 1812 he removed to York (Toronto), where he acted as rector of the parish, and headmaster of the Home District School until 1823. He became Bishop of Toronto in 1839 at the age of

61, and remained so until his death in 1867. While originally he was brought to Canada at the age of twenty to assist in the establishment of a university, he had to begin lower down. He was for about forty years in Kingston, Cornwall, and Toronto before he was made a bishop. None, therefore, had a more intimate knowledge of educational matters in Upper Canada than he.

The first medical school in Toronto (also in Upper Canada) was the Medical Department of King's College, of which Bishop Strachan was president. On the teaching staff were Drs. King, Gwynne, Beaumont, Herrick, Nichol, Hodder, Richardson, Boys, Sullivan and



BISHOP STRACHAN

O'Brien. Arrangements for the school were completed early in 1844. The majority in the province were not in sympathy with it, because they 'disapproved of King's College, which, though the charter had been granted in 1827, had not been opened to students till 1843. During all these years there had been controversy regarding the exclusiveness of the charter, though this was slightly amended in 1837.

In the year 1836 the Church of Scotland contemplated establishing what was to be merely a theological seminary, but in 1841 a university was established and opened to students in 1842. The Upper Canada Academy of Cobourg, which had been built by the Methodists at a cost of

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about \$40,000, was made a university in 1841. A few years later came the University of Trinity College; and, afterwards, others that need not be mentioned now.

The new organizations, and the differences of opinions among them, affected seriously the questions of providing facilities for the professions, especially Divinity, Medicine and Law. There was supposed to be a popular sentiment against state aid for a lucrative profession.

Let us now consider the formation of the second medical school. When King's College was abolished by the Act which came into operation early in 1850, Bishop Strachan went to England to seek assistance for the establishment of a Church institution—the University of Trinity College. During his absence Drs. Hodder and Bovell organized a medical school under the title of The Upper Canada School of Medicine. With them were associated Bethune, Hallowell, Melville and Badgley. When the Bishop returned in the fall of that year, a deputation went to him, tendering the services of those mentioned, gratuitously for the time being, as a Medical Faculty in the new University. His Lordship readily accepted the offer, and arranged for the formal opening, when the following professors delivered short addresses: Hodder, Bethune, Bovell, Hallowell and Melville. The Church newspaper commented: "Seldom, if ever, has our Province witnessed a more interesting event." The Bishop's address was impressive. Ten years before he had laid the foundation stone of King's College, when "I truly felt that it was the happiest moment of my life." He was now full of hope that the new institution with its medical faculty would have a great and prosperous future.

But alas! Another disappointment came to his Lordship. Serious friction arose between the Council and the Faculty, the exact nature of which I have been unable to discover. The reason given was a disagreement about certain advertisements. The Faculty contended there was nothing wrong about them. "However, being convinced that all our efforts to advance the interests of Trinity College meet with repeated rebuffs, we beg leave to enclose our commissions (Signed) Hodder, Bovell, Bethune, Badgley, Hallowell, Russell." The Council tendered thanks to the Faculty, and resolved: "that the resignations be accepted." Thus, through misunderstandings between two high-minded and honourable groups of men, an admirable faculty was destroyed within six years after its establishment.

I learned these particulars from Lloyd Hodgins, A. H. Young of Trinity College, and Henry Melville's book on "The Rise and Progress of Trinity College." Norman Gwyn also found the following in the records: "We, (the faculty) were just beginning to reap the fruits

of our labours, and were seeing well-trained men going out into the world." From other sources comes an opinion that the Medical Faculty did not receive fair consideration from the governing council. There was certainly dissatisfaction in the teaching staff, and some of the professors, including Hodder and Bovell, joined the Toronto School of Medicine (the Wright-Aikens school). Probably at the same time Hodder and Bovell surrendered the charter of the Upper Canada School of Medicine.

About the same time the Medical Faculty of King's College was destroyed by the Hincks Act of 1853. We are told that John Rolph, who was then a member of the Hincks Government, had much to do with this feature of the Act; but we believe that the general opposition to state aid for any lucrative profession, before referred to, had considerable influence.

We may now consider the history of the proprietary medical schools of Toronto, concerning which there has been much confusion. Mr. Wallace, the Librarian of the University, however, has done much to untangle the tangle.

The first proprietary school was probably Rolph's School of Medicine, incorporated in 1851



DR. JOHN ROLPH
Dean, Rolph's School of Medicine

under the title of the Toronto School of Medicine.

Shortly after I entered University College in 1862, I went with a medical student to hear a lecture on Medicine. The lecturer, John Rolph, had a fine appearance, a clear silver voice, and an impressive manner. I followed him with

deep interest throughout, though unable to understand every word; and I considered it one of the two best addresses I had ever heard, the other being one delivered by Dr. McCaul, the President of the University.

John Rolph was born in Gloucestershire, England. He came to Canada in 1812, and engaged in the war between the United States and Canada. At the close of the war he returned to England, and studied in Cambridge and London law and medicine, probably concurrently so far as possible. He was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple, and also became qualified in Surgery, as M.R.C.S. Eng. He returned to Canada in 1821, when twenty-eight years of age. Soon afterwards he was called to the Bar of Upper Canada.

Before the end of that year he went to the Township of Charlotteville, County of Norfolk, where he was for some time engaged in the practice of law and medicine. He also took a prominent part in public matters, and was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly for Middlesex County. Afterwards he was re-elected twice, once for Middlesex, and once for Norfolk. He removed to Dundas about 1825.

It can be readily understood that Rolph did an enormous amount of work during the seven years he resided in Norfolk. His large and lucrative practice in law led his friends to believe that he would soon devote himself to law and politics. He was considered by some the most eloquent legal counsel in Upper Canada; but his career as a lawyer suddenly terminated in 1828, when, dissatisfied with a legal decision of Justice Sherwood, he threw off his gown, left the court, and thereafter devoted himself exclusively to the practice and teaching of medicine. He went from Dundas to Toronto in 1851 and soon formed private classes for instruction in medicine. Among his students were H. H. Wright and J. H. Richardson.

In 1837 he joined in the MacKenzie rebellion, left the country, and lived in Rochester until 1843, when he returned to Toronto, and resumed medical teaching in what soon became known as Rolph's School. In 1848 he gave his school the title of the Toronto School of Medicine, the teachers being Joseph Workman, George Park and John Rolph. This school, though it had no charter, was a rival of the King's College Department of Medicine from the time it was opened. In 1852 it was duly incorporated as the Toronto School of Medicine. Therefore, we are told, he laid his plans to kill King's College Faculty of Medicine.

Rolph and the members of his new faculty soon had differences, and a disruption occurred when, at the first of the term in October, 1856, six of the faculty of seven resigned, leaving Rolph to carry on alone. This he at once proceeded to do until he procured men to fill

the vacancies, which he soon accomplished; but, we are told, the new men "picked up in the streets" were not all of high calibre. However, Rolph continued the struggle and improved matters to some extent, though his staff was thought to remain weak in spots.

The retiring members, being a majority, claimed the "Corporation" with its title, The Toronto School of Medicine, and won their case in the courts. Under the leadership of W. T. Aikins and H. H. Wright, the new Toronto School of Medicine was established, and gave its support chiefly to the University of Toronto, while the other body, continuing operations under the title of "Rolph's School of Medicine" remained practically the Medical Faculty of Victoria, though never strictly so. Before long, however, some of the Rolph's students went to Toronto University for their degrees, while some of the Toronto School students went to Victoria.

We shall not attempt to give details, of which we have but little knowledge, regarding the differences between Dean Rolph and the members of his faculty. But, the Dean was the person who in 1831 threw off his gown in the court room and relinquished a profession in which he appeared to be making good. He held his school together in a sort of fashion till he was about eighty, when his strength failed, his silver voice became silent, and he was compelled to stop lecturing. He remained Dean about two years longer, when in 1869 he resigned, and William Canniff was appointed in his place. During the last year of his deanship, he could do no work, but he retained enough of his faculties to understand the situation, to look round over the structure which had been the chief work of his life, and see it crumbling into ruins. He died in Mitchell in 1870, at the age of eighty-three, and his school soon ceased to exist.

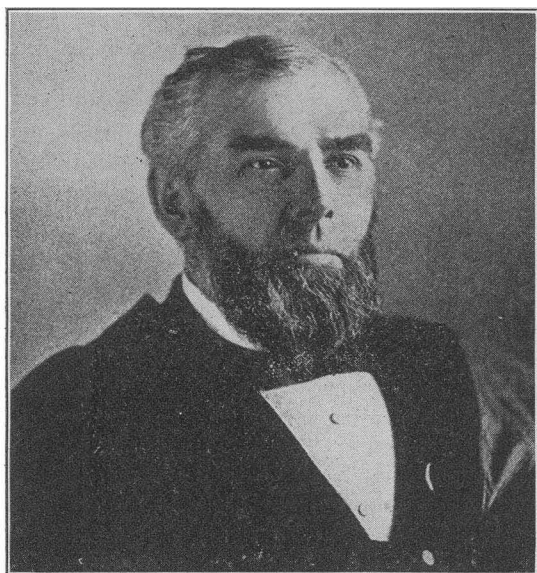
A new Medical Faculty, Trinity College, was established in 1871, with Dr. Hodder as Dean, which position he retained until his death in 1877. As it is probable that it never came actually under the control of the Council of Trinity College, the situation was not quite satisfactory. With the consent of all parties it became incorporated under an independent charter as Trinity Medical College in 1877, and W. B. Geikie was elected Dean in 1878.

Dr. Geikie was licensed by the Board of Upper Canada in 1851; graduated M.D. from Jefferson, Philadelphia, in 1852; practised a few years in Aurora; then removed to Toronto, and became Professor of Materia Medica in Rolph's School. Later he held the chairs of anatomy, surgery and midwifery. Like Rolph, he could lecture on anything and everything, if required. When he became Dean of Trinity, he put into his work much ability and a tremendous amount

of energy, thus doing much to promote the success that attended that school.

From 1878 we had for a number of years two typical proprietary schools, both of which had much good teaching capacity. They worked side by side for several years, with what may be correctly termed friendly rivalry. This was especially noticeable in their co-operation in their duties in the General Hospital; there they were friends, not rivals.

These two schools were in good working order and the financial conditions were satisfactory in 1886. The prospects in Toronto were better than at any time for twenty years. The outlook for Trinity was quite as good, perhaps a little better. Great credit is due to Drs. W. T. Aikins and H. H. Wright for their attitude in the negotiations, and, fortunately, they were supported well by the majority of their colleagues. It may surprise some when I say I was never a member of the "corporation," nor did I ever attend a



WILLIAM THOMAS AIKINS, M.D., LL.D.
Dean, Toronto School of Medicine

faculty meeting of the Toronto School of Medicine. I thought of joining once when I had an opportunity, but there seemed to me to be no occasion for it, as I preferred to remain free to work on the university side as a member of the Senate, but I simply did the work assigned to me as a sort of receiving teller and floor manager during lecture hours, with satisfaction to myself, and, I think, to the members of the faculty, with whom my relations were always very pleasant.

The following quotation, from an article written by Sir Daniel Wilson, will give a fair idea of the aims and desires of the University.

"In taking the necessary steps for the re-organization of a Medical Faculty for the Uni-

versity of Toronto, the Senate recognized the justice of making the first offer to the medical schools already in affiliation with it. This was the more desirable owing to the anticipated federation of Victoria College with the University of Toronto. One of the results of the abolition of the old Medical Faculty of the university has been the somewhat anomalous practice of the majority of the medical students educated in Toronto resorting to Cobourg to obtain their degrees. A cordial invitation was extended on precisely the same terms to enter into union with the university for the purpose of forming one efficient Medical Faculty."

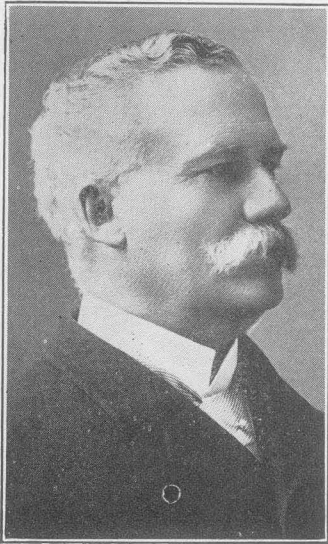
The committee of the Senate appointed to consider the matter met March 18, 1887: the following being present; Vice-Chancellor Mulock (Chairman), Sir Daniel Wilson, Sir Matthew Cameron, Reverend Principal Cavan, Hon. Justice Patterson, Hon. Justice Falconbridge, Rev. Father Vincent, Hon. John Macdonald, Professor Galbraith, W. A. Foster, Q.C., C. Moss, Q.C., William Houston, M.A., Drs. John Fulton, Oldright, McFarlane and A. H. Wright. They framed their report much on the lines laid down by Sir Daniel Wilson. In consequence of certain questions asked by Dr. Fulton, they included the following clause: "The present salaries of professors shall be maintained *pro rata*; and for the purpose of defining what is understood by salaries, the scale at present existing in Trinity Medical School shall be taken as a basis; and a practicable scheme for retiring allowances shall be arranged."

This meeting was held at my residence, 30 Gerrard St. East; and, on the following day, Dr. Fulton called to see me at my office to discuss certain details. He appeared to consider that the offer of the university to the schools was fair and reasonable, but expressed no opinion as to the action his faculty would take. I think he died a few weeks after, in May, from pneumonia; and I never heard whether or not he expressed any definite opinion to Trinity Corporation as to the advisability of acceptance of the offer. Trinity said "No"; and the Dean unfortunately wrote many letters to the Government and the press which were not friendly in tone. This decision caused great disappointment to the majority of those interested in higher medical education.

The subject came to the front again in 1900, thirteen years later, when Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, introduced in the Ontario Legislature a bill, relating to medical colleges in affiliation with the University of Toronto. There was considerable public discussion engaged in by Trinity professors, Drs. Geikie, Teskey, Davison, Powell and Wishart; and Toronto professors and members of the Senate, Drs. A. B. Macallum, I. H. Cameron, A. H. Wright, Principal

Cavan and others; not as a rule controversial in character. Many concluded that the proper solution was amalgamation.

For two years, or a little more, the feeling in Trinity grew in that direction, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of Dean Geikie, who apparently became disheartened and angry because of the changed sentiments of his colleagues, and tendered his resignation, which was accepted, Dr. Temple being elected in his place. Trinity's changed attitude was not due to fear of failure. Temple and his colleagues believed,



DR. J. ALGERTON TEMPLE
Last Dean Trinity Medical College

as did Aikins, Wright and their fellow members, that proprietary medical schools should pass out of existence.

After certain negotiations, a joint committee was formed: Temple, Davison and Powell for Trinity; Reeve, Cameron, and A. H. Wright,

for Toronto. At a meeting held in Cameron's house, the committee agreed on a plan for amalgamation, which was accepted in 1903. One can scarcely say that the amalgamation thus consummated was entirely satisfactory, because it was in a way an absorption, instead of a perfect fusion or partnership on equal terms, as I believe it would have been if accomplished sixteen years earlier. Both parties, however, endeavoured to be perfectly fair, and one can say the situation is now quite satisfactory, and has been so for at least five years.

Trinity, which had gone its way as an independent university for over fifty years, entered into federation with the University of Toronto early in 1903, and that made the amalgamation of the two medical faculties desirable, a fact fully appreciated by Temple and the majority of his colleagues.

The Woman's Medical College of Toronto was organized by Dr. M. Barrett, assisted by Drs. Nevitt, Reeve, Stowe-Gullen, Mrs. McEwen and some others, in 1883. The scheme was popular, because coeducation had not been successful, and it was thought that if women wished to study medicine they were quite within their rights, and proper facilities should be provided for them. The school was quite successful, but as the customs and manners of young men students had improved in recent years, especially in the University of Toronto, the women students quietly passed into that institution about two years after the Trinity amalgamation. However, to guard against the repetition of the unpleasant dangers of the past, they considered it prudent to retain their charter. The women students of the university are now so well satisfied with existing conditions that they think it improbable that it will ever be deemed advisable to return to the old charter.