

THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

One hundred and ten years ago a voyage across the ocean was totally unlike what it is to-day. Instead of modern comfort, the pioneers endured a long and tedious journey on sailing vessels, living in dingy quarters and under the obligation of providing their own food and bedding. Sickness was not uncommon and ship fever and other debilitating diseases often compelled the settler to seek aid upon landing in the country of his adoption.

To give this assistance, the Ladies' Benevolent Society opened, in the year 1818, a house on Craig Street, two blocks east of St. Lawrence Main Street, where they could offer food, shelter and medical aid to any needy newcomers. They went a step further, thanks to the Governor-General of that time, and obtained, through his assistance, some discarded army beds and bedding, with which they established a small hospital of twenty-four beds, the nucleus of the Montreal General Hospital.

In 1821, the present site was purchased and the corner stone of the original building being laid with appropriate ceremony, the structure was hurried to an early completion. This advanced the hospital capacity to seventy-two beds.

In 1824, the Montreal Medical Institute was inaugurated in connection with the Montreal General Hospital. This was the first medical school in Canada and the Montreal General Hospital is in the proud position of being the first hospital in Canada to admit medical students to the wards for clinical teaching. In

1828, the doctors of the Montreal General Hospital in attendance at the Medical Institute established what is now known as the Medical Faculty of McGill University.

The consistently steady growth of Montreal made an increasing demand on the hospital's capacity, but the hospital authorities always rose to the occasion, and in 1832, the Richardson Wing was erected in honour of the Honourable John Richardson. This increased the hospital capacity to 100 beds. In this Richardson Wing was the old original "Ward Eleven" so frequently mentioned in Osler's "Medicine." In 1848, the Reid Wing was added in honour of Chief Justice Reid, bringing the total bed capacity to one hundred and thirty. In 1867, a Contagious Disease Building, with a capacity of forty beds, for the treatment of small-pox, was erected. In 1874, the Moreland Wing was added in memory of Thomas Moreland.

The year 1877 is a memorable one in the annals of Canadian surgery. During that year the Lister method of antiseptic surgery was introduced into the practice of the Montreal General Hospital by the late Sir Thomas G. Roddick. In 1883, marking another advance in hospital service, the Montreal General Hospital instituted the first ambulance service to be run in connection with a hospital in Canada.

The year 1890 saw the establishment of the Training School for Nurses, which, after being opened by the Governor-General and Lady Stanley, was placed under the direction of Miss Nora G. Livingston. In 1892, the Surgical Pavilion, composed of the Campbell Wing (in honour of

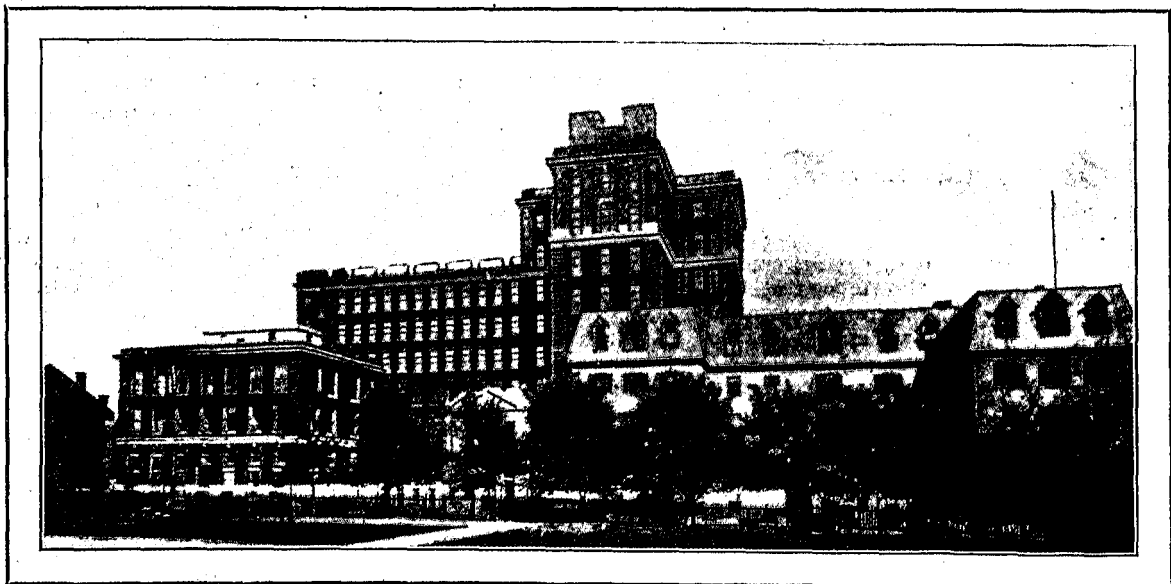


Photo

Lina Rice, Montreal

Miss MABEL K. HOLT,

Lady Superintendent and Principal of School for Nurses, Montreal General Hospital.



THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, CENTRAL DIVISION,
SHOWING PATHOLOGICAL BUILDING, NEW WING, AND OLD MEDICAL BUILDING.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)