

## SCOTTISH PROFESSIONAL MEN

### *The Medical Profession*

**A**MONG the leading professional men of the West those of the medical profession hold a most prominent place. No man is likely to be more necessary or can gain a stronger hold of the affections of the people than the skilful and self-denying physician. Among all the characters depicted by Ian Maclaren in the "Bonnie Brier Bush" none so attracts us as that of Dr. McClure. We may not be able to picture the country doctor in the West with the idealistic skill with which Dr. Watson has painted his hero, but we know of scores of cases where in the midst of poverty, disease, and crime the doctor has been a true messenger of pity and helpfulness. Very often those who are diseased or vicious are poor, and so are unable to reward the doctor for his service or attention. As all the world knows, the ethics of the profession are to refuse help and treatment to no one who asks it, whatever be the financial circumstances or unworthiness of the patient.

Moreover, Scotland has turned out in proportion to its population a large share of the greatest physicians. Edinburgh had been a prolific seed-

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bed from which to the ends of the earth a vast number of skilful medical men have gone forth to bless humanity. Such names as Arbuthnot, Simpson, and Lord Lister not only grace the annals of Scotland, but also glorify humanity. Scottish doctors have gone "furth of Scotland" to all of the colonies and to many foreign lands as well. If there have been hard expeditions or explorations or scientific investigations of enterprises of humanitarian effort, these Scottish exiles who have been led there have been of the same spirit as Dr. Hector in the Rocky Mountains or Dr. Richardson in the barrens of Rupert's Land or Dr. Livingstone in the "Jungles of Africa." Such men are true world-heroes. The doctors of the old Red River Settlement and Vancouver Island—Bunn and Bird and Cowan in the former, Helmcken and Tolmie in the latter—were not all Scottish, but they were men of high training, wide influence, and have been followed in Western Canada, as we shall see, by worthy successors, a large number of whom have been Scottish or of Scottish blood.

Among the oldest practitioners in Manitoba was Dr. James Cowan, of Scoto-Irish descent. For years at Portage la Prairie he served the people, being for a time in public life. As a dignified and successful man he gained a competence which his elder son, Samuel, and his younger son enjoy.

Of old standing in Winnipeg is the well-known physician of Scottish blood and Scottish adaptability, Dr. James Patterson. A competent

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medical man, a good citizen, and a man of high professional ideals, he has been an official and one of the chief supporters of the Manitoba Medical College at Winnipeg. With the greatest self-denial the doctors of Winnipeg, with little personal emolument, established and developed this school as a most worthy adjunct of the University of Manitoba. It is pleasing to the corporation to which Dr. Patterson belongs and its friends to know the high commendation which this school has received from the Investigation Committee of the Carnegie Board.

One of the most brilliant students and physicians, formerly of Winnipeg, but in late years resident in Chicago, has been Dr. Alexander Ferguson. Born of Highland parents in Ontario in 1853, and able with facility to use "the language of Eden," young Ferguson received his first training as a student and then as tutor in Manitoba College, Winnipeg. Studying medicine in Toronto, he returned to Winnipeg, and there gained a high place as a surgeon. He was one of the founders of Manitoba Medical College in 1886, and became Professor of Physiology in the infant institution. In 1889 he visited leading hospitals in Europe, and was a student of the famous Dr. Koch. For the past decade he has been a leading practitioner in Chicago, and professor in prominent institutions there. He has gained a reputation as a great surgeon and his fame is continental.

Dr. McDiarmid was a resident of Winnipeg in

1882, coming to the West as a graduate of Trinity College, Toronto. He gained a good practice in Winnipeg, and became a professor of the young Manitoba Medical College. His subject in the college was Obstetrics. Like his friend Ferguson, he was attracted by the wider sphere afforded him in Chicago.

Crossing to the Pacific Province of Canada we find, as a contemporary of the two physicians named, a young Scotsman, George Lawson Milne, born in 1850 in Morayshire ; he came to Toronto Medical School and went early to practise his profession in Victoria, British Columbia. He has become a medical Nestor on the Pacific Coast, and has been for years Dominion Inspector and Immigration Agent. He sat as a Member for one Parliament in the Local Legislature in Victoria.

Returning to Manitoba, a medical practitioner, who had also political aspirations, was David Howard Harrison, born in London, Ontario, in 1843, with a strain of Scoto-Irish blood, which brings him within our purview. Young Harrison took his degree in medicine in McGill University, Montreal, and practised for a number of years in Ontario. Settling in Manitoba in 1881, Dr. Harrison entered a business career, with political aspirations, and became the Member in the Manitoba Legislature for Minnedosa. He was for a short time Premier of Manitoba ; then, following his business instincts, he became for a time a banker. He was an honourable and competent public man. He spent his last days in British Columbia.

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Moving from Eastern Canada to take up his abode in Alberta was Dr. R. Lafferty, a physician of experience and ability. Combining business with his profession, Dr. Lafferty has been for years a resident of Calgary. He has been for some time President of the Board of Health and Inspector of Indian Health on the reserves in the south of the province.

Dr. Marshall Macklin, of Portage la Prairie, is a native of Scarboro, Ontario, and was born of a Scoto-Irish father and Scottish mother. He received his medical training in Trinity College, Toronto, and graduated in 1877. Coming to Manitoba, he gained a large country practice about the town of Portage la Prairie. He was instrumental in forming the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba. This body has to do with licensing incoming doctors and regulating the medical profession in the province. Dr. Macklin was long one of its members.

Among the oldest and most influential residents of Brandon, Manitoba, is Dr. James McDiarmid. Of Scottish descent, he may be called the father of the profession in the western part of the province. He has been a most active citizen of the "Wheat City," and a most faithful supporter of the Church of his fathers. Dr. McDiarmid has occupied positions of trust in the city and has been its Mayor. He is a man of means and influence.

Mentioned in our chapter of Legislators was the name of Dr. Benjamin J. McConnell. Of

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Scottish descent, he was born in Renfrew, Ontario, in 1861. Graduating as M.D. in Queen's College, Kingston, he settled in Morden, Manitoba. He was a prominent founder of the Morden Masonic Hospital. A man of means and of large local influence, Dr. McConnell has been twice elected a member of the Local Legislature of Manitoba.

One of the most brilliant and successful members of the medical profession in Manitoba is Dr. Robert M. Simpson, of Winnipeg. He is of Scoto-Irish descent, and was born in 1864 in Carleton Place, Ontario. Prepared in Manitoba College and Manitoba Medical College, he graduated as a Doctor in Manitoba University in 1886. He is Professor of Medicine in the Medical College. Dr. Simpson has a large and lucrative practice, and is President of the Manitoba Board of Health. In the year 1910 he was elected to the highly honourable position of President of the Board of International Health Officers of North America. He is a popular citizen.

A thorough and enthusiastic medical man of the Province of Manitoba is Robert S. Thornton, of Deloraine. Born in Edinburgh in 1863, he received the best training which the northern metropolis could afford him. Graduating in Edinburgh University, Dr. Thornton emigrated, and settled in 1884 in his present home. A man of extensive reading and taking a great interest in public affairs, Dr. Thornton sat for one Parliament in the Local Legislature. He has been a prominent member of the College of Physicians

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and Surgeons and a member also of the Council of Manitoba University. An active member of the Church of his fathers, the doctor is an open-minded and progressive Western Canadian.

Among the most faithful and thorough medical practitioners of the city of Winnipeg is Dr. Todd. As Professor of Surgery in Manitoba Medical College he has the reputation of being a master of his subject and a most competent teacher. He is a graduate of Manitoba Medical College.

One of the most brilliant medical men of the city of Winnipeg is Dr. Edward Montgomery, of Scoto-Irish descent, and a resident as a boy of Stonewall, Manitoba. After teaching school and working diligently as a lad, young Montgomery took a most brilliant career in Natural Science in Manitoba College, and afterwards in Medicine in Manitoba Medical College. Passing as a medallist in Manitoba University, he began his profession in Winnipeg, where he has built up a large practice. Of independent views and broad hopes for humanity, Dr. Montgomery is industrious, earnest, and self-denying in his profession. He is a professor in the Medical College and an attractive lecturer.

Dr. M. Fraser, of Brandon, is the son of a retired Presbyterian minister who ended his days in Brandon, and who belonged to an important Scottish family. Dr. Fraser studied at Manitoba College, and graduated in Medicine as well as in Arts at the University. He has gained a good position in his profession, and as a man and citizen is an honour to his Alma Mater.

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Partners in a prominent medical firm in Vancouver, British Columbia, are Doctors Brydone-Jack and Munro. Both are of Scottish descent, the former being the son of a former President of New Brunswick University, and the latter a graduate of Manitoba University, Winnipeg. Dr. Munro is the Medical Health Inspector for the Dominion and a most popular physician.

Dr. Douglas, of Scottish descent, and a son of Captain Douglas, formerly of Winnipeg, grew up as a boy in Winnipeg, and took his Arts course in Manitoba College and University. He has been a diligent student, and holds the responsible position of Health Officer for the city of Winnipeg.

### *The Military Profession.*

Among those who have devoted themselves to military affairs there have been several men of note in Western Canada who have had the patriotic Scottish fervour in their blood. Among these there were a considerable number who came up to the West with the Wolseley Expedition who have been mentioned under other heads. Among these well-known examples was Col. William Nassau Kennedy, of Scoto-Irish blood, who was born in 1839 at Darlington, Ontario. The impulse he received in the Fenian Raid of 1866 and as a member of the Red River Expedition in 1870 was with him to the end of his life. In 1873 he organised the Winnipeg Field Battery. He became



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Registrar of Deeds for Manitoba, and was Mayor of the young city of Winnipeg for two years. In 1884 by the appointment of the Imperial Government he organised the Manitoba Contingent of Nile Voyageurs for the relief of General Gordon. A son of Colonel Kennedy, John N. Kennedy studied in Manitoba College, passed through Kingston Military College, and has risen to a high place as an officer of the Royal Engineers in the British Army. Successful in his work on the Nile, Col. Kennedy was on his return taken ill in London, and died in 1885. He was buried in Highgate with high military honours, the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Wolseley both being in attendance. Col. Kennedy was a man of high character and universally beloved.

One of the best known Canadians is Col. S. B. Steele, born in 1840 in the county of Simcoe, Ontario, and possessed on his mother's side of the warlike blood of the Macdonalds of Islay. Since the Fenian Raid of 1866 Col. Steele has been a soldier, and was in the Red River Expedition of 1870. He rose to the command of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, and in the Saskatchewan Rebellion received medals and honours, after his successful pursuit of Big Bear. In the trying times of the Yukon rush the Colonel was virtually in charge of that country. His greatest distinction was in being chosen as Commandant of the Strathcona Contingent in the Boer War. He received many recognitions of distinction for his work in South Africa, and

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is still in command of the Military District of Winnipeg.

Another Western soldier of distinction is Lieut.-Col. Aylesworth Bowen Perry, of Scottish United Empire Loyalist descent, being further allied to the Scottish race by marriage. Col. Perry was born in Lennox County, Ontario, in 1860, and had the distinction of belonging to the first graduating class of the Royal Military College, Kingston, and carrying off high honours there. He was appointed an officer in the Royal Engineers, but on account of poor health resigned his position. Entering the Royal North-West Mounted Police, young Perry served in the suppression of the Saskatchewan Rebellion, and became Commissioner of the Mounted Police Force in 1900. He had also been honoured in being in command of the detachment of his force taking part in the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Col. Perry is still in the active service, being stationed at the headquarters at Regina.

One of the most steady cultivators of the military vocation in Winnipeg is Col. Henry Ruttan, who is of mixed Huguenot and Scottish blood. He was born in Cobourg in 1848, and was engineer and contractor on the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific Railways. He served as an officer in the Fenian Raid and North-West Rebellion, and for years was Colonel of the 90th Regiment of Winnipeg, which regiment the citizens hold in highest honour. As City Engineer he has done a great work in building up the growing

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city of Winnipeg, with all its difficult problems and great developments. He was honoured in 1910 by being elected to the Presidency of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

### *Diplomacy.*

In closing this chapter on professional men, to which many more names might be added, we have one example of the diplomatic profession, who, though an American citizen, was, for the long period of twenty-three years, under both Republican and Democratic Administrations, Consul for the United States in Winnipeg, and was a thoroughly Western man. This was Consul J. W. Taylor, who was born in New York State, and who, though reticent as to his nationality, was a strong Presbyterian and a most ardent devotee at the Shrine of St. Andrew—the Scottish Saint—on his anniversary day. Coming to Minnesota in 1853, Taylor followed the life of a Government official, and was soon attracted by the possibilities of the Red River country, which he visited in the early sixties. Seeing then with almost prophetic vision the greatness which so many of his countrymen have since recognised and the value of the Canadian West, and being an enthusiastic advocate of it, he became familiarly known as "Saskatchewan Taylor." He was, in 1870, by President Grant appointed Consul to Winnipeg. His constant reports to the Bureau at Washington kept before the world the claims of the West.

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He was a universal favourite, sought out the first prairie anemones in the spring to bring them as presents to his friends, and again marked the close of the open season in the autumn by carrying the ripe fruits of the *cratægus* and other sprigs to his acquaintances. His ability and stores of knowledge were joined to a modesty and delicacy quite rare. Consul Taylor was noted as an orator, and took a full part in all movements of social advancement. He was the very essence of good-humour and kindness. He passed away, universally regretted, in 1893, and so much was he regarded as a citizen of Winnipeg that a painted life-size portrait of him hangs in the Winnipeg City Hall among the array of city Mayors.