Dr. George E. Fenwick

CMA President, 1881
McGill College, 1847
General surgery

Dr. Fenwick, who was considered an innovator in surgery, practised his specialty before Dr. Lister’s antiseptic methods entered common use. The Dictionary of Canadian Biography reports of a student’s comment that Dr. Fenwick operated in an old, blood-stained black frock coat, “and the only precautions taken were to wash the hands; the instruments and the patient were not specially cleansed.” He was a journal editor for several years, and even founded one publication, the Canada Medical & Surgical Journal. He retired from McGill as Emeritus Professor of Surgery in 1890, and died in 1894.