Dr. Robert P. Howard, MD

CMA President, 1879
McGill College, 1848
General practice

Dr. Howard was a well-respected educator in Montreal, where he spent seven years as Dean of Medicine at McGill University. Besides his leadership role at the CMA, he also served as President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Quebec. “In all [of his] posts,” the Dictionary of Canadian Biography reports, “he used his considerable influence to raise the standards of premedical and medical education not only in Montreal but throughout Canada.” It was one of his students — Dr. Thomas Roddick, who served as CMA President in 1890 — who would eventually lead the drive that created the Medical Council of Canada in 1912, providing a single portal for entry to medical practice in Canada. Sir William Osler, one of his students at McGill, wrote of Dr. Howard: “I have never known one in whom was more happily combined a stern sense of duty with the mental freshness of youth.” He died in 1889.