Dr. Robert H. W. Powell, MD, FACS

CMA President, 1899
McGill University, 1876
General practice, general surgery

Dr. Powell played a huge role in the early organization of medicine in Canada. His obituary in CMAJ said he is considered the founder of the Canadian Medical Protective Association, which was created at the CMA’s 34th annual meeting in Winnipeg in 1901. He was also the driving force, along with Sir Thomas Roddick, in the creation of the Medical Council of Canada in 1912, and he served as its registrar from 1912 until 1929. “The fact that the examinations of the Medical Council of Canada are fast becoming the only portal of entrance to the practice of medicine in Canada is largely due to his foresight and administrative ability,” a colleague, Dr. Fenton Argue, wrote when he died in 1935.