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Editorials

LEST WE FORGET

THE *Dalhousie Medical Journal* enters its fifth year of publication with an advantage over its early years in that it has a tradition to guide it. That tradition of sincere and well composed publication has resulted from following the principles set forth by its founders. Few remain who were present at, or instrumental in, its inception. It is, therefore, timely to restate those principles for the information of those who have since entered our university, and as a reminder to those who have forgotten. Briefly these are:

"To serve as the official publication of the Student Medical Society; to promote undergraduate interest in extra-curricular medical investigation; to afford students some training in preparation and publication of scientific articles; to publish articles of interest and value both to medical students and graduates; to serve as a link between medical alumni and their fellow graduates."

We look to the students of the present and future to follow these principles and uphold that tradition.

L. R.

THE DOCTOR AND THE WAR

THE vacillating overture to the present world drama is long since over and once again, almost unbelievable though it may be, the curtain has risen on a world at war. It is almost as incredible as it is monstrous that, though the accusing voices of a generation lost in the last world war are hardly stilled, another appears to threaten the happiness, the security and the lives of millions of people. It is natural that the situation should inspire feelings of disappointment, discouragement and rebellious distaste in the minds of people who have learned to enjoy the comforts of fraternal association in an era of comparative peace. But there comes a time when preoccupation with the barbarism of war in the abstract becomes dangerous waste of time, while concerted action in defense of such abstractions becomes urgent necessity. This is indeed such a time. It is gratifying to see the promptness, the efficiency and the quiet determination of the response to this need in our country. And not least in earnestness and determination has been the response of the medical profession. To probably no other profession is the hollow futility of any war more manifest than to those whose work it is to repair the brutal mangling left in its wake. That the doctor's art should be applied to the healing of wounds inflicted upon mankind by itself is a gruesome state of affairs. No matter. The services of the profession are needed. It is well that they should be offered unhesitatingly. The profession is to be commended on its prompt and characteristically unruffled rally.

To many who are now medical students initiation into the practice of medicine may come via military service. It is to be hoped that their help will be given with the same readiness that has characterized the response of the profession thus far.

J. A. G.

SIGMUND FREUD—IN MEMORIAM

ON September 23rd, at his residence in Hampstead, death came to Sigmund Freud. Born in 1856 at Friedlieng, in Moravia, he early entered the study of medicine at Vienna, and soon distinguished himself by his ability at research in the Institute of Cerebral Anatomy. Dissatisfied with the prevailing attitude toward mental diseases and eager to find new knowledge, he went to Paris to study under one who had strayed off the beaten paths: the famous Charcot.

Freud returned to Vienna in high hopes of unravelling the problems of the neurotics that thronged the city. His first attempts, through hypnosis, brought him few permanent cures, and the ridicule and opposition of his colleagues forced him to retire from academic life. He then joined with Dr. Josef Breuer in the study of the latter's famous case, Anna O. They were able by hypnosis to arrive at the causes of this hysterical girl's symptoms; and these were cured as each was explained to her. Breuer

thought that the symptoms originated in hypnoidal states which became pathological and projected themselves on the normal mentality. Freud later came to the conclusion that these colorful states were a manifestation of conflict between desires and the opposing forces which prevented their consummation. These conflicts he termed complexes. A new approach to the neuroses began when the older method of hypnosis was abandoned in favor of free association, or the "Carthic" method, aided by analysis of the patient's dreams, which revealed to the physician complexes that free association would not easily disclose.

For the next fifteen years Freud worked almost alone, yet he created the new science of psychoanalysis, which not only threaded the mazes of the neuroses but also touched every phase of action of the mind. The driving power of the unconscious mind was brought to light, and its subtle activity explored and explained. In the development of the sense of reality, he found that experiences of primeval ages are recapitulated and persist in the subconscious. Stages in this process provide a refuge to which the mind retreats in its flight from experiences too difficult to face.

After the Nazis took Vienna, Freud suffered the fate of many other great men. His property and The Psychoanalytical Publishing House were seized. Freud refused, at first, the many appeals to leave Vienna but was finally persuaded by Dr. Ernest Jones, London's famous psychoanalyst, to come to England. He left in June 1938 and joined his son Ernst; with him went his daughter Anna, and another son Martin. There, in peace, he was able to complete his last work, an analysis of Anti-Semitism. This problem he approached with the same calm with which he faced the dismaying mental disorders which were his life's study.

Throughout sixteen years of suffering and fifteen operations none can accuse him of impatience or ever complaining. His life, as well as his intellectual achievements, reflects his greatness. Psychoanalysis has not solved all the problems of the human race, but it will enable the compromise between the fears and angers that burden the mind, and its better tendencies. "Everyone," he says, "seeks power, success, riches for himself and admires others who attain them, while undervaluing the truly precious things in life."

During the past year, many great medical men have died, but Freud stands out even among these, for his work was unique, opening a field of medicine which was previously unknown and which might have gone unexplored for another century.

G. V. P

Death! Great proprietor of all
Will seize the Doctor, too.—Anon.