

## A Summer In Europe\*

RAY BERNICK, '61

The two of us had arranged to meet at Gander Airport and soon found ourselves swept across the ocean into the heart of London. It is late when we settle into our rooming house, and still feeling energetic after our flight, we set out to explore the streets of the old city. The following day we move into the newly opened Youth Hostel at Holland Park, Kensington, together with other young Canadians, Americans, Indians, Germans, etc. The initial air of unfamiliarity soon passes, as we enquire about their countries and their travels, and when we settle into our bunks the atmosphere is one of joviality and comradeship. Like any large city, London offers endless opportunities for the visitor and during these first few hectic days we merely whet our appetites but promise ourselves some additional time here later in the summer.

Several months before, we had arranged through C.A.M.S.I. to spend one month as clinical clerks in Dryburn Hospital in Durham, England. We must now leave London to report on time at the hospital. We ride the coaches to the outskirts of the city and set down our satchels alongside the A-1 highway. With DALHOUSIE billboarded across our jackets, a placard reading CANADA in bold red print, and our thumbs waving in the air, we patiently await our benefactor. The wait only minutes; nine hours, 287 miles and four lifts later we find ourselves in the small city where we'll spend the next four weeks.

Although Durham lies in the centre of a coal-mining area in the north-east corner of England, the city itself is quite clean and non-industrialised. The River Wear flowing through the city loops around a high precipice on which rests Durham Cathedral,

one of the finest examples of early Norman architecture in all of England. Since Canadian structures over two hundred years old were probably built by the Indians, our knowledge of architecture is embarrassingly non-existent and we soon find ourselves frequenting the local library. The Cathedral dates from the eleven hundreds when Durham was an ecclesiastical centre in the days when churchmen were bishop-princes, and it is today one of the important tourist attractions in northern England.

Near the Cathedral is Durham Castle which today houses students of Durham University. The University's medical school King's College, resides at Newcastle-on-Tyne, a bustling city of several millions, only a short hour away. Durham's narrow cobblestoned streets, old English cottages, noisy pubs, and winding country lanes inspire the travel pamphlets with words like "historic", "charming", "quaint"—and Durham is all of these. Admirers of "My Fair Lady" know there are many dialects in the British Isles and the local one is "giordy". Durham is pronounced "do-rum" and they remark that we Canadians talk "foony". They are very friendly people and are regarded by other Englishmen in much the same light that mainland Nova Scotians regard Cape Bretoners.

Dryburn Hospital was built during the Second World War. While it consists of only a ground level, it is spread over a considerable area. Although it is primarily a general hospital serving a relatively small city it has modern specialty departments in Cardiology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Radiology, Pathology and Clinical Laboratories which have all been completely renovated since the war. Similar improvement is now being undertaken in other departments. Dryburn has a consulting staff en-

\*C.A.M.S.I. Foreign Internship Exchange offers a student at the end of the third year, a summer internship in Europe. The student must be able to pay his own travelling expenses. In 1959, two Dalhousie students, Raymond Bernick and Ian Drysdale took advantage of this opportunity to see Europe on a professional basis.

compassing Internal Medicine, Neurology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Radiology, Ophthalmology, Ear, Nose and Throat, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, Pathology and Surgery. The hospital is affiliated with nearby King's Medical College which send its graduates for "housemanships"—the equivalent to Canadian internships and junior residencies. Housemen advance to "registrars" which are similar to our senior residents and they go on to higher examinations. Dryburn also has a school of nursing and an active outpatient department. Our duties are those of clinical clerks or junior internes—getting familiar with the cases on our assigned wards, learning practical procedures, and keeping our eyes and ears open. Our evenings and weekends are free and during this time we are able to see a good deal of the country-side in northern England and Scotland. A highlight is the weekend we spent in Scotland including an impromptu guided tour through the Medical University and the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh.

The comprehensive hospital and medical plan has now been in effect in England long enough to observe various trends. One interesting result is the exposure of the geriatric problems. Increasing numbers of older people are being hospitalized with the result that at Dryburn, half the general medical wards are occupied by geriatric patients. (At Dryburn Hospital, geriatric patients are those who are over sixty-five years of age and they are placed on separate wards because it is felt that they present special medical and nursing problems.) Bringing the problem to the surface has led to increased awareness, interest and concern.

In the brief space allotted to me I have tried to convey my impressions of the trip and the hospital where we spent our summer. Of course, there is much more to relate about the scenic towns in England, but why not take advantage of CAMSI's scheme and see them for yourselves and also gain the benefit of the hospital experience.

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