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Editorial

IN its decision to sponsor an undergraduate journal, the Dalhousie Student Medical Society achieves the realization of a most cherished dream. To us, of the editorial staff, have been extended the duties of its first publication. The policy of this journal has been set to fulfil a purpose that is twofold;

“to encourage and train the medical undergraduate in the preparation of scientific articles and to act towards a closer association between past and present students of our University.”

With this uppermost in mind, we present the first issue of the *Dalhousie Medical Journal*, and do earnestly trust it may attain such heights that in years to come, this number will be valued only as the forerunner of a truly fine publication.

It is to the Alumnus we now look for sustenance. Your criticism is requested. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated and will receive immediate consideration. The student body and faculty have given their full support. Such action on the part of our graduates will insure the complete success of this journal.

Special thanks is here extended to the members of the Advisory Board for the assistance which they have rendered the editor. Any success which this journal may achieve will, in great measure, be due to their unselfish co-operation. Thanks, too, is extended to our advertisers, whose generous response has made this publication possible.

Greetings From The President

I AM not surprised to hear that the medical students of Dalhousie are launching a journal. From the time of Hippocrates there has been an alliance between Medicine and Letters. Not only is there a long roll of honourable names testifying to this, but these authors have produced, in many cases, literature of a special quality which only students of Medicine could have written. True, in many cases, one can see no connection. What is there in the poetry of Keats which points to his medical studies? In many cases, on the other hand, the connection is plain, either in the subjects dealt with or in the manner of treatment. One sees it in the extant fragments of Empedocles and in the superb poem of Lucretius, who had diligently conned Empedocles. It is plain in Rabelais, and in Browne. It is part of the whimsicality and dexterous style of Oliver Wendell Holmes. It undoubtedly explains in part the precision and strength of Huxley's writings and addresses. I think it is to be detected in "The Testament of Beauty" by Robert Bridges, the late poet-laureate.

There is, furthermore, a genuine love of letters in the medical profession at large. This has often been observed in universities, as a distinguishing mark of the medical faculty. And it has been frequently observed in country districts and small towns, that the supporter of the local library, and the one who can best advise about the choice of books, is the local medical practitioner. I have observed this of our Dalhousie medical graduates in certain parts of the Maritime Provinces.

How many men have later blessed a long childhood illness, because at that stage the family physician introduced them to classics of poetry or prose, and formed in them an enduring taste for literature?

As a concluding word of encouragement to the present literary venture, I call attention to a brilliant essay, entitled "The Backwoods Physiologist", by a Canadian who won a world-wide fame, both in Medicine and in Letters, and who began as an undergraduate in a Canadian medical school to steep himself in literature—Sir William Osler.

CARLETON STANLEY, *President.*