

## EDITORIAL

### THE VALUE OF RESEARCH

With the completion of the new Sir Charles Tupper Building, a new era in medical education and research will be taking place in Nova Scotia. The expanded facilities will result in an increased enrolment of medical students with a further increase in staff necessary for this phase of medical education. The procuring of additional specialists in their respective fields will be a task that must be undertaken to assure adequate medical teaching.

The attraction of new medical personnel and the maintaining of our present medical staff depends not only on the financial aspect, but also on the facilities available for their individual research. It is in the field of research that the medical educator breaks away from the confines and limitations of the curriculum and textbooks.

The results of research are multifold and have provided us with many standard and new innovations of our present society. By increasing the wealth of human knowledge, science helps lay the foundation for future scientists to progress. With increased knowledge, many of the superstitions and false beliefs that surround disease will be eradicated.

Should the scientist be controlled in his field of endeavor or should he be free to conduct the research of his own choice? The functions of the scientist today are governed by our economy and society to a great extent.

With the government increasing its financial aid to medical education and research, will it soon be the politician who will determine what research is to be carried out; or will it remain in the hands of the medical profession? Also with increased expenditure for social reforms such as the government sponsored "Medical Services Insurance" plan,

will the government be able to continue these grants with foresight into the future for the needs of research; or will there be a diminution or cessation of these grants?

The need for medical educators and research workers is increasing with the implementation of a universal medicare scheme resulting in a need for a greater number of doctors. But research must not suffer from this increased burden placed on the medical profession due to the shortage of practitioners. If research in medicine does suffer, then the practice of medicine will become static. Many of the above questions will be answered in the future, but let us presently think about them and try to prevent major obstacles which may impede medical advancement in the future.

What is the situation like, regarding research, here at Dalhousie? Are we the students being made aware of the research taking place here, or are the medical practitioners in the Maritimes and the rest of Canada made aware? It is felt that the latest developments in research should be publicized regularly to keep up the general interest of all concerned with Dalhousie Medical School. It is hoped that in the future with the new facilities that even greater advancements may be made here at Dalhousie. Through publication in this Medical Journal all students and Alumni will be informed of the progress being made in the research projects carried out here at Dalhousie.

Let us not revel in the glories of yesterday, but think and plan for the future today. It is only through the solving of today's problems, that we will have knowledge and foresight of the problems of the future.

R. Michael

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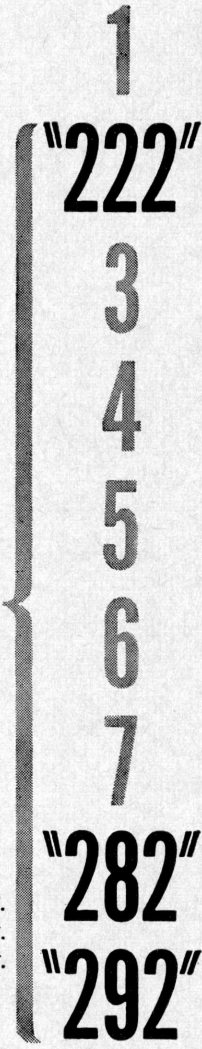
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