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AN ARTICLE FROM THE PAST

THE COVER

The staff of Hermes, with two serpents twined about it, (which appeared on the cover of the last issue of The Journal), has been replaced by a staff which bears a single serpent. There has been considerable confusion as to these symbols, both being used to represent the healing arts and both referred to as the *Caduceus*.

"The earliest representation of serpent and staff, as in the staff of Aesculapius, shows a single serpent twined around the staff. The medical significance is supposed to be that the serpent is a symbol of healing; some say because of its long life, others because of the

annual renewal of its skin suggests the renewal of youth and health.

In Greek mythology the *Caduceus* was the staff of Mercury. This emblem had two serpents twined about the staff, their heads meeting at the top. It usually bears wings to signify that Mercury was the swift messenger of Olympus. It later became a symbol of public office carried by the Roman heralds. The *Caduceus* thus becomes a commercial token and has no relation to medicine." (Kalands—)

We stand corrected.

P.D.M.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Dalhousie Medical Journal published by the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society, for the expression of student thought and activities, and for the publication of articles of interest to undergraduates, postgraduates and alumni.

Articles should be typed with double spacing on plain white bond paper with wide margins. Submissions must be in duplicate.