

Montreal Neurological Institute  
and  
Montreal Neurological Hospital  
3801 University Street  
Montreal 2, Canada  
23rd December, 1965

Editor, DALHOUSIE MEDICAL JOURNAL,  
c/o Dalhousie Medical Library,  
College St.,  
Halifax,  
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Levine:

I received your letter of December 17 and, since I am an alumnus of Dalhousie University, your invitation as Editor of the Dalhousie Medical Journal to send a message to the men and women, who are entering the profession of Medicine through our Alma Mater, calls for an answer.

Alumnus means originally "foster child." After we have graduated, we are adopted nowadays by a university. It seems to make very little difference whether the degree was earned by honest toil, as in your case, or by good luck, as in mine. To my mind, the best part of Medicine is the practice of it. This comes at last after years of hard work. We must make an effort to convert the doctor-patient relationship, at every contact, into something worthwhile.

If I were asked to write a postscript to the Oath of Hippocrates, I would suggest something that is much needed in these days of specialization, remembering that an understanding word may be better than much therapy.

Postscript. I will let no patient leave my office or my laboratory, and I will pass no sickbed, until I have looked at life through the patient's eyes and made an effort to help in one way or another.

Yours sincerely,



Wilder Penfield<sup>1</sup>

WP/mb

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