

The Dalhousie Medical Students' Society

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In 1970, the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Dalhousie Medical College was founded in 1868, but not until 1870 was a full curriculum available to the students during the university year. In the same year, Dalhousie Medical Students' Society was organized. Its prime function was to act as a weekly seminar group to discuss assigned subjects. Gradually, the interests of the Society expanded to debating and contributing articles to the Dalhousie Gazette, which had an eight page section of medical and clinical articles every two weeks.

In 1907, the first Medical Ball, with 400 guests attending, was inaugurated. Since that time this annual function has generally been one of the most popular and successful affairs of the year. In 1912, the first annual banquet was initiated. This custom continued for many years, but has apparently been incorporated into our present Spring Party.

By 1926, the Society established the "Medical Book Bureau" which is, of course, our own Students' Medical Book Store. This flourishing business employs three medical students, and the profits go to pay for student activities. As you may know, books are sold at 10% below list price, and any profits above \$200.00 are split, 60% to the DMSS and 40% to the book store managers.

The next milestone was the founding of the Dalhousie Medical Journal in 1936, the editor-in-chief being I. Roy Gold. Among the staff members were such currently familiar names as C.B. Stewart, C. Gosse, and J. F. Nicholson.

With the coming of World War II student activities were rather limited, and indeed, it was not until 1954 that the Journal was re-established. Other functions of the Medical Society continued, however, and in 1955, a new constitution was written, to be supplanted again in 1959 by our present constitution.

What are the aims of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society? In general, the Society represents the student in his relations to the faculty. It tries to help make medical school life less traumatic, and more interesting; and it helps broaden the interests of students so that we will make not only better physicians but also better members of the community. Furthermore, it represents the interests of the medical students in the university student council, and in the C.A.M.S.I. organization on a national level.

The activities that have been planned for this year (some of which have been completed by now) are:

Orientation of incoming first year students, including a dance, information service, and softball game. (Chairman, Ralph Kennedy).

"Meet Medicine" Open House Program, a joint effort between the faculty and students. (Chairmen, Dr. Aldous and Paul Matusow).

Inter-faculty sports including football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, and cross-country. (DAAC representative, Gordon Mockler).

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The Medical Ball, a formal dance for students and faculty only, to be held December 7th, the theme of this year's festivities being "Knight Life". (Chairman, Dave Baker).

Wednesday Afternoon Committee functions aimed at bringing special speakers and articles to medical students and faculty. This year, sometime in January, the Committee plans to have Hugh MacLennan, internationally renowned Nova Scotian novelist and essayist, and Professor of English at McGill University. (Chairman, Larry Vallet).

Near the year's end, a "Final Fling" is held, our informal social for students.

Each year the Society donates a \$25.00 book prize to a student of each class. The prize is based on academic standing, need, student activities and election as made by class presidents plus the Medical Society executive.

Also, we have been primarily responsible for organizing the first Pre-Medical Society; this group, already numbering almost seventy students, was designed to stimulate a greater interest in medicine among undergraduates.

The DMSS also, of course, is responsible for the Book Store and the Dalhousie Medical Journal.

Reviewing this list of activities, one realizes that the Society can be very energetic, but only through the efforts of the medical students who dream up the ideas, put them together, and come out with a virile and enthusiastic program.

Every student who wishes to participate is welcome and needed. The more active students we have, the better our student functions, the better the student who participates, and the better our Medical School. It is well known that years after a student has forgotten whether *S. Typhosa* is gas-forming or not, he remembers the work and fun he had in his extra-curricular activities.

Those students who participate in DMSS activities are awarded points toward a gold Medical "D", presented each year by the Dean at the Medical Ball.

Meetings of the Society are held monthly except during the months that examinations are written. Business meetings are held, following which a Program Committee provides various interesting programs on medical topics, and conclude with the serving of refreshments.

The Dalhousie Medical Students' Society and the Dalhousie Medical Journal welcome your active participation.