

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A few weeks ago a large number of learned men assembled in Halifax to take part in the Centennial Program of Dalhousie University Medical School. This Program which was entitled The Physician of the Future: His University and His Community lasted three days. Each day a different subject of prime importance to members of the Medical Profession was considered. These carefully selected subjects were ones which are important now and will be even more important in the future. They were - Education and Practice, Genetics, and Organ Transplant. As its contribution to the Centennial of our school the Dalhousie Medical Journal has endeavoured to publish each of the seventeen panels and the three keynote addresses in summarized form. This was done so that it would be possible for one to get a quick overall view of what happened at the conference. While an attempt was made to be as accurate as possible it is conceivable that because of the form of the reporting some things may have been misconstrued.

From a student's point of view some very interesting observations can be made on this conference. First of all this was a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of us to see the great thinkers of the Medical World assembled together. One could not but marvel at the dedication and effort which these men had put into their work. Then too there is a certain inexplicable something about suddenly seeing someone you have heard so much about and finding that he either exceeds or does not live up to your expectations.

It was indeed a great surprise when we found that we could not understand some of

the panels. This applied mainly to the panels on Genetics. At present we are supposed to know more theory than we will at any other time unless we specialize. What will happen when we get out in practice for a few years and fall behind? In this age of superspecialization will the different disciplines of medicine become incomprehensible, and how will they communicate with each other

The theme of this conference reflects the advances that have been made in medicine - now we can afford to look forward and anticipate future trends of medical care and make plans to provide for it. In ages past medical men were too busy dealing with the problems of the present to look to the future.

Lest the present be forgotten we have introduced some pictures representative of the activities of a medical student. These should also serve to remind both us and our professors that there are still many problems to be solved in Medical Education. We should be proud that a special effort is being made at Dalhousie to provide us with a better education. This year a new curriculum was introduced in first year. Not only has this cut down on the amount of overlap in various courses but also some time has been left for the student to pursue his individual interests. Also in fourth year a junior internship will replace the present clinical clerkship. Thus these students if they wish can do a non-rotating internship which will count towards the first year of their specialty. Perhaps a further step would be the granting of our degrees at the end of our fourth year!

T.M.