

# Meds at Work . . .

And Two Scoops, Please, Shirley!



## The Med Society

● WHAT IS THE MATTER with our Medical Society? Your executive has done everything it can dream up to try to get you members out to a few meetings to support the society and its functions. As it stands at present there are about a dozen or so active members, and no more, who are really active and for the amount of work and planning that has to be done by just these few members it is not fair to assume that their views express the views of one hundred and fifty odd members who purchase membership tickets each year.

For some of you that is about the only time we see you at all. That and election time, when the only reason many of you come is to try to vote down your rival fraternity or campus. I don't say that this rivalry is not a good thing, but what I do say is that what is the good of getting your own candidate into office if you are not going to support him after putting him there? That isn't fair, is it? Yet that is exactly what many of you have been doing in the past few years. The Medical Society is on the brink of disaster unless non-attending members choose to do something about it.

The Medical Society in days gone by was a society well supported and very strong on this campus. A society where we embryo doctors met each other and got to know each other and discussed our common problems. As it is now many of us will graduate (we hope) without even knowing many of the fellows we were in medical school with. That certainly is not good and if there is any way to correct things like this, we are open to suggestions. Surely you can spare one night a month to come and take part in the business of the society and listen to the speakers and see the films we go to all the trouble of getting here for your benefit. If you are not satisfied with the activities of the society as they are being run, why don't you at least come and tell us so? That is what the meetings are for. For the expression of medical students' views and ideas and to give us a chance to meet each other. It may mean a lot to you someday to know the guy who's practising next to you. It is very disheartening to your executive committee to go to all the trouble of engaging a speaker and then on the night of his address to find only forty or so, out of a possible one hundred and fifty members, present. It's even worse when a meeting is called to find a mere fourteen present.

If you've read this far in this epistle, I take it you must have at least some interest left in the medical society so I suggest that you all make a 1946 resolution to attend the meetings of the society in future and begin right now to give it your full support, for if you don't, there will be no medical society much longer. Your executive committee have discussed this matter and have decided that it is no good trying to carry on any longer with just the few active members who attend. The next few meetings will decide the issue.

WHILE on the subject of the next few meetings, here are some of the things that are lined up at present. The first big feature is, of course, the Medical Society banquet and Ball being held to-night at the Nova Scotian Hotel. Dr. Thomas M. Dadson, of Acadia University, is to be the guest speaker at the banquet and his

EDITORIAL

## The Role of Medicine at Dal

IT IS NOT without some deference that we approach the matter of composing an editorial for this Med Edition of the Gazette for 1945-46. Frequently it is said that medical students talk of only two things—shop, and the opposite sex. It is said, too, that students in medicine—though certainly no more than in the case of purely scientific and technical pursuits—are restricted, due either to lack of time or lack of interest, to a comparatively small portion of that culture which our civilization has laid bare to the inquiring minds of generation upon generation. It is said, indeed, that the great treasures of literature, art and music which through the centuries have accrued to our benefit, are now cast like the proverbial pearls before swine. We cannot deny that students in professional and technical courses do exhibit this trend, nor that they do tend to deviate from the search for intellectual satiation rightly or wrongly begun in high school. It is not within the compass of this article to develop the matter any further. In this edition, we aim chiefly to let students at Dalhousie know how Medicine lives—how it works, and how it plays.

For some years, the student-at-large in Dalhousie has come to look upon Medicine as a more or less colourless aggregation of industrious individuals who spend seven or more years at Dalhousie and depart with an M.D.—their names having been, during that time, nothing but items within the blue covers of the roll book (a time-honoured institution, the use of which now shows a gratifying decline). There was, of course, notable exceptions—and these at times may have enlarged their extracurricular activities at the expense of academic standing. The notoriety achieved by this unfortunate misconception is out of all proportion to the truth. Studies, admittedly, occupy a large first place. In probably no other course is the individual student required to assimilate and to retain such factual data,



and in such quantity, as in Medicine. Nevertheless, in proportion to her numbers—approximately 13% of the entire student body at Dalhousie, it is our contention that Medicine does bear its share of the extracurricular burden. In Interfaculty Sport, which seems to be in the midst of a revival—Medicine is able to enter strong teams in football, basketball, hockey and indoor softball. Socially, Medicine holds its own. The Med Ball, of which you will undoubtedly see other mention in this issue, is now generally conceded to be Dalhousie's best. The confines of Shirreff Hall, invitation to which is generally deemed a criterion of social acceptability, are frequently graced with Medical faces. Medical talent is well represented in the newly-organized Dalhousie orchestra. Medicine does turn out to support Varsity teams in action—at once we can think of at least three cheerleaders—all from Medicine. True, there weren't many cheers, but that wasn't the fault of the cheerleaders.

It is perhaps in the realm of campus politics that Medicine reaches the zenith of its powers. The student new to Dalhousie may find it difficult to appreciate the truth expressed in the perennial election slogan "As Medicine goes, so goes Dalhousie." He considers it indeed remarkable that Medicine seems to vote en bloc for its candidate. It would be well to state here a primary tenet of Medicine with reference to student elections: No man is nominated for a responsible position in the Council of Students unless he is capable and fully qualified. Obviously, Medicine could ill afford to put up a poor candidate.

THE expression "College spirit" has been much maligned—and never satisfactorily defined. It is not our purpose to do either. Apropos the subject, however, we would mention factors which determine Medicine's contribution to this intangible something. The cosmopolitan nature of the Medical Student Body is perhaps not fully appreciated. Of the total of approximately one hundred and sixty, the great majority of students are drawn from the Maritimes. This is quite fitting, and in accordance with President Kerr's inaugural statement, in which he rated among Dalhousie's primary functions its service to the Maritime community in particular. It will readily be seen, however, that home addresses in Medicine, include such names as Toronto, Vancouver, Washington, D.C., and Jamaica, B.W.I. Furthermore, of the fifty students admitted into first year medicine, roughly 20-30% have entered directly from Dalhousie. The remainder have come from other institutions in the Maritimes—institutions where they specialize in this thing called college spirit. The transition to Dalhousie is not always accomplished with ease, and strong remnants of old school ties may be present for a year or two. It is not for us to say where the fault lies, but to emphasize the existence of a fact.

## De Facultate

● CHANGES were noted this year in the Department of Pharmacology. Mr. and Mrs. M. K. MacPhail and family have left to take up residence in the United States, where Dr. MacPhail has accepted a position with a chemical firm. It will be recalled that Dr. MacPhail was one of the first to co-operate with the student body in the matter of obtaining standardized mimeographed notes for several courses. Medicine appreciated the thoughtfulness of Dr. and Mrs. MacPhail in frequently inviting members of the senior class to a social afternoon at their home.

To fill vacancies in the department, Dr. Whillans and Dr. Aldous have come to Dalhousie. Reports from the third year boys indicate that the newcomers have got off to an excellent start.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Saunders have left for the Sunny South. Dr. Saunders has been granted a year's leave of absence from the Anatomy department. Medical students will join in wishing him a complete recovery of good health.

We learn that our very charming and efficient librarian, Mrs. Cornell, is shortly to leave us, having accepted a position with the Banting Institute in Toronto. Medicine will long remember her as the guiding spirit behind a library of which Dalhousie may well be proud. In her new location, we would wish her every happiness.

Medicine and law will join in welcoming to Dalhousie Mr. and Mrs. Milner. While Mr. Milner elucidates the finer points of legal procedure to the gentlemen on the north side of Forrest, Mrs. Milner with equal proficiency helps a first or second year Med out of the tangles of wire and apparatus which one associates with Physiology.

AT this time, it would not be amiss to mention the consistently good work of two gentlemen whose duties, while not spectacular, are none the less essential to the

In general, however, this much seems apparent—the best students (in the broadest sense) who come to us from abroad almost invariably take their place with the best who have begun at Dalhousie, in every field of student activity. If a man was an introverted book-worm at Acadia, he usually remains one at Dalhousie, and fails to make his full contribution to student life—and ultimately, to his own.

We in Medicine are pleased to note the return to the Faculty of servicemen who have resumed a career interrupted by war; equally welcome are those entering Medicine for the first time. Their task is not easy, and it is the more gratifying to observe the overall success which attended their efforts at Christmastime. It is good, too, that simultaneously with their return seems to have come a general upsurge of student activity throughout the University. We are minded to look forward to a Golden Era at Dalhousie, such as not even our most ardent alumnus could have conceived.

## The Ten (?) - Minute Break . . .



running of a professional school. We refer to Mr. Ellis and Mr. MacLeod. Anatomy students in particular have often mentioned the excellent organization of the Anatomy department. In no small part does an organization require the services of an efficient and dependable technician—and certainly that description may be applied without reservation to Mr. Ellis. Incidentally, if we may judge from comments made at the Refresher Course in 1944, our anatomy department compares favourably with any in Canada. Mr. MacLeod will always be associated in the minds of medical students with their first two years, spent largely in the Forrest building. He is the sort of man who can probably come up to you and tell you that he knew your parents when they attended Dal. At such times, you cannot but wonder at what opinions he is forming of the second generation. Incidentally, his support of the rival faction in last year's election was due, as he explains, to his desire to make the contest more even than it would otherwise have been.

To Dr. Atlee, a word of acknowledgment for his kindness in making available to the ears of interested students the recorded musical treasures, of which he has an excellent collection.

To Dr. Dyer, our belated congratulations upon his marriage, late in December, at Hamilton, Ontario.

● A FEW alumni notes, for your information: Drs. Henry Reardon and Jack Woodbury have set up practice in the city. Bernie Graham, married last fall, and now at the Montreal General doing post-graduate work. George Gass and Clarence Pottle in RCAMC, and each getting off to a good family start. Doug Miller and Claude Keays, laid low by the Lindsay bacillus, now recovering nicely. Marty Macdonald back on his feet following a severe bout of pneumonia at Christmastime. P. P. obliged once again to leave his beloved Cape Breton, as the Army moves him to Borden. Bill and Jean Morse, Ken and Ann Mackinnon sampling the manifestations of culture as "Canada" knows it. Adelaide Flemming and Jean Macdonald now doing post-grad at the Montreal General, we are told. The following, now in the RCAMC, have returned to the old stamping-ground: Max Pierce, Les Stewart, Murray Davis, Carol Greene, Jim Gough (a daddy), and Don Graham—in a similar category.