

McMaster Students Granted Study Break, With Warning

HAMILTON (CUP)—Oct. 4.—McMaster students will have a one-week study break in March more than a dozen years after the first recess was discontinued as unsuccessful.

LOSE A RAINCOAT?

3 Raincoats found in Gym during Freshman Week. Contact Butsy' in the Gym.

Bill of Rights—

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cannot be deprived, in any province, of the right to practise its beliefs.

Before all this can leave the realm of speculation and enter that of fact, however, many hundreds must be passed. For the effectiveness of the Bill may be diminished by conflict with provincial jurisdiction, since the provinces have, under the British North America Act, exclusive control over property and civil rights within the provincial sphere.

For the present we can only hope that this Bill is the first step towards providing protection for the constitution. The only certain benefit discernible at this time is that it constitutes a clear, present-day statement of the rights of the individual, or at least the supposed rights of the individual, which may facilitate the work of school-teachers who have hitherto had to resort to the Magna Carta and other equivocal sources.

The break will be held from Mar. 5-Mar. 12 four weeks before the final examinations. Western tried a similar experiment last year. McMaster was the first to initiate the recess.

"It should be made clear," Dean Armstrong said. "that students cannot afford to leave until study week, any substantial amount of work that remains to be done." And he added that the first attempt, "was not at all successful. It was discontinued when people wanted to know ahead of time when it would be, so that they could plan their skiing trips."

During the break the library will be open and professors will be available for consultation.

McMaster President G. P. Gilmour said that he had "helped invent it, and helped kill it. Students assured me that they needed the time, were exhausted, and would use the time to catch up. There is no evidence that this occurred."

"My pity for the average undergraduate is not very warm. Later on they are not going to get a mid-term break whenever they need it," he concluded.

However, undergraduate reaction to the study week is favorable.

It's a Long Grind...

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The Anatomy of Dentistry

by SUE HERMON

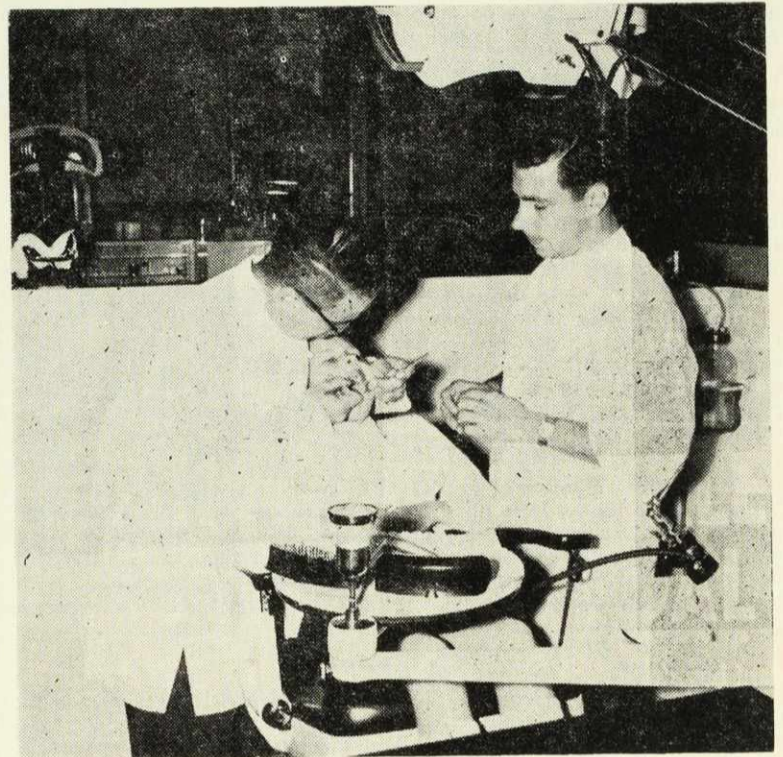
The number of students able to be accommodated in the first year class of Dalhousie's School of Dentistry doubled from 12 to 24 upon the opening of the Dental Building three years ago.

Contrary to what might be expected, the increased facilities did not result in a rush of students clamouring to enter Dentistry. The present enrollment in all four years of the course totals only 54, with accommodation for a possible 96. This year, also, for the first time in at least ten years, no women are attempting to conquer the four-year course. (Normally one or two women are registered.) This is far removed from the state in European countries where women comprise 80 to 90% of the dental population.

The length of time involved is, perhaps, a deterrent to semi-interested people, but the opportunities available more than compensate for the few more years of study. A dental graduate may lecture at a university or engage in research, for which the funds, but not the men, are available. The field of Public Health is open, and the Army Dental Corps' quota is far from filled. Of course, aside from these choices, the young dentist can always set up a practice, and, in Canada, where the ratio of dentists is so extremely low, success is assured.

The preceding paragraph leads to the subject of the rates charged for dental services, which, to a number of people barely stops short of robbery. To obtain the added convenience, however, new equipment is needed which not only costs more to manufacture, but, thanks to inflation, yields an even higher bill when finally purchased. Quite definitely, the cost of providing dental services has increased far more than have the rates charged for them.

A wide difference in the fees charged is noticed, even here in Halifax. There is, first of all, no union on whose standards dentists set their fees. Also, the young dentist, fresh out of university, is in



A little wider, please

—Photo by Bissett

debt a staggering sum of money simply because he has to have the proper equipment to set up practice. Consequently, older, established dentists are likely to have lower fees than the young dentists attempting to remain solvent. The idea that the general public will swarm to the office of the recent graduate, neglecting the older dentist as being out-of-date, is entirely false. The figures above clearly indicate that if every person in an area went to a dentist's office just once a year, the dentist, laboring 24 hours a day, could not serve near the number of patients who appeared.

"Painless" drills, so-called by the public, more accurately, compressed air drills, are essentially the same as the old-fashioned turbine driven drills with two exceptions. No vibration occurs with the compressed air drill, and the drilling is many times faster, thus explaining the "painless" rumor. The tooth is drilled so rapidly that the average patient has no time to worry about pain except for a fleeting instant, and with anesthetics, even that moment does not occur.

"No dentist becomes accustomed to causing pain," stated Dr. MacLean. The vulnerability of the timorous student to the patient's reaction, is in reality, no greater than that of the supposedly seasoned dentist. Tears, flinching, and groans have the same effect on all. The student, however, worrying about an endless number of matters (including grades on the work being done in the patient's mouth at the

moment) is more liable to look stricken after hearing an agonized yelp. The really green student never does much more than clean the teeth of his first patient. All drilling and filling is done first on models or "phantoms," so that when a student reaches his third year and begins to use people for practice, any normal cavity is not supposed to fluster him. There is no practice, as such, for extractions. The student simply sees numerous demonstrations and then has to discover the actual trick to it himself. One never knows just how much dental experience a student has acquired, as the nervousness felt by him is soon conquered by a morbid interest in his work, and by the desire to earn a passing grade on that particular gold inlay. Being a demonstration patient is not too uncomfortable if one simply ignores the fact that the lecturer is describing YOUR mouth, and realizes that the four or five faces peering at one's lower jaw, trying earnestly to see the incision made 45 degrees from the vertical, are merely dedicated searchers for knowledge. After all, it might well be the one time that a girl will have five men so intensely interested in her.

No preventive measure in medicine or dentistry has been as thoroughly studied and proven so efficient as has the addition of sodium fluoride to drinking water. If 60% of the overall population were to drink fluoridated water, a survey of the total population would reveal that 60% showed a reduction in tooth decay.

The question "Is there a difference in toothpastes?" was parried by, "Is there any difference in soaps?" Needless to say, this seeming evasion indicates that taste is really the only distinguishing quality. "The advertising claims are extremely extravagant," was Dr. MacLean's opinion. The implication appears to be that those of us presently swearing by striped, green, or flecked toothpaste, might be well advised to experiment with baking soda and 3% hydrogen peroxide—items that many a grandparent, probably possessing more and better teeth than our decadent generation still use.

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