

WHAT IS OUR POLICY TO BE?

A significant development has recently begun in medical education in Great Britain. A few weeks ago the Scottish universities decided to raise the standard required for entry into Medicine to that required for entry into a Scottish faculty of Arts or of Science, which last standard has long been high. Hitherto the preliminary standard of education required for Medicine has been low throughout Great Britain. The English medical universities will no doubt follow the Scottish lead, in which case, the grade of preliminary qualification demanded for entry into Medicine will be raised throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Considering the mental demands made upon a student in the course of a medical curriculum, inefficient preliminary preparation is a drag all along the line. The medical teachers may be of the best, but this will avail little if their examination standards have to be lowered to suit an inferior and halting grade of intellectual equipment.

The preliminary education is a *pre-stage*; it involves questions which are best understood and can be best handled by an Arts faculty. The assumption of such duty by a medical faculty implies want of faith in the educational curriculum pursued elsewhere in the university; it not only tends towards antagonism between faculties, thus destroying co-ordinate university spirit, but it incidentally drives away from Medicine the very men who should by every means be encouraged to enter the curriculum, viz. the Arts graduates. There are unfortunate cases, e.g. where great spatial separation exists between the Arts and medical faculties of a university, in which a medical faculty may be forced to take on the duty of providing adequate pre-medical education; even then a sufficient linguistic and mathematical grounding must *precede* the serious study of science.

Lastly, let us consider the matter wholly on the administrative side. If the average standard of high school education in Canada is not as yet sufficiently advanced to allow a boy to pass straight from school to the study of the pre-medical sciences in a university, it follows that the Arts faculties of the various universities must receive *their* students in an equally