

DALHOUSIE NOTES.

ONE OF THE INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN THE EXTENSION OF POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION. MOST PHYSICIANS IN NOVA SCOTIA, AND MANY FROM THE ADJACENT ATLANTIC PROVINCES, HAVE ATTENDED ONE OR MORE OF THE PROGRAMMES SPONSORED BY THE POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE. THEY WILL BE REMINDED AGAIN THIS MONTH OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS ORGANIZATION WHEN THEY RECEIVE THEIR ANNUAL NOTICE THAT THE FEES OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS NOVA SCOTIA DIVISION ARE DUE ONCE AGAIN. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL LEVY THIS YEAR OF \$3 FOR THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME. A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRAMME MIGHT BE IN ORDER, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM THE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF A MEDICAL SCHOOL IS TO TEACH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. THE UNIVERSITY PLAYS A SECONDARY ROLE IN THE EDUCATION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS, WHOSE TRAINING IS FOR THE MOST PART RECEIVED IN ACCREDITED HOSPITALS. THAT A MEDICAL SCHOOL MAY ALSO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 'CONTINUING EDUCATION' OF PRACTISING PHYSICIANS AFTER GRADUATION IS QUITE A NEW IDEA, AND ONE THAT IS NOT YET WIDELY APPLIED. TEACHING HOSPITALS HAVE ALWAYS OPENED THEIR DOORS TO A PHYSICIAN OR SURGEON WHO WISHED TO STUDY THERE FOR A FEW DAYS OR WEEKS, BUT RELATIVELY

FEW UNIVERSITIES OR HOSPITALS HAVE HAD ORGANIZED PROGRAMMES DESIGNED TO BRING POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL INTERESTED PHYSICIANS IN A REGION. IN RECENT YEARS AN OUTSTANDING EXCEPTION HAS BEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

THE POSTGRADUATE EFFORTS OF DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY HAD STARTED IN A SMALL WAY TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO WITH THE REFRESHER COURSE, WHICH BECAME AN ANNUAL EVENT. THIS WAS, AND STILL IS, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A PROGRAMME OF VARIED INTEREST FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. A SHORT COURSE IN SURGERY WAS ALSO ORGANIZED A FEW YEARS AGO, WHICH WOULD BE PRIMARILY DESIGNED FOR APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATION OR FELLOWSHIP IN SURGERY IN THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS. A MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS WAS ENVISIONED BY THE LATE DEAN H. G. GRANT. IT WAS TO BE OF MUCH WIDER SCOPE, AND DESIGNED TO SERVE THE PHYSICIANS OF THE FOUR ATLANTIC PROVINCES. BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF THIS TYPE OF PROGRAMME, HE WAS ABLE TO INTEREST THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION, WHICH AGREED TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMME IN FULL FOR THREE YEARS, AND ON A DIMINISHING BASIS FOR A SECOND THREE YEAR PERIOD.

WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND MEDICAL STAFFS OF THE HALIFAX HOSPITALS, ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

NOW OPERATING ANYWHERE IN CANADA HAS BEEN BUILT UP.

THE VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL HAS PROVIDED FACILITIES FOR AN OFFICE FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF A COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE WITH A LARGER ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATION FROM THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES OF THE FOUR PROVINCES, THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE TEACHING HOSPITALS.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE HAS CENTRED AROUND THREE MAIN TYPES OF ACTIVITIES. FIRST, MEN OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO HALIFAX, AND TO OTHER CENTRES IN THE FOUR ATLANTIC PROVINCES TO GIVE LECTURES AND CLINICAL CLINICS. IN MOST INSTANCES AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO HAVE EACH VISITING LECTURER GO TO TWO CENTRES. MORE THAN THIRTY OF THE OUTSTANDING FIGURES IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF MEDICINE IN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND IN SOME INSTANCES THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAVE VISITED THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DALHOUSIE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME. IN MANY INSTANCES THE VISITORS HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO LECTURE ALSO TO THE DALHOUSIE MEDICAL STUDENTS AND THIS CONTACT WITH THE OUTSTANDING FIGURES OF MEDICINE HAS BEEN VERY STIMULATING.

THE SECOND TYPE OF PROGRAMME HAS BEEN INTENSIVE SPECIAL COURSES OF APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK, WHICH HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF SURGERY, MEDICINE,

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, PAEDIATRICS AND ANAESTHESIA.

IN ADDITION THE DEPARTMENTS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND OTOLARYNGOLOGY, UROLOGY, PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, AND PSYCHIATRY HAVE ALSO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOME OF THESE PROGRAMMES.

ATTENDANCE AT EACH OF THESE SHORT COURSES FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS HAS VARIED FROM SIX TO TEN. A PLANNED EFFORT WAS MADE TO KEEP THE NUMBERS SMALL IN ORDER THAT EACH MIGHT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT IN THE CLINICAL WORK OF THE HOSPITAL OR SERVICE DURING HIS ATTENDANCE.

THESE COURSES HAVE BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED AND HAVE BEEN ATTENDED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS BY DOCTORS FROM ALL FOUR OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES. THE THIRD TYPE OF PROGRAMME IS ONE IN WHICH THE DALHOUSIE STAFF MEMBERS HAVE CARRIED THEIR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING ACTIVITIES TO THE SMALLER CENTRES IN NOVA SCOTIA, AND TO THE OTHER ATLANTIC PROVINCES. DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS MOST OF THESE PROGRAMMES WERE ARRANGED THROUGH A BRANCH OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY. THEY USUALLY CONSISTED OF AN EVENING PROGRAMME, BUT IN SOME INSTANCES A CLINICAL PROGRAMME WAS CARRIED OUT ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING IN THE LOCAL HOSPITAL. DURING THE PAST YEAR AN EXTENSION OF THIS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN PROVIDED. THIS IS CALLED 'A DAY IN THE HOSPITAL'. A SPECIALIST FROM A DEPARTMENT OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IS INVITED TO ONE OF THE SMALLER LOCAL HOSPITALS TO DISCUSS CLINICAL CASES WITH THE STAFF MEMBERS. THIS IS A VERY VALUABLE FORM OF POSTGRADUATE

EDUCATION, IN THAT IT IS PARTICIPATED IN BY THE LOCAL PRACTITIONER
THEY WORK UP PROBLEM CASES, AND PRESENT THEM TO THE VISITING
SPECIALIST WHO DISCUSSES THEM AND ASSISTS IN ANY WAY THAT IS
POSSIBLE. THIS PROGRAMME HAS NOT BEEN VERY WIDELY EXTENDED
YET, BUT IN THOSE HOSPITALS IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, THE
CONCENSUS OF OPINION HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FAVOURABLE, BOTH ON THE
PART OF THE VISITING CLINICIAN AND THE PRACTITIONERS OF THE
HOSPITALS STAFF. IT INVOLVES MORE WORK ON THE PART OF THE
LATTER THAN MERE ATTENDANCE AT A MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING, THERE
SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT IS A MORE VALUABLE TYPE OF
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME. ASSISTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE
DALHOUSIE REFRESHER COURSE TO EXTEND ITS PROGRAMME AND OBTAIN
MORE VISITING EXPERTS. SOME ASSISTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN
TO THE SAINT JOHN REFRESHER COURSE.

DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF OPERATION OF THIS
PROGRAMME

ON THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS AN APPROACH WAS MADE TO THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR USUAL CUSTOM OF SUPPORTING A NEW PROJECT UNTIL IT HAD PROVEN ITS VALUE, THIS FOUNDATION AGREED TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE DALHOUSIE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME ONLY ON A REDUCED BASIS. THEY WERE WILLING TO PROVIDE A PART OF THE COST DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS PROVIDED THE UNIVERSITY WOULD UNDERTAKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CARRY THE PROGRAMME THROUGH. UNFORTUNATELY THE UNIVERSITY IS NOT IN A FINANCIAL POSITION TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAMME COMPLETELY. THE EXPANSION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING WHICH IS ENVISIONED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WHICH ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW FUNDS FROM UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE IN THE FOUR ATLANTIC PROVINCES. THIS IS REGRETTABLE BUT IT CAN BE READILY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRIMARY MEDICAL FUNCTION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TO TEACH UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS MUST RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN NECESSARY FOR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THIS POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME. IT WAS INITIALLY HOPED THAT SOME ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, BUT TO DATE THIS HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

THE PRACTISING PHYSICIANS OF THE FOUR PROVINCES HAVE INDICATED THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE PROGRAMME, AND IN PARTICULAR THE COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTICE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY INTERESTED. THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES OF NOVA SCOTIA, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROGRAMME UP TO \$5 PER MEMBER PER YEAR.

THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA HAS ALSO MADE A GRANT. THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, AND THE MEDICAL BOARD OF THAT PROVINCE, AND OF NEWFOUNDLAND, ARE CONSIDERING THE MATTER. COMMITMENTS TO DATE ARE STILL IN INADEQUATE TO COVER MORE THAN ONE QUARTER OF THE BUDGET WHICH IS REQUIRED TO OPERATE THE PROGRAMME. IT IS HOPED THAT ADDITIONAL GRANTS FROM THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL SOCIETIES MAY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT WHETHER SUCH GRANTS WILL BE APPROVED BY THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IS STILL IN DOUBT.

IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS PROGRAMME ARE FOR THE TRAVEL AND PREPARATION OF TEACHING MATERIAL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE FULL TIME SECRETARY WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAMME AT HALIFAX. NO PHYSICIAN, WHETHER A VISITING EXPERT OR A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IS GIVEN ANY HONORARIUM FOR HIS WORK. THE TIME THAT HAS BEEN SPENT BY MANY ON THIS PROGRAMME, AND THE SACRIFICES THAT HAVE BEEN

MADE TO ENSURE ITS SUCCESS HAS BEEN GREAT. THE UNIVERSITY IS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS, AND FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THAT THIS PROGRAMME HAS HAD TO DATE. IT IS SINCERELY HOPED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TO CONTINUE AND EVEN TO EXPAND THIS PROGRAMME. DOCTOR VICTOR JOHNSTON, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTICE, HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAMME, AND HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE IN CANADA. IT WOULD SEEM TO FIT MOST OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTICE, AND IT IS OF COURSE READILY SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OR REQUESTS OF THE PRACTITIONERS OF THE FOUR ATLANTIC PROVINCES. WITH THE SUPPORT OF AN ACTIVE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THESE FOUR PROVINCES IT SHOULD BE ASSURED OF CONTINUED SUCCESS.