

*Pres. A. S. McKenzie*

Medical Student Society

Banquet

Thursday Evening, January Eighteenth  
nineteen hundred and twelve, 8 p. m.

Halifax Hotel

*R. S. V. O. Chaireau Dinner Com.*

*Before January 12<sup>th</sup> 1912*

I think the most notable ... wish of us all.

I suppose it is the proper duty ... that I have tonight.

Much has happened - like - unlike ... at the end of each.

Even in the particulars in which ... elastic system.

But many as were the changes ...

... no thought of that specialization of building for purpose

... made no differences.

You have seen much ... Forrest ... plans ...

... leaders in medical practice ... I have not a doubt ...

... acknowledgment & appreciation ... instruction they impart.

I have said that what happened ... "Scotch system" ...

... not necessarily due ... essentials.

The Dalhousie of the future ... The planning to allow of ...

... add ... subtract ... able to offer in the past -

There is another point ... It has outgrown ...

... and just as the boy ... habiliments of a University.

I notice a tendency ... keeping well together now.

In conclusion ... strict professional practice ...

... "a little in a pizza that a little more in wood

... kill y" ... "an expert janitor in opening windows

with a knowledge of cooking".

Response to toast of "University". Medical Students Dinner.  
Halifax Hotel - Thursday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 1912.

I think the most notable part of this occasion is the generosity of our hosts; that a body of 60 students are in the first place so unselfish as to invite their whole staff of nearly 30 instructors to such a beautiful dinner as we have just done credit to (I can speak for my neighbours within the limits of exact vision as well as for myself), and in the next place are at this season of the year financially capable of floating such a proposition (and I confess I see little water in the stock), is to my mind most worthy of remark. And still more remarkable, I cannot see that they have denied themselves any of the luxuries; they tell me on good authority that the Sunday collection plate receives as large a contribution as ever, and that the use of tobacco shows no sign of diminishing in the Medical School. From my knowledge of my student life here, and of student life elsewhere, I think this is quite unique. I can recollect quite well that in the good old days when I was a student here, we had to dig deep down and grope about in the corners of our pockets to find the price of a single modest dinner at Bedford or 13-mile house, and anything elaborate or the paying for more than one guest was

was quite out of the question. I almost feel that these good hosts of ours have mistaken their obvious callings, and are meant to be F. B. McCurdys and Sir Max Aitkens, and not wielders of the pestle and the lancet. But at least may they combine artfully the two careers is the wish of us all.

I suppose that it is the proper duty of the President to respond to the toast of the University at such functions as these, and those of a similar nature; but though I have been only in the business a short time, I find <sup>that after doing it two or three times</sup> there is little new to say, and I am already wondering what will happen next year. And yet whenever that dark thought appears, I banish it with the hopeful feeling that this University is going to be such that it will make new history for itself each year, and that there will be much to talk about for him who has to speak to the toast that I have tonight.

Much has happened in the University even during the year 1911. The import of what those happenings meant lies in many ways quite under the surface. When Dalhousie was founded Edinburgh University was taken as a model in many of its features.

It, like Edinburgh, was non-residential; like Edinburgh it was constructed of good men on the staff, with indifferent housing - Men, not bricks, make a College - .

Again it had two terms, a six months' winter term beginning in November, and a six months' summer term; it had no religious tests nor forced religious observances. The wearing of gowns was obligatory. We copied the Edinburgh Honours system. Unlike Edinburgh it granted the B.A., not the M.A. degree on completion of the course; and unlike it again, it had a year system, with examinations at the end of each.

Even in the particulars in which Dalhousie copied Edinburgh we have gradually departed from our early paths; in 1863 we gave up <sup>even the pretence of a</sup> ~~the~~ summer session; gradually the remaining term was lengthened and began the middle of September instead of the 1st of November, the wearing of gowns was given up: the fixed year system gave way to our more elastic system.

But many as were the changes from the model; they were not greatly in evidence to the outsider. When in 1867 we moved from the Parade to our present site, a building

building, a mere shell containing rooms, still constituted a College, good for Arts, for Science, for Law, for Libraries, for any College purpose. There was no thought of that specialization of building for a purpose which is so typical of present College planning.

The new Dalhousie of 1887 was the old Dalhousie of 1837, only larger. It had taken to itself a Law Faculty; but that seemed to make no difference. *It had had, and shd, a Medical Faculty; but that made no difference.*

You have seen much in the Halifax papers of late of the history of

Dalhousie, and of those wise leaders and teachers who have made it what it is. You have with you tonight one of the worthiest of these, in my honoured predecessor, who came in the dark days and left it with the beams of electric light. You have learned what are the plans for the future, and of the efforts which are being put forth to make its light have the possibilities of shining still brighter. You know our efforts to make the teaching of Medicine more like what it should be. You know, perhaps better than anyone else, the debt we all owe to the leaders in Medical practice in this city. I have not a doubt.

doubt that the generous way in which you are treating us, your guests, tonight, is but a reflection of the generosity of those men, and an acknowledgment and appreciation on your part of the unselfish way they have treated the University, and the cause of Medical Education, and you. I am glad of this opportunity of telling them how much I realize what the cause of education owes to them. I realize that it means <sup>frequently</sup> the giving up not only of financial gains, but of a quiet comfortable hour at the home or the Club, of an evening of recreation or study for the grinding out of a lecture. It means often the monotony of a routine drill they have been over so many times, that the tongue almost rebels at another repetition. And yet they do it with a cheerful gracefulness that makes it all the more generous. I have not a doubt that their example <sup>in this respect</sup> is of as great value in your future lives as much of the instruction they impart.

I have said that what has happened during the past year has had a meaning not as obvious as it was important. The buying of "Studley" and the determination of the Governors to build the new buildings there means that they have in their

minds no longer the notion that a modern University can be made by getting sufficient rooms and benches to seat the students; were that so, our old site would have been sufficient. It means that they realize that many factors besides books, lectures

and examinations go to rounding off the training of the scholar; it means that the effects of natural beauty are to be utilized; it means that the physical as well as the mental part of the student is to be considered; it means that his social side is to have room to develop. In short, it means that the system we often call here "the Scotch

system" is now to be very radically departed from; because it means that we have come to see that the fruits of the Scotch system were not necessarily due to <sup>the austerity of the surroundings and to</sup> the barrenness of the student life, but to the high quality of the ideals and standards, and to the excellence of the mental pabulum; the former were unessentials, the latter were essentials.

The Dalhousie of the future aims to benefit by the opportunities it can offer the student at "Studley," while at the same time preserving and cherishing the ideals and methods which have made it so strong in the past.

The planning to allow of  
football,



football, tennis, and other playing fields; of laboratories of modern construction; of a gymnasium and buildings for student life outside the class-room; of halls of residence; of attractive lawns and groves; will add something to, and subtract nothing from, the training for life and citizenship we have been able to offer in the past.

There is another point about the present epoch in the life of Dalhousie that I will call your attention to for a moment. The machinery, the charter, the spirit of Dalhousie, are those of a College. And it is a University in fact, It has outgrown the tunic and knee-breeches which are all that the law provides for it; and *just* as the boy comes to the stage where he calls for long trousers and a razor; so Dalhousie has come to the age where it requires and demands the habiliments of a University.

I notice a tendency on the part of the Medical students and of the Law students to consider that they are not so much part of Dalhousie, as companions in fortune or misfortune, as the case may be. This, though explicable from the facts of the

the

past, is bad for the parts as well as for the whole. In union and hearty cooperation only lies our possibility of strength, and it is the duty of students as well as faculties to work for cooperation and a feeling of solidarity. When we can offer Medical students as well as Arts and Law and Dental students, a common living set of residential halls, a common club-room, a common playing ground, a common gymnasium, there will be every reason for having a <sup>more highly developed</sup> common feeling for Alma Mater; but let me add that the nearness of that good time depends largely upon our keeping well together now.

In conclusion, let me tell you how much I sympathize with you in the task of learning something about Medicine; for I have had to do so this year too. I have had to learn what is the difference between Clinical Obstetrics and Practical Obstetrics, and tried to learn whose fault it is that the crop of uniparental babies at the City Home has <sup>so sadly</sup> decreased; of the relation between political diseases and the failure of a bacteriological laboratory to materialize; on the incompatibility of drugs

drugs with the prevention of disease. This last subject was brought to my attention by the cynical remark made to me by a man who was looking over our Medical Calendar. He said - "I see you are training your men to keep patients, if not to make them." I found he meant there was no course styled "Preventive Medicine." He maintained that we gave twice as much time to a study of drugs as to a study of <sup>The use of</sup> ~~how to render~~ drugs unnecessary. I hope my answer was in line with strict professional practice when I repeated to him Mr. Dooley's definition of drugs, "a little iv a pizen that a little more iv wud kill ye," and showed <sup>him</sup> that a study of ~~how~~ to avoid killing ~~—~~ <sup>Surely</sup> must be more prolonged than the mere study of how not to get sick; and yet I have a strong belief in the definition some one has given of the ideal doctor - an expert janitor at opening windows, with a knowledge of cooking.