

DALHOUSIE NOTES.

IN THESE DAYS OF RAPID ADVANCE IN SO MANY FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE, THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IS FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF KEEPING UP TO DATE, AS WELL AS THE HAZARDS INVOLVED IN FAILING TO DO SO. A PROGRAM OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY STAFF. NO GROUP IS MORE CRITICAL THAN A CLASS OF MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND NONE MORE QUICKLY AWARE THAT THE PROFESSOR IS BECOMING A BIT OUT-DATED.

EACH YEAR A NUMBER OF DALHOUSIE STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS THROUGHOUT CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICAL PRACTICE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. THEY ALSO MAKE DEFINITE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMS OF SUCH MEETINGS.

A DEVELOPMENT IN MEDICAL EDUCATION THAT PROMISES TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE IS A SERIES OF TEACHING INSTITUTES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES. THE FIRST INSTITUTE ORGANISED BY THAT BODY WAS HELD IN ATLANTIC CITY ^{in 1954} LAST YEAR ON THE TEACHING OF PHYSIOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY. DALHOUSIE'S REPRESENTATIVE WAS DR. J. A. McCARTER, PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY, WHO BROUGHT BACK MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS. THERE HAD, IN FACT, BEEN ONE ~~T~~ PREVIOUS TEACHING INSTITUTE UNDER DIFFERENT AUSPICES HELD IN 1952 AT COLORADO SPRINGS BY THE TEACHERS OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. ITS SUCCESS PROMPTED THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES TO UNDERTAKE ANNUAL INSTITUTES ON TEACHING IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF MEDICINE.

THIS YEAR THE MEETING WAS HELD IN FRENCH LICK, INDIANA, ON THE TEACHING OF PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY, WITH SOME ATTENTION GIVEN ALSO TO GENETICS. DR. ROGER REED, PROFESSOR OF BACTERIOLOGY, WAS THE DALHOUSIE REPRESENTATIVE. ONE STAFF MEMBER WAS INVITED FROM EACH CANADIAN AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. GROUP DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON ALL ASPECTS OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, ORGANISATION, RELATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS, ETC. DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUED OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE DAYS, WITH SOME SHIFTING FROM GROUP TO GROUP. FOLLOWING THIS, THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES MET EARLY IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THIS BODY IS MADE UP CHIEFLY OF THE DEANS OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS WITH SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LARGER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR MEETING THEY WERE GIVEN A "RUN-DOWN" OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE TEACHING INSTITUTE BY SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS, WHO HAD STAYED OVER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

DISCUSSIONS RANGED WIDELY OVER ALL FIELDS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN PATHOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY AND GENETICS. THE HORIZONTAL METHOD OF TEACHING (BY CORRELATION WITH THE OTHER BASIC SCIENCES IN THE SAME YEARS) WAS COMPARED WITH THE VERTICAL APPROACH (CORRELATION WITH THE CLINICAL COURSES IN LATER YEARS). ONE PROFESSOR, AFTER HEARING NUMEROUS REFERENCES FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO THE HORIZONTAL VERSUS THE VERTICAL APPROACH, EVENTUALLY SUGGESTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE SPIRAL APPROACH TO TEACHING. AS HE DESCRIBED IT, THIS WAS ONE THAT WAS ALL SCREWED-UP.

THE MAIN TRENDS IN TEACHING PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY

SEEM TO BE A REDUCTION IN EMPHASIS ON CELLULAR-MORPHOLOGY, AND INCREASED EMPHASIS ON THE DYNAMIC PROCESSES INVOLVED IN DISEASE AND A CLOSER CORRELATION BETWEEN THE TEACHING OF THESE TWO BASIC SCIENCES AND THE CLINICAL DISCIPLINES, BY MEANS OF CLINICAL-PATHOLOGICAL CONFERENCES AND OTHER TYPES OF INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING. MORE EMPHASIS IS ALSO PLACED ON GENETICS, AND SEVERAL LARGER HOSPITAL CENTRES NOW HAVE A MEDICAL GENETICIST TO ADVISE PARENTS OR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS WHEN THERE IS A FAMILY HISTORY OF HEREDITARY DISEASE.

AT THESE INSTITUTES THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AND EVEN THE HEATED ARGUMENTS SERVE A VERY USEFUL FUNCTION. THEY PERMIT THE TEACHER TO SEE HOW HIS PROGRAM COMPARES WITH OTHERS, AND IT WOULD BE A VERY SELF-ASSURED INDIVIDUAL WHO DID NOT LEARN SOMETHING FROM SUCH SESSIONS. IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THESE INSTITUTES SHOULD BRING ABOUT A RIGID STANDARDIZATION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION NOR IS THIS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE DESIRABLE. NO FIELD OF MEDICINE IS SO STEREOTYPED THAT VARIETY SHOULD BE COMPLETELY DISCOURAGED. NEVERTHELESS, SOME OF THE INEQUITIES ARE PROBABLY IRONED OUT, AND AT THE SAME TIME NEW EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION ARE STIMULATED.

IN ADDITION TO THIS SERIES OF INSTITUTES FOR TEACHERS, THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY HAS INITIATED A SERIES OF COURSES DESIGNED TO REVIEW THE RECENT ADVANCES IN SPECIFIC FIELDS OF PHYSIOLOGY. THESE ARE GIVEN IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING. DR. C. B. WELD, PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY, ATTENDED THIS

YEAR'S MEETING AT MADISON, WISCONSIN, WHERE THE SUBJECT WAS 'PULMONARY PHYSIOLOGY'. IN THIS COURSE THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE NEWER KNOWLEDGE WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE CONTENT OF THE TEACHING, RATHER THAN TO METHODS.

THE CANADIAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, WHICH MET IN TORONTO IN THE LATTER PART OF OCTOBER, WAS ATTENDED BY DR. J. A. McCARTER, PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY, DR. J. G. ALDOUS, PROFESSOR OF PHARMACOLOGY, DR. J. G. KAPLAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND DR. F. J. MOYA, BIOCHEMIST TO THE VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL, ALL OF WHOM PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. DR. McCARTER SPOKE ON THE 'METABOLISM OF MUSTARD GAS'; DR. ALDOUS ON THE 'EFFECT OF PH ON THE TOXICITY OF FLUORO-ACETIC ACID'; DR. KAPLAN ON 'ENZYME ALTERATION AND THE INTER-FACIAL HYPOTHESIS'; AND DR. MOYA ON THE 'MODE OF ACTION OF THE HYPERGLYCEMIC - GLYCOGENOLYTIC FACTOR FROM URINE'.

DR. ALDOUS ALSO ATTENDED THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DENTAL RESEARCH OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON OTTAWA. AT THIS MEETING SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE RESEARCH WORK THAT IS BEING SUPPORTED BY THIS COMMITTEE CAME UP FOR REVIEW.

DR. R. L. SAUNDERS, PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY, GAVE A PAPER ON 'MICRO-ARTERIOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF HUMAN DENTAL PULP VESSELS'.

DR. SAUNDERS HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING FOR SOME TIME WITH THE USE OF RADIO-OPAQUE SUBSTANCES IN THE-STUDY-OF THE PATTERNS OF BLOOD VESSELS, MUSCLES, TEETH, AND OTHER TISSUES. HIS WORK RECEIVED HIGH

COMMENDATION AT THIS MEETING OF THE DENTAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE. HE WAS ASKED TO ALLOW THE USE OF SOME OF HIS ILLUSTRATIONS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATION OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF A NEW EDITION OF ONE OF THE STANDARD TEXTBOOKS ON HISTOLOGY.

MEMBERS OF THE CLINICAL DEPARTMENTS HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF MEETINGS DURING THIS AUTUMN, INCLUDING DR. D. J. TONNING AND DR. R. M. MACDONALD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, DR. ALAN CURRY AND DR. V. O. MADER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, AND DR. R. C. TUPPER AND DR. J. M. CORSTON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY. DR. TONNING ATTENDED THE REGIONAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, WHERE HE GAVE A PAPER ON 'CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STUDIES ON ACUTE METHYL ALCOHOL POISONING'. THIS PAPER REPORTED AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF LABORATORY STUDIES WHICH DR. TONNING AND DR. ALDOUS HAVE CONDUCTED RECENTLY, FOLLOWING PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE BY DR. TONNING IN CLINICAL STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT. DR. MACDONALD GAVE A PAPER AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA IN WINNIPEG ON 'COUGH SYNDROME SYNCOPE'. DR. CORSTON ALSO SPOKE AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS ON 'ECTOPIC PREGNANCY', AND DR. TUPPER AT THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN CHICAGO IN SEPTEMBER ON 'CONDITIONING FOR CHILDBIRTH'. DR. CURRY AND DR. MADER ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL SURGEONS AT QUEBEC, AND DR. MADER ATTENDED THE ROYAL COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING IN WINNIPEG IN OCTOBER.

DR. ARTHUR L. MURPHY ATTENDED THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS MEETING IN ATLANTIC CITY IN NOVEMBER, AND REPRESENTED DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY AT A DINNER TENDERED BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

DR. GORDON KAPLAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY, HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED AN UNUSUAL HONOUR IN BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A SYMPOSIUM ON 'THE EFFECT OF LIGHT ON BIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL SYSTEMS', SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. IT IS HOPED THAT DR. KAPLAN WILL BE ATTENDING THIS MEETING.

IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THESE DALHOUSIE NOTES SHOULD DEGENERATE INTO A BACK-PATTING EXERCISE. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE VALUABLE RESEARCH WORK IS BEING DONE BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, AND IS RECEIVING ATTENTION IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IS MAKING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL ORGANISATIONS FROM WHICH THE STAFF MEMBERS ALSO DERIVE CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT, WHICH REFLECTS IN THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT DALHOUSIE.