

# RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



## Editorial

**Editor: David J. Clark**

**Editorial Committee: William L. Ford, Henry C. Drysdale, E. A. W. Slater**

### Abstract

It seems to the student of medicine that arguments about the method by which his education can be accomplished with most effect, will never cease. Thus he is perpetually hearing, from this source or from that, that one system is better and another worse, one more and another less suited to turn a doctor loose upon an unsuspecting and at times positively unfortunate public. The system of teaching students in small tutorial groups has many advantages, and the existence of an intimate student-teacher relationship will always rank high amongst them. This system of education which is practised in a number of English universities is in marked contrast to the Scottish university system which consists of a formal lecture course, accompanied by clinical instruction in scarcely less formal clinics. The lecture course tends to be authoritative and up to date since it is usually shared out amongst a number of lecturers, each dealing with that aspect of the whole subject in which he is specially interested. Further, in contrast to the Tutorial system the course can be carefully planned in advance, and each aspect treated in due perspective since the student cannot divert his teacher's attention from the main stream of thought. None the less it must be admitted that there are many students who find the process of expressing their own views before an intelligent audience, or equally of criticising the expressed views of their fellows, an instructive and a stimulating exercise. It is of course true that when in clinic, the student is often allowed, sometimes even encouraged, to discuss his teacher's views in a critical fashion, but, unfortunately, time is limited and the clinics manifestly overcrowded. Here is a deficiency in our education for which the Royal Medical Society attempts to compensate, and it is our claim that we provide facilities for the student to become a more able speaker and a more critical thinker.

Copyright Royal Medical Society. All rights reserved. The copyright is retained by the author and the Royal Medical Society, except where explicitly otherwise stated. Scans have been produced by the Digital Imaging Unit at Edinburgh University Library. Res Medica is supported by the University of Edinburgh's Journal Hosting Service: <http://journals.ed.ac.uk>

ISSN: 2051-7580 (Online) ISSN: 0482-3206 (Print)

Res Medica is published by the Royal Medical Society, 5/5 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL

Res Medica, Autumn 1958, 1(3): 5-6

[doi:10.2218/resmedica.v1i3.295](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v1i3.295)

# RES MEDICA

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY

Editor: DAVID J. CLARK

Editorial Committee: WILLIAM L. FORD, HENRY C. DRYSDALE  
E. A. W. SLATER

## Editorial

It seems to the student of medicine that arguments about the method by which his education can be accomplished with most effect, will never cease. Thus he is perpetually hearing, from this source or from that, that one system is better and another worse, one more and another less suited to turn a doctor loose upon an unsuspecting and at times positively unfortunate public. The system of teaching students in small tutorial groups has many advantages, and the existence of an intimate student-teacher relationship will always rank high amongst them. This system of education which is practised in a number of English universities is in marked contrast to the Scottish university system which consists of a formal lecture course, accompanied by clinical instruction in scarcely less formal clinics. The lecture course tends to be authoritative and up to date since it is usually shared out amongst a number of lecturers, each dealing with that aspect of the whole subject in which he is specially interested. Further, in contrast to the Tutorial system the course can be carefully planned in advance, and each aspect treated in due perspective since the student cannot divert his teacher's attention from the main stream of thought. None the less it must be admitted that there are many students who find the process of expressing their own views before an intelligent audience, or equally of criticising the expressed views of their fellows, an instructive and a stimulating exercise. It is of course true that when in clinic, the student is often allowed, sometimes even encouraged, to discuss his teacher's views in a critical fashion, but, unfortunately, time is limited and the clinics manifestly overcrowded. Here is a deficiency in our education for which the Royal Medical Society attempts to compensate, and it is our claim that we provide facilities for the student to become a more able speaker and a more critical thinker.

A sense of duty need not be the excuse for a student to join the Society, because an evening at the Royal Medical is spent in good and friendly company and needs no further recommendation than its own excellence. It combines the teaching potential of a group study session with the pleasure of good fellowship and entertainment.

Gilbert Blane, a President of the Royal Medical Society in 1784, said of the Society's founders, on the occasion of the purchase of the new hall: "Here they learned to reason and think for themselves; here they combated prejudice and error, however sanctified by antiquity and authority, and it was here that they learned to love and esteem each other and to cement the bonds of true friendship, a friendship severe and durable inasmuch as it was founded on a virtuous and liberal intercourse."

*Res Medica* has now entered its second year, and although its achievements so far are not to be depreciated, it is now encountering new problems along the road to establishment and maturity. The members of the first Editorial Committee shouldered their responsibilities with a pioneering zeal and *Res Medica* will indeed be fortunate if its future committees are of the same calibre.

The aim now must be to establish a tradition for the Journal which will be as durable and as honourable as that of the parent Society. Advance in this direction depends on the members keeping in mind that the sole purpose of the Journal is to be of service to the interests of the Society. *Res Medica* will become more and more effective in doing this if, after the novelty has worn off, the members continue to show an interest in its progress.

SYLLABUS FOR THE 222ND SESSION  
AFTER 31ST OCTOBER

1958

- Thur. Nov. 6 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL DINNER.  
Royal College of Surgeons, 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. Guest of Honour: T. McW. MILLAR, Esq., F.C.R.S.E.
- Fri. „ 7 Dissertation: A. L. CROMBIE, Esq. "Rockets, Men, and Medicine."
- Fri. „ 14 Dissertation: C. M. MAILER, Esq. "Ulcerative Colitis."
- Thur. „ 20 Debate with the Glasgow University Medico-Chirurgical Society, in Glasgow. "That We Regret that the Student of To-day is the Doctor of To-morrow."
- Fri. „ 21 To be arranged.
- Fri. „ 28 ADDRESS: Professor MICHAEL SWANN, M.A., Ph.D. "Growth: Normal and Abnormal."
- Fri. Dec. 5 Dissertation: J. H. TURNER, Esq. "Pulmonary Signs and Symptoms."
- Fri. „ 12 TALK: Dr C. R. S. JACKSON, M.A., M.D., D.O.M.S., F.R.S.E. "An Oculist Looks at Endocrine Exophthalmos."

1959

- Fri. Jan. 9 Dissertation: F. A. BODDY, Esq. "The Changing Face of Medical Practice."
- Fri. „ 16 Dissertation: J. MCKENDRICK, Esq. "The Treatment of Cancer."
- Fri. „ 23 ADDRESS: Professor M. F. WOODRUFF, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. "The Biological Basis of Individuality."
- Fri. „ 30 Dissertation: G. T. MILLAR, Esq. "Abdominal Pain."
- Fri. Feb. 6 TALK: F. J. GILLINGHAM, Esq., M.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E. "Whither Neurosurgery."
- Fri. „ 13 Dissertation: F. COCKBURN, Esq. "Endocrine Disorders in Childhood."
- Fri. „ 20 ADDRESS: Professor W. I. C. MORRIS, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. "John and William Hunter and Their Cronies."
- Fri. „ 27 Dissertation: D. J. CLARK, Esq. "Rheumatic Fever."
- Fri. Mar. 6 President's Valedictory Address.
- Wed. „ 11 Annual Extraordinary General Meeting.

**Private Business at 7 p.m.**

**Public Business at 8 p.m. unless otherwise stated.**

**Clinical Meetings, Film Meetings, and Industrial Visits will be arranged during the Session. Due notice of these will be given.**

**The date for the Society's ANNUAL BALL will be announced later.**