

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

The story of Res Medica has been one of success, so far. The Journal was started only two years ago and has prospered enormously. The people responsible for this success are undoubtedly the members of the first Editorial Committee. Our role has been simply to add fuel to the fire which their enthusiasm set alight. Thus, during its second year, the Journal's circulation has doubled. The size has grown considerably, and we are financially stable. It has been our aim to base Res Medica on the Society's public business and as many as possible of our Addresses, Talks, and Dissertations are now included. We hope that future editors will follow this policy.

In the present issue we include a most fascinating article by Professor Swann. In those long past lectures to us in our first year, he expressed complicated ideas in a minimum of words. He has a knack of using a short word where others might use a long one, of using one word where others might employ two. Consequently his lectures are stimulating and intelligible even for those whose education has not included any biological study. His article reminds us of this talent and provides us with much to think about. It is easy to see why he was so delighted to obtain that electron microscope.

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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, Summer 1959, 1(4): 5-6

[doi:10.2218/resmedica.v1i4.297](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v1i4.297)

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Mr Dudley writes on the subject of "Electrolyte Imbalance"—a topic with which every student has come to associate his name. Electrolytes, we are told, are not well understood by most undergraduates. Here is a chance for us to improve.

The General Practice Teaching Unit in Edinburgh is the most advanced of its kind. Dr Richard Scott, Director of the Unit, holds the view that the course in General Practice is perhaps more important for those who do not eventually go into General Practice than for those who do. In his article he tells us the place which the Edinburgh Dispensaries have occupied in the past and indicates how the General Practice Teaching Unit attempts to preserve this traditional feature of the Edinburgh Medical School while adapting itself to current trends in medical practice in this country.

The larger part of this issue is devoted to articles from the Society's dissertators.

Mr Boddy writes on "The Changing Face of Medical Practice" and he discusses the development of medicine and its present shortcomings. Much of this article will provoke thought on far-reaching medical problems.

Res Medica's first article on a psychiatric subject is ably presented by

Mr Craddock who gives a distinctly low-powered, down-to-earth—and eminently useful—view of Hysteria.

Mr Crombie's dissertation on "Men, Rockets and Medicine" was enjoyably different. He now discusses the problems of the space age in print. This is a subject of increasing medical importance.

Mr Mailer gave us a most erudite dissertation on Ulcerative Colitis and made it, at the same time, comprehensive and compact. Especially, he sought to improve our knowledge of its more fundamental aspects. In his article he bears the same principle in mind and we commend him for it.

The common, often tragic, problem of Spontaneous Subarachnoid Haemorrhage is thoroughly reviewed by Mr Frank Turner. His dissertation was notable for its clarity and for the high standard of its presentation.

The clinical examination of the patient is the real basis of rational diagnosis, and Mr J. H. Turner's article stresses this point. His article might be read with profit by all four clinical years.

We hope that former members in particular will read Mr Malcolm-Smith's account of "Goings on during the 222nd Session." No doubt it will bring back many memories.

Editing *Res Medica* has been a memorable pleasure and at this time we wish to thank all those friends who have helped by contributing articles, or by reading the Journal. We wish it all success.

FLOREAT RES MEDICA!