

RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



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Abstract

On Wednesday, February 19th, the triennial meeting for the revision of laws was held and as usual the question of admitting ladies was brought up. But this time, something unusual happened. By an overwhelming majority it was decided that ladies be admitted to the public business of the society. So it was that ladies were present at Professor Sir Dugald Baird's address on the following Friday. It must be noted that on two or three previous occasions ladies have in fact been present at meetings of the society, so that precedent had been set for this decision.

The society must now decide on the admission of ladies to full membership, and a motion proposing this will be brought before the society at the start of the next session. If ladies are to be admitted to full membership, this motion will have to be passed by a two-thirds majority at two consecutive business meetings. The widest publicity will be given for these meetings, and the first will take place at private business on the night of the inaugural address of the 228th session, in October of this year. It is hoped that a really good attendance will be registered at these important meetings.

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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, Spring 1964, 4(2): 17

doi: [10.2218/resmedica.v4i2.420](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v4i2.420)

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business on the night of the inaugural address of the 228th session, in October of this year. It is hoped that a really good attendance will be registered at these important meetings.

We note that the Royal Charter is worded so that 'any person' may become a member of the society, and that the exclusion of ladies from membership has never been an actual law of the society—the society seems merely to have neglected the existence of the opposite sex. Our own view is that ladies should have been admitted long ago, and we hope that the society has the courage to drop its inhibitions and learn to come to terms with the facts of life. We acknowledge that some people view the admission of ladies as a disaster, and we respect this view when reasonably expressed. Our editorial opinion is not necessarily that of the society at large, though we do try to express the opinion of the majority of active members.

The society has enjoyed a most interesting session, with the new regulations allowing much more time for the discussion of medicine by the streamlining of the business meetings, and the reduction in their number. Six evenings per term have been devoted entirely to medical topics, and the pre-clinical first private meetings have proved quite an attraction to both junior and senior students.

An excellent visit to Peel Hospital was made on February 5th, the outing being very well attended. The annual film show was held the same evening, and this was also a great success.

It seems that the society will have to leave Melbourne Place at the end of the next session. The new hall will probably not be built for some years, and so we will be in temporary premises for possibly ten years. In the meantime, the Royal College of Surgeons has most generously offered us the use of premises at 3, Hill Square; these rooms will provide storage and office space. We are extremely grateful to the Royal College, and look forward to making good use of their hospitality.

The Appeal Committee also deserve our thanks, wider publicity is deserved for the immense amount of work they have done for the society. Under the dynamic leadership of Sir Derrick Dunlop, this committee is ensuring that the future of the society will be as great as its past.