

RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



The Society

Abstract

The past year has been a historic one in the life of our Society. There have been many changes, some ambitions achieved and some fears allayed and above all a golden opportunity to bring the society more up to date has been grasped. There are many advantages of being a historic Society but the ideals and aims of the Society must not dwell in the past but progress with modern ideas and methods. The premises at 7 Melbourne Place were becoming too cumbersome for the Society and far from being an asset were becoming a liability. The most important items in the past year have been the Appeal, the Opening of 3 Hill Square and the New Premises.

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, Winter 1965-66, 5(1): 34-37

doi: [10.2218/resmedica.v5i1.450](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v5i1.450)

THE SOCIETY

OFFICE - BEARERS — 229th SESSION

Senior President

A. M. DAVISON, B.Sc.

Junior Presidents

A. STRONG, B.A.

D. L. W. DAVIDSON, B.Sc.

R. C. HEADING, B.Sc.

Secretaries

R. SMITH

M. KAUFFMAN

Committee Conveners

Library—M. McNICOL

Dinner—A. STRONG

Museum—C. EASTMOND

Public Business—J. HOLMES

Private Business—I. WILLIAMS

House—F. MARR

The past year has been a historic one in the life of our Society. There have been many changes, some ambitions achieved and some fears allayed and above all a golden opportunity to bring the society more up to date has been grasped. There are many advantages of being a historic Society but the ideals and aims of the



The Consultation Press, where current textbooks and journals are available for the use of members.

Society must not dwell in the past but progress with modern ideas and methods. The premises at 7 Melbourne Place were becoming too cumbersome for the Society and far from being an asset were becoming a liability. The most important items in the past year have been the Appeal, the Opening of 3 Hill Square and the New Premises.

THE APPEAL

The Appeal Committee was set up in 1960 under the Chairmanship of Sir Derrick Dunlop. This Committee has worked hard and secured the future of the Society and for this present members are greatly indebted. The Appeal has gathered from past members, friends of the Society and from the sale of Melbourne Place a sum slightly in excess of £50,000 which will enable a new home for the Society to be found. The exact nature and site of this building are still to be determined but we can look forward to a time when our Library and Society will be housed in a permanent home.

Not all the original members of the appeal have been able to see the fruits of their hard work. Mr. J. J. Mason Brown was joint Treasurer until his untimely death. It is difficult to



The opening of the Societies' Premises. The Senior President addressing the meeting. Dr. W. A. Alexander and Sir Derrick Dunlop at the left on the front row.

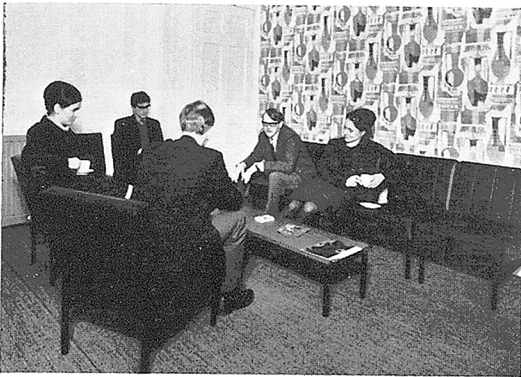
The Library has been partly rehoused at Hill Square. One room is devoted to historic books while another contains a modern up to date reference library where the majority of text-

books and journals in common use can be consulted. The remainder of the library is housed with the University and can be consulted when necessary by applying to the Librarian.

The Museum has been transported from Melbourne Place and discarding many useless appendages it has now been brought up to date with a reorganised slide collection and a set of X-rays. Microscopes and viewing boxes are available at all times for members.

One advantage of the new premises is that there is a comfortable coffee lounge where facilities for making coffee are available at all times. This has proved to be most popular and convenient for members.

It can be seen therefore that the facilities offered at 3 Hill Square, however limited by space, are a good deal better than those of the rather chilling if somewhat historic Melbourne Place.



The coffee lounge; informal, warm and convivial.

RES MEDICA

MASS EXODUS ?

Precise figures are not available for the number of final year medical students who sat the E.C.F.M.G. examination in February. A very conservative estimate is about 30% of the total sat it, but a more probable figure is about 50%. This represents a substantial increase in the number of students who wish to work in the U.S.A. Such an increase cannot be ignored or lightly dismissed.

Students give varying reasons for application. Many feel that they wish to train in the U.S.A. at some stage and that now is the optimum time to sit the E.C.F.M.G. examinations. Some wish to 'interne' there, a few only to work there next summer. A few already intend to practise there. Most of the students also regard the February examinations as an incentive to start working for Finals early.

These applications reflect a number of factors. The attraction of travel and broadened experience is important; the lure of money may be present. But more important, it reflects dissatisfaction with haphazard British post-graduate training. It reflects also a feeling that within the N.H.S. initiative is limited, and that conformity to a very uniform pattern of medical life is demanded.

If the 'drain' of medical graduates to the U.S.A. is to be reduced, and those that have gone enticed back, there should be immediate changes in post-graduate medical education along the lines discussed by Sir George Pickering and others. There should also be an imaginative review of the N.H.S. in the light of nearly twenty years of functioning, and also in the light of health services in other countries.