

RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



Editorial

The Editor

Abstract

After a hiatus of several years Res Medica is back. It will be an occasional publication with perhaps two issues a year. Our aim is to publish a journal with a wide range of articles, from the historical to the philosophical, from the political to the scientific and from the lighthearted to the polemical. In other words it will attempt to appeal to the heterogenous membership of the Royal Medical Society — and to others — to the ingenuous freshman, the cynical final phase student (although perhaps today the adjectives should be transposed), the overworked houseman and the eminent practitioner.

In this issue we have contributions from prominent figures in Edinburgh Medicine and from junior members of the Society. These latter show that the flame of scientific enquiry which made the reputation of the Society burns on still, even if at times it has appeared to gutter.

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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, New Series No. 1, 1978/79: 7

doi:[10.2218/resmedica.v0i1.913](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v0i1.913)

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Firstly, we have a pair of counterbalanced articles by Sir Derrick Dunlop and Professor R.H. Girdwood on the Edinburgh Medical School in 1922 and 1978 respectively. Sir Derrick gives us a pithy insight to the life of a clinical student fifty-five years ago, whilst Professor Girdwood outlines the future of our Medical School.

Secondly, the scientific section contains an account of the management of duodenal ulcer by Alan Boyd, a fourth year student, whilst his colleague Charles Clark has contributed the text of dissertation given to the Society on the dangers of diving. The last of the scientific articles is by Mr. Malcolm MacNicol, Lecturer in Orthopaedics at the P.M.R., on peripheral nerve injuries.

On the lighter side we have one of Jim Drife's entertaining *jeux d'esprit* pricking the balloon of medical jargon, and accounts of students' travel – to New York by Mike Ferguson and to Holland by a group of R.M.S. members – the amanuensis being Hamish Maclaren.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this number as well as all those who have helped us and wished us well. We hope that you, the reader, will find something of interest herein – and perhaps even something informative or of use.

Since our last edition the Society has undergone a metamorphosis even more marked than that undergone by the journal. The R.M.S. has moved into new and almost palatial premises in the Students' Centre. The availability of a large comfortable coffee lounge and convenient and warm library facilities has led to a change in the balance of use and membership of the Society. The roll of members is much larger now although most of those are birds of passage using the facilities at lunchtimes but contributing little to the scientific life of the Society. Attendance at Business meetings has been low but supported by a small cadre of diehards. There are however signs of an awakening interest amongst the membership in the educational role of the Society and we hope that the revival of a medium for them to express this will stimulate them to contribute to *Res Medica*.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this number.

The Editor