

Editorial

It is gratifying to see Dalhousie University expanding so rapidly. Her reputation as a respected centre of higher learning reaches to many distant parts. As a consequence, the number of foreign students attending Dalhousie is ever increasing, contributing to the culture and economy of our community in no small measure. Through them, we are given a better understanding of their native countries. Similarly, their student days will, to a large extent, determine their lasting impression of Canada. Any thoughtless or unfair treatment of these students is, therefore, a matter of great concern to all of us.

Nova Scotians are the fortunate possessors of a fine hospital insurance plan. Foreign students, however, are not eligible for the benefits, although they are, of course, required to pay the 3% hospital sales tax. This was recently brought to light when a British post-graduate student entered the public ward for an emergency operation which required a prolonged stay in hospital. He was subsequently presented with a hospital bill, which, even after deduction of the limited Student Health benefits, was very large. The payment of this sum will cause great hardships for this student; it is highly unlikely that his memories of Canada will not be marred by this.

This particular case is made more unjust by the complete medical and dental services available without charge to Canadians studying in British universities. In fact, these services are offered so readily that Canadians are no doubt guilty of abusing them. It seems only right that we extend our medical securities to these students. Surely, this would be a small item compared to the total hospital budget; but to the individual, hospitalization may mean an economic catastrophe.

J.G.H.

Dalhousie University — HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

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