

Editorial

There has been a marked dearth of replies on the part of the students to the articles, and particularly the editorials published in recent issues of this Journal. Various measures have been taken to stimulate more student contributions, but in all but one instance these have failed.

To date, four editorials have been published this year, all dealing with subjects which should be of considerable concern to Dalhousie medical students; yet very few comments have been received from the students—most of these passed in casual conversation, and none submitted in the form of letters.

For example, one editorial dealing with the Saskatchewan medicare crisis drew only the comment that there was a grammatical error in the last sentence. A second outlining a medical summer school course in Scandinavia was largely ignored—one third year student with plans to travel in Europe this summer had not heard of the course, and when told there was mention of it made in the last issue of the Dalhousie Journal, replied: "the Gazette?". Another editorial suggested a means of increasing the scholarship funds available to medical students, and the two letters printed herein were the only two replies received. The last dealt with the undergraduate clinical teaching program here at Dalhousie Medical School, a subject discussed at almost every coffee-break taken by medical students; the one and only comment heard was from a fourth year student four weeks after that issue appeared, and then only after some not-too-subtle prodding by the editor.

This does dampen our spirits somewhat, but nevertheless the satisfactions and benefits derived by the editorial staff are many. Yet we are curious as to why we cannot arouse student interest. Are all readers in complete agreement with what we say? Have you nothing further to add? Is the material not worth reading? Or have you not given thought to the problems discussed, or do you not consider them your problems? Or worse still, and what we fear most, do students just not care about these and related matters? We are struck by the far-reaching implications of such attitudes, for such problems have strong bearing on our medical training and our future careers, and should deeply concern each one of us. Yet most of us plod on, scarcely deviating from the well-worn rut, accepting our lot, and not interested enough to do our part in improving the medical scene for those who are to follow us. In this regard, it is not as much a matter of interest as one of obligation.

Returning to the original issue, we do feel we are publishing a good Journal, one worthy of contributions, comments and criticisms from the group for whom it is primarily intended—the medical undergraduates. If you don't agree, please say so! It's your right, if not your duty.

A.S.

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