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The Fellowship of Medicine.

At a Meeting held (by permission of the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine) in the House of the Society, on Thursday, January 9th, 1919.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER, Bt., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Present: Miss L. B. Aldrich-Blake, Lt.-Col. Andrew Balfour, Col. C. W. Begg, Brig.-Gen. H. S. Birkett, Sir David Bruce, Col. Aldo Castellani, Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Maj.-Gen. G. L. Foster, Gen. Sir John Goodwin, Fleet Surg. D. W. Hewitt, Dr. R. T. Hewlett, Col. W. Hunter, Mr. W. D. Harmer, Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Dr. R. T. Leiper, Dr. J. Burnett Rae, Dr. Mary Scharlieb, Dr. W. J. Simpson, Col. A. B. Soltau, Dr. V. E. Sorapure, Dr. Herbert Spencer, Col. P. G. Stock, Dr. Leonard Williams, and the Acting Hon. Secretaries, Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister and Sir StClair Thomson.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: I will ask Mr. MacAlister to read the notice convening this Meeting and some letters which have been received.

Mr. MACALISTER: (*After reading the notice*) The first letter is from the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Sir Norman Moore: He says:—

“I return the papers with many thanks and shall be happy to act on the General Committee. There is unfortunately a committee which I must attend at the College of Physicians, at 4.45, so that I may be unable to reach Wimpole Street in time, but I will do my best.”

The next is from Sir George Makins, President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

“I was sorry not to be at the last meeting and again that I am unable to attend that on Thursday next as I shall be engaged at a College Council.

“I write, however, to say I shall be pleased to serve on the Committee if elected, and I send a contribution of Five Pounds, as I think I was asked to do, towards the expenses. With best wishes for 1919.”

Mr. MACALISTER: It is a spontaneous and generous gift for, as a matter of fact, he was not asked to subscribe. It is a noble example!

Sir Clifford Allbutt writes:

“I fear I must be content to be an ‘Ornamental,’ if I am to be so far complimented. My continual journeys to London during the war are easing off and I must look forward to some intermission of them, and trains being now so few (and costly), we Cantabs are a little tied to the 5.0 Express down, especially in the darker half of the year.”

Lord Eustace Percy, to whom we owe the origin of the idea, writes:

“I am leaving for Paris to-morrow morning and expect to be there pretty well for the duration of the

Congress. It is impossible for me therefore to attend your meeting on the 9th, and the part I shall be able to play in the early stages of the organisation of the proposed Fellowship will necessarily be very small. If in spite of these facts you would nevertheless like me to join the General Committee, I need hardly say that I will accept with the utmost pleasure, but I shall quite understand if you decide not to have so otiose a member. In any case I shall always take the greatest interest in the movement and shall be ready to help it by every means in my power."

Sir William Norman, Director General of the Naval Medical Service, writes :

"I shall be very pleased to serve on the Committee I was nominated for, but I much regret that I shall not be in town on the 9th."

Professor Ritchie (University of Edinburgh) writes :

"In reply to yours of 31st December, I shall be very pleased to act as a member of the General Committee to consider the proposals which have been made for the organisation of the proposed Fellowship. I regret that as the University term begins to-morrow I shall be unable to be present at the first meeting of the Committee on Thursday, the 9th instant."

Lady Barrett cordially supports our proposals but cannot be present. Dr. William Bulloch cordially accepts the invitation, but regrets that a previous engagement prevents his coming to-day. And there are a number of others to similar effect.

Mr. MACALISTER then read the minutes of the meeting of December 4th, 1918.

Col. STOCK: Was it carried that the organisation should not be confined to English-speaking countries? Was it not the idea at the last meeting that that point should be referred to the Committee for settlement?

Mr. MACALISTER: I understood it was carried. There was some question whether the Fellowship should be limited to English-speaking nations, but partly in view of the fact that both France and Italy sent representatives, it was decided that there was to be no such limitation. Sir StClair Thomson might say something on this point.

Sir STCLAIR THOMSON: I think the original idea, when *in embryo*, was that it should be simply for English-speaking people. But that was quickly thrown out, because it was pointed out that it would shut out the French people in Canada and the Boers in South Africa, who did not speak English. It was therefore decided that it should neither be limited to the English-speaking people nor to the Allies, because there are friendly Neutrals, like the Spanish and Dutch. It was strongly felt that there should be no Chauvinism about it, that while it should be started by the English race, it should be open to other races.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: What is the impression of the meeting?

Col. STOCK: I believe the meeting on the last occasion felt very strongly that the Fellowship should not be thrown open

indiscriminately to all nations, but that it should be restricted to the Allies and English-speaking people.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: What is the sense of the meeting on the point? Shall it be Allies and English-speaking people, but no enemies?

Sir WATSON CHEYNE: Would it not be better to state the names of the nations included? We do not want to find in a few years that Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey, are included.

Sir STCLAIR THOMSON: They might be our Allies by that time.

Sir WATSON CHEYNE: I should prefer instead of saying that our enemies must not come in, that it should be open to the whole world with the exception of the Germans, the Austrians, the Bulgarians, and so on. It perhaps comes to the same thing, but in a year or two people will forget who were our enemies.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: Will someone second this proposal? Sir StClair?

Sir STCLAIR THOMSON: No, Sir; I do not approve of it. I think that in a few years the Turks may be our best friends, politically, and this would be limiting ourselves unnecessarily with regard to the dim future, which no one knows anything about. It is sufficient for the present what we have done.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: Shall we let it go at that? We can change the name at any time and meantime we are simply "The Fellowship of Medicine." We will now have the report of the Emergency Post-graduate Course Committee.

Mr. MACALISTER: As this self-appointed Committee is somewhat irregular, I had better tell the story in the hope that we may be forgiven and indemnified.

REPORT OF HON. SECRETARIES.

The first duty placed upon the Hon. Secretaries at the meeting held on December 4th was to communicate with those nominated to serve upon the General Committee, and they are glad to report that, with few exceptions, those nominated have accepted, in most cases their letters expressing cordial appreciation of the scheme and willingness to help.

Pending the formal constitution of the General Committee they had to take the responsibility of prompt action in dealing with a matter which, unless dealt with promptly the opportunity would have been lost.

Just before Christmas representatives of the American and Dominion Forces asked whether it was possible to provide a short post-graduate course for their officers who were about to be demobilised and were being granted leave of absence for the express purpose of availing themselves of post-graduate instruction, and that in the absence of such courses in London several had already returned to Paris where post-graduate courses had been organised.

As it was clear that if something could not be done at once it could not be done at all, and as such work was one of the primary objects of the Fellowship, I summoned a meeting by telephone on Christmas Eve, and those who were able

to attend, Sir Humphry Rolleston (President of the Royal Society of Medicine), Sir Arbuthnot Lane (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. H. S. Pendlebury, Mr. C. H. Fagge, Mr. H. J. Paterson, Mr. L. Bromley (Dean of Guy's Medical School) and myself, after discussing the situation, constituted themselves a Sub-committee for the purpose of organising an Emergency Post-graduate Course, to provide post-graduate instruction for a period of three or four months. Mr. Bromley and Mr. Paterson were appointed Hon. Secretaries of the Sub-committee, and requested to communicate at once with the Deans of the Medical Schools and urge upon them the desirability of combining in order to provide as complete a course as possible, it having been ascertained in the meantime that no single school was prepared or even able to offer a complete course under present conditions. The Deans were immediately communicated with and for the most part promised cordially to co-operate.

Meetings of the Deans and of the Hospital Authorities are being held this week and on Monday, and it is hoped that early next week we shall be able to announce that an Emergency Post-graduate Course has been provided and that a syllabus will be issued.

It is perhaps desirable to make it quite clear that in this there is no competition with the permanent post-graduate scheme which Sir William Osler and his Committee have been working at for many months. I mention this as I find that already there has been some confusion on the subject, and to make this point quite clear perhaps I cannot do better than to mention that Sir William Osler cordially approves of what we are doing, and promised to come to this meeting to give us his blessing!

By kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine it has been arranged to begin at once a series of weekly Social Evenings—really free-and-easy meetings for “talk, tea and tobacco”—although an attempt will be made to have each meeting started by a competent opener who will discuss some interesting subject or demonstrate interesting specimens. To these the Officers of the R.A.M.C., the Navy, the Air Forces, the Dominions and our Allies will be specially invited.

Your Secretaries have had to do their best under unusual circumstances. In fact they had to act as an executive committee (sometimes with a quorum of one!), but it is hoped that this meeting will put things on a more business-like footing, and will appoint a very small Executive Committee, with power to add to its numbers, to share responsibility with the Secretaries.

Our office here is now ready for use, but so far we have been unable to find a competent paid secretary to take charge of it, and we shall be very glad if anyone present can recommend a likely person for the responsible duties. They will indeed be responsible, for when the work is in full swing the paid secretary will not be able to count greatly upon actual work by the Hon. Secretaries.

The most urgent question for the Committee to consider is that of finance—without money we can do nothing, and it might be desirable to appoint a Finance Committee to consider and report upon the best means of raising the necessary funds.

In the meantime Sir George Makins, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, has handsomely opened our fund with a cheque for £5, for which I am sure the Committee will express its gratitude. But we hope that Members of the General Committee will endeavour to interest their wealthy friends and patients in our scheme, as to make a good start we should have a substantial sum in hand and not be wholly dependent on the annual subscriptions of members.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: We are very much indebted to this Sub-committee for having done so much.

It may be well for me to state here that there need be no clashing whatever between the scheme just described and the permanent Post-graduate scheme, for which another body, of which I am Chairman, has been working for many months. Our idea has been, first, to get the co-operation of all the London teaching schools; secondly, of the special hospitals; and, thirdly, of the post-graduate teaching schools in London, as a primary step towards securing united action on the part of those bodies to organise a large post-graduate scheme. Secondly, to have a central home in London, which will act as an intermediate body between the schools and the graduate student, so that a student coming here from any part of the world would know at once the courses open to him. He would be put into touch with the different schools and hospitals, and at a well-organised secretarium in that home he would get at once information as to the special courses and facilities, not only here in London, but all over the kingdom. In addition, that home would act as a club-house and meeting-house, a central place, at which all the Overseas students could meet and find exactly what they wanted. I am sure that is an all-important part of any successful post-graduate scheme.

I move the adoption of the Report Mr. MacAlister has just read. *Carried unanimously.*

Sir STCLAIR THOMSON: About this time last year the American Government invited three representatives of English Medicine to go over to America, and those representatives were Sir Arbuthnot Lane, Sir James Mackenzie, and Colonel Bruce of Toronto. They were very warmly received, and learned that America was looking to the Mother Island for a good deal on medical matters. At an informal meeting in London in July, 1918, we not only learned that America was looking to us for what we were not supplying, but also our own Dominions. We were told, at that meeting, very frankly by a Dominion Medical Officer, that he had been nearly four years in Europe, fighting side by side with us in France, or working with us in London, and yet he knew us and our medical ways no better at the end of the four years than on August 4th, 1914. The opportunity to make a start is here and now, because we have all the military hospitals, and we have all these Dominion and American Officers here, so that we have both the material and the audience. I hope we shall find something which will carry on long after we have passed from the scene. I think post-graduate teaching should be carried out alongside or in conjunction with the Fellowship. The first object should be the co-ordination of all the resources of medical interest

throughout this country, so as to make them readily available for demonstration and investigation. Then, in addition, we should have a scheme, as Mr. MacAlister described, of scientific entertainment. A man might, for instance, want to study the drainage of London, or epileptic hospitals, and we would put him in the way of doing that. Or we could enable him to follow the work of any particular man, or of any particular course. In addition, we should have specially prepared addresses and demonstrations, as well as scientific visits.

How is this to be carried out? I suggest that the Executive Council try to get to work with the Councils of the various Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine, so as to form a Committee, on which the Executive of this Fellowship would be *ex-officio* members, so as to co-ordinate, in the various specialities the material of medical interest at present available. For instance, we will take, for illustration, the case of Ophthalmology. If the Council of that Section will be willing to work with our Executive, we shall put at the disposal of visitors everything connected with the eye in this country. In doing this, we should greatly benefit ourselves, for we should enlarge our own views, and if the younger generation of men were to take it up, they would learn to express themselves and get *en rapport* with the people outside this country. And I think we should try to approach the Treasury to get a grant, as we claim we are doing a work which is not to our own advantage, not even specially for professional advantage, but that it is a work which is national.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: Those were very much my feelings when Sir StClair spoke of having an office at which an Overseas student, no matter what he wished to study in this country, would immediately find the information, that everything would be there on the card. So that if he wanted to study the drainage of Leeds or that of Liverpool, or the Blind Asylums, or any special department of medicine, that that material would be available to him. What, I think, is the urgent matter now is the provision of post-graduate work now, within the next six months; and I think such a fellowship as Sir StClair has outlined, dealing particularly with the social side of the relation between Overseas medical men and ourselves, would be very important. I daresay some of you know that just such organisations exist in several of the large American States, and they have been of the greatest benefit in entertaining distinguished visitors who may happen to be in a city. The difficulty, of course, is that our organisation is, at present, entirely on paper; we are only in the second stage of it, I am sorry to say. We have not yet got the reports from the special hospitals on post-graduation courses. I think that should be pushed on as rapidly as possible, to meet what is an emergency, and that we should have, in two or three weeks, a specific scheme.

GENERAL FOSTER: I would like to say, Sir, that we are very much interested in this post-graduate work. It has been rather forced upon me, but among my other duties I have not had much time to turn to the University side of men's activities until the end of the war was in sight. From time to time various Officers have spoken to me of a wish not to return to

Canada immediately, but to pursue a course of study over here when their services can be dispensed with. The proportion is going, I think, to be a large one: I cannot give you the figures. We have circularised every Canadian Medical Officer, to ask if he wishes such a course, and when it would be most convenient for him to take it. We hope to come to you and tell you, within three weeks to a month, by the time you have your programmes ready, when these men will want to take up their studies. One thing struck me particularly about Sir StClair Thomson's speech, namely, as to what is taking place, and I think our men will probably want to go a little further. We Officers have been divided into two classes. There is that class out at the Front Line which has to do with the maintaining of the fighting people in a healthy state; they have not been concerned with the treatment of sick and wounded men; they have not had to interest themselves in that except to get them back into the fighting. There are other Officers who are employed in hospitals at the Base, including the Os. i/c medicine and surgery in France and this country. The latter have had a large experience of surgical and medical work. It is desirable that the first class I mentioned, those concerned with keeping the men fit, should be brought more closely into touch with the professional side. They may have lots of patients in Canada, and they will not have any great concern whether they are kept healthy or not (laughter), or they may not have many, and these latter will want to be kept on the pay-rolls as long as possible. These men feel that they would like to take advantage of a three months' or a longer course. In association with my consultants, I have put up a proposition that a man shall have a month's study for every year he has served in the war, but that has solved itself by the action of the Government, that every man who has served three or four years gets a gratuity. That means six months' pay and allowances, which is much better than was anticipated. I do not propose that the men shall have leave of absence to do that, but, having received the names, as soon as I release them they will be free of the Service and can take up their studies. A large proportion of our men have served over three years. So it works out as a great advantage to them, far ahead of what we first discussed. I have heard surprise expressed that more Canadians have not taken advantage of these schools in London. But we have no Canadian Hospitals in London of any importance. We have only recently opened in London one small Hospital for Officers, with 200 beds. The other Canadian Hospitals are so far from London that it takes over an hour to get here to take a course, and the M.O's. could not take advantage of those courses without leave of absence and being relieved of their work at their Hospital.

The proposal being made is a thing much bigger than just the professional side. Everyone likes to come to London, there is much of interest here, aside from professional study. Many medical men previously went to Berlin, and we have got to make this so attractive that they will come to London instead, and we have got to have definite courses laid down for them. It has been suggested that those who wish to study sewerage systems or drainage systems of a city should be able to do it, and find out, when he comes to a central point, just who

are the leading men to deal with the special line of work so that he can carry through his course.

And I think it is a splendid thing that a man should have to put down a fee. Otherwise, unless you charge these men a fee, they will just drop in and see you occasionally. It is not so much a question of getting something for nothing, but if they pay a fee, it will appeal as something for which they are getting value. With that, I am heartily in accord. The hospitals should be so placed, and the course laid out for them that they will not lose time, so that each day shall be fully occupied: that they shall be able to "drive through," very much as the Americans do, and I must say they work hard. Three or four years ago, after three years in the Arctic, in an isolated part of the country, I wanted to see hospital work. I did not have the privilege of coming to London, but I was able to get more information in a short time by walking into a post-graduate school than in any other way. In New York you can get just the line of study you want. Speaking from my personal experience, I think many of our Officers are in much the same position. They do not want to go to a dozen different hospitals in one day: they want to get steady work in one hospital during the day. If you attract men in that way, I think our people will come and make London their centre for the future. And when we send our men back to Canada—if we get through this—when they meet young men in the future who ask where they took up their post-graduate work, they will say "in London," and will relate their experiences. These other young men are likely to take up their work in London, rather than somewhere across the Channel.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: We are fortunate in having General Goodwin here, and I will ask him to say a few words.

General GOODWIN: I think the objects are of the utmost importance; I feel very keenly on the subject. I spent nearly all last year in Canada and America, and I had previously been to Australia and New Zealand, and I think no effort should be spared to get the medical profession in the Dominions, England, and the United States together in this.

With regard to the letter which I sent out to Commands, there was a very cordial response from every Command, and courses were started and lectures given, but unfortunately—at least in one direction—came the great offensive, and our hospitals were very hard pressed indeed, and our men were very much overworked. So, inevitably, these courses of lectures and demonstrations lapsed to a greater or less extent, I think to a greater extent, for the time being. At one time we had over 330,000 patients occupying beds in England. We were short-handed too, and I heard the same story on every hand. I was very sorry that we had, temporarily, to relax these courses, but I think they are going again now, and fairly strongly. I had a letter only this afternoon in reply to one of mine, a casual letter, from General Bedford in the Northern Command. He says, "Just completed a most successful medical meeting at Leeds—over 80 medical officers present." I think that is satisfactory. Alderscray course is going strongly, and other courses are holding on well at Sidcup, Shepherd's Bush, and many other places. I feel that what we want, more than anything, is some central place, bureau or meeting room, where

officers can get the information which they desire. A young American officer comes home on a fortnight's leave from France, and he very much wants to see facial work, plastic surgery, or to see our methods of vaccine therapy, or our present modifications of treatment of fractured thighs. At present he does not know to whom to go. Fortunately, a good many of them do know, because I knew many of them in America last year, and so almost daily—certainly weekly—men come and say, "Where do you advise me to go?" and I have told them at once. I say, "To Sidcup on such and such a day, to St. Thomas's Hospital on such and such a day," and so on. They go off, and I get most gratifying letters from them afterwards, saying how much they had learned, and how they appreciated the opportunity. But that is not sufficient. I am convinced there are a great many of these American and Dominion doctors who, on coming over here, do not know where to go. They do not come to me, and many of them do not go to General Foster either; they probably waste their time going from one place to another, and not hitting on the line of work which they are specially interested in. I think that is the most important point of all. I am very glad there is going to be this intensive course. It is a matter of the keenest regret to me that owing to my great pressure of work I have not been able to devote more time to the matter and to attend more meetings. And my work, during the past eight weeks, has very much increased instead of having decreased.

Sir W. ARBUTHNOT LANE: I think we have to look at this matter from the practical point of view. Remember that we are in competition with the two finest schools in the world, Vienna and Berlin. That is the basis of the whole thing. We are catering for the men who used to go there. They work harder there, and for longer hours. Everything is less expensive there, and you can do things which you cannot do in England, and which you could not think of doing in the States, because, as you go from East to West, everything becomes progressively more expensive, and as you go East the value of the man to the State is more fully recognised. Remember also that the soldiering business is now done; they want to forget all about soldiering; they want to go back and make money; they do not now care so much about broken legs and campaign diseases. They want to get back to their former work; they feel that during the last three or four years they have been wasting their professional time. They now want to get the best value possible for their money. We are like a big professional shop, just trying, at the present moment, to compete with Vienna and Berlin. I am certain we have in England, and in London especially, the means of collecting men and teaching them and educating them, infinitely better than it could be done in Berlin or Vienna. Besides, these men are at home here, and for a long time they cannot help regarding those nations as natural enemies. While we have got our friend Mr. MacAlister, I do not think we can exaggerate the results of his indomitable energy; the thing must go. He understands the situation perfectly, and if we collect our schools together and get our younger men to interest themselves in this work, I am perfectly certain we shall beat those two countries.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: That means we have got to get an organisation.

Sir ARBUTHNOT LANE: That is what we have got to do. Everybody sees difficulties, that is what hinders these things from being accomplished. You cannot succeed if you are going to see difficulties; you must win!

Sir W. WATSON CHEYNE: Of the need of the post-graduate course I am thoroughly convinced. I think now is the opportunity for London to take the place of Vienna and Berlin. After I graduated as a student at Edinburgh, I had to wait a year to become Lister's house surgeon. I did not come to London, and I think I profited very much at that time. I think it is quite right that London should try to make itself as efficient as Vienna, and take the place of Vienna and Berlin. Of course, they have a better chance than we have, because they have bigger hospitals, and they have one man at the head of these big hospitals. And, as one speaker has said, it is a difficulty if a man has to go to different hospitals to take up different parts of his course. I am afraid that must be so in London; however, you cannot very well help it, though it may be managed. If a man had a three months' course, he could be a week at one, and get all the good he can from that, and then go to another, in that way he could get different views and information. I am in cordial agreement with everything. Sir StClair Thomson spoke more of the social side, which is also a most important side. I have been in America and Canada twice, and the way they receive one there is most extraordinary and most embarrassing (laughter). You are not half-an-hour in a town before someone invites you to lunch, and you find all the leading men of the town there to meet you. The hospitality there is something wonderful, and, of course, it produces a good impression; you feel, at once, that you have come among friends who are evidently giving up part of their day's work in order to entertain you. When they come to London I am afraid we do not reciprocate in the same way. I am constantly ashamed, when I have been in a Canadian town, to think of how little I have done for the entertainment of our guests from other countries here. And I think there is a good deal in what Sir StClair Thomson said about acting as guides and showing visitors other things, because there are other things which interest us than purely medicine, and which touch us more than we know ourselves. I think you might put on the older men to do that entertaining. When a man is 45 he has done his work; the men under 45 will do the post-graduate work; those over that age will do the entertaining. That is the only suggestion I am able to put forward.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: The next proposal is that Members of the Fellowship be invited to pay a minimum subscription of \$2.50 or 10/6.

Mr. MACALISTER: I have suggested this because I think that it should be a more or less nominal subscription, and that we should try to get a very large number of members at a quite small subscription. I think 10/6 would be sufficient, though that is for the meeting to consider. We must have money; without it we cannot do anything.

Sir WATSON CHEYNE: It is a very small subscription.

Mr. MACALISTER : It is better to have a large number at a small subscription than a small number at a larger fee.

Dr. ALDRICH-BLAKE : Is it the idea that the courses will be paid for apart from the subscription ?

Mr. MACALISTER : Yes, the courses are quite distinct ; they are to be taken only by the young officers who apply for them, and General Foster and representatives of America have stated that the students would prefer to pay fees. The Post-graduate fee has been tentatively fixed at ten guineas for a three months' course.

It was then put and carried unanimously that the subscription be 10/6 per annum.

THE CHAIRMAN : The next business is the appointment of an Executive Committee.

Mr. MACALISTER : The General Committee was asked, at the last meeting of the Fellowship, to appoint an Executive Committee, and this is the first competent meeting we have had since. What I have put down for the approval of the Committee is, that the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, and Honorary Secretaries be the Executive Committee, with power to add to their number, and to act between the meetings of the General Committee. If other names are suggested, we shall be pleased to hear them.

Dr. LEONARD WILLIAMS : Of how many is the Executive Committee to consist ?

Mr. MACALISTER : It is suggested that it be the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, with power to add to their number.

Professor A. KEITH : The smaller the body the better.

Dr. LEONARD WILLIAMS : Who appoints them ?

Mr. MACALISTER : You are asked to appoint them now.

Dr. DAWSON WILLIAMS : It has been said, truly, that if this thing is to go, you must get the younger men in, and I think, in a Committee of this kind, which is to organise a special course, you ought to start by having two or three energetic young men, and let the grey-headed people stand aside.

Mr. MACALISTER : There is a Special Committee dealing with the post-graduate courses, and it contains men like Mr. Bromley, who is not a grey-head, Mr. Pendlebury, whose hair is very black, and Sir Humphry Rolleston and Mr. Paterson, none of them grey-headed.

Dr. DAWSON WILLIAMS : But you have not an Assistant-Physician, Assistant-Surgeon or Demonstrator of Pathology in the whole thing, as far as I know.

Mr. MACALISTER : My idea was, that unless you had already made up your minds about numbers, it would be better to begin with a little active nucleus, who could select men who would offer to work on the project.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER : Yes, I think that would be much better.

Dr. DAWSON WILLIAMS : Yes, that is quite satisfactory.

The Executive Committee as proposed was then appointed.

Mr. MACALISTER : I have been greatly troubled by one thing. I have heard, in different places, about these American, Canadian and other officers coming to this country and not knowing where to go for information, and I shall be glad if anyone will give me a practical hint as to how to get over that

difficulty. Within six months of the beginning of the war, I had a card printed bearing a picture of this house, issued with a cordial invitation to every medical officer belonging to any Allied country to come here, where we shall be glad to welcome them, let them have the use of the Library and Fellows rooms (tea, coffee and cigarettes provided), etc. That has also been reprinted, with a facsimile of the House, in American and some Colonial journals. We have sent 2,000 of these cards to headquarters of the Dominion, Canadian, American and other base hospitals, and I have done everything I can think of to get this information over the world. And yet I find, every day, men go about, as General Goodwin and General Foster mentioned, not knowing where to get information. If someone will give me a hint I shall be glad.

A MEMBER: Have you asked the American Red Cross people to let their men know?

Mr. MACALISTER: I have sent a parcel of cards to them.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: We are very much indebted to Mr. MacAlister for the energy with which he has helped so many Overseas, Canadian and American men here, in connection with the Royal Society of Medicine.

Mr. MACALISTER: It is hints I want, Mr. Chairman, not thanks.

A MEMBER: Have you tried a paragraph in the "Paris Daily Mail?" Everybody reads that over there, and I think it would inspire the medical officers in France.

Mr. MACALISTER: Thank you, that is quite a good idea.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: Colonel Birkett, how soon can you get to work with your Canadian officers?

Col. BIRKETT: As soon as we get this information, Mr. Chairman. I am busy just now, sending out this circular. Within three weeks.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: I hope the Executive Committee will have a scheme to submit to the general meeting.

Mr. MACALISTER: There is to be a meeting on Monday of the Deans of the various Medical Schools, and immediately after that the Syllabus will probably be ready. I think we may say it will be ready within the next week or ten days.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: The General Hospital Schools of London have come in most cordially with the other scheme, and I think this will be a good beginning.

Mr. MACALISTER: It was suggested to me, as I entered the room, why should not the Fellowship begin its career with a Dinner, not merely to feed, but to attract attention to itself? And we could take the opportunity for all who are hospitably disposed to invite representatives of America and the Dominions and make them feel at home.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER: I think it is a very good idea. I suppose we are all in favour of that? Agreed.

Sir WILLIAM NORMAN: Before he went away, General Goodwin asked me to propose that Sir William Osler be the permanent Chairman of the Fellowship.

Mr. MACALISTER: I am delighted to second that, for it will ensure our success if Sir William Osler is willing to act as Chairman.

Sir William Osler expressed his willingness to serve, and the proposal was carried by acclamation.