THE 110th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA

The 110th Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia was held at Braemar Lodge near Yarmouth on July 2 to 5, 1963. One hundred and five physicians were registered from a total membership of 619 (there are 812 physicians on the Resident List of the Provincial Medical Board of Nova Scotia). The Western Counties Medical Society, headed by its president Dr. Anthony Scott of Yarmouth, was the host. Arrangements were under the general direction of Dr. Douglas F. MacDonald, President of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia. Honoured guests of the Society on this occasion were: Drs. W. W. Wigle, President of The Canadian Medical Association, and A. D. Kelly, the Association's General Secretary; Dr. Guy Leadbetter, Jr., a urologist, and Dr. Lot B. Page, Chief of the Hypertension Unit, both from the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. An extensive, boisterous and heart-warming series of social events was arranged, which included a Ceilidh on the opening night, an annual ball, a lobster supper and an annual banquet. A major contribution to this part of the meeting was provided by the stentorian talents of Mr. Bob MacLeod of St. John's, Newfoundland.

A scientific program was arranged which included a panel discussion on hypertension with Dr. L. B. Page as moderator and Drs. G. Douglas Denton (Wolville), R. N. Anderson and C. L. Gosse (Halifax) as contributors; a panel on urinary tract infections of childhood led by Dr. Guy Leadbetter and made up of Drs. D. H. MacKenzie (Sydney), W. A. Ernst and R. S. Grant (Halifax); and a clinical discussion on "Management of Acute and Chronic Renal Failure" by Drs. Page and Leadbetter.

The special luncheon speaker on July 2 was Dr. W. W. Wigle of Toronto who, in his Presidential address, drew attention to the duties of the profession itself. These duties, he contended, are those of (1) providing leadership in health care, (2) maintaining public respect for the medical profession, and (3) demonstrating professional self-discipline. These remarks were received with close attention and at their conclusion a large audience expressed its approval in a most enthusiastic manner.

On the following day Dr. A. D. Kelly presented a valuable review of the topic "Progress in the Various Provinces with respect to Medical Services Insurance". The special luncheon speaker on July 5 was the Honourable W. S. Kennedy Jones, Minister of Public Welfare, Province of Nova Scotia, who spoke on the subject "Some Changing Aspects in Departmental Planning in Government".

Encouraging evidence of the co-operation which exists between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Medical Society was found in the announcement on July 6 of the formation of a special government committee to study various aspects of medical care in Nova Scotia. This announcement, closely following the interim report of the Society's Special Research Committee whose objective it is to devise a plan for medical care which will meet the needs of all Nova Scotians, was viewed as a good augury. The Chronicle-Herald (Halifax) in an editorial entitled "Right Way" had this to say:

"One of the more encouraging items of news from the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Medical Society in Yarmouth was the disclosure that the society is actively working to produce a plan which 'could be the basis of a system of medical care for all the people of Nova Scotia.' In a word, the doctors of the province are not merely holding a watching brief on the Canadian trend to comprehensive medical insurance with a view merely to objecting to unfavorable (to them) developments which may occur. Instead, they are studying the matter so that they can propose a plan which, with provincial government assistance and co-operation, could begin to bring medical care within reach of everyone, regardless of financial circumstances."

The business sessions, the raison d'être of the Annual Meeting, though sparsely attended gave evidence of committee work of very high quality. It continues to be a matter of wonder that a small cadre of patient, industrious and practical men will come forward year after year to do a Division's work. These are not "dewy-eyed acolytes" offering themselves in innocent enthusiasm; on the average, the Division's principal servants have already given at least a decade of service. The reports of standing and special committees, and representatives ran to 114 mimeographed pages and contained very little dead wood. Some of the highlights of the more than 44 committee reports may be of interest to readers in other Divisions of the Association.

The Committee on Cancer expressed gratification at the results achieved by the uterine cancer detection program. Public acceptance of the program has been good and wider utilization by the profession of the facilities provided for uterine cytological examination is hoped for. On this point the Director of the program in a letter quoted in the report stated:

"I have received complaints from lay people that certain doctors will not do satisfactory examinations and will not use cytology. Through public education many patients today realize full well some of the features of a good examination and will not be bluffed by an offhand answer from a careless doctor. Nevertheless I am still of the opinion that there are enough good doctors and the patient should really have no trouble in finding one who will do a decent job. I am against the setting up of clinics for this sort of thing until it is clearly shown that there is no improvement. In the meantime, we have to carry on, hoping that we can somehow reach our unconverted colleagues."

A newly constituted Committee on Fees completed a formidable undertaking when it recently published a new schedule of fees. A significant decision was made to adhere to a single schedule; that is, a schedule whereby specialists and general physicians performing the same service will receive the same remuneration.

The Committee on Insurance recommended the addition of insurance to cover office overhead expenses to the existing program of group life and group disability programs.

The Committee on Nutrition called for a renewal of interest in the problems of obesity and over-nutrition and noted that an "alarming" number of persons, principally infants and children, continue to suffer from..."
DR. WILLIAM H. F. ADDISON died recently in Mount Vernon, N.Y., at the age of 82. Born in Whitby, Ont., he graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1917. While a student there he prospected for gold and silver in the north, near Cobalt, with Hugh Kerr, a fellow student, and they discovered a rich gold mine named after them the Kerr-Addison gold mine. Dr. Addison was Professor of Histology and Embryology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught from 1903 to 1948. Since his retirement he had lived at Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Dr. Addison is survived by a daughter.

Le DR JEAN-R. CHRETIEN, 89, est décédé à sa résidence de St-Frédéric de Beauce, Qué. Il gradua à l'Université Laval en 1898 et s'installa à St-Frédéric de cette même année. Il fut tour à tour élu maire, président de la Commission scolaire, coroner du district de Beauce, président de la Caisse populaire, et examinateur pour le Collège des médecins. Le Dr Chrétien laisse dans le deuil deux belles-filles.

DR. RODERICK GRANT died recently at Burlington, Vermont, U.S.A., after a brief illness. Born in Newfoundland, he graduated in medicine from Dalhousie University, interned at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax and then took postgraduate studies in Glasgow and London. For some time he was on the staff of Saint John Tuberculosis Hospital and served as a travelling tuberculosis diagnostician for New Brunswick. After 15 years of practice in Sussex, N.B., he moved to the United States and had been on the staff of the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, Vermont.

Dr. Grant is survived by his widow.

DR. GEORGE C. HALE, 78, died on May 27 at his home in London, Ont. A native of Ottawa, he attended Trinity College for some time and later transferred to McGill University from which he graduated in medicine in 1909. After an internship at the Montreal General Hospital, he took postgraduate training in Berlin, Vienna and Munich. He returned to London in 1913 and began his practice there. During the First World War he became chief of medicine at Canadian military hospitals in England. In 1925 Dr. Hale was appointed Professor of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario and, seven years later, with six other doctors formed the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. In 1952 the University of Western Ontario bestowed an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon him in recognition of his outstanding research work. During World War II he supervised the initial stages of the development of a decompression chamber at the university under a program of aviation research. Dr. Hale was a member of the Canadian and Ontario Medical Associations, a charter member of the London Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

DR. WILLIAM H. HILL, 70, died in Calgary General Hospital on May 22. Born in Liverpool, England, he came to Canada at the age of 13. He graduated from McGill University in 1919 and served with the Royal Navy as a surgeon-lieutenant in the First World War. After taking postgraduate courses at the University of Liverpool, he returned to practise in Saskatchewan and at Rocky Mountain House until 1931. He then graduated in public health from the University of Toronto and became Calgary's Medical Officer in 1933; he held this post until his retirement in 1960. Dr. Hill was named a specialist in the field of public health and preventive medicine by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

He is survived by his widow and two daughters.