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THE CANADIAN ANAESTHETISTS' SOCIETY

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NEWS LETTER

Volume 1, No. 5
November, 1951.

The President's Page

The memories of a very splendid meeting at Murray Bay are still quite bright for all those who attended in June. It comes as a bit of a shock to realize that for most of us summer and holidays have come and gone and we are now back at the old grind.

With this in mind then, we also realize that the intervening time between meetings is almost half gone. Arrangements have already been started for the programme etc., for the meeting next June in Banff. I would like at this time to ask any members who are willing to contribute to this programme to drop a line to Rod Gordon. The more who reply the less will be the intensity of his headache.

I am sure that all members will be pleased to know that the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons is now to accept the recommendations of our society in regard to recognized departments of Anaesthesia across Canada.

Another step forward in our progress toward uniformity and recognized training has now been firmly established. At the last convocation of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons several of our members were elected to the Fellowship in Medicine thus establishing a basic group in the College.

Here and there across Canada we have evidence that the economics of Anaesthesia is becoming a major point of interest and, in some regards, concern. It would be well if all would spend some time in the consideration of these problems so that we may find common ground for our policy and be prepared to offer constructive proposals.

E. H. Watts, M.D.,
President.

From The Secretary's Office

ANNUAL MEETING

Members are reminded that it is now time to make hotel reservations for the Annual Meeting of the Society at the Banff Springs Hotel, 9th and 10th of June 1952. In applying for housing accommodation please use the application form which appeared in the November issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal and mail this direct to:-

Dr. A. E. Wilson,
904 Greyhound Building
Calgary, Alberta.

Members who are prepared to present papers at the Annual Meeting at Banff are asked to forward particulars immediately to the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. R. A. Gordon, 516 Medical Arts Bldg., Toronto, Ontario.

TRAINING IN ANAESTHESIA

A review of all residencies in approved hospitals is being made under the authority of the Council of the Society. This information is to be kept on file in the office of the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There are still some 1951 membership dues unpaid. The Secretary would appreciate receipt of these before the end of the year (dues are deductible for Income Tax purposes).

CONGRESS OF ANAESTHETISTS - LONDON AND PARIS

Canada was adequately represented at the XXVI Congress of Anaesthetists held in London, England, September 3-7, 1951; and at the Congrès International d'Anesthésiologie in Paris, France, September 20-22, 1951. Among Canadians attending were Dr. & Mrs. Georges Cousineau, Dr. & Mrs. Moise Clermont, Dr. & Mrs. Harold Griffith,

Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Legare, Dr. & Mrs. L. Ostiguy, all of Montreal, Dr. C. Arthur Sheridan of Sarnia; Dr. Marjory Bennett and Dr. Donald Huggins of Winnipeg; Dr. Dorothy Barnhouse of Edmonton; and Professor J. H. Quastel of McGill University. Canadians now residing in the United States included Dr. & Mrs. W. G. Mackensie of Detroit; Dr. & Mrs. J. G. Cleland of Oregon City; Dr. A. W. Friend of Akron; Dr. Ralph Tovell of Hartford.

The London Congress was sponsored by the International Anaesthesia Research Society and by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, and was a great success. More than 450 anaesthetists from 26 countries were in attendance. The Joint Presidents of the Congress were Dr. Ivan Magill of London, and Dr. Harold Griffith of Montreal. Dr. Cousineau conveyed official greetings from the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. Forty-six important scientific papers were presented during the sessions which were held in British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square; there was a very large Commercial and Scientific Exhibit in St. Pancras Town Hall; and clinical sessions were conducted in most of the London teaching hospitals. A series of social functions including receptions at the Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal College of Physicians, emphasized the present high status of British anaesthetists. A formal dinner was held in the impressive setting of the Grand Hall of Lincoln's Inn, where many of the best known figures in British medicine graced the long head table. On this occasion Dr. Griffith responded to the toast to the Guests, and presented "Scrolls of Recognition" on behalf of the I.A.R.S. to Dr. A.D. Marston, Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons; Dr. R.R. Macintosh, Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics at Oxford University; and Dr. I.W. Magill, world-famous anaesthetist of London. The Congress was concluded by a most enjoyable dinner dance at the Dorchester Hotel, where Dr. & Mrs. Griffith received more than 400 guests.

Following the London Congress a party of thirty North American Anaesthetists visited Anaesthesia teaching centres throughout England and Scotland. They were entertained by Lord Nuffield and Professor Macintosh at Oxford, by Dr. Featherstone at Birmingham, by Dr. Cecil Gray at Liverpool, by Dr. John Gillies in Edinburgh, by Drs. Brennan, Hunter and others in Manchester, and by Professor Pask at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Everywhere they found good clinical

anaesthesia and enthusiastic interest in teaching programs.

The Congress in Paris was organized by the Société Française d'Anesthésie, under the direction of Professeur Robert Monod and Dr. Marcel Thalheimer, and attracted delegates from many countries, including surgeons and others interested in anaesthesiology. The sessions were held in the Hospice de la Salpêtrière, and all arrangements were most elaborately organized. The rather crowded scientific program was not of the same calibre as the London Congress, but the social and gastronomic features were very good indeed. Dr. Cousineau acted as spokesman for the guests on numerous occasions, and his address at the reception in the Hôtel de Ville given by the Conseil Municipal de Paris was outstanding. A highlight of the Congress was the visit to Moët and Chandon champagne caves at Epernay and the "Dejeuner Champenois" which followed.

There was considerable discussion at the Congress regarding a proposal to organize a representative international Anesthesiology Society. American and British delegates insisted that such a society must be controlled by anesthesiologists and Dr. Cousineau ably directed the discussion which sometimes became heated. Finally all arguments were amicably resolved, and plans for proceeding with the organization of an international society and for an international congress to be held in 1954 were left to a small interim Committee, of which all the members are practising anaesthesiologists. Committee members are — Dr. Harold Griffith, Montreal, Chairman; Dr. John Gillies, Edinburgh; Dr. Torsten Gordh, Stockholm; Dr. A. Goldblat, Brussels; and Dr. Jacques Boureau, Paris. It is hoped to hold the first meeting of the Committee in Canada in 1952.

NEW BRUNSWICK MEETING

On Sept. 6th and 7th last, on the invitation of the New Brunswick Division, your immediate past president was very happy to attend the Annual meeting of the Provincial Medical Society at St. Andrews. Although the plane was several hours late, not arriving until near midnight, he was very kindly met at Penfield Ridge by Dr. Eli Davis and driven the twenty-eight miles to the Algonquin Hotel.

Anaesthesiology in New Brunswick is confronted with two problems which are peculiar to that province and fortunately each obtains in only one place. In one, nurse anaesthetists have become established, apparently due to a loophole in the medical act which allows a physician, so I am told, to nominally head a department of anaesthesia, although he is not actively connected with it, and the hospital to employ nurse anaesthetists. This of course is entirely contrary to our concepts of the best interests of the patient both medically and financially.

The other is a more peculiar one and also tends to prevent the proper development of the specialty. In this centre the anaesthetist is discouraged by the surgeons in rendering his own account but must depend on the surgeon for payment of his fee out of an overall surgical fee.

It was with these conditions in mind that your representative spoke after luncheon to the Society on the growth of the Specialty of Anaesthesia and the various types of anaesthetic practice from the economic standpoint. Dr. Ned Lunney in his motion of a vote of thanks very ably pointed up some of the speaker's remarks. It is to be hoped that this propaganda will bear fruit.

A paper was also given in the scientific session on the dangers of hypoxia with the newer anaesthetic agents.

The meeting as a whole seemed to be a huge success and the outstanding thing was the friendliness and good will shown by all the members of the N.B. Medical Society. Your speaker is especially grateful to the Executive of the N.B. Division, Dr. Slater of St. John and Dr. Stewart, local practitioner in St. Andrews, for their delightful hospitality.

This was the second time that an anaesthetist has appeared as a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting of the N.B. Medical Society and it is to be hoped that it will occur frequently.

The Editor's Page

We are pleased to receive a communication from the Manitoba Division with criticisms and suggestions. Dr. Donalda Huggins, Secretary-Treasurer of this Division has suggested that short biographies of our pioneers in Anaesthesia would be of historical interest to all members. This was already begun in the last issue, honouring Dr. Harry Shields, and will be continued in future issues from time to time.

A second suggestion was made that a "question and answers" section should be included in our News Letter. We would like your comments on this idea.

A section dealing with death reviews was a third suggestion. It is felt that a commission of this sort might be set up by the Provincial Divisions and news obtained from these various commissions would be published in the News Letter.

Your Editor is grateful to Dr. Huggins for the above suggestions which are the first we have received from a Divisional Executive. If the other provinces would follow suit the News Letter would be of much more value to us all.

News Items of Interest

British Columbia Division, November 19 meeting — Film: "Supraventricular Cardiac Irregularities" with Commentary by Dr. I. C. Brill, of Portland, Oregon.

Dr. A. C. Blair joined the staff of Grace Hospital, Vancouver on September 1, 1951.

Dr. Robert Simpson joined Dr. M. Digby Leigh and Associates at the Vancouver General Hospital on July 1, 1951.

Dr. Victor A. Rogers has left the Anaesthetic Staff of the Winnipeg General Hospital to join the staff at the Royal Columbia Hospital, New Westminster, B.C.

Dr. M. Digby Leigh was guest speaker at Buenos Aires in October.

Dr. E.H. Watts, Edmonton, Alberta, President of the C.A.S. is spending the winter in Arizona for reasons of health. He hopes to return to Alberta in the early spring.

Dr. Eric H. Dobbs has joined the staff of the Anaesthesia Department of the Winnipeg General Hospital. Dr. Dobbs was with the Manitoba Sanatorium Board for several years.

Dr. Max Cham, relinquished his practice in Benito, Manitoba, to become a member of the Anaesthesia Department of the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Dr. Gunther Semelka, graduate of Innsbruck, Austria, is now at the Winnipeg General Hospital, Department of Anaesthesia. He has spent the past year in Anaesthesiology in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dr. William Blair, a 1950 graduate of Manitoba Medical School, has joined the St. Boniface Anaesthetic Clinic.

Dr. L. Halkiewicz, who was in the Polish army in England for nine years, and has been doing General Practice in North Battleford, is now with the St. Boniface Anaesthetic Clinic.

Dr. Henry Devlin, of Donegal, Eire, has recently come to Canada, and is practicing Anaesthesia with the St. Boniface group.

Drs. Marjorie Bennett and Donalda Huggins attended the 26th Annual Congress of Anaesthetists in London, England and Paris, France in September. Following the convention Dr. Bennett toured Sweden, while Dr. Huggins visited various Anaesthetic centres in Great Britain.

Dr. D. C. Aikenhead attended the Annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in Washington early in November. While in the East he had the pleasure of visiting Anaesthetists in Philadelphia and New York.

The programme of the Winnipeg Anaesthetists' Society for the autumn meetings is as follows:

Nov. 6th – (1) Report of Congress of Anaesthetists, London.

Dr. M. R. Bennett

Dr. D. M. Huggins

(2) Film – “Pediatric Anaesthesia”

by Dr. D. Leigh.

Dec. 4th – (1) “Fluid and Electrolyte Balance”

Dr. Ashley Thompson, Dept. of Physiology,
Medical College, U. Man.

(2) Report of the Annual Meeting of the American
Society of Anaesthesiologists

Dr. D. C. Aikenhead.

A new addition to the Toronto Academy of Medicine has now been completed. The formal dedication of Osler Hall took place on Friday evening, November 16th. The opening address was given by Dr. W. E. Gallie.

A meeting of the Ontario Division will be held at Sudbury on Saturday, April 5, 1952. The programme is being arranged by Dr. Robert Orange details to be published at an early date.

Un travail sur “l'Anesthésie en pédiatrie” a été présenté par le Dr. Francois Cliche, de St. Georges de Beauce, au dernier Congrès des Médecins de Langue Francaise du Canada, tenu aux Trois-Rivières au début d'octobre.

Tous les anesthésistes de Québec étaient invités chez le Dr. Lucien Rinfret le 11 octobre dernier. Le but de cette reunion était de fonder une société d'anesthésia à Québec.

Le Dr. Paul Galibois de l'Hospital de l'Enfant — Jésus, est parti pour Philadelphie où il suivra pendant une année, les cours de l'école d'Anesthésie de l'Université de Pensylvanie.

Le Dr. Yvon Sormany de Bathurst, N.B., fait un stage à l'école d'Anesthésie post-scolaire de l'Université Laval.

On se réjouit du retour au travail du Dr. Eug. Allard qui a été retenu à la maison pendant deux mois pour cause de maladie.

The following Anaesthetists were admitted to Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians of Canada at the Convocation held in Quebec City, 27 Sept. 51.

Dr. H. R. Griffith, Montreal
Dr. H. J. Shields, Toronto
Dr. D. C. Aikenhead, Winnipeg
Dr. E. H. Watts, Edmonton.

CANADIAN ANAESTHETISTS' SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name

Address

Education (*Universities only—Dates & Degrees*)

.....

Internships

.....

Post-Graduate Training in Anaesthesia (*Location and Dates*)

.....

Specialist Qualifications in Anaesthesia (*State Dates and if by Examination
or otherwise*)

.....

Appointments in Anaesthesia (*Past and Present—Full time or Part time*)

.....

Professional Memberships

Publications (*Please attach list if necessary*)

.....

Signature of Applicant

Proposed by

Seconded by

Fees: Certified Specialists — \$15.00 per annum.

Other Members — \$10.00 per annum.

Members Elect (Residents in Anaesthesia) — \$1.00 per annum.

Please make cheques payable to:

"The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society"

And forward to:

Secretary-Treasurer
516 Medical Arts Bldg.,
Toronto, Ontario.