

### *News, Notes and Queries*

Active members shall be elected from students and graduates of recognized Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy and Schools of Nursing and Rehabilitation Medicine practising in British Columbia. Associate members shall be elected from other individuals interested in the history of the health sciences. A Patron and Friends may be elected from persons who are in sympathy with the objects of the Society.

It is the intention of the members of the Society to encourage and co-operate with other science-orientated historical societies. An important object of the Society is the promotion of informal meetings between undergraduate students and graduates in all the health sciences.

The President of the British Columbia Medical Association has expressed enthusiastic support of the objects of the Society and has accepted an invitation to election as an honorary member. Applications for election to active and associate Membership are invited and further information and a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Society may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. S. W. A. Gunn, 750 West Broadway, Vancouver 9, B.C.

The first annual meeting of the Society will be planned as a dinner meeting to be held at the Faculty Club, University of British Columbia in the autumn of 1966.

#### THE OSLER CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Osler Club was held in the Osler Room of the Royal College of Physicians on Tuesday 12 July 1966, being attended by a large number of members and guests. The Oslerian Oration (to be published in the next issue of *Medical History*) was given by Professor Charles Coury, Professor of the History of Medicine in the University of Paris, the theme being *Osler and French Medicine*. After the publication of so many books and papers about Osler and after so many Oslerian Orations (few of which have in fact dealt with Osler) it was an unexpected pleasure to have new aspects of Osler's activities presented on such an occasion. What clearly delighted the large audience even more was the elegant English style and superb delivery of the Orator who enjoyed a well-deserved personal triumph. Among the distinguished guests at the dinner was H.E. the American Ambassador in London, Mr. John Bruce. In a witty and graceful speech he recalled that the previous Oslerian Oration had been given by Dr. Martin Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine in Washington, on the theme *Books, Computers and Medicine* (see *Medical History* 1966, 10, 130–137) based on some correspondence with Osler found in the Library's archives. Mr. Bruce declared that it was his pleasure, on behalf of the United States Government, to present these letters to the Osler Club of London for its own collection of Osleriana and modestly regretted that there were not more of them and that they were not longer. In accepting this important gift on behalf of the Osler Club, the President, Dr. Noël Poynter, justly reminded His Excellency and the audience that it was quality and not quantity that was important to Osler when he was building up his own collections and these letters were of the greatest significance. They were concerned with what has often been called 'America's greatest gift to Medicine'—the great Index-Catalog of the Surgeon-General's Library. This gift was another example of American generosity for which the Osler Club sincerely thanked the United States government.