

## Letters To The Editor

Mr. Editor:

It strikes me as interesting that what Dr. Atlee and the Editor are saying are essentially the same thing, if a generation apart. Allow me to quote Sir William Osler: "The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head. Often the best part of your work will have nothing to do with potions and powders, but with the exercise of an influence of the strong upon the weak, of the righteous upon the wicked, of the wise upon the foolish". Alas! What is committed in the name of medicine. As this school embarks upon a new era, it might be well to give some thought to Osler's words and this all-too-often ignored aspect in the making of a Doctor.

Respectfully,  
MICHAEL GRAHAM.

327 Saint John Road,  
Saint Andrews, N.B.  
16 January, 1965

The Editor,  
Dalhousie Medical Journal,  
932 South Bland Street,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am accepting your invitation appearing on your editorial page, in the Fall 1964 number, to express a quite strong disagreement with the opinion expressed in his article by Dr. H. B. Atlee.

This opinion is set forth in the paragraph beginning: "On and off for the past fifteen years or so . . . put to better use."

It seems to me that this opinion, which is also held by many others, does not recognize or take into consideration the various differences existing among men, mentally as well as physically.

Some men have a very strong auditory memory, so that they can lean back, listen to a lecture and take away a clear, vivid memory so that further reference to that particular subject (if well presented) will not be necessary.

Others have just as strong visual memory.

The very fortunate have both of these well developed.

But there are others! To describe the case I know best, myself, it required a combination of both faculties at the same time to effect the important memory function. If I can hear a lecture only — it is quite lost; as Dr. Atlee says a tragic waste of time (more correctly, he implies). But, if at the same time that I hear the lecture, I am able to make notes (more or less voluminous), then the combination of auditory and visual has the desired result — I do not need the notes any further!

In other words, I have been one of those students whom so many lecturers detest — the diligent note-taker.

I do not learn nearly so well by reading alone — it is a very laborious task.

Unless such persons as myself are to be shut out, it is very, very important that didactic lectures be retained. If a professor does not want to take the time to make suitable presentations of his material, then he is the factor to be eliminated.

Yours very truly,

R.H. M'GONIGLE