3. Because men of about 50 or more, who have completed their terms in hospitals and would be available, are at present without the opportunity of imparting their knowledge to post-graduates.

It should be remembered that post-graduates are not boys of 30 or less. They are men in busy practice who wish to freshen their minds and learn new methods.

Now comes the question of what fees the post-graduate would be inclined to pay. Speaking as one who comes from abroad, I personally would be willing to pay an inclusive fee of 50 guineas for a month's tuition, or 100 guineas for a ten weeks' course—a week to consist of five and a half days, containing six or more hours per day.

For such fees I should expect—
1. To see selected out-patients and hear their cases discussed by a master in his own subject. This master should outline his own course of teaching and then be able to give the various forms of diagnosis and treatment by first-rank men in Europe and America. I am not in favour of too many out-patient cases being shown, as the work suffers from the lack of reasonable time to deal with numbers. It is better to limit the outpatient cases by more systematic and thorough work.
2. To visit wards daily and to follow up medical cases and to see surgical dressings.
3. To find that all possible examinations (pathological and bacteriological) in regard to a case were done and could be seen—e.g., if a piece of tissue were removed from a body the tissue should be examined in every case and records kept which would be available to post-graduates while the patient is in hospital.
4. To see operations done in all branches of any specialty.
5. To visit other operators in the city on certain days. A number of specialists should be extra-murally associated with the hospital and they should set aside one afternoon a week for post-graduates.
6. To possess a first-class X ray department and operator, such as Dr. Manger, who assists Chevalier Jackson in America.
7. To see demonstrations on the cadaver and models.
8. To have constant revision of anatomy and opportunity for private or team study by the post-graduates themselves.

I should not expect, or desire—
1. Lectures of any systematic sort, or a collection of cases and an address thereon.
2. Long-winded dissertations on this or that theory, or an autobiography of the teacher.

The aim of such a post-graduate hospital should be to improve the knowledge of all the practitioners and specialists throughout the Empire. It might even be possible in time to give senior and junior post-graduate courses. Some of us would like to have our elementary knowledge refreshed, while others would wish to see the latest improvements in the art and science of the profession. This should appeal to the teachers in Great Britain as a change from the perpetual teaching of elementary subjects to students, and they would probably appreciate the greater opportunities afforded in teaching advanced work to those who understand.

Among the students I class the young graduates who wish at once to specialise. They should not be mixed up with the men who have been specialising for years, particularly as there are ample opportunities for them to learn in such posts as that of house surgeon or clinical assistant.

The London doctor perhaps does not realise the value of time, nor the eager desire for improvement of knowledge and technique on the part of Dominion post-graduates! Six months, or even five, away from a practice, besides the expense, means a great loss, and the building up again of what has been dropped in one's absence. It cannot be impressed too strongly on people over here that it is work, and still more work, and not amusement that the visiting man is hungering for.

It must be admitted that post-graduate tuition is in a far more advanced state abroad than in Great Britain and this seems a pity, as the moral standard of this country is on a plane by itself. I for one am anxious to see the young man from overseas come to the mother country to study, and feel sure that this object will be attained if the necessary improvements can be made in the present-day instruction.

Letters to the Editor

POST-GRADUATE INSTRUCTION: AN APPRECIATION.

Sir,—I am writing in appreciation of post-graduate work as undertaken in London. During the past 20 years I have visited London many times for the purpose of post-graduate work. I have always derived great benefit, but up to 1919 there was a considerable waste of time in search of one's requirements. In 1919 the Fellowship of Medicine was started and one at once appreciated the great help such an organisation was to be to post-graduates. The wealth of material in London in the various departments of the general or special hospitals is extraordinary. The senior and junior staffs are always most helpful; one is welcomed and afforded every opportunity of gaining an all-round general brush-up or in one or other of the special departments, if he so desires. It is impossible to prevent a repetition of what is already known to one, but, truly, this recapitulation is beneficial and is always intermixed with some more modern method, or one more useful, or the recapitulation has served to explain an imperfect previous knowledge. To undertake a syllabus of a P.G. course in its entirety is a real "burnisher" to a post-graduate. Certain lectures given at 11, Chandas-street and the Royal College of Surgeons are useful and much appreciated adjuncts to a P.G. course in London.

Many like myself leave London after a stay of four months feeling that they have been fully rewarded by taking a course of post-graduate work in London.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully,

Cecil E. Jones-Phillipson,
Late President, B.M.A., Cape of Good Hope Branch.
Adderley-street, Capetown, South Africa, Jan. 4th, 1926.
Post-Graduate Instruction: An Appreciation

Cecil E. Jones-Phillipson

Postgrad Med J 1926 1: 67
doi: 10.1136/pgmj.1.5.67

Updated information and services can be found at: http://pmj.bmj.com/content/1/5/67.citation

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to: http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to: http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to: http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/