

University of Toronto; Mr. John W. Rogers. The Trustees propose to make an appeal to the public for funds in the immediate future. Subscriptions will be welcome at any time and should be made payable to the Banting Research Foundation, Toronto, Canada.

Yours faithfully,
F. Lorne Hutchison,
Honorary Secretary.

THE BANTING RESEARCH FOUNDATION,
Toronto, March 6th, 1924.

SURGERY AND SURGEONS

To the Editor:

A short time ago a marked copy of *Harper's Magazine* containing an article entitled "The New Control of Surgeons" was sent to every Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in this locality, and presumably throughout both the United States and Canada. The said article condemned in a general way the present state of surgery, and extolled the rescue work undertaken by the American College of Surgeons. It has given rise to much surprise in our district, and surmises are rife as to whether the author may not be a member, or perhaps an official of the college. It certainly appears to contain internal evidence that it was written by some one closely in touch with the governing body of the College, if not directly inspired by one of its members. The writer makes very broad statements and accusations, which to the members of the College in Canada do not appear to be warranted. The statements that operations are performed unnecessarily and for purely financial gain; that many surgeons are unfit to perform surgery and attempt operations in a reckless manner, and that the results of surgical operations in hospitals are not properly scrutinized, appear to me to be most unwarranted. The statement also that there are many hospitals looked upon by the public as being safe and properly equipped with laboratories for investigation and apparatus for efficient diagnostic purposes, while as a fact they are sadly wanting in many important requisites for the modern treatment of diseased conditions, is a misleading exaggeration. Finally, the statement that surgeons generally are in the habit of splitting fees is, so far as I know, a falsehood, as regards Canadian sur-

geons. There may be black sheep in every flock. There may be fee splitters under the wing of the American College of Surgeons, but that this holds true generally I do not believe, and, made in such a public way, I regard the statement as a most dangerous generalization. I regard the whole of this article as a most exaggerated and unfair accusation, and am surprised to think that such a maligning of the profession should be allowed to appear in a respectable journal like *Harper's Magazine*. While I speak in this way of this, in my opinion, most unjust article, I desire on the other hand to recognize that the American College of Surgeons has rendered, and is rendering, valuable services to the profession and to the community in general by insisting upon higher standards, on careful note taking, and emphasizing the necessity for an improvement in many of the smaller hospitals by increasing their laboratory equipments. I may also add that the body of Canadian surgeons desire to recognize the assistance and support they have received from their American confrères, but they resent very strongly the statements made by the writer of this article.

I should like to take this opportunity of recognizing the admirable work done by the organizers of the Catholic Hospital Association, and to no man more than the Rev. Father Moulinier, S.J., the instigator and President of this Association, is honour due for the success achieved in co-operation with the American College of Surgeons.

On the whole, I feel that the article in *Harper's Magazine* smacks somewhat of the charlatan in its exaggeration and sweeping generalizations.

Yours truly,
EUG. ST. JACQUES,
Prof. of Clinical Surgery,
University of Montreal.

MONTREAL, March 15, 1924.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES FROM THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To the Editor:

I hasten to inform you that the Council of our Association yesterday unanimously agreed to appoint two delegates to come over to Canada to attend the meeting of the Canadian Med-