

For

Sir W Osler

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The Universities Post-Graduate Scheme.

The universities scheme of post-graduate instruction, of which Sir William Osler is the originator, was unanimously accepted at the highly-successful meeting at which it was formally introduced a week ago in the House of the Royal Society of Medicine. In one sense the meeting may be regarded as historic, inasmuch as it signalised the first serious effort to promote a much-needed reform in our medical educational system. For years we have been far behind other nations in utilising the invaluable stores of clinical material available for post-graduate instruction. The neglect of our opportunities in this regard has been mainly due to a lack of cohesion between the interests concerned, and partly also to a failure to realise the importance of such a movement. There is now before us, however, the prospect of founding a real British School of Medicine and Surgery, a school with which will be identified the advancements attributable to British science worthy of attracting to this country our confrères of other nations, eager to profit from a scheme of organisation providing a wealth of opportunities for gaining instruction. One point of criticism only occurs to us, and it

was suggested by some remarks which certain of the representatives of the Provincial Universities expressed at the meeting last week. There is the old familiar proverb that one must walk before one can run. The scheme is based upon a grandiose scale; how its projected organisation will work is still a matter of speculation. It seems to us, therefore, that the better plan would have been to have allowed time to have perfected the working of the arrangements in the centre—London—before appealing for the union of the provincial universities in the scheme. Moreover, some dubiety was displayed by one or two of the latter representatives as to the precise basis of affiliation. The organisation at first is certain to involve problems not easy of solution, and in the absence of any standard in this country experience and practice can only teach how that can be best attained. Meanwhile, of course, the scheme has the cordial support of the MEDICAL PRESS; we desire for it every success; its influence can only tend to stimulate the advancement of medical science throughout the civilised world.