



“In medicine,” one lecturer is reported to have said to a group of girls embarrassed by a joke he had made in somewhat dubious taste: “in medicine there are no girls.” If he was referring to feminine modesty and coyness, he would probably proved to be correct, for these are qualities medic girls can well do without in their future profession. However, medic girls apparently suffer more than merely these shortcomings, in the eyes of most medic boys, and one can frequently come across boys who seem to have nothing but contempt for their female colleagues.

This article is written with the aim of defining the male attitude, as well as to present the views of some of the girls in the faculty. The writers apologize for the use of the crude and unscientific methods in obtaining their facts, but they feel that more often than not, these serve their purpose. The results of a questionnaire circulated to boys of the first, second and third years are presented for what they are worth, together with analytical remarks where possible, for frequently, opinions wander into the field of psychoanalysis, and appear quite beyond us.

What The Boys Think

The Questionnaire

1. Do you object in any way to girls studying medicine? The majority answered No to this question but the percentages showed this curious fall from the first to third years:

First Year	:	78%
Second Year	:	70%
Third Year	:	50%

Analysis: In their first year, boys enjoy studying in a class with girls, many of the boys having come from schools with boys only. There is no significant change in the second year, but in their third year boys become embarrassed by the presence of girls in the wards.

2. Do you think men make better doctors than women? The majority of boys in each class answered Yes.

First Year : 78%

Second Year : 90%

Third Year : 88%

Analysis: Since the second year girls have as yet no chance to show their clinical abilities, the boys must have made their judgement on intelligence alone, whereas both these factors must have influenced the third year boys. This is borne out by the next item on the questionnaire, which was to give reasons for the choice.

First Year:

Greater dedication to their work 35%

Greater physical endurance 35%

Second Year:

Superior intellects 33%

Greater Physical endurance 30%

Third Year:

Great Physical endurance 25%

Superior intellects 23%

Greater dedication to their work 23%

More trusted than women doctors 23%

3. Do you think girls spend more time on their studies than boys? The majority answered Yes, having observed this to be a fact.

First Year : 78%

Second Year : 60%

Third Year : 75%

Inference: The girls of the second year are obviously the least hard-working among those of the first, second and third years.

4. All the boys felt that Surgery and Orthopaedics are the most unsuitable fields of medicine for girls to take up. Some of the reasons given are listed below:

Surgery:

lack skill,

physically inadequate,

too timid,

too hysterical, often slow and clumsy,

Paediatrics: become bored with babies, no more wish to marry.

Medicine: illogical way of reasoning, poor memory, no intelligence to apply knowledge,

Psychiatry: Psychologically unstable themselves,

illogical,

can't cure, can only worsen patients' condition.

Analysis: We feel that most of the reasons given for surgery and orthopaedics are true, but as for the rest, they can be ignored.

5. What is the relationship with the girls in your class?

	1st Yr.	2nd Yr.	3rd Yr.
a. very friendly	2%	2%	13%
b. friendly	35%	50%	13%
c. indifferent	50%	45%	60%
d. hostile	10%	2%	12%

Analysis: The figures speak for themselves.

In what ways could this relationship be improved?

**By more friendliness on
the part of the girls**

First Year	50%
Second Year	50%
Third Year	20%

**If medical girls made
themselves more attractive**

First Year	35%
Second Year	35%
Third Year	50%

Inference: Third Year girls are the least attractive though the most friendly of the three groups.

6. What do you think motivates a girl to take up medicine?

50% of the boys feel that this is because of the narrow field of choice at the University, so that there is nothing else for the girls to do.

30% feel it is for pure academic interest.

20% think it is a means of getting rich.

Other assorted reasons given were:

to get a doctor husband,

to show themselves superior to other girls,

to compete with boys,

to gain fame & prestige.

7. Do you think women doctors can be average housewives?

70% of the answers of each class was No.

Analysis: Most of the boys are immature, since they still hold with the view that working women cannot make average housewives. For their information, 70% of the working women continue with their careers after marriage or else resume it some time after marriage.

8. What are the chances of your marrying a woman doctor.

	good	average	poor
First Year	2%	5%	77%
Second Year	2%	20%	70%
Third Year	10%	10%	80%

9. The most varied response was obtained when they were asked to list one problem peculiar to girls studying medicine. However, the following two reasons cropped up most frequently:

- a. Difficulty in getting a husband because they get too old after 5 years.
- b. They embarrass male patients.

What a Girl Thinks

In a field of work that is mostly for boys, member of the opposite sex may cause some conjecture on the part of the boys. They may try to guess what problem the girls will face, what are their motives etc. Let us see how one of the members of the fair sex looks at the matter.

1. Do you think a girl studying medicine sacrifices a lot?

Yes, in the undergrad years. We have to scarify a lot. e.g. social and sports activities. It's all due to heavy schedules. We tend to be narrow minded, since we really have very little time for other things. Even before I entered university, I had noticed such a possibility, but it is really so tough. It is quite a surprise.

2. What sacrifices do you expect after graduation?

May be having difficulty in finding a good and understanding partner. Personally I prefer to have a doctor as a future partner, since we can discuss cases together. For people outside the medical field, the chance is less, I think, since there will be no understanding.

3. The answer in the questionnaire showing that medic boys do not like taking medic girls as wives. What do you think are the reasons?

Perhaps they do not want to take their work home, and want to have supreme respect from the other side. Also he may not be always with his wife if she is also a doctor.

4. How would you compare boys and girls as doctors?

In ability, it depends on devotion. The more devoted one is, the more capable one will be. Physically there is really a difference. Girls may have less endurance. In work, it depends on their field of activity. Girls may show greater aptitude in gynaecology and paediatrics. I think however surgery is not suitable for girls, since it will need quite a lot of physical endurance.

5. Do you think patients will prefer a man doctor to a woman doctor?

I think prejudice on the side of the patients do exist. It again depends on the particular field of work one is engaged. Patients would prefer to have woman doctors in gynaecology and paediatrics while in general practice, patients may

treat man and woman doctors alike.

6. Do you think this career will affect the family life of a girl?

In fact any career may affect family life, e.g. even in girls taking up teaching as a career. In medicine, it again depends on the field of work of the girl. In some cases e.g. medicine, paediatrics, paraclinical subjects like pathology there will be less hindrance, on the other hand as a general practitioner, one will have to answer night calls and this may affect family life.

7. How about the question of bringing up children?

For this, it requires great planning. Anyhow one can manage if one thinks carefully. Even girls without a career may not bring up their children well or give them adequate care if she is careless and with a lot of children to look after or if she is too devoted to mahjong.

8. What is your motive for studying medicine?

To serve the sick. Others may have a pure academic interest or a desire for knowledge. Others may be just following their family trade.

9. What will you do after graduation?

I don't know. It depends, but I think surgery is least likely.

10. What are your personal interests besides studying?

Ball games, netball, lacrosse, etc., in other words, outdoor games. That includes swimming. As regards reading, I read mostly religious books, some newer love novels and for magazines, readers digest. I seldom go to the movies or watch TV.

11. How many books which is not related to medicine do you read in a month?

About 4-5 including magazines.

12. Do you have any other interest e.g. in fine arts such as painting, music?

No, I do not play any musical instrument, but I like to listen to records. I also like making dresses, household work and cooking.

MEDIC BALL

The Medic Annual Ball was held on the 7th June. The Ball was honoured by the presence of Professor and Mrs. Gibson, who kindly helped to give away the

prizes, and other staff of the Faculty. Music, dinner, dances, and raffle draw, were the highlights of the evening. Everybody had an enjoyable evening.



The Annual Medic Ball held in 1969

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