

Correspondence — Is “Caduceus” a Proper Name for the Society Newspaper? II

R. A. De Castro Basto

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The Editor,

“The Caduceus.”

Dear Sir,

I note in the November issue of your journal that your Executive Committee proposes to change the name of “The Caduceus” to that of the “Hong Kong University Medical Journal.” Before adopting such a measure it is well to consider whether such an alteration would be advisable. Whereas the journals produced by the Universities and Colleges in England, depend for their graduates and undergraduates. “The Caduceus” unlike them, is fostered by a large number of medical men who have no link or tie of affinity with our University. Our journal is to-day not so much the official organ of the Medical Society, but as the representative of the medical opinion of Hong Kong in general. It has, in other words, attained that position which the founders had in mind at the time of its inception, when they said in the foreword of the first number of “the Caduceus” — “We do not intend merely to make this journal a record of the activities of the Medical Society of the University. We aim to make it one of the leading scientific journals in Asia. How far our aim will bear fruit depends a great deal on the support not only of the undergraduates and graduates of the Faculty but also of medical men and scientific workers throughout China.” It was pursuant to this idea that I suggested the name “Caduceus” as a title to the journal, and also submitted the design for the cover. For the name “Caduceus” apart from the beautiful association which it evokes has the advantage of being undenominative.

To it anyone may contribute articles or apply for enrolment as a subscriber without experiencing any sense of compunction. Should the underlying idea of the proposed alteration be founded on the desire to bring the name of University Medical Society into greater prominence abroad, then we would

be defeating our own object if the number of “outside” subscribers were to diminish.

“By their fruits you shall know them.” The Medical Society will gain all the recognition it wants if its product, “The Caduceus,” continues to make that progress towards a higher and higher standard that has been characteristic of it hitherto, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of the present Secretary and Editorial Staff.

I am, etc.,

R. A. DE CASTRO BASTO.