

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DEAR SIR,

The Canadian Anaesthetists' Society began because a group of physicians practicing anaesthesia had a hearty respect for anaesthesia and thought that the anaesthetized individual should be protected by the constant personal attention of a responsible, trained physician. It seems strange that members of this same Canadian Anaesthetists' Society are now discussing the training of technicians to administer anaesthetics.

We have a responsibility when we anaesthetize a patient which we must accept. Vigilance is more important than any number of monitors, be they human or mechanical, and experience more than all the printed words. The routine may become monotonous, the responsibility irksome, but to try to shift our responsibility on to anybody other than a similarly trained physician is wrong.

In view of the steps which (I have been told) have already been taken in Quebec and the formation of a committee to study the subject, it is imperative that some of the more responsible members of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society make their opinions known as regards the place of anaesthetic technicians.

Since the founding concepts of the Society are in question, the situation requires serious thought by all members. I trust this letter may stimulate some honest discussion.

S.A. FLEMING, M.D.