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"Tell us... About the Lymphatic System" Comment

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A delightful passage in Thomas Mann's masterpiece *The Magic Mountain* has long been destined for the pages of a journal devoted to lymph. How appropriate that the story is set in Davos, only 3 hours by train from the editorial offices of the Journal of Lymphology in Zurich.

In response to Hans Castorp's request "Tell us about the lymphatic system", the Hofrat replies (in part) "Lymph is the most refined, the most rarefied, the most intimate of the body juices. It is the juice of juices, the very essence, you understand." Although Thomas Mann considered these words "lively and whimsical", viewed in the light of current knowledge there was little need for apology. The insight reflected by the contents of the entire passage is remarkable.

A vast amount of information about lymph has become available since 1924, the year *The Magic Mountain* was published. Now new knowledge seems to be accumulating at an unprecedented rate and the simple purpose of the Journal of Lymphology is to answer the plea for information voiced by young Castorp. Whether or not the Journal succeeds depends upon the willingness of a small but growing coterie of investigators to use it for sharing their enthusiasm, interest and results with others.