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Students` Medical Council

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The Auricle

S.O.S.
Save Our Stomachs
Mr. A.: "Why are you looking so replete and satisfied?"
Mr. B.: "Ah, you see I've just dined at the
Medical School Refectory."

Nuusblad van die Mediese Studente van Universiteit Witwatersrand. Published at the Students' Medical Council Office, Esselen Street, Johannesburg.

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25 MAY 1945

FOPS "LEGAL"

On March 20 the Federation of Progressive Students was recognised by the S.R. C. This means that FOPS is again "legal."

The motion recognising F.O.P.S. was carried by 17 votes to 6. Highlights of the debate, which lasted almost 3½ hours, were speeches by Mr. B. Wilson and Miss W. Munro.

Miss Munro said that FOPS' decision to support certain candidates in the last S.R.C. elections had been due to the fact that previously students had voted on the basis of personal feelings or hearsay, rather than the candidates' opinions, which were obviously very important when it came to determining S.R.C. policy. FOPS had thus decided to find candidates who would support certain broad principles, which were stated in a pamphlet, and stand for these principles, not for personal honour and glory. These candidates had been warned that by so doing they would probably jeopardise their chances in the election. But they were returned by an overwhelming majority, the policy they stood for being thus endorsed by the student body.

Miss Munro challenged anyone to prove that FOPS dictated policy to any members of the S.R.C. or that a party or caucus had been formed. Whether caucusing was right or wrong, constitutional or unconstitutional the fact was that no caucus sponsored by FOPS existed or had existed. Of course, groups of S.R.C. members had got together and decided to vote this individual or that individual on to the executive, but the candidates supported by FOPS had not voted solidly in one direction. It had been a FOPS member who had nominated Mr. Streeten for Presidency. The Treasurer of the S.R.C. was not a FOPS member though a FOPS member had stood. **FOPS had not caucused and was not caucusing the S.R.C.**

FOPS had been accused of being responsible for racial and group animosities in the University. That might sound very plausible; groups were opposed to each other, tearing at each other's throats whenever they got the opportunity. But why was FOPS blamed for this? Racial and group feeling had rarely been as inflamed and raw as at the time of the Fort Hare crisis — and FOPS had not even been thought of then. Since the formation of FOPS there had been further aggravation. But had this been caused by FOPS? Take for instance the matter of the African demonstrator at Medical School — who had been fomenting racialism then?

"Finally," said Miss Munro, "I appeal to you not to think of FOPS as a menace, insidiously endeavouring to undermine the spirit of the University, FOPS regrets as deeply as anyone the division of race and group that endanger that spirit. I feel moreover that the continued existence of FOPS is more than justified, and it is my sincere conviction that FOPS has something very valuable to contribute to University life."

● FOPS was originally recognised by the S.R.C. towards the end of 1943. Its "illegality" arose from its omission to apply for full recognition in about June 1944. Now that it has again been recognised it will have to apply for full recognition at the end of this year or the beginning of next at the end of its 3 half-terms' probationary period.

GLUCKMAN REPORT

A committee has been formed to publicize (and, where necessary offer criticisms of) the Gluckman Health Commission Report. It is hoped to devote a fortnight to this publicity, and in this connection, the co-operation of the Debating Society, Diogenes Club and The Auricle is being sought. The "Health Report Fortnight" will culminate with an address by Col. H. Gluckman, M.P., the chairman of the Commission. Meanwhile the committee is busy preparing a summary of the Report for circulation among students.

NEWS FLASHES

★ The Student-Senate committee will meet in the near future.

The Students' residence which is in construction at Alexandra is nearing completion and will be ready for occupation in the middle of May.

Sixth years who have to do two weeks full-time work at Alexandra Clinic will live in the residence which will have accommodation for eight students.

★ Amenities is £60 toegeken om 'n draadloos in S.M.R. kantoor asook luidsprekers in Mans en Dames ruskamer te installeer.

Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapy Society is amongst the most virile of Societies and its work constitutes one of the most important and useful student activities. More and more student support and help is needed as the Society expands and progresses, and students are urged to come forward and give a hand.

The activities of the Society have been divided amongst five sub-committees, each of which is controlled by a member of the Occupational Therapy Society Committee.

EDUCATION

Two African teachers engaged by the Occupational Therapy Society teach the adult patients in the wards. At present the total number of pupils is 50. Teaching is confined, due to lack of staff, to patients who will have to stay in hospital for a long while.

Only recently a young matric student entered Hospital — Ward 3 The patient was very keen on leaving as soon as possible since he had to prepare for a supplementary exam, and required coaching in Physics, Chemistry and Botany. But the patient did not improve very rapidly and the Houseman advised him to stay another week. To help him out of his difficulty, the Education sub-committee contrived to arrange for three second year students (all B.Sc.'s) to coach the patient in their spare time.

KNITTING AND SEWING

This department has received an excellent response from the patients. The patients knit jerseys and sew clothes for the Nursery School pupils. At present there are too few student volunteers for coaching the patients. All that is required is that half to one hour per week be given to coaching patients in knitting and sewing, and it is a bad reflection on students that so few are prepared to make even that small and very easy contribution to the Occupational Therapy Society's work.

CIGARETTES

Three firms have kindly donated 1,000 cigarettes each per month. Once a week the cigarettes are distributed in different wards on each occasion. To observe a face, tormented with pain, light up with a smile when the cigarettes are handed out, is ample compensation to the volunteers for the time spent in assisting with the distribution.

NURSERY SCHOOL

There are 18 children on the roll, and a qualified African teacher is in charge. School lasts from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and story-telling, games, plasticine modelling, drawing and singing are the main interests. A jungle-jim, sand pit, chute and garden equipments have been provided for outdoor games. For children on the verandah, and the babies in the cots, toys are supplied for them to play with in bed. The Occupational Therapy Society would greatly appreciate donations of any magazines with bright pictures. With these it is intended to make Scrap Books

(Continued on page 2)

STUDENTS IN ACTION

By MARGARET CORMACK.

VLAS: "And I, too, believed in something for years, and lived in peace because of it. And then when I understood that there is emptiness in my heavens—that there is no life after death—anguish seized me and I became afraid of death. I was afraid to become a mush-room, a worm in the earth."

MATVEI: "It is a difficul sittuation. Worms are easily crushed."

VLAS: "And you'll be crushed too."

MATVEI: "No, because I'll live on even after death! And not up there, beyond your stars, but here on earth, in the minds and memories of living people, in what I've done down here on earth . . . and the more I bring off and accomplish in life, for the happiness of those close to me, the longer I shall live after death" . . .

from DISTANT POINT by AFINOGENOV.

MODERN war is not fought on the battle-fields alone, it is fought in the workshops, in the fields and in the mines, it is fought in the MINDS of the generation who are matured prematurely by the experiences of war. Though many of our contemporaries have joined the Army, here in South Africa, the war is an unreal concept, a configuration in our minds, and far off to most of us. The youth of the countries unscarred by battle is unique in possessing the power of moulding anew the clay of shattered Europe and Asia and moulding it in a pattern which will prevent the growth of Fascism or nationalism in any form. A spirit of internationalism should be the guide to the future.

The politicians of tomorrow are mainly the University students of to-day. At a time when the struggle against the enslavement of the world by the Fascist way of life is reaching its climax, it is indeed strange to hear the old "ivory tower" of intellectuals being propounded as a reasonable attitude towards society. Pure culture, unadulterated by taint from the external world, is enstated on its pedestal. But Culture presupposes the gathering together of individuals in a society which has a political framework. We are limited in our personal freedom by the shape of our political institutions. The African peasant, the non-European student at our University enjoys a different kind of freedom, if it can be called freedom, from that experienced by the majority of students. As we are limited by society, so are we responsible to it for our actions. Each one of us is a politician as soon as he makes any statement concerning the relations of human beings in his external environment. Politics is therefore the "LIFE" of every one of us. We are privileged by our position in society to be at University during the present conflict, and therefore should recognise our responsibilities towards that society, which are of a political nature.

Each student has the capacity of so analyzing his environment that he has the power to change those aspects of it with which he disagrees. The power of changing the environment is a fundamental characteristic of man, which differentiates him from lower animals. By denying the University students the right to take part in politics, this fundamental attribute of the human mind is dammed at its source.

But action based on prejudices and unreasonable instincts, which cannot bear the attack of reason is worse than non action. Action must be conditioned by the world around us which requires progressive and fresh minds to tackle its problems. It must be action which takes into consideration the lives and aspirations of ten-million people in South Africa and is fashioned on the ideal of equal opportunity for all peoples of all colours. "The unexamined life" said Socrates, "is not worth living." Similarly an unexamined philosophy of life may prove equally unsatisfactory. Those who "sit on the fence" or "follow the herd" are not only negating their own intelligence, but are negating their possibilities of functioning as parts of a reasoned whole.

Equally we cannot proceed with philosophical or any other kind of thoughts as though nothing has happened, or is happening in the world around us. That is not an attribute — it is a failure. Any activity so utterly remote from the problems and demands of real life is necessarily futile and curiously sterile.

If students, particularly medical students, are conscious at all, they must be politically and socially conscious. And to be conscious demands action and more particularly political action. It is not necessary for an individual to belong to a specific political party for him to undertake political action. A political party however tends to mature the judgment and consciously direct action towards a definite goal.

In all spheres politics has come to stay. The most admired school of modern scientists in the world to-day are those who attempt to relate facts to social and therefore political phenomena and attempt to disprove or make invalid those doctrines which are based on the rationalization of unreasoned prejudices. J. B. S. Haldane in "Heredity and Politics" tries to relate the discoveries in the realm of genetics with the theories of racial filli-busters. New worlds are opening up before the eyes of the medical man — the world of "heaven on earth." This heaven is attainable only through political action in exchanging the present economic and social conditions which give rise to poverty, dirt and disease, for an organised and planned society — i.e. a socialist society. The external environment of the majority of South Africans is an almost insurmountable obstacle in the path of preventing disease and is undermining the whole fine curative superstructure at its inception. There are ten million South Africans, ten million potential fighters for freedom from the oppression and misery from which they now suffer. Of these ten million some take the easy way, the inferiority complex way, the Fascist way; the class which mows down all opposition and creates an effigy of itself to worship. There are students who belong to this class. There are students who have sublimated their fear and hatred for a class supremacy which enslaves them into an unreasoning and unreasonable prejudice against justice and fair play between human beings. The unconscious inferiority complex of the racialist, the anti-semite and anti-African, manifests itself as an overt superiority complex in terms of sensations of grandeur, racial superiority, etc.

Each student should subject his particular philosophy to the search-light scrutiny of reason; the mass psychology of Hitlerism with its ranting emotionalism and bitter racialist dogmas should not have an hypnotic effect on our thought processes. **Let us translate our private philosophy into the politics of action, and as citizens of our country take the lead in building a stable future.**

"But it is only after the fight against those who enslave, Comrade, only after the struggle for a new way of life, that we shall rest and sing of the seasons . . Now is the time to learn the ways of struggle, my love, to live in and through the struggle . . . Now is the time to change the world to fight for life and happiness; now is the time to sing, Comrade, brave songs of the struggle . . . ."

(Mulk Ray. Anand- . . Sword and Sickle.)

The Auricle

Thursday, 5th April, 1945.

THE CINDERELLA OF SCIENCE

SOUTH AFRICA spends more money on animal than on human health. This alarming allegation is borne out by the recently published estimates of expenditure for research work in South Africa for 1945/46. The South African Institute for Medical Research is to receive £7,500, the National Cancer Association of S.A., £100, while the state assumes that £150 is adequate for a year's health publicity and education work; and £1,200 is deemed sufficient for the expenses, nutritional and scientific work of the National Nutrition Council. On the other hand, veterinary research is voted £10,000, and veterinary vaccines and maintenance £57,000. We would be the last to want a reduction in the sum spent on animal health and research, but we think we are right in demanding a substantial increase in the sums spent on research to combat disease and alleviate human pain and suffering, for good health should be the fundamental possession of our population.

South Africa's research expenditure is infinitesimal when compared with that on armaments; but we do concede that it is an improvement on the time when Socrates was obliged to argue in the market-place or Diogenes to fulminate from a tub. The impact of science on society is self-evident. **All right-thinking men accept the fact that science has become the outstanding instrument of social change.** Science has indeed measured the stars and the atoms; it has virtually annihilated space, but the greatest victory remains to be won: why should men, heirs of all the ages, continue to suffer from such things as disease? A rhetorical question; yet the state considers it right and proper to give niggardly grants for research on human health.

This absurd state of affairs is symbolic of the government's negative attitude to a scientifically planned society. **We maintain that specialists in science must be the leaders in social organization.** Scientists have provided the innumerable amenities of life, but our politicians have sadly failed to use the power of science; instead they have abused it.

J. G. Crowther has said that "the influence of Greek ideas, on Western technique of government, evolved in a pretechnological era remains greater than that of post-Galilean scientific ideas . . Technology and science appear to the Western politician as just two more factors which enter into the material of his manipulations, and not as the sources of power that transform the nature of political problems, and vastly increase the importance in the art of **government of planning**, as compared with verbal government." Contrast this social philosophy with that of Soviet Russia. The U.S.S.R. is founded on modern physical and biological investigation. A social system established according to the principles of this philosophy must be founded on technology and science, and the scientific mode of thought must permeate the intellectual activity of its governors. The profound difference between Western European civilizations and that of the Soviet Union is that the governors of the former would not be embarrassed if they could ignore scientific problems (and this includes health research), while the latter would consider the notion of ignoring such problems as fundamentally absurd.

We need to plan industry, to plan housing, to plan agriculture, **to plan health** in order to banish the humiliation of unemployment, poverty and slums. Scientists cannot be silent when these problems are under consideration. In solving these problems and in the process of reconstruction, parliament must be familiar with scientific methods and be adequately informed on scientific matters to appreciate the knowledge that science can impart. Professor Bernal has said: "The scientist must become a politician, not a party politician. He sees the social, economic and political situation as a problem to which a solution must first be found and then applied, not as a battleground of personalities, careers and vested interests." Scientists must be the allies of social justice and progressive forces. Fascism was doomed to failure, because it tried to stifle the spirit of science and at the same time use its benefits. In politics, science cannot remain neutral: it must ally itself to progressive political forces. This is the only way in which science can be fostered in a democratic country.

With this conception to guide us, we feel that the possibilties of science can begin to be realised. **Medical research must be viewed in its proper perspective. Generous facilities must be made available so that medical research in this country dare not remain the Cinderella of Science.** A.S.

DIE STUDENT EN POLITIEK

OM te oordeel volgens die jongste uitgawe van Wu's Views is 'n student blykbaar 'n soort jongbok. Genoemde soogdier se hoogste roeping is dan om in honderdtalle by Milner Park se trappies saam te dring om daar met gekkigheid en bullebakkery die voormiddag te vermaak

Wat politiek betref meen 'n kollega Bloch, dat hierdie „smerige wanpraktyk" met blare, stam en haarwortels uit ons universiteitslewe moet verdwyn. Om dan die proses te voltooi, sou hierdie gifplant verkool, en erens ver onder 'n mishoop begrawe word. Hierdie beskouing geld as 'n daadwerklike ontkenning en wanbegrip van die politieke verband tussen staat en student.

In ons land geld 'n „demokratiese stelsel" met partypolitiek as basis. As burger het die student 'n staatsplig en moet hy meedoen aan die samestelling en handhawing van die politieke struktuur. Studentestatus bring egter 'n besondere verpligting mee. In terme van kennis en intellektuele ontwikkeling staan die student ver bo die gemiddelde peil van die bevolking. As sulks is hy 'n uiters belangrike skakel in die nasionale asook politieke struktuur. Mens sou dus kan verwag dat die student hom op universiteit sal bekwaam tot vereffening van sy staatsplig, deur daadwerklike toeneiging en optrede op politieke gebied (in en buite die universiteit).

Nou meen ons dat elke student alhier, weens rasse-omgewings of ontwikkelingsfaktore welbepaalde politieke beskouings daarop na hou. Wat indeling betref bestaan hier aan Wits 'n nasionalistiese element, gebind deur sterk kultuurbande, 'n los massa sosiaal-liberalistiese denkers, en 'n klein groepie voortvarende kommuniste.

Wat politieke verwesenliking betref word die strewe van al drie groepe doodgesmoor deur 'n algemene beskouing wat moontlik alleen op Wits, en nerens anders stand hou nie, nl. dat politiek op universiteit taboe is. (Ons hou mos almal van sport en dans, en hierdie gemeenskaplike belang en „hoogste goed" kan dalk deur politieke verdeling en wedywer in gevaar gebring word). Gevolglik word groepsaspirasies onder dekking van nuutste altruisme bewerkstellig

Ons bepleit dan dat erkenning aan politieke organisasies aan hierdie universiteit verleen word, en dat die S.V.R op 'n basis van politieke en sosiale opinie verkies word.

Politieke strewe in sy hoogste vorm beywer die gemeenskaplike belang. Omdat ons meen dat politiek aan 'n universiteit sy hoogste peil kan bereik, is dit hier van toepassing, of dit om breer nasionale sake, soos kleur, of slegs plaaslike probleme soos die fooietwis uit toeka se dae gaan

Die basis van 'n komende sosiale-demokrasie moet aan 'n instelling soos ons die voorbereid word, deur ons komende intellek, en nie op straathoeke deur selfsoekers vervuil word nie.

Die feit dat genoemde universiteite in die buiteland reeds vir vyftigtal jare die politieke beginsel handhaaf is genoeg bewys dat politieke organisasie hier toegepas kan word.

Binding bly steeds 'n ernstige gebrek aan ons universiteit. Lesers kan self kies, tussen politieke erkenning en organisasie, en die algemene chaos wat tans hier heers.

ANSWERS TO CONTRIBUTORS

KING: 'Fraid we can't use it. Thanks all the same.

BUSTER: Stout effort, but "Advisor-in-Chief" didn't think 'twas usable.

S. de M.: Thank you, liked it, but couldn't fit it in anywhere as it stood.

H.R.: Thank you. Appreciate it, but fear we can do little else about it.

TO HIM WHO WROTE A "REVIEW" OF MUIR: Ta muchly — are sending it to Leech as it is high above Auricle standard.

I.D.T.: Mmm, but a little too . . don't you think?

J.C. de W.B.: Thank you, bit too personal, though.

STEP-TALK

Comic Cuts Called For

An appeal has been made by the Fordsburg Committee for comics for the smaller children who attend the Clinic. These little mites while waiting for examinations, find themselves confronted with torn, battered Picture Posts, Saturday Evening Posts and similar high-falutin' reading material which means nothing to them. So if you have any penny, tickey or even sixpenny comics at home, do remember these children, and leave them with Mrs. Leslie or at the S.M.C. Office.

Religion and Life Week

The S.C.A. is to have a "Religion and Life" Week after the short vac. Lectures and discussions on the moral and religious issues facing students today are being arranged and speakers with different view-points will speak. Evening meetings and lunch-hour meetings will be held (other societies holding their meetings in abeyance for that week) and the programme will culminate with a camp at Grasmere. The ideas to be discussed are controversial ones — the question of religion and belief is, and always has been one of the most "argued about" subjects, and one to which every individual at some time or other turns his or her attention. The organizers of this project have come to certain conclusions about the question and are presenting these conclusions along with the opposing view-point, during the "Religion and Life" Week.

Leesstof

Nuwe tydskrifte en koerante vir die mans ruskamer is vir die volgende vier maande bestel.

Studente word versoek om asseblief hierdie tydskrifte beter te bewaar as wat hulle in die verlede gedoen het sodat dit moontlik sal wees om die tydskrifte met die van die dames ruskamer om te ruil.

Dit word voorgestel dat diegene wat met die bestelling van tydskrifte vir die twee ruskamers belas is saam werk om sodoende die mees moontlike verskeidenheid van tydskrifte te verkry.

Accommodation

The S.M.C.'s latest little homunculus, the Night School, seems to thrive on opposition and restriction. It is growing at an almost unbelievable rate and bids fair to be the largest of its kind in Johannesburg. The number of pupils has trebled since the school started and classes have spilled over from the small hall used, into the passage outside, the laundryroom and the bathroom. Attempts have been made to secure other accommodation. The authorities of the Non-European Hospital were approached (it seems incongruous to moan about overcrowding in those quarters), but nothing concrete materialized.

The Medical Research authorities were approached. The Night School representative was shown over the stables at the back, but these, besides having only about three walls, concrete floors, no lights, no furniture, and hardly enough space to swing a cat in, had a penetrating odour of their recent occupants, and were in a rather inaccessible place. Medical House holds out little hope and there seem to be no convenient halls or garages in this locality. Of course there's still the jail to approach, but apart from the educational uplift experienced by a pupil learning the 3 R's in a cell, there might possibly be a difficulty getting out, once in.

Dramatic Society Notes

"The Importance of being Earnest," like all Wilde's plays, is the essence of his own sophisticated, "dandyish", satirically witty self. The dramatic society's choice of a play seems therefore, at first glance, rather a tough nut to crack. Not only must the balance and evenness of character be maintained throughout, but all characterization must be a subtle echo of Oscar Wilde himself, complete with red carnation and polished epigram.

Under the able and charming guidance of Miss O'Connor, the well-known producer, auditions were a very encouraging and interesting experience. Her choice of a cast from the twenty or thirty keen enthusiasts showed a full and thorough appreciation of the play.

One or two new "lights" will no doubt cause a great deal of discussion among Medicals.

In choosing understudies for all larger parts, Miss O'Connor has shown great foresight, and has increased the scope for all those keen to gain theatrical experience.

All in all, what with period costumes and humorous situations, the production should be highly colourful. The worthiness of the cause hardly needs discussion, since all proceeds go to Alexandra Clinic, but as apathy is a major student ailment, we would like, at this moment, to remind you all to sell and buy as many tickets as you can when the time comes. Respond also to the appeal when it is made for stage hands and usherettes. Remember that the success of the Dramatic Society depends on you!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (Cont.)

for the children. (Magazines could be left at the S.M.C. Office).

Oranges, whenever in season, are supplied to the pupils. Arrangements are being made to show "Children's Films" in the Nursery School. We hope that students, who have old toys at home, will donate them to the Society. Student toymenders are also needed, who will visit the school during free periods and execute simple repairs. Come on you crackpot carpenters and "odd-job" men — do your stuff!

FILMS AND PROPAGANDA

Each Tuesday evening the Red Cross sends a Film Unit over to the Non-European Hospital. A programme lasting approximately an hour is shown, and the patients enjoy the shows tremendously. Because the Red Cross films are mainly on Health and Nutrition and the stock is extremely limited, the Occupational Therapy Society is arranging to borrow films from the African Consolidated Theatres.

With respect to propaganda, pamphlets on Health are distributed to the patients. The Red Cross is prepared to broadcast for the benefit of patients any sketches, health talks, short plays, etc., written by students. The Occupational Therapy Society therefore urges all students with talents in this direction to prepare such items, and hand them in at the S.M.C. Office.

The Occupational Therapy Society covers a wide field of work. Mental diversion from their physical condition (occupational therapy) goes a long way in assisting in the recovery of the patient. Student volunteers are only required to devote an hour a week (at the most) to any sub-committee in which they are interested. Students derive a great deal of clinical experience from the patients—for the welfare of these same patients are YOU not prepared to devote only an hour per week? Or perhaps you believe in "GRAB ALL YOU CAN BUT GIVE NOTHING IN RETURN!"

Book Review

"Ho! ye bottle-breakers and ye cocktail-shakers" — here's a book for all of you. The book in question is "The Lost Weekend" by Charles Jackson — a story that ventures to explore the dark recesses of the mind of an alcoholic. The presentation is as brilliant as the theme is unusual. The author has skillfully blended pathos with a profound psychological study; and he unfolds the life story of the dipsomaniac, Don Birnain, far more searchingly than any impersonal medical case-history could ever hope to do.

The study is, at times, brutal — even crude, but the reader never loses sympathy with the inebriate "hero." One is expertly guided through the tortuous image of his mind, the workings of which show almost animal cunning — when the craving for alcohol has to be satisfied. The episode of "The Lost Week-end" is sublime in its poetry of utter degradation, and Jackson's first novel is one that beer-loving and "whisky-lapping dogs" should not fail to read.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Owing to a printer's error the names of the writers of two articles were omitted from our last issue. "To Second Years" was written by P. V. Tobias and the Guest Editorial was by K. Weinbren.

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Fishing and Nutrition

By Dr. EDWARD ROUX.

SOCIAL planners who are interested in South Africa's food resources have been aware for some time that we are quite unable at present to meet the needs of the population for certain protective foods, notably proteins. If our cattle and grasslands were correctly managed, there is no doubt we should be able to stop soil erosion and at the same time provide adequate supplies of meat and dairy products for all. The fact that we are unable to do this is a reflection on the chaotic character of government, the lack of planning and control, and the sacrifice of our soil to the demands of "get rich quick" farming in the European areas and the "cattle cult" in the Native Reserves.

The reorganization of pastoral farming bristles with so many difficulties, financial, political, social and educational, that there seems very little prospect, in the immediate future, that South Africa's protein requirements will be provided by the soil. On the other hand, it has been suggested that our seas can provide an immediate and easily accessible source of protein. It has been stated that the development of our fishing industry can be rapid, and that protein in the form of fresh and preserved fish can supply most or all of our requirements until such time as we have re-organized our agriculture. All that is needed, it is said, is the provision of the necessary trawlers and fish-processing plants. The capital expended would yield a vastly greater quantity of protective food than an equivalent sum spent on the re-organization of agriculture. And there would be an immediate return. On the other hand, it would take years to overcome the ravages of soil erosion and restore our grasslands to full productivity.

South Africa is popularly believed to have the "richest fishing grounds in the world," and one enthusiastic member of the Association of Scientific Workers has gone so far as to say that our seas could provide us annually with a million tons of fish.

The writer of this article has been employed since 1941 by a firm of fish-liver oil manufacturers in Cape Town, and he has had the opportunity of studying the fishing industry at first hand. He found that the sort of data upon which a scientific estimate of fishing resources could be based was almost entirely lacking in the records of the Division of Fisheries. He therefore had to rely on such records as the trawling companies could supply. From a study of these admittedly inadequate data certain tentative conclusions have been reached. They are briefly as follows:

South Africa's seas, like its grasslands, are not an inexhaustible source of wealth. Fishing, like farming, should be conservative. Just as the stock-farmer should distinguish between under-grazing, over-grazing, and optimum grazing, so the trawlerman should understand that there is an optimum rate of fishing.

Our most important edible fish is the South African hake, or stockfish. Since 1940 the so-called "North Ground" off Cape Town has supplied, in the form of stockfish, more than half of the fish consumed in South Africa. The calculated mortality rate for trawlable stockfish on this ground is of the order of 50 per cent., i.e. only half of the fish of each year class survive to form the stock for the following year. One does not know what part of this 50 per cent. mortality is due to natural causes and what part is due to the action of the trawl. One may however compare this figure with the total mortality rate for cod as given by Russell (The Overfishing Problem, 1942) for the North Sea and for Rockall (west of Scotland). The North Sea has admittedly been heavily overfished, while Rockall was being comparatively lightly fished at the time the estimate was made. Total mortality rates were:

North Sea: 64 per cent.

Rockall: 32 per cent.

For the stockfish grounds off the south of Ireland, Hickling has given an estimated annual mortality rate of 55 per cent, "due in the main to fishing."

It is evident therefore that the rate of fishing on our most important stockfish ground is unexpectedly high, and though one cannot claim with certainty that this ground is being over-fished, there is every reason for proceeding cautiously with any scheme for increasing the number of trawlers operating there.

Of course the North Ground is not our only trawling ground. Apart from the Mossel Bay and Port Elizabeth grounds, which have been exploited for many years, there is, between Saldanha Bay and the mouth of the Orange River, a considerable area which has hardly been fished at all. The expansion of the trawling industry should take the form of an extension to new grounds rather than the more intensive exploitation of grounds already being fished.

Our fishing industry at present supplies the country with approximately 50 million pounds of fish annually, or 5 lbs. per head of the population. This admittedly low figure can undoubtedly be improved upon. Possibly it might be increased five or ten times without infringing the laws of conservative fishing, but the figure of a million tons (2,000 million pounds) seems fantastic, and any attempt to take it out of the sea would almost certainly result in an extreme form of over-fishing, with consequent harm to our fishing grounds.

To sum up. South Africa has moderately good fishing grounds, capable, if scientifically managed, of supplying our population with increased quantities of protective foods (proteins, fats, and vitamins A and D). But it is essential that our government take steps to build an efficient fisheries research department, which will immediately begin the collection of proper fisheries statistics. The sea, just as much as the land, must be scientifically exploited if it is not to become a wasting asset.

We regret to state that we were unable to have the arrangements for the "course" in Native languages completed in time to print the first instalment in this issue.

★

Ons wens ons verontskuldiging aan te bied vir die gebrek aan Afrikaans in hierdie uitgawe. Ons doen 'n beroep op die studente vir meer Afrikaanse bydraes in die toekoms.

FERRIC, OR LITTLE BY LITTLE

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said:
"A man of IRON I fain would be"?
So here I offer the recipe . . . .

If you're a male, is Sheldon's claim,
There's thirty more times this hope of fame
Than if a woman you happen to be —
(Professor Strachan does not agree!)
And if you're white there's not much hope,
But for the Bantu there's more scope —
There's every chance to reach this bliss:
Four out of five P.M.'s prove this!

Americans think that wine and beer
Might give you that condition queer;
And Mallory says that copper too
May make an iron man of you.
There's some that claim heredity
Is the important agency.
Professor Strachan declares: "Nay, nay,
'Tis but a lack of Vitamin A!"

So drink like mad, and pennies chew,
And choose your parents wisely too,
And eat no food that possibly may
Contain the slightest Vitamin A.
A man of iron you'll then be,
And in your liver not point three
But five per cent of iron there'll be —
Cirrhosis not infrequently.

Your pancreas will be fibrosed,
And diabetes superimposed;
And you will have an iron heart,
And kidneys too will play their part
With spleen and thyroid, glands and guts,
In iron storage gone quite nuts.
Your skin pigmented bronze may be —
A man of iron for all to see!

Condition's chronic — may take years —
You suspect nothing — then get fears
When diabetes clouds your days —
Or just asthenia and malaise.
The varied symptoms can be treated —
But iron content not depleted.
There's nothing one can do about it —
You'll soon be dead — completely routed!

At P.M. then we'll stroke our noses —
Deplore the death of all these Xosas,
There'll be no doubt in diagnosis:
HE DIED OF HAEMOCHROMATOSIS!

L.I.W.

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READERS' FORUM

Meph. Complains

It is with deep regret that we notice that the Musical Society Committee, has exhibited extremely unsociable behaviour in connection with the sale of Opera tickets.

We understand that the sale of students' concession tickets was limited to 150 and that these were distributed amongst the committee's members and their friends without the general body of students being notified that they were available.

Since when do student organizations operate on this type of monopoly basis?

We demand an explanation for this extremely unfair and untoward procedure.

MEPHISTOPHELES.

Music Society Explains

We wish to refute most strongly the allegations made by "Mephistopheles" that the Musical Association committee distributed the 150 opera tickets amongst themselves and their friends.

The following are the facts:

1. Tickets were rationed to a maximum of 4 tickets per student.

2. Miss Kronik was in charge of the booking throughout.

3. Distribution to committee members were as follows:

Mr. Shamroth (Chairman)	None
Mr. Lundie (Secretary-Treas.)	4
Miss Neser	4
Mr. Axelrod	4
Mr. Looste	None

4. The three committee members who received tickets, applied for them when most of the tickets had been sold out and they had thus no choice as to which operas they could see. Thus it was hardly possible for them to have distributed any tickets amongst their friends.

5. The chairman was absent on 21st, 22nd and 23rd February, i.e. throughout the time of distribution.

Permission for booking was obtained by Messrs Lundie and Looste on Wednesday afternoon, 21st February at 3.30—4 p.m. and booking was completed by 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd. Acting on Miss Kronik's advice they did not put up a notice, as she said that the tickets would sell out to the student body without a notice, since there had been a constant stream of requests. The committee members, excluding Messrs. Looste and Lundie, were not aware that the tickets had arrived until late the following morning. Nor did Messrs. Looste and Lundie inform any of their friends at the time. The buying of tickets was open to every member of the general student body.

Messrs. Lundie and Looste admit that they erred by not putting up a notice, and they apologise for any inconvenience or misunderstanding caused, but we again wish to state that we strongly refute and resent any statement that the committee or their friends had a monopoly of the tickets. We realize that the allegations were made under a misapprehension.

This matter was brought up before a general meeting of the Musical Society and a unanimous vote of confidence in the committee was obtained.

I would also like to take this opportunity of stating that we had great difficulty in obtaining concession tickets this year as Mr. Connell alleges that last year students bought concession tickets and resold them at a higher price.

L. SHAMROTH,
Chairman, Medical School Music Soc.

Bibliotheca Respondet

No one will quarrel with what your correspondent "Tinea Libris" has to say on the subjects of lack of space and general overcrowding in the library. It is a situation which will be somewhat relieved once the extensions to the School, at present in progress, have been completed.

His comments on the book stock, however, cannot pass unchallenged. The criticisms levelled against the selection of books in the library largely lose their force through lack of any substantive evidence. Every text-book set for study during the second to the sixth years of the medical course is available for consultation in the library. The latest editions of these books are regarded as reference books and are only loaned out overnight. The Library Committee has always held the opinion that while the library should possess at least one copy of every set book, the onus is on students to purchase their own. For the library to buy numbers of copies of each set book is obviously an uneconomic policy.

Within my experience no student has ever had to wait "months" for any book. If any particular book is asked for by a large number of students its loan period is automatically cut down from a week to two or three days to enable everyone to borrow it within a reasonable time.

No particular instance of the "rarer reference works" or the "standard and classical" texts, which have been found wanting is quoted. If the term "classical" is given a wide connotation, it would be idle to deny that there are many of the rarer classics which the library does not possess. These are extremely difficult to come by, and usually command very high prices when they do come on the market. The library does, however, hold complete sets, among others, of Hippocrates, Galen, John Hunter, Malpighy and of the publications of the Old and New Sydenham Societies, whilst Harvey, Percival Pott, Vesalius and numerous other medical celebrities are all represented.

The classification scheme in use is that devised by the Library of Congress in Washington — one of the largest scientific collections in the world. It stands to reason that no scheme which purports to systematise scientific knowledge can be simplicity itself, but that it need remain a "mystery" to anyone of average intelligence is quite unnecessary. The book cases themselves are labelled, the schedules of the classification scheme can be studied on application at the desk, and the library staff are always ready to explain what may appear to be anomalies to the casual observer.

In conclusion may I say that any constructive criticism or practical suggestions can always be laid before the Library Committee and if Tinea Libris, or any other student, has any such to offer, they will be passed on to that authority.

P. E. KRIGE.
(For Librarian).

Appeal to Women

There is little need to draw students' attention to the very tragic circumstances under which the natives in Orlando Township and Shanty Town live. During the winter these people have to undergo great privation and hardship. We feel that the women students of this University could help by knitting and making garments for the native children in these areas. Such an effort would indeed greatly alleviate the intense suffering during the cold months.

As an organized body the women students could produce a large number of garments. It has been said that the University women do not always rally to such appeals. But with all the recent discussions about University aims and ideals we feel sure that at long last the students are broadening their outlook, and so will respond to our call for help.

A general meeting of all the women students will be held on Thursday, April 12 in C.B. 38 at 5.15 p.m. in connection with relief work.

JOYCE LEWIS.

The Auricle Hears . . . .

THAT students welcome back Professor Watt after his four years on active service.
THAT Dr. "Boet" Kloppers is the first Professor of Medicine at Pretoria.
THAT he was awarded the M.D. at the recent Graduation Ceremony.
THAT 89 Medicals got the M.B., B.Ch.
THAT this was a record number of graduands.
THAT 10 Physiotherapy students graduated.
THAT students congratulate all the above and wish them success in their future careers.
THAT Dr. M. I. Berman is being congratulated on his engagement.
THAT Final-years now have a table reserved for them at lunch time 4 days of the week.
THAT students hope that that will still hold when they get to Final Year.
THAT despite many previous rumours to the contrary, clinical years changed firms.
THAT owing to inability to hold firm parties at the Medical School, students are making merry at private houses.
THAT it is now rumoured that there can be only two Medical Dances this year.
THAT our University champion walker, Dr. Louis Eisenberg, has once again won the mile walk — this time at the Germiston Labour Day Sports. Congratulations!
THAT students congratulate Leslie Weiner on the occasion of his marriage
THAT students hope that it will give his Muse an added lease of life.
THAT students found out to their dismay that the Easter (!) Vac. won't be till May.
THAT Medicals who started their work in January could do with ten days' holiday now.
THAT locks have at last been installed in the Women's Common Room lockers downstairs.
THAT nothing seems to have disappeared while the lockers were left open.
THAT the Occupational Therapy sale of work made by patients was an eye-opener to many people.
THAT 4th years are finding Medical House a pleasant lecture theatre tho' not quite big enough for everybody.
THAT "Die Transvaler" is as interested as ever in our affairs.
THAT this time they reported the last General Meeting with head-lines bigger than those of the Russian news.
THAT students wonder if the recently formed chess club will come under the All Sports Council.
THAT Bothma and Lovell, (in 3rd year) are to be congratulated on their engagements.
THAT ten lockers have been installed at the Coronation Hospital for Non-European students.
THAT illuminated copies are to be made of the Dean's Address.
THAT these will be hung in strategical positions for the benefit of students.
THAT students think that the new notice board isn't in a very "noticeable" position.
THAT women students are to be given men's lockers that are not being used.

FIBRILLATIONS

We salute the fresher who thought "xylem" was where you went after a course in Botany.

★

We salute the freshette who thought a hyphae was £72 a year.

★

There was a professor called Strachan
Who noticed some students forlachan.
"By night and by day,
We've read Muir," said they,—
"Till its pages are all wachan and tachan."
—Potential poets we wachan.
Don't send us similar cachan.

★

We salute the third-year who thought that atrophic catarrh was a small banjo.

★

Heard at Waterval Hospital Ward Round:
Dr.: What is the differential diagnosis in this case?
Female student: Rabies.
Dr.: How would you exclude rabies?
Female student: Look for Negri bodies.

★

The human conscience is that portion of the psyche that is soluble in alcohol

★

Second year lecturer: Urobilinogen is excreted in the urine as I shall show you in a minute.

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