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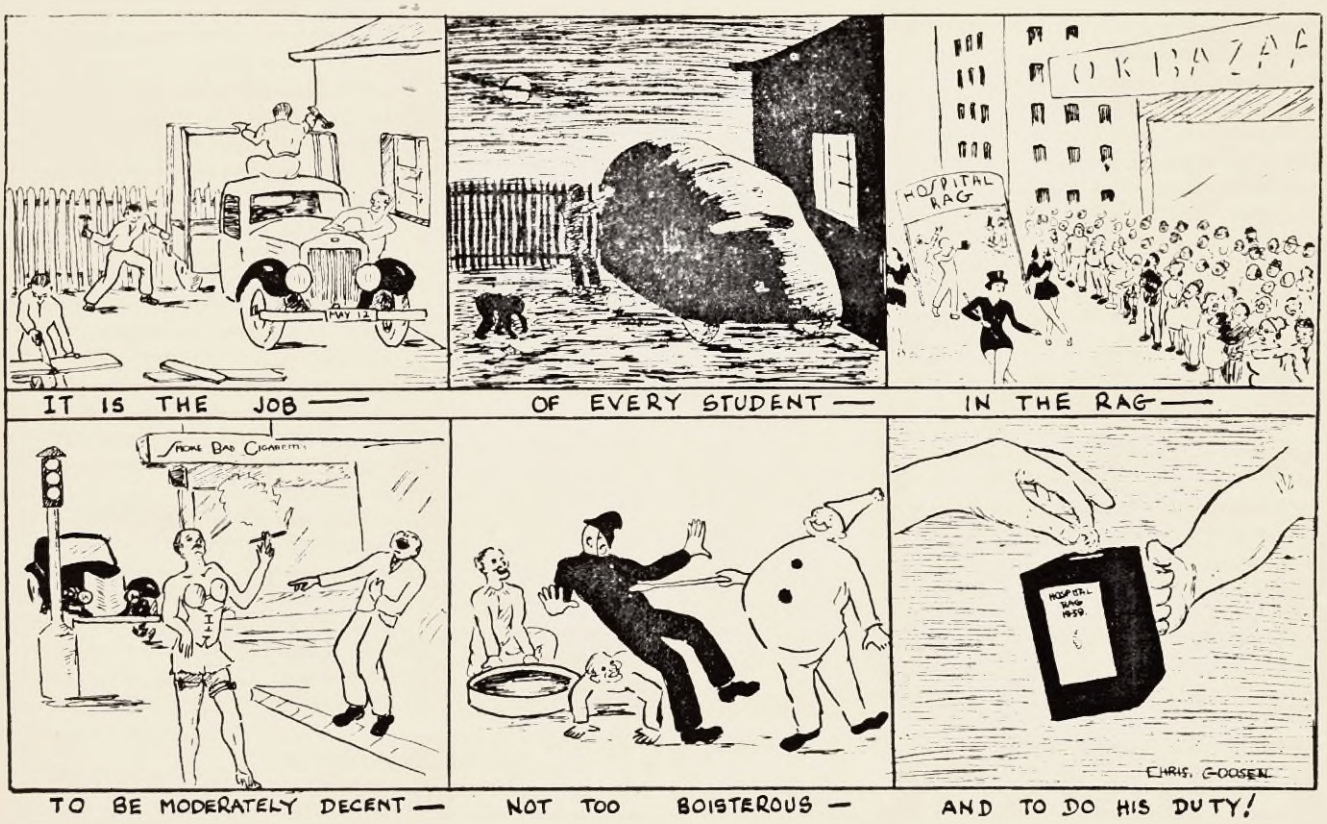
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The AURICLE

● *Published by the Students' Medical Council, University of the Witwatersrand*

VOL. 5 May, 1939 No. 4

HATS OFF TO THE RAG ! !



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EDITORIAL OPINION—

1939 RAG

On May 13th, the Freshers will have handed over to them, metaphorically speaking, the keys to the city; Johannesburg will be invaded once again by a horde of eager and strangely-garbed students, with vicious intent to prey unreservedly on the silver, generosity and good-nature of the citizens. And who shall gainsay them? They will be working for a cause that is as noble and old as the history of mankind —life.

Rumours that there is a strong movement afoot to abolish the Rag appear to be founded on some definite fact. **We trust with all our sincerity that such a movement will not be fulfilled. Not for the sake of a few hundred freshers who are determined to loosen their repressions and their possible inferiority complexes behind a mask which enables them to perpetrate audacious deeds with impunity, but for the sake of a great and fine institution, which depends essentially on the steadfastness of its financial foundation.** In making such a statement, we hasten to assure those taking part in the Rag that we do not in any way wish to belittle their services. Obviously the Rag could not take place without the full co-operation and willingness of the freshers. But while their hard work and their voluntary sacrifices are acknowledged and appreciated by the entire university, an honest consensus of opinion would reveal that not one-tenth of them think, as somebody places a shilling in the collection box, "This means two shillings towards the saving of a person's life." Rag Day personifies twelve (or more) hours of complete and utter abandonment, which, as freshers, they have never before experienced. In many ways they are justified. After all, what other rewards do they get for their days of labour, their hours of "cadging," scheming, begging and dreaming, their disappointments and their hopes? It is not that participation in the Rag is a form of compulsory initiation ceremony: it is a spontaneous gesture on the part of those students who do not regard university life as a mere academic procession of figures and facts. So why begrudge them their few hours of pleasure?

Yet, at the back of it all, is the indisputable origin of these months of organisation. **It is the hospital and its needs that stimulate the Rag, the ever-present necessity for more equipment, more implements, more means by which the grim battle against disease is waged.** And before we mount our floats, before we commence our raucous shouting and insistent "Help us to held our hospital," we should recollect this —not only medicals, but engineers, architects, arts students, indeed the whole body of the university; for disease has a pernicous habit of attacking indiscriminately other students besides medicals, and the hospital is as vital to them as it is to doctors. Too often, the words "Help the Rag," are used as a catch-phrase which enables the students to penetrate the secret conclaves of business houses and conferences. This is not an indictment, but a simple, frank statement of fact.

Undoubtedly, the desire to abolish the rag has originated among certain members of the public who have been shocked and scandalised in previous years by the behaviour of some students. It does not look well, and it says little for the prestige of the university which is supposedly made up of intelligent and responsible men and women, if during the afternoon procession numerous students are barracking and caterwhauling in the back seats of city theatres. It is of still less merit if a brawny Medical or Engineer parades the streets dressed in scanty ladies' underwear, making no attempt to fill his collection box, but purely and simply showing off his muscular arms and thighs. We cannot exhort too often this type of participant in the Rag that no possible material good can ensue from his conduct. It may give rise to ribald mirth among the lowlier class of individuals, and it may even cause an intelligent person to snigger for the moment, but eventually it recoils on the university in an indisputably harmful manner. The movement for abolition of the Rag grows stronger from year to year; and it is nobody's fault but the student's. The public does not object to being rifled of its available small change; it does not mind being involved in a traffic jam and arriving late at work because of a group of pirates

(*Continued on next Page*)

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RAG COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE—

RAG FETE, 1939

It is with considerable pleasure that we are enabled to record the complete and unqualified success of the Rag Fete, held at the Union Grounds on April 29th. Mr. Jackson and his co-workers are to be sincerely congratulated for their efforts, which indubitably has resulted in a few hundred—we are not too hesitant to say a thousand—pounds being poured into the coffers of the hospital. There was, of course, the customary difficulty in obtaining the services of students to relieve those who had held stalls for the better part of afternoon and evening, but these were merely incidents in what was otherwise a brilliantly successful venture.

As to the stalls themselves—many of which were built by students—these were of such amazing variety and ingenuity that it is impossible to enumerate them all. "Psyche, the Half Woman," was a remarkable illusion, and no less startling at first sight was the "Human Spider," in which the head of a charming young lady was seen projecting out of a silvery net, apparently quite comfortable in her decapitated state. A novel idea was the "Gold Mine"; several pounds, in copper and silver, were hidden in sand, and for the moderate outlay of sixpence, one could shovel sand into a sieve, and collect the shillings or florins which were (sometimes) left behind. Besides these, there were the usual dart games, horse racing games, merry-go-round (which has apparently taken on the new name of "Carouselle"), Dodge-'em Motor-car Rides, Cocoanut Shies and Char-o-plane Rides to say nothing of a vegetable market, a cigarette stall, and numerous penny-in-the-slot machines which were very popular—evidently the Johannesburg public is feeling the loss of these.

To all the students who kept stalls, the Rag Committee should feel extremely grateful; although the organising abilities of Mr. Jackson and company cannot for a moment be overlooked, the success of the fete was due in no small way to the begging, cajoling and pleading of the students—their natural boisterousness found an excellent outlet in shouting to the world and sundry the merits of their respective stalls. And we must not omit to mention the good humour of the crowd, which allowed itself to be literally pilfered of its spare change. The Rag Fete this year has set a precedent which future generations will find hard to emulate, let alone eclipse.

(Continued from previous Page)

or devils or angels who are set on filling their boxes; it submits smilingly to paying again and again, buying innumerous concert tickets, motor-car raffles, magazines. **But it stubbornly refuses to acknowledge that indecently-dressed "men and women" are absolutely essential in a university rag procession.** And, of course, it is quite right. Whatever we may think of the prudishness of the older generation, we are compelled by conventional ideas to obey conventions. We must "behave ourselves;" if we want to sunbathe we must do so in our back-yard; if we want to cuddle, we must not do so in Eloff Street.

Although, perhaps, our front cartoon is drawn in a frivolous manner, it's message is given in deadly earnestness. **"It is the job of every student in the rag to be moderately decent, not too boisterous, and to do his duty."**

REPLIES TO CONTRIBUTORS

L.M.F.—Very many thanks for your suggestion for our next front cover. Whether or not we shall be able to incorporate it is debatable, but we are sincerely grateful for your interest. It is this sort of suggestion which we are continually requesting, and so infrequently obtaining.

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A HISTORY of ANATOMY and PHYSIOLOGY

I think that it would be beneficial if students had a knowledge of the history of anatomy and physiology before starting to study these important subjects.

Anatomy.—Many years ago there lived on a beautiful island in the Cunningham-Gray Indies a girl named Ana and a boy, Tom. These two had grown up together, were eventually united in wedlock, and thus the important subject of anatomy was brought into existence. These two wandered through the island and met Chief M. Bryo, who taught them the great art of his ancestor, Spermov—this was none other than the modern technique of procreation and propagation of the human race. This great study has been named after its teacher, and is now known as embryology.

For years these two lived in the Elysian fields of happiness, but at last the inevitable came. Tom assumed a new role (neurology) in life, and started to throw poles at Ana, and thus the famous subject of anthropology came into being. Many of the poles struck poor Ana and her little ones on the head and various other parts of the body, and that is why so many skulls, etc., are being unearthed to-day.

As a result of this brutal treatment, Ana went the way of all flesh (no post-mortem was held), and throughout the island the death toll was heard. The inhabitants of the island—known as the insula of Reil—were greatly grieved, and heaved many woeful sighs (origin of cytology). Tom was now left alone, and prayed only for the day when his toll would be heard, and so histology came into being.

Physiology.—This important subject is named after the great priest, Phys, who lived in the Holy Land, "Bainmenzwright," through which flowed the sacred waters of the Saline River. This river was inhabited by numerous frogs, which were used for the various sacred rituals, and to commemorate these great events, dear students, you have a course in experimental physiology. Phys was also a great chemist, and was assisted by his son, Bio (history does not tell us from where his son came). These two made valuable contributions to the subject. They were very adept at their work, rarely meeting with any failings (Fehling's), and in their memory a bio-chemical laboratory occupies the south wing of our medical school.

MARYAN.

THE RAG

The Editor, Sir,

I think it opportune in your "Rag Issue," to bring to the mind of your readers the question as to whether the "Rag" is worth its while. I know the subject has been brought up by some medical students before, nevertheless the issue of your Rag Number would not be complete without an "anti-rag" feature.

I, in common with many other medical students, feel that a hospital rag is unjustified. I see no reason why students should ridiculously stage a campaign in the town for funds for the upkeep of the hospital. Surely a hospital is a matter for complete state financial care? Students by this time should realise how antiquated they are when they stage weeks of work for a ridiculous cause. Not only do they spoil themselves, but I firmly maintain they fool the public as well. The eyes of both students and public are closed to the essential necessity of having hospitals independent of their charity. It would appear that the public charitably allow themselves to have their health while students clownishly concur. Instead of students, particularly medical students, teaching the public the inalienable right of the community to medical attention, the former seduce the latter into the belief that a hospital rag is an amusing event to look forward to, at which a local circus opens its talents just for the public's health. The circus is not worth it's price.

No, I think it is high time, medical students faced the problem. Let us hope this will be the last year in which student talent and public credulousness are prostituted.

S. JACOBSON.

THE EAR 'EARS

MONTHLY COMMENT

That:—

By far the best organised subcommittee of the S.R.C. is the Students' Medical Council.

At last having made its presence felt in university affairs, it has attracted the attention of the S.R.C., resulting in Mr. B. P. Bunting, Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Abraham (President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively) being present at the last S.M.C. Meeting.

The S.R.C., realising that our request for an increased grant was substantially founded, have acceded.

£185 (it may yet be £200) will prove eminently satisfactory in assisting the S.M.C. to proceed with more of their ambitious schemes.

The attitude adopted by the S.M.C. with regard to the proposed high-brow Rag Dance is appreciated by the medical body generally.

It is doubtful, however, whether the Rag Committee's plans can be altered, although they have done their best under the prevailing circumstances.

The invitation extended to students to attend council meetings was shamefully ignored.

Of the four visitors present at the last S.M.C. Meeting, two played chess and the other two are active members of S.M.C. sub-committees.

The above atrophy of the spirit is once again to be deplored.

Attendance at council meetings is an education in itself.

The success of the coming rag will, as in previous years, be largely due to the untiring activities of medical students, both junior and senior.

Everyone wishes good luck to those stalwarts participating in the Rag, and *bon voyage* to the floats.

Mr. Weather-Clerk may have some surprises, such as warm temperatures, up his sleeve for May 13th.

It is said that Professor William Russell
Was mistaken by an inmate for an Edwardian bustle.
The professor treated this curious delusion
With a tablespoonful of Senna Infusion.

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Professor Craib on "Sir James MacKenzie"

The series of lectures entitled "The History of Medicine," was inaugurated on the 20th April by Professor Craib, who chose for his subject "Sir James MacKenzie." This series is a new and inspiring achievement on the part of the Students' Medical Council, and the appreciation of medical students was evidenced by the large attendance at Professor Craib's lecture; as Mr. Kloppers remarked in introducing Professor Craib, the lectures would have no reference to examinations whatsoever, but in rendering the average student more conversant with the history of his profession, would undoubtedly make him a better doctor, and consequently a better citizen.

There is no method which Professor Craib could have chosen to make his lecture more inspiring than the informal manner in which he presented his subject. As he impressed on the students at the beginning, and as they realised for themselves at the end, of his fine address, the story of James MacKenzie is an intense stimulus to greater efforts for all those sincerely desirous of furthering the scientific progress of medicine. Ridiculed, scorned, unrecognised by the so-called "giants" of his profession, the quiet and unobtrusive general practitioner attracted towards the end of his life, the attention of the world. His brilliantly keen mind, unsatisfied by the artificial classification of irregulatities of the heart, worked out in a manner scientific beyond all criticism, the major cardiac arrhythmias. As Professor Craib justly emphasized, this astounding feat of a single human mind is almost incredible. That one man, during the short span of his life, should have correctly assigned the importance and assessed the significance of arrhythmias is a contribution to medical thought of unsurpassed magnitude. Yet such is the fallability of ungrateful human intellect that even to-day some of the leaders in the profession, gloss over his work in a barely appreciable mention.

To Professor Craib for his inaugral lectures goes the appreciation and the thanks of all medical students present; to the Students' Medical Council, gratitude for their initiative in introducing an excellent series of lectures.

PROFESSOR BREBNER ON "JOSEPH LISTER"

On Tuesday, 25th April, Professor Brebner addressed medical students in the second of a series of lectures entitled "History of Medicine," under the auspices of cultural activities. Professor Brebner's address was really most stimulating. For one hour the audience was gripped by the fascinating life of Joseph Lister, recounted in a fascinating way by Professor Brebner. Professor Brebner began his address by stressing the importance to a medical man of honesty, character, charity and the knowledge of handling patients. A doctor was not to be regarded as a bald-headed man with spectacles wearing an anxious look on his face, rather were the virtues listed by the professor to be regarded as the actuality of the practitioner. Professor Brebner's address consisted in demonstrating to his audience how Lister's life exemplified these virtues.

The audience was imaginatively projected into British and world surgical conditions about a century ago. The stench and uncleanliness were excessive. The mortality of such surgical conditions as fractures was as high as 40%. In 1827 Lister was born. The young Lister, with a good schooling and an F.R.C.S. accepted the post of an assistant-surgeon in Edinburgh where he made the acquaintance of Dr. Syme, an outstanding surgeon at the time. Previous to taking his F.R.C.S., Lister's mind was directed into research channels by the physiologist, Professor Sharpey. Lister displayed great interest in the study of capillaries in the web of a frog's foot, under the influence of Professor Sharpey. Soon after he met Dr. Syme, he married the latter's daughter. A tour of the continent revealed to him the deplorable surgical conditions there. On his return, he worked on inflammation. His addresses on this subject make excellent reading and their teners yet hold good.

Soon afterwards, Lister was appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery in Glasgow University. It was here that he performed his life's work. Lister's mind was receptive to do important work of Pasteur in France on fermentation. The idea struck him that septic complications in surgical wounds and treatment may be of a fermentative nature, due to the presence of bacteria. He worked on his hypothesis and patiently established a method of preventing sepsis. Lister's use of carbolic acid antiseptic rapidly reduced the mortality of his cases. Europe and America soon heard of his discoveries. His housemen were invited to different countries where they introduced anti-septic methods. In England on the other hand, the medical profession vituperatively howled down Lister's advances. He, however, continued extolling the benefits of antiseptic precautions and continued his research, without retorting to the profession in their own kind.

In 1877 Lister resigned from his chair in Glasgow and after a disappointing sixteen years at King'e College Hospital, retired. Hs toured the Continent once more and the ovation he received everywhere, contrasted forcibly with the rancid behaviour of his own colleagues in England.

In 1901 Lister visited Capetown for a few months to relieve his rheumatism. He returned to England settling at the peaceful west coast. His health steadily deteriorated and in 1912 surgical science lost one of its most outstanding investigators. Lister hated pomp and ceremony and is buried at a little Highgate cemetery. A great tribute to this great man was held in Westminster Cathedral at which celebrities from all over the world were present.

Professor Brebner at the conclusion of his address pointed out that Lister maintained infection in surgical cases originated from the atmosphere. This idea was disregarded but to-day the professor stated the pendulum had swung its full circle and latest medical publications are pointing out the truth of Lister's belief.

Lister was most certainly a wise, honest and charitable medical luminary.

Current Questions

Are the flowers worn by Professor Watt
South African poisonous plants or not?
Or have they merely been judiciously stolen
From suburban gardens by Mr. Nolan?

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LOCAL LETTER

W.P.B. — ORGANISATION — FURNITURE AND THINGS

As is always a general rule these days, suggestions and more suggestions are constantly being brought forward for improvements in various schemes or for the institution of new schemes.

Many of these proposals find their way into this magazine and unless some willing council worker brings them to the notice of the S.M.C., they are simply forgotten and relegated to the W.P.B. Or else they become, at best, silent testimonies of the whims and fancies of contributors through the years.

I mention this well-known fact because in the last issue proposals were made for the institution of, among others, a Medical Students' Service Register, and by way of contrast, a Glee Club.

It's up to you fellows whether these suggestions bear fruit or not.

RAG AGAIN

This issue being the Rag Special, it is incumbent upon me to tell you something about it all. This I find hard to do since enthusiasm for the Rag seems this year to be on the wane. One thing is certain: If the amount of organisation put into the enterprise is any index for the success of the Rag, then we have the record in the bag. More whole-hearted support will have to be given to the Rag Committee to ensure that their plans do not go astray. Lend a shoulder to the wheel!

RE FURNITURE

Such busy people, you know, these Amenities Committee members; contrary to expectations, however, they *do* get things done.

The furnishing of the Seniors' Common Room over at the hospital, is a matter which has been occupying their attention of late.

The thoroughness with which this task has been tackled is bound to manifest itself in good, strong, durable (non-malleable) furnishings and other appointments. The installation of a hospital 'phone in this new Common Room is a nobby idea.

(Listen to this. Cream walls, cream and green curtains, dark brown furniture.)

RIDING FOR SAFETY

The Amenities Committee are also busy receiving quotes for a steel filing cabinet, a new typewriter and also a fire-fool-burglar-proof safe. No doubt recent depredations on the Technical College have influenced them to provide a safe place for monies held over till banking day, and for the treasurer's books.

TAILPIECE

Theme of the Medical Dinner:—

" Waste not your hour, nor in the vain pursuit,
Of this and that endeavour and dispute;
Better be jocund with the fruitful grape,
Than sadden after none, or bitter fruit."

(*Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.*)

BINOCULAR.

DIE HOSPITAAL-JOOL

Dit is 'n dag van pret en jol, van vroeg opstaan die môre en die heeldag mense voorkeer met 'n bussie in jou hand; 'n dag van uitbundige vreugde en langdurige herinneringe.

Van al die aangename episodetjies op Universiteit neem die jool seker 'n vername plek in. Dit is, wanneer die studente-gees botvier wanneer elke student homself kan wees, of iemand anders, maak soos hy wil en, 'n mens kan amper sê, uiting gee aan al sy repressies.

Die Johannesburgse publiek het die jool ook al aangeneem as iets wat elke jaar moet gebeur om 'n vrolike afleiding te bring in die anders so woelige strate van ons stad. Hulle steeds vermeerderende bydrae elke jaar is 'n sprekende bewys van die gewildheid van die dag en van die goeie gees waarin ons buitensporighede opgeneem word.

Vir die eerstejaar-student is dit 'n dag van nuwe ervaring. Al die mense gaap hom aan, of glimlag vir hom. Dan is daar nog die ekstra satisfaksie om verniet op trems te ry, om oor die straat te loop as die robot rooi wys, of om vir enige dametjie wat haar te veel verwonder, te sê: „Hullo, hoe hou jy van my kostuum?"

Vir die hospitaal is dit net so 'n groot dag. Reken net dat met die geld wat dan ingesamel word die hospitaal al die onkoste van twee volle dae uit die drie-honderd-vyf-en-sestig dae van die jaar kan dek.

N.K.

HUSTLING HUMOUR.

PROGNOSIS.

Gent from out West: "Waiter, take this steak out and have it cooked."

Eastern waiter: "But it is cooked, sir."

Gent from out West: "Cooked, hell! I've seen a cow hurt worse than that and get better."

I.Q. TEST.

What is the meaning of:—
Pas de deux—Father of twins.
Coup de grace—Lawn mower.
Pax in bello—Freedom from indigestion.

My parents told me not to smoke—I don't,
Or listen to a naughty joke—I don't.
They made it clear I must not look
At pretty girls, or even think
About intoxicating drink—I don't.
To dance or flirt is very wrong—I don't.
Wild youths like women, wine and song—I don't.
I kiss no girls not even one,
I do not know how it is done,
You wouldn't think I have much fun—I don't.

"Sure, I'll give you a job. Sweep out the store."

"But I'm a B.A.!"

"Sorry—But it's the easiest job I've got."

DAFFYNITIONS.

A millenium is like a centennial but has more legs.

A psychiatrist is a man with mental disorders.

Heresy is when a child is like his father.

A cirlce is when you don't know what you are doing.

Inertia is when you go on after you stop and when you stop after you start.

"Since I met you I can't sleep, can't eat, don't drink."

"Why not?"

"I'm broke."

DRAMA IN THREE ACTS.

Algy met a bear.
The bear was Bulgy.
The Bulge was Algy.

First little boy: "Let's play college."

Second little boy: "O.K. I'll get a pipe, you get daddy's cheque book."

Pa: "Remember son, beauty is only skin deep."

"O.K. by me, Pa, I'm no cannibal."

A young couple were being affectionate in a cinema—much to the annoyance of an elderly gentleman sitting behind them. Eventually he leaned forward and said sarcastically, "The sofa at home is a delightful spot why not try it?"

"Because her father is as bad as you."

BLIND DATE SPECIFICATIONS.

(From West Point Naval Academy.)

To be filled out at least one week before any scheduled hop.

From:— The roommate or any snake.

To:—Any upperclassman.

Subject! That extra (check one) femme ( ) cousin ( ) friend ( ), who simply must be dragged along.

Appearance.

Length .....
Maximum Beam .....
Tonnage ... ... Props. .....
Trim ..... Rigging .....
Figurehead ... Sheer .....
Lines .....
Paint Job (Mark One) .....
Hubnut Coty .....
Kiss-Proof ..... Bourjois .....
Houbigant ..... Woolworth .....

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Free Surface .....
Free Board .....
Armament .....
Fortifications .....
Speed .....

General Information.

Fuel Capacity .....
Sea Worthiness .....
Radius of Action .....
Service Record .....
Dependability .....
Manoeuvreability .....
Shaft H.P. ..... Home Yard .....
R.P.M. ..... B.T.U. .....
Days Out of Dry Dock .....
Coefficient of Rigidity .....
Coefficient of Resistance .....
Radius of Gyration .....
Period of Roll .....
Accessories .....
Elasticity .....

Decision.

Yes ..... ( )
No ..... ( )
Perhaps ..... ( )

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(A further selection of passages from books in the Medical Library.)

From "**The Medical Dictator.**" —*Greenwood.*

(Excerpt from a chapter entitled "Osler of Osler.")

Any reader of the "Life" or anybody who has talked with Osler must have been struck by a trait in his character which might be fairly termed a perennial boyishness. It showed iteself in a fondness for small practical jokes and literary pranks as well as in a complete freedom from conversational pomposity which made him particularly charming to younger men. Indeed when he had to speak, or thought he ought to speak, *ore rotunda*, he was rather dull. Few physicians of his time can have made so many speeches, but he was never an orator; his natural manner was conversational. Perhaps this was correlated with an intellectual characteristic which, I think, brings us to the *aliquid* on imperviousness to intellectual experience. Bagehot commented once on what he called the inexperiencing nature of Macauley. He did not, of course, mean that Macauley like the Bourbons learned nothing and forgot nothing—Macauley did forget nothing—but that the views Macauley had formed at thirty remained, without any essential change, the views he still held at fifty; they changed neither for better nor worse. Osler, who resembled Macauley in his personal generosity and love of books, resembled him in this too. If one were to choose extracts from Osler's literary work not "dated," by some reference to particular events, I think most people would find it hard to say whether they were written at the age of thirty, forty, fifty or sixty.

From "**Magician and Leech.**"—*Dawson.*

Primitive man was not an abstract thinker and long ages had elapsed before he had accumulated the concrete knowledge necessary to convince him that death is the inevitable fate of all living creatures. Even at the present time many peoples believe that life should endure indefinitely and that the state we call death is merely an altered form of living, a break in the daily routine of human existence, brought about by some agency, human or supernatural, which the wits of the living can and must counteract. Death as the negation of life is an abstract concept which was entirely outside the mental powers of primitive man. To an individual there can be no such state as death, because it is a fate which befalls others and is never true of the individual himself, for as soon as he dies, he cannot contemplate a state which only comes into being when his consciousness has fled.

From "**Noguchi.**"—*Eckstein.*

Eastward of the castle, near Bandai Mountain, two miles perhaps from its base, in the village of Okinajima is Omiyasan Choshozi, a very large temple for so miserable a village. One morning a child, a baby on her back, comes to the priest, holds up ten sen "Give it to Kannon and pray for my house." Ten sen is much money and the priest is suspicious, asks the child's name. She tells him Noguchi Shika, then of her own accord tells about the money, sen for sen, how she got it, by what rough labour, ends with saying she saved it for Kannon all the last two years. The priest is ashamed, promises to pray, promises that with diligence Shika will lift her house back to where it stood five generations ago in the time of Noguchi Seitaro since when it has gone so steadily down.

From "**Whither Medicine.**"—*Loebel.*

Or should disease be regarded quite generally as something "unnatural?" But diphtheria, for instance, from the point of view of the diphtheria bacillus, is a most natural occurrence. It is by no means a defiance of natural law, but is in fact the very logical result of the operation of certain forces, and works according to rules just like any other physical happening.

"Current Questions."

"Instead of milk," said Dr. Mellé,
"I give my infants apple jelly."
This came as a shock to not only
the layman,
But also to Dr. S. C. Heymann.

How stupid to say that Dr. Chat
Is even the slightest shade too fat!
But on the other hand she's not as
lean
As a stained section of typhoid
spleen.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH LITERATURE
II. Sir Thomas Browne.

In the early Seventeenth Century, when Shakespeare was still a living memory to men, there practiced in the small country town of Norwich a doctor named Sir Thomas Browne. Like many good people before and after him, Browne and his philosophy would have passed into oblivion had he not resolved for his own personal satisfaction to make a record of his attitude towards life, and written the celebrated *Religio Medici*. It is a paradoxical affair this confession of his, which has been classed by those who should know as being a very minor work in philosophy; was rejected by the theologans of his own day for its theology; gives very little evidence of Browne's knowledge and accuracy as either a biologist or a physician, and yet should remain to us to this day. It is a strange circumstance indeed which has finally assured a permanent niche on the top shelf of literary immortality to its 90 dim pages boldly sandwiched between the bulky records of a Bacon or a Gibbon.

It is an inevitability in our medical upbringing that *Religio Medici* is thrust upon us, sooner or later, as a keystone to our philosophy and just what a susceptible medical student ought to read. Now this work is a "classic." In the words of an annonymous but erudite critic this term refers to a work which can be safely praised without having been read, and I know of few books which so perfectly exemplify the wisdom of this remark. For the further we make our first reading into it the more profound become our doubts as to the intentions of those who foisted it on us and just how much of the thing they had read for themselves. It would be charity to be forwarned that it is heavy going this thing. Any mere "book-of-the-month" addict will quail before its pages had he not acquired something of the dourness engendered by, let us say, Muir's "Pathology," or at least Carlyles "Sartor Resartus." But neither is Hamlet or a Beethoven Concerto comprehensible on first acquaintance. They appear dull and irritate the reasoning with a sensation of things which are beyond it. In time when the irritation has passed the challenge to the reasoning remains, back we go and by understanding we create an incommunicable mental experience of which no worldly circumstance can rob us. It is with events of such a calibre that we class *Religio Medici*.

Since this then is a personal philosophy it is inseperable from an understanding of it that we should appreciate something of the scanty knowledge that we have of his early life. Sir Thomas Browne was born in 1605. From his earliest years he seems to have been amply provided for and was free to indulge in a prolonged university career without immediate thought of the morrow. At the age of 18 he went to Oxford where he eventually graduated with distinction. He then decided to study medicine and for this purpose he visited the three finest medical schools in the world at that time which were all to be found on the Continent. At Montpellier, in France, he laid a foundation to his studies in the Natural sciences. From there he proceeded to the Illustrious Clinical School at Padua, hallowed by the names of Vesalius, John Caius and Harvey of circulation fame. Finally to Leyden, where the resurrected sciences of physics and chemistry had made astounding strides, and where he met van Helmart, Sylvius and possibly Descartes. For our purposes this part of his life is the most significant; not that it fitted him to be a good physician, and there is no record to the contrary, but it created a denationalised tolerance of his fellow men, whatever their race or creed. The fundamental goodness of this has never been more wonderfully demonstrated than in the *Religio*. "National repugnances do not touch me nor do I behold with prejudice the French, Italian, Spaniard or Dutch; all places, all airs make unto me one country."

He started to write the *Religio Medici* about 1635 whilst still a comparatively young man, and never at any time did he intend that it should be published. It came to be read by a few friends who asked if they might transcribe it and soon copies were circulating amongst an ever-increasing circle of admirers. One of these fell into the hands of an eager printer who without ceremony published it in 1642, to the great annoyance of Browne. Anyway in the following year he supplied an authentic version to none other than the scarcely penitent pirate himself! The book was a surprising success and was translated into German, French, Hollands and Italian during the author's lifetime.

As a literary document the *Religio* must be pretty well unique. It is more personal than any of the famous diaries in the language and completely lacks that reticence in writing that we find in works prepared for publication. It lacks symmetry and balance, it is disjointed but there runs throughout it the theme of the personal religion of one who was well versed in the scientific outlook of his time. I think that it is this unbigoted, high-souled outlook that seems to get very near the core of all that is worthy in medicine, which is of particular significance to us. "He thinks that there is no man bad and the worst best: there is no man's mind of such disordant and jarring temper to which a tuneable disposition may not strike a harmony."

This far we have been stating the riddle of Sir Thomas Browne's creation rather than answering it. Why has this thing lasted; how did he make such fundamental truths memorable? It is here that our analysis encounters that bogey of matriculation tutorage "style." It is well on such dangerous ground to turn to Edmund Gosse woh insists "not the mere melodious arrangement of beautiful words, but in the manipulation of language with such an art as to reveal a personal temperament and a personal point of view; the style of Sir Thomas Browne was another splendid thing that was not simple."

D.R.M.

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BABOONS.
A Film and Commentry by Dr. Gillman.

On Tuesday, April 18th a most interesting evening was held at the Medical School under the auspices of the Correlation of Research Committee of the Science Student Association. The evening consisted of the screening of a film portraying aspects of the behaviour of the baboons of the Histology Department and a running commentary of the film by Dr. Gillman.

Before the commencement of the film, Dr. Gillman outlined some of his interesting observations on these animals. He stated that the young baboon at 4-5 months and after can fend for itself. If a mother tended to disregard her youngster, the father would reproach her. Further as the youngster grew up, it attached itself closer to the father.

The relation of the mother to her youngster in its early life was clearly demonstrated in the film. The maternal instinct, was of such a nature as to disregard all other attachments of the female baboon. For instance in the film the otherwise friendly baboon would snarl and be aggressively reluctant to part with her youngster to the experimenter. The grasping reflex of the youngster was also brought out in the film as was its complete lack of postural adjustment.

Dr. Gillman pointed out that although the maternal instinct was of such strength, nevertheless the greed of the baboon was yet greater. A mother would snatch food away from her youngster, even going so far as to extract the food from the mouth of the latter. The maternal instinct manifested itself even in a childless baboon. The film indicated the adoption by female baboons of three youngsters in the colony.

This interesting animal is also very prone to conditioning. It will learn quite complicated acts. For instance a female baboon in the film learned to walk quite erect with her hands above her head when she sighted food. The ease with which baboons co-operate in experimental work can be testified by all who have observed the animals in certain experiments carried out by the Histology Department.

At the conclusion of the film Dr. Gillman answered questions from the floor. In reply to a question on the relative importance of environmental and constitutional factors Dr. Gillman stated that the problem was very difficult to investigate thoroughly, and that since the environment is the easier to explore, our attention should be directed to it before the complicated mechanism of heredity could be satisfactorily studied.

Altogether the evening afforded a stimulating insight into the possibilities of experimental psychology of the lower higher primates, and indicated the fact that a real nucleus for such investigation was present at the Medical School. It is to be regretted that the Histology Department has not the facilities to house the baboons, so as to allow them to live more communally and comfortably than at present. This would definitely aid in increasing observations on the animals.

Finally a word about the Correlation of Research Committee. This committee is an innovation of a unique nature at the university. It's aim is to bring together all research workers and senior students at the university in order to acquaint them all with each other's work and interests and as Mr. Oettle in his splendid vote of thanks stated, to drag them out of their cubby holes in which they isolate themselves to gather the value of the work of other students. The committee is certainly going to satisfy an urgent need at the university.

One often discovers Dr. L. I. Braun
Improving his golf on the croquet-lawn.
But the latter's too small for his virile labours,
So he drives into the garden of his next-door neighbours.

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SPORTS COLUMN

MEDICAL POTPOURRI

The Inter-Year Rugby is at last under way. The 2nd Years having defeated the 1st Years, 14 points to nil in a very poor game in which the standard of rugby was so low that any school's junior team-match would have appeared to be an International Game. The less said about the 4th *vs.* 3rd Year match, in which the standard was even lower, the better—the final score was 6–0 in favour of 4th Years. Let us hope that the games still to be played will make up, in prestige, what was lost in the above games.

The University Athletic Championships took place at Milner Park on the 22nd April, and was certainly the brightest meeting I have seen at university. It is worthy of note that the two records broken, were broken by Medicals —K. Warr and E. Skinstad. Congratulations.

Ken Warr won the 880 yards in the excellent time of 1 min. 55.6 secs., which incidentally was the winner's time, in the same event, at the South African Championships. Skinstad ("Skinny") eclipsed himself when he broke his old record by 12 feet, when he threw the javelin 191 feet. Other Medicals in the picture were Vic Turnbull and Louis Fouché.

These four athletes will help Wits down at Capetown on the 6th May. Our best wishes, gentlemen.

Most Medicals will by this time have forgotten the staff *vs.* Students' cricket match, in fact, very few even remembered that there was such a match. Oh! what they missed. What a glorious spectacle it was to see our staff chasing one of Gerry Dalton's numerous "fours." Truly it was a great game and Dr. Penn and his team must not only be congratulated for giving the youngsters a taste of victory, but also for being sporting enough to have a shot at a game most of them had long forgotten. Special mention must be made of Professor Craib, who fielded in Vic Richardson's suicide position, also of Dr. I. P. Becker's efforts in the outfield.

Ping pong occupies a major position in the minds of numerous Medicals, if the names on the membership list has any significance. Unfortunately finance is needed before a successful club can be started. The question which immediately comes to mind is, where from? And the reply, search me. We have some outstanding ping-pong players in our midst, of whom Mr. Pelkowitz and Mr. Kagan head the list and these gentlemen should be able to coach the club members quite confidently. A happy and successful launching, to those concerned.

The Inter-Firm Tennis was won by Dr. Girdwood's firm, who beat Mr. Dauth's firm by *one game.* This is probably the closest finish in Inter-Firm Tennis. Congrats., winners.

Medicals only were in the picture on the final day of the University Golf Championships. Here S. T. Hersh came out tops with "Bernie" van Lingen a close second. This is the second time Hersh has won the compeition and also the second time van Lingen has come second. After the championships I decided to ask Mr. Hersh how I could improve my game, and his reply was "My dear chap, it's not your swing or your grip. Remember the language of golf is always harder than the game." Remarkable, don't you think?

I note in the last issue of the "Auricle" that Mr. Turnbull suggests the formation of a "Glee Club." Up to the present Mr. Sievers, our "Cheer Leader," does not seem to have done anything in the matter. Personally Mr. Sievers I think it a grand idea, and it certainly would help Medical sport a lot.

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FOURTH YEAR VERSUS THIRD YEAR DEBATE

On Friday evening 14th April a debate between the Fourth Year and Third Year Medicals was held. This debate was one of the series of a knock-out competition, the winner of which is to receive a cup presented by Professor Brebner. The subject of the Fourth Year—Third Year debate was "Does the Medical Course equip a medical man for his role in society?" Dr. Strachan was invited to act as adjudicator. The proposer of the motion was Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. de Kock, both of the Fourth Year, the opposer was Mr. Kagan, seconded by Mr. Leontsinus, both of the Third Year.

Mr. Warren became confused in the middle of his speech and Mr. De Kock undertook the task of continuing the proposal of the motion. Mr. de Kock's delivery was certainly good. He was cool and collected throughout. He elaborated what Mr. Warren had begun. The proposers stated that the medical course taught students to pay close attention to facts to be intimate observers of human disease, which of necessity led to a man's innermost nature, and thus to an understanding of him. The course by including such a wide range of subjects also furnished the student with a broad outlook. The criticism to be levelled against the proposers is that they were inclined to regard the medical course from too idealistic a point of view, and tended to forget to inform the house how these ideals worked in practice.

Mr. Kagan emphasised the medical man's ignorance of society. Society, Mr. Kagan implied, was to be understood from a knowledge of politics and economics and social laws. These subjects were not included in the medical course, hence the medical man is not equipped for his role in society It is a pity Mr. Kagan's points were not emphasised more clearly. Mr. Leontsinnus gave the house some very good rhetoric but left it at a loss for facts.

HOSPITAL RAG BALL.

The Hospital Rag Ball will this year be the most ambitious effort so far presented by the Rag Committee. In the sumptious surroundings of the Carlton Hotel, the dancers will have at their disposal two dance floors and two dance bands. Softly shaded lights will convert the waltz into a panorama of romantic grace, and transport the waltzers into a haven of rhythmic movement after the hectic hours of collecting, and the excitement of the procession. There students will congregate and discuss the thousand and one incidents of the day songs will be sung and the faculties of the university will hobnob together in free cameraderie.

To round off the day of the year, the Carlton Hotel is ideal. Amidst the luxurious comforts of the dance floors, the Hospital Rag Ball will rank as one of the events of the season to the public a double ticket is 25/– to the Students, 12/6. The date, Saturday, May 13th, at 8 p.m.

There were many speakers from the floor. Miss Paterson stated that since a medical man could not obtain an intricate knowledge of economics and politics he should co-operate with those who do. Mr. Cook maintained that a medical man lacked culture, an innate quality which could not be taught. Mr. Gorohovsky stressed the value of social sciences. A good deal of time was taken up with an aimless attempt to define culture from both floor and platform.

Dr. Strachan in awarding his decision in favour of the opposers, stated that he too believed culture to be an essential quality for the medical man. He thought this quality to be innate and as to whether the medical course equipped a man better for his role in society he maintained could not be answered. A vote was then taken, the majority being against the motion.

It is to be hoped that future debates will all be of the same serious and topical nature. This would enable medical students to rack their brains, we hope, with beneficial results to society.

CURRENT QUESTIONS

It's not generally known but Professor Craib
Could detect cardiac murmurs when he was a babe.
He would often lisp, "Without the patient's histoly
You can *not* give plognosis on a murmur in systole."

It's the firm conviction of Dr. Bloom
That the heart in mammals is really the womb.
"But it's only the old man's manner of talkin'."
Is the comment made by Dr. Balkin.

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Our Frank Reporter Discusses the —

MEDICAL DINNER

The annual dinner was held this year at the Elgin Hotel on April 26th.

Though timed to begin at 7.30, the dinner began at 8, thus giving a number of convivial spirits time to become pleasantly numb before commencing their gastronomic exercises.

The *hors d'oeuvres* (varies) occurred simultaneously with the first casualty. The proceedings then went with a swing.

It is a debatable point whether the amount of alcoholic liquor consumed was attributable to the execrable quality and appearance of the food or the natural propensity of medical students for the absorption of intoxicants. It seems strange to me that members of a profession who are aware of the virtues of a balanced diet, devoted themselves so whole-heartedly to a repast composed mainly of ethyl alcohol together with a negligible modicum of luke-warm, badly, served, nondescript comestibles.

"Consomme Double," is possibly so named, because when this peculiar concoction or infusion or what you will, made its appearance, a goodly proportion of those present believed themselves to be confronted by two plates of the stuff.

To me it seems highly unnecessary that medical dinners should be characterised by bad food and such an astounding amount of drunkedness. I think that a course of instruction to students in the amount of liquor to be imbibed, in order that a pleasantly mellow state of "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men" might be induced without causing besotted bestiality, would be very beneficial. The chronic state of bad catering in Johannesburg, is, perhaps irremediable.

But, to turn to other things: Mr. Kloppers, in proposing the toasts, "Our Guests", bade farewell to Professor Gordon Grant, whose departure from the staff is regretted by all who come in contact with him. The depressing character of Mr. Klopper's speech took a turn for the worse when he mentioned also the retirement of "J.J." and Dr. Mayer. The gloom lifted somewhat when Mr. Kloppers welcomed Professor Black who is replacing "G.G." Professor Black, in response to the toast, made an amusing speech in which he touched on the etiology of kissing—is it due to the need for vitamins, or to hormones. We would like to assure Professor Black that his post-prandial oratory is quite up to standard.

The toast, "South African Universities," was proposed by Professor Brebner. The latter said that a banquet was spoilt by speeches. He therefore contented himself with a brief comparison of the surgery department with the rest of the Medical School, during which he touched on the uses of M. and B. 693, which, he decided, was not a cure for pregnancy. In conclusion, he asked students to consider whether they spent their energies correctly in their methods of assimilating knowledge.

In replying to the toast, Dr. Strachan struck a serious note in his analysis of the medical profession, deciding that the G.P.'s form the back-bone thereof. He also urged medical students not to dissociate themselves from anything non-medical—stressing the need for interests and knowledge outside medicine.

Dr. Melle then presented the Tennis Cup to Dr. Reed, who received it on behalf of Dr. Girdwood's firm. We wonder whether anyone could elucidate the Freudian significance of dreams about tennis?

Dr. Drury-Shaw started the ball rolling in the game of impromptu speeches. Dr. Krige, also spoke.

Thus, apart from the removal of sundry corpses, terminated the proceedings.

I think it is high time that the Medical School in general and the S.M.C. in particular should wake up to the fact that these annual debauches held in public places are gaining an unenviable reputation from the medical students of Johannesburg. The public, I am sure, is not, to put it mildly, favourably impressed by the spectacle of medical students being forcibly ejected from hotel bars.

A little while ago, it was pointed out that our badge was wrongly designed—containing the staff of mercury and not of Aesculapios—I wonder if it isn't better suited to us?

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WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT?

John D. Rockefeller on one occasion found himself without a cent in his pocket, so he borrowed a dime for busfare form his secretary. "Remind me about this transaction to-morrow," he said, to which the secretary replied that the matter was of no consequence. At this the old man exploded, "What! that represents two years' interest on a dollar!"

But the statement meant much more than that: it contained the kernel of that philosophy without which his fortune could not have been built—the Rockefeller name and money has penetrated to practically all corners of the world, and while, at first, the main objective was the acquisition of lucrative forms of investment, later policy included powerful financial support for venture which could never return dividends in gold. Arts, science, religion and medicine: all have benefited in the past, all will yet benefit in the future. Some 750,000,000 dollars have been distributed—the return in human well-being is unmeasurable.

Muscat is a pesthole in Arabia. Terrific heat, the stench of drying fish, and disease in plenty are its characteristics. One would scarcely expect to find a reputable doctor among such surroundings, yet for ten years it has been the headquarters of Dr. Paul W. Harrison, medical missionary, authority on hernia and spinal anaesthesia, and one of the finest living surgeons. Although he has practiced for 28 years, and could if he wished, command, in a city such as New York, the high fees to which his skill and success entitle him, he draws a salary at which almost any newly qualified practitioner would sneer.

Given the resources and advantages of a modern hospital his output of fruitful discovery would probably be doubled, and, presumably, also his usefulness to medicine, yet he prefers to work in what is undoubtedly one ot the worst medical areas of the world.

Encompassed in his philosophy of living lies the concept of personal service, and because of this some thousands of poverty-stricken Arabs receive such benefits as they could never otherwise attain to. To them his feats are miracles, and, among a people as fanatically religious as only Mohammedans can be, his work lends material significance to their faith. Perhaps that is why he stays.

Although belonging to different generations (Rockefeller died, aged 98, in 1937: Harrison is about 55), their ultimate philosophies are essentially similar, because each man's philosophy inevitably is dependent on the cultural social forces acting during his lifetime.

The frantic industrial expansion of the 19th Century placed a premium on opportunism so that it became a case of every man for himself, and the devil take the rest. Notwithstanding this attitude, society was still firmly rooted on the bed-rock of a sure culture and tradition: a factor which materially affected business morals. Caught in such a net of conditioning factors, Rockefeller's reactions, led almost automatically to their final issue.

As the century progressed Darwin destroyed one of mankind's dearest illusions. Moral adjustments had to be made. Fresh fields for economic exploitation were narrowing rapidly, and society bumped up against the disturing fact that its foundations were not as secure as might be. New factors were operating and new or altered philosophies were born. Harrison is a product of this change, but, like Rockefeller, he had to face a query as old as man: What shall it profit?

J. E. IRVINE.

REMEMBER

The "Auricle" is your paper. Its policy is determined by your wants, and its opinion is that of all medical students. Express your views in its columns and send in your criticisms of its articles to the S.M.C. Office. No representative magazine can fully correctly gauge the trend of ideas unless those it represents contribute to it. If you have any complaints, suggestions, views, literary requirements or protests you wish published, send them in to the Editor. Only thus can you help yourself and your fellow-students.

'N AFRIKAANSE MEDIESE SKOOL

In die middel-eeue was Latyn die enigste wetenskaplike voertaal. Dit gee die skyn asof die wetenskap van daardie dae al sy onopgeloste probleme onder 'n dekmantel van aangeplakte grootheid moes bedek. Al was jy ook in 'n ander land gebore, dan moes jy Latyn gebruik om indruk te maak.

Hierdie verwronge idee bestaan nog in die sogenaamde verligte twintigste eeu, hoewel in 'n effens gewysigde vorm. Daarom praat mense van 'n „Afrikaanse" mediese skool. Niemand praat van die ander twee degrelike inrigtings in ons land as „Engelse" mediese skole nie.

Die benaming mag ook die gevolg wees van die algemene opvatting dat net Afrikaanssprekende studente na so 'n mediese skool sal gaan. Ver daarvandaan. Dit sal nie die geval wees nie. As dit gebeur sal die inrigting sekerlik sy doel mis. Die strewe van ons opleiding is nie net om ons te leer om 'n regte diagnose te kan maak nie of om 'n preskripsie uit te skryf nie, maar ook om ons daardie wyer blik op sake te gee wat ons in staat sal stel om oor 'n paar jaar leiding in ons omgewing te neem en ons met gemak te kan beweeg tussen mense. Ons moet mense se siele kan vertolk, nie net hulle siekte-simptome nie. Daarom moet die een die ander een se taal ken. Daarom pleit ek vir 'n Afrikaanse skool—nie vir my nie, maar vir ander. Net sowel as wat daar nog altyd Afrikaans-sprekende studente by hierdie skool was in die verlede, sal daar ook Engels-sprekende studente by 'n Afrikaanse inrigting gaan leer. Is dit nie billik nie? Hulle sal daarvan hou. Die behoefte sal hulle ook dwing. Ons is die hoerskoolstadium verby waar ouers vir hulle kinders se part dink en vir hulle sê na watter skool toe om te gaan. Die student moet self besluit oor wat in die toekoms die meeste werd sal wees.

Die gevolg sal wees 'n beter en doeltreffender verdeling van studente by so 'n derde mediese fakulteit. Die Afrikaans-sprekende studente is ver in die minderheid in ons skool, maar tog verwag 'n mens dat hulle meer aktief, in hulle eie taal en op 'n Afrikaanse manier, moet deelneem aan die Universiteitslewe en meer leiding gee in die algemeen. Wat is die oorsaak van die skynbare laksheid? Is dit omdat hulle as 'n minderheid in die strewe van die meerderheid opgeneem word?

Hulle kan hulle nie uitleef omdat die oormag te groot is. Hierdie is nie 'n verwyt nie, nie vir enige kant nie, net 'n blootgewone sielkundige verskynsel. Let op die volgende getalle van huidige studente in ons inrigting. (Van hierdie getalle kan 'n paar miskien foutief wees, maar nie met meer as een of twee nie.)

Jaar.	Totaal.	Afr.	Eng.	Jode.	Indiërs.	Ander Nasies.
II ...	171	34	27	105	2	3
III ...	105	23	25	54	—	3
IV ...	82	18	32	32	—	—
V ...	84	7	20	54	—	3
VI ...	78	20	14	43	—	1

Hierin lê die verklaring vir verskynsels soos die volgende. Waarom daar so min Afrikaans in die „Auricle" is; waarom daar nooit Afrikaans by vergaderings in die Mediese Skool gepraat word nie; en waarom daar net een Afrikaanse vereniging in hierdie Universiteit van omtrent twee duisend studente is. Die Afrikaners word gladnie terug gehou nie. Die skuld lê by hulle self. Hulle laat hulself nie geld nie omdat hulle voel dat hulle invloed in elk geval tog maar klein sal wees.

Die taal speel 'n vername rol in die voorbereiding vir ons taak, en daarna. Dadelik kom ons voor Kaffertale te staan. Hoe oneindig skiet ons nie te kort nie in ons sogenaamde voorbereiding? En dan is daar soveel teenstand as ons 'n Afrikaanse Mediese Skool vra? Die behoefte om meer tale teken word gevoel deur elke dokter—nie Duits of Latyn soos nog vandag op skole geleer word nie maar Kaffertaal sodat ons in die siel van die Bantoe kan kyk. Voor ons egter na uiterstes toe gaan, laat daar eers reg geskied aan die Afrikaanse geemeenskap.

'n Mediese skool vir naturelle sal nog eendag gebou word net so seker as wat ons vandag saam met Kleurlinge hier studeer. Oor hoeveel jaar kan niemand sê nie, want die aanpassingsproses van wit en swart met mekaar neem elke dag 'n ander vorm aan namate die swart rasse snel ontwikkel. Die Kaffer was eers ons vyand met sy assegaai, toe ons dienskneg met pik en graaf, en nou 'n gelykstaande wedywweraar met sy pen. Daarom klink dit nie ongehoord nie om te sê dat as daar nog baie langer uitgestel word die kwessie van of 'n Afrikaanse of 'n Gekleurde Mediese Skool gelyk op die planke sal kom. By die Pretoriase Hospitaal is verlede jaar 'n groot gebou voltooi vir die opleiding van naturelleverpleegsters.

Dit lyk asof verpleging, 'n klein onderafdelingkie van medisyne, die dokters soms in die skadu stel. Daar is nou baie verpleegsters wat hulle hele kursus in Afrikaans deurmaak, soos b.v. van die Moedersbond-Hospitaal in Pretoria en in die Kranksinnige Gestigte. Daar is ook heelwat handboeke vir hulle in Afrikaans geskryf we.

Die moeilikheid in verband met die nodige handboeke vir studente is 'n holrug-stokperdjie sonder enige gegronde redes. Die oplossing is eenvoudig: as die behoefte geskep word, sal die boeke verskyn. Daar is elke jaar, vir baie jare al, studente wat hulle eerstejaarsvakke in Afrikaans neem op Pretoria en Bloemfontein. Sulke studente studeer vandag onder moeilike omstandighede aangesien hulle later weer moet verander nie net van Universiteit nie maar ook van taal. Daar is op die oomblik 18 studente wat eerste-jaar-medisyne in Pretoria neem, en verlede jaar was daar 29 gewees.

Die getalle van dokters wat aan hierdie Universiteit gekwalifiseer het gedurende die afgelope vyftien jaar is interessant daar dit toon hoe die getal Afrikaners stadigaan toegeneem het. (Die getalle is geneem volgens Afrikaanse name en vanne.)

Jaar.	Afr.	Totaal.	Jaar.	Afr.	Totaal.
1924	—	4	1932	1	13
1925	2	17	1933	4	33
1926	(nie bekend)		1934	7	28
1927	7	37	1935	6	29
1928	1	19	1936	5	41
1929	5	20	1937	8	45
1930	1	18	1938	12	62
1931	3	18	1939	14	57

N. KRAUSE.

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