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Students` Medical Council

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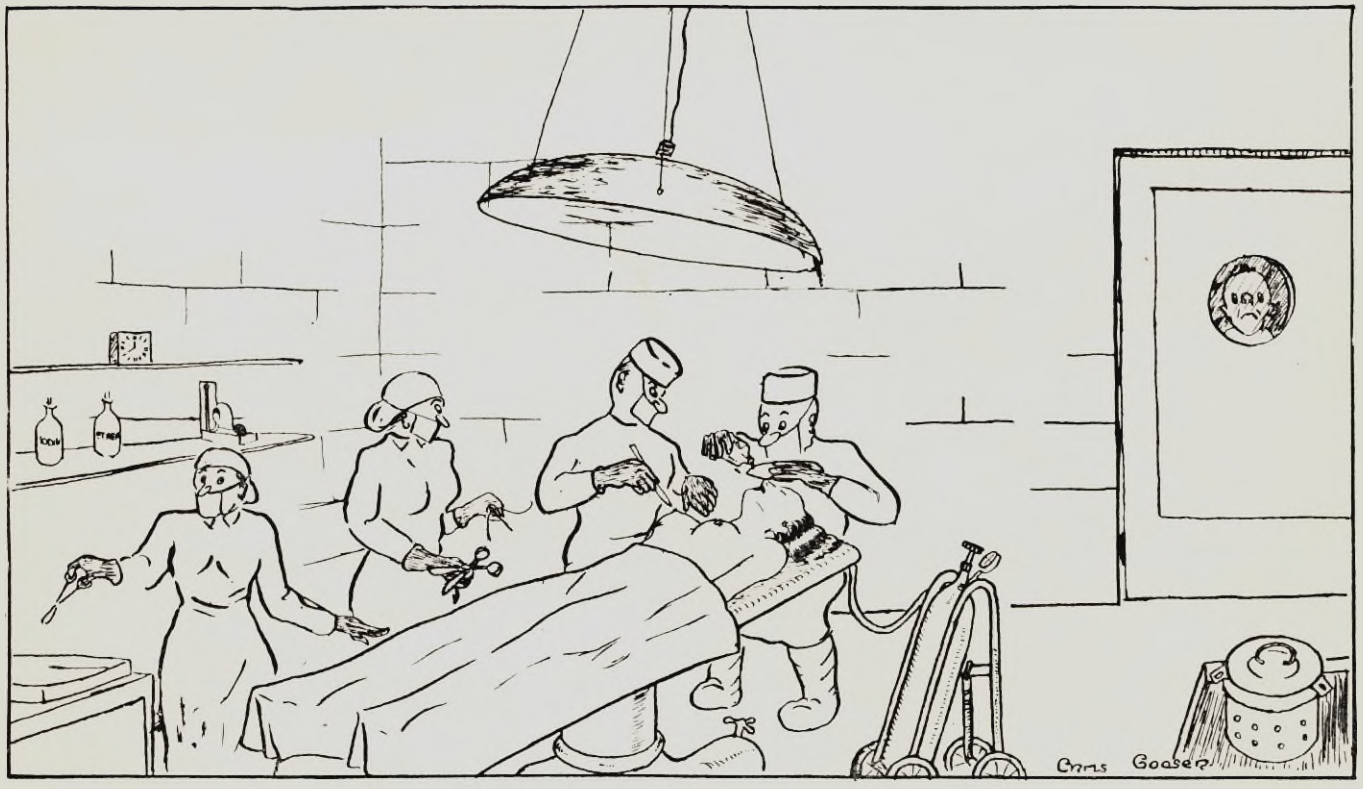
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The AURICLE

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

VOL. 5 MARCH, 1939 No. 2

Our Obstinate Artist



CUTTING A FINE FIGURE

was what we asked the artist to illustrate and this is what he did.

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CRUCIAL NEW YEAR FOR MEDICALS

The attendance and the enthusiasm at the General meeting held recently has come as a revelation to all those who have been following student affairs for some time.

This re-awakening of the Medical Faculty has come at a crucical time, a time at which the unity and enthusiasm of Medical Students is essential to the future well-being of the Medical School.

At the meeting three motions of prime importance were introduced and passed almost unanimously. The first of these was the protest to the Senate regarding the imposition of the provisional registration fee of £1. The very fact that such a motion was introduced, let alone the fact that it was passed with only one dissentient is sufficient to show that the students of this school are fully alive to all the problems facing them.

We feel that we are expressing the opinion of the whole school when we say that it is not so much the extra cost we are opposed to as the principle of the matter. At the beginning of our academic careers each of us contracted to pay a certain sum annually to the University. Now for no obvious reason this fee has been increased.

While acknowledging the fact that the University is in sad need of funds, we sincerely feel that had the students been approached they would have found a method of raising the necessary funds. After all, for the last 7-8 years the University has through the Rag contributed a large sum of money for the General Hospital, an institution which should be paid for by the Government.

Remembering the old adage that Charity begins at home we might well in future devote at least a portion of the proceeds to the University. We respectfully offer this suggestion to the responsible authorities and assure them of our support should they adopt the scheme.

The second important motion introduced was concerned with the re-organisation of Cultural Activities. As we have already dealt fully with the matter in our columns in the previous issues we need not labour the point further beyond once again urging each student to give this move his ardent support.

The third motion called upon the Medical School's S.R.C. representatives to make every effort to secure for the school an increased grant from the S.R.C. In oue leading article in the last issue wr put forward the opinion of the Medical School. The fact that this is the opinion of the Medical School and not that of isolated individuals was amply proved by the unanimous support accorded to this motion at the General Meeting.

On another page is a reply to that article from Mr. D. Kaplan. It is regrettable in the extreme that that gentleman was unable to avoid doing himself what he was so hasty to accuse the Auricle of doing. (We refer you to the sentence—"Next, Sir, you are rude.")

In spite of this we ask you to read the letter through carefully together with the original article and to form an unbiased opinion as to the rights and wrongs of the matter.

Suffice to say here, that we are grateful to the S.R.C. for the immediate notice they have taken of our claims.

We hasten to assure the S.R.C. that if they take up a reasonable and fair attitude towards our requests then we for our part will do our utmost in giving them our whole-hearted and unqualified support in maintaining and improving the prestige and usefulness of student organisation in general.

If, however, we are faced, as on certain occasions in the past with an unyielding and selfish faculty prejudice we will be reluctantly compelled to reconsider the position in a totally different light.

It is the duty of our S.R.C. representatives to present our case clearly to the S.R.C. and to see that they do not lay themselves open to charges of faculty bias. It is equally clearly their duty to see that justice is done in an unequivocal and impartial manner. We commend them to this onerous task!

Overheard on Main Theatre Staircase:

Mr. Dauth: "I won't be a minute, Mr. Jones, I've just got to take out a gall-bladder."

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'n Wyer Blik oor Sake

Daar was veel stof tot oordenking in die toespraak van Professor Dart by geleentheid van die eerste algemene vergadering van mediese studente in die fisiologiese lesingkamer op 16 Februarie.

Soos by vorige geleenthede het die Professor die studente veral aangespoor om 'n breë uitkyk op wêreld-toestande te ontwikkel.

Ons leef in so 'n rasend-interessante periode dat dit grootheid van intellek vereis om die regte perspektief te behou van al die wonderlike dinge wat rondom ons gebeur, en waarvan ons soms, helaas, skars bewus is. Die hele wêreld is vandag in 'n soort gesteleke, psigiese, kokende pot—en ons moet voorberei wees.

Op een of ander onverklaarbare manier neem ons deel as klein toneelspelertjies aan die groot drama van die veranderende fase van die wêreld. As mediese manne moet ons ons klein plekkie in die heelal vul.

Maar dit is nie die veranderinge wat 'n duit geld nie; wat alleen geld is dat ons **manne** en **vroue** sal wees. Ons het moeilikhede in ons midde. Daar is die konflikte wat kom as drie rasse saam moet werk.

„Dit is die wêreld van warboel waardeur ons ons weg moet worstel. Laat ons vir 'n paar oomblikke alles ignoreer en net sit en—**dink**," het Professor Dart besluit.

Die studente waardeer die woorde van die dekaan ten seerste.

REPLIES TO CONTRIBUTORS

H. Faberlan.—Many thanks for a well-written article, but we regret that we already have an article (appearing in this issue) on your subject. We hope to be favoured by more contributions from your pen.

J. F. Robinson.—Your entry in our Song-competition is acknowledged.

" Dens."—Most of your short poems are definitely not up to publishing standard. Thanks for the two we have accepted.

" Roller."—Impossible to publish such a controversial article. Suggest you try some other journal. The " Auricle " is not a common battling - ground for trivial grievances.

DIE ALGEMENE

Die naam „Algemene Hospitaal" het 'n betowering vir die Johannesburgse publiek wat aan geen ander plek eie is nie. Dit is die plek waar die „jong dokters" in wit jasse op onverwagte môres saam met 'n ander dokter deur die saal gaan, die gevalle bespreek, by een bed lank staan en 'n ander een verbyloop, en dan net so skielik weer verdwyn. Die pasiënt in die bed voel dat alles wat rondom hom plaasvind, so anders is as in sy daaglikse lewe. Voor sy siekte kon hy nooit droom dat in die hartjie van die goudstad daar so 'n klein wonder-wêreldjie bestaan nie, vol van akute lewe en streng dissipliene en snaakse dinge, X-strale, kwaai susters, enemas die môre om vier-uur en mediese studente.

Op 14 April hierdie jaar sal dit twee jaar wees dat die hoeksteen van die nuwe deel van die hospitaal gelê is deur sy edele die Administrateur S. P. Bekker. Ander groot verpleeginrigtings is in die tussentyd begin en voltooi, b.v. die Florence Nightingale; maar as 'n mens onthou dat in die geval van eersgenoemde al die geld van liefdadigheid moes kom, direk of indirek, dan kry jy 'n besef van die grootsheid van die reusagtige taak wat nou voltooiing nader.

Die indrukwekkende nuwe agtverdieping-deel sal die goeie naam van die hospitaal by die publiek nog groter maak. Nie langer hoef buite-pasiënte in 'n klein wagkamertjie geprop te word nie. Instede daarvan kan hulle nou in 'n ruim vierkant, helder verplig en pragtig versier met groot plante, die oomblikke van spanning deurmaak voor hulle ondersoek word.

Ook vir die studente beteken die vooruitgang veel. Die ongeluksafdeling, buite-pasiënte, klinies laboratorium en die hospitaallesingkamer is nou nie ver van mekaar af nie. Veel tyd sal nou gespaar word om die plekke te bereik.

Die nuwe hospitaal is modern. Die publiek verwag dit. As die medisyne nie kan genees nie, dan sal 'n vriendelike dokter en 'n majestueuse gebou bydra om die gemoed van die pasiënt gerus te stel.

N. KRAUSE.

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A LETTER FROM MILNER PARK

The Editor, Sir,

For many years I have had a great respect for the Medical School. This feeling has been nurtured by the many Medical Students of quality that it has been my good fortune to be associated with.

My regard for the Medical School, shared with many people who know our University, will not yet be shaken by the slanderous nonsense of your Editorial Opinion.

Where you seek the information for your infamous attacks is a matter for you and your conscience. Unfortunately this is not the first example at our University of that ancient and dishonourable custom of using any means to further one's own ends. The indictment of the S.R.C. Executive at a recent General Meeting (called by the way, to question the policy of a University Journal) on the grounds that they did not take part in organised sporting activities of the University, is merely another example. Absurd, isn't it? Nearly as absurd as the wild statements in your editorial. You, Sir, I am sure, do not really believe that such arguments, based on gratuitous hypotheses, have any validity. But unfortunately they have a certain appeal to low intelligences.

I refer you now to the final paragraph on page two of "The Auricle" for October, 1938, where you juggle with figures. Now Sir, it is common knowledge that the Medical Students represent about 25% of the University student population. According to the Constitution of the S.R.C. all faculties are entitled representation, and an equitable provision allows a greater number of Medical Representatives than is allowed to a smaller faculty.

The administration of funds is carried out, as no doubt even you know, by the S.R.C.; on which body, as pointed out above, your faculty is entitled to, and receives proper representation.

You allege that the Medical Faculty is being unfairly treated and also that you "can state quite definitely that it is **not** only in this respect that the wishes and needs of the school are ignored by that august body." Unaccountably, you omit to mention in **what** respect; and why, Sir, do you become silent when you are armed with "quite definite" information of the "unfair treatment" of the Medical Students.

Is it in the best interest of your fellows to remain silent on such a matter of grave importance? Are you not fearless, as an Editor should be, to unmask injustice? Or do you merely vituperate? And if this is so, are you expressing the attitude of the S.M.C.? You occupy a highly responsible position and you are regarded as the mouthpiece of the S.M.C. Does your conduct justify the responsibility placed in you?

In the February edition of "The Auricle," under the heading of "Medicals Awake," you again choke with emotion. But surely this highly inflammatory propaganda, written without any factual evidence, is a useless and pointless sort of attack on the scheming graft that you so positively allude to in your earlier lapse.

Let us take it piece by piece and point by point. A little more blowing of your sensitive nose might have cleared your head for argument. So much for the first two paragraphs. Paragraph 3 and following draw attention to the paucity of money. This, I believe, is your main grievance, though we shall uncover others as we progress.

When you blithely draw the conclusion that the S.R.C. makes a clear profit of £1,400 out of the Medical School and cite it as "the most glaring example of injustice to the Faculty of Medicine in a University where such examples are unfortunately all too frequent," I accuse you of using hard words. More, I accuse you of misrepresenting the truth whether intentionally or not. You owe an apology to the rest of the University (who apparently profit by their "dishonesty," as you would have it); also, you should apologise to the Medical Representatives on the S.R.C. who have connived at this extortion in the past.

The administration of the S.R.C. includes—apart from its multifarious duties in caring for student welfare, maintaining good relations with the governing body of the University, and with the outside world—the maintenance of some fifteen sporting clubs as well as over forty cultural, religious, administrative or journalistic societies.

All of the above, Sir, admit and cater for all students of the University and it is only owing to our happy unity that it is possible to make both ends meet.

Mention should also be made of the important fact (overlooked by you) that half of all S.R.C. fees is paid into the Student's Development Fund which pays for the erection of new buildings, buys furniture and makes improvements to the University Grounds. The

purchase of the furniture for your Men's Common Room was only made possible by the Students' Development Fund.

Tours for sporting and other clubs form an important item in the expenditure account of the S.R.C. and the entertainment of various guests of the University (such as at the Inter-Varsity Ball and the reception of the Onderstepoort delegates) add to the burden of the Treasury. The S.R.C. also endeavours to assist students who are in financial straits, and, in my experience, no genuine case has been overlooked, and many have benefitted by this commendable policy.

Did you wilfully suppress these facts, Sir? Or did you make your accusations without bothering to find out the facts? And if you were making these charges in good faith, where **did** you obtain your information?

Returning to the fourth paragraph of your tirade, I must point out that it is only because of a contract undertaken by the S.R.C. that your journals can be produced free of all cost. If your house is in order you should be making a profit out of sales and you will even be credited with a percentage of the advertising revenue. What further "subsidy" would you deem reasonable?

Your cultural societes, which cater only for Medical Students, derive their existence from the S.M.C. which is a sub-committee of the S.R.C. The primary purpose of the £100 you mention is the support of these societies.

Next, Sir, you are rude. You indulge in mathematical gymnastics wherein you lose your financial balance and exaggerate the so-called robbery to a fabulous sum. To quote you, "Are we not entitled to some return of all the thousands of pounds we have paid in?" If this is your sense of humour, you, as an Editor, should realise that when unadulterated hogwash is written there are some who will gladly wallow in it.

You then go on to say that money is urgently needed by your S.M.C. If this is so, why not ask for it through your representatives on the S.R.C. In view of your earlier remarks it is possible that you do not trust even them. Nevertheless, the main purpose of their election is to bring to the notice of the S.R.C. justifiable needs of the students they represent and to show that they are entitled to what they ask for.

Your faculty organisation is admirable. No one questions that. But you complain that it is only possible by every Medical Student paying 10s. per annum. Quite so. But then for that 10s. he receives full value in services and those advantages are peculiar to Medical Students and do not concern the S.R.C. Do you suggest that every student should pay so many pence per head in order to subsidise any one faculty to the extent of 10s. per head to buy typed lecture notes?

You allude to the wilful exclusion of Medical Students *qua* Medical Students from offices outside the Medical School. You talk of "anti-medical discrimination." This is childish drivel. You know as well as anyone that all officers are elected in an entirely democratic way by the votes of the elected representatives. Here as elsewhere, your frothy rhetoric and wild accusations cannot be substantiated.

I quite agree that the President of the S.M.C. should not be allowed to pass from the University "in stony silence." But surely it would be easy to prevent these regrettable oversights at the Graduation Ceremony. I suggest that the S.M.C. sends in a list of its prominent graduands to be passed to the Cheer-Leader. Then there will be no question of Medical Students not receiving the recognition they deserve.

Will you turn to page four of the same issue of "The Auricle," Sir, and read what accusations one R. E. Bernstein has to make. This gentleman refers quite calmly to "events in the form of pre-election of certain University committees." Can he furnish evidence of these undesirable events if called upon to do so? I feel that such a matter should be investigated. The S.R.C. will be only too pleased to hear of such instances.

And the same gentleman in the same letter says:—"Actually the medical student does not receive a fair deal from the S.R.C., even in respect of the present fee. As an illustration, the S.R.C. pays a considerable amount to the Benefit Society. Since medical students are not members of this Society, it is clear that they are paying for something which they do not receive." This is not true. Medical students do not and have never paid any Benefit Society fee.

Yours faithfully,

D. KAPLAN.

STUDENT NECESSITIES

The Editor, Sir,

I understand, on reliable authority, that the number of First Year Medical Students in 1939 will be in the region of 200. The vital question arises: what is to be done for the steadily increasing number of students? We read in articles to the press that the country required more and more doctors, yet there is no provision for future medical practitioners at the medical schools. There are not enough lecture theatres, and what there are, are crowded and stuffy during meetings. The laboratories are built to hold half the number of students which they are forced, at present, to accommodate. I submit, sir, that the remedy lies with the students themselves: they must organize a campaign for funds to enlarge the Medical School: build more lecture theatres, more laboratories and, in general, more facilities: this is not an impossible task. The Annual Rag is mainly organized and conducted by medical students, and the large sums of money collected every year for the Hospital, is more than sufficient evidence of their abilities. I do not suggest in the slightest that the Rag should give way to such a project: I merely urge an independent attempt to acquire what is now become a necessity, and indubitably this may be achieved by holding dances, concerts and the like.

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THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE

(A BRIEF SURVEY)

Anyone who is concerned with the Health of the People (White, Black or Indifferent) is aware that the conditions under which we live are not at all conducive to that standard of health which scientific thought has agreed to designate as "minimal." The minimal necessities of a healthy life have quite recently been comprehensively treated both in medical and sociological literature, under the headings of diet, housing, medical attention, hospitalisation, psychological adapatation to our complex environment, education, etc., and at the last N.U.S.A.S. conference, it was proved beyond any measure of doubt that in not one of the abovementioned aspects, are we fulfilling the functions of a civilised community; and what is worse still, so badly are we constituted in regard to these matters, that the conference saw no means of improvement worthy of mention—i.e., unless large scale reforms are instituted in nearly all departments of public life. It was further concluded that in these matters South Africa is no isolated phenomenon, and that apart from several features peculiar to our country, it, in general, presents a replica of conditions existing in most other countries in the world.

Should the sincerity, or alternatively, the ability of the N.U.S.A.S. delegates be questioned, we may add weight to our argument by quoting, in support, the considerable opinions of Henry E. Sigerist, Sir Arthur Newsholme and Mr. Kingsbury; the sincerity and ability of these men none may question.

In view of what has been said: What are we to do?

Professor Dart in his recent address to the Student Body bade us to retire to some isolated corner and "For God's sake think!" This is splendid advice, which a very few of us have already, in some degree, anticipated, and which we are prepared to follow to the limit; for what other means have we for improving this world, except by virtue of our thoughts and our convictions? Again, although, "for God's sake think, for the sake of thinking," is a statement full of meaning, whose intrinsic value we are not at the moment fully able to appreciate, yet we are convinced that to "think how best to bring about the most suitable health conditions for our people" is not entirely outside the realm of legitimate thought.

The question still looms large "What are we to do?"

We have recently been informed that a System of National Health Insurance is to be introduced by our Parliament. We are also aware that a section of the Medical Profession would favour a Socialised Medical Service instead. What is the difference between the two, and which are we to support?

There is no doubt that National Insurance would mean the opening up of several country hospitals coupled with a system of financing these hospitals which would not have to rely upon public donations and University Rags for their upkeep. It would also mean the extention of medical care to a larger portion of our population, who can at present ill afford to be sick. But what are the drawbacks of Compulsory National Insurance?

1. It is organised and controlled by Private Companies, who will run the system on a profit basis, so as to get a cut out of our health.

2. The benefits acruing therefrom will not cover routine examinations such as blood counts, X-rays, etc., so that, in general, only the more advanced stages of disease will be detected.

3. The medical practitioner will suffer because of his dual allegiance to the Insurance Company and to his patient; the latter will consider it a professional service to be certified as ill under false pretences. (Recall incidents from the "Citadel.") To say that the medical man ought not to do it, is to shut one's eyes to the whole situation.

4. No facilities are provided for extensive research to revise our routine examinations in order that we shall be able to detect illness in its earliest stages, and thus to approach our ideal of a positive health service.

Sir Arthur Newsholme in his numerous works gives many more facts to show that a National Health Insurance Scheme, no matter what form it takes, cannot and does not cater adequately for the health of the people.

(*Continued on page 7*)

SPORTS COLUMN (Preview for 1939)

1939 has started with a flip in the offices of the "Auricle," ideas have materialised and here you see one of the ideas put into circulation —A Sports Column.

The S.M.C. have struck the iron while it was hot and already we have an All Sports Representative in that committee in the person of Mr. Israelsohn., who has been wise enough to select a sport-loving committee. Our best wishes, Mr. Israelsohn.

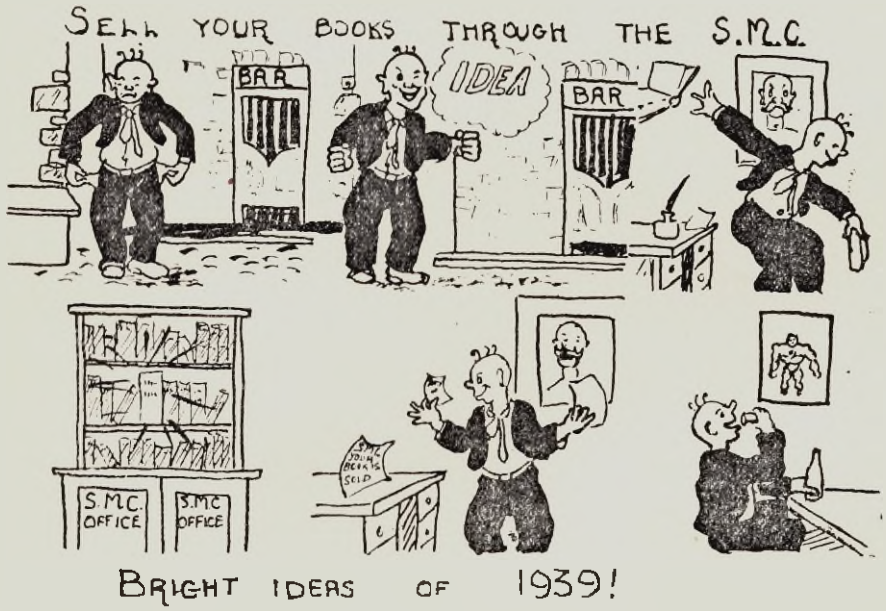
By the time this issue of the "Auricle" is circulated the Medical Swimming Gala, arranged by the Sports Committee, will be a thing of the past and I have no doubt that it will have been a success.

Before I draw the curtains on this column, let me ask you one and all to send me contributions from your various clubs and give your fellows an idea of what goes on there. It is also my intention to devote a few lines to the outstanding sporting achievement of the month, and if you have read of an achievement you consider meritorious enough, send it along as I'll be only too pleased to hear about it.

This Month's Outstanding Achievement.

Dennis Shore's record run over 300 yds. in 30.6 secs. on a sodden track.

THE SPORTS EDITOR.



The Rugby Club has published the day for its Annual General Meeting as the 9th March and the Athletic Club as the 6th March. No doubt all the other sporting clubs will also have their meetings early in March. Medicals, do make an attempt to show the rest of this University that you're not simply Medical Students; as it is Medicals aren't at a premium in any club at University; not a very flattering remark, nevertheless a true one.

Then there is the very important subject dealing with that renowned trophy "ATROPHY." There is no doubt in my mind that this year's 4th years have won the cup, hands down. Congratulations, 4th years.

(Continued from page 6)

A Socialised Medical Service, on the other hand, apart from incorporating every advantage of National Insurance, makes up also for the latter's disadvantages. We are not aware, at the moment, as to whether the details for such a scheme in this country have yet been worked out, and as to whether the financial difficulties connected with it are more extensive than in the case of the National Insurance Scheme. We intend to examine the situation immediately, and to publish our findings as soon as possible. But on the face of it there is every reason for believing that a Socialised Medical Service would give a greater return for our money.

L. F. JUNGE
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THE DOCTOR'S VIEW OF WAR.

Edited by H. Joules, M.D., M.R.C.P.

(George Allen & Unwin).

The above book is written in collaboration by a number of thinking medical men and women in England. People, particularly in Europe and Asia, are faced to-day with the greatest catastrophe civilisation has yet encountered and that catastrophe is the next major war. The liberal thinking individuals in the medical profession are more aware than at any time before, of the contradiction the profession stands in relation to contemporary politics. As the writers point out, medical men and women have at nearly all times tended to the sick and wounded, regardless of colour, race or creed. They tended to the enemy victims as well as to their own compatriots in time of war. In time of peace they treated any case which approached them. Their conduct was thus in advance of that of their contemporaries taken as a whole. The net result of these historic facts was that the medical profession was nearly always humanitarian and international in outlook. Our critical age elicits from thinking individuals in those countries where freedom of criticism is allowed, a protest and a demand for the abolition of those militaristic tendencies which are working to the detriment of mankind.

"The Doctors' View of War" quotes statistics of the havoc wrought by the last war in disease alone. The writers state that although disease caused greatest loss of lives in wars previous to the last, all modern conflicts, which are necessarily totalitarian and/or corporate in method mean tremendous casualties in every way possible. It is estimated that through aerial bombardments alone in 10 days 325,000 lives in England would be lost. That is, in a little over 100 days England's population will have been exterminated.

The authors devote a chapter disproving the naive theory that wars are essential for the Law of the Struggle for Existence to manifest itself. They maintain that the inmates of lunatic asylums in England would stand most chance of survival because of the situation of asylums in the countryside away from bombing objectives.

The writers consider the civilian population in a state of war. They give interesting information as to the manner in which medical opinion is being spied upon. They protest against the tendency of the Government to interfere with freedom of thought in the medical profession and deprecate all the attempts the Government could make to seal public opinion. The authors demand complete freedom to criticise the Government's policies.

The solution put forward by the authors as to the means by which a conflict could be avoided, leaves much to be desired. They suggest a revival of the League of Nations but it must be realised that dead remains are dead forever.

Obtainable at Vanguard Booksellers, 51 Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg.

HEALTH.

By Dr. Edgar Obermer.

A somewhat polemical attack upon our health conditions and health organisation.

Dr. Obermer is very much in favour of catering for the positive health of the people, and not, as is done at present, of caring only for the sick, and somewhat inadequately at that.

To achieve his objective, he outlines a system for an Individual Health Service, which would consist of Health Centres established in all parts of the country, and which would be tended by specialists, and senior and junior "Health" Practitioners. Every individual in the land automatically

becomes allocated to the Centre in his locality, under the care of at least two doctors, i.e., a junior and senior health practitioner. It is the duty of these doctors (who are State Officials) to keep a dossier (file) for each citizen under their care. This dossier is to follow each individual wherever he goes, so that a complete record of his likes and dislikes, his abilities and disabilities shall be available at all times.

Each citizen in the state would contribute to the upkeep of these Centres by a system of Compulsory Insurance. If necessary, one understands, this amount would be supplemented by a state grant. Dr. Obermer pays far too little attention to the sources from which the initial outlay of capital is to be derived. Admitting that such a scheme would meet the combined opposition of various interested but antagonistic bodies, such as the established Medical Profession, as well as the passive opposition of the disinterested public body, he is yet convinced that his project is plausible both in theory and in practice, and that it could be shown to the majority of the public, as well as to the majority of the profession, that such a step is really in their favour.

The only remaining step, therefore, is to educate all concerned that the colossal expenditure on "stupid" armaments is to be transferred to the improvement of Public Health. One feels, nevertheless, that the means which the author can command for the achievement of this educatory process are far too meagre to overcome radio and newspapers. But, as the author points out, pessimism may one day be proved to be a symptom of disease.

Under the new system all medical men will be state officials, and all citizens will be under their care. The new hospitals will combine therapeutic measures with an extensive system of research. In this way it will be possible to facilitate man's adaptation to the complex, strenuous, and at times unnatural conditions of civilisation.

He concludes:—"I am fully aware of the fact that the plan I have put forward is Utopian in nature. If, however, the reasons for the establishment of this Utopia are sound, and if we all agree that this Utopia is desirable, we can combine to take the first steps in the direction of Utopia."

A book which can be thoroughly recommended to the uninitiated reader and worker in this field of social activities.

Health. Edgar Obermer. XX Century Library (The Bodley Head) obtainable at Vanguard Booksellers, 51 von Brandis Street.

TEA ROOM COMMISSION

As was indicated in the last issue of the "Auricle," the prices in the Tea Room have been reduced. The tariff is to be as follows:—

Tea, Coffee, Cocoa or Milk	2d.
Cakes, Scones, Sandwiches, Sausage Roll, Meat Pies, Crumpets, Jam Tarts ...	2d.
Minerals	3d.
Other cold drinks	2d.

Lunch:

Soup, Meat, Sweets, Tea or Coffee, Bread and Butter	9d.
Fruit Lunch, as above ...	9d.

This tariff came into force on March 1st, 1939.

In the agreement signed by Mrs. Magee and the Principal, Mrs. Magee agrees to maintain the service and the quality of the food, etc., to the satisfaction of the Principal.

We request all students to note the following points:—

(1) Do not ask for second helpings during lunch time or for more tea for the same 2d.

(2) If you have any justifiable complaint to make, do so in writing to the Secretary, S.M.C.

(3) Do not grumble, or complain to individual members of Council but see that your opinion is conveyed to the proper quarters.

On behalf of the students of the Medical School, the "Auricle" wishes to convey its sincere appreciation to the Principal, Mr. H. R. Raikes for the great interest he has taken in our cause and for his fair and unbiased efforts in securing an amicable agreement between Mrs. Magee and the Students' Medical Council.

D. L. OVEDOFF,
General-Secretary, S.M.C.

QUERY?

PATH?

Come, my sweet (or what you will)
Let us drink our blase fill;
Let us give the night and day
To love and neurasthen-i-ay.

Let our nerves and passions rage
In the manner of the age,
Dancing through erotic scenes
To the jazzing endocrines.

You love me and I love you
And a dozen others too;
Let's exchange, with linked hopes,
Our amorous kaleidoscopes.

While the Fords the land obscure,
And radio makes the silence poor,
Let us be exhibit Z
In the new pathology.

EVOLUTION!

The dinosaur and icthyosaur
Are not among the things that are,
Though once the beasts were
features;
Ah, sad it is to contemplate
How Nature can eliminate
Unnecessary creatures!

Perhaps she will, at last, extend
The process to another end—
To man, and even woman,
And turn the final hose of Fate
And give the biologic gate
To the obnoxious human!

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OF APATHY AND THE COUNCIL

The general run of students bother themselves little or not at all about the affairs of their council. The apathetic inertness with which the bulk of medical students regard the control of student affairs is become a by-word.

Whence this apathy?

Is it that the student lacks the intelligence to take an interest in the things concerning him? Though some such people may be at large within the medical school, their number is few. Why then, do the vast majority of students evince no desire to make themselves conversant with the problems of their own government?

To me it seems that the council is to blame. How can anyone take an interest in any problem, when the first he knows of it is when the solution, or attempted solution is posted up on some obscure notice board in the form of "The Minutes of last Meeting of the S.M.C.?"

The student can feel no responsibility for the actions of the council which he elected to represent him, for he is not consulted by them in any way.

To-day the Council is autocratic, though, paradoxically enough, elected on a democratic basis. It is to this fact that the trouble can be traced. Student apathy in large part is of the Council's making. If the Council does not inform the student what it intends doing before it does so, it cannot expect the student to take an interest in its affairs.

The very basis of democratic government is that the government should think continuously of the opinions of those who elected it, and act in accordance with those opinions.

In our relatively small community of 500 people, the old Athenian method could be used with ease: all those interested were allowed to attend Council meetings, and participate in the debates, but were not allowed to vote.

Such a system would go far towards destroying this apathy of the "electorate." It would also introduce into council a valuable item, all too rarely heard—criticism.

Another method of bringing the activities of the council to the students is this: that all intended motions be referred to the class representatives for discussion with the class before the Council meeting. The representative could then bring to Council the considered opinion of his class, and vote in accordance with it. This would surely make the student voice heard in the Council.

The aid of the Medical School paper could then be enlisted to bring the reports of the meetings to the students.

Thus, if it were made possible for the student to have a voice in his own government, so would his apathy drop from him, even as a cloak.

THE REAL "GRAND DESTROYER"

Tobias Smollet, writing of the high death-rate in London during the years 1720 to 1740 (37 in every 1,000) said:

"Such a shameful degree of profligacy prevailed that the retailers of this poisonous compound (gin) set up painted boards in public inviting people to be drunk for the small expense of one penny, assuring them that they might be dead drunk for twopence, and have straw for nothing; they accordingly provided cellars and places strewn with straw, to which they conveyed those wretches who were overwhelmed with intoxication; in these dismal caverns they lay until they had recovered some use of their faculties, and then they had recourse to the same mischievous potion."

Gin was accountable during that period for more deaths than influenza, smallpox or typhus. Compare the death-rate then to that in 1926 (12 in 1,000).

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CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Not a few have wondered at the S.M.C's. seemingly high-handed action in dissolving all the lesser cultural societies. The records of most of these societies have been most uninspiring in the last two years. Their sole function seems to have been to arrange lectures. In this their lack of co-ordination and of responsibility to the whole student body has meant that too often they have failed to attract the best material. Their having no preconceived programme has, I feel, contributed to this failure.

This is not the first Council to recognise these faults but it is the first with the courage to attempt to rectify them. To do this its aim is to establish a strong society which will have some appeal to all of you, a society to which it will be an honour to belong.

This necessitates a strong central executive committee which, feeling it has the backing of all the students, will have the courage to undertake new ventures and to invite more of our acknowledged leaders to address us. The spirit of service will have to be the supreme motive activating this committee. Service to (1) The Student-body, (2) The Classes, (3) Sub-sections of race, idiology, etc.

What methods should the Committee adopt to serve the varied community we have at the Medical School? It must, in each of its four sections, Scientific, Social, Medical matters and Research, keep before it these three sources of material.

(*a*) Auditory—lectures, symposia, debates, conferences.
(*b*) Visual — demonstrations, excursions, displays, films.
(*c*) Productive work — research, sculpture, photography.

This being the general scheme, it is left to the committee to fill in the details to the best of their ability. In this respect we are fortunate in that we have not to start from scratch. There are a few features in the former societies which deserve to be persevered with. These should be used.

In order to guage the support that will be given, membership cards are to be issued to those wishing to become active members of the society and who have paid their S.M.C. fee. The production of these cards will enable one to a reduction at any function at which the society has to levy a fee to cover costs.

Whatever the Committee may undertake we require the support of each and every one of you and even more we want your criticism. Most earnestly do I ask you to criticise, destructively and then constructively any feature which comes into your ken. Only by this means can we hope to progress. This Society is yours—yours to make or mar. Suggest, criticise and support is what we ask of everyone of you.

(*Continued from page* 12)

activities of conscious existence. Similarly, Art and Music are subjects to be studied for their own sake, for the broadening influence they have on the mind, and for the light they throw on the subjective aspects of Man's mental life. There is no reason why more societies of this calibre should not be formed; the protest may be raised that this would render the Cultural Activities Society an unwieldy structure, but we cannot agree with this view: there are numerous Sports Societies in the Medical School, all, we understand, well-patronised. Surely, with the formation of a Musical Society, a Literary Society, a Medical History Society (a prospectus of which was tentatively launched by some Second Years in 1938) and possibly an Astronomical Society, there would be sufficient students interested enough to carry on a programme. We are certain to obtain the whole-hearted support of the Dean and his staff, for such projects are of incalculable value to future medical practitioners. Johannesburg's Public Institutions are invariably willing to assist such University societies to the best of their ability.

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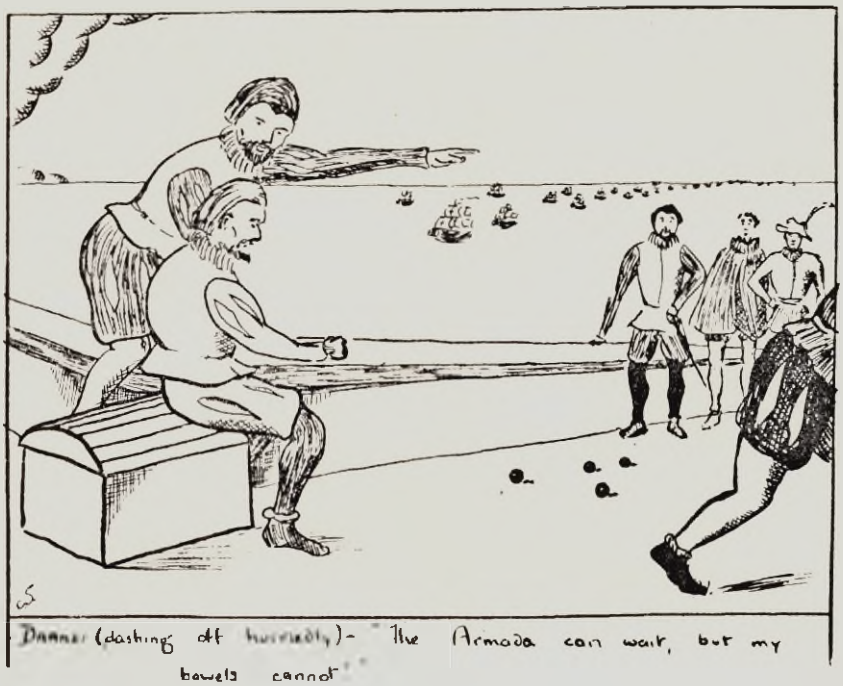
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ASCEPTIC ASPERSIONS



KISMET.

In the first year he cuts up a frog,
He studies the skull of a dog,
He makes a dissection, declares an inspection,
"I don't think I know much of that."
In his second, he waives phys. aside,
At his leisure, looks at a slide.
When he cuts the sciatic, he says most emphatic,
"I don't think I know much of that."
In his third year, his mind's full of Bugs,
At Clinical Anatomy he shrugs,
When he can't see stenosis, shouts "Holy Moses,
I don't think I know much of that."
In his fourth year he works at his humour,
Attempts to classify brain tumour,
His mind's full of nurses, when you ask him he curses
"I don't think I know much of that."
In his fifth year, he studies Forensic,
Psychiatry sends him quite frantic.
He attempts auscultation, but insists on palpation,
"I don't think I know much of that."
In his sixth year there's no use pretending,
On Gynae, his life is depending,
With a fixed icy stare, his examiners declare,
"I don't think you know much of that."

There was a young man named Mcmanus
Who was born with an imperf'rate anus;
He swelled and he smelled
Till nature rebelled,
And converted his ear to a dranus.

Cultural Values

In a recent interview to the press, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine asserted that Medical Students qualify with sound cultural ideas. This is a commendable feature of medical training, and indicates, firstly, that our tutors sympathise with the necessity for imbuing students with more than a narrow knowledge of their professional studies, and, secondly (which is of greater importance) that students themselves realise the intrinsic value of acquiring a background of culture in order to face a world at present perilously close to the verge of reactionary apathy. It is a commonplace fact that curiosity is the natural legacy of the human species, but the so-called civilised countries of to-day seem bent on destroying what is perhaps the most valulabe inherent urge of Man. As our social structure is fashioned at the present time, the satisfaction of bringing this urge to a practical conclusion falls to the lot of very few, and among these the medical man holds a prominent place. But the latter cannot take his part in the scheme of progress, unless he is possessed of a cultural foundation which must necessarily extend beyond the sphere of medical history and research. That this ideal exists in the minds of most medical students is evidenced by the presence of numerous cultural societies in the Medical School. 1938 witnessed the formation of the Psycho-analytical Society and the Art Society, which have had comparatively regular meetings with moderately large attendances. Psycho-analysis is a subject which deserves more than a mere passing interest in our Psychiatry course, inasmuch as it is applicable to many manifestations of human behaviour, and sends ramifications into all the

(Continued on page 11)

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JOHN HUNTER

John Hunter was born in 1728 upon a small farm eight miles to the south of Glasgow. He was the youngest of ten children; and consequently, was a spoiled, but strong-willed country-lad. He was not overstrained, nor overtaught; fond of out-door activities, and delighted in wandering through the woods, observing the birds and beasts in their natural haunts. In after years he spoke of his boyhood thus: "I wanted to know all about the clouds, and the grasses, and why the leaves changed colour in Autumn. I watched ants, bees, birds, tadpoles and eaddisworms. I pestered people with questions about what nobody knew or cared anything about." At the age of seventeen he went to Glasgow to live with a married sister and her husband who was a cabinet-maker.

For economic reasons in 1748 the unschooled, undisciplined John Hunter journeyed to London, where his brother Dr. William Hunter was an eloquent lecturer in anatomy and a fashionable accouchier. John was given to dissect first the muscles, and then the vessels of the upper extremity. He attended lectures under Cheselden at St. George's and under Pott at Barths. For relaxation from the routine of dissection, autopsies, and ward-rounds Hunter was wont to consort with the familiar company in the cheap seats of the theatre. To counteract such vulgar tendencies John was sent to Oxford; but the decided young man detested classical learning, and quitted the place after six weeks; thereby maintaining his original genius.

In 1756 John Hunter was appointed House-Surgeon to St. George's. In this year observations were made by the two brothers of the vascular relationship between uterus and placenta; thereafter followed violent altercations between the two as to the priority of some discovery. Owing to a phthisical diathesia John served as a military-surgeon on campaigns in France and in the Peninsula during the Seven Years' War; and at the close of military operations he set up practice in London.

In 1764 he bought "Earl's Court" as a country seat, which, in fact, was a vivarium. In the garden besides many flowers, there were flocks of geese, pigs, goats, jackals, snakes, fish, and many other creatures all suitably confined. On one occasion much consternation was aroused by the escape of two leopards who occupied themselves in combat with the dogs. In his eagerness to preserve these beasts the doctor clutched each at the neck, and managed to return them to their den. Afterwards on contemplation of his deed the doctor fainted. In his enthusiasm to study comparative anatomy he bought the animals of menageries on the condition that on their death the bodies be delivered to him.

Having moved into the house which had lately been that of his brother, John Hunter wedded Anne Howe in 1771. He wedded wisely; for she was artistic, physically endowed, industrious, and was able to manage her husband, notwithstanding the fact that the museum occupied all the best rooms in the house. There were two children.

Of appearance Hunter was robust, of middle-height, red-haired and his face although firm, was not forbidding. His dress was good but careless; his manner, precise and impetuous; and his conversation abrupt, but sententious. To his friends he was loyal; to students sympathetic; and to patients attentive. He became the most eminent surgeon in London, although his "scheme was to teach natural history, both human and comparative."

"The obsession of his life was the discovery of the mechanism of living matter;" and in his endeavour to solve the basal problems of life "he conceived the grand idea of comprehending the whole kingdom of life; of contrasting and comparing one field of living things with the whole, and parts of the whole with each other." Hunter was a practical man, utilizing meticulous observation as the means of furthering his cause. This is how his museum came about; for he said "if we were to take a series of animals from the more imperfect to the perfect, we should probably find an imperfect animal corresponding with some stage of the most perfect."

His museum of 10,563 specimens and preparations which is now the property of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, is housed in four great galleries of locomotive, of digestion, of pecundity, and of sense. In each there is an orderly conglomeration of organic matter, appertaining to the subject. The skeleton of one, O'Bryan, whose stature was seven and a half feet in height is of topical interest. The undertaker was bribed with £500 to exchange facing-stones for the body of the above, while the pall-bearers were refreshing themselves at an inn prior to casting the coffin into the sea.

The publications by Hunter are compiled into four volumes, which may be borrowed from the Library. After reading even ten pages one is impressed by the personal observation and experimentation on the part of the author. The most famous work is "A treatise on the Blood, Inflammation, and Gun-shot wounds" which has as its basis thirty years of observation. In this the concept that inflammation is an effect rather than a cause was propagated.

The historical significance of Hunter is that he initiated a revolution in surgery, whereby it evolved from a mere practice of treating "external injuries" into a science of surgical observation and experiment, bringing to account comparative anatomy, physiology, and pathology. He caused surgeons to study the surgical ways of living tissues.

For the rest Hunter, who was connected with St. George's Hospital all his professional life, was, among other distinctions, elected Fellow to the Royal Society in 1767, and was appointed Surgeon Extra-ordinary to the King in 1776. He died in 1793 of "organic disease of the heart," as was predicted some twelve years earlier by Jenner who came to his diagnosis after a mere inspection of his friend while on holiday. The body is interred in Westminster Abbey.

D.A.

A medical student named Titus,
Said "By the shades of St. Vitus!
There's no doubt at all,
That an inflamed cyst wall,
Is commonly known as cystitis!"

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MODERN ART

By CHRIS. GOOSEN

Art is a means of expression. These expressions are individual and concrete and are peculiar to each artist. With the help of sensible signs, art makes new forms capable of stirring the souls of man.

As pupils of Nature we have been following her style faithfully in art. Art had its roots in Nature.

For many years now, however, art has been trying to diverge from the teaching of Nature. Not only must the expression be individual but the means of expression must also be individual. That is, the artist must no longer be a pupil of Nature. He must be creative and his art must be in terms of abstract signs.

Abstract art is therefore more individualistic than any other form of art.

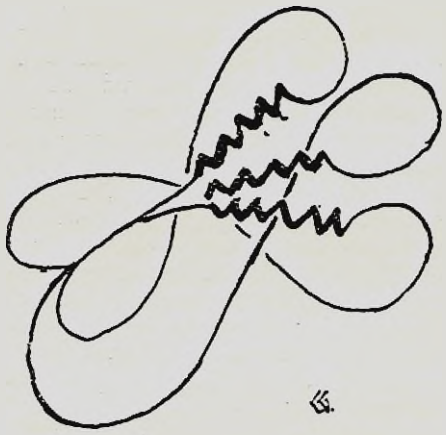
Since art is only a means of expression, some problems would naturally find solutions in art and therefore in abstract art. Art is therefore subject to analysis and therefore psychic in origin.

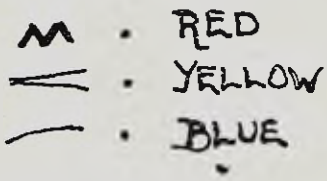
As an example of a study in abstract art one refers to the illustration, entitled, "An abstract study in happiness or peace."

Let us analyse this illustration and see if it does portray peace or happiness? The mind is the expression of every cell in the human body. It is therefore subject to various conflicts and emotions. A mental conflict has not got a smooth course and, it can therefore be represented by means of a jagged line.

There are three major conflicts in the human mind. They are, the conflict of survival, the conflict of sex and the conflict of pleasure.

Since they all originate in the mind, we may represent these conflicts by means of three jagged lines diverging from a common origin.





Emotions can be represented by means of colour. In fact this is the artist's main means of stirring the emotions. Red is the most emotional colour and we therefore represent the three conflicts in red.

In order to have peace in our minds, we must have harmony of these conflicts with each other and with the soul. The soul we may represent by means of a smooth line from which the three conflicts originated. This line must be in yellow, because we find that yellow is the colour most nearly representing white light.

Repeating that peace can only come about when there is a complete harmony of the conflicts with each other and with the soul, harmony is represented by means of smooth rhythmic lines which flow into each other.

This harmony can also be represented by means of colour.

(*Continued on page 15*)

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EVOLUTION

It was the beginning of the third week at the medical school.

During the previous two weeks I had watched the second year students pass through all the evolutionary stages which all newcomers to the second year undergo.

The first day these newly fledged second years walked about with gaping jaws and goggling eyes, gazing with awe at the god-like third and fourth year students who, from the heights of their superiority condescend now and then to nod grandly at some second year, who no doubt, feels very flattered by this mark of attention.

On this first day, students had heard inspiring lectures from various lecturers and were full of good resolutions "I'll work like a slave this year," was echoed in all minds.

The second day, however, is a day of disillusionment. Second year students walk about with glazed eyes.

A host of new ideas and words had flooded their poor brains and life seems woefully complex. Fibrocyte! fundamental tissue! senescence! cytology! strange and terrifying words beset them.

Every lecture is fully attended and students clamour to get the best seats. For this purpose they arrive often twenty minutes before time—at 8 a.m. "Ye Gods! twenty minutes!"

On the third day the bodies are brought in and the skinning process begins, directed by lordly third year demonstrators. Initial squeamishness is overcome and with brand new skalpel clutched convulsively in one hand dainty young ladies are soon performing engineering feats in their grim determination to remove the epidemis.

Thereafter comes the yearly quest for cutaneous nerves.

It is inspiring to hear third year demonstrators talk grandly of "segmental origins" and "cutaneous areas," then jab tentatively at some likely looking spot on the body, nod wisely, and say "dig here" or "scrounge around here." For the rest of the day students jab aimlessly at the bodies. The search for cutaneous nerves is following the approved formula.

The next day, however, things are different. The demonstrators now know all about cutaneous nerves and they discourse loud and authoritatively.

After some time some enterprising student discovers a "Sabotta" with cutaneous nerves and thereafter cutaneous nerves begin to make their appearance.

After a week or so of this, dissection is begun on muscles and here the demonstrators shine.

They talk magnificently of "Trapezius, Latissimus Dorsi and Teres Major" and their tables think them veritable Kings. God forbid, however, that questions be asked on nerve and blood supply of these muscles. An unfortunate questioner receives a frowning glance and a stern admonition to concentrate on the work on hand.

Three weeks have now gone by. At half-past eight this morning I walked into the medical school. The second years were having their early morning lecture. As I passed by I noticed that the attendance had shrunk considerably.

Just then two students, obviously second year students, passed me by and I heard one say "I've had enough of those (strong epithet) muscles, let's go and watch the cricket.

Things are approaching normal again, I reflected philosophically.

(*Continued from page* 14)

There are three primary colours which have nothing in common with each other and from which all other colours are made. They are red, yellow and blue. When one of these colours is missing from a painting it will be found that the painting lacks harmony or balance.

We have in our study so far represented two colours, namely, red and yellow.

Therefore, to bring about harmony of colour we must put in blue—the third harmony colour.

Harmony of the three conflicts is therefore represented by means of smooth, rhythmic, blue lines, one coming from each of the jagged lines, representing the conflicts and flowing into each other and ultimately into the smooth line representing the soul.

The abstract study therefore represents peace and happiness—the ultimate goal of every sane individual.

ARTHUR HOFFENSTEIN BOOSTS THE FAIR SEX

Lovely lady, who does so
All my waking haunt,
Tell me, tell me, do you know
What the hell you want?

Lady, to whose feet I'd bring
The world, if I could win it,
Are you sure of anything
For a single minute?

You whose eyes can kindle flame
Only Death can smother,
Tell me, please, does any dame
Differ from another?

Was the apple applesauce
Eve ate in the garden?
Aren't you all a total loss?
No? I beg your pardon!

* * * *

Your little hands,
Your little feet,
Your little mouth—
Oh, God, how sweet!

Your little nose,
Your little ears,
Your eyes, that shed
Such little tears!

Your little voice,
So soft and kind;
Your little soul,
Your little mind!

* * * *

A woman, like the touted Sphinx,
Sits, and God knows what she thinks;
Hard-boiled men, who never fall,
Say she doesn't think at all.

The lady of my heart is one
Who has no peer beneath the sun;
But mortal truths have mortal sequels—
Beneath the moon I know her equals.

Nothing from a straight line swerves
So sharply as a woman's curves,
And, having swerved, nor might nor main
Can ever put her straight again.

ENVOI.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
But stay my darling, where you are;
Into my life if you should fall,
I'd never see you shine at all.

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