https://dspace.org/

The Auricle. 1944; April :1-4

Students` Medical Council

1944-04
The Students` Medical Coucil University of the Witwatersrand
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/30222
The Auricle. The students` Medical Council, University of the Witwatersrand. 1944; V10(3) :1-4.

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

Apr
JIMMY MORRIS
S.A.D.T.A., A.M.I.S.T.D. (Lond.)
School of
BALLROOM DANCING
208, Connaught Mansions, Bree Street
(Between Metro and Eloff St.)
Phone 22-5356.

The Auricle

The Witwatersrand Medical Students' Newspaper. Die Witwatersrandse Mediese Studente se Nuusblad.

Vol. 10. No. 3. TUESDAY. 18th APRIL, 1944. Price 2d.

BALLROOM
JIMMY MORRIS
S.A.D.T.A., A.M.I.S.T.D. (Lond.)
Studio: 2nd Floor,
CONNAUGHT MANSIONS,
Bree Street (between Metro and Eloff Street).
Phone 22-5356.
DANCING

GENERAL MEETING THIS MORNING

A GENERAL MEETING of all students will be held this morning at 11.15 in the Great Hall to take a final decision on the question of the two-day abstention from classes. It is of the utmost importance that every student should attend; classes have been cancelled for this purpose. Freshers will be allowed to vote. Mr. Raikes will make a statement at the meeting.

At its first meeting this year, the S.R.C. unanimously decided to carry out the motion (calling for a referendum about the two-day abstention on April 24) which was passed by a three to one majority at the General Meeting held on March 20.

But Mr. Raikes then informed the S.R.C. that the two-day abstention would be illegal, according to the Government Statute constituting the University, and that therefore he could not permit the referendum. The Senate would take immediate disciplinary measures if a referendum were organized. On all the other terms of the motion, the Senate was willing to negotiate with the S.R.C. The Senate was not opposed to referenda as such, as long as their subject did not directly conflict with the Senate's constitution.

Mr. Raikes also said that if the present S.R.C. resigned, or went out of office as a result of the present dispute, the Senate would not recognize any subsequent S.R.C. as long as the present motion stood.

The S.R.C. has called to-day's General Meeting for the following reasons:

(a) When the motion was originally passed it was not known that the referendum itself would be illegal.

(b) The Students' Engineering Council at a recent meeting unanimously voted against the referendum.

(c) The meeting called at Milner Park for all students (other than Medicals) interested in carrying out the other clauses of the motion was attended by exactly TWELVE students.

In view of these facts, the S.R.C. felt that the students must decide exactly what course of action they wished to follow.



IAN WELSH,
newly-elected S.R.C. President.

UNIVERSITY EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEAGUE

A University Ex-Servicemen's League has been started. All students and members of staff who have been on full-time active service are eligible for membership.

The aims and objects of the League are, inter alia, to maintain contact with all ex-servicemen at the University, to represent the returned soldier and protect his rights, and to assist progressive and liberal movements within the University. The League will "divorce itself, wherever possible, from political, racial or factional disputes, and sectional differences, and concern itself solely with the welfare and interest of its members, its University, and its country." The League is contacting other ex-servicemen's organizations, to secure their co-operation.

The position of Honorary Life President has been offered to the Principal. Ex-servicemen of the staff are Vice-presidents of the League. The Chairman of the Committee is L. D. Kahn.

Any ex-servicemen who have not yet handed in their names to Professor Paine (Physics Department) or to the Secretary, D. Lawson (second-year Medical) are asked to do so at once.

The League will hold its first General Meeting of members within o fortnight.

New Plastic Surgery Films

At 7.45 on Thursday in the Great Hall, a new set of Major Jack Penn of Brenthurst's plastic surgery films will be shown. Major Penn will give a talk on Plastic Surgery Technique. Senior medical and dental students are invited.

THE LITTLE MINISTER
Thurs., Friday & Saturday, 27th, 28th and 29th April.

RESEARCH FOR OUR CAMPAIGN

The research undertaken by students to collect facts about Higher Education and Government Commissions in this country is now well under way.

The facts gathered by students will be used in the proposed public campaign for free higher education and other social reforms.

Medical Students decided to undertake the campaign at a General Meeting on March 3. The S.M.C., at its first (special) meeting, asked three members (D. Streeten, J. Gilliland, and Barbara Wallace) to co-operate with K. Weinbren, chairman of the Journals Committee, in organizing the campaign.

A meeting was convened at Medical School of those willing to help in the investigation. More than seventy students were present, and five students were elected as chairmen of committees to conduct research into various aspects of the subject.

On March 20, a General Meeting of all students decided to support the campaign. Accordingly, the S.R.C. appointed three of its members to the organizing committee, and a meeting was called at Milner Park of all those willing to help. Seven medical students went down to explain what work had yet to be done.

Unfortunately the audience consisted of only twelve. Five of these students are now helping in the investigation.

The Finance Committee has been the first to complete its report. Historical work is now complete, and the Returned Soldiers Committee has almost finished. The Committee on Commissions is still hard at work. The Statistics Committee is awaiting the return of questionnaire forms which were sent to many institutions in the country.

It is hoped that the final report will be ready by April 24

The S.M.C. has seen fit to reduce our grant per issue by half. We regret that we are thus forced to raise the price of "The Auricle" to 2d., beginning with this issue.

AUTOPSY (TURVY) ON THE STUDENT BODY

The student body lies on P.M. table—
The Powers-that-be had done all they were able
To kill his soul — and now he lies all cold,
Whilst verse by verse his tale of woe is told . . .

"He would not shed his youthful precious blood—
But had the cheek to want to clear the mud
That clogs the Union's wheels and forms their ruts—
'COMPLETE CONGENITAL ABSENCE OF GUTS.'

"He dared to make the lunatic suggestion
That students suffered from acute congestion.
I see it present only in his mind—
"ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA I FIND.'

"He thought the poor should have the equal right
Of college life—for this he dared to fight—
His heart was big—his B.P. knew no bound—
'CARDIAC HYPERTROPHY I'VE FOUND.'

"He dared to strive for those with darker skin:
The brain's the guide—and not the melanin,
The shape of nose or angle of zygoma—
'A CLEAR-CUT CASE—MALIGNANT MELANOMA.'

"So there's the case, for all of you to see:
His body's dead; but not infrequently
The soul of him that dies does linger on
To fight the cause of Freedom till it's won."

And one day Peace will come, and then maybe
The students' fight will end successfully.
WHEN THAT DAY DAWNS, GIRD UP YOUR LOINS AND FIGHT,
AND PROVE YOUR BARK DOES NOT EXCEED YOUR BITE!

L.I.W.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

By Dr. T. GILLMAN.

In the recent inauguration ceremony at the University, Professor Greig emphasized the fact that students who are here only to acquire a degree, a licence to practice in one or other profession, will miss the most significant and stimulating aspect of their training — the technique of elucidating facts and of assessing them.

The medical curriculum is so heavily laden with subjects and textbooks to be studied for examinations that few students stop to consider the validity of the information with which they are cramming themselves. It is unfortunate and most undesirable that Medical students should be incapable of realizing how unstable are our present concepts of disease. It is more undesirable that during their stay at the Medical School they become dogmatic in their outlook and in their practice.

Minot, the investigator who discovered the treatment for pernicious anaemia, once remarked: "When knowledge is dead it is buried respectably in a book." The fact that this is appreciated by medical research workers and clinicians is proved by the number of journals which deal with advances in medical science. This must be regarded as a sign of the virility of students in this field of investigation. It indicates that none appreciate more than the medical men themselves the deficiencies in our knowledge and theories.

From time to time appeals have been made to the student body for volunteers for various experimental procedures. In fact an opportunity has been offered to the student to take a break from his mind-clogging studies and to obtain some idea of the subjects in his curriculum which are still under investigation and the methods used to elucidate the reactions of the body in health and disease.

The student is asked to undergo a glucose tolerance test, a hippuric acid test, or a gastric analysis, or to receive one or other form of injection. All these procedures are applied daily in the wards as diagnostic methods, and are harmless. Many of the students have willingly undergone more than one test when they appreciate how little it involves and how much information is provided. They not only provide valuable information which will ultimately be of value to the sick, but during the hour or two of the test they acquire information and learn techniques which they are not taught in the routine medical course. They begin to realize that the facts in medicine are not as cut and dried as the books make them out to be, and that in many instances the results obtained with various tests are not always beyond question. They see the importance of determining standards of normality and the physiological fluctuations in the normal. Moreover, having undergone the test themselves, they are in a position to appreciate more fully the reactions of the patient. And further, on several occasions students presenting themselves as normals have been found to be suffering from conditions which, being recognized early, are treated and cured.

Medical students above all others ought to volunteer for investigations of a medical nature. The number of volunteers has in the past been small in comparison with the size of the student body, and many more subjects are needed for the investigations being conducted.

We appeal to the medical student body to consider volunteering in the light of the tradition of unselfishness and service which medical men and research workers have consistently maintained and of which we may be justly proud.

★ **Volunteers for the tests are asked to speak to Dr. T. Gillman via the Histology Department, or to contact G. Kane, in the Second-year Class.**

The Auricle

Volume X. No. 3.

Newspaper of the Medical Students of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Published at the Students' Medical Council Office, Esselen Street, Johannesburg.

Die Auricle

Deel X. No. 3.

Nuushlad van die Mediese Studente van die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand.

Uitgegee by die Mediese Studenteraad Kantoor te Esselenstraat, Johannesburg.

THE TWO DAYS

What should we do now? Go on with the referendum, or hold a two-day abstention without a referendum, or drop the referendum and the abstention?

If we ask the S.R.C. to go ahead with the referendum or the abstention, we must give them our full support. Of the abstention, Mr. Raikes has explicitly stated that "students taking part, whether as organisers or in actual abstention, would almost certainly be suspended for at least a year and might be dismissed from the University." And there is no sense in going on with the referendum unless we are prepared to abstain from classes. If the majority decision is in favour of an abstention, or we stage an immediate abstention, some students at any rate may be suspended. And we must be prepared to share all the consequences which may befall these students as a result of our decision.

That is, we must be prepared to stay away from University if any students are suspended, and not to come back till they are reinstated. In other words we must be willing to take part in a stay-out strike of indefinite duration.

If we were willing to do this, we would have nothing to fear. If the S.R.C. were sure of the support of the Student Body, they could fearlessly go ahead with any action the students asked them to take.

But the Student Body is a corpse. And an invertebrate corpse at that. It is not prepared to support its leaders. It does not keep its pledges. It is disunited and apathetic. Strong action cannot be successful.

The students of this University can not stage a successful stay-out strike. When such a strike was suggested at the last General Meeting, it was rejected. And at that time the object was an idealistic one — the attainment of free higher education and other social reforms; whereas now the object would be the more selfish (though also important) one of maintaining student rights at the University.

If the students could embark on a successful strike, they should do so. But the strike should be aimed not at the University, but at the Government. But the very reason for our adoption of the two-day abstention was that we knew that we could not stage a successful strike. And we have even less chance now, with the idealistic motive removed — less chance of public support, and less chance of success.

If we are sincerely and primarily interested in our campaign for free higher education and other social reforms, then we gain nothing from fighting the University. On the contrary, we lose much.

Mr. Raikes has said, and will probably tell us again this morning, that he is as eager as us to make the campaign a success, and is willing to help us obtain facts and material that would be otherwise beyond our reach. Moreover, our campaign will have infinitely more chance of success if it is backed by the University. For one thing, we will be able to get publicity more easily, and we will be more assured of public sympathy.

We suggest that the referendum and abstention be dropped, and we go ahead with our campaign, with the help of the authorities. If this help does not materialize, we can always still resort to strike action.

THE S.R.C.

It is impossible to justify the S.R.C.'s action in calling a General Meeting to re-consider a decision already made by the student body. But it is easy to understand it, and even to excuse it.

The S.R.C. is in the unenviable position of having to carry out "unconstitutional" instructions, when they know that the student body will not support them in an emergency. They called this meeting in order that the students might either re-affirm their support, or change their instructions.

We must not lose our S.R.C. While we deplore certain undemocratic trends which have become visible in it, we must not pass a motion of no confidence in it, and we must not let it resign.

Without our S.R.C., we will have no recognised leaders. The students of the University as a whole will have no official representatives to take organized action. The S.R.C. must carry on.

WAT IS 'N S.V.R.?

Die gebeurtenisse van die afgelope paar maande het studentesake geheel-enal in die war gebring. Wetgewende liggame aan die Universiteit soos die S.V.R. en S.M.R. hou nog gereelde vergaderings, maar nog hulle nog ons weet wanneer hulle besluite van krag kan wees. Dit wil blyk asof bitter weinig van sulke besluite van krag kan wees soos sake nou staan. M.a.w. dit is bloot kinderagtigheid om voort te gaan met enige vorm van studenteadministrasie totdat ons presies weet wat die kragte van bogenoemde wetgewende liggame is.

Een uitweg staan ons voor die deur. Die owerhede moet gevra word om onomwonde te konstateer wat die konstitusionele posisie van die S.V.R. is. Die aangewese persoon om so 'n berig te lewer is natuurlik Mnr. Raikes. Studente kan dan op die saak ingaan en beslis of hulle tevrede is met die kragte toegeken aan hulle verteenwoordigers. Sover ons kennis strek, is die toestand van sake op die oomblik ongeveer dus: Die S.V.R. [illegible] bestaan alleen deur die guns van die Senaat. M.a.w. solank die S.V.R. tevrede is om die sin van die Senaat uit te voer net solank kan dit staande bly as 'n administratiewe instrument van die Senaat. Hierdie toestand van sake is bewerkstellig op die volgende wyse: Volgens wet mag die S.V.R. niks doen in teenstryding met die konstitusie van die Senaat nie. Wat die Senaat ook al mag beslui is wettig volgens hierdie konstitusie. Die S.V.R. vertolk dus nie die studente nie, maar die Senaat. In werklikheid is die S.V.R. niks as 'n aanhangsel van die Senaat om toesig te hou oor sekere geriewe aan die Universiteit. Ons kan nie glo nie dat die Prinsipaal daarmee toegedien is dat studente burgerregte aan die Universiteitstaat ontse word nie. Ons verstaan dat sake alleen herstel kan word deur die Volksraad. As dit wel die geval is, doen ons 'n beroep op die owerhede om saam met ons op hierdie saak in te gaan en, as nodig, wetgewing daartoe deur die Volksraad te kry. Die huidige toestand is weldra ondraaglik vir beide studente en amptenare van die Universiteit.

Tensy ons samestelling op helder en bevredigende wyse vasgele kan word sal ons bly oorhoeks le en ons Alma Mater ewige skade berokken.

DIE EKSAMENSTELSEL

Die halfjaarlikse eksamens begin al sterk skaduwees gooi. En na hulle kom die eindeksamen . . . Elke jaar word dieselfde tragedie oorgespeel. Vir 'n paar bitter weke word meganiese feite haastig ingeprop en onverteerd uitgestort in die eksamenpapier. Die beste geheue wen die spel, afgesien van enige werklike mediese bevoegdheid. Weer sal groepies angsbevange studente saamdrom om die uitstalborde, hulle hele loophaan op die spel. Jaar na jaar doen hierdie skouspel hom weder vir ons voor die oog. Ons kan nie glo dat die owerhede enige behae daarin skep nie of dat dit enigsins 'n goeie doel dien nie. Ons eksamenstelsel is 'n uitgeleefde oorblyfsel uit 'n wrede eeu. Die enigste rede vir sy voortbestaan is omdat ons of te lui of te dom is om iets beters te ontwerp.

Hier le vir die studenteliggaam 'n nuttige taak voor die hand. Ons sou voorstel dat 'n uitgebreide onderwysstaf aan die Mediese Skool met persoonlike kennis van elke student 'n eerste stap in hierdie rigting sal wees.

STEP-TALK

New Zoological Species

Have you met the pilfergeist, Medical School's own special brand of poltergeist or gremlin? Unlike the poltergeist however, who "announces his presence by raps or other sounds" (definition Oxford dic.) this species works in silence, not announcing his presence at all but leaving evidences of it by the disappearance of any and every pilferable article.

Anyone knowing any good exterminating agent is asked to communicate it to the usual authorities with all speed. "Flitting" has already been tried but to no effect — these creatures being adept at it themselves.

New Constitution

Our new Constitution has been in operation for over eight months, and any faults must surely have become apparent now. The present S.M.C. realizes that this constitution is a plastic one and that changes will probably have to be made. Any students having suggestions for improvements are asked to get in touch with the S.M.C.

Item

Did you know that in the Fifth Year class there is a student, Dr. J. T**ss*g, who is the oldest full-time student in this University, and probably the oldest full-time student at any University? He has practised as an ophthalmic surgeon for 55 years and is 71 years old.

Ex-Student Servicemen and Fees

We have heard much of what the University authorities, the leading lights of the student body, and the public, think about the "fees question." Here is another point of view—an extract from a letter by an ex-student Naval man. "There are many of us now in the services, who expect and intend to return to the University to study for those careers for which we are fighting. Many of us have to pay our own way through the courses and it will be doubly difficult after the war . . . Why then should the fees be increased to increase our burden still further . . . We do not ask for favours, but we do expect and will demand and get fairplay and justice. Maybe the idea behind the increase in fees is to forcibly expel all but the wealthiest from the University. If that is the case, I think the authorities should be asked to meditate for just a few minutes on at least those men and women who have left to fight their battles as much as their own.

So far as I know, no intimation has been given that the fees will be decreased after the war. Are we then expected to make this extra contribution, besides years of our lives, to the war effort?"

Appeal for Medical Literature

In a letter which has reached us by very devious routes, a member of the R.A.F. in India asks for an address to which he can write for Medical books saying "as an ex-Medical student, I find it very difficult to keep in touch with this 'fast moving' profession . . and correspondence with Medical friends would be most welcome." Any students able and willing to comply with the above requests are asked to go to the S.M.C. Office for our Air Force friend's address.

Compromise

Sixty-nine students and "Die Transvaler" recently asked the authorities to dismiss Wilson Conco, an African demonstrator in histology. The demonstrators in the Anatomy Department promptly decided (unanimously) that a demonstrator should be free to demonstrate to whomever wanted his services, and the great majority of them agreed to resign if this principle was violated. The outcome is that Conco has been officially appointed a demonstrator to Non-Europeans, but he may unofficially demonstrate, if he is willing, to anybody who asks him for help.

Firms Stay Put

The fourth-year medical firms are not changing over this year. The reason for this new departure is the feeling, expressed by some chiefs and many students, that the dislocation caused by a change-over is undesirable while students are learning the fundamentals of medicine. The new scheme has made one half of the present fourth-year class as pleased as Punch, while the other half are loudly voicing their disgust.

The Auricle Hears . . . .

THAT Arnold Klopper is to be congratulated on his marriage.

THAT the vacation proved to be a pleasant break.

THAT 81 medicals graduated at the last Graduation Ceremony.

THAT Dr. B. J. P. Becker received his M.D. degree.

THAT others who got the M.D degree were Drs. McLeish and Sluis-Cremer.

THAT Dr. Girdwood got his M. Ch.

THAT four students got the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy, and two the Diploma.

THAT the official opening of the Nursery School marked a milestone in the path of the Occupational Therapy Society.

THAT students wish it all the success that it so richly deserves.

THAT it is officially rumoured that the Nursery School is being filmed by "The African Mirror."

THAT there must be many budding stars among the children.

THAT the 4th and 3rd Year Ball was enjoyed by all.

THAT prizes awarded during the ball for 3rd year, 1943 were: Pathology: A. J. Brink and D. Streeten; best student: A. J. Brink. Well done!

THAT Dr. Lopis is leaving us.

THAT the second years are having a nerve-wrecking time.

THAT students heartily support the decision to hold this year's Rag in aid of Alexandra, Fordsburg and Occupational Therapy.

THAT we all congratulate Sam Holman on having grabbed four prizes at Grad.

READERS' FORUM

We regret that this feature has been squeezed out of this issue.

MEDICAL SCHOOL PLAYERS

— present —

M. BARRIE'S

'THE LITTLE MINISTER'

Produced by

DAVID GOLDBLATT

— in the —

GREAT HALL,

— on —

Thurs., Friday & Saturday, 27th, 28th and 29th April.

Tickets: 5/6, 3/6 and 2/6.

Proceeds to Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic.

Tickets obtainable from Mrs. Leslie, and S.M.C. Office.

New Eugene Tea Room

Cor KOTZE & KLEIN STREETS

Quick Service, Cleanliness, & Civility Always assured. Grills a Speciality.

Under personal supervision of—

A. TYROPOLIS, Proprietor.

All Successful Students

BUY THEIR

MEDICAL BOOKS

FROM

MIKE KRUGER AND WILSON (PTY.), LTD.

DARRAGH HOUSE, PLEIN STREET

(Opposite Old Church)

ON WORK AND PLAY

HOW TO WORK

A few obvious features about learning which, like so many other obvious things, are consistently ignored.

1. You can't learn if you are not interested. If you are sitting down with a book in front of you and you cannot get interested in what you are reading, it would be much better not to be reading at all.

2. Learning a subject is like fitting a jigsaw puzzle together. Your first job is to collect the pieces — that you do by learning the "facts" of the subject. Your next job is to fit the pieces together until you can see the whole picture clearly. That you do by understanding how all the facts are related. When all your facts fit together you have a clear picture of the subject. Then, and not until then, have you learned the subject.

3. It is easy to forget an isolated fact, in fact it is very hard to remember an isolated fact. But when once you have seen how the fact fits into the general picture you are not likely to forget it.

4. Most students concentrate on facts and indeed they succeed in learning stupendous numbers of miscellaneous bits of information. But they do not worry to work out how all these bits of information hang together. It is as if they finish up at the University with several thousand bits belonging to several dozen different jigsaw puzzles all mixed up together.

5. You can't measure work by the number of pages of a book that you have read. When you are in good form you will read a page once and understand it for all time; when you are in bad form you will read the page a dozen times and still not understand it.

6. You can't measure work in time. Ten minutes good work is worth ten hours bad work. Everybody knows this but in spite of this everybody goes on thinking of work in terms of time. If anybody asks you how much work you did last night you will probably automatically tell him how many hours you spent with books in front of you.

7. Everybody who has done any teaching knows that you do not really understand a subject until you are able to teach that subject. Therefore, when you have learned part of a subject it is a good thing to sit down without books and, talking to yourself, give yourself a lecture on that part of the subject.

8. You should regard the examination as a boxer regards a prize fight, or as an actor regards a first night. You should try to train yourself so as to be in the pink of condition on the crucial day. The way to do that is certainly not to cram as many "hours" of work and as many "pages" of work as possible into the last few days before the examination.

Dr. T. W. OSBORN.

HOW TO STUDY

Charles Lamb wrote an essay "On Getting Up On a Cold Morning", and now I have been asked to contribute an article on "How to Study". These two subjects form the major problems in most students' lives.

Let us observe Timothy Dolittle, a Medical Student in his third, fourth or fifth year of study. He, strange to say, has a conscience which periodically becomes active. He feels he must study, and it is a painful sensation. He consults his social time-table, and much to his disgust finds that Thursday night is free. He then and there decides that if nothing turns up on Thursday he will make a night of it. Thursday night arrives and after much fluttering round he settles himself uncomfortably over a book. He reads and sighs and reads. Distracting thoughts flit through his active brain. Time passes and he notes that he has read thirty pages including the pictures and feels it is time to retire. He is markedly puzzled the next day to find, much to the disgust of his lecturer and himself, that what he laboriously read the night before has made absolutely no impression on his mind. But he consoles himself with a firm resolution to work after the July vacation. He feels much relieved and so time passes. Our Timothy enjoys a very pleasant month's vacation and arrives back at work. It takes him just two weeks to recover and then he really settles down to absorb all he can. And one must admire him for it. The examinations are drawing near. By October he has lost his appetite. His collar is loose. He is suffering from lack of sleep. He feels he can never make it. He falls into depressions and despairs. He cannot concentrate. Benzidrine, cold compresses and cocoa have no effect. Life is definitely not worth living. But still he lives. Eventually the day of days arrives and Dolittle, now a moral and physical wreck, undertakes the ordeal he dreads so much. Then fate steps in and sometimes she is kind.

Mr. Rara Avis, on the other hand, decides early how to apportion his activities. Recreation, social service to his University, and study, each have their allotted times. The study part is serene and enjoyable because he knows he is adding to his knowledge —knowledge useful not merely for the immediate urgency of an approaching examination, but information that will be of lasting service to him for the whole of his professional life. He approaches the task with a clear conception of its magnitude and so decides on systematization, concentration and repetition. He knows his mind must be fresh, his belly reasonably full and his body warm and comfortable.

Systematization involves a detailed, generally one-year, plan of [illegible] subject, and schooling oneself to perform the allotted amount of work regularly according to a definite time-table. Eventually this becomes mere habit.

Concentration implies that when the allotted task is completed the student really knows his subject, can argue about it and, the best test of all, can explain it in everyday terms to his landlady's daughter.

Repetition, if concentration has been perfect, should involve the brushing up of details only.

★ **A tired mind can never function efficiently. Sleep and sufficient sleep is most essential.**

Tasks pleasant or unpleasant, should always be done to the best of one's ability with a firm determination to overcome the difficulties that may arise.

C.

In a letter published in "The Auricle" of February 25, a reader asked us for an article, "written by someone competent," on how the medical student should plan and spend his time. We promised to feature a symposium on the subject.

We intended to print the symposium in this issue. But unfortunately, as the result of a series of mishaps and other circumstances beyond our control, we are now able to print only the first half: the second half will follow in our next issue.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The education of the young is a very complex task, and where it has to be combined with learning the Craft of medicine, the results are often disastrous. Our Medical School need harbour no pride on this point.

There is a sort of doctor who evolves on the Rand, possessed of terrific confidence in his medical powers, and a fear, amounting often to contempt, of anything outside the medical sphere. Not that this can be avoided by making him study more widely, because he is not so much out of touch with other people's doings, as out of sympathy with them. One cannot get understanding by the same method as one gets gold in a gold rush. In a mining town, this is not generally realized.

Unfortunately, the trouble does not end here. The teacher of influence who now appears, finds students who are as prepared to accept his stirring heresies as they are the received heresies of any text-book. While this continues, the Medical School, though it may possibly dazzle at times, can never achieve that high level of quality which commands respect. Certainly, the mere adjustment of the curriculum and the student's two-long day will not end the problem.

The best thing for the present and the future is to bring the student into contact with more minds of stature, whereby he may get some of the quiet and cunning judgment of things in general, and of medicine incidentally, which is at present lacking. Possibly this will make him realize that the quiet he at present enjoys is due to cotton-wool in the ears.

G.H.F.

WORK, LEISURE AND THE MEDICAL STUDENT

In a recent issue of "The Auricle" a student, unquestionably voicing the thoughts of many of his fellows, raised again the vexed question of what amounts of work and play are needed to make a balanced diet for the student.

Contrary to the views so widely current outside the University, it is the experience of the teacher that students far more often err on the side of too much work than of too much play. Because of this experience, the student is confronted with the paradox of teachers, myself included, urging them to confine their zest for study within what sometimes appear absurdly narrow bounds.

Many students, as well as other people, fail to realize that the Medical Student from the second to the sixth year has a very full working day—in most cases not far short of an eight-hour day of strenuous mental and sometimes physical activity. Obviously the amount of additional time that can be usefully spent in study is really very limited. To pile long hours of evening study on to a day's work is simply to increase mental fatigue, while cutting down the time available for sleep and recuperation.

I have frequently startled students by asserting that two hours of evening study is a reasonable allowance, and three hours the absolute maximum that should be permitted. Far more useful work can be done within this allowance of time, if rightly used, than in a far longer period of unintelligent swotting. By a right use of time I mean, what Professor Dart has always urged upon students, concentration upon the marshalling of the information gained or recalled during the day's work, testing its availability, recognizing and filling in gaps in one's knowledge.

In working to a limited time schedule, it is most important to set oneself a definite allotment of work to be carried out within the time. The amount to be undertaken must be judged by experience; it should fully extend but not overtax one's powers of work. By this means time ceases to be an enemy and is converted into a friendly competitor.

I have urged also that the student should allow one evening in the week completely free for recreation, as well as a generous allowance of time for recreation during the week-end. The right use of this leisure time, however, involves as much judgment as the use of working hours. It is no use merely refraining from study if the mind is still running in the same groove. Recreation, therefore, must be in a form which completely absorbs the activity of the mind.

Everyone must find for himself the absorbing interests which will produce this complete break in the sequence of thought. It is well in this connection to recall the opinion of that great physician and writer, Oliver Wendell Holmes, that the student should have some occupation which requires the use of his hands.

Although at this time of the year examinations appear comfortably far off, their approach is so insidious that it is perhaps not out of place to end with a special word of advice. In the final fling of preparation, an increase in the allotment of work may be necessary, and will certainly enhance one's morale; but even then, it must be kept within limits. Recreation and sleep are both, if possible, more essential at this period than at any other. There is much to be said for the plan of a complete break from study for at least one day, if possible for two or three, before any important examination.

Certainly the student who persists in swotting through the whole night before an examination, has only himself to blame if the results do not realize his expectations.

Dr. L. H. WELLS.

Phone 34-2551. P.O. Box 6521
STEIN BROS. LTD.
WHOLESALE MERCHANTS
PRODUCE
DAIRY PRODUCTS
POULTRY
Eat Tulip and Orangia Butter.
Corner Kerk and West Streets.
JOHANNESBURG

CEPHA LABORATORIES
(PTY.), LTD.
C/o. Spring Street and Stephen Road,
OPHIRTON, JOHANNESBURG.
Makers of:
ETHICAL PHARMACEUTICALS.
DRUGS for Injection.
ETHYL CHLORIDE for Anaesthesia.
Visits from Medical and Dental Students will be welcomed and can be arranged by telephoning our Agents:
Keating's Pharmacy, Ltd.
Telephones 44-1455/6.

Learn to DANCE
For Health and Pleasure.
Tommy Williams Dancing School (Pty.), Ltd.
Phone 22-5517.
8, GRAFTON HOUSE
BREE STREET, JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG'S
"BEST CELLAR"
SOLLY KRAMER'S
BOTTLE STORE
36b, Rissik Street,
Phone 22-4898.

L. F. JUNGE
Established 1905
Hairdresser, Tobacconist, Bookseller, Newsagent and Stationer.
53a, Kotze Street, Hillbrow
JOHANNESBURG
Try our Loose Tobaccos, Cavendish and Rhodesian Mixtures; also Carnarvon Mixtures.
NEAREST TO YOUR MEDICAL SCHOOL
ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PERIODICALS BY EVERY MAIL.
Telephone 44-1940

THE HOUSE FOR ....
GOOD BOOKS
VANGUARD Booksellers (Pty.), Ltd.
28, JOUBERT STREET
Phone 22-7937.

* Printed by Prompt P. & P. Co., 94 Harrison Street, Johannesburg.

NONSENSE NOVEL

By STEPHEN PEACOCK

Synopsis of previous chapters

There are no previous chapters.

It was pouring in the Western Province. For that matter it was pouring in Timbuctoo too, but that has nothing to do with the story either, for the events which I am about to narrate, took place in Johannesburg, and the weather was fine.

But in this city was a strange band of people, known to laymen as Medical Students. Like most students, these students published a newspaper, which wasn't a bad newspaper as newspapers go. But these particular students, who weren't bad students as students go—(don't ask where) — didn't have enough money to run their newspaper.

The editor, who wasn't a bad editor as editors go (I told you before not to ask where) hurled himself into the S.M.C. Board-room, and had a long consultation, which lasted from ten minutes past eleven till fifteen minutes past eleven, with his business manager, who wasn't a bad business manager as business managers go (how many times must I tell you not to ask where). After the talk the editor hurled himself from his chair, and hurled himself from the room, and in a fury hurled himself off in all directions. As he reached the street, he perceived (saw) the man who was responsible for the shortage of money, Mr. N. Namdlef.

The Editor accosted (met) Mr. N. Namdlef, and they went to the Refectory, for the atmosphere was more businesslike there. They had a really long consultation, from twenty minutes past eleven to twenty-eight minutes past eleven, at the same time enjoying a couple of Suncrushes. (Advt.)

What was the outcome?*

With tears in his voice, and a pleading look in his eyes, the editor asked Mr. N. Namdlef (you have probably realized by now that this was not his real name) for more money, so he could produce a bigger and better newspaper, as Buick does with motorcars. Mr. N. (I'm tired of spelling that name, you know who I mean by now) gazed at the editor with the gaziest gaze [illegible] be likened to a gazelle or gas-pipe.

Mr. N's heart was softened somewhat, not, unfortunately, more than somewhat (who's writing this, anyway, Damon Runyon or I?). So instead of his heart softening more than somewhat, it only softened somewhat, with the result that he only gave the editor some of the more than somewhat amount the poor editor asked for. (This repetition is very, very, very bad style, isn't it?)

And so we come to the end of our story. **(Don't be rude!)**

Need I say anything more?

Yes! That this is the reason why Medical Students must now pay twopence for their newspaper, starting with this issue.

And so the staff of the newspaper went back to work, somewhat (but not more than somewhat) placated (quietened down) — but this has nothing to do with the story; I merely mention it as an odd fact to fill up space.

N.B. Any similarity between any character in this novel, and any person, living or dead, is intentional. (And it won't help you to sue us for libel—you know we can't afford it!)

B.R.

*Read on.

AURICLE SMALLS

Only students may advertise in this column. Advertisements must be handed in at the S.M.C. Office. All sales and purchases of goods advertised must be carried out through the Supply Association. Fee: 1d. a word. Minimum: 6d.

FOR SALE

Finest complete skeleton in town! Unbreakable: specially prepared bones. Also second-hand British mike with oil immersion. Highest reasonable offer gets them at S.M.C. Office.

WANTED

Savill's "System of Clinical Diagnosis. Any reasonable price. "Supplies", S.M.C. Office, please.

Old "Auricles", previous to Nov. 1940. Any reasonable price. "Supplies", please.

Oil Immersion Lens. Apply Supplies.

Answers to Contributors

M.C. Sorry. Try again, in another spare moment of idleness.

MUSICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMMES

(Thursdays. Vestibule, 1.5 p.m. Requests are invited.)

April 20:
Mozart: Overture to "Il Seraglio."
Piano Concerto in D Minor.

April 27:
Programme of Operatic Excerpts.

May 4:
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2.

May 11:
Haydn: Toy Symphony.
Beethoven: Appassionata Sonata.

THE S.Z.A.

The S.Z.A., which has already proved itself one of the most active societies at Medical School, has been holding a series of lectures by prominent speakers, on all aspects of Jewish affairs.

The last speaker before the vacation was the Rev. "Tubby" Eaton. This has been the most popular meeting so far. The speaker stressed the need for co-operation between Jews and Christians, and deplored the way in which Jews were used as scapegoats.

The meetings are held on Mondays, at 1.5 p.m. in the Aesculapian Theatre. They are open to all students, and Non-Jewish students are especially welcome. COME ALONG, WHATEVER YOUR VIEWS ARE!

TOONBEELD

Waar harde celte van my hand
oor witverdorde skedelholtes krap,
vormlik versteen
deur snikke droogoond van die
sand . . .

Daar walm nou geurloos wierook
stil—

gedagtegloed van stof
wat eenmaal vogtig lewe was.

Waar is nou die wese dan
van stofverswelgde mens,
die denke van sy vorm self
eens toegemuur deur hierdie skedelgrens?

Ek sien
net vlecsontblote tande wat
daar klankloos lag . . . .
net naakte holtes wat
daar dolleeg . . . starend . . . wag.

Einde van die noodlot!
Dat ook ek die gal van
jou bitter ironie moet smaak.
. . . Tot die lee kopbeen daar
sal ook ek, as stof, genaak . . .

O growwe grafskrif van die dood!
Ruwe toonbeeld van ons vergankelikheid
Gebeeldhou vir 'n koue graf
en dan . . . die ongekende ewigheid.

A.K. en P.R.W.

"Auricle" Sub-Committee

Editor: J. H. Abramson.
Afrikaans Editor: A. I. I. Kloppers.
News Editor: Tanya Siew.
Secretary: S. Sash.
Minutes Secretary: Shirley Siew.
Business Manager: B. Rosenberg.
Technical Director: S. Lazar.
Distribution Manager: W. Grusiner.
Members: R. E. Bauling, H. Chaitowitz, M. Maureen Dale, H. D. Friedberg, H. Gordon, Anne Havman, Rolanda Hill, J. Katz, H. Klugman, E. S. Kramer, M. A. Levy, M. Mayat, Miriam Merlin, Rhona Sax.

FIBRILLATIONS

DR. "TTL": "A baby is an alimentary tract with a lot of noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."

★

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small.
The streptococcus is the test —
I love him best of all.

★

We salute Leonora, who wanted to know if Sir William Osler was any relation to the rugby player.

★

There was an old doc. of Calcutta,
Who coated his tonsils with butter;
Which reduced his snore
From a thunderous roar
To a soft oleaginous mutter.

★

As I was going up the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again to-day—
I wish to God he'd go away.

★

DR. "SB"RN, describing a case of cardiac failure: "The old boy's at a passing-out parade, and you feel that it won't be long now before he gets his wings."

★

Simple Simon, simple soul,
Bought a book on Birth Control.
Judging by his wife's condition,
It must have been a cheap edition.

★

DR. H"YNS, to student giving anaesthetic: "Be careful with the anaesthetic, we haven't exactly got permission for this operation."

★

De Spring is sprung, de grass is riz,
I wonder where dem boidies is.
De boids is on de wing I hoid;
But dat's absoid; de wings is on de boid.

STELLA

Ek wou my siel bind
met 'n draad van sy
aan die blinkste ster,
om rus te kry
en die glanse te vang
vir jou en my.

Ek het gesoek na die ster
om my hart aan te bind.
[illegible] die hemelruim
was nie so-een te vind

Tot eendag op aarde
die ontdekking verbaasd my verras:
dat ek in ruimte gesoek het
na wat jy altyd was.

DRAMATIC NEWS!

The Medical School Players have chosen a J. M. Barrie as their production for 1944. After the morbid "Three One-Acts" staged last year, the light vein of "The Little Minister" ought to prove most entertaining. The scenes and dialogue of this play are truly delightful, and in the capable and experienced hands of Mr. [illegible]id Goldblatt, we have no doubt that the play will be a great success.

The cast of "The Little Minister" include: a few of the Dramatic Society die-hards, and we also have pleasure in welcoming three first-years.

The women in the cast are Peggy Irwin, Mimi Möller, Bernice Kark and Mary Campbell-Begg. The men include Thomas Bothwell, Eddy Barker, Peter Clarke, Sydney Sash, Michael Perlman, Walter Hatchwell, Peter Asher, Bennie Smit, James McCall, H. Goldman, and Sash Junior.

VERY SUBTLE JOKE CORNER

Very Subtle Joke No. 1.

CASES OF GREAT CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Case 1. Rheumatic beer-pancarditis.

Case 2. An excellent example of the Babinski-Korsakov Symph-drome, in three reduced movements:

1. Andante dullo percussio.
2. Allegro fremito reducto.
3. Finale—tappio fluidio non presto

Very Subtle Joke No. 2.

Mr. Raikes approves of the suggestion that the S.R.C. conduct a referendum of student opinion with reference to spades, hoes, forks, and other garden implements.*

Very Subtle Joke No. 3.

A Medical School department is thinking of changing its name to the Department of Obstetrics and Gonocology.

PLEASE STOP SENDING US VERY SUBTLE JOKES.

*Rakes. Heh-heh!

FOR STUDENTS
White Dental and Laboratory coats
BENNETT'S OVERALL STORE
8, COLOSSEUM BUILDINGS
(Next Colosseum Cafe) Phone 22-535[illegible]

SUNCRUSH THE £1000 DRINK
GRAPE FRUIT · ORANGE · LEMON & LIME.
Everyone's Favourite!
Manufactured by:
SUNCRUSH LTD.
8, LA ROCHELLE ROAD, GLENESK,
JOHANNESBURG.

CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY
Limited
Handel House Branch.
ST. JAMES MANSIONS.
97 ELOFF STREET.
JOHANNESBURG.
P.O. Box 1161 JOHANNESBURG Phone 22-6747.

★ We have made arrangements with the principal publishers of medical books in England and America to receive their new publications, and we carry a large stock of books on all branches of medical science. We shall be pleased to send you our list.

Special Prices to Medical Students.

Postal enquiries receive special attention.