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# The Auricle. 1954; August

**Students` Medical Council**

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UWMS THE AURICLE

VOL. 5 NO. 16 FRIDAY, 27th August, 1954

# NEW LOOK ON SMC EXECUTIVE

Fiery discussion marked the paenultimate S.M.C. meeting of 1954, as tense discussion raged across the debating chambers, with many vital and pressing issues - and important internal elections- hinging on the decision of the Medical Governing Body. It was not until well after midnight that a weary President Monk was able to declare the meeting closed.

At election time, dynamic Hymie Geffen - vice-President on the outgoing Council - was unanimously nominated as the official S.M.A. nominee for the Presidency , both Syd Katz and Neil Schwartz withdrawing from the contest.

We of the Auricle, heartily endorse Mr. Geffen's nomination. (See Editorial Opinion).

Surprise of the evening was provided by the unopposed election of veteran Syd Katz to the key Treasurer's position; joint favourites for the post, Schwartz and Jacobson, both signifying their intention not to oppose Katz.

Top discussion point in an electrically-charged atmosphere was the battle over the establishment of a Publications-Conference Committee, and its eventual constitution. This committee provides for the breaking away from C.C.S. of the Auricle, the Leech, and Conference, who now form a new body, with direct representation on the S.M.C. via a Chairman appointed from among their members.

As the establishment of this body marks a constitutional change, it must first be referred to a General Meeting of students for ratification.

The long-mooted re-establishment of a non-Conference Leech was again discussed ad infinitum; it now seems likely, however, that 1955 will definitely see the first issue of this long called-for magazine, despite the fact that no contract with any publisher has been entered into.

Mr. Geffen, leader of an S.M.C. deputation to see Director of Interns, Dr. Mostert, presented a report on the results of his trip to Pretoria, to investigate the true position re. non-European Paediatrics and Casualty internships at Baragwanath.

Although the post of Director of Interns had ceased to exist, Mr. Geffen was able to glean that the Baragwanath positions had not been banned to non-Europeans, but had now been made open to ALL senior housemen, irrespective of colour.

He strongly urged the S.M.C. to make representation to the S.A. Medical Council, for the re-establishment of the very necessary Director of Interns post.

**STOP PRESS:** Sid Jacobson succeeds Neil Schwartz as Chairman of Refectory. Jacobson, a fully-fledged accountant with considerable experience in the business world, seems ideally suited to take over the arduous task of carrying on Refectory's finances.

(News by D. Rabinowitz)

## New Features.

New features offered by the Auricle this week include:-

1) The Cochlea: A special magazine section, with short stories, poems, limericks and jokes.

2) The Librarian Says: Last year's popular column is again revived with Miss A.C. Dick providing the latest information on what comprises our library shelves.

3) "The Passing Parade": A causerie on the news, views and personalities which go to make up our campus.

# Conference Ends

Conference ended on Wednesday, and despite attendance falling well below last Year's standard - this in no way detracts from the excellent work done by Miss Robbie Brueckner and her committee.

Evening talks were all very ingeniously devised, and, as a result some very hectic exchanges took place during the "Question-Discussion Session" which followed the papers.

What a pity that our own students did not take the golden opportunity afforded them of hearing the experts on Paediatrics lecture at their doorsteps.

On the other hand lunch-hour films were very well attended and provided an unexpected surprise to most students in the high standard attained.

Altogether a most commendable effort.

# Auricle Editor Appointed.

Among the appointments ratified at last week's S.M.C. meeting, was the approval of Mr. Len Taitz, as editor of the Auricle for 1955.

Mr. Taitz, a senior member of the Editorial Board of this year's Auricle - is well known for his contributions to the Auricle as "Litmus" - which was the nom-de-plume for the literary parternship of Messrs. Taitz and Michael Sorokin.

There is a strong rumour circulating that the latter is to seek office at the S.M.C. election. If Mr. Sorokin is persuaded to stand, he should prove a popular figure with the electorate, for besides his work on Auricle, he also ran Night School this year, and was active on many other societies.

# Editorial Opinion.

As the 1954 S.M.C. end their term of office, Medical School loses several of the old stalwarts who have served her so ably and selflessly for so many years.

We say good-bye to our President John Monk, who has devoted himself so completely to his job - to the exclusion of most other interests. Mr. Monk's year, we feel, has been a successful one for the S.M.C., credit for which must go, in a large measure to him. Let us add that despite the several clashes which we had with him during the course of the year, his friendship towards the Auricle never flagged, whilst his generosity and encouragement to the paper, proved a revelation.

Mr. Utian - an industrious treasurer - who earned a Molotovian reputation for saying no - will be sorely missed as the S.M.C. traverses the thorny financial path ahead.

Mr. Phillips - a concise, precise secretary will be yet another absentee at future S.M.C. Meetings.

Mr. Momoniat, weakened by ill-health - has decided to relinquish his C.C.S. portfolio. His endeavours to build up his council will, however, ne'er be forgotten by all who value culture at this Medical School.

And what of the future? In Mr. Hymie Geffen, we possess the ideal man to hold the presidency during a year which we may conservatively forecast will prove "stormy".

Efficient, dynamic in debate, brooking no sidetracking of any issues, Mr. Geffen cannot but enhance the S.M.C. reputation.

In Neil Schwartz we possess a man of undoubted quality - a man who served his apprenticeship on the difficult Refectory terrain.

Of the younger lights: Miss Claire Schiller, an industrious worker, and an asset to the S.M.C. whom we trust will reconsider her decision not to stand; Mr. Gruebel Lee - competent and suave, Mr. Myer making a late debut this year, and yet to prove himself; Mr, Yodaiken alias "Mr. Energy". Hence among the elected members, there is place for one or two new S.M.C. members. There are many potentially excellent candidates at Medical School - let's hope the electorate gives them their chance.

# THIS HILL OF OURS.

Last Tuesday the S.M.C. met for the last ime this year - as far as a full scale meeting is concerned. There was a lot of business to be done, not the least important being the election of the Treasurer and the nomination of the S.M.C.'s choice for President.

Let us consider the drama behind the first of these. Obvious choice for President was Hymie Geffen. Entering this institute 18 months after leaving school his rise to Vice-President S.M.C. was marked by nearly 5 years of work on the campus for students going hand in hand with an excellent academic record. But behind his nomination was a minor drama. A rumour had it that he was to decline the nomination. Why? Because he had the feeling we believe, that he had been elected to Vice-President not on merit, but because there was nobody else to adequately fill the job. During the year he has proved himself an adequate, and efficient Vice-President and Chairman and indeed a fitting candidate for the post of President. Other among the nominees was Neil Schwartz, popular Chairman of Refectory and Syd Katz. Both the latter declined, and with some hesitation Geffen to everybodies relief accepted. Good luck Hymie. We wish you well.

Now we'll deal the the election of the Treasurer. This is an election - not a nomination. Fancied candidates for the post were Sid Jacobson and Neil. Sid a qualified accountant was an excellent nomination proposed by several members. Neil with a great deal of experience accumulated during his Chairmanship of the S.M.C.'s biggest financial headache, the Refectory, was also an excellent proposal. Unexpected nominee was Syd Katz who had refused to stand for President. Referred to earlier in the evening as an "organising institute" Syd has been at this University for a long while (see later) and among the various offices he has held treasurer has been prominent. But this was not realised as amid a bewildered silence both Neil and Sid Jacobson stepped down to make the election of Syd Katz unopposed. The Treasurery is an important post. For years now, the S.M.C.'s financial status has been precarious. Hessel Utian retiring Treasurer has been an amiable and capable man. Now badly needed to seek out the root financial problems is a dynamic Treasurer with an imaginative mind. To our way of thinking Syd Katz does not fall into this category. But without a doubt he has had a maximum of experience with student affairs and his nomination to post of Treasurer if unexpected is as safe as the bank, and being extremely popular he starts off with a good credit balance. We wish the Treasurer-elect a PROSPEROUS and SUCCESSFUL term of office with prosperous thrice underlined.

Other rumours for the coming election. We hear that our honorable editor is the candidate of choice for the Cultural Council Chair, while Natie Levin of Leech fame is likely to have to fight for S.M.C. status on the open election. Asked to act as Chairman of Refectory for next year, he will we hear step down for Sid Jacobson. Multiple Mo(moniat) is, it is whispered an S.R.C. candidate and we are led to believe that our Dan is the only man capable of holding the job of S.R.C. President next year.

The name Joshua Sydney Katz would not evoke much response from the average student, but mention Syd Katz (his pseudonym) and everyone reacts
for Syd has been not only backbone but also viscera of student affairs at this University for longer than he most probably cares to remember.

Since leaving Parktown Boys High in 1944 Syd has obtained a B.A. degree, held every position on Rag Committee including Chairman for two years; has been Chairman of Dance Committee since 1951 and has filled numerous positions on numerous committees so much so that a list would fill 2 pages (on view on application at S.M.C. Office). At present running General Purposes Committee, Syd from next year will take over the Treasurership of the S.M.C. Although with his vast experience it does not seem necessary we should like to wish him the best of luck on his new appointment.

BUDRA.

# ABORTION — Prof. G.A.ELLIOTT.

"I will not give a woman a pessary to cause abortion." - the Hippocratic Oath.

"A doctor must always bear in mind the importance of preserving human life from the time of conception to death." - the International Code of Ethics.

"I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception." - the Declaration of Geneva.

Procuring abortion must be considered under legal, ethical and medical aspects.

LEGAL ASPECTS

Is it ever legal to procure abortion?

The legal authorities, Gardiner and Lansdowne, state "No crime is committed in those circumstances in which an obstetrician under the clear dictates of his science decides that the removal of the foetus is necessary to save the life of the mother." According to this ruling, it would appear that if the doctor is conscientiously satisfied and can produce evidence that the circumstances of the case justify the termination of pregnancy to save the life of the mother, no legal charge would be laid against him.

If it is legally permissible to terminate pregnancy to save the life of the mother, is it ever permissible to terminate pregnancy to prevent chronic ill health in the mother, or because she will be un - fit to care for the child (as might happen in the case of a failing rheumatic heart), or because the life of the mother will be shortened if the pregnancy is allowed to continue? Is it permissible to terminate pregnancy that has resulted from rape? Technically speaking, termination of pregnancy for reasons other than saving the life of the mother is probably illegal. But if the doctor concerned is able to produce evidence that in the interests of the mother's health, termination of pregnancy was essential, it is highly improbable that in South Africa a charge of criminal abortion would be laid, and if by any chance the charge was laid, it is highly improbable that the penalty would be anything but trivial. In all cases in which a doctor decides to terminate pregnancy in the interests of the health of the mother, it is desirable (some say obligatory) to ask a second opinion on the case.

ETHICAL ASPECTS

Procuring abortion is absolutely forbidden by the Roman Catholic Church.

Aside from this religious ethical aspect, the circumstances under which the procuring of abortion is ethical correspond to those in which it is legal, outlined and discussed in the preceding paragraph. No ethical charge would be laid against a doctor who could bring evidence that pregnancy was terminated in the interests of the health of the mother. A second opinion is equally necessary from an ethical as from a legal aspect.

MEDICAL ASPECTS

The effect of terminating pregnancy on the health of the mother is a matter for the gynaecologists to debate. The risks are sterility and chronic tubal infection.

PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL ABORTION

If a doctor is convicted of criminal abortion in the criminal courts, the Attorney General forwards the papers to the S.A. Medical and Dental Council, who institute a formal enquiry. In the 25 years of the Council's existence, there have been 6 or 7 such cases, always with the same result, namely, erasure of the doctor's name from the register.

KNOWLEDGE THAT ABORTION HAS BEEN ATTEMPTED OR COMMITTED

The duty of the doctor who becomes aware that an abortion has been attempted or committed on a patient under his care, is to honour the confidence of the patient. The patient may request him to inform the police, and he may feel constrained to urge her to do so. If she declines to inform the police, he may continue to treat her as his patient without running the risk of being an accessory after the fact in the eyes of the law. If she dies, it is then his duty to report the facts to the police.

NEXT WEEK - FEES

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## The Librarian Says.

Final year students are probably beginning to feel that the end is almost here, and their text-books are no doubt showing the effects of constant use. As a change from the too familiar pages of Bailey, Conybeare and Shaw, a refreshing survey of developments in some branches of medicine may be made quite quickly by consulting the books of the Recent Advances series. There have been new editions this year of Recent Advances in Surgery (4th edition, by Edwards); Recent Advances in Dermatology (2nd edition, by Goldsmith and Hellier); and Recent Advances in Chemotherapy (3rd edition by Valentine and Shooter). The last is volume 3 of the new edition, and is devoted to Antibiotics, the previous two volumes (edited by Findlay) being on Parasitology (1950) and Malaria (1951) respectively. A newcomer to the series this year is Recent Advances in Paediatrics which will be a welcome adjunct to such large volumes as Mitchell Nelson; Textbook of Paediatrics. The latest editions of Recent Advances in Medicine (edited by Beaumont and Dodds) and Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (edited by Bourne and Williams) were published in 1952 and 1953 respectively.

There are many other volumes in the series but they are not all as up-to-date as the titles suggest. It is important to notice the date of publication before reading any of them.

It may not be inapt to mention here an interesting new book published by the Ergonomics Research Society in 1953. It is a symposium on Fatigue, edited by Floyd and Welford, and includes papers on the psychological and physiological aspects of the subject, as well as articles on tropical fatigue, factors influencing and methods of measuring fatigue, etc.

A.C. Dick

# READERS' VIEWS

Sir,

I was surprised to see that Conference Sessions were poorly attended by students. Members of the S.M.C. as well were conspicuously absent. The question now arises if Conference is of any value to students then surely they would attend; if Conference is not of much value to students then there is no purpose in having it.

Admittedly the exams are two months hence, but surely Friday night is taken off by most students and on Friday night the number of students attending Conference showed no appreciable increase.

I think it is an insult to both the Conference Committee and Lecturers that students are so exam conscious and so self-limited.

Yours etc.
N. Baumslag

## ARTS FESTIVAL.

Sir,

On Monday 9th August at 5.15 p.m. the 6th Annual Arts Festival of the University of the Witwatersrand officially opened with an exhibition of sculpture and painting. On Wednesday 11th August at 8.15 p.m. the S.A.B.C. Wind Quintet gave a recital in the Great Hall. On Thursday 12th August at 1 p.m. and 8.15 p.m. the visiting Austrians performed for appreciative audiences in the Great Hall. All these events occurred prior to the publication of the Auricle and yet nothing concerning these or the lunch-hour events were published, and more important nothing concerning the forthcoming events. In fact not a word on Arts Festival was seen. We therefore assume it is top secret.

I feel the Medical rep. on Arts Festival should have given the Editorial Staff a complete write-up and that failing this, the Editorial Staff should keep its eyes open as to the events occuring at University and report on them. That an event as big as Festival should slip past the experienced reporters of Auricle is fantastic. Arts Festival this year played to Students Only and to lose a chance to advertise to all the students who read the Auricle i.e. about 60% of Medical students seems to me a great pity and I hope that this unfortunate occurrence will never again be repeated in respect to all University events.

Yours etc.
J. Silver

SUPPORT the REFECTORY TO-DAY!

# DELEGATE JOSMAN REPORTS.

I consider myself most fortunate to have represented Wits at the Students' International Clinical Conference. It was a welcome opportunity to meet fellow Medical students from other countries. There were delegates from Great Britain, Italy, France, Holland, Germany and Scandinavia. The organisers of the Conference worked extremely hard to make it a success and I feel they did a grand job.

The programme entailed visits to various hospitals where we attended ward-rounds, lectures and clinical demonstrations. We were thus able to get an idea of the different teaching methods and compare them with our own. I think that our Medical School compares most favourably with those I have seen. There are however, certain recommendations I would like to make. These are based on my experiences at the Conference:

1) Extend the Anatomy and Physiology courses to 18 months. This, I am sure requires no explanation.

2) Concentrate the courses in the Medicine and Surgery special subjects so that the lectures and clinical work can be undertaken together. To take an example, at the London Hospital they have a course in Venereal Diseases lasting one month where students attend both lectures and clinics at the end of which they have an excellent working knowledge of the subject. I feel this is far better than our system of spreading out the course of lectures over say 10 weeks at the rate of one per week without attending clinics, or on the other hand attending clinics without having had lectures on the subject.

3) Do one full year of Medicine and one of Surgery instead of splitting the courses. Where for example a student has completed a year of Medicine, he should then in the following year, attend weekly clinics or demonstrations and discussions in order to "keep up" with his Medicine.

4) Cutting down on examinations every year. For example in clinical years one final examination at the end of the course.

5) Enable students to "live in" at hospitals. This is already being practised as far as possible here at Wits but one envisages at some future date a Medical Students' Residence near the hospital.

6) Cut down mid-year holidays to a minimum and have a long vacation at the end of the year. This, of course, would not apply to our Sixth year students.

H. JOSMAN

* LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR *

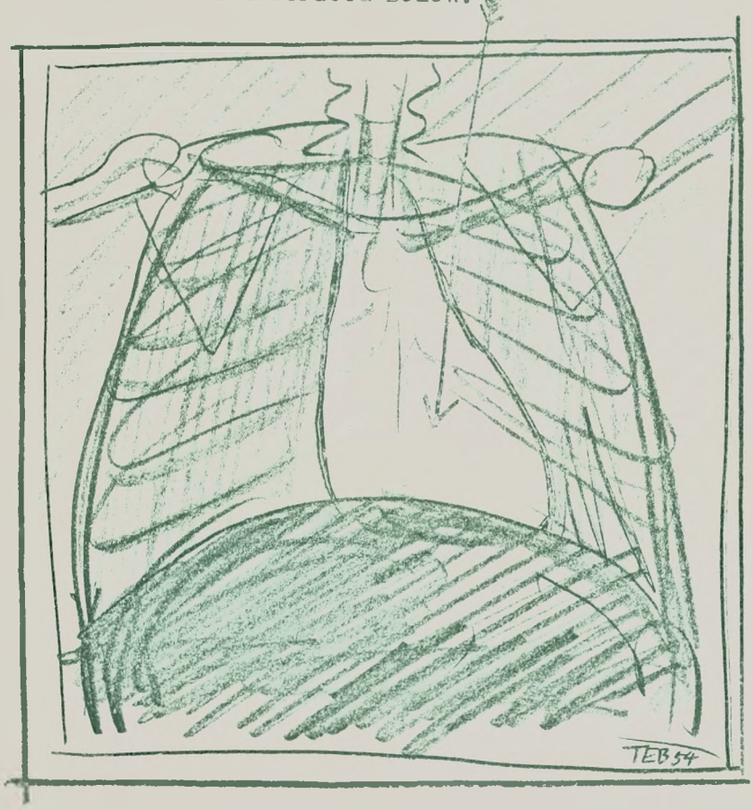
MEDICAL BALL:-

FIRST YEARS! COLLECT YOUR TICKET AT THE S.M.C. OFFICE!

# THE COCHLEA.

THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF "THE AURICLE"

MEDICAL SIDELIGHTS?
A Large Percentage of People Have been Proved to suffer from Congenital Hearts, Illustrated Below:




## RHONCHI.

Student: "Is this your first baby".
Patient: "Lor, no doctor. I ain't a primate."

**********

From a student's case history: No history of specific disease - otherwise normal.

**********

Overheard at skin O.P.D.:
Specialist: (to patient with warts on her hands) "Is it the appearance that is worrying you?"
Female Patient: "I haven't got any, I'm an orphan."

**********

Does the anaemia trouble you much?
Well I had one last night, and it did a lot of good.

**********

Student: to patient with pseudo-angina pectoris - "What sort of pain is it. "
Patient: "Worse than marriage."

**********

Daffynitions:
D.P. Certificate: A useful method of ensuring attendance at useless lectures.

Hospital: The domain of the sisters.

## Your Auroscope.

YOUR PROGNOSIS FOR NEXT WEEK by Litmus

Friday: Life becomes hectic and muddled - efforts at co-ordination become marred by virulent sisters.
If your intake falls to-day - don't go. Its Medical Ball anyway.

**********

Saturday: Impediment to final agreement removed. But do not let yourself sink into a groove - plan for the future.
If your intake falls to-day - go to the Dev. and you'll be O.K.

**********

Monday: Control your natural exuberance - patients will not view it in any good light if in stitching a cheek you induce complete aphonia and malnutrition by circum-oral suture. A windfall financially this week - miss that important lecture and join the Common Room Poker School.
If your intake falls to-day - trust your luck and don't delay - go home.

**********

Tuesday: Complicated 2nd year lectures start. Ask a second year. He will say "Who knows? Who goes?" Good for entertaining to-night - phone 44-1000.
If your intake falls to-day - stay. Plenty of A.A.

**********

Wednesday: Mentally stimulating to-day - thoughts of last night's disaster will promote active cerebration. And the best of luck .
If your intake falls to-day - away. Remember last night and pray.

**********

Thursday: An old friend proves unexpectedly helpful. Don't hurry over finishing any date arrangements. Sleep on them.
If your intake falls to-day - concussion is al wat jy kry.

# A PIECE OF FURNITURE.

*An Original Short Story by D.R.*

Curly Anderson had one hobby in life. Ordinarily a quiet soul, easy-going, with a private income, Curly who had married late in life, - he was in his early forties, his wife, Clara, in her late twenties - had nevertheless one consuming passion - attending auctions.

Curly - an Englishman who had settled in South Africa - it was rumoured that he had tuberculosis - knew all the auctioneering haunts, and from long experience was well acquainted with all their tribalism and legerdemain.

Thus in the course of his peripatetic career, Curly had picked up a good many bargains, which he was want to talk and boast about of an evening as we sat and chatted in his comfortable home.

Clara, his wife, was an avid antique collector, and the two dovetailed well.

On the subject of his greatest triumph, however - a Danish antique - he was strangely silent, and although we often asked him where and how he got that outstanding piece of furniture, he would just shrug his shoulders with an air of finality, which prevented any further discussion of the topic.

Indeed it was not long after he had acquired this masterpiece that Curly began to transform from an erstwhile happy contented and perhaps slightly pompous individual into a morose, restless, unhappy beast who devoured himself within three months.

Of course at the time I never for a moment connected his death with the suicide a month previously of one Jake Stanberg - an auctioneer.

**********

I had been a top Executive with Transvaal Syndicate Co. for several years when I first met Curly and the three of us soon became extremely friendly - Curly, Clara and myself.

I was 35, a confirmed bachelor, and in love with Curly's wife.

After the death of her husband, Clara Anderson lent more and more heavily on me.

"I could have saved him", she used to say, "but I was not strong enough....."

Then I would comfort her - believing she was chastising herself needlesly - and tell her to relax and try to forget everything - she was such a pathetic figure with a beautiful untarnished complexion, and lovely clear-blue eyes.

It was not until we had been married six months that she told me the whole story.

**********

It was after eleven o'clock and Clara was wondering what could be keeping Curly out so late without him phoning her, when he came running in.

"Clara, Clara, where are you? I've had the most amazing luck!"

"What is it Curly?" - and then she saw it - the most beautiful Danish antique. Small, compact, delightful, - she was captivated, entranced by its beauty.

"I picked it up at Jake Stanberg's, darling, - literally for a song - and its for you, darling!"

Normally a selfish person, with her only redeeming qualities her freshness, beauty, a soft spot she had for Curly, and her enthralling interest in antiques - she gave herself up completely to the enchanting mystical Danish masterpiece.

For a week she lived in an ecstasy - enveloped in the fantasy of the Danish masterpiece - when one night a distrait Curly Anderson walked in and gently burst the bubble of her happiness.

"I'm afraid I've got bad news, darling, - Jake Stanberg sold me the Danish by mistake - it was actually part of a unique collection he had been storing for a friend of his - and somehow it got separated from the other pieces.

"I contacted the man with a view to buying the piece for you, but he won't sell at any price".

Clara's face fell and the vitality seemed to drain away. She stood staring into space for five minutes, immobile, impassive, hardly breathing.

Then it struck her - she did not need to give back the antique.

"Curly, did Jake Stanberg give you a receipt for the Danish -"

"Yes, of course, darling, but I....Darling, I would never hold him to it - Jake's my friend - I must give him back the Danish."

Clara was more tenacious than Curly had anticipated. She used every trick in the book of histrionics, until after a week, from sheer exhaustion, Curly gave in and promised that he would go to Jake Stanberg and tell him that as the latter had sold him the Danish he had no intention of giving it back, and he and his owner friend could both go to hell -.....

Thereupon Clara kissed him on the forehead, and once more peace reigned in the Anderson family.

No so in the Stanberg family. Jake could not understand why his former friend Curly Anderson - whom he had always treated so well - should deliberately try to ruin him. Jake offered Curly anything if he would part. He plied him with gifts - but to no avail. - Clara had won, and rather than go through a performance with her again he was not going to part with the Danish.

Three weeks of haggling with Curly Anderson - with no success - and Jake Stanberg, driven into a frenzy of unsteadiness, half-mad from worry - his friend threatening to sue and ruin him - shot himself.

**********

"I've come to give myself up Sergeant. I never knew so beautiful a woman could at the same time be so selfish and ruthless as to cause the destruction of two men, because of an inanimate piece of furniture....

And that's why I killed her, Sergeant.

You see, Jake Stanberg - was my father. "

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## AURICLE POSTS

Applications are invited for the 1955 Auricle posts of:-

1. Editorial Board membership.
2. Secretary.
3. Treasurer.
4. Distribution manager.
5. Headline artists.
6. Cartoonists.
7. Advertising Manager.
8. 3 Staff members.

Applications should reach S.M.C. Office not later than 20th September, 1954.

D. Rabinowitz
(Retiring Editor)

# DIARY OF A DILETTANTE.

Don't know how many of you are interested in drawing or painting - doing it yourself I mean - but the other night a friend took me along to a nearby Art School and I was suitably impressed. What did I find?

Large well-lit Studio, two skeletons, dozens of stools and benches and easels, paints and pencils. A model with the most impressive Quadriceps femoris and his biceps were gorgeous. He stood on a raised platform as impassively as the God Hermes with the Infant Dionysus (minus the infant). In case you didn't know this wonderful statue is by Praxiteles who belonged to the Heleniistic Period of Greek culture (4th Century B.C.) and was famed for the charm of his work and the sweet and insinuating character of his creations.

But what I am trying to get at is that the school is so convenient for any students who would like to draw and paint.

Evening classes are held from 7 to 9 p.m. and afternoon classes from 3 to 5 p.m. The Principal has studied in Germany, Italy and Sweden and is first-class as a teacher. And the name of the school? "Giotto" Academy of Arts, in Protea Building, Esselen Str.

To-day Monday: Bumped into Syd Katz who was fondling a knee-joint in the dissecting hall. Putting the cadaver aside, he woefully told me that response to the Medical Ball on Friday (the day on which you will be reading this) was very poor: in fact only 38 tickets had been sold! Would it be worthy holding it?

COMPETITION FOR THE REFECTORY ..... Don't know how many of you noticed but as from last issue the Dilettante now runs a Dairy: - so when you next shout for Yogurt, you'll know where to come!

EXAM FEVER.....

Have you popped into the library lately? Notice the deadly quiet atmosphere of agitated students? That's because the pre-exam fever has hit Medical School and hit it hard.

I gather from the Managers of Curzon and Claredon that business at matinees is rapidly dropping.

Could this possibly account fo the concomitant crowding in the Dissection Halls? Don't worry Messrs. A.C.T. business will pick up considerably after November.

Cheerio for now.

Marilyn

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WESTDENE BOOK NEWS

Expected shortly — THE FOUNDATION OF SURGERY — Price ....12/9

by Professor George Perkins

This small book has been designed to help medical students in the first few months of their clinical period and it will be found invaluable for dipping into. The author is an eminent surgeon who has had much experience in the teaching of medical students and we feel that the book will be much in demand.

CONTENTS ..

What to do in the First Few Months.
The Healing of a Wound
Acute Inflammation
Chronic Phase of Acute Inflammation
Chronic Inflammation Proper
How to examine a Patient with a Skeletal Injury
Injury to Joint
Injury to Bone
Injury to Muscle
Injury to Nerve
Injury to Blood-vessels
Shock
Aneurism
The Examination of a Lump
Ulcer
Examination of the Peripheral Circulation
Gangrene
Oedema
Sinus and Fistula
Hand Sepsis
Examination of the Oesophagus
Examination of the Stomach Section
Examination of the Duodenal Section of the Gut
Jaundice
Examination of the Small-gut Section
Examination of the Large-gut Section
Examination of the Rectum
Groin Hernias
The Acute Abdomen
Examination of the Male Genito-urinary Tract
Micturition
Examination of the Scrotum and Testis
Examination of the Breast
Examination of the Thyroid
Lumps in the Neck
Examination of the Salivary Glands of the tongue
Examination of a Joint
Examination of the Knee Joint

Burns .. Skin Infections .. Examination of the Gut .. Examination of the Hip Joint .. Examination of the Back .. Coma ..Injury to Head .. The Principals of Orthopaedic Surgery ..

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Multigraphed for the Medical Students of the University of the Witwatersrand by Westdene Products (Pty) Ltd.

# HAEMATEMESIS.

A person bleeding by mouth
Presents a problem to you -
The Practitioner.
So here is a rhyme.
Which (if remembered in time)
Will tell you just what to do.
(as if you haven't got enough
troubles on your hands already).

At the outset etiology define
And this you underline -
The common things in life
Happen the most commonly.

So it isn't a surprise
If you the cases analyse,
And find that peptic ulceration
Holds the very highest station.

A fungating carcinoma
May easily slough away,
And if you stop the bleeding -
Well, he lives for one more day.

Of Varicosities,
(It used to be said)
That if they bled
One died at once.....

But the double balloon
If used quite soon
Will prove a boon
To those in the ward.

There may be a small erosion
Which does not resemble the explosion
Of an aneurysm bursting.
Or hiatal hernia which is hurting.

It's a very useful gain
If you a history obtain.
While pulse rate and body heat
Will help you find your feet.

Haemoglobin estimation
Will not prove his life's salvation
For unequal loss of cells and plasma
Creates a large chiasma.

But very up-to-date,
(From a B.M.J. of late)
Is the use of Evan's Blue
To calculate a plasma volume true.

Thus almost in a trace
The blood lost you can replace,
Remembering in-between
That reactionary haemorrhage may intervene.

And you really aren't a doc
If you do not treat his shock,
So give morphia by vein
And prevent all further pain.

Unorthodox ideas
may well dispel your fears,
Try giving ice to suck.
(Well, some people do have luck).

The acute stage is now past
And you need a treatment which will last.
So the hospital facilities
Will clear up the probabilities.

A straight X-Ray
May bring to the light of day
The varicosities which hide
Along the gullets side.

If gently done
A barium meal
Will soon reveal
The cause of it all.

Gastroscopy's the thing you must avoid
(No matter what you've hoid)
Because another little bleed -
And no treatment he will need.

Now his tummy you have tested
And he is completely rested.
And the chief turns and says to you
"What are we going to do".

And this pray,
Is what you say -
"Attend to dehydration,
Get a brisk blood circulation
And to avoid all further folly
Get him on a theatre trolley."

For the BEST treatment I must now mention
This is simply SURGICAL INTERVENTION.
So please learn this good quotation -
"JUST GET THEM FIT FOR OPERATION"

And when the bleeding crisis passes
You may sit back on your -
And use this invitation
"JUST GET THEM FIT FOR OPERATION"

S.L. Javett

## How P.R. Works

An excellent account of this interesting topic is given in HAMILTON BAILY. Read it TO-DAY!!

## UNIVERSITY TOWN'S CAVALCADE.

### WHAT IS IT?

Behind the above obscure title lies the story of the biggest single fund-raising section of the University Appeal. Target? To raise £100,000 in 10 days of concentrated fund raising in the form of a Cavalcade of Universities in the Wits grounds. Idea: Various universities and University towns e.g. Oxford and Cambridge, Leyden in Holland, Harvard, Hebrew University etc. will have a facade representative of the University, behind which will be stalls selling anything from souveniers to rides in helicopters. Wits being host, will be chief participant, with a facade along the main drive, behind which each faculty will run a stall, manned by student volunteers. THIS MEANS YOU!

How can you help? For some months now regular meetings have been held between representatives of the University Appeal and the various faculty Councils. Tentative arrangements have been made for the medicals to run a drug-store on American lines. Help will be needed with decorations, murals etc. Any original suggestions will be gladly welcomed, as final details must be worked out soon.

Medicals will be called upon to run the stall when the time comes. In the meanwhile any student who feels inclined to help at one of the other University stalls (mostly being run by the communities concerned, via their Consulates) is urged to do so.

Other ways of helping: Running cake-stalls, jumble sales etc. to raise initial expences of the stall. Main expenses for the fete are being covered by selling books of bricks.

Best faculty in "Be a Brick and Buy a Brick" scheme is Medical Faculty with 52% return. Worst is Dental Faculty with approximately 2% return. It's up to the other 48% or our Faculty to keep up the good work.

# THE PASSING PARADE.

Meet the hill behind This Hill Of Ours. Hear the man who starts off at the door of Thames House, Kotze Street at 8 a.m. and by the time he has reached the Refectory somewhere around 10.30, he has stopped to chat and joke with one-hundred-and-one different individuals "Yes I'll see you at golf this afternoon; No, Natie, we'll go down to Alex White to-morrow; I've got to deliver a report to the S.R.C. and the S.M.C. to-night, Dan please postpone the meeting".

"I must collect my washing. Are you going to the Symphony Concert to-night? When do we eat, Naomi? You'll have your article by to-night David!"

The man with the friendly disposition, the sharp wit and the quick reply. The man who in the past year, has put that enormous amount of energy, which so characterises him, into his S.R.C. and S.M.C. work.

Know him? - Of course, there is only ONE RALPH EMIL YODAIKEN - R.E.W.N. of This Hill of Ours.

When he entered the student political sphere- Yodaiken took over the YEOMAN TASK of reconstituting a dying Auricle. When he became editor the ledger read:-

Printing; a badly roneoed sheet on inferior paper.

Contents: overtly biased politics.

Sales: under 80 per week.

This MUST BE CHANGED, said he. So with the slogan which Mendes-France so successfully adopted, said R.E.Y. "Improvement, success or bust". It is history now, how, with the 3rd issue a NEW magazine was out, sporting a new cover with contents showing a vast improvement, including Professor Dart's "History of Medical School", Professor Elliott's "Medical Ethics", and possibly the most spicy and racy jokes ever to have made their appearance at Medical School.

From that time, the Auricle under R.E.Y. (alias R.E.W.N.) never looked back, with a 5000-copy issue highlighting the year just before Rag. Frantic contacts with Messrs. Paul Erwin, Bob Connelly and Clark McKay, a hectic all-night stapling session, were all part of the week's routine.

Thumb-nail sketch of his past life - a most difficult matter, as he is DISTINCTLY UNCO-OPERATIVE. However, from other sources we gather news of a distinguished school career at Parktown High ("I knew Eric Sturgess, and coached him - at Bridge"!)

Maybe you did, Ralph, but that sets the seal on your ANNO DOMINI.

After seeing service in Israel during the War of Liberation, Ralph returned to South Africa and proceeded to devote himself to Medicine, with 3 firsts as recommendation from Milner Park, R.E.Y. hit this man's hill, and has been doing very nicely thank you, ever since.

Hobbies? Well I understand he plays a better than average game of squash is a promising golfer (is that a euphemism?) and from bitter personal experience, I am convinced of his superiority at tennis.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: R.E.Y. is a leading light in the endeavour to re-establish Leech, and will probably edit the first non-Conference magazine since 1940.

Here's good luck to you, and my respects Mr. Ralph Yodaiken - he merits them - he's ONE OF THE BEST

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A man very much a part of the Passing Parade, is Mr. Neil Schwartz. As much as Yodaiken of the Auricle, Bader of Conference, Berson of Night School have become indelibly inscribed in the Medical School Hall of Fame, so too, will Schwartz be known as Schwartz of the Refectory.

Neil is the man who virtually single-handed slaved to save a fast-sinking financial ship.

Under his guidance and gentle, yet firm, hand, the Refectory has managed to justify its existence.

"The true losses have been cut" declares Neil modestly. "But much remains to be done by my successor to ensure a sound Economic Basis at the Refectory".

How much Neil has done to ensure this is told in the story of the Balance Sheets of the Refectory over the past 2 years.

What is not told, however, is the day-long vigil, worry and disappointment which was an integral part of the process.

Yet another of the PARKTOWN BOYS, Neil had a SPELL in Israel before marrying himself to the M.B. B.Ch course. Although Refectory has been very much NEIL'S BABY, many other activities also benefited from his energy:-

Four years on the Music society (bit of a highbrow) whilst as Chairman of the Debating Society Neil gained a GREAT REPUTATION as a debater. We all remember his brilliant 20 QUESTIONS performance, where he was the only member of the team to match Paul Levy's fiery satire.

Leading Wits delegation to M.F.C. '53 and '54, Chairman M.F.A. '54-'55 he was also one of the GALLANT FEW who organised Rag in '53 and '54.

Let us hope that Neil will continue to serve, and give the M.F.C. once more the benefit of his sound logic, clear thinking, and unbiased decision.

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The Passing Parade has noticed how Medical School 4th Year Class is rapidly becoming known as the year for matrinmony.

Already Mr. Cupid has caught Buddy Miller and Abe Broude. Miss Joan Buchanan is on the waiting list, and now to the group is added the romance of Miss Barbara Stern who announced her engagement to fellow-class member Basil Cooper.

Congratulations and the best of luck to two of the nicest people it has been my good fortune to know.

D.R.

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# MAKAPAN.

In 1924, when Professor Dart announced the discovery of the first of the Australopithecine series of fossils - the Taungs child - Southern Africa had already emerged as a rich source of information on early Man. Since then the attention of the world of science has been focussed on our country through the brilliant discoveries of the late Dr. Broom and his assistant Mr. Robinson in the palaeo-anthropological field, and the equally outstanding achievements of Professor van Riet Lowe and Dr. Neville Jones in archaeology. A further glittering facet in this Pre-historic Cullinan is the wealth of fossil Human remains revealed by the skill of such men as Professor Drennan, the late Dr. Dreyer and their able assistants.

This work has not only added sound evidence for Darwin's inspired opinion that the African continent saw the origins of Man, but it has shown that at our own doorstep is, only partially revealed, the glorious saga of Man's development from the earliest stumblingly erect creature to the recumbent vehicular animal that he is to-day.

About 10 miles from Potgietersrus, in the northern Transvaal, lies the beautiful Makapan valley. Here are a series of caves showing (albeit with many gaps) a cinematograph right through from Australopithecine to Voortrekker.

Let us take an imaginary trip to this valley, set in one of the most picturesque parts of our land. Leaving Johannesburg in the morning and stopping for lunch in Potgietersrus, we enter the area proclaimed by the Historical Monuments Commission early in the afternoon. To our right are rambling hills with vast limestone caves. To our left is a 1000 foot drop into a richly vegetated gorge. Across the gorge are a further series of caves which we will not enter because they contain Histoplasmosis ("Cave sickness"). Now we come to the little house built by and for the Field Officer of the Bernard Price Institute, who is in charge of excavations.

Looking up we can see cocopans and wooden props high up on a hill - that is the first sight we get of the world-famous Cave of Hearths. Later we will climb up to it, but now let us look around. Straight ahead and about 5 miles away, stretches a row of red granite cliffs. Flowing from them towards us is a soothing stream of cool water, wooded on either side of its sloping banks. There is an intermittent outburst of chirping from birds and crickets, and the occasional distant bark of a baboon.

A short climb brings us to the gaping toothless mouth of the first cave - the Historic cave. Here it was that Chief Makapan and his tribe took refuge from a punitive expedition of the Boers. They were eventually smoked out after many weeks of siege. Here it was also that a young veld kornet named Paul Kruger broke into history by the heroic rescue of his wounded commandant, Piet Potgieter. A vast cave, it still contains Bantu grinding and mill stones, and the bones of cattle - relics of the long struggle for the land across the Vaal.

Onwards we climb to the Cave of Hearths - an archaeologist's Garden of Eden. One of the rare examples of an enclosed and sealed living-site of Stone Age Man, this cave has yielded a fantastic series of implements from twelve pre-historic cultural levels. Imagine one of those diagrams that you see of the development of the human organism from embryo to adult, turn it on its side and there you have a picture of the splendid excavation of this cave. For, reading from below upwards, almost in a straight line, we see the development of Man's cultural advance from Early Stone Age, through Middle and Late, to South African Metal Age and historic (Voortrekker) remains in the surface soil.

Evening is now coming on and we return to the valley to settle down to food and fire, and the contemplation of the glittering sea of stars, their light having travelled many thousands of years more than Man has existed on this planet.

The sun peeps warily over the hills quite late in the morning, and before it shows itself it sends out a vanguard of rays that descend circularly into the valley and wake us in our camp. We set off over the long, climbing hills for M'wulu's forebears, we suddenly come upon a miraculous view. We have reached the edge of the Transvaal plateau and down below us stretches the Lowveld. Looking across the Game Reserve we can see as far as Portuguese East and with a little stretching of the imagination we can almost see the blue waves of the Indian Ocean lapping against the Mocambique coastline. Taking a much-needed rest from climbing we sit down upon a flat rock and let our eyes absorb the glorious beauty of this panorama. It is a sight to be stored away in the memory and to be brought out only on special occasions.

We now climb vertically upwards for a few yards to reach M'wulu's cave, discovered and excavated by Dr. Tobias. Here we find a strange phenomenon of nature. A stately Yellow-wood tree has become adapted to cave life and taken the form of a lowly creeper.

The afternoon is spent happily swimming in invigoratingly cold and crystal clear mountain pools. Further on is a 400 foot cleft in the rocks over which the diamond-white water cascades crazily, scintillatingly down into a narrow gorge below.

We return to spend another night in the valley. Next morning we visit the Limeworks cave - the home of Australopithecus prometheus. Strange creatures, these Man-apes or Ape-men. Walking erect, but looking like chimpanzees, they roamed over the Transvaal eating herbs and animals killed with femurs and humeri, and dumping their refuse in their living quarters. They paved the way for the development of those skilled men who made the abundance of implements that we have been looking at, and who over the years spread

ctd. on pg.11

MAKAPAN (continued)

and evolved into the complex creature who today is apparently so intent upon obliterating himself.

A happy hunting ground for botanist and geologist, the Makapan Valley with its caves, its panoramic vistas and inviting mountain streams is, in addition, a paradise for the lover of landscape.

The Archaeologist and palaeontologist can spend a lifetime of fulfillment there.

It is for these reasons that the Medical School Archaeological and Anthropological Society has obtained permission from Prof. van Riet Lowe for a party to spend the long week-end (4, 5 and 6 September) at Makapansgat. Dr. Tobias has consented to head the excursion so we are assured of additional pleasure in the form of excellent leadership.

Unfortunately the numbers must of necessity be restricted and the Committee has set Monday, 30th August as closing date. Lists are pinned up on the Refectory, Library and 2nd year noticeboards, and full particulars are available from any member of the Committee or Room 126, Anatomy Department.

As a "last fling" before settling down to consider the exams more seriously, the Makapansgat trip can be very highly recommended.

M. Sorokin

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REMEMBER.....

MEDICAL

BALL

TO-NIGHT.

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ctd.from last column.

Ms. U. Eriksen; Programme - evolution in Anomodonts by Dr. Toerien; Mr. Hughes' paper on the behaviour and habits of hyaenas; the first palmar interosseus muscle in the Bantu-speaking Negro by Dr. Abromowitz.

# THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONGRESS

The 52nd Congress of the S.A. Association for the Advancement of Science held at Bloemfontein this July bears out the point made by Dr. Tobias and others, that there is sufficient student research being done at Medical School to warrant the publication of a special student research Leech.

Under the inspiration of Professor Dart and his lecturers, a number of papers on varied biological subjects were presented by present 3rd and 4th year students.

The first paper presented was read by Mr. Len Myers and concerned experimentally induced anomalies of the internal ears of albino rat-embryos. We quote from his abstract:

"This paper describes some internal ear anomalies in two sixteen-day rat embryos, the mother of which had received injections of Trypan Blue. The affected embryos were sectioned serially and wax models were constructed of the four ears at a magnification of 100 x. Among the anomalies recognised are: (a) absence or partial suppression of one or more semi-circular ducts; (b) absence of the endolymphatic duct and sac; (c) non-coiling or suppression of the cochlea. These effects are bilateral in one embryo and unilateral in the other. The bearing of these results on knowledge of the development of the ear is described."

Immediately afterwards Mr. Ivan Jacobson's paper on the collateral connections of the medial lemniscus in the brain - stem of the cat was read:

"The anatomical verification of pathways demonstrated in the brain by electrical methods is important. The existence of a lemnisco-reticular pathway has been repeatedly inferred by the use of electro-physiological procedures. In the present study terminal degeneration was used as an indicator of fibre connections. Lesions were placed in the cuneate nucleus of the medulla of cats and the ensuing degenerations demonstrated by silver impregnation. Degeneration was found in the reticular formation of the medulla and pons. Topographical localisation of the degenerating fibres was not evident. It is concluded that the medial lemniscus give off collaterals to the brain-stem reticular formation."

Later in the Congress Sessions Mr. Leonard Taitz read his paper on the Chromosomes of Mystromys albicaudatus, the white-tailed rat:

"A study has been made of the chromosomes of Mystromys albicaudatus, an indigenous cricetid rodent. The diploid number, counted in 12 dividing spermatogonia, is 32. This number is verified by the presence of 16 tetrads in dividing primary spermatocytes. The sex-chromosomes comprise an unequal pair, the presumptive X and Y respectively being the longest and shortest chromosomes. The rest of the chromosomes have been characterised: all except one pair have two arms, so that the total number of arms is 62. Although this agrees well with the number of arms in most other cricetines, only one other cricetine species has a chromosome number as low at Mystromys. The evolutionary implications are discussed."

Finally, a paper on a unique anomaly in the blood-supply of the human thyroid gland, by Mr. Mendy Wulfsohn was presented:

A description is given of a unique variation in the blood supply of the thyroid gland of an adult Bantu-speaking male. The anomaly consists of an accessory right inferior thyroid artery, which supplies both sides of the thyroid gland. It arises in common with the right internal mammary artery, and after separating from the latter at a low level pursues a superficial recurrent course. An embryological explanation of the anomaly is suggested."

Further papers from the staff of the Anatomy and Physiology Departments included a nutritional study of bread by Professor Gillman, Dr. Gilbert and Miss I. Spence; papers on the lower jaws of extinct and extant human beings; and Kaokoveld Strandlopers, by Professor Dart; Dr. Tobias' papers on the Chromosomal number of the Chacma Baboon; the Taaibosch Koranas and a note on a Bushman-European hybrid family; a survey of the os Incae and metopic suture in South African ethnic groups by

ctd. at foot of clmn 1.

# SPORT IN DOLDRUMS

For the last 3 or 4 weeks, those of us who have been following the Wits 1st Rugby team have been treated to a steadily deteriorating standard of play. However, on Saturday against Diggers, there was a resurgance of the play that had delighted crowds earlier in the season. Playing with 5 reserves, the backs and forwards combined excellently. Newcomer Alf Brown, on the wing made an excellent debut both kicking penalties and conversion, and with intelligent play. Mike Garms has not had a better game for a long time. Had it not been for three rather childish errors, all of which lead to tries under the post for Digger, Wits would easily have won.

The trouble with Wits, in my opinion, is the bad tackling. If men would tackle their opponents immediately, and not accompany them down the field, Wits would get far better results. It is not a point of inability to tackle, nor is it fear of tackling for I have seen every member of this team produce great tackles at various times.

For a number of years now, at Rugby General Meetings, various members have advocated the obtaining of a tackling bag. The sooner this is obtained, the better the standard will be, hence the fewer tries Wits will give away unnecessarily.

Now to come to the really important complaint. It is an unfortunate trend of Varsity sport that, once the Winter Vac is over, players, in various sports, for a variety of bad excuses, decide that it is not worth their while to come to practise anymore. The excuses usually heard to account for this are many and varied, ranging from the "Exams-are-getting-closer" to the "I've-played-enough-sport-this-winter" type of thing. It is very noticeable that every year at this time, one sees in the results in brief column the following sort of thing: "XYZ w.o. Wits. Univ. scr." That this should happen to clubs of this University is a disgrace, and I appeal to all players to continue playing till the end of the season.

Our colleague Manfred Puler, earlier, predicted great things for Brian Peers. These were fulfilled when last week, Brian won the Southern Transvaal Cross-Country Championship. We looked forward to his repeating the feat last Saturday in the Northern Transvaal Championship. However, due to a misunderstanding Brian arrived at the wrong swimming bath to start the race and when the mistake was discovered, it was too late. Bad luck!

One of these days, perhaps Medical Intervarsity will come. A short while ago, Dental Intervarsity occurred, Wits Dental may not have been particularly successful but they at least improved the spirit existing between Wits and Tuks; everbody had a good time.

Now, with respect, All Sports Committee has been as lax this year as last year. We have had little inter-class sport, so let us at least have a Medical Intervarsity. I believe a meeting was held recently of the All Sports Council in this respect. The results of this meeting remain shrouded in mystery. Let us hope the veil will be drawn aside soon, and these weighty deliberations given the light of day.

A. Jaffe

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# Sporting Profiles.

## CHRIS RACHANIS

King of the Wits sportways, student, scholar and journalist - that is Chris Rachanis.

With more blues to his credit than he can count, Chris must be one of the best all-round sportsmen Wits has ever known.

Chris received his education at Benoni High where he played 1st team soccer and tennis.

At Wits Chris has been one of the wrestling club's main stalwarts over the last few year. He has represented Combined 'Varsities twice at wrestling and has been awarded his half-blue five times.

At soccer too, Chris is no rabbit. From this branch of his sporting activities he has received two half-blues and has represented Combined 'Varsities.

As if this is not enough he has represented Wits on the Athletic field - but no blue as yet!

In spite of all this, Chris has still found time to study. For to his credit he has B.A. and B.Sc. degrees and is now doing second year medicine.

On the last S.R.C., Chris represented the Science Faculty and at present is on the S.R.C. as the Chairman of the All Sports Council.

For most people all this achievement would be enough, but not for Chris. New jobs, new sports, all come to him as a matter of course and he regards it all as just another days work.

By the way, he was a past Sport's Editor (for the last three years) of Wits. Student. Does this make him a professional?

M. Puler

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