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1947-05
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MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY
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The Auricle

Official Organ of the Medical Students, Witwatersrand University.

Vol 13. No. 3. —— 14th MAY, 1947 —— Price 2d.

MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY
Please help to relieve unavoidable congestion at refectory by adhering to the session times.

BIG CONFERENCE AT MEDICAL SCHOOL

STUDENTS ORGANISE THEMSELVES

IT has become almost a tradition that the Students' Medical Council arranges a conference every year on some aspect of Medical Science or Medical Conditions in South Africa. Those students who have been at the University long enough will surely remember the Conferences which have been held in the last three years. Each year the conference has evoked more and more interest among the medical profession. It has served to show the public that we, as Medical Students, are not only narrowly interested in symptoms, signs and treatment, but also that we are acutely aware of the difficulties facing the Medical Profession and Public of South Africa, and that we have an intense desire to remedy these faults.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

"Medical Education in South Africa" is the subject of this year's Conference. On the surface it appears to be disinteresting and unpromising as the basis for a conference. It is in truth of the greatest importance to all students. We are all dissatisfied with certain aspects of our training, particularly inadequate being the post-graduate facilities available in this country. These points and a great many others will be discussed at length by the excellent speakers who have been invited to present papers to the conference.

FUTURE HOPE

Although it may appear that this subject cannot now possibly affect even the most junior of us, we must remember that all hope lies in the future, and that we will in all probability be the teachers of the future in the Medical Educational System of South Africa. In addition to the lecture sessions, tours to the Alexandra Health Centre, and the Fordsburg Community Centre have been arranged for the delegates. It is thus obvious that this conference is full of promise.

Students! Wake up to your responsibilities as Doctors and Teachers of the future. Crawl out of your shells of apathy and let this year's conference be remembered in years to come, as the memory of it's predecessors lingers on and on in the mind o. all those who attended past conferences.

The conference will be held from May 14th—May 17th. The First Session will be held at Medical House, Esselen Street, at 8.15 p.m.

H.B.K. and B.M.F.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT PASSED

MEDICAL SCHOOL, Wednesday.

THE vexed question of compulsory housemanships has now been finalised and whatever any Socratarian Medical students may now think or do will not avail him nor his brethren. The S.M.C. has had an Internships Committee functioning for over one year now. On April 29th, 1947, a meeting was held between the Students' Medical Council and the Representatives of the Medical and Dental Council, the final result of which has now come into the hands of an Auricle reporter. Notices have been up at Medical School for some time stating the position, but apparently this meeting clarified many shaky points. By Act of Parliament —Act 14 of 1946—Compulsory Housemanships start as from 1st November, 1948.

POSITION CLARIFIED

The idea emanated ten years ago from Wits. students themselves, when questionnaires were given in the Goodenough Report. Owing to the war these operations stayed on the shelf. But now they have been taken down, dusted, and polished up and are now placed in the dubious hands of medical students.

The Medical Council is taking steps to provide adequate housemanship positions. However, it is clearly stated that this is not the responsibility of the Council. If "extreme" difficulty is experienced, the Council has been given power to deal individually and sympathetically with such cases.

Tramelled by the above impedimenta the young doctor may also find that he has to serve a longer period than one year as an intern, if the Council is not satisfied about the individual at the end of his one intern year.

INTERNES ONLY

Only if a person, who qualifies overseas, satisfies the Council that he has served an interne year, will he be able to register. It is stated, too, that housemen in S.A. are paid more than anywhere else in the world!

Great hopes were held that a national body of medical students would act in liaison with the Medical Association of S.A., as exists in Britain to-day. The Medical Council will not succour a national body of students, but rather consult this body if necessary, and is under no obligation to such a body.

THE EDITOR.

NEW PROFESSOR APPOINTED

S.M.C. Office, Thursday.

WE at Medical School congratulate Professor Heyns on his appointment as Professor of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at Wits. Professor O. S. Heyns spent five years at the Cape Town University, where he obtained his B.A. and B.Sc. and then his M.A. in Physiology. He went to the University College Hospital in London and did his clinical studies there. He qualified in M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and later worked for his M.B., B.S. He also obtained his M.R.C.O.G. in London. In 1945 he received his D.Sc. (Rand) for his work on "A critical analysis of the Bantu pelvis with special reference to the female."

Altogether he has studied in and has been associated with six universities: Witwatersrand, Cape Town, London, Belfast in Northern Ireland, Edinburgh and Manchester.

It was in 1938 that he came to Johannesburg and set up in private practice as a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology. In 1938 he joined the staff of Wits. Medical School as a senior lecturer. In March, 1947, he was appointed full-time Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at Wits.

EXTENSIVE RESEARCH

He has done extensive research work which includes such important subjects as: "The Anatomy of the Bantu Pelvis," "Uterine Powers", and has initiated investigation into "Human foetal respiration." This latter subject has been extensively investigated in animals but very little work has been done on the human foetus up till now.

Professor Heyns has been granted a full-time research technician by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and is getting out a man from the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford. It is hoped to gain a place in the Empire for the Witwatersrand Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology mainly on the foundation of future research.

Negotiations are being entered into to have eminent obstetricians from Britain to act as external examiners in the near future. This will help to bring our local standards into line with those of overseas universities and thus assure our graduates of a certain confidence in their training.

Continued at foot of next column

Social and Cultural Boom

STUDENTS' INTEREST

MEDICAL SCHOOL, Tuesday.

LOOKING around at Medical School, one cannot help but feel the changed atmosphere created by the participation of more and more students in more and more social and cultural enterprises. The malaise which necessarily followed years of war has spent itself and students at Medical School and at the University are sitting up and taking notice.

SOCIETIES FLOURISH

Never before have there been so many societies and clubs, so many researches and so much humanitarian work, as flourish in our midst to-day. Those of you to whom 'Varsity is "merely a collection of over-crowded, uncomfortable lecture rooms conveniently (or otherwise) slung together in the same locality", those of you who do not thrill to the emotion aroused by membership of our young growing still thriving medical school, — to you, I say, look around, lift up your eyes and discern the spirit actuating your fellow-students.

Do you know, for example, the work of the students exerting themselves for human betterment at non-European hospitals and townships, the labours of those who seek knowledge from these sources to apply and practice and ameliorate? If you do not, it is my sincere conviction that you are missing nine-tenths of the adventure and the fullness of real 'Varsity' life. But your numbers are getting fewer and the ranks of your more fortunate colleagues are swelling . . . .

N.U.S.A.S. CONFERENCE

As witness of this, I may cite the subjects chosen for the forthcoming **N.U.S.A.S. Research Conference,** to be held at Capetown from 30th June to 4th July Listen to the main headings of the research programme: Housing for the Common Man, and Community Life, the latter embracing Community Centres Health Centres and Adult Education. Over 150 students from twelve universities and colleges will meet to discuss these topics and to formulate plans for more research and more work. What do these subjects indicate?

This certainly shows that the Annual Conference is intended to be something more than a glorious opportunity for South African students to get together and paint the town red. No, on the contrary, — it provides an opportunity for research into the immediate practical and pressing problems of the country. From this research, who can tell but important contributions may be made to research and knowledge on the issues confronting South Africa with such urgency to-day. In this way, even the puny student can aid, serve and advance the welfare of the land. As our Stoep Philosopher used to say: "Dit laat 'n mens dink!"

PHILIP V. TOBIAS



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MEDICALS VISIT SPRINGFIELD

From Our Correspondents, B.M.F. and O.M.

DURING the past week we were fortunate to be among a party of students who attended a course arranged by the N.U.S.A.S. Health Group at the Springfield Health Centre in Durban. This institution is one of many that the Government is erecting all over the Union and whose aim it is to treat disease from a preventative rather than a curative aspect. It is, however, of additional importance in that, apart from its duties as a health centre, it acts as a training centre and turns out staffs to maintain these Government institutions. Doctors, too, attend courses in socialised medicine, but the main emphasis is on the training of Health Assistants, who as agents in health services came as a novelty to us students.

The course that Dr. Sydney Kark, the director of the centre, had arranged for us consisted of lectures, tours, inspections and discussions on the organisation and functions of the Health Centre.

We were shown the importance of obtaining a full and concise history of the family group. A general discussion on the family was routinely held by all members of the centre, and any treatment that was advocated for any individual had to be agreed upon by all the staff. Annual health examinations are performed regularly on each member of the community. Great importance is attached to this and various persuasive methods are employed to see that the people attend regularly.

BABY DEVELOPMENT

The centre takes great interest in the health and development of the baby and the pre-school child, and the centre Psychologist plays an important part here in diagnosing and correcting developmental defects at the earliest possible time. For the pre-school child a nursery school is maintained where child guidance is dispensed and free meals are supplied.

Several tours were also arranged enabling us to examine some of the living conditions of the Indian community at Springfield. These, as may be expected, are very bad; poverty was usually extreme and cleanliness seldom found. Living under such conditions, the health centre must certainly have come as a blessing.

The greatest single event of the week was probably the visit to the Friends and the Sick Association (F.O.S.A.) contact T.B. settlement. This institution which caters for the Indian community, owes its success entirely to one individual and his wife Paul and Nell Sykes. This settlement admits all T.B. contacts and convalescents, feeds them and houses them until all possibility of their contracting or spreading the disease has been eliminated.

One aspect of health centres that stood out very clearly was the aggravating and frustrating antagonism between the Union Government, the Provincial Authorities and the Town Corporation. For example, the Durban Corporation's ambulance can go no further than the city's boundary, so that any person dangerously ill 500 yards further away either gets to the boundary under his own steam or dies where he is. Also these Government health centres are not allowed to maintain a hospital, as hospitals are controlled by the Provincial Councils. There could be no doubt in our minds when we left of the urgent necessity of control of Medical Services in the country by the Union Government itself.

We have also come to the conclusion that to practice medicine in South Africa a knowledge of the tribal customs and beliefs of the Africans and the caste systems of the Indians is essential. We feel that a course covering these matters should be introduced into our medical curriculum. In future we hope to organise visits to Springfield and other health centres during our vacations.

RAIDS ON T.U.C.S.

From Our News Editor.

Our raids on Tukkies and vice-versa have been adversely criticised in the Daily Press recently. Apparently we are merely copying the example of London hospitals, who used to hold pitched battles in the old days, and our one aim is to hammer each other and inflict as much material damage in the process as possible.

Those of us who took part in the raids have been cruelly misled. We imagined that we were journeying to Pretoria in an attempt to capture the T.U.C. cheer leader, with possibly one or two mascots, the idea being to demoralise their support for Inter-'Varsity. But no, all our raid committee was after were their college gates and university steps.

„DOBBELARY"

HIERDIE dobbelary besigheid is nou nie juis 'n kind wat uit die moderne mens se verlange tot skielike rykdom verhewe is nie. Ek is byna seker dat ek erens gelees het dat die dobbelaarsgees al uit in die verre verlede bestaan het; dit wil se, toe daardie fris kerels, die Grieke en Romeine, nog die baas oor die wereld gespeel het. Hulle het nie alleen hulle skatte in die waagskaal gestel nie, maar soms ook hul lewens. (Ek hoop dat nog 'n Latynse of Grieksegeleerde hiermee oorhoop le.) Nou ja, om soiets te verrig moet 'n man darem fier van gees wees, met die dobbel-liefde soos soetwyn in sy are.

Waarom sal ons dan vandag so 'n bohaai opskop as 'n man 'n tien-sjieling nootjie op 'n perd wil waag, al is dit dan die volgende week se drankgeldjies. Dit sou nogal tot voordeel strek, want uit die drank kom net hoofpyn, en uit die „bookie" miskien 'n paar pond.

Maar om nou oor 'n saak te gesels wat my na aan die hart le, d.w.s., die invoering van 'n Staatslotery in Suid-Afrika. Ek het die saak nou al uit alle oogpunte beskou en ek kan daar geen kwaad in sien nie. Die nudele waarop so baie handhawers van ons morele wys, is nou myns insiens, pure kaf. As hulle teen die lotery is, behoort hulle net so seer teen perde- en hondereisies gekant te wees maar tog is baie van hulle op die reisiesbane te sien.

Die voordele van 'n Staatslotery oortref die sogenaamde euwels. Met die laaste Rhodesiese lotery bv. is byna £26,00 vir hospitale en ander publieke inrigtings in Rhodesie beskikbaar gestel. Die oorgrote meerderheid van hierdie geld is uit die Unie afkomstig. Waarom bestee ons dit dan nie aan ons eie inrigtings nie? Daar is b.v. duisende natuurelle vir wie daar geen hospitaalgeriewe bestaan nie, dus neem hulle hulle toevlug tot toordokters.

VRYE HOSPITALE

Die Provinsiale regering dreig alweer met nuwe belastings om vir die vrye hospitaal skema te betaal, terwyl sulke groot somme op 'n skinkbord aangebied word. Dit is nou maar die menselike natuur om teen belastings gekant te wees. Neem 'n man se pond as belasting en daar is geraas en gebrom en dreigemente om vir die „ander party" te stem, maar gee hom 'n kans om 'n ietsie terug te kry, en hy sal die pond lag-lag betaal. Dit is 'n goeie ding vir ons landsbestuurders om te onthou, dat die gewildheid van enige Regering van sy handelswyse met betrekking tot belastings afhang.

Daar is weer ander wat se dat 'n arm man nie sal weet wat om met so'n groot bedrag te maak as hy die eerste prys wen nie. Nou vra ek jou, geagte leser! Daar is natuurlik altyd gekke in die wereld. Party van hulle word skatryk gebore en gaan vrekarm dood, so dis nie net die ryk man wat geld kan hanteer nie. Myns insiens is dat die meeste mense wat lotery-kaartjies uitneem, presies weet wat hulle met die geld wil doen as hulle miskien n prys wen — huiskoop, plaaskoop, verband afbetaal, ens. Dink aan die geluk wat soiets kan teweegbring. Waarom dan altyd n mens in die duisternis van die armoede wil afdruk.

Die wat daarteen gekant is om gemeende godsdienstige redes — is dit nie Godswil dat almal moet vrolik wees nie, en vry van sorge oor die dag van more? Dit is n welbekende feit dat wonderwerke nie meer aan die orde van die dag is nie. Daar sal dus geen geld deur die skoorsteen val waar daar bitter peinsings is hoe om geld vir die huishuur, kos, klere en miskien nog dokters-onkoste te kry nie. Gee dan aan sulke mense tog net die hoop, op sigself 'n pragtige ding wat die oe laat glinster en die gelaatskleur blos, en wie weet dat hulle loterykaartjie nie miskien die sleutel tot 'n stralende toekoms hou nie.

Dus, uit die weg met die teenstribbelaars, meeste van wie self n kaartjie in die binnesak verberg, en laat ons n lotery instel. Die voordele is enorm.

L. GRIESSEL.

Breathes there a man with a soul so dead
Who never turned around and said:
"Mmmmm, not bad!"

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THE DESCENT OF MAN

Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree,
Discussing things as they are said to be.
Said one to the others, "Now, listen, you two,
There's a certain rumour that can't be true,
That man descended from our noble race,
The very idea is a disgrace.
No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Or starved her babies and ruined her life,
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk,
Or pass them on from one to another,
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.
And another thing you'll never see,
A monk build a fence round a cocoanut tree,
And let the cocoanuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monks to taste;
Why, if I'd put a fence round a cocoanut tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me;
Here's another thing a monk won't do—
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun or club or knife,
To take some other monkey's life.
Yes, man descended — the 'ornery cuss,
But, brother, he didn't descend from us."

WANTED

Old gramophone records needed urgently by Social Services Society Depot, S.M.C. Office.

PRIZES

The prize of 10/- for the best (T)Ruthless Rhyme goes to Mr. H. D. Friedberg of fifth year. Another prize of 10/- is offered for the best (T)Ruthless Rhyme for the next issue.

While doing a P.M. Doc B - - - - -
Said, while wielding his knife
like a wrecker,
"To describe this condition,
"Requires the discretion,
'The wit and sagacity of Flecker."

A prize of 2/6 goes to Mr. J. Abelson of third year for the best joke received this issue. Every issue carries a similar chance for you.

Friend: Why did you name your son Opium?

Mother: When he was born I looked through the dictionary and found the word Opium, meaning "the juice of a wild poppy" and was his Poppy wild!

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STOP PRESS

Mr. Raikes has informed the Conference Committee that arrangements have been made to cancel any classes which may conflict with the holding of the conference on May 14th—17th.

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SEXES MIXED

THERE is no "weaker sex" nowadays. A woman in greasy overalls wielding a spanner no longer causes a raising of the male eyebrow, while some of them are even capable of driving a motor car. So is there any reason why a man should not knit an occasional sweater for his girl-friend, or effect all necessary repairs to his own socks?

Be that as it may, I confess without shame that I am master of the needle. It holds no more terrors for me. Other fellows may not even know one end of the implement from the other, but I have reached the stage where I can claim to be fairly proficient in most branches of the sartorial industry; at any rate, I do not throw away a pair of socks when large apertures appear in the region of the toe, nor do I parcel them off to Mother. Let your minds travel back three years with me, and I shall explain how I came to be independent of the female species.

The scene is a ward of a military hospital in Durban, where I am undergoing a period of enforced idleness. Observe the spectacle of a boy who used to pull schoolgirls' pigtails in his youth ,and scornfully designated anything connected with "skirts" as sissy-stuff, busily engaged in the most feminine of all female pursuits — sewing! Enjoying it, too! And look at that collection of felt toys on my bedside locker. Gremlins predominate — that is because they are so popular with nurses! Some have beautifully coloured wings and legs, with wicked-looking red horns, while a few are plain, made from one shade of material only. There are cheeky little Scotty dogs in colours which one never sees even in one's most inebriated moments; but cutest of all, a green and yellow kangaroo with twin kangaroolets peeping out of the pouch.

Now turn and look at the fellow in the bed across the way. Even if the flowing black beard did not betray his identity, the blue coat with twin gold bands on the sleeves, which is hanging over the back of his chair, tells you that you are in the presence of an officer in the King's Navee. Such a rugged, handsome type, of about 200 pounds gross tonnage, with fingers like a bunch of bananas! Probably he has never before in his life wielded anything less innocuous than a marlin-spike, yet, believe it or not, this husky is busy on a fine piece of tapestry, and making a good job of it, too.

In the bed next to him, with his left leg encased in plaster-of-paris, is a young-looking individual whose intelligent appearance immediately stamps him as an Air Force type. He has eighty-eight reasons for being in hospital — all of them millimetres — and with obvious pride he is holding out a gorgeous rug for the inspection of a frail old lady sitting beside him. Piet has been busy on that rug for the past fortnight, and now he has it finished in time for his Mother's birthday.

Well, you hardly expected to find such a cheerful hive of industry in a hospital, did you? Possibly, when I asked you to come and look us up, you imagined that you would find an atmosphere of gloom and boredom, in which you would have to make scintillating conversation to cheer a crowd of boys who were confined to bed with nothing to do, and were depressed.

No, that may have been the case before Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy came to stay. But now our surgeons and physicians have realised that merely patching up a broken body is not sufficient; it is just as necessary to attend to the patients' mental well-being, and make them interested in some hobby which will, if necessary, exercise stiff muscles and joints. The hospital mentioned earlier was equipped with wood and metal workshops. Stiff legs were toned up on fretwork treadle machines, fractured wrists and arms were exercised in the use of lathes, saws and planes, and all the time, the patients' thoughts were occupied, and prevented from dwelling on the unpleasant circumstances which landed them in hospital.

Occupational therapists & Physiotherapists are now recognised to be equally as important as the Docs. who administer drugs and wield scalpels. So let's give a big hand to the gals in our midst who are studying these sciences chaps; and remember that it is only through close co-operation with them in later life that the highest ideals of our profession will be realised.

T. COLLINS

All contributions to the "Auricle" must bear the name of the author, and if possible, should be typewritten.
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ATHLETICS SECOND RATE

BY OUR SPORTS EDITOR

THE athletic team Wits. sent to Cape Town to compete for the Dalrymple Cup put up a very poor show. It is a shame that at a University where there are 5,000 students, we are only able to get together a second-rate athletic team. I do not say that all the members were second-rate, but very few of the twelve selected athletes can really be called athletes.

In the year before the war, when Wit's students numbered about 2,500 we were recognised as having a strong athletic team, which won the cup several times. Surely to-day, we should be able to find some athletes amongst the apathetic students a Wits. There are many students who did well at Track Meetings at their respective schools; but now they are too busy (or lazy) to take an active interest in anything apart from their studies, women and cards.

It is about time we returned the Cup to Wits., so how about waking up and getting down to training for the next Inter-University Track Meeting? I say get down to training now, as you must be completely unfit due to your being inactive for so long.

The above applies to any women athletes we have as well. The Wits. members who are to be congratulated for getting places are:

Tromp (1st in Discus).
Huyser (3rd in Shot-Putt.)
Walker (3rd in 440 yards).
Broome (3rd in High Jump).
Rabinowitz (3rd in 2 Miles).

Wits came 4th with 9 points, being 46 points behind the winners, U.C.T. The 'Varsities we beat were Rhodes, Potch., O.F.S., and Natal. All these have not half as many students as Wits.

Now to come to a sphere of sport where we are able to hold our own.

Firstly, congratulations to Oberholtzer on being selected to play for Transvaal against Western Province last week. He played exceptionally well in this game, where his kicking was superb, scoring 11 of Transvaal's 14 points.

The Wits. Rugby team, thanks to the excellent coaching of the former Springbok, Marice Zimmerman, are doing very well. They visited Rhodes at the end of last month and won their game by 7 points to 6. Oberholtzer put over a penalty and Human kicked a drop.

In the Pirates Grand Challenge Competition Wits. are at present at the head of the log. They have played three games; drew with Crown Mines, 9—9; beat Randfontein, 13—3; beat Simmer and Jack, 24—16.

The third game was the best seen at Ellis Park this season. There was fast open Rugby and our forwards were outstanding. Although our pack was the lighter they more than held their own in the tight scrums. They excelled in the loose scrums and a feature of the game was the short hand-to-hand passing amongst them.

The Wits. three-quarters are playing well and the halves look as if they will develop into a formidable pair.

I hope the team does not slacken off by the end of the season as happened last year after a brilliant start.

The Medicals in the Wits 1st XV are: Oberholtzer, Carey, Fix and Stein. The last-named played in the Summer game as MacDonald was injured.

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