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The Auricle

Official Organ of the Medical School, Witwatersrand University.

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THE WAY TO FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE

A LIVING WAR MEMORIAL

ONE of our Roving Reporters obtained this article written by Dr. C. C. P. Anning, C.B.E., M.A., D.P.H., Chairman, National Executive, National War Memorial Health Foundation.

As Medical Students, after the very first year of our training, we are led down the path to the cemetery and the post-mortem room, we are taught to think in terms of disease, of human disrepair, of uneasy living. We learn about pathology, the science of the diseased body, the use of drugs and of surgical procedures to bring relief to the unfit. Our whole approach to the study of our life's work is conditioned by the all-importance of ill-health. Since we as doctors, are brought up along these dark ways, it is hardly surprising that the general public continues to think of medical services as synonymous with disease services, and our so-called health services as catering merely for the prevention of disease.

FROM THE BEGINNING

When our troops in Italy and the Middle East, waiting to come home after the fighting had ended, began talking among themselves about health in South Africa and called for a Living War Memorial, their thoughts turned largely to the provision of more clinics and hospital beds and relief for the diseased. But it did not take them long to appreciate that if such a memorial is to be lasting, as well as living, it should develop along long-term lines, along the lines of the promotion of health rather than of the patching up of the already unfit.

This broad, and sensible, slant to the proposals which came down from C.M.F. and M.E.F. was confirmed when the originators of the living memorial began discussing their ideas and ideals down here at home. They found that Government (Central, Provincial and Local) has a clear responsibility laid upon it by the people to provide all those services which deal with disease—the diagnosis, the treatment and the prevention of disease — but that no Government body has been given any executive responsibility to provide services for the promotion of health. The Gluckman Commission Report, indeed, made recommendations about the provision of promotive health services, but those recommendations have not been implemented. Government "Health Centres," for example, for many years to come, will be more than fully occupied with the provision of preventive and curative health services, dealing as best they can with the legacies of ill-health from the past. But of the essential promotive health services it is necessary for the Minister of Health to refer to our needs in this respect as going "far beyond those for which the State is responsible; the State does not and cannot assume responsibility for them all."

FIGHT FOR HEALTH

So the National War Memorial Health Foundation takes up the cudgels for health, becomes the organisation which will attempt to discover health for South Africa. It will do this by intelligently showing which are the factors in life which lead us along the downward path from health to disease, by practical demonstration as to how those adverse factors can be overcome and health achieved, individually and communally, when they have been overcome. Nutrition, physical recreation, mental recreation, environment — these are but a few of the many facets of the health promotive picture. The achievement of health in our time is not merely a medical problem; for its solution the Foundation must call also on the sociologist, the economist, the agriculturist, the teacher and the industrialist.

The Foundation will investigate health; it will provide facilities to overcome the present shortage of health workers, of all races, from nutrition workers to physical training instructors, from nursery school teachers to medical students; it will develop People's Centres, lying alongside Government curative "Health" centres, in which the Foundation will show, practically, how health can be achieved; it will educate and organise this living memorial, it will commemorate the name of those who died in the War.

THE VITAL MATERIAL

This is our National War Memorial. A grand concept. But the sound and the practical application of that concept lies in your hands and mine. The Foundation wants every man and woman of intelligence and goodwill to take a share in its development—first by becoming a member (5/- up to £10 10s. sent to P.O. Box 8446, Johannesburg), and secondly by taking a lively and constructive interest in what will become the co-ordinating centre of the battle for health in our land.

SIGNING OF PEACE TREATY

RAG DAY TRUCE

Our correspondent learns that an important treaty is to be signed by representatives of College House and Cottesloe on Rag Day. This pact will not be subject to the veto, and is expected to be a guarantee of peace between the two residences, who have, in the past, had sharp differences of opinion over the trusteeship of Phineas resulting in various "incidents" in which Cottesloe patrols penetrated College territory.

Reports indicate that under the agreement Phineas will become the joint property of both residences, and that the results of the annual inter-residence rugby matches will decide which of the two is actually to be responsible for his safety during the ensuing years.

It appears certain that the signing of the Rag Treaty will be commemorated by a public appearance of Phineas on April 26th, and this is undoubtedly to be a great privilege for the citizens of Johannesburg. Those in authority have expressed the hope, therefore, that all students will ensure that the public pays heavily for this privilege, thus swelling the funds for a worthy cause.

AURICLE SMALLS

—o—

TICKETS at 5/- and 3/6 are still available for "Beyond the Horizon" on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th, at 8.15 p.m.

MATINEE.—Seats for "Beyond the Horizon" on Saturday afternoon only cost 2/- each.

MEDICAL COUNCIL TAKES ACTION

Our correspondent heard that the S.A. Medical Council is taking active steps to attempt to establish a system of travelling professors and lectureships — including matters of general research. It is hoped that scientists from overseas will visit the Union.

STUDENTS EFFORT

Apart from the possibility that other Universities may not accept the scheme of having Visiting Lecturers, some form of autonomy under N.U.S.A.S. may have to be devised for participating Universities in order to prevent complete collapse. Special disadvantages face Medical School. Most Medical students look forward to a reasonably frequent series of visits, which will be of sufficient duration to provide an important stimulus in the relevant departments, a stimulus that will reverberate on all the students that pass through those departments. But our share of visitors will be very small. N.U.S.A.S. and this University should devise some scheme which will give Medical School the fair benefit of an idea that originated in Medical School.

DR. BROOM

The S.M.C., in collaboration with the Science Students' Council, held a reception on Wednesday, 16th April, in honour of Dr. ROBERT BROOM, one of the world's leading palaeontologists. Dr. Broom recently celebrated his eightieth birthday and the two Councils felt that a tribute should be paid to this remarkable figure by Wits. students.

Despite his age, Dr. Broom is still extremely active in his research work.

"The Auricle" extends to Dr. Broom a very hearty "Congratulations!"

MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY

Please leave lunch tables as soon as you have finished eating.

Please help to relieve unavoidable congestion by adhering to fixed session times.

Will those not having FULL LUNCHES between twelve and two PLEASE take their food upstairs.

EDITORIAL

THE EDITOR LOOKS THROUGH CONTACT LENSES

THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE

THAT a doctor has to come before a Medical Council for alleged offences, and not before a court, offends against the democratic principles of justice. In any country where democratic justice prevails there is a definite division between legislative, judicial and executive powers. But these are massed together in the case of the Medical Council. They make the laws that affect the Medical Practitioner and students. They sit in judgment on them if necessary. Is it natural justice that a small body of people can receive complaints made by a complainant, then frame the charge, prosecute, hear its own side of the case presented by its own representative, and then deliver judgment on all the issues of the case? The answer is obviously NO; it is clearly evident that the whole point of an unbiassed bench of judges is missed.

The solution lies in bringing a doctor charged with offences under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act before the Supreme Court, where the bench would consist of a judge sitting with two assessors. By this means justice would be meted out by a person who is specially trained for the purpose — i.e., a judge — and not by doctors who have only been trained in health problems.

"NO TAXES WITHOUT REPRESENTATION"

Surely it sounds logical to any impartial observer that at least the recognised body representing nearly 1,000 medical students should have easy and free access as of right to give opinions, criticisms and suggestions to the people who control the affairs vitally affecting each one of the 1,000. But as far as can be discovered, this is not the case. Students may be young, but they still have the ideas. I say "as of right," because students are required to register with the Medical Council in second year and pay £2 2s.

However, it is hoped that the S.M.C. will meet the Medical Council in the near future and that this will start a strong bond of alliance and co-operation.

COMPLIMENTS

The front rows are full and even the "back-benchers" are there. That is the sort of attendances at student society meetings at Medical School now. The societies concerned are to be complimented on such roof-raising successes.

WARD ROUNDS AND CLERKING ONLY

Yes, we must now do a compulsory housemanship. It is for the obvious reason that the newly qualified is deficient in his accoutrement. If, instead of one year of surgical or medical clerking, three months of solid surgical or medical clerking were instituted, more might be learnt, especially more practical detail. In that time only clerking and ward rounds would fill the time to the exclusion of the present large number of lectures, and of all other subjects. This will allow time for the student not only to locate the spines of L4 and L5, but also to finish the lumbar puncture without missing a lecture, ward round, etc., where registers are often taken.

NO STUDENTS

"Only students allotted to be on duty are allowed to be in this Casualty." Some students, acutely desiring knowledge, looked down a shaking, long finger pointing to this notice. They were chucked out! This acute obstruction dampened all further ardour; no more were they pregnant with desire. Don't you, as a student, think that a sharp scalpel should be used to effect a quick cure?

(Cont. on next column)

(Cont. from previous column)

NO MORE WARD ROUNDS

Like heavily burdened slaves the medicals toil under the blazing sun of the taskmaster. Yes, they are kicked out of the wards, out of theatre and at theatre. A Chief noticed that a certain number of students were absent at the surgery ward round. These few were attending an Urology ward round and doing Anaesthetics, as was required by their time-table. Thereupon without much ado, all further ward rounds for that whole firm were cancelled. Obviously something is wrong. And who carries the baby again? The students, as usual. What is now the students' position if the other Chiefs decide upon similar measures?

STUDENTS CONDEMNED

Where are they? So few were at the general meeting of all medical students recently, when lectures, etc., were specially cancelled for the purpose, that the Dean, in his address, had recourse to remark on it—a shame on students. It is obvious that the bulk of students demand so much and give so little, an antithesis to the true Hippocratic type of doctor.

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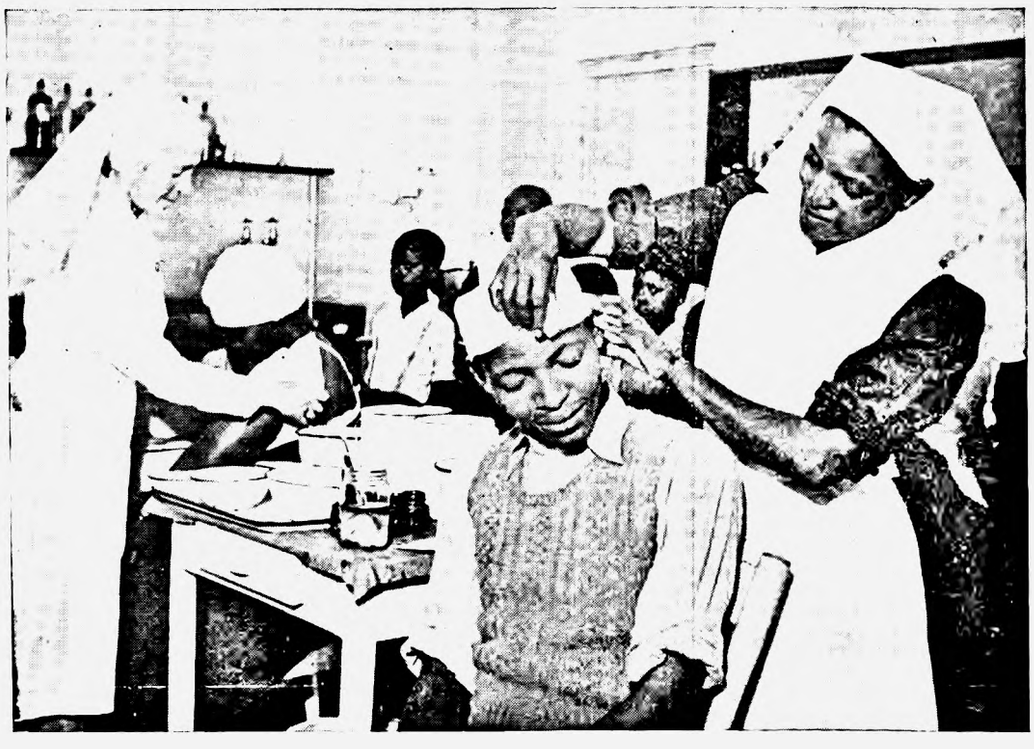
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ALEXANDRA CLINIC

—o—

From our Reporter:

Sixteen years ago the present Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic began as a two-roomed dressing station. To-day it attends to 11,000 patients per year, employs four district nurses, runs clinics and attempts to combat the ravages of disease among the 65,000 inhabitants. While there, I saw medical students carrying out mass vaccinations against smallpox amongst the squatters.



RAG DAY

MILNER PARK, FRIDAY.

I learnt to my surprise, when I visited Rag Offices, that the actual Rag Committee consists of only eleven. This handful have "headliner" schemes ahead. The beneficiaries, the Fordsburg Community Health Centre, Alexandra Clinic and the Social Services Society, are expected to receive £20,000 this year, an atomic blast on previous figures. Instead of a Court of Injustice as in previous years, shares at twenty-one shillings each are being sold to the public in a Company called THE GESONDHEID CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SERVICES, UNLIMITED, whose objects are to help the beneficiaries. There is no raffle this year. Instead people are asked to guess (2/6 per guess) how far a brand new Nash will go on 100 gallons of petrol. A correct guess and . .

Sixty floats will give a demonstration of student ideas on "This Topsy-Turvey World."

SOCIAL SERVICES SOCIETY

The majority of our readers are by now familiar with the work of the Social Services Society, but for the benefit of those who are not, here is a brief survey of its activities. In 1942 the Society was instituted to provide patients at the Non-European Hospital with some form of recreation. Since then the scope of the work has vastly increased. The Society runs a Nursery School, and employs teachers who instruct patients in the wards. Entertainments are provided, for example, by showing films. Another section of the work is the Research Scheme, run by the Drs. Gillman under the auspices of the Society. The Drs. Gillman are investigating malnutrition among the Bantu. This year activities will be extended to the Coronation Hospital, where the first project will be the inception of a nursery school.

Throughout its career the Society has been run by Medical students, and it needs their support in every way.

The Committee earnestly seeks the active interest of all students, and will welcome suggestions for improvement and help in any other way possible.

The Society has been a beneficiary of Rag since 1943, and the funds thus received have made possible the enormous development of the last few years.

FINAL YEARS ONLY

At the Annual General Meeting of the Medical Graduate Association the following motion was passed:—

"That the Constitution of the Medical Graduate Association be amended to allow members of the final year class in Medicine to become student members of the Association at an annual fee of 7/6."

The advantages of such a motion are (a) to enable students to obtain a free issue of the journal "Current Medicine," wherein extracts of the latest advances in medicine, etc., are taken from journals all over the world; (b) to attend the meetings and symposia (where they will be allowed to vote); (c) to introduce students into the fold of their qualified colleagues.

FORDSBURG CLINIC

FROM OUR REPORTER W. SAVAGE

In this, the fourth year of its existence, the Fordsburg Clinic has a membership of 750, less than in the past, due to a re-enrolment scheme some time ago, when most of the inactive members fell away. Membership costs 2/6 yearly for adults and 6d. for children — purely token fees.

First and foremost, the clinic is a health-promoting centre. Actually it is an integration of Government and Community Health Centres. Particular stress is laid on preventive rather than curative medicine, and as a result the annual health examination is a compulsory condition of membership. This examination is both thorough and comprehensive, and to ensure this, a full-time social worker visits all members' homes and collects any information which may be of importance to the examination, beforehand.

I was especially impressed with the doctor's clinic. It's amazing what one can do with one room when one tries. Besides ordinary health examinations, ante- and post-natal clinics are conducted here, as is the baby clinic, which is probably unique in that the welfare of the child is here followed up between the all-important but usually neglected age groups of 1 to 5.

Vaccinations are done, and Dr. Gordon, the full-time Medical Officer, is experimenting on the as yet unproven whooping-cough serum.

The centre has its own dietician, who advises members. Balanced meals are served to 80 people a day in the European communal restaurant, the only one of its kind in the country. Meals cost only 9d. A typical one consists of soup, sausage, beetroot, potatoes, squash, prunes and custard.

In addition to the above, 40 free meals are also served daily to recommended children. By a pooling scheme, a housewife may purchase as much as 7/- worth of vegetables for 2/6.

The centre shows an annual loss of over £1,000 on this scheme, half of which it must make up itself.

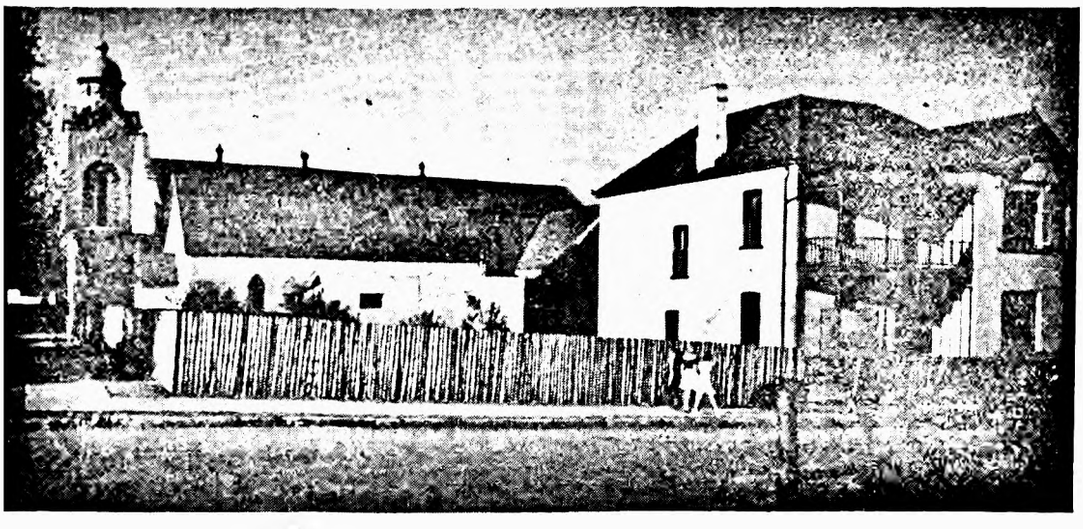
There are ample facilities for recreation. An old church has been converted into as spacious a gym as any I have seen. Members are divided into junior and senior sections and equal attention is paid to both physical and cultural activities. Thus in the senior group there is boxing, weight-lifting, ju-jitsu, folk-dancing and handicraft on one hand, with educational film-shows, discussion groups, an outing group that attends all plays presented in town, and a large library on the other.

The junior section has similar facilities, but meritorious and needy children receive special aid.

For every single group there is a qualified instructor. These cost money to employ. Big money. In fact, the Clinic costs £11,000 yearly to run. Rag only brings in about half this amount That is why we must give more freely.

A word here for the staff. Without exception I found them pleasant, willing and able. To them, I am sure, must go all the credit for the clinic's undisputed success. But Mrs. Joseph, the director, and her aides have bigger plans yet, and it is our duty and privilege to help these plans to fruition. Having brought our baby to being, let's help it flourish.

FORDSBURG CLINIC



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"BEYOND THE HORIZON"

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

S.M.C. Office, Thursday.

Last night the great hall witnessed the opening of this year's Medical School Dramatic Society's "Beyond the Horizon" — a Pulitzer Prize play written by Eugene O'Neill. This play, designed to delight the hearts of all Thespians, will test the histrionic abilities of the players to the utmost.

THE ACID TEST

Behind the bespectacled, rather harassed face of energetic **Walter Hatchuel** (Chairman of Dramatic Society) lies a brain which has been working overtime, squeezing the last ounce of blood from the rocks of his little band so that the entertainment offered to you, Mr. and Miss Student, on 16th-19th April is of the firts flight, up to Hippocratic standards.



Arnold Linken

The natural choice of the male lead was, of course, **Arnold Linken, ruggedly** handsome fourth year Ex-serviceman, who scored such a deserved success in last year's "The Long Mirror." Arnold's acting was then acclaimed by the local press as being "a natural," and his sensitivity, deportment, fineness of diction, grace and purposefulness of gesture is undergoing the acid test in portraying ROBERT, a role which the author himself described once as his most exacting play yet written.

Opposite him is pretty PAT MOORE, another old stalwart of the Medical School Players. The part of RUTH demands a delicate sense of reacting to the moods of Robert, and a more fitting partner to Arnold could not be found in these environs...

Supporting Ruth and Robert are six medicos. MICHAEL TONKIN, as James Mayo, with MURIEL RICHTER, as Mrs. Mayo, are the married couple; DENNIS KELLY plays Captain Scott; JOE SIEGENBURG, as Dr. Fawcett will be the envy of those final years who take the evening off from their endometrioses (Boy! If I had that bedside manner!). MARY DAVES-HOCKEY portrays Mrs. Atkins, and rich-voiced GERALD PHILLIPS is Andrew. The Milky Way must feel small in comparison.

These are the boys and girls who have the limelight, and they sure seemed to know their oats when your correspondent dropped in unobserved, unexpected and unconvinced at a rehearsal last week. In the queer unreality of the stage (which reminds me — those **lighting effects** have to be seen to be believed) they were being bullied by a little man who had the energy of Superman's kid brother. That little man is DAVID GOLDBLATT, the producer. If we were Yanks we'd have his name up in lights all over 'Varsity. The producer is the man who makes or breaks the show, and David Goldblatt is the man who made "The Little Minister" a couple of years ago, so he is no stranger to us.

In every project there's always someone to do the donkey-work, to get all the kicks and precious few of the ha'pence. So "The Auricle" is doffing its metaphorical headgear to two unhonoured, unwept and unsung heroes, or rather heroines, who are doing a great deal to make this effort a success. Vivacious PEGGY IRWIN is stage managing — keeping to the wings where in former years she had the footlights — making the temperamental stars toe the line. The job of Business Manager is taken by quiet JOAN WAGNER, who always gets such a lot done in such an unassuming manner. Joan is the lassie who pulled this paper's finances out of the ditch way back in '45. So you can see the beneficiary is going to get every penny possible.

The beneficiary is, of course, the same as last year — the ALEXANDRA CLINIC, one of U.W.M.S.'s own brain-children.



David Goldblatt

Last year, Freddie Frankel and his boys set up a record of £251 clear profit, and this year they are trying to beat that. But it's up to you, dear reader, to see that they are not hampered by apathy.

If you are one of those who think that the play is up to the previously set high standard of mediocrity, be there to air your views and your innate superiority. If, on the other hand, you are a normal person, rest assured it won't be a waste of time. Come along to the senior cultural affair of Medical School's social life and the Dramatic Society promises you a good evening's entertainment.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

Dr. P. A. W. Cook, Director of the National Bureau of Education and Social Research, will probably help to spread the ideals of U.N.E.S.C.O. (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in his talk to medical students shortly. This talk is to be arranged under the auspices of NUSAS.

HISTORY

The History of Medicine Society has ventured upon a threefold programme this year. (1) Formal lectures; (2) A student research group (where students themselves will give the talks) and (3) Facilities for field work in the development of hospitalisation in South Africa, in local tribal customs, and etc. Watch the Notice Boards!

MEDICAL EDUCATION

"Medical Education in S.A." is the important and vital topic of this year's S.M.C. Conference to be held from May 14-18th at Medical House. To-day, as new Medical Schools are being planned and the present ones reorganised, a guide will be obtained from this forum of experts on the principles of the training of the future doctor.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The Medical School Science and Research Society and NUSAS Science and Agriculture branches have included in this year's programme visits to laboratories and Crown Mines, showing of films and spectacular talks such as that given by a scientist, Mr. W. E. Campbell, on the "Atomic Bomb," and that by Prof. Pijper on "The Shape and Motility of Organisms."

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SECOND YEARS FACING TRIALS

PUNISHMENT RESENTED

BY OUR NEWS EDITOR.

THE second-years were rather lost in Medical School during their first few days, but now they know from habit when to descend to the slums for an interesting hour of Physiology, and when their presence is required by the Histology department in the Vesalian lecture theatre.

MURMURS

Histology — that calls to mind a murmur of resentment which is heard around the labs. Apparently there are some among these newcomers who think of the department in terms of the policy of a fellow named Hitler who lived some years ago. One of the most endearing traits of this Hitler was his belief in collective punishment, and when any of his followers were shot or otherwise persuaded to contemplate the great beyond by citizens of countries under his protection, he would mete out similar treatment to large numbers of those citizens.

The grumblers in our midst attempt to draw a parallel between this form of punishment, and the policy of the Histo. department in penalising whole sections of students when one of their slides is missed after a prac.; and they further disagree with the man who threatens the exclusion of a section from the old dissection hall merely for leaving their lights burning.

There have been one or two suggestions advanced for preventing any of our slides from being reported missing, and the best appears to be this: that, since students always occupy the same places in the lab., a roll of their names in the order in which they sit be compiled, and then it will be an easy matter for the assistant to make an appropriate mark against each name when handing out a slide, and another when this is returned. Of course, it is not desired to place any extra burdens on the staff, and hence it was further suggested that the representative of each section should compile the necessary register.

ANTIVIVISECTIONIST

Up the stairs, somewhere to the left, there is a large recreation hall, vulgarly designated the "frog-lab." by an irreverent few, where the grateful students are allowed to stick pins into frogs, and enjoy the entrancing spectacle of the stupid little creatures' last struggles. These usually endure for fifteen or twenty minutes, and, if the student is extremely fortunate, as long as half an hour. Naturally, one or two have on occasion been unfortunate enough to destroy the spinal cords of the animals comparatively quickly, thus depriving themselves of the day's pleasures. However, there is a plentiful supply of frogs, and they can always try again.

We have only one more small piece to say before dashing back to the dissection hall to see if we have switched off our lights.

Lest it appear from the foregoing that the second-years are exacting towards those in authority, and tolerant of themselves, we would point out that there are a few in our midst whose behaviour has not been beyond reproach.

The students in question apparently have only a shallow interest in their studies, and are not as much concerned about acquiring knowledge as they are in leaving the lecture theatres punctually. On several occasions they have rudely interrupted a lecturer with cries of "Time!" when he has exceeded his limit by one or two minutes. To say the least, this betrays a lack of good manners; and we suggest to those responsible that they stay away from lectures altogether if they are not sufficiently interested in their studies to miss their morning or afternoon teas once in a while.

Almost as bad are the habitual late-comers. It may sound incredible, but two people actually had the audacity to walk into a class as the lecturer was gathering up his papers to depart! We all understand that on rare occasions the alarm clock fails to do its duty, or the baby plays up longer than usual; but it will be appreciated by the majority if the offenders make an effort to arrive as punctually as they like to depart.



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(T) Ruthless Rhymes

CONDUCTED BY LESLIE I. WEINER

THE idea of running a "Ruthless Rhyme Competition" is absolutely original. True, similar contests have already been conducted with marked success by publications such as the "Forum" and the "New Statesman," but, believe it or not, WE thought of the scheme long before our great and illustrious contemporaries. It was only the fear that our idea might be copied by other journals that made us postpone our venture until this late date. There is now no possibility of this happening, since most other publications have already featured competitions of a similar nature . . .

The "Auricle" offers a prize of 10s. for the best (T)RUTHLESS RHYME written by a student in conformity with the following simple rules:

(1) The rhyme must be in the form of a limerick (similar to those appearing below).
(2) It must mention, as the last word in either the 1st, 2nd or 5th lines, the Christian name or surname of a member of the Medical School or Hospital Honorary staffs.
(3) It must have some bearing on the speciality of the person mentioned.
(4) It must be RUTHLESS, or TRUTHLESS, or preferably BOTH.
(5) It must NOT be malicious. The ruthlessness or truthlessness must be sufficiently absurd as to make its "non-maliciousness" obvious.
(6) Entries ust be handed in to the S.M.C. office before April 30th.

So go to it, you budding "poets." The rhymes are very easy to write (especially if you are a manic-depressive), and you have ample material to hand in the form of Professors, Lecturers (or are they all students these days?), Big Chiefs, Lesser Chiefs, Deputy Lesser Chiefs, or Acting Assistant Additional Deputy Lesser Chiefs, etc. Composing them might be a good temporary substitute for the poker usually played by the back-benchers during lectures, or even for attendance at P.M.'s or ward-rounds. I am sure that the low-grade imbecile responsible for a really good (T)RUTHLESS RHYME is not likely to be missed by the authorities concerned.

Personally I composed all of the following rhymes, trying to fall off to sleep at night. I found the practice an amazing cure for insomnia, especially trying to find rhymes for such names as PESKIN and BREBNER. When even this method failed, I just read over the couple of rhymes I had already written, and, hey presto, in a few moments I was asleep. I intend naming this "sleeping mixture" the "3 R's" — "writing ruthless rhymes."

Which brings me to my final point. Unlike the samples printed below, PLEASE make your rhymes FUNNY. I tried to do the same with mine, but, as you all know, I am far too serious minded for such stupid pastimes.

She consulted our friend Dr. Gxxx,
Who agreed that her heart sounded queer—
Her spirits were low—
So what do you know!
He injected a bottle of beer!

She'd broken his heart — and it hurt,
So he went to a surgeon named Kxxx—
To make it heal faster—
He put it in plaster—
How it knocks when he flirts with a skirt!

The expert on Jaundice is Sxxxx
Who thinks there is nothing more jolly
Than proving that all
That we know about gall
Is bunk, and the greatest of folly.

Because she had terrible pains—
They called in a doctor called Hxxxx—
He first of all washed her—
Then jumped on and squashed her—
And out shot the bag of membranes!

Said Kaplan to Dr. Guy Exxxxx:
"You tink I vill get maybe vell yet?"
Said Prof: "Go and revil—
Since Hitler's the Devil—
He won't let you guys into hell yet!"

"Prognosis is nil," said Doc Oxxxxx—
I fear that your B.P. has soared man!
You'll soon be withdrawn
To the ward of Prof. Strxxxx"
The patient just muttered: "Good Lord man!"

"I am an old Scot called Sim Pilton—
My hernia is scrotal, Doc Wxxxxx—
My large sac of gut
On my knees does abut—
How funny I look with my kilt on!"

L.I.W.

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THE ATOM BOMB

THE blast from each of the Atomic Bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945, was more than 2,000 times that caused by the largest bomb ever used in warfare, and each was more powerful than 20,000 tons of T.N.T. Out of 556,000 inhabitants, 70,000 were killed and 200,000 injured.

We are indebted to Mr. P. V. Tobias for the following letter:

Having recently seen a report quoted from the Atomic Bomb Casualty Committee, I thought your readers might like to know some interesting findings that have been recorded. The Commission operating in Hiroshima and Nagasaki reports that some abnormalities and malformations are occurring among children recently born to atom bomb victims.

"No great avalanche of abnormalities has occurred," the report said, "and it is too early to estimate the full effect of the atomic bomb on the descendants of the victims. Some abnormalities of a recessive type may not show up among the descendants for several generations." Nevertheless, Japanese midwives have reported numerous cases of malformation in infants born prematurely to victims of atom blasts. Most of these babies were born dead.

As far as I can ascertain, these results provide the first recorded series of cases in which the hereditary make-up of the human being has probably been altered by radiation. That hereditary characteristics can be so altered has been known since 1927, when H. J. Muller, a Nobel Prize winner, first successfully induced mutations in controlled experiments, using X-rays on the fruit-fly (Drosophila). These original findings have been confirmed over and over again in many insects, small mammals and plants. It is noteworthy that many plants in the bombed areas have undergone a change in the colouration of their leaves as a result of the atomic radiation.

However, an important feature of all such experiments which have hitherto been carried out is that not every individual has been obviously affected. Presumably not every germ-cell is affected, while those that are, are not all affected similarly. It is the nett result which shows a significant change. This is so because animals and plants have a natural rate of mutation expressible as a percentage. When X-rays or other forms of radiation are applied, this mutation rate increases significantly—and often the increase is different for different specific mutations.

Realising this, it is easy for one to see why the Commission's report made special mention of the fact that "there has been no great deluge of malformed offspring." All that is necessary in order to establish that the abnormalities are due to the radiation effects is to ascertain (i) which of the malformations are hereditary; and (ii) whether there has been a significant increase in the rate at which these malformations arise. With these aims in view, the Commission has announced plans for a long-term study of the effects of atomic bomb radiation on descendants of the victims.

MORE SPORTSMEN NEEDED

NOW that all the Sports Clubs have had their Annual General Meetings, sporting activities will be carried on in an organised manner.

Soccer Club: Soccer practices are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.45 p.m. There is a shortage of players and all new players will be welcomed. The following four teams, 1st XI, 2nd XI, U21 and U18, will be entered in the various leagues. Turn out and shoot a goal.

Boxing and Wrestling Club: This club did very well last year and it now has its own Gym. at Milner Park. At present, however, training takes place on Wednesdays and Fridays at 4.45 p.m. at the swimming bath, as the Gym. is not wholly completed.

Turn up, you boxers and wrestlers, as there will be the Inter-University championships at Cape Town in July, and Wits would like to keep the Hadley Shield which they won last year! 'Varsity Championships will also be held during the year.

Squash Club: There will be a Squash match between a Medical School team and an Engineering team on Wednesday, April 16th. Come along and support your team.

Men's Hockey Club: Practices are held Wednesday and Friday at 4.45 p.m.

Women's Hockey Club: Practices are held on Tuesdays.

Athletic Club: On Saturday, April 19th, at the 'Varsity Track, there will be a large athletic meeting. There will be an invitation 440 yards and 880 yards. Training takes place at Milner Park every day at 5 p.m.

Rugby Club: Practices are held during the week and it seems as if the Wits. 1st XV under the able coaching of Mr. M. Zimmerman will do well in this year's Open Competition. The standard of Rugby at Wits. has always been good and this year will prove no exception.

Swimming: Wits. won the Roberts Trophy in the S.A. Universities Swimming Championships held at Pretoria on April 7th. U.C.T. were second, a long way behind the leaders.

D. V. Cohen (Medical), the South African breast-stroke champion, is to be congratulated as he set a new national record for the 200 yards individual medley race.

L. Klenerman (Medical) broke the 500 yards Inter-University record. He also won the men's 100 yards.

Miss P. Kincaid-Smith (Medical) won the women's 100 yards and also the women's medley. Both were won in record time.

D. Toerein of Wits. won the men's diving competition.

Baseball: A Wits. team visited the Cape and played games against U.C.T. and Stellenbosch. The team beat Stellenbosch but lost to U.C.T. Even though only the one game was won, it is a good sign that Wits. will do well in the future. Baseball at Wits. is very young, while the above two Universities have played baseball for the past 14 years.

Inter-'Varsity baseball may become an annual event.

Come on, Medicals, do not be lazy. Turn out for at least one of the above Clubs.

J. B. ABELSON.

"I AM A SKYSCRAPER"

SO he said. But he was quite small really; we never found out just what he thought "skyscraper" meant.

He was one of the seventy-odd Africans who come to the S.M.C.'s night school in the Hospital Compound, and, after a hard day's work, industriously apply themselves to the study of English grammar and the twelve times table.

They are very willing scholars, eager and appreciative — in a missive to his brother a Class Two pupil wrote: "Here from the school you get to lern, to right rid English and to speak — please to come to the School is good from me and for you."

Howlers are frequent; especially in the lower classes, where the pupils "have very little English." For example, the man who had to "sow a patch in his trousers"; or the man who said "Yesterday I spuck to my father," or he who wrote "Socrates was a wise and brave man. He spoked aboud trouth untell he died for it."

Howlers emanate from the upper classes too, of course. But here they are usually due, not to spelling and grammatical errors, but to faulty understanding of difficult words. "The doctor uses a microscope to look at the man's throat," "I always look with a microscope when I want to see a thing which is far away from me," and that prize specimen, "In the next holidays I will get two tins of microbe jam for my children."

Cass Four specializes in picturesque similes — "as quiet as a fish," "as quiet as water in a dam," "as quickly as a fly goes into the milk," "as thin as an old fox," "as thin as sickness."

Apart from four paid African teachers, most of the teachers are students. During the vac., teacher attendances fell off alarmingly. One pupil complained in an essay, "I was surpris yesterday when come to school is no Teachers. I was disappointment." Now we have more teachers than that; but we could do with still more. If you are interested, hand your name in at the S.M.C. Office.

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