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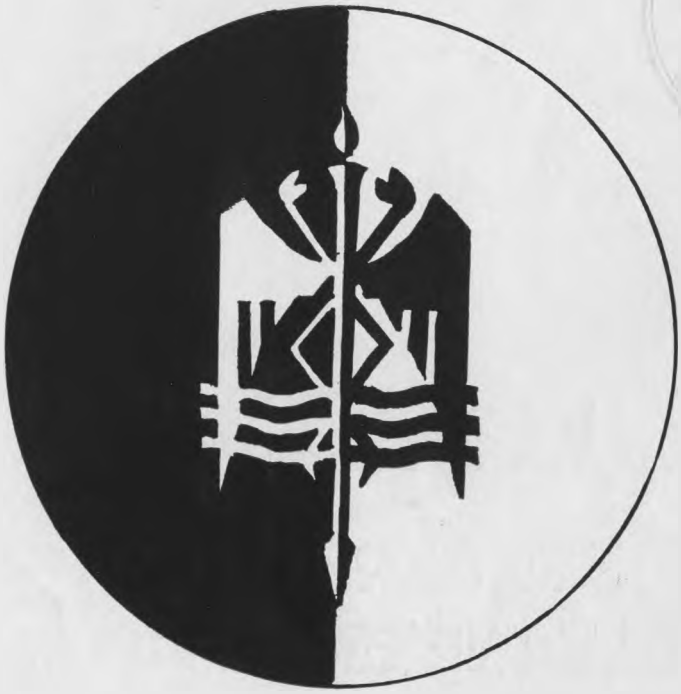
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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND MEDICAL SCHOOL

Vol 12. No. 7—OCTOBER 1961

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EDITORIAL

THIS being the last issue of the Auricle for 1961 it will merely be a report on activities at Medical School during the year. I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all students the very best of luck in the forthcoming examinations which are ominously lurking before us. On behalf of the student body I wish the final year students every success for the future and I am sure that pleasant and fruitful years await you all.

I cannot allow the last issue of Auricle to be published without saying a few words of thanks to certain people who were closely associated with it.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. G. Baise, without whose help this publication could never have been presented. He managed the business side of the Auricle most admirably and also contributed much of the copy presented in each issue. Secondly, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. H. Behr, our Art Editor, who spent many hours drawing the comic supplement. Each and every cartoon and block of the comic was original work and I think he deserves the highest praise for such a high standard of humour. Thirdly, I would like to thank all the Auricle representatives who were kind enough to sell the publication. Their job was not an easy one for anyone who has tried will know that a medical student would part with his girl friend rather than his money.

While on the subject of representatives I must make mention of Mrs. Mcnee who was in fact our "Chief Representative" collecting in the money and making sure it was banked. She was also ready to help with any problem that confronted us.

To the few students who contributed copy for publication and to the many who did fork out their 5c each issue, I would like to say that it was your enthusiasm which kept the Auricle going. Without the generosity of our advertisers, the Auricle would never have been printed and sold for so little to the students. Last but not least I wish to express my gratitude to Printmor Press who actually printed the magazine. Their assistance, advice, proficiency and expert workmanship made it a pleasure to associate with them.

In an earlier editorial I remarked on the student apathy which prevails at our Medical School. I must say that the Auricle was hard hit by this problem during the year. In fact the articles received from the student body during the year would not even have filled one Auricle, let alone seven. This completely defeats the basic aims and the purpose of the Auricle. I can only hope that this situation changes next year.

In conclusion I would like to wish the Editor for next year, whoever the insane gentleman may be, every success, and hope that his term of office may be as pleasant as mine was for me.

ARE WE DIFFERENT?

by DAVE NATHAN (Outgoing President, S.M.C.)

YES, this is a question to which I would like to find an answer—are we, the Wits Medical Students of 1961, different from our predecessors—different in our outlook towards student affairs, in our eagerness to acquire culture (in its broadest sense), and in our attitudes towards our work?

Let me explain:—Once upon a time, when I was in first year (which was not so long ago either), our class rep. announced that he had a limited number of tickets available for the coming Medical Ball, and the end of his announcement was drowned in the ensuing stampede to be one of the privileged ones to attend this event of the year. Even in second year I remember a queue outside the S.M.C. office, of students, most agitated lest the last of the tickets disappeared before they reached the head of the queue.

And now? The response to the ball was so poor this year that a large sum of money was lost—our money, the students' money, and what's more, these were the results of attempts to make up this loss:

(i) A Social—owing however to the poor student support, this social instead of making money, just lost a little more!

(ii) A Competition for a Welch-Allen diagnostic set (worth R55)—this also is in danger of falling through—only R10 worth of tickets have been sold.

What does all this indicate? That Medical Ball isn't worth going to anymore? Or that the students just "can't be bothered"? And lest you think that this is but a single dirty blotch on a background of heavenly blue, let me but mention a few other examples which worried me—take the Medics-Engineers sports function—once a highlight of the year, graced by the presence of many a member of staff; this year attended by a mere handful of spectators, most of whom were either mothers or girl-friends of the players; and I can't believe that the fault lay in the organisation of the function.

And what about the question of our S.M.C.? At one time it used to be a great privilege to be elected to this Council, and members felt a certain pride in being chosen to represent their fellow students—I know this sounds all high-falutin', but that's the way it was; whereas nowadays almost anybody can get voted onto council; I say "almost anybody" because I feel that many of those who get onto the council are not at all interested in student affairs, and very often have to be begged to take on jobs, for which, in previous years, there was always keen competition.

Then there always arises the question of lunch-hour meetings—is it worthwhile inviting speakers to Medical School, when the average turnout is 10 students; is it worthwhile organising a photographic competition when half the entries are from the staff and a large percentage of the remaining half from the organiser himself; is it worthwhile having elections when only 30—40% of the students vote; is it worthwhile fighting valiantly and vainly to keep a Refectory going when only about one third of the students support it; and when the news comes out that even this meagre facility is being demolished without replacement, and a petition is circulated, there are still students who refuse to sign, making such ridiculous statements as: "You S.M.C. want to have your cake and eat it," or "No thank you, you never know what can happen"? Is any of the work of the Council of Cultural Societies worthwhile, when the only thing which can draw a crowd is a Tom and Jerry cartoon festival or a visit from Blaar Coetzee M.P., while the presence of a prominent member of the community, running for election to Parliament, leaves an embarrassed chairman apologising for a poor attendance?

Why is it that when, four years ago, the Separate Universities Education Bill became public knowledge, 300 medical students could march down the hill en bloc to join the rest of the university in a protest march, whereas this year, when there was a protest in front of the Fort, the majority of our students marched in the opposite direction!

Where is all this leading to? Are all these examples I have given just facets of the behaviour of the latest and most modern type of medical student—motto "work, work, work . . . to hell with student activities, and if I fail, it is because I went to that lunch-hour concert by Themeli", or is it something more widespread, something deeper, something which is a symptom of a general feeling of resignation prevalent amongst most students in this country today, students whose motto is rather "work, work, work, for the quicker I finish my course and the less I have to do with politics, the better, for you never know what may happen in this country in a couple of years time." If this last assumption is correct, and it is my personal belief that this is the real reason for student apathy, then we are certainly in a sorry state, for not only are student affairs suffering, but each individual student is suffering even more—maybe things in this country are not all that they could be, but is this a reason to throw away the most marvellous opportunity any of us will ever have for educating ourselves in

spheres over and above that of our profession?

Finishing our course in six years with honours does not automatically make us good doctors—it's those students who participate in debates on general topics, who attend lectures on subjects quite unrelated to medicine, who are prepared to give up a little time to work for others—organising student activities, teaching in our Night School, and who are not afraid to stand up and fight for student rights, who in later life, in the hostile world, unprotected by the confines of Medical School, or the canopy of parental guidance and provision, will make their mark.—DAVE NATHAN, President (outgoing).

CONFERENCE

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the 19th Annual S.M.C. Conference to be held during May next year. The subject is to be "Human Heredity and Disease". This will be the first conference to be held on this topic in South Africa and is long overdue. Professor Tobias, being very interested in genetics has consented to be graduate chairman.

It is hoped that at least one, possibly more, students will present papers at conference aside from the usual preconference lectures. It is entirely up the clinical year students as well as the graduates in anatomy to think about the subject, decide what section they are interested in, and let the committee know by leaving a note at the S.M.C. offices. All suggestions will be considered.

Conference proper will be held over five evening sessions from Monday to Friday sometime during May. The sessions will be as follows:

1. General aspects of Genetics; Problems in the Study of Genetics, the concept of the Gene, etc.
2. Clinical Aspects: General Medicine. Psychiatric Medicine and Neurology.
4. Genetical aspects of Haematology.
5. Cancer, Leukaemia and Ionising Radiations.

Many papers will be presented by eminent local authorities in the fields of Medicine and Genetics. In addition we hope that at least one, possibly two, outstanding and interesting people will be coming here from overseas. No names can be mentioned at present. This venture will depend entirely on the support of the drug houses, without whose aid conference would not be possible.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

AS the year draws to its close, and examinations are near, a review of the year is likely to bring to mind many things undone. 1961 has, however, seen a few innovations in the Physiotherapy course.

The fourth years undertook the application of decompression at the Queen Vic, under the supervision of Dr. Samson. Later on in the year the 3rd years took over the ante-natal decompression clinic. The students also ran the ante-natal preparation classes. We provided a twenty-four hour a day decompression service and surprised many a medical student wandering through admissions and labour ward in the small hours of the morning.

The Therapy Council had its first year of life, under chairmanship of Mr. Taitz. Although their plan for the establishment of a Student's Rehabilitation Centre, was vetoed, we hope future projects will be successful. We are still hoping that lectures on conditions applicable to physiotherapy treatment and the rationale of these treatments will be given in the near future to all 5th and 6th year medical students.

This year we were sorry to lose Miss Weinberg from the staff. She was married in June. We welcome Mrs. Horsley who has now joined the staff and hope that she fares well at the hands of the ward students. During June a member of staff came down to earth rather suddenly while horseback riding and was incapacitated for several weeks but thank to PHYSIOTHERAPY she is now fully recovered.

The Second Annual Witwatersrand Physiotherapy Graduate Dinner was held in August at the station. A committee of final years again organised it and it was a great success. Therapy Ball, in conjunction with the Occupational Therapists and the Logopaedics students was held at the Cranbrooke Hotel. Unfortunately it was poorly attended, in spite of the alliance of the three groups.

On the romantic side, four final years announced their engagements, namely—

Bridget Duncan Brown (in February).
Claudine Hansson (in March).
Beryle Greenwood (in June).
Miranda Crous (in August).

Beryle Greenwood surprised all by getting married in July and spending her honeymoon travelling back to 'varsity!

Cecil Taitz became the first parent in the final year class, being presented with a son in August.

The third and fourth years start examinations at the beginning of November and best of luck goes to them and to all the first and second year students.

Z. P. GIEMRE, IV year Physio.

Facts Revealed at the Final S.M.C. Meeting

Name Plates: to be worn by clinical year students. Following a letter from Professor du Plessis, meetings were held with both Professors du Plessis and Elliott and it was decided that this scheme should be implemented but purely on a voluntary basis, owing to the fact that many students were against the idea.

Conference: Mr. Colman presented an outline for next year's Conference — subject "Genetics and Medicine" and was given permission to continue with the arrangements.

Lockers: The Locker room at the Hospital has been demolished and students' lockers have been removed to the new Common Room near the Hospital gate. The Refectory is also being kept open now until midnight every night to allow students to use the lockers up until this time.

Library: Students' complaints were conveyed to the Library Committee by the S.M.C., but apart from informal verbal discussions there was no official reply.

Transport to outlying hospitals: Complaints re non-European transport were conveyed to the Dean's Office, and through them, to the Vice-Principal, who has informed us that non-European students may now use the student transport in the mornings until special arrangements are made.

New Medical School Buildings: Eventually these seem to be materialising. It remains for us to continue the fight for student facilities. There is a rumour that a new Medical School per se and not just three floors is to be erected.

Sporting Activities: Once again this side of student activities was highly successful. The winning of the Engineers-Medics Annual Trophy bringing the year's sport to a triumphant close.

Medical Ball: This was itself a milestone in the fact that it was held on a non-segregated basis. Various means, including a Social, Film Shows and the raffle of a diagnostic set, were used in an attempt to make up the loss incurred.

Therapy Council: This Council apparently got off to a good start, but unfortunately owing to our lack of communication with the Therapy Rep., it has been difficult to follow its progress.

Refectory: Until July the Refectory was run under S.M.C. control by Mrs. Adams. During the month of August Mrs. Simon took over the running as a private enterprise, but as from 1st September it is now closed completely. After many years of continual drainage of S.M.C. finances this facility for students has eventually reached an ignominious end.

Medical Education: A comprehensive and eye-opening report was presented to the last meeting and it is hoped that the facts presented will not be lost on future students.

Purchase of Piano: A piano was purchased for the sum of R400.00.

Leech: This journal continues to maintain a high standard of which we can be proud.

Word Book: Arrangements were made for the Word Book to include Afrikaans and Pretoria University is now busy with this.

Alexandra Health Centre: During the six weeks (August 28th-October 9th) during which no final year students were officially present at Alextndra Clinic the S.M.C. arranged a roster of Final Year and Fifth Year students who helped at the clinic and succeeded in maintaining a high standard of service to the inhabitants of the Township.

A.M.S.S.A.: A highly successful Refresher Course and Conference were held in July in Durban and we have the honour of having the President and a member of the Executive for the coming year at our Medical School.

Conference: The Annual Conference was held in May and arrangements are already under way for next year's Conference under the Chairmanship of Mr. Colman.

Ties: The extension of tie privileges to 2nd and 3rd year students was accepted and a new tie design for this purpose will be used. The clinical tie remains in its old status.

Clinics: An enthusiastic meeting was held with Prof. Peacock in an attempt to re-start a form of clinic to be run by students and present developments indicate that this may become a reality in the near future.

S.V.L.T.F.: A meeting was held with the Heads of the Departments of Anatomy and Physiology to discuss the visiting lecturer for one of these departments for 1962. The Psychiatry Department will also have a visiting lecturer during 1962.

A.M.S.T.F.: The passing of this Fund from our Medical School and University was one of the sadder events of this year. Since its conception it has done a tremendous amount for African medical students and in its dissolution we have lost the benefits of a great and worthy fund.

Alteration in Lunch Hour: It was proposed that our lunch hour should be altered to conform with that down the hill. After much discussion on this subject it was eventually decided to leave the lunch hour as it is.

Any 2nd year students planning to hold a function in the medical graduates' hall will have to furnish a R50 deposit before permission will be granted. This only applies to 2nd year students.

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SPORT REPORT

On Thursday, the 6th the Engineers-Medics Inter faculty sports were successfully held. Unfortunately because the Engineers could not take an afternoon off the sports were limited to four games.

For the first time in the three years history of the sports the Medics came off as top dogs. The main rugger match started with the points score of 4-5 in their favour. As the main game counted for 3 points one can imagine the tense, electric feeling in the crowd, for the winner of this game would win the trophy. After a thrilling gamee our side clinched the series by winning 11-6. Our first team stars really shone in the Medics convincing win.

The games were followed by a well-organised beer and braai. Unfortunately this was not well attended by medics.

OTHER RESULTS

Soccer — Medics 4, Engineers 1 (2 points).
Hockey — Medics 4, Engineers 1 (2 points).
Squash — Medics 1, Engineers 4 (2 points).
2nd Rugby — Medics 6, Engineers 8 (2 points).
Old Crocks Rugby — Medics 5, Engineers 8 (1 point).

Unfortunately our Squash stars were unable to play. As we have no less than 5 of the University players we are convinced that under favourable circumstances we could put up a much better showing.

Ian D. Samson
(Chairman, All Sports Council)

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge with thanks the following publications and apologise for any inadvertant omissions:

Wits Student.
Torque.
Cathartic.
Die Spekulum.
The Charing Cross Hospital Gazette.
The Student.
The Fulcrum.

Hansom went to Atlantic City with his bride on their honeymoon. For days no one saw hide or tail of them. On the morning of the fifth day they entered the dining room. The waiter approached them for the order. She turned to her husband coyly. "You know what I like, honey, don't you?" "Yes, I know," he replied impatiently, "But we've got to eat some time."

* * *

And have you heard of the boy who had high blonde pressure?

BRIEF POINTS

BRIEF POINTS FROM CLASS REP'S REPORTS

First Year—R. Rosenbaum

The number of failures in June was very high. Four students have left since the beginning of the year. In April the class party was successfully held in the Canteen, and there is the possibility of yet another class party before the end of the year. It is suggested that the first years be allowed to vote members to the S.M.C.

☆

Second Year—C. Frankel

Twenty-five students were brought before the University Disciplinary Committee on charges of attending or disorderly conduct at a party organized for a table doctor to celebrate his engagement. Fines of R3, R6, R7 and R14 were imposed.

The class rep. remarked that a large number of lecturers have left both the Anatomy and Physiology Departments with inadequate facilities resulting in several extremely poor lectures during the year.

It is suggested that it is made possible for Second and Third Year students to make use of the journals in the library.

☆

Third Year—S. Issroff

The new physiology course has in some respects been successful but in other respects a failure. Student attendance in physiology, psychology, preventive medicine and medicine was very poor. Students are apparently very reticent to attend any subject that suffers from a lack of an exam.

☆

Fourth Year—J. Fleming

The departure of Professor Peacock has left the Preventive Medicine Department rather disorganized, and several badly-attended lectures on subjects apparently unrelated to Preventive Medicine have been given.

The class is now being subjected to a number of extra Forensic Medicine lectures in order to complete the course.

The Clinical Pathology exams have already been held and it seems that a large percentage of the class will be "giving it a go" in January again.

A new scheme has been implemented whereby 4th years go to the Queen Vic for 2 nights.

☆

Fifth Year—C. Smart.

Before entering final year the class still has to write tests in Medicine and Surgery, but not Obstetrics.

Also there are two students who must

still hand in their Clin. Path essay otherwise some Regulation or other will be enforced.

After the results and threats of assault it was with reluctance that Mr. Smart accepted the Class Rep. position for 1962.

☆

Final Year—M. Maisels

The class is mostly pre-occupied with the forthcoming examinations.

Arrangements for a class dinner are proceeding smoothly.

It is with regret that we contemplate the scattering of one's colleagues with whom one has been associated for a number of years to various parts of the country as well as the world as a whole.

THE TWELVE LITTLE BOTTLES

I had 12 bottles of whisky in my cellar, and my wife told me to empty the contents down the sink "or else." So I said I would and proceeded with the unpleasant task.

I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle, and did likewise, with the exception of one glass which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and emptied the good old booze down the sink, with the exception of one glass which I drank.

I then pulled the cork out from the fourth sink and poured the bottle down the glass which I drank. I then pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink of it, and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle. I then pulled the next cork from my throat and poured the sink down the bottle and drank the glass. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the sink, and drank the pour.

When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand and counted the bottles and corks and glasses with the other which were 29. To be sure I counted them again when they came by and I had 74, and as the house came by I counted them again. Finally I had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses counted except for the one house and one bottle which I drank.

I am not under the alcofluence of incohol, as some thinkle peep I am, nor am I half so think as they drunk I am, but I fool so feelish I don't know who is me, and the drunker I stand the longer I get.

LET'S CHUCKLE

"What did you say this morning, professor?"

"Nothing."

"Of course. But how did you express it this time?"

* * *

A movie patron peered at the girl in the ticket booth and said, "Did I understand you to say that it costs R1.20 to see this movie?"

"That's right," answered the cashier.

"A double feature perhaps?"

"No, just one picture."

"Technicolour?"

"No, not this picture."

"Cinerama, then?"

"No" said the cashier wearily, "it's not cinerama."

"Bingo."

"No Bingo."

"Giving dishes away maybe?"

"No dishes."

"So what's playing that should cost R1.20?"

"The story of Doctor Wassel."

"Doctor Wassel, eh? What is he, a specialist?"

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This Newsletter is published by:
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