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THE AURICLE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL, WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY.
VOL 2. No. 20. THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1950. PRICE 1d.

DURBAN REJOINS NUSAS.

NEW ERA OF ACTIVITY FOR NATIONAL UNION.

At a general meeting of Durban students, Durban's notice of disaffiliation was withdrawn by 77 votes to 34. This latest development is warmly welcomed by all the supporters of NUSAS.

This step ushers in a new era in the activities of the National Union. Since the revitalisation of NUSAS in the post-war period, there has been a wave of disaffiliations; Rhodes, Cape Town, and then Durban. Fortunately, all grievances have now been righted and all these three centres are now very much back in the field of national student affairs. It is widely thought within the ranks of the national student organisation that not for many a long year has NUSAS been so strong and so united, ready to tackle the numerous problems which face the student community of this country.

It is indeed very interesting to draw attention to the statement which was issued by the student body of Natal University (Durban) on rejoining NUSAS: "In withdrawing our notice of disaffiliation, we must make it clear that we do so because NUSAS provides an open forum for the official representatives of the constituent universities, as well as offering certain practical advantages to student members. It is not because we hold the same views as the majority of the constituent members of NUSAS". Here we have very forcibly brought home to us, the fact that NUSAS is not merely a body of students which exists to foster the interests of those who think alike on student problems, but it is an organisation of students who have but one characteristic in common, namely, their studentship. The ranks of NUSAS are open to any student, irrespective of his politics, colour or religion, and it is only on this basis that a united students' Union can ever hope to achieve success in this country fraught with so many problems of human relationships.

We look forward to a year of fruitful student ventures by a considerably strengthened NUSAS.

G.S.G.

AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIPS JEOPARDISED!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR TEN BOB?

It is of vital importance that the African Medical Scholarships Trust Fund should receive as much money as possible, as soon as possible. Many students have forgotten to hand in the slips stating whether they were prepared to support this Fund, and which were supposed to have been returned before the 15th July. There is however, every facility for this money to be paid to the Fund. The secretary of the S.M.C. has consented to receive these 10/- at the S.M.C. Office.

(We have just heard that the S.M.C. donated £25. and the use of office facilities to the AMSTF.)

Unless the Fund is to be unable to award any bursaries in 1951, it will have to swell its finances very considerably before the end of the year. We are relying on the student levy for a good proportion of this extra money. May the traditionally liberal section of the Wits. student body show that they hold the principles for which they have voted in the past, sufficiently dearly to be willing to contribute a single 10/- note to the cause of African Medical Education.

It is interesting to note that the South African mission to study hospitals in Central Africa were impressed with the need to enable the African to serve his own people more adequately. The AMSTF. is one of the avenues through which this need may be satisfied.

G.S. Getz.
Chairman - A.M.S.T.F.

SEND YOUR EFFORTS IN, AND WE'LL PUBLISH THEM.

AURICLE

THURSDAY 17TH. AUGUST.

A HEARTY PAT ON THE BACK.

Medicals returning from their July hibernation found that not all their colleagues had spent the Vac. in blissful relaxation. They discovered that members of the Science Society had worked long hours, often late into the wintry night, at the preparations for Prehistory Week. They are to be congratulated on an excellent effort. The exhibition showing the development of life to its highest forms has attracted keen interest from many quarters, while the series of lectures has been well and enthusiastically attended. It is doubtful whether most of us really expected that such good results could have been achieved without professional supervision.

What has happened should induce every student "mightily to think", as the French would say. We have seen before us two interesting and instructive phenomena. Firstly, it has been shown that a valuable contribution can be made to the cultural and scientific progress of the student and of the citizen, by a small student group with limited resources, but with strong enthusiasm. Secondly there have been signs of a reduction in the old bogey of apathy among us. Even the most unobservant must have noticed that medical students formed the greater part of the audiences at lectures, showing by their intense interest, anything but apathy. At the exhibition too, the inmates of Medical School have been in the vanguard of those eager to look up their ancestors. Since it is unlikely that medicals have undergone a dramatic change in outlook, this improvement must be ascribed to the competent way in which Prehistory Week was organised and presented.

We need more events of this type, events presented in an interesting and well-illustrated manner, and backed by the most eminent experts in the field. Constant lectures and note-taking are very apt to produce feelings of tiredness, leading on to a desire for something unique and stimulating in the midst of the academic routine. The response of students is an illustration of this need, and a hearty pat on the back, with a promise of active aid to future undertakings, is due to all who made it possible.

B.B.B.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

One of the most promising features of recent years, in regard to Wits.-Tuks. relationship, was witnessed last Saturday morning. At the lecture given by Dr. Broom, one was more than pleasantly surprised to find almost half the audience in blue, red and gold blazers - whether these people were forced to attend, one cannot say - but in either event this is a promising sign, particularly as Non-European Wits. students were in attendance as well. I would therefore like to congratulate the organisers of the lecture for extending an invitation to the Tuks. students. BUT MORE IMPORTANT, I see this as a first step to improved relations with that stronghold of academic segregation. I urge the S.M.C., therefore, to arrange more lectures of this type, particularly through the V.L.T.F., who should make every effort to secure some of the expected visitors to the combined B.M.A. and S.A.M.A. Conference at Wits., July 1951. It goes without saying that if these, and any other lectures are sufficient attraction, even Tuks. students, if invited, would attend, and in this way we may alter the state of affairs at present.

Sincerely,
B.R.M.

(Cont. from page 4 Col.2.)

one gets a good picture of the benefits a beginner can obtain at a Mission Hospital, in every sphere of medicine.

N.U.S.A.S. Survey.

Thus we spent our spare time till all the data required for the NUSAS survey of Mission Hospitals had been collected, and as the vac. was drawing to a close, we packed our bags, and after numerous farewells, departed for home.

Valuable 10 Days.

Without hesitating, we can say those 10 days were some of the most interesting we have spent - not only from the medical point of view, nor from the socio-economic point of view, but from that much wider aspect - getting to know one's country and the different types of people that inhabit it - their joys and sorrows, their complaints as well as their praises, & their work and their habits, and so, to anyone who wishes to widen his outlook on life and attitude towards his fellow beings, we recommend - not an extensive tour overseas - but a hitch-hike visit through the reserves to one of the Mission Hospitals.

G.C.
B.R.M

=CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

CONGRATULATIONS MACGILLIVRAY & COUNCIL =

& Co!!!

PREHISTORY WEEK ended officially on Tuesday night and the Science Society are to be congratulated on the initiative shown in the organisation of this event. In particular congratulations are due to Mr. MacGillivray, Chairman of the Science Society, for the ingenuity he displayed, and to the Science Society Committee and the numerous helpers, for the considerable amount of work put in, and the enthusiasm shown.
THE EXHIBITION.was an unqualified success and the committee has been congratulated all round for their excellent work. The impressive display has led to a request from the Afrikana Museum that the Exhibition be moved for a while to the lobby of the library, so that a greater section of the public will be able to benefit from it. The Week has seen numerous lecturers, authorities, varsity students (many from Pretoria University) and members of several of the local schools, wandering about the exhibition. Special organised talks have been arranged for the schools.
THE LECTURES have been on the whole well attended and have attracted numerous outsiders. It was particularly gratifying that our two great anthropologists, Professor Dart and Dr. Broom, were both able to lecture.
PUBLICITY. The Johannesburg public have been fully aware of Prehistory Week. Newspapers have devoted considerable space and numerous photographs to different aspects of Prehistory Week. Certain statements by some of the lecturers have even appeared in the S.A.B.C. news broadcasts. IN ALL, AN EXCELLENT EFFORT. CONGRATULATIONS MACGILLIVRAY & CO!!

MR. EISENBERG: As this is one of the last Auricles, that will appear during Issy Eisenberg's term of office as Chairman of Cultural Council, we feel that it is appropriate that a special tribute be paid to him for his sterling work. His period of office has seen the introduction of two new projects, a Medical Students Art Exhibition and an All Sports Council. The unqualified success of these newly introduced activities is largely due to the enthusiasm of Mr. Eisenberg. In general, Cultural Activities have thrived as never before and this is largely due to the Chairman's work.

NUSAS HEALTH GROUP.

At a meeting of the committee held on Monday, the old committee officially resigned. Sarge Meyerowitz will be chairman for the coming year, while Bernace Abrams will be secretary. Elections for the rest of the committee will be held at a general meeting to take place in the near future. After the election, Miss Hayshaw, who has been brought out by the Visiting Lecturer's Trust Fund and has been speaking to very appreciative audiences, will address the meeting.

"THE WIND AND THE RAIN"

Final figures are now to hand, showing that this play lost a minimum of £16. for the S.M.C. treasury. Where the fault really lies is hard to say. Some members of the S.M.C. maintain that the Dramatic Society had been too spendthrift, especially with regard to choice of producer, and had not given sufficient thought initially as to whether they would be able to make up the large outlay. However, the £16. should not be written off as a complete loss, as in her agreement with the Dramatic Society, Taubie Kushlick promised to produce a play next year for the Medical School Players free, gratis and for nothing.

LEECH: "The Disease and Health in the Bantu" (1949 Conference) should appear soon. After the resignation of the Chairman of the committee, three members of the Executive got together as an emergency committee and have managed to compile a large number of adverts, so that this Leech will soon appear. The "Industrial Medicine" Leech will not meet with so much difficulty. Grants have been received from the CSIR. and the Garment Workers Union, which will help in the publication of the journal.

N.U.S.A.S. HEALTH GROUP.

Annual General Meeting on Tuesday

August 22nd Harveian L.T.
1.00p.m.
Elections for new committee.

MISS CECIL - HAYSHAW
will address the meeting.

DONT FORGET YOUR 10/- FOR THE AFRICAN MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST FUND.

A RECENT VISIT TO A MISSION HOSPITAL

IMPRESSIONS OF TWO FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS.

My very first impression of the hospital is still vividly imprinted in my mind's eye. After a rough and extremely bumpy 170 mile journey from the beaten track, we were indeed "shaken" by this three storey building surrounded by a virtual oasis, standing absolutely in the middle of that nowhere called Zululand.

Too Many Chronic Tuberculotics!

This heart-warming impression was soon tempered by a note of despondent, utter helplessness, for not long after our arrival we were shown over the hospital, which contained only too many wards (and verandahs!) of chronic tuberculotics - little pathetic looking children as well as older folk condemned by this crippling disease. To a small extent our feelings were relieved to hear that not all these unfortunates were from this area, nor even from Zululand - many coming from far distant places in Natal, where TB treatment is non-existent. Nonetheless, it provided plenty of food for thought!

We were pleased to discover that the superintendent was a Wits graduate who not only made us feel at ease, but also gave us every opportunity to advance our humble clinical knowledge and experience. The hospital staff generally, helped us in every possible way, and did all they could to make our stay most enjoyable and interesting.

Administrative Chaos.

Our discussions with the father in charge of the administrative side were revelationary in regard to the running and expansion, of mission hospitals, as well as the difficulties attached thereto - one of the chief conclusions we came to being the chaos that is produced when two entirely independent levels of Government are responsible for the peoples' health!

Inyange first!

The little we managed to collect on Zulu superstition was more than alarming, and the primitiveness of the people was ever and again brought home to us. Such ideas as women not being able to deliver in the lithotomy position but only in the kneeling posture; the power the "inyanges" wield even to this day; the fact that every patient visits the inyange before the hospital - these and many more facts help illustrate some of the difficulties confronting the medical staffs of mission hospitals. I remember well the youngster, who, having got a thorn in his heel, underwent treatment by the local quack for six weeks before the kid's father brought him to hospital in desperation - but by this time the foot was a suppurating, foul-smelling mass, & a serious contracture had already developed. One could go on like this ad infinitum!

Self-sufficient Institution.

Today the hospital is a self-sufficient institution of the highest order - it produces its own electricity sufficient for the hospital, all the staff quarters, as well as a pretty good X-Ray plant and steriliser; it has its own boreholes, its own fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy products; its own sewage system, sewing rooms and so on. In short, there is hardly anything, besides drugs and equipment, that it doen't produce itself. One might mention that at present it has 151 beds (30 European) and that the almost completed new wing - an infectious fever block, which it is hoped will aid tremendously in the fight against TB, - will take another 89 beds. The staff comprises two full-time resident doctors, (in the first six months of 1950 a Wits graduate was employed as an intern) and also two part-time medical officers; six nursing sisters and approximately 40 non-European probationers.

Clinical Work - Confinements to Pseudopodia!

The clinical work at the hospital proved interesting in many ways - here it was that we witnessed our first confinements (about 5); here too we saw living amoebae throwing out their pseudopodia (in a whole year of path. we never saw the likes of this!); here we were explained the workings of an X-Ray plant (as well as a power plant); saw our first case of chronic tetanus with that unforgettable "risus sardonicus"; dabbled a little in anaesthetics, catheterisations and intravenous syphilotherapy; saw the classic examples of hydrocephalus and primary carcinoma of the liver, and picked up numerous physical signs which will always stand us in good stead. We were also fortunate enough to meet the district surgeon who, on hearing we were studying forensic medicine, called us to the post-mortem he had to perform for the magistrate. He also took us on his rounds one day - a day packed full of the practical difficulties encountered by district surgeons in the country. It was only after this that we managed to conceive medical practice in its true form! From this short account of our clinical findings

(Cont. on page 2 Col. 2)