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Students` Medical Council

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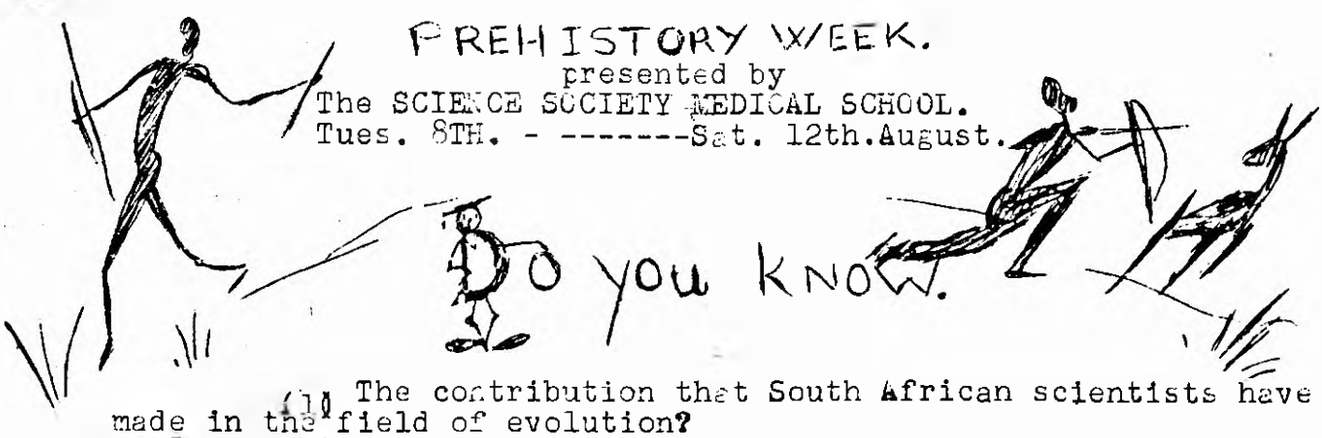
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AURICLE.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE STUDENT'S MEDICAL COUNCIL, WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY
VOL.2.No 19. TUESDAY 8TH. AUGUST 1950. Price 1d.

PREHISTORY WEEK.

presented by
The SCIENCE SOCIETY MEDICAL SCHOOL.
Tues. 8TH. - -------Sat. 12th.August.



(1) The contribution that South African scientists have made in the field of evolution?
(2) In particular the significance of the work of our great anthropologists,
PROFESSOR DART and DOCTOR BROOM?
(3) Who is /was AUSTRALOPITHECUS.
AFRICANUS?
(4) Who was PLESIANTHROPUS?
(5) Who is ANTHROPOID APE
VANDERHORSTI?
(6) The relationship between Uranium bearing rockk and the study of evolution?
(7) Anything about Bushman paint ing?
(8) How Scientists tell the age of rocks?
(9) ABOUT PALAEOLITHIC man's instruments?
(10) When was the Eocene Period?
(11) About Africa and Prehistoric man?

YOU CAN LEARN THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS BY:

(A) ATTENDING PREHISTORIC WEEK LECTURES.

(B) STUDYING THE EXHIBITS.

"This doctrine ("Origin of Species") put into our hands the key to the complexities of human nature. The human body is the culmination, in one direction at least, of the evolution of that group of animals whose structure is built round a back-bone and consequently we must look to the more primitive members of this group to furnish us with an understanding of its fundamental characteristics and of the manner in which the special features of the human body have been derived from them."

J. H. WOODGER.



One of the most unfortunate, yet probably necessary evils that we find in the present day study of Medicine, is the unnatural dichotomy that exists between the practice and study of Medicine, and its scientific basis. The necessity of this unhealthy division is probably motivated by the fact that the vigorous routine of Medical practice, and the great demands of the medical course, tends to make the doctor devote all his time to his immediate problem, without being able to devote any real time to the fundamental understanding of it at all.

Thus today, the average doctor, respected in days gone by as a Robert Koch, who peered down his microscope and unraveled Nature's mysteries, is very little more than a sophisticated technician, whose contact with the Biological sciences is very little more than that of a garage attendant with theoretical mechanics.

It is the aim of the SCIENCE SOCIETY to fill in this gap, and to provide those medical students who so desire it, with that particular Scientific knowledge that is of interest to them.

With this end in view, the SCIENCE SOCIETY is now organizing its largest project of the year - PRE-HISTORY WEEK. This will provide students, and whomsoever are interested with a condensed course in Evolution.

It is sincerely hoped that Medical Students will throw off, for once, the conventional veil of apathy and avail themselves of this excellent opportunity, by attending the various lectures and the exhibition. May this not be one of those occasions - so frequent at Medical School - which the General public support en masse, while the medical student is conspicuous only by his proverbial absence.

B.K.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Science Society,
Medical School,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

The "Pre-History Week" scheduled to start to-day, is yet another milestone and highlight in the progress of the Medical School Science Society.

It is significant that the Science existing as it does, in the centre of the Local Medical world, yet attracts regularly, an audience composed of persons with little or no scientific training. This in my opinion, indicates that the Medical Student, particularly is in the long run, interested in the activities and work of the pure scientist. To-day it is widely accepted that medical science can only progress with the help of the experienced chemist and physicist, and by the application of specialized techniques to medical studies, including also the techniques of the statistician.

I have had much to do with the Science Society myself, and it is, therefore, a special pleasure to wish you a successful week. You have put a lot of enthusiasm and energy into the organization of the week's events, and the Exhibition.

The majority of your audience will have difficulty in appreciating all that has been done, but I can assure you that when perhaps next year, you look back on this "Pre-History Week" and in fact on the whole year, you will have many pleasant memories.

Sincerely,

[illegible]
PRESIDENT OF S.M.C.

THE AFRICAN MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST FUND

Students of Wits. by an overwhelming majority have taken upon themsleves the responsibility of supporting African Students at Medical School. Some time ago, YOU were sent a letter asking whether YOU were prepared to pay the ten shillings levy.

HAVE YOU REPLIED?

If you have not, the levy will not appear on your term account. Nevertheless, you may still pay the ten shillings at the S.R.C. office.

DON'T FORGET, MEDICAL STUDENTS!!!

DO NOT SHIRK YOUR DUTY!!!

"Science knows no nationality, and forms a meeting ground on which men of every race are brothers, working together for a common end - and that end is truth."
(SIR DAVID GILL in the first Presidential address delivered to the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1903.)

DON'T FORGET PREHISTORY WEEK.

P R E - H I S T O R Y W E E K

P R O G R A M M E .

LECTURES:-

Tuesday 8th — 8 p.m. Dr. Basil Cooke, former Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geology:-

"THE EVOLUTION OF CLIMATE AND FAUNA"

Wednesday 9th — 8 p.m. Prof. van Riet Lowe, Prof. of Archaelogy:-

"PRE-HISTORIC MAN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS AND THE EVOLUTION OF CULTURE"

Thursday 10th — 1 p.m. Prof. Raymond Dart:-

"THE EVOLUTION OF MAN IN AFRICA"

Friday 11th — 1 p.m. Dr. L. H. Wells :-

"THE DESCENT OF MAN".

All lectures will be given in the HARVEIAN LECTURE THEATRE

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T H E E X H I B I T I O N

This will cover Evolution in all its aspects. Specimens will be on show in the VESALIAN HALL.

THE PUBLIC ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE ABOVE.

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A Great Anthropologist and one of our professors — Prof. Dart.

Our Professor of Anatomy, Raymond Arthur Dart, arrived in South Africa twenty-seven years ago, and intervening years have seen many changes in the Medical School and its personnel. Prof. J. M. Watt had taken up his post in the Department of Pharmacology three years before that, and these two, each of whom in their turn have undertaken the Deanship of the School, are the doyens of our staff, the only surviving members of the faculty as it was in 1923.

Professor Dart was born in Queensland, where he received his early education. After graduating B.Sc. (Hons.) at Queensland University in 1913, he studied medicine at Sydney University. He took the M.Sc. of his old University in 1915, and the M.B., Bh.M. (Hons) of Sydney in 1917 and the M.D. in 1927.

In 1919 he joined the staff of Professor Grafton Elliot-Smith as Senior Demonstrator in Anatomy at University College, London.

A short time after he took up his post in London, the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships system came into being Prof. Dart was among the first two Fellows to be appointed, and this allowed him to further his post-graduate studies at Washington University. After about a year of lecturing, studying and travelling in America, Prof. Dart returned to England, and within twelve months of his return, was again off - this time to take up his present post in S. Africa.

The twenty eight years that have elapsed since his coming to Johannesburg have witnessed the growth of the school from entrance classes of 20 - 40 to annual applications for entrance of 200 - 400 students and the expansion of its activities from Medicine to include Dentistry (since 1930 a separate faculty), Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy as well as diploma courses for Sister Tutors in Nursing and Midwifery. At the same time this institution blazed a path in post-graduate medical education first by providing diploma courses for Public Health, for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and for Psychological Medicine. Later still, regular Master of Surgery courses were instituted and encouragement given to those who wanted to take the M.D. examination.

His work has spread out beyond the school and medical education, into numerous diverse social activities. The developments in social medicine in Vrededorp and Alexandra Township and at Polela in Natal, had their birthpangs in the systematic examination of African school children by students in the medical school, carried out under the aegis of the Anatomy Department. For thirteen years from 1925, when he joined the 1st South African Field Ambulance as Captain till 1938, when he joined the reserve of officers as Lieutenant Colonel, he assisted in maintaining the medical side of the A.C.F. during its slack inter-war period. After the outbreak of hostilities he organized and commanded for several years the Officers Training Corps Field Ambulance within the University.

It is, however, chiefly as an anthropologist and the fossil-man-apes discoverer at Taungs and Makapansgat that he is known outside the profession Shortly after the discovery of the Taungs skull in 1924, he was made president of the Anthropological Section of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, (1925), and was awarded its Gold Medal in 1939. When the British Association visited Johannesburg, in 1929, he was appointed Vice-President of the Anthropology Section, and the same year, became a member of the International Commission on Fossil Man. At Nairobi (1947) he was appointed President of the Anthropological Section of the first Pan-African Congress of Prehistory. During 1929-1930, he toured the African Continent from the Union to Cairo, carrying out anthropological and archaeological investigations en route. In 1937 he conducted a university party into the Southern Kalahari to investigate the Bushmen collected by Donald Bain for the Empire Exhibition held that year in Johannesburg. In 1949, he revisited the United States at the invitation of the Viking Fund, as Guest-Lecturer at their seminar session for physical anthropology in New York, and delivered a three weeks course of public lecture for the Lowell Institute in Boston. Simultaneously the Rockefeller Foundation gave him a special grant to aid him in travelling to see what had happened to medical schools in the intervening thirty years.

He returned to South Africa via Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia (where he delivered the Inaugural John Irvine Hunter Memorial Oration, 1950 at Sydne University) and India, and is once mor back with the students and the fossils

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one President, one Director of Research, numerous other assistant directorships, one complete set of Rhodes University crockery, including Soup Ladle, seven snooker balls (all red) and one large white board, with Alicedale written on it. The last item should be very useful to someone named Alice, and will be sold to the highest bidder.



=EVOLUTION, SCIENCE AND THE SCIENTIST=

"Thus from t he war of natur , from famine and death, the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely, the production of higher animals, directly follows. There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having bee n originally breath by the Creator into a few forms or into one, and that while this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed laws of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beauteful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved."

CHARLES DARWIN.

"The acceptance of the theorm of evolution has brought about a far reaching change in our outlook on the universe and our sence of values. The story of Creation, so intimately associated with the ground work of most religions has had to be rewrittenn The unity and inter-connections of life in all its manifold forms have been clearly recog- nised . And man himself has had to come down from his privelegeo position among the angels and take his proper place in the universse as part of the order of nature."

GENERAL SMUTS, TO THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. 1931.

"Evolution began as a hypothesis, like the roundness of the earth, held by daring thinkers o incomplete evidence. Darwins argument lifted the scale in its favour. Today every argument against evolution can be answered, ----, except of course, the argume nt that it is cont.ary to the doctrine of infallible Scriptures. If certain books can not err, then the theory of evolution, despite all arguments in its favour, must be f alse. It only remains to prove that they cannot err-"

J.B.S. HALDANE.

"The Darwinism thus reborn is a modified Darwinism, sinc e it must operate with facts unknown to Darwin; but it is still Darwinism in the senco t hat it aims at giving a naturalistic interpretation of evolution and that its upholders, while constantly striving for more facts and more experimental results, do not, like some cautious spirits, reject the method of deduction."

JULIAN HULLEY .
(Evolution, The Modern Synthesis.)

" Speculation upon the location of the cradle of mankind is still a hazardous occupation, but it is not wholly useless . Discussion of such matters helps us to define the real issues and to weigh the balance of probabilities, which still, as in Darwin's time, favour Africa as the original home.

Prof.ELLIOT SMITH.

"Had anatomists only been as conversant with the dissection of the lower animals as they are with that of the human body, the matters that have hitherto kept them in a perplexity of doubt would in my opinion have freed them from every kind of difficulty."

WILLIAM HARVEY.
(ON THE MOTION OF THE HEART AND BLOOD IN ANIMALS.)

"Evolution is a change from an indefinate , incoherent homogeneity to a definite, coherent heterogeneity through continous integ- rations and differentations."

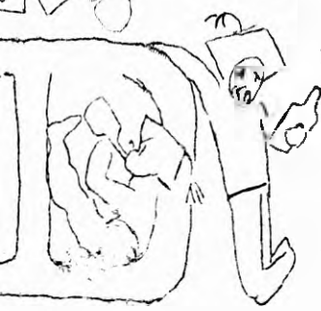
HERBERT SPENCER.

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N.U.S.A.S. CONFERENCE



FROM YOUR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENT



URING the last vac, two-hundred enthusiastic students converged on Grahamstown from the four corners of the Union, to the N.U.S.A.S. Annual Conference. With the exception of Fort Hare who were then undergoing some domestic difficulties, all the member Universities and Training Colleges, sent official representatives.

The "City of Saints" seemed to be eminently suited for a Student Conference for in addition to the academic splendour of Rhodes University College and the numerous famous high schools, as well as the imposing solemnity of the even more numerous churches and monuments, Grahamstown had little to offer in the line of diversions, as Capetown had, last year.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY met to formulate plans [illegible] coming year, and to endorse the decisions taken by the executive during the past year. This covered a wide series of subjects that ranged from next year's tour to the decision of the Executive with regard to the Anti-Communist legislation. With a few exceptions the Assembly endorsed the vigorous stand that N.U.S.A.S. was taking against government interference in Student affairs, and in general I feel that it can be said that the National Union is more strongly united now than it has been for many years in the past.

PHILLIP TOBIAS was elected president for the third time. The tributes paid to Phillip (long may he reign!) after his presidential address show quite clearly that never before has there been so dynamic, accomplished and enthusiastic a president of N.U.S.A.S.

RESEARCH CONFERENCE was also a success. Medical Students presented papers on Health Centres and Mission Hospitals, while other papers included surveys on Race attitudes, students' cost of living etc. Research Conference also took some time off to visit a leather Research Laboratory, and the only library for the Blind in S. Africa. LIONEL FORMAN, editor of the "Witwatersrand Student", was elected Director of Research for the coming year.

ATHLETICS. Let it not be said that N.U.S.A.S. is an organization only of intellectuals and amateur politicians. One of the highlights of Conference was a Rugby-match between Wits and the rest. This match has proved to be so popular an event over the last two years, that it threatens to become an annual event. SYD. BREENER was elected captain of the Wits side, but failed to turn up to the game. Being one of those who helped carry Syd to his room at the last years match, I was not surprised at his disappearance. Mr. Tobias was introduced to the teams before the game and kicked off. The game ended in a victory for Wits. by two K.O.'s (Getz and Handelsman) to nil. Special laurels to Getz, who has now twice running managed to get himself concussed on behalf of his Alma Mater. Indeed the devotion and sacfifice of this student on the Sportsfields of Rhodes, has earned for him many disciples.

One other rugby match was played, this time between U.C.T. and the rest. This was not so great a social success and terminated mid-way through the 2nd half, when two despondent teams got so fed up with the game that they threw the ref. into the swimming bath. After the matches, colours were awarded to the Stars.

MEDICAL FACULTY CONFERENCE. All our representatives agree that this proved to be very successful. Representatives from Capetown and Wits met to discuss those many mutual problems that confront Medical students, such as internships, curriculum, etc. Subsequent issues of the "Auricle" will give accounts of the more important decisions and recommendations. One of the most controversial issues was the problem which is becoming an institution at conferences, namely contact with Pretoria Medical School. Apart from this and matters affecting interns, unanimity was reached on most points by the delegates, with the exception of the writer of this article, who saw fit to abstain on occasions when Getz, Osburn and Co., began to build too many castles.

Medical faculty was also not bereft of sporting activity - Osburn and Hurwitz (Wits) playing billiards against Prosser and Luntz (U.C.T.) The game ended in a resounding victory for our local produce.

Conference ended at 6.30 on Friday and all the delegates migrated to the "Farmers' Home" to celebrate the success of Conference over OLD DUTCH. (This has brought in another 7/6 to the treasury) MORRIS LUNTZ, of C.T. Med. School was elected Assistant Director of Research.

CONCLUSION. All that remains now, is to give a list of trophies brought back by the Wits. delegation. These include