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Students` Medical Council

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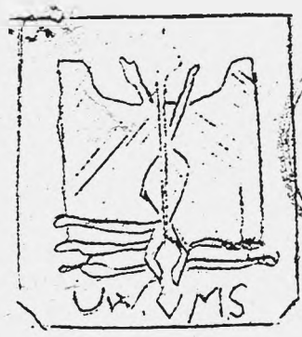

WITWATERSRAND
5 MAR 1953
FOREIGN

THE AURICLE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY
VOL 4 NO 2 THURSDAY 26th FEBRUARY 1953 PRICE 1d.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR THE LEECH

Elsewhere in this issue a letter from Dr. Tobias draws attention to the narrow selection of material for the Leech. This feeling has been current among graduates, staff and students for some time. For too long Leech has been the published record of Conference. This year a determined effort will be made to encourage student participation in Leech.

In this journal we as students have a very powerful medium of expression, which is recognised all over South Africa and also the Index Medicus.

Although Wits was the first Medical School to publish a serious medical journal, Cape Town University has far outstripped us with the publication of Nyanga which is entirely composed of student material.

The Leech would welcome articles written by Wits students. They do not have to be highly technical but should be well written case histories of general interest, and articles on student surveys, experiments and research will be welcomed.

What is needed is material. If there is sufficient response, a student edition of Leech will be published later this year.

Please, come forward SOON. If you have any difficulties, doubts or ideas, contact the Editor of the Leech or the Editor of the Auricle.

Editor of the Leech

Arnold Barnett. (5th Year.)

REFECTORY

It is gratifying to note that the Refectory seems to be a great success. After many trials and tribulations the authors of the Cafetaria scheme seem to have solved the problem of feeding Medical students in the best possible manner taking into consideration the space at their disposal. Now that the teething problems are over, the queues are settling down and the service is improving.

Better organisation is still to be hoped for. A large overflow of students are appearing at various cafés in the vicinity and we forsee the time when these cafes will improve their food, and enlarge their space to cater for this new custom.

It is not to be assumed that the Refectory Committee is resting on its laurels; but it is to hoped that they will take cognisance of this warning and try further ways and means TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS AT OUR OWN REFECTORY

STOP PRESS

So far and wide has our fame spread that on Tuesday night a person or persons (unknown) attempted to burgle! the Refectory. It is rumoured that the persons concerned were a large gang of hungry Johannesburg business men.

STOP STOP PRESS PRESS

We have it in the strictest confidence that Ulf Overberg has assigned Charlie Klopjag and his indispensible Footsek to the case.

As the matter is still sub judice, any member of the Press within I/2 mile of Medical School will be asked to leave.

EDITORIAL

Last week a "feeler" was put out asking for students to help in a drive to improve the Auricle. Letting the cat out of the bag, we must say a big response was not anticipated. We were not to be disappointed, Nobody responded at all! While it is true that owing to bad printing some of the copies of the Auricle may not have succeeded in putting our point across clearly, this technical hitch is not the sole reason behind failure of our appeal. The truth of the matter is that the inmates of this school by and large are CHRONIC APATHETICS.

Take as a classical example the meeting in the Harveian, about the second years. It was a matter of vital importance - 180 to 200 people turned up. There are those who claim that not a single SECOND YEAR STUDENT was present. It's safe to say that not more than the round dozen attended. And the meeting concerned the second years more than any other class. The THIRD and FOURTH years who have passed through second year only too recently are at a loss to explain the mystery. The fifth and sixth years who vaguely remember their junior days shake their heads in sad reflection. Does any one know the answer? Are the SECOND YEARS still with us?

However let us realise that the APATHETIC BUG is not confined to the dim dissection halls. At the beginning of the year an appeal was made by Dorothy Phillips on behalf of S.A.N.T.A. for books and clothes for T.B. patients, many of them children. The response has been completely negative. Not a sou. T.B. for those who are not informed stands for tuberculosis.

What about the NIGHT SCHOOL. Last year, Solly Berson worked his fingers to the bone running the Night School for Non-Europeans. He went to each class begging for people to come one night a week to act as teachers. There was a small response and the results that this little group achieved cannot be measured in words. Had more come forward the benefits that dozens received would have been received by hundreds and the cost - a few hours of one night a week. Soon we anticipate Solly will be making his appeal again. What will the response be this year?

Let us not exaggerate. If everyone pulled their weight, this would be a first class Medical School. As it is, it's 10 to one that you're just about to ask your neighbour what he does when he is not swotting or dreaming of they.

MEDICAL BALL.

13th March.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE AT SMC OFFICE.

REMEMBER.

Annual General Meeting.

10th March.

TODAY

SCA PRESENTS

'DUST & DESTINY'

HARVEIAN - 1 P.M.

SZA PRESENTS

PROF. PENN - "Medicine in Israel"

VESALIAN - 1 P.M.

PROFESSOR R. PLATT

Clinical Syndromes of Renal Disease

5 P.M.

TOMORROW

SLP PRESENTS MI VESALIAN 1 PM.

"ROLE OF STUDENTS IN POLITICS"

Editor: R.E.Yodaiken.
The editor alone is responsible for all comment and matters of policy unless otherwise stated.

ENDOCRINE CONFERENCE

BY

L. BADER

The 10th Annual Medical Conference organised by the Students' Medical Council will take place during May from 18th-29th. The subject for this year's conference is "Endocrinology". The field of Endocrinology is vast and many aspects will be tackled. One wants to stress the endocrine inter-relationship. There will be evenings on Diabetes, Thyroid, Pituitary, Sex Hormones, Metabolism etc. An Exhibition on Endocrinology will be held in the Sutherland Strachan Museum during the above dates.

All detail as regards the conference and exhibition will be published at a later date. In the meantime remember that your Conference will be held in May.

DIOGENES SOCIETY

BY - P. PADAYATCHI

The Diogenes Society is placed in the paradoxical situation of not having a Constitution of its own. It is therefore difficult for me to state its aims and objects. It seems that no one knows what the original aims and objects of the Diogenes Society were. A few students had the temerity to tell me that it has become an adjunct or sub-committee of the S.L.A.

Nevertheless, I visualise the following programme, though not extensive, yet sufficient under the circumstances. Apart from having speakers on subjects of general interest to students, we intend organising symposiums and brains trust.

Societies, however, can only become an integral part of the cultural life of student life if the students themselves participate fully in these activities. In this respect it is to be regretted that the second years seem to be so apathetic. We intend mobilising these students to step out of this stage of lethargy and to become students in every sense of the word.

The reason for the present lull in the activities of societies at Medical School can be directly attributed to the regulations pertaining to the holding of meetings. Any society intending to hold a meeting has to apply in writing. Such red-tape is time-consuming and places us under considerable hardships.

Till this ban is lifted, I am afraid societies like the Diogenes, S.L.A., S.Z.A., Debating etc. will not have a chance of having meetings.

THE LIBRARIAN SAYS:-

"Among the new books recently received in the Medical School Library is one of particular interest to students. This is "Careers in Medicine", edited by P.O. Williams. Although some of the information given, with reference to training, appointments, salaries., is not applicable to South Africa, a great deal of instruction and perhaps inspiration is provided, which should help every Medical student to decide where his or her chief interest lies, and how to cater to this interest. The articles are contributed by a diversity of writers, all of whom make their own choice of career seem attractive though they do not disguise the "drudgeries" where these occur.

The careers described include every branch of medical work, from the pre-clinical subjects, Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry, to the specialities, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and General Medicine. In addition, there are articles on the teaching of medicine, research, legal medicine, social medicine and medical service in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Some less obvious possibilities, perhaps to be regarded as side-lines, are medical journalism, history and photography.

"There is no doubt that this book is interesting: a hope may be entertained that it will compel a useful contemplation of personal qualities and defects in a large number of those who are about to become or who have recently become doctors". (Quoted from the Foreword)."

A.C. DICKS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

DR. TOBIAS AND THE AURICLE.

Sir,

Your intention of restoring the "Auricle" to its former illustrious position as a leading vehicle of student opinion at the University, deserves full support from students and staff alike.

For a long time, the publishing activities of the Medical Student Body have been at a low ebb - with the single honoured exception of the Annual Conference "Leech", about which I shall speak again below.

The career of the "Auricle" has been checkered: Starting as an offshoot of The Leech, the "Auricle" burst into student affairs as a lively and intimate magazine of eight pages in 1935. After eight years of ups and downs, the "Auricle" changed its guise: it became in 1943 the official newspaper of the Medical Students of the University of the Witwatersrand. A far-sighted Students' Medical Council granted £20 for the first three probationary issues.

Then for several years, the "Auricle" flourished and was respected, under the sure touch of such people as Phyllis Knocker, Joe Abramson, Arnold Klopper, the Siew sisters, Maureen Dale, Norman Wulfsohn, Joan Wagner, "Buster" Friedberg, Sylvain de Miranda etc. etc.

The turning-point came in 1947 when the Editor had to apologise for the small size of the "Auricle" "owing to the apathy of students". The Little Auricle survived for a year, a shade of its former self, then shrivelled up and died altogether. In 1949, after a lapse, a roneod "S.M.C. Newsletter" appeared at the School "to maintain a regular weekly contact between the Council and the students and between the students and Cultural Societies". The Newsletter adopted the old name of "The Auricle" in 1950, but few people seem to have noticed that, whereas the new "Auricle" was "The Official organ of the S.M.C.", the old "Auricle" had always been "the official organ of the Medical Students of the University", not functioning as the "mouth-organ" of the S.M.C. although dependent financially on the Council.

Thus has the present roneod "Auricle" come into being. It is because I know what the "Auricle" has been in the past and could again become in the future that I wish you all success in your endeavours.

At the same time, as one who served on The Leech Committee for six years, may I add a comment or two in this direction? In 1944, when a group of us came together with the idea of organising the first S.M.C. Annual Conference, it was never our intention that the publication of the Conference proceedings should supplant the general Leech, as a vehicle of Medical School research. Ever since 1935, when the more frivolous pages of the old Leech magazine were segregated off to form the first "Auricle", The Leech had been devoted to original articles, critical reviews and book comments by staff and students of the Medical School. As such, The Leech had come to occupy an increasingly important place in our medical literature and had become probably the only medical students' journal in the world to achieve recognition by the international Index Medicus. Yet, of late, The Leech has failed to fulfil its more general function and has become, in effect, the Transactions of the S.M.C. Annual Conference.

May I through your columns appeal to the present Editorial Board, as well as to the S.M.C. and the Medical Student Body, to re-consider the functions of The Leech and revert to the practice of publishing at least one number a year devoted to original articles and reviews, apart from the Conference Proceedings. That there is abundant scope for such an annual number I have no doubt.

Some years ago, I began a series in The Leech called "Studies in Bantu Anatomy". It had become clear that The Leech was an ideal medium for collecting information on the anatomical and physiological features, as well as the patterns of ageing, nutrition and disease, encountered in the African on the Witwatersrand and in the Union generally. Eventually, the accumulated papers might provide the basis for a compilation like Gelfand's "The Sick African" (Northern Rhodesia) or Lewis's "The Biology of the Negro" (U.S.A.).

With these ideas in mind, I would strongly urge Medical Students once more to place both the publications of our School on a sound footing. To you, Mr. Editor, and to your staff, all praise is due for initiating a move in the right direction.

Yours etc.
Phillip V. Tobias.

WANTED URGENTLY.

Lift to and back from Capetown

Easter Vac. 2nd - 16th .

Willing to share expenses.
Reply SMC Office.

Letters to the Editor (continued)

PRESIDENT S.M.C. EXPLAINS

Sir,

Since the General Meeting on the 17th February, I have heard many misinterpretations of the first resolution passed. I would like to clear this matter up through your columns. Firstly, let me quote the resolution:

"That this General Meeting of Medical Students is gravely disturbed to hear of the refusal of admission to the second year Medicine of 16 non-European students suitably qualified to enter that year and therefore feels itself constrained on the basis of reasons formerly given to support the legal action taken by some of these students arising out of this refusal. This meeting consequently instructs the S.M.C. to collect such financial assistance as is possible, from the Medical students in support of this action."

I must point out that the resolution does not ask the S.M.C. to take legal action against the University, or to bear the full cost of any pending legal action by certain students. All it instructs the S.M.C. to do is to collect money to assist these students.

The money collected would be a token support from the student body which would serve to demonstrate our solidarity in seeing that all students are treated fairly by the University. Perhaps this point was not stressed sufficiently by the proposers of the motion, and I feel that by explaining that our financial support is a token support I will be clearing up much of the misunderstanding .

Yours etc.
E. Goldblatt
(President).

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club holds meetings every Tuesday and Thursday during Lunch hours in the Physiotherapy room. Teams are being chosen to play against our lecturers, Milner Park, Athlone, Jeppe and King Edward's High Schools. If you wish to represent our Medical School, come along with your lunches to the chess meetings and help to form a strong chess team.

Challengs anybody on the ladder for a position in the team. If you want to learn the ROYAL GAME, come along and you will be taught.

Sinnie Friedman talks...

SPORT

1. Squash:

It is a well known fact that among Medical students there are many anonymous squash enthusiasts, but who these are, is quite unknown. Thus the Medical School All Sports Association this year, intends to round up all such players and make squash an organised game at Medical School.

This can be done only by instituting a Medical School Squash Ladder.

The ladder will be run as follows:-

1. All students - and this includes both males and females - who play squash, and who intend playing the game - will hand in a slip of paper containing (a) their names and year of study (b) any qualifications (c) 1/6d entrance fee to either - S.M.C. Secretary or Messrs. Charlton and Friedman-5th year.

CLOSING DATE DEFINITELY FRIDAY 6th MARCH.

2. These names will arbitrarily be graded as best as is possible on the ladder.

3. Any person is then entitled to challenge the player 2 places above him on the ladder for his place and if the challenger should win he automaticly moves up.

4. No player can challenge or be challenged by another player up to a period of 2 days from date of playing his last challenge match: whether he has won or lost the game.

5. If there are a large number of applicants and some do not find a place on the ladder - these people are entitled to challenge the player last or second last on the ladder.

Purpose:

1. To localise squash at Medical School and virtually form a Medical School Squash Club.
2. To facilitate the picking of representative sides to play against other organised sides e.g. doctors, nurses, Milner Park etc.

Table Tennis:

There is a table upstairs in the Mens' Common Room and one coming to the Womens' Common Room and games can be played at will.

What has been said about the Squash Ladder holds in toto for the organisation of a table tennis ladder.

N.B. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY TO SQUASH AND TABLE TENNIS LADDERS FRIDAY 6TH MARCH, 1953.

A HISTORY of MUSIC

AN INTERESTING SERIES OF ARTICLES FOR MUSIC LOVERS

In a series of articles, I hope to trace in a very succinct manner the history of music of various countries and peoples and intersperse these articles periodically with topical subjects and current news in the field of music. Accordingly, I would like to begin with

THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH MUSIC

The roots of all English music be in its folk songs and folk-dance tunes. These possess a valuable and beautiful national charm having as much variety as those of any nation in the world.

What we may call 'composition' began anywhere in Europe only in the eleventh century. The earliest English example is "Sumer is icumen in", a work of precociously complex structure, taught even to-day in English Schools.

In the 12th and 13th centuries the French Troubadours, those famous Poet-Composers, exercised some influence on southern England. Richard the Lion-Heart was a notable troubadour.

Two English composers are noteworthy in the 14th and 15th centuries viz. Simon Tunsted and John Dunstable.

In the 16th and 17th centuries we see the development of unaccompanied choral music throughout Europe. England was prominent in this field of art, whilst in another branch, that of music for the keyboard instruments of the day, she actually led. At this period there was also development of chamber music. The greatest names of this period were William Byrd and John Bull. English musicians held positions in many European courts and municipalities and were reckoned the best players of the Viola da Gamba.

During the Puritan control (1644-1660) Church music was prohibited and theatres closed. However, opera began, vocal and instrumental music was active and dance music was published.

At the end of the Republican period, continental influence was strong and now we see more simple rhythms and a considerable use of solo voices. The violin superseded the viol and Henry Purcell was the most notable figure.

With the death of Purcell (1695) the great decline in English Music began.

In the 18th century, English musical achievements are not outstanding. Handel was the prominent figurehead but the influence of his Teutonic art upon native English genius was devastating and English composers were influenced by the German ideal for almost two centuries. Straightforward tune (related to folk-song) characterised this period. The glee, an unaccompanied composition for male voices, was popular. However there was much worship of foreign music (e.g. of the Italian 'castrato' vocalists) and the English became the great importing nation of music.

In the latter half of the 19th century the comic operas of Sullivan and other compositions gave hope of a Renaissance of English music and towards the end of this century and the beginning of the 20th such notables as Elgar, Ethyl Smyth, Edward German, Delius, V. Williams, Coleridge-Taylor, Box and Goossens appeared.

This blooming of English music had its origin in the spectacular rise of Russian music in the 19th century and the ensuing spread of nationalism. The source of inspiration was the marvellously colourful, half-barbaric folk-songs of their native land, and the equally characteristic music of the Russian Church . This nationalistic feeling swept all Europe, including England. By going into the "highways and hedges" the lost songs and dances of England were recaptured, and various composers, such as Vaughn Williams are making the music of their land bloom again, after a barrenness of 200 years.

Thus the renaissance of the art of music has been one of the most striking developments in 20th century music, and men such as V. Williams, Walton and Britten have wrought ably and with important implications for the future.

JACK'S CORNER

DAFFYNITIONS.

Twins: Wombmates.
Jury : 12 men chosen to decide whether defendant or plaitiff has the better lawyer.
Poker face: The face that launched 1000 chips.
Psychiatrist: One who tries to figure out whether infants have more fun in infancy than adults in adultery.

Physiology Prof: "What do you know about salivary glands?"
Student:"I don't know - they're very secretive.

J. S. [illegible]