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Students` Medical Council

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MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY

Please leave lunch tables as soon as you have finished.

The Auricle

Official Organ of the Medical School, Witwatersrand University.

Vol. 13. No. 1. —— 7th MARCH, 1947. —— Price 2d.

MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY

Please help to relieve unavoidable congestion at refectory by adhering to the session times.

THE BATTLE OF FURUNCULUS

(By courtesy of the "Inyanga")

Staphylococcus Aureus,
By Gram and Koch we swore
He would invade new regions
Unconquered heretofore,
By Gram and Koch he swore it—
To take a patient's life,
And called the Cocci, young and old,
From all his colonies of gold
To aid him in the strife.

Loud rang the warning toxins,
And flashed the summons forth
On the distant slopes of Agar
And the turbid seas of Broth;
The Cocci clustered thickly
From far off lands and labs,
Cocci of ancient culture came,
But others of a fiercer fame
To come by tube they no shame,
Drove up in acne scabs.

The septic hosts of Cocci
Advanced in serried ranks,
They marched upon the Blood Stream,
And camped upon the banks;
Forth flew the watchful blood-cells
Crying in wild turmoil:
"Stapylococcus Aureus
"Has come and raised a boil!"

Far down the purple current
Was borne the direful shout —
The polymorphonuclears
And lymphocytes rushed out;
Shame on the Eosinophils,
Who comes not forth to foil
The deadly Golden Coccus
At the battle of the Boil!

And fiercely raged the conflict,
And thick lay strewn the dead;
The battle of Furunculus
Was coming to a head!
The pale and lifeless pus cells
In scores were borne away,
But not a single coccus
Survived that bloody fray.

Staphylococcus Aureus
Still wields his golden chain,
Where falling in the central slough
His friends around lie slain;
Surrounded and outnumbered.

Still valiantly he fights —
He sees his tawny hosts grow less,
He sees the battle's hopelessness,
Yet ever through the yellow Press
Defies the leucocytes.

Staphylococcus Aureus
Has fallen in the fray,
Upon a martial coverslip,
They bore his corpse away —
Lying in state in Canada
Embalmed he long remained,
For though he dyed Gram-Positive
His honour was unstained.

And still at festive seasons,
When the blood is really stirred,
Before the full post-prandial rise
Of white cells has occurred,
When the phagocytes sit waiting
With platelets undersized
For the evening meal of microbes
Which is being opsonized.

When the trembling Eosinophile
That wrought the deed of shame,
Immune from fresh invasion
Comes forth his share to claim,
And talks of Staphylococcus,
And mocks his ancient fame
(For now the Yellow Peril
Is nothing but a name).

Some old and hoary leucocyte,
Who finds he's in the vein,
Will tell the well known story
Of his battles once again;
White blood cells sit in rouleaux round
To hear the tale re-told
Of the battle of Furunculus
In the brave days of old.

(St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal.

Dean's Message

On the threshold of the new academic year, I have been invited by the Editorial Committee of the Auricle to contribute a message. This I do with alactity and pleasure, for surely it is the privilege of the Medical practitioners to be present at a birth. And here we are at the birth of the 1947 session.

This year finds us back practically to normal in regard to first year admission. The tidal wave of admissions which broke over the University in 1946 is now impinging on the Second Year. Some of the unfortunates have fallen by the wayside, but none-the-less, it is still an exceptionally large second year.

Until such time as we have seen the Ex-servicemen through the six years of the course both Staff and Student will have to be extremely co-operative. To see these men through is a responsibility readily undertaken by the University and must be honourably discharged.

I welcome all newcomers to the Faculty and hope that they come to us with a fitting sense of appreciation of the privilege which is theirs in having the opportunity of studying Medicine. We are cramped for space but this will surely be cured in the near future. The scheme of re-organisation, which is shaping, and the building of the additional accommodation which is being planned, will make a very great difference to the comfort of all.

Our new professors of Medicine and Surgery, Professors Elliott and Underwood, have met with a warm welcome and have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the work of the Faculty. The outlook which they bring, augurs well for the future of our Faculty. It is hoped that an announcement in regard to the appointment of the Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will be made in the near future.

May I wish you all an interesting and profitable year of work and express the hope that every undergraduate and post-graduate student will take part, each according to his rights, in the cultural, sporting and other extra-curricular activities of the University. We are a community that can only thrive by receiving as well as giving.

Professor J. M. WATT,
Dean.

STOP... LOOK... LISTEN

Kindly inform student body societies are functioning at Medical School STOP these are your societies STOP they need your support STOP What societies are these STOP how can I help in their running STOP Societies are DEBATING (soap-box oratory); S.Z.A. and S.C.A. (recognised abbreviations for Students' Zionist and Christian Associations respectively); MUSIC (mixed bag or scratching the surface — Beethoven to Bazy); DIOGENES (discusses all topics from shoes and ships and sealing wax to cabbages and kings); SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (popular talks on the application of scientific discoveries to you and me); SOCIOLOGY AND STATISTICS (Fordsburg, Alexandra, Orlando, Pimville — this is your Baby and mine); HISTORY OF MEDICINE (of Devils, Drugs, and Doctors — from Medicine Man to Modern Medico); CHESS CLUB (for the keen mind, the Pawn and Fate).

FAREWELL !

The student body wishes farewell to Professor I. W. Brebner, Professor W. H. Craib, and Professor J. Black, and would like to thank them for their sterling work in making the departments of Surgery, Medicine and Gynaecology and Obstetrics what they are today.

Editorial Note

We apologise for th small size of the Auricle this year. Owing to the apathy of students, the editorial staff is diminished in size and fewer articles were received. All jokes, poems, letters, and other contributions should be typed, if possible, and handed in to the S.M.C. office.

We also apologise for no Afrikaans articles appearing, as none were sent in.

EDITORIAL



FOUND GUILTY

It is generally upheld by reliable sources at Medical School that the general body of medical students are found guilty.

They are found guilty of a gross injustice to themselves. They have neglected a most important aspect of their training, as students, as future doctors, as intelligent citizens.

All students' societies have been neglected, and badly too. Those very societies which train them in things other than pure "canned medicine" gleaned from textbook and occasional visits to the wards, are neglected. Unprecedented heights were reached this year in the annals of this School. Ten years ago, articles appeared in the Auricle criticising student apathy. But has it ever reached such a state? No!

To quote some of the facts. At the general meeting this year of Occupational Therapy Society, only three students turned up; of Refectory, two students; of Cultural Activities Committee (to elect committees for Chess, Debating, Diogenes, History of Medicine, Science and Research Sociology and Statistics) only 13 turned up; of the Auricle only two, and to N.U.S.A.S. Health Council meeting, only eleven.

The vicissitudes of students do not vindicate them. Such apathy is not compatible with the survival of student affairs promoted by, for and of the students.

The top people of S.M.C. were questioned. Apathy? Why write about it? It has existed so long. Students don't even bother to come and elect the people who run their Refectory, their amusement, their newspaper. They are rapidly losing their pride and are wanting everything on a golden platter.

Students don't let it be said of you, that in 1947, societies had to close down. And don't look at things with an eye suffering from blepharospasm!

WELCOME!

We at Medical School welcome the new Professors in the Departments of Medicine and Surgery, Professor Elliot and Professor Underwood.

Professor William F. Underwood, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) studied at Cambridge and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. In 1937 he was elected a Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1938 he was awarded the Prize of the Royal College of Surgeons.

As a surgical specialist he saw service in France, taking part in the Dunkirk Evacuation, in North Africa and Italy. Later, he acted as Assistant Director of Medical Services until demobilised in August 1945. He was twice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the O.B.E.

He acted as Sub-Dean of St. Bartholomew's Hospital before coming to South Africa. In the field of reorganisation of medical training of students, which will soon be placed on an international basis, he spent considerable time.

Neuro-muscular innervation of the urinary tract and retro-pubic prostatectomy have been his special topics of research.

Professor Guy Elliott, O.B.E., M.D. (Cape Town), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) studied at the South African College School and the University of Cape Town, from which he graduated with honours and was awarded a post-graduate scholarship for oversea study.

He studied further in England and America and later practised as a specialist physician in Cape Town. In 1938 he was engaged in research work at the British Post-Graduate Medical School, Hammersmith.

During the war he was in charge of medical divisions of various hospitals in the Union, Middle East and Italy. In 1945 he was awarded the O.B.E. (Military Division).

Before coming to Wits. he was Acting Professor of Medicine at Cape Town University.

●

JOKES: 2/6 will be paid for the best joke sent in for the next issue.

●

EDITOIAL STAFF:

Editor: N. L. Wulfsohn.

Business Manager: B. Goldstein.

Sports Editor: J. Abelson.



TO THE SECOND YEARS

Welcome to Medical School, your nest for another five years! This edition of the Auricle was specially brought out to coincide with the arrival of the second years. The Auricle staff worked overtime to get this edition out in just over one week.

Medical School always looks forward to seeing who the new second years are, and, if they will fit into the homely pattern of Medical School life. So, Second years, while we bid you welcome, we bid you too, to support your School in each and every aspect.

A New FRIEND

As old friends passeth from the fold so do new ones appear. While bidding farewell to Mr. W. Barnard, who was well-liked by all students, we welcome the new Assistant Registrar, Mr. J. F. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock obtained his B.A. degree at Wits. As an undergraduate he played in Wits. 1st Rugby Team, and still shows a keen interest in all sport. He spent six-and-a-half years in the field during the war and as such has wide experience in dealing with his fellows. He is very sympathetic to students and, as busy as he is, goes out of his way to help them.

SUPPLY ASSOCIATION

This is to inform students of the existence of the Supply Association which is run by the Students' Medical Council. The purpose of the Supply Association is to bring to students instruments, stationery, white coats and anything else which may be required during a Medical career as cheaply as possible, and at prices cheaper than in town. The Supply Association also acts as an intermediary in the sale of second-hand books to students, seeing to it that both buyer and seller get a square deal.

Of late there has been some vague discontent about the Supply Association. This discontent is the direct result of malicious rumours on the part of irresponsible students of this University. We challenge anybody to prove that they can buy the same article that we sell, at a lower price!

N.U.S.A.S. and HEALTH

N.U.S.A.S. Health Group will investigate this year "The Functions of a Health Centre." A full and interesting programme is ready for perusal.

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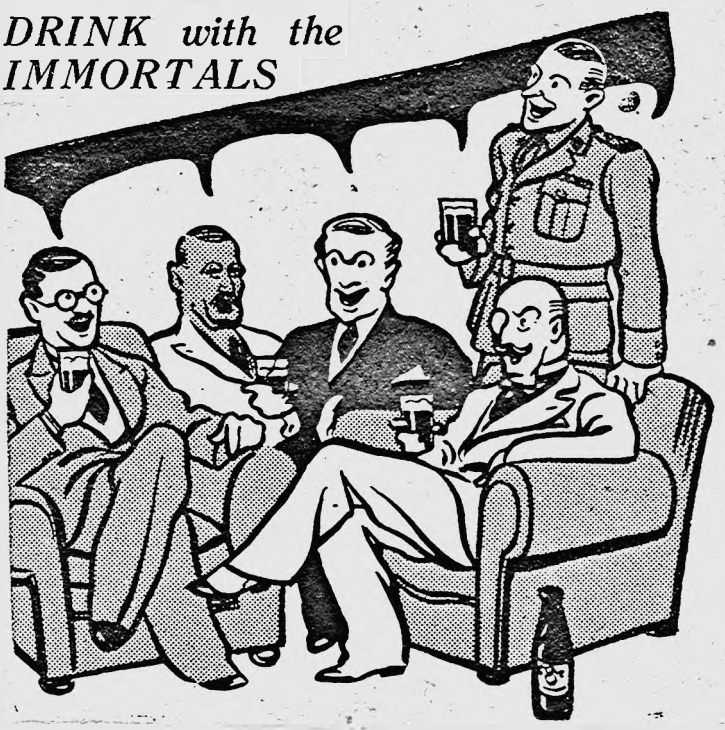
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DRINK with the IMMORTALS



1.—MOUSE-EATING—

Long before the reign of Mena, the first historical king of Egypt (appr. 340 B.C.) the body of a mouse was the last resort of medical practitioners for children in extremis.

Also "Grilled and eaten, it stops dribbling of saliva in children . . . roasted alive and placed upon the sting of a scorpion it cures it. Applied similarly to splinters and thorns, it draws them out."—(Abd-ar-Razzag, an Algerian physician, 16th Cent.)

2.—MUMMY AS A DRUG (Pliny — Middle Ages).

"Bitumen, the Babylonian kind is good for cataract and affections of the eyes, and is efficacious also for various skin-diseases, lichen, leprosy, itch — and also for gout".

"Made into a plaster with flour it is a good haemostatic and heals wounds." (Mummies were bound with this bitumen.)

3.—HIGH IDEALS—(Medicine in 5th Century.)

The doctors were organised in a guild. Their oath, which has been preserved, binds the pupil to honour his master as a father; to instruct his master's descendants in the art without charge. Except these and his own sons he may instruct no one who is not a regular sworn companion of the craft. The new pupil promises to use his art only for the use and help of the suffering, never for their harm; never to dispense poisons or abortive medicines; never to take advantage of his position to seduce a patient; to keep under the seal of secrecy all that he may learn in the practice of his profession. (Hippocrates.)

4.—DIAGNOSTIC METHODS (17th Century India.)

The Hindus reckon upon three humors in man's body, viz. By (air), Pitt (bile), Cuff (phlegm), which they know by the pulse upon the right hand, lying one finger neare the bottome of the thumb upon the pulse upon the wrist, and that is for Cuff; another finger by it nearer the arme and that is for Pitt; and another nearer the arme and that is for By. So that if the pulse under the last finger named beate high, then is the body full of By. If all the three beate high, then is the body inclining to fever.

5.—REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION—

Take every morning, half houre before Sunrise, a good draught of cold water, and walke half houre after. (India, 17th Century.)

6.—CIRCULATION —

The Hindoos say that the blood circulates, that in the feet running to the head, and thence back againe to the feet againe through other ruggs or veins. (India, 17th Century.)

7.—TREATMENT OF OEDEMA (1396).

Udimia schal not be smiten yn with repercussiuis save it schal be waastid awei in the firste begynnyng in this manner. You schalt purge him with trocis de turbit, or with another medicyn that purgith fleume.

8.—NERVE SUTURE (1396).—

The nerve must be cleaned and healed before the wound is closed. The ends of a the nerve ought to be sewn at the same time as the skin, and a medicine applied, then the limb may regain its motor power. Nothing should enter the wound.

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BORBORYGMI

Doctor: Were you examined?
Female Patient: Yes Sir.
Doctor made a digitalis examination..
Doctor: Hm! With foxglove I presume.

A second year is saluted —
The cerebellum is composed of a pyramid, an olive, and another structure.

Mr. L - - non! (talking of the diagnosis of gastric ulcer): What would you do in doubt?
General Silence.
Voice from deep: Draw trumps.

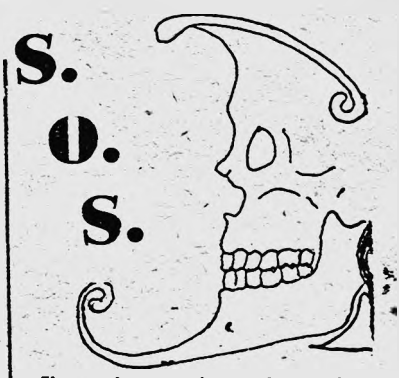
A girl walked up to the information desk in an American hospital and asked to see the upterne.
"I think you mean the interne, don't you, Miss?" asked the nurse on duty.
"Yes, I guess so," said the girl. "I want a contamination."
"You mean examination, don't you?" corrected the nurse.
"Well, I want to go to a Fraternity ward, anyway", the girl said.
"I am sure you mean Maternity Ward, my dear," the nurse answered, to which the girl replied loudly:
"Upturne, interne, contamination, examination, fraternity, maternity, what the hell's the difference? All, I know is that I haven't demonstrated for two months and I think I'm stagnant."

First small female patient: Staff-Nurse said I'se a good girl.
Second small female patient: Who is Staff-Nurse?
First small female patient: Don't you know? Staff-Nurse is the nurse wot cooks the wee-wee.

Houseman: Haven't I seen you before?
Patient: Yes Sir, several times.



Houseman: I was sure of it. Who are you?
Patient: I'm the chucker out at the Empire, Sir.



I'm going mad — slowly but surely. I can tell you why too. It's the Huts, the Army Huts at Milner Park. They began putting them up last December — all over the place and very nice too. First the floor, then the walls, the roof, the windows, the fire hydrant and finally the paint — and finished! Ah, but not quite! The number. Yes, each hut had to have a number painted on black and thick, and lo! the first was called T1, the next T2 and with great satisfaction I watched the numbers going up.

A short walk revealed things no Architect nor Engineer ever dreamed of — here at T9 by the Baths, the Xiphisternal junction. Across the path beside the Library, the Angle of Louis, with Aorta and Trachea discreetly changing name and nature. Right up by Main Block nestles T1. They've called it the D.D.M.S. Office, they don't know its really the Stellate ganglion, and so on round the grounds; past the Vena cava and Oesohagus on our left as we go by Sunnyside — little do the builders know they have been working on the diaphragm!

Well, they got as far as T11 and as I left for the vac I saw the foundations for T12 — and happily thinking Aorta, Azygos and Thoracic duct I left Wits. behind. Then! then the blow came. This week I returned, passed the Vena cava and oesophagus and there! next to T12 sat smugly and unashamedly with bright red roof, not LI, no! not the Transpyloric plane, but T13!

Everyday I have passed by this T13.

What does happen at T13?

Somebody tell me. Somebody must make the builders change it. Somebody must do something. As I am going mad — slowly mad at T13.

E.J.W.

●

Chief: What is a common complication of a fractured pelvis?
Student (on the morning after the night before): Blubber of rapture.

Honorary: Here we have a case of secondary syphilis. Why is there albumin in the urine?
Student: Because syphilis is a protein disease.

A skeleton is the inside out and the outside off.



CRICKET:

Last week an Inter-University Cricket Tournament was held at Pietermaritzburg. The Universities which took part were U.T.C., N.U.C. (which fielded 2 teams), Stellenbosch, Rhodes and Wits.

Games were played daily and Wits and U.C.T. were at the head of the log. In the final game Wits failed badly against the Western Province side, and this failure cost them the Trophy.

The following Witwatersrand players (all Medicals) featured in the averages:

Bowling: Van Velden took 25 wickets at a cost of 8 runs each. **Bloom** — 27 (the highest no. of the tournament) at 9 runs each.

Batting: Jenkins (Dental) — 35 runs per innings, **Stemmler** (Wits. Captain), 24 runs per innings, **Oberholtzer,** 23 runs per innings, **Bloom,** 22 runs per innings.

Barkmann, the wicket-keeper, played exceptionally well throughout the tournament. He accounted for 18 wickets, about half this number being due to smart stumping.

After the last game a South African University XI was selected to play against Natal XI. To the Wits supporters there were a few surprise selections and omissions. The notable exceptions from the team being Bloom and Barkmann. The surprise selection was Stemmler, who however, later justified his selection with some good batting in the Natal game. He was Vice-Captain of the S.A. University XI.

Van Velden, the Wits. fast bowler, was the only other Wits. member to gain selection.

Congratulations to Bloom on being selected to play for Transvaal against Rhodesia.

Van Velden is also to be congratulated as he played for his Province against N.E. Transvaal.

SWIMMING:

Wits. have a number of swimmers who have been selected to represent Transvaal in the forthcoming Currie Cup Tournament.

The selected members ar Misses Kincaid-Smith, Coetzee and Petersen, and Messrs. Cohen, Klenerman.

Congratulations and good luck to them all.

J. B. ABELSON.

BOXING & WRESTLING

Through the enthusiastic coaching of Mr. Bridger and the fine spirit displayed by the members, the Hadley Shield was won by Wit. University and was presented by Prof. Brebner at the University championships on the 29th June last year. The whole affair, in which five Universities took part, proved a great success. It was the fourth time since 1924 that Wits. has won the Hadley Shield.

The University Wrestling Championships were held in Ralston's Gymnasium and authorities of the South African Amateur Wrestling Association who attended the tournament were surprised at the talent displayed by our young amateurs.

The Principal showed his satisfaction by granting a good sum for a University Gymnasium which is now in the course of erection on our Sports Ground.

In view of the approaching season a General Meeting of the above Club will be held in C.L.T. on Thursday, 13th March, 1947. Everyone interested is invited to attend as we intend having a more prosperous year.

J. M. CALITZ.

VISITING LECTURERS

The Visitors Lecturer's Trust Fund was envisaged by an enthusiastic S.M.C. and endorsed by an equally keen S.R.C., in order to promulgate regular visits by men not only prominent in their own fields of work, but endowed with a clear and embracing vision of its relation to society. These are the civilised, this is civilisation! Who will deny that in S.A. and even in our own burgeaning Alma Mater this is a rare commodity. Except in scattered instances, research is trifling; no great school forms about the nucleus of a wise and brilliant teacher. We need external stimulus and more. A brisk breeze, if no hurricane, will invigorate our stagnant backwater.

The idea of the Fund originated when Dr. J. Gillman asked the S.M.C. to contribute to expenses for a visit by Dr. C. A. Waddington, who is an eminent geneticist and embryologist, and no less a man of culture.

The visitors will spend some months with us, and, during that time, will work with the departments concerned, and besides that, give a series of lectures — with a broad cultural background — to the student body.

After careful investigation,, the sub-committee appointed to establish the fund has decided that the best way to provide it with a regular and sufficient income is to supplement it by an annual general levy on all students: a fee of 10/- per student is proposed, and the matter will come before the General Student Body at the first General Meeting. Cast your vote for enlightenment (not only of pocket).

Second Year Medical Students . . . .

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