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The Auricle. 1940; November :1-19

Students` Medical Council

1940-11
The Students` Medical Coucil University of the Witwatersrand
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/30215
The Auricle. The students` Medical Council, University of the Witwatersrand. 1940; V6(3) :1-19.

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The Auricle

Published by The Students Medical Council
University of the Witwatersrand

Vol. 6. NOVEMBER, 1940. No. 3.

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THE AURICLE

Monthly Magazine of the *Students Medical Council*

Volume 6. No. 3 November, 1940

Editorial Opinion

Less Play

Since the outbreak of the war much has been written and said about the students' position in relation to military service. We may safely say, however, that one general principle has been firmly established: If this is going to be a short war, there is no need to enlist the services of a mere handful of medical students; if hostilities will be long drawn-out, the Army will need every doctor that can be pressed into service.

The latter state of affairs, by all appearances, seems to be rapidly developing. Arising out of this it would seem desirable to speed up the course in order to produce a maximum number of well qualified doctors in the shortest possible time. There is actually not much in our Curriculum which could be left out, but it is common knowledge that barely 7 months of each year are spent in the University and Medical School and even a considerably shorter period is devoted to actual study. In the normal 6 years, the academic period thus amounts to less than 4 years. We do not suggest that steps be taken to institute an intensified 4 year course of study for the M.B.B.Ch. We do, however, wish to make it clear to the authorities, that reorganisation of the course in such a way as to save men only six months, would be sincerely welcomed by the students.

We know that we can trust the student body to make out a "prima facie" case for work and study for once in their lives.

There can be no gainsaying the fact that human beings, casual beasts that they are, act most purposefully and decisively in periods of emergency. Provided that the emergency does not appeal wholly to their latent animal instincts, we feel that the extra stimulus assures the greatest degree of willing labour and accomplishment.

The demands that the war will make on the medical profession do not present a cheery prospect, even through rose tinted glasses, for the future of the young men presently studying for their degrees. But we are convinced that we can expect them to bear themselves courageously and nobly during this most critical period in the history of our honoured Medical School.

The Blackout of Science

The ever-widening second world-wide catastrophe has destroyed and apparently will continue to destroy forever the gifted minds of undiscovered scientific geniuses. This thought is brought to mind because of

the fact that the Rockefeller Foundation had 110 appropriations distributed in 22 European countries when the war broke out last September. The sum which was being expended was well over $5,000,000. No inconsiderable part of these grants were for work in Great Britain. Some of it was at the University of Warsaw, which, of course, has even ceased to exist. The Polish faculties of the Universities of Cracow and Vilna have also been imprisoned or deprived of all privileges to pursue their work. The University of Strasbourg was transferred to central France. Student bodies of most of the Continental Universities are now probably dead. No one knows how many of the institutions in Germany have been closed, or if they have not, their laboratories have become a part of the war machine designed to destroy life instead of saving it, as the great oil philanthropist intended his money to be used.

There is no reliable way of foretelling how many of the young men passing through the recruiting office have the mind of another Pasteur, a Lister, a Koch, an Ehrlich, or a Van Behring. It must be remembered that Lister lived at a time when he might have perished in the Crimean War, or Roentgen could have lost his life in the Franco-Prussian war. It seems deplorable, therefore, that 154 fellowships, which have been awarded by the Rockefeller Foundation to relatively young men in Great Britain, have had to be terminated on account of the war.

The Torch of Science will have to be held high in the Americas during the European blackout. It will be difficult to forecast how long such a condition will exist in Europe. Perhaps it will last so long that all of the important work being carried on in Great Britain, Scandinavia and in the other 22 European countries will be completely lost.

We shall carry on and in our scientific progress we recognise no distinctions to be made because of race or creed. We will endeavour to keep the Scientific Torch burning so that the present blackout will be illuminated as much as possible.

(Reprinted in part from an Editorial in the International Medical Digest, August, 1940.)

THE WAR FUND

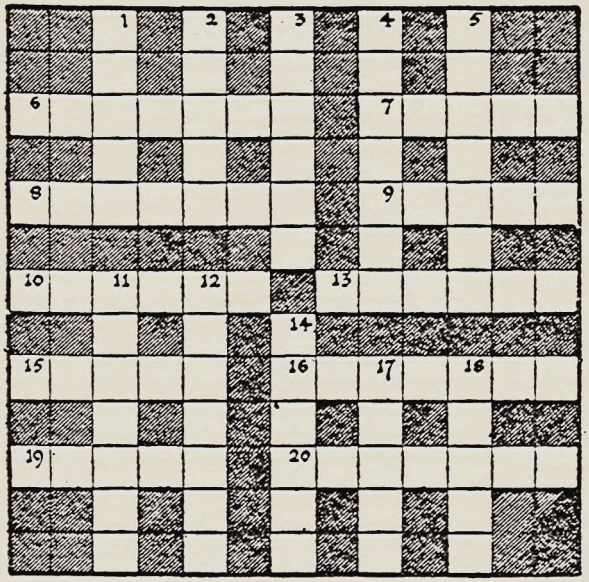
Starting off with a great flourish, the Medical School section of the University fund promised fair success. But the tempo has not been maintained and, with the examinations plumb in our midst, it seems as though the whole thing will fizzle out and leave the Fund a fair way short of the desired total.

This year will not only live in the memories of students as a year when nothing was too big to tackle but also as a year when success was the exception. We may delight in the fact that the Rag was a huge success; we will remember, perhaps forever, how we beat Tucs on their homeground; We will be proud of our play "The Wind and the Rain" but nothing can really compensate for our scant success in other spheres.

Are we going to allow this war fund effort to fall flat. Can we the "cream of the Nation" not bring our ingenuity to bear on this most important of all ventures.

There is yet time to vindicate ourselves. We exhort each and everyone of you to make a last big push.

Cryptic Crossword Competition



A prize of 2/6 will be awarded the first correct solution opened. If a correct solution is not forthcoming, the prize will be awarded to the nearest correct entry.

Submit your entries
within one week.

The Editor,
"Auricle."
S.M.C. Office

Entrance Fee: 3d. per entry.

Proceeds will be donated to the University War Fund.

Across—

6. To rid the vessel of a Cape Town number plate.
7. He propounded a law that weak stimuli increase and strong stimuli inhibit activity.
8. The I.R.A. form a drug mixture with needles.
9. Many lecture periods are pleasantly spent here.
10. With 12 down: don't diagnose a Chinaman cutaneously.
13. See the distorted crane grow.
15. He is associated with a fibrous overgrowth.
16. I'd clear the root of the nerve.
19. Or, instead of us, is a sign in tetanus, Sir!
20. Almost causes 18 down.

Down—

1. In short, an undesirable alien of the invisible world.
2. Steer the fat.
3. I dine with nothing to prevent infection.
4. Marrow activity mad in this.
5. Psychiatry introduces him.
11. By surrounding a muddled enemy the Continent instils a condition of forgetfulness.
12. Curse it! I am yellow.
14. You are a tramp without urine.
17. Sink the abscess.
18. This organism before the letter is possessive.

• FACULTY WIT •

FOR MEN ONLY!

Names. They're queer things.

Funny how just the sound of a girl's name will conjure up to one guy a vision of a female who looks like a horse. While to another man the same monicker will suggest a sweet, pretty little thing any fellow would fall for.

Anyhow, here's a batch of names, and what they mean to me:

BARBARA.—Big-boned damsel who plays hockey, is awfully hearty in a "Jolly good, girls!" sort of way.

ISOBEL.—A bit prim. But a grand organiser of charity tea parties and bazaars. Probably Girl Guide leader.

PAMELA. — Sweet and sporty. Grandest pal a man ever had.

MARIE.—Too utterly utter. "My dear and did we have a good time — went out every night."

PHYLLIS.—Blonde. Usually a barmaid.

MARY.—Plain but sweet. Makes a good wife (but not for me!)

IDA.—Pretty, fresh-air girl with a nice smile.

MAUREEN.—Red head. Extremely efficient. Determined to stay single.

DORIS.—Dumpy wee girl who goes to the pictures twice a week. Gets on O.K. with boy friends, but prefers her girl pals.

PAT.—Appears in your dreams. Can't look her in the face next day.

Well, I've said it. And if they don't tally with your ideas—can I help it?

—My Name? Not . . . likely.

SAYINGS OF THE GREAT

"Too many students are fugitives from information."

* * *

"Jitterbugs are not bugs; they are vermin."

* * *

"If you want to keep the stork away from your home you must shoot it in the air."

* * *

"This class is so dumb that if you stood around in a circle the police would raid you for being a dope ring."

* * *

"Thats a new one on me as the child remarked when the doctor discovered the first sign of measles.

SYNONYMS

Textiles: Technicals: Testimonials

CLERKING CHUCKLES

Patient (to clerk, asking family history) "Oh, my father lived to an old age. In fact he died of **seminal** decay"

K.C.H. Gazette.

* * *

Then there was the person who thougqht that the function of the umbilicus was to hold a candle while reading in bed!

K.C.H. Gazette.

Letters To The Editor

SHORT CUT

The Workhouse,
Hospital Street,
15th October, 1940.

To the Editor,
"The Auricle."

Sir,—I, like many of my fellow students, have on more occasions than I care, or am able, to remember, attempted the short cut route to knowledge with the aid of mnemonics and catch words. Few, if any at all, have yet turned to poetry for inspiration.

How the poem that follows has stood me in good stead, I shall presently make clear.

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when life began,
So is it now I am a man,
So be it when I shall grow old
Or let me die!
The Child is Father of the Man:
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural Piety.

This delightfully expressive poem by William Wordsworth contains, in its last word, the clue to the spread of cancer. Thus:

Permeation.
Infiltration.
Embolus.
Transplantation.
(Y) Intra-epithelial spread.

Yours, etc.,
MEDICOBSERVER.

An Appreciation

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Music and Dramatic Arts Society by the Hon. Secretary of the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic:

"I received from the Registrar of the University under cover of a letter of 2nd October, a cheque for £73 8s. 9d. together with the report of the finances of the play, "The Wind and the Rain," given by the Dramatic Arts Society in aid of the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic. I am sorry that pressure of work has prevented my replying sooner.

"On behalf of the Board of the Health Centre and Clinic I wish to convey to the Society through you our most hearty thanks for this splendid contribution to the funds and to congratulate the Society on the success of the play. We trust that the co-operation of the Health Centre and the University may continue to be for their mutual benefit.

"Again thanking you for this fine expression of your interest."

(Rev.) J. DEXTER TAYLOR.

Our Refectory?

"If you can't eat the meat, get out; this is no place for weaklings."

* * *

Judge not Fouche by the Giddy company she keeps.

CURRENT COMMENT:

● *THE EAR 'EARS* ●

THAT a certain member of the Medicine Department (clerical) is very much concerned with affairs of the heart.

THAT a certain lady member of the staff will be horrified to hear that a new Women's Journal has as its title the favourite abbreviation of her name (or will she?).

THAT a well known lecturer makes no excuse for being prone to contract the so-called fashionable diseases.

THAT military pursuits have led to an epidemic of the upper lip fungus.

THAT the effort of a certain secretary is being much admired by all.

THAT all students sincerely congratulate Professor and Mrs. R. A. Dart on the birth of a daughter.

THAT students, generally, take off their hats to those students who have signed on for active service with certain mobile units.

THAT Wits is proud of her sons who are already serving with the Army.

THAT the Medical School sends its heartiest best wishes to all its graduates who are making a fine name for themselves and the school, by their capable work in looking after the health of the Army.

THAT it is with sincere regret that the S.M.C. bids farewell to its most capable workers.

THAT Mr. David L. Ovedoff has made a mark for himself in the annals of the history of the S.M.C. His work on Council and finally his capable guidance as President has at no time been surpassed.

THAT students wish Mr. C. H. Wyndham (Vice-President), Mr. Morris Fainsinger (our cautious Treasurer who saved us quite a bit of money), Mr. J. F. P. Mullins (Vice-President, S.R.C.), Mr. D. R. Morris (Journals and S.R.C. Benefit Society), Mr. J. L. Rice, Mr. H. Mendelow, Mr. K. L. Allen (Cultural Activities), and Mr. C. J. Southwood and Mr. Lopis the best of good fortune in their exams—They deserve it! (and need it).

THAT Miss Martha Slabbert has set a standard for Senior Women Students which will be difficult to equal.

THAT best wishes are being tendered to Miss Ann Walker.

THAT all students come in for a share of good luck in the examinations.

THAT our lecturers wish us what we wish ourselves.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

MY PAST FIVE YEARS

FIRST FUMBLINGS

I started Medicine very young, very eager and very impressionable. When I first set foot in the University, I was convinced in a vague sort of way that something very important was happening for mankind. At that time, I didn't regard Medicine as such; I was filled to satiation with knowledge of the lives of Pasteur, Lister, Semmelweiss, Koch, Ehrlich and a host of others—knowledge gleaned, during the three months between my Matric. and the new University term, from the myriad popular books one finds in the Public Library. I was imbued with what might be called the spirit of idealism. I wandered about the grounds almost dazed and arrived five minutes late for the first lecture in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre where Professor Stephen was telling 180 Freshers about the course. He was the first man to change my ideas about University professors; I'd always imagined them as staid and dignified models of academic virtue, but a more vigorous and virile perso nI have yet to meet.

I took notes meticulously, cut up a frog and a rat, stank for days from the dogfish, and tried to get a current to pass through several intricately entangled wires. I delivered a hopelessly inadequate lecture to a group of students on "Evolution," and during this year a heavy case of books landed on my nose and knocked it sideways. I went to Frankenwalk and tramped for miles looking for various species of plants. I slept three hours on the night before Rag and then exhausted myself mentally and physically on a float called "Hell's Belles and Plutoe's Hoboes." I nearly suffered a nervous breakdown from Physics problems. And I passed at the end of the year with a second in Botany, and felt a Man.

SECOND SCRAPINGS

I came to the Medical School after a ridiculous period of calf-love, half-elated and half-apprehensive, because I had heard tales of students who had fainted on first seeing a naked corpse stretched out ready to be dissected. I didn't faint, mainly because others didn't, and I wasn't going to look a fool. I worked hard at the body, and during the first few weeks of the year often went home depressed and miserable because I had cut a cutaneous nerve. I went to the Second Year Dance and told my partner with pride that only five hours ago dead bodies had littered the floor, and preened myself when she shuddered. We went up on the roof, and when I had time to look, I thought I had never seen such a beautiful view of Johannesburg. In the Physiology "Frog" Lab., we smudged our graphs of "Tetanus, Clonus and Tonus," and in the Chemistry Lab., we spilled Fehling's Reagent all over the bench. I heard boating stories from Professor Dighton Stammers, and for no reason at all, I suddenly became passionately interested in Gynaecology and obstetrics, and read with avidity De Lee's "Principles and Practice of Obstetrics." For the second time I lost my reason on Rag Day and got 65 per cent. for an Anatomy Test in June. I walked the corridors of the Medical School as if I owned them and wrote my first

article for the "Auricle." Professor Dart nearly pulverised me in an Anotomy Viva at the end of the year, but I passed with two thirds classes.

THIRD TRY

I started off my third year in an exemplary manner by running round Johannesburg as a member of a Rag sub-committee. Later, I sat in the library with my bulky "Textbook of Pathology" and made copious notes. I'd lost that inevitable freshness which sticks to a University student long after his first year—a freshness, not so much adaption to environment, as outlook on life, reaction to the problems of modern science. It's difficult to describe what phase I passed out of, but I might most accurately sum it up by saying that I was not so much inspired by Virchow the man as by Virchow the scientist; the adolescent hero-worship of great men had given place to a more practical atempt to understand their work. I passed Clinical Anatomy, got a first-class in Bacteriology, and to my unplumbed horror, failed to find my name on the Pathology list of passes.

FOURTH FEELINGS

I passed my supplementary in February. The Hospital was something new and exciting; from the theoretical and take-for-granted side of Medicine I passed to the practical application of all its textbook facets. I began taking histories and making examinations and venturing impossible diagnoses. Never will I forget my first patient, my first real introduction to clinical medicine, a young woman who suffered from a jaundice, the etiology and satisfactory treatment of which puzzled the best brains in the hospital; we struck up a friendship on the basis of her symptoms. She taught me a lesson that will not readily leave me — how to endure with fortitude and courage a chronic invaliding illness that would have sapped the morale of many people and broken the spirit of a Samson.

In that year, too, I took over the editorship of the "Auricle" and enjoyed myself thoroughly in bringing out an issue each month. I wrote many things—most mediocre, some bad, and I gave it up at the end of the year with considerable regret. From medicine I passed to surgery, and like all medical students was impressed by the dramatic results obtained by the surgeon as compared to the conservative slowness of the physician.

FINAL FIFTH

And so here I am approaching the end of my fifth year — older, maybe a little wiser, much less impressionable. Perhaps I've become blasé — I don't know; sometimes that child who started University in 1936 doesn't seem me —five—years—in—the—past. With me in 1940 are about half those fellows with whom I began. To talk platitudinously, we've weathered the storm.

Probably in five years time I'll pick up the "Auricle" in which this article appears, and be vastly amused at the nonsense I wrote when I was twenty-two.

M.G.

NOTICES

Lost property awaiting claimants:—

1. Dunhill pipe case.
2. Buxton keytainer with 5 keys; one marked 17.
3. Key case with 9 keys; one marked 46.

Call in at the S.M.C. office.

Past issues of the "Leech" may be obtained on application to the Business Manager. A nominal charge of 6d. per copy will be levied.

• *In The Field of Sport* •

Probably the most significant happening in Sporting Circles at Varsity was the attitude of the S.R.C. with regard to the colour standards. Having decided to tighten them during the war period, it now appears that they are prepared, for once, to stick to their ruling. This attitude, combined with a growing tendency of apathy towards sport, will mean that in the years to come, fewer and fewer awards of merit will find their way to deserving sportsmen. This, of course, is a great pity. There can be no gainsaying the fact that there will be other men to carry on the high traditions of Varsity sport. It is sad to think that they might never have anything to show for it.

ATHLETICS:

Competition this season is going to be difficult to arrange. With many of South Africa's finest athletes in the Army, high class meetings will be at a premium. Nevertheless it is pretty safe to expect satisfactory performances from the Varsity Club.

The Huskisson Trophy for the outstanding performance of the track season has been awarded to Louis Eisenberg. During the last season he consistently recorded the lowest times for the mile walk in South Africa. Towards the end of last season he came within 11 seconds of the South African record which has stood for 20 years. He is also a most deserving recipient of a Full Blue.

P. N. Swanepoel in addition to receiving a re-award of his boxing blue, has covered himself with distinction by being the first Wits man to gain his Full Blue for cycling. He is now the holder of the South African 100 kilometres cycling record.

An attempt is being made to arrange an O.T.C., O.T.A. athletic contest and a team was sent to the Inter-Unit competition at Robert's Height's on 26th October.

RUGBY—GOLF

In the Rugby world "Tiffy" King and Trevor Jones have been hovering in the "Uppah 10." They've been re-awarded their Full Blues.

The Golfing Club has been collecting money for the War Fund. They've done very well indeed. B. van Lingen has been re-awarded his Full Blue and S. J. Hersch was a new award.

HOCKEY—TABLE TENNIS—SQUASH

These clubs have all had enjoyable seasons. The Hockey Club made no applications for colour awards. Generally speaking it has been hardly hit by the war and next season team building will be the pre-occupation.

The Medical Table Tennis Club has been doing things. All eight matches played to date have been won. Rogalsky and Kagan have done good work.

INTER-YEAR SPORT

This institution has fallen on very lean times and the usual competitions were only partly completed. At present the 2nd and 5th years are battling for the lead. Indications are that the 2nd years will win the Macdonald Adams Trophy for 1940.

FAREWELL

We bid farewell to our Sixth Year patriarchs of sport, Trevir Jones, Hilly Mendelson, Archie Halliday and all the others, too numerous to mention, are going out to do their stuff. They have our very best wishes for success in the exams and whatever lies before them thereafter.

—SPORTS EDITOR.

S.C.A. MISSION AT WITS.

In August this year a series of meetings of exceptional nature and interest were conducted at the University.

They were the first of their kind conducted consecutively at a South African University. The send-off given to the Mission by the Chancellor, the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyer, left no doubt as to the importance of the undertaking.

Mr. Hofmeyer saw its importance as part of that great moral revolution that, to his mind, is essential for every individual to-day, if he is to be able to meet the future.

The Medical School was privileged to have the Rev. "Tubby" Eaton give the Christian alternative to the programmes of the present time — political philosophies of Nationalism and Communism. He also tried to answer the questions. "Is Religion Bunk?" "Is the Bible Trustworthy?" "Science and Religion," "Has the Church done more harm than good?"

These questions required delicate handling, and the Rev. Eaton should be congratulated on his achievement.

The answer, from the Christian viewpoint, to the world's needs, was dealt with more fully at the evening meetings at Milner Park.

The interest shown was exceptional and proved that the discussion of similar subjects had been seriously neglected. Medical students evinced an interest not merely in medical topics but even in philosophical problems, such as the Christian's outlook on many of the perplexing problems of the day.

The practical attitude of Christianity towards the solution of certain social problems was clearly depicted by Mr. Allan Paton, Principal of Diepkloof Reformatory for natives. Excursions to Sophiatown and Diepkloof have been arranged and will be repeated on request. They display admirably that there is more to the Christian attitude than mere words.

The suggestion that meetings on the line of those already held should be repeated regularly was raised by members of the Cultural Activities Committee, and in colaboration with the S.C.A. such meetings are now being arranged.

S.M.C. VACATION EXECUTIVE

To Mr. George St. L. Warren has fallen the unique honour of being at the helm of both the S.R.C. and the S.M.C. in a single year, though not at the same time. President of the S.M.C. vacation executive and president-elect for 1941, Mr. Warren is bidding fair for fame. His success will depend on the support he gets from the students.

Treasury affairs have fallen to the lot of Mr. J. E. Irvine. This office has been much simplified for the student treasurer by the employment of a book-keeper and, in contrast to a few years, ago is now almost a holiday. As Secretary for Supplies, Mr. E. Norenicus hasajob which has the unpleasant habit of kicking every now and again, but nevertheless he should manage to keep his department working smoothly.

Mr. A. J. Leontsinis retains his office as General Secretary of the Council.

Miss Ann Walker sits on this executive committee in her capacity of Senior Woman Student.

Finally there is Mr. G. Ranking who as vice-president, will no doubt be an active worker behind the scenes.

Poem

When in the "terrible teens" of the pesent century I did a resident appointment at the London Lock Hospital, I composed a metrical advertisement for the facilities afforded by that institution which was then considered unprintable. Being now in an Expeditionary Force where, in the absence of the casualties of Mars, one's attention is perhaps disproportionately focused upon those of Venus, I was reminded of this ancient Saga; and wondered whether in these more plain-spoken days of the "fighting forties" the tabco would still hold good. So I have reproduced it from memory, and added another stanza to bring the treatment of Gonorrhoea up to date . . .

HYMN OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL

Should a person ever hanker after treatment for his chancre,
Or to see his skin eruptions getting fewer,
If his melancholy plight is Gonorrhoeal urethritis,
At this hospital we guarantee a cure.
But perhaps what worries you is a heriditary lues,
And you're feeling, like your nasal bridge, depressed:
Get your drooping spirits rallied—we make spirochoetae pallid.
And Ducrey's and Neisser's pests don't get much rest.

If a dissipated banker comes to see us with a chancre
He's astounded at our courtesy and tact;
When a constipated plumber comes complaining of a gumma
Not the slightest blame attaches to the act.
No, our charity's a picture —
If we have to pass a stricture
On a patient we use gentleness, not force;
And our treatment's never brutal, though our methods have to suit all
Dispositions, hardened, shy, refined, and coarse.

If in spite of all precautions you're a martyr to abortions,
And you think you'd really like some healthy babies;
If a touch on your patella makes you kick like a propeller,
And you've never heard of G.P.I. or Tabes;
If you've been to Quacks, and Coué'd, to improve your spinal fluid,
But your Wassermann is obstinately plus;
There is only one conclusion—it's a grandiose delusion
To attempt a cure without recourse to Us.

When, in days of tribulation, we relied on irrigation.
You could almost hear the diplococci clap:
But just mutter "M and B," and the mystic "693,"
And the incantation wipes them off the map!
A minor peccadillo on a hospitable pillow
Implies no longer weeks of deep disgrace—
How can any sin be tragic which the ever-potent magic
Of Sulphonamide can instantly efface?

All the worshippers of Venus are sincerely glad they've seen us
When Nemesis o'ertakes them in their trade;
And even very shy men, narrow devotees of Hymen,
May invoke our patron saint St. Lues' aid:
So if you need our assistance, don't maintain that haughty distance —
In our clientele all classes freely mix.
See, they flock from rich and mean street up to Hospital and Smit Street!
Ring us up—our number's **Ehrlich 606.**

(Acknowledgement to "R.B.P." St. Barts, H. J.)

RECENT ADVANCES

Muiro Phobia

An occupational disease of the Central Nervous System affecting Third Year Students.

Etiology.

Casual Organism: Textbook of Pathology by Robert Muir.

Predisposing factors:

(1) Age: It is seldom found at the extremes of life.

(2) Sex: Equal incidence in both sexes.

(3) Season: Occurs in its severest form in spring and early summer.

Pathology.

The brain shows cloudy swelling
And a marked post-mortem change
In fact the whole condition's
Pathologically strange.
The Eye of Faith's atrophic,
The liver's in a mess,
The stomach shows gastritis—
(Alcholic, more or less).

Clinical Findings.

(1) Symptoms of over-indulgence in alcohol and tobacco.

(2) Hypertrophy of left shoulder muscles, and callous formation on left arm—a local reaction due to the constant presence of the casual organism.

Course.

The disease has a progressive course in which three stages are not infrequently distinguishable — excitability, followed by lassitude, which usually terminates in coma.

Complications.

(1) Strong desire to go to the films on the slightest provocation.

(2) Destructive mania directed towards the book in question and any surrounding objects or persons.

(3) Bunions.

Prognosis.

Poor. Nervous breakdown at best. More commonly D.T.'s followed by acute examination failure.

Treatment.

A long rest cure. Only reading matter to be detective novels and light fiction dealing with the Roman Empire, the habits of the Honey-Bee, Lurve.

Prophylaxis.

Take up housebreaking, housekeeping or hopscotch.

Immunity.

A natural immunity to the subject is established after one attack. The immunity lasts for life. A passive immunity can be induced by: (a) Path. lectures; (b) MacCallum or allied works.

(Ed. Note: A plain case of pre-examinal encephalitis.)

Aftermath

The Three Racketeers

The "Three Racketeers" were hard at it. Sprawled in various attitudes in the men's common room, they were arguing (somewhat heatedly, it must be admitted) about the lack of interest shown by the students towards the general meeting, which had been held the previous day.

The views of A were along these lines:

(a) That the attitude of various nitwits at previous meetings, that pretty girls (all of whom are seductive) should not be allowed to enter the Medical School; and of others who protested that this or that was unconstitutional, had turned general meetings into a farce.

(b) That the agenda of the meetings was uninteresting, i.e. no mention on the agenda of discussions regarding shortening of vacations on account of the war.

(c) That general meetings were too long winded, and that a great deal of prattle on expenditure could be omitted by a complete financial report issued a few days before the meeting.

B, on the other hand, in spite of numerous interruptions by A and C, thought that A had hold of the wrong end of the stick; that the whole trouble was that as long as the S.M.C. carried out their duties without undue inefficiency, the students were content to give them supreme control. The cinema was a great counter-attraction to students, who possessed an inborn apathy, especially when practicals are

(Continued foot next col.)



cancelled and lecturers stop early enough to give them a chance of attending the meeting. No changes in the general meetings could possibly alter the situation, and the students concerned were in the midst of a steady decline.

C, who had interrupted the proceedings periodically with facetious remarks, suggested that the S.M.C. be disbanded and that he be made "Full-time Fuehrer." As I felt, he was in the process of being dismantled, piece by piece.

I turned on my heel and left the struggling trio, wondering why I hadn't attended the meeting. "Then my soul sickened with a sudden pain and horror." Was I one of those in the process of a steady decline?

—H.

STUDENT THOUGHT IN OUR TIME

Examination time is testing time and perhaps at no other period in the year do we have such displays of brilliance and originality.

Of course our medical students are known to be blessed with a good modicum of brains, though modesty is one of their distinguishing features, and they generally do not aspire to mighty performances. Even in the second year we have manifestations of this noble trait. The following examination dialogue proves the point: A student in an Anatomy viva was asked to name a bone which was presented to him. He replied, brightly, "Humerus, Sir"; the examiner, overpowered by this display of ingenuity, continued: "Now, could you tell me to which side it belongs?" The student modestly replied: "*I don't want a first class, Sir*!"

We also know that second-year students have made some spectacular contributions to Endocrinology and Nutrition.

One of the second-year bright young things, when asked what Simmond's disease was, replied that in Cimmond's disease, adults lead a very fast life! and continued that in hypopituitary disease was, replied that in Simmond's size, becomes very rapidly **emancipated** and the treatment, as suggested by the same B.Y.T., is to make the patient vitamin A deficient, as such deficiency predisposes one to sterility and disinfection.

This display of brilliance is continued into the senior years. On one occasion a physician, after a two-hour discussion of a cae of pruritis ani, asked a budding clinician what treatment he would use in the condition. The B.C. replied thoughtfully that scratching in pruritis ani was the cheapest and most effective treatment from the patient's point of view.

In order to test the skill and ability of his students on the verge of joining the ranks of the honourable profession, one of our lecturers asked a prospective obstetrical genius to examine a pregnant woman. After performing the mystical rights known only to the initiated of this sect, the B.O. intoned, "This is a breech presentation, Sir." "And you treatment?" "If I were practising in the country where no hospital facilities were available, I would apply a hot fomentation and bring it to a head."

In these days when post graduate education is conducted by the manufacturing chemist, it becomes a matter of great difficulty for the practitioner to know what type of tablet or mixture will act best in a diagnosed condition. In order to obviate this bewildering state of affairs, the following recommendation, based on weighty experience, will always prove a standby:

Aches and pains must be divided into two types on an anatomical basis: Those above the umbilicus and those below.

In the former conditions Aspirins will usually be effective, whereas in the latter, Mag. Sulph. will certainly purge the sufferer of its pains.

In case both treatments should fail, then the drug of drugs, M. & B. 693, should be used in all aches and pains from the tips of the hair to the end of an ingrown toenail. JAY.

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