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Students` Medical Council

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THE AURICLE



PUBLISHED BY

THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

VOLUME VIII NUMBER 1

MAY - - - - - - 1943

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THE AURICLE

MAGAZINE OF THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL

Volume 8 No. 1 **May, 1943**

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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EDITORIAL OPINION

The S.M.C.'s appointment of a sub-committee to constitute a more democratic Students' Council has been welcomed on all sides.

It would be well, however, to consider some of the problems this commission will have to face.

As we stated in our last editorial, the majority of Medicals did not participate in the managing of student affairs, partly because those responsible committees were run on a "jobs for pals" basis. Thus the elimination of this system of selecting committees should result not only in more students taking an active part in their affairs, but also in "the best men getting the jobs." If the latter were true it would mean that one-time financial wizards would be in charge of our economics; catering Kings (and Queens) would be running our Refectory, and retired newspaper men would be publishing our journals.

The advantage of such a scheme would be that we should be mustering the maximum "talent" and theoretically, at least, our many student enterprises would be run with the maximum efficiency. All this no doubt is particularly desirable, but in practice there are certain drawbacks. Very often it is not the financial wizards or catering Kings who are interested in student affairs, and an efficient man who is not interested in his job, will, in all probability, be no more successful than an amateur who is keen.

Although a number of our finest leaders have been mature individuals, many of our older men and women feel that they are here "to do Medicine," and not to expend time and energy on managing student affairs. So it is that some of our best workers are not available. Yet, even if we were able to place the most experienced students in the various committees, we might then be denying interested amateurs an opportunity of learning how to run the affairs; for it is probable that each year another bank manager or catering King will come to light, and unqualified students might never be anything more than committee members.

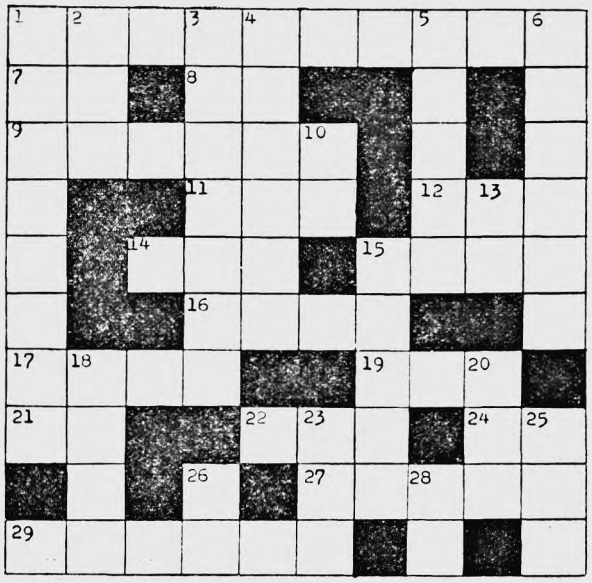
Then too, if this is to be a truly democratic organisation, all S.M.C. members, e.g. Chairman of Amenities, Supplies, etc. should be elected by the general student body, and the difficulty arises here, that it is not always the most efficient student who is the most popular.

Another snag concerning a completely *elected* S.M.C. is that this Council would then probably reach unwieldy proportions.

Up to date it has been the policy of our S.M.C. to designate to each of its elected repre-

Medical Cryptic Crossword Puzzle

(No prizes offered.)



ACROSS

1. Try in a meal for your digestion (10).
7. The opening of 29 across is reversed consequently (2).
8. Surgical procedure is cut short (2).
9. Bloody result of Trachoma (6).
11. Does this wind blow patients into hospital (3).
12. Carcinogenic to the rodent (3).
14. Stretcher bearers favour this regiment (3).
15. Measure the helminth? (4).
16. A little one lies in the sweetbread (4).
17. Penniless Greek epic becomes bones (4).
19. Visceroptotic gas? (3).
21. Motoring Club (abbr.) (2).
22. Is the bloody lumbar puncture suitable? (3).
24. Feel the prostate thus? (2).
27. Openings (5).
29. Obstetrical neck (6).

DOWN

1. The agent of Cleopatra's death begins to take one's breath away (8).
2. Not one of the higher worms? (3).
3. One of the hipbones is a parasite fungus (7).
4. Does pus lie in this tumour? (6).
5. Syphilis is the arch enemy here (5).
6. And Afrikaans tray for Amoebiasis (6).
10. Slop without 8 across (2).
13. Before labour father is backward (2).
15. Are you Fehling these? (5).
18. Trail blazed by the inventor of surgical forceps (4).
20. Porcine syphilis? (3).
23. Follows the cow and the chicken (3).
25. A Wasserman Reaction is uncooked (3).
26. Gynaecologists' sine qua non (2).
28. Fast to acid (2).

* * *

Secretaries of all societies are requested to notify us of all meetings so that arrangements can be made to have a representative of "The Auricle" on hand.

Bydrae tot "The Auricle" in beide Afrikaans of Engels word graag ingewin. Sulke bydrae moet by voorkeur getik wees en op een sy van die papier alleenlik. Stuur aan: Die Editeur, "The Auricle," Mediese Skool, Johannesburg.

(Continued from page 1)

sentatives (e.g. the class reps and six S.R.C. members) some further post (e.g. Secretary or Treasurer of Council, Chairman of Refectory, etc.). This has been done for the purpose of keeping the Council as small and manageable as possible. If however the S.M.C. has to be entirely elected, it is more than likely that in their effort to distribute favours evenly, the student body will elect a different student to every available position, and in this way the S.M.C. will become an unwieldy body of representatives.

Thus, in considering the problem of a more democratic S.M.C. we have, on the one hand, to applaud the principle and to express every wish that a hundred per cent. elected S.M.C will come into being; whilst one the other hand we have to remember that our S.M.C. has always been an efficient working body, and that in our efforts to obtain a more democratic Council we must not sacrifice its efficiency.

PUT YOUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER

MEDICALS — GET ALONG THESE LINES.

NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

You know that the Health Commission is sitting at the moment. Your S.M.C. has a scheme on foot to present evidence reviewing the entire medical position in South Africa. You must have ideas; pass them in to Nuggie Feldman and Get Going!

AFRICAN NATIONAL CLINIC.

You know that the African National College is an organisation to give adult Africans the elements of education. You may not know that a Medical Clinic is being started in conjunction with it. It needs Medicals. See Arnold Klopper and Get Going!

CURRICULUM

We know that you are dissatisfied with your curricula. We've heard you grouse. We've published your grouses. We can do no more. Its up to you! See Dennis Walker and Get Going!

MEDICAL SCHOOL REFECTORY

You have seen the conditions among out-patients at N.E.H. You know these men and women need food far more than medicine. Your Refectory is trying to organise a soup-kitchen for them. They need enthusiasts. See Jan Lion-Cachet and Get Going!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

You know what is being done for our Non-European patients. The Nursery School Library and Knitting Scheme have been started. They need you to keep them going. Gladys Levy has jobs for you — see her and Get Going!

VESALIAN THEATRE

You have slept in this Black Hole of Calcutta. You know, were it not in our school it would be condemned by the Public Health authorities. Stop sleeping — see Dr. Maule Clarke and make him Get Going!

RATS IN OUR MIDST

You know we don't mean those in the animal room. Your books have disappeared — your instruments repose in pawnshops! The thieves are in your midst. The S.M.C. is powerless — this is your affair. Watch your books, keep an eye on your things and stop them from GOING!

CUT THE CACKLE

THESE ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

LET'S ORGANISE

We Only Heard...

That all students welcome Dr. J. Gillman back from his travels.

That they are glad to hear that there is a possibility of Dr. Osborne's return in the near future.

That they congratulate Dr. T. Gillman on his recent marriage.

That they are glad to see that despite the crockery shortage, Mrs. Leslie has succeeded in obtaining some new cups.

That the women are now firmly ensconced in their new Common Room.

That they congratulate Drs. Oettle and Irvine on being the first winners of the S.M.C. prize.

That they welcome the new line taken by Wu's Views.

That they hope that the paper will now give students a lead in place of reporting only Cultural Meetings and Sporting Events.

That according to a certain Professor "abortion is only necessary when prevention has failed."

That Dr. Alec Culiner is the proud father of a bonny son.

That our C.P.S. unit officers have been issued with uniforms.

That ordinary privates, who are now expected to salute the Chiefs, have a tendency to use the Tradesmen's Entrance on Fridays.

Of the marriage of Dr. Anne Walker to Dr. Guy Berry.

That Mr. and Mrs. N. Feldman have returned from their honeymoon and that Medical Students wish them every happiness.

That Prof. Archie Strachan is now acting Dean of the Faculty.

That the best wishes of every student for a speedy recovery go out to Prof. Dart.

That Dr. Clarke gave his lecture on *Public Health* to the second years in the *Vesalian* lecture theatre.

That it's ironic isn't it.

NATURAL-"ISM"

Far off is a bright light,
As yet it only glimmers
Faint hopes of a cowardly people
Whose sight is dull.

Simultaneously, all see
In one gushing moment of intelligence
That the energy of the rays
Cannot be harnessed by Providence.

Again, again and again,
The vast and tortuous struggles
Dim the light of reason
And conceal it for another generation.

No human hand, no human mind
Can forever obstruct the pathway
Of Nature's course; nor her destination
Where splendid illumination shall glow o'er the Earth.

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RALES and RONCHI

HEARD AT THE SYMPOSIUM ON PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

Prof. Craib: "I always understood that abortion was used only when prevention had failed."

"I have always disliked the fact that when Prof. Brebner gets up to speak, everyone laughs. What I dislike even more is that the same thing happens to me."

Dr. Maurice Shapiro: "I was standing up there at the back and I heard someone mention politics; so I thought I'd better come down here to the front!"

Prof. Brebner: "I don't see how Preventive Medicine can cure cancer of the rectum."

Prof. Cluver: "Since man came out of Eden a great deal of the trouble has been due to excess starch."

Dr. Boet Kloppers (in an extract from his parable): ". . . and the metronome was made to beat at 90 and then at 120 and he became a confused sheep."

★

HEARD AT WARD ROUNDS

Surgeon: "What is this small abdominal incision?"

Student: "Gastrectomy, Sir."

Surgeon: "What!"

Student: "Well, Sir, a partial gastrectomy then."

* * *

Mr. Alm-nd: "How do you diagnose a ruptured urethra?"

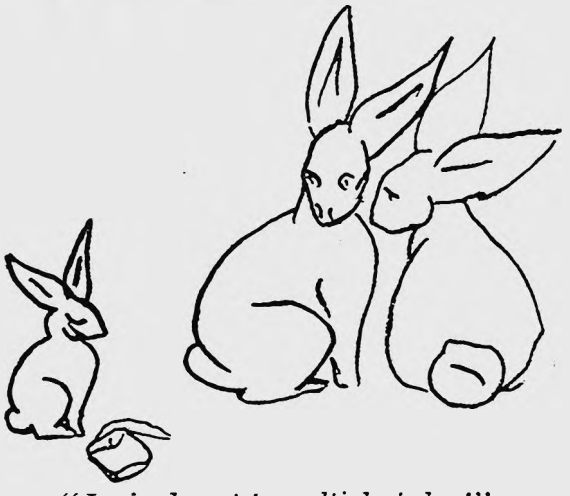
Kl-v-nsky: "Pass water into the patient's bladder, Sir."

* * *

Mr. Alm-nd: "Describe inflammation."

Student: "Er . . . well . . . er . . . its hot, red, raised and swollen . ."

Mr. Alm-nd: "Are you sure you're describing inflammation?"



"Junior learnt to multiply today!"

SAYINGS OF THE GREAT

Dr. M-ll-: "The classifications of nephritis like that of the anaemias has always been cloudy."

Like the urine, we presume.

★

IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE.

The Gynaecologist student who was non colpos mentis.

The Medical Student who thought that Sychosis Barbae was a mental disorder affecting the hairdressing trade.

☆

WE HEARD A STUDENT SAY

"She's one of the few girls I know that I'd kick out of bed even if I was drunk."

"After all, embryology is not vital. Just a pleasant way of spending a wet Sunday afternoon."

"A basophilic nucleus is situated at the base of the cell."

At a S.R.C. meeting held on April 6th, the following motion was passed:

That the S.M.C. be considered as a separate body as far as S.R.C. finances are concerned, receiving from the S.R.C. the difference between £2 10s. per student excluding 1st year Medical Students and the pro rata expenditure on the following items:

(a) Developments Fund.
(b) N.U.S.A.S.
(c) Pavilion and Grounds.
(d) Grant to Varsity for Grounds.
(e) All Sports Council.
(f) Local Tours for Sports teams.
(g) Students Union Grant to All Sports Council.
(h) Inter-Varsity expenses.
(i) N.U.S.A.S. Conference.
(j) Extended Tours.
(k) Wu's Views.

Interviewed and asked for a statement Alec Gonski, President of the S.R.C. and final year Medical said: "After several attempts in previous years, the Medical School has achieved its financial Autonomy. The S.M.C. shall not from this year onward budget for a sum of money as grant from the S.R.C. but at the end of each year shall receive its pro rata share of all the S.R.C. money left over after the above items had been paid off. This will ensure that money received from Medical Students by the S.R.C. will not be spent on facilities from which Medical Students do not derive benefit.

Although the sum may not be perhaps far in excess of previous grants, the distribution shall be much fairer."

We may soon have our own barber shop in the Medical School and we are informed that investigations along these lines have already been instituted. The saving in time and money is one which will readily be accepted by all students and the project is yet another proof of the versatility of the S.M.C.

INTERNAL

Cupid has been running riot among medica's of late and we have just heard of yet two more marriages in the Medical School which were inadvertently omitted from our "We Only Heard" column. Our heartiest congratulations go out to Barry Adams (ex-secretary of the S.M.C.) and also to Margaret Cormack (Secretary of the Auricle) who is now Mrs. Hathorn. Other newly-weds are Judy Judge, Elim Hammar, while Sam Kagan and Anne Hayman were also recently married.

★

A Nurses' Congress was recently held at Medical House at which Mrs. M. Ballinger, M.P., explained to the Nurses the new Bill that she has introduced into Parliament. We have always maintained that the nurses have been getting a raw deal and every step taken to relieve the position is assured of the whole-hearted support of the Student body.

★

Starting with only three members late last year the Musical Society now numbers approximately one-third of the Medical School. They have progressed from their hand-wound portable gramophone to a magnificent electrical amplifier. An interesting innovation is the introduction of some recitals by members of staff. Who said that Medicals lack culture?

★

The Principal has conditionally agreed to build two squash courts at Milner Park and two at the Medical School. Those at the Medical School will most probably be erected on the site of the tennis court at the S.A.I.M.R. The Squash Club should enjoy a minor boom as a result of this and enthusiasts can look forward to playing on their own courts in the not too distant future.

The Student's Progressive Study Group started the year well with a series of lectures on political economy by S. Buirski, but since this series there has been a marked decrease in the attendance at meetings. It has been suggested that the club has been approaching the subject of scientific socialism in an advanced and unpopular manner. Consequently the group intend to study John Strachey's "Theory and Practice of Socialism" in the form of an informal seminar. In this way students will contribute to the discussion and the group can look forward to many interesting discussions.

★

News has just come to hand that the Developments Fund is to finance the necessary enlargements to the present soccer ground so that the difficulties referred to in our sports article now fall away.

AFFAIRS

As a result of representations made to him Mr. Raikes has agreed to remit the sum of ten shillings per medical student to the Students' Benefit Society. This Society has not catered for Medical Students in the past and this innovation means that every medical student will be entitled to an annual complete and thorough examination including such services as Chest X-rays, etc.

This development is one of great importance and we strongly urge all medicals to take advantage of it and to safeguard their health.

Full particulars are obtainable from the Chairman of the Students' Benefit Society, Milner Park, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

"The recent Health Survey of Native children at Alexandra Township has clearly shown that Medical students of all races, creeds and colours have a lively and acute appreciation of health, social and economical problems in this country. About eighty students, mainly of the senior years, participated in this project, which lasted for one week (8-12 March, 1943). 3,510 African school children were examined. One hopes that this piece of work will be the forerunner of greater schemes for the future. Students can do the job, as has been clearly shown, provided they get leadership and support. This survey could not have been possible had it not been for the support both moral and financial, of Mr. Raikes and the University. This enthusiasm of the University augers well for the future of this and similar schemes. The report of the survey is in the press and will appear shortly. Those who participated in the survey will each receive a copy free of charge, while other copies will be obtainable from the Librarian, Medical School at 1s. 6d. each."

The above is an extract from an interview with Harding le Riche, organiser of the survey. We feel that this should be only a beginning and that the time is not too far distant when the health of the entire Fordsburg area will be cared for by Medical Students.

★

The Diogenes Club is fast becoming a feature of student life. Students are beginning to wake up to their social and political responsibilities and are taking an interest in the world around them. Speakers this year have included Professor Hoernle on "Alexandra Township"; I. Glyn-Thomas on "The Progress of the War"; N. Feldman on "Social Security" and E. S. Sachs on the "Independent Labour Party."



Len Kahn — Energetic 2nd year who is now Secretary for Supplies. This ex-serviceman is proving his mettle and should be a power in the Medical School in the not too distant future.



Mike Barry — Die Vegtende Ier. S.V.R. Verteenwcordiger in 1942 en 1943. Is in die begin van hierdie jaar voor die ontstaan van die fooie-kwessie tot onder-president van S.V.R. verkies.



Len Stein — President, S.M.C., whose adroit handling of difficulties arising out of fees dispute has further enhanced his popularity.

PERSONALITIES



Margot Becklake — 5th year Medical who is one of the first medical women to become Senior Student at Wits.

★

Other personalities who proved too shy to face the camera were Gladys Levy, Pat Hingle, Nuggie Feldman and Ian Welsh, but we have hopes of presenting them to our readers in our next issue.

★



Alec Gonski — tweemaal in dieselfde jaar President van S.V.R. Het reeds roem verwerf deur sy breilesse aan naturelle-pasiënte. Was Alle Sport verteenwoordiger vir twee jaar.

Sporting Scene...

Despite the recent setbacks caused by the fees dispute, the Medical School All Sports Council has gone ahead organising sport for Medicals.

Tennis. — Inter-firm tennis has now begun. Everyone is striving hard to help relieve the tennis-ball shortage and will anyone who can further aid please get in touch with Mr. te Groen. The final is expected to be played next month.

Table Tennis. — Inter-year table tennis has started. The results up to date are as follows:

Third Years beat Fifth Years.

Second Years beat Sixth Years.

The final will be played at the end of this month. An innovation this year is the introduction of the inter-firm table tennis.

Soccer. — The Soccer Club was again beaten into submission by the University All Sports Council in a matter that has now become a yearly feud. The Soccer Club has long suffered the indignity of having to play on a field smaller than the standard minimum size and application was made to use the cricket field until such time as the soccer field was enlarged, but this motion was defeated. The Soccer Club is, however, taking the matter up with the Development Fund Committee and it is to be hoped that their efforts will meet with success.

Hockey. — Inter-year matches are being arranged and the Medical School Ambulance Unit is also to be approached for a match. Owing to the shortage of women hockey players, an attempt is being made to arrange mixed teams for the inter-year competition. This was done last year with considerable success.

Baseball. — The possibility of inaugurating a Baseball Club is being investigated. Will all students interested in taking an active part and all those possessing a working knowledge of the game please submit their names to the Chairman, All Sports Council, as soon as possible.

THEY BRING LIGHT

The Occupational Therapy Society has this year widened its field of activity and in addition to teaching knitting in the wards, women patients are being taught to sew and are making the garments for the children who attend the Nursery school. Through the co-operation of the City Librarian, a library of approximately one thousand books in English, Afrikaans and the vernacular has been opened. Books are distributed to each ward in the N.E.H. once a week by both men and women students; this being the first time that men have officially taken part in Occupational Therapy activity. An attempt is being made in some wards to teach children of school-going age to read and write. All wards will shortly be equipped with wirelesses.

With money from Rag and from donations the new Nursery school is to be erected and it is hoped that a full time Non-European Nursery school teacher will be employed. The building will contain a washroom with small lavatories and wash-basins. This room will remain open to the children all day as there is no suitable lavatory accommodation for them in the ward at present. A toy-mending and carpentering section is being opened to be run in conjunction with the Nursery school.

The Society has several aims for the near future and these may be summarised as follows:

(1) To provide educational facilities for children above nursery school age.

(2) To give simple talks and demonstrations on the public health aspects of personal hygiene, nutrition and sanitation — thereby explaining to patients who suffer from preventable diseases why they are ill and what to do in order to prevent their families from contracting the same diseases.

The women of Medical School have done some hard work this year. As its scope is increasing the Occupational Therapy Society can now offer its membership to any men who are interested and it is hoped that the Society will soon cease to be a predominantly female one.

FLAT-FEET

— By —

B. KLASSNIK

Now if you will take the trouble to think back a while, you will remember how it came about that Harry the Horse-doctor was hoofed out of this dignified Medical School. I do not wish to reflect on the rights and wrongs of this case, and I wish to make it clearer than a milk-maid's skin that Harry the Horse-doctor is further from my heart than is my fifth rib, also I am not troubling to think back a while about Harry the Horse-doctor. In fact all I am doing is walking past the hospital, meaning nobody no harm, when who should up and come but Harry the Horse-doctor and I give him a big hello. Before I have time to talk and I do not wish it he leads off like this:

"Where can a mug get some pure Scotch?" and I answer because that is what the cheeser at the chemist tells me for toothpaste: "Don't you know there's a war on?" so Harry comes back quicker than a dud note: "Where do you think I'm going — a fancy dress ball?" and then I notice he's in uniform.

I ask him how it is he has a uniform and I say do you read "Arthur G. Barlow's Weekly"; this of course is a joke as Harry only reads "Fullerton's Form Card" and "Dunn's Gazette." This I know because he once tells me that he buys a "Guardian" because he sees the placards "Lenin's Anniversary" and has the nag at 5 to 4 in the fourth at Newmarket. I then ask him why his face is longer than the odds against a straight flush. He tells me that he joins the army because he wishes to escape the attentions of some certain agents of the turf, who wish to attach his property on account of the aforementioned wager; since then his time is much his own at his green hat.

Now Harry tells me a story which is so sad that it would bring tears to the eyes of Bird-brain the Bookie who is titis media. In fact he is so tight, that I hear it said that one day his niece who is a college girl visits him and when she is walking past the refrigerator a cockroach pulls her inside in desperation. All this I am telling you because when he is telling me the story I have to keep on interjecting "Stop it! You're killing me" and I am not the first to cry when a dog gets run over on the screen.

He explains to me in detail that the army is no place for a guy with his talents, and that he is less understood than the calculus. This of course is my joke as Harry the Horse-doctor thinks that the calculus is a stone in the ureter which it is. I could go on for pages with his sorrowful tale but I do not wish it. He tells me how hard he tries to get out and how cruel the army does are. He even tries to say he is suddenly gone blind and they give him a seeing eye dog, but they find him out at once, for no sooner does he see the dog when he says "I would not have my good money on that dog." This shows at once, even to the army mind, that he is not blind and that the dog is not a racing model.

Finally he complains of his feet and when the doctor sees him he tells him that he cannot understand how he can live with such flat feet and also that he should be in bed. Harry the Horse-doctor tells me that his feet are so flat that the medico has to go into the basement to see them, and that he tests them by crushing a Haemolytic Streptococcus under them, also that he will get his discharge in a short while.

But what is worse for him and his feet is, from the end of the month he has a job as a shop walker which is only a little better than a shop-lifter but then maybe Harry can combine them which is not such a bad job in an age when soda-jerking is a career, and swing music is music.

"Bed-sore"

With a weary back and aching head
(Both caused by this peculiar bed)
I lie here living in mortal dread
Listening for the measured tread
Of the sister who's in charge of me—
She's friendly but 'tis plain to see
When I'm in pain she's filled with glee.
Begrudging me a cup of tea
She makes my life a misery;
For two long dreary days
I've been in such a haze
Of sleepless nights and pain and noise—
Who said that life was full of joys?
Whether you have pyelitis or gout
You'll find it is without a doubt
A nightmare of medicines—salts and such—
Of bedpans, basins, bustle, rush—
Nurses hurrying to and fro
Day and night they're on the go
Bells ringing and patients screaming
While under chloroform they're dreaming:
It's a mad confusing rush of sound
That goes on they say the whole year round . . .

And as with pains and aches I lie
Tossing and turning and longing to die
There's just one thing I'd love to sing
O death, O death, where is thy sting? ? ?

★

MEDICAL HISTORY

The Medical History Group started late this year with an enjoyable meeting at which enthusiasts heard a short talk on John Hunter by Max Daitz and an instructive address by Arnold Klopper entitled "Harvey and His Times." An enjoyable feature of the evening was the return of Dr. Joseph Gillman to "his children."

The group meets every second Friday evening at 8.15 p.m.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS AND MENTION "THE AURICLE"

To Pay or Not to Pay

An unknown wit has quoted the poets on certain aspects of the "April Revolution." Here is his comment:

"What is the meaning of this Ideal
That haunts my intelligence
And charms my senses?"

W. J. Turner.

GENERAL MEETING

"I shall go among red faces and virile voices,
Sleep stylish sheep . . ."

Hugh M'Diarmid.

"Phrase-making, dress-making—
Distinctions hard to find,
For thought must play the mannequin, stout in phrase,
Or gape with the ruck . . . ."

C. Day Lewis.

S.R.C.

"What shall I cry?
We demand a committee, a representative committee,
A committee of investigation.
RESIGN! RESIGN! RESIGN!"

T. S. Eliot.

COMPROMISE

"Take some remembrance of us as a tribute,
Not as a fee." **Shakespeare.**

RATS, SCABS AND YELLOW BELLIED MONSTERS—

"Have you heard the news?
I know! I know! They all betray us."

Richard Church.

"The little sardine men crammed in a monster toy
Who tilt their aggregate breast against our crumbling Troy." **Louis MacNiece.**

THE REASON WHY—

"Shapes of death haunt life
Neurosis eclipsing each in special shadow."

Stephen Spender.

EPILOGUE

". . . . but he who best and last
Fights till belief be lost or he undone,
Has given the world a soul, and hold his fast."

Robert Nichols.

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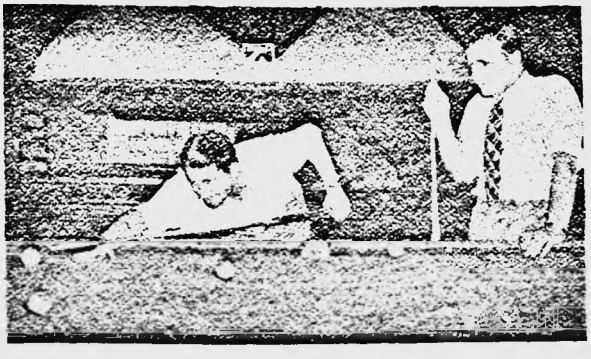
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