

THE AURICLE

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE MEDICAL STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

COMING SHORTLY

AN INTRODUCTION TO FUNCTIONAL HISTOLOGY

by Geoffrey Bourne, D.Phil., D.Sc., F.Z.S.
Reader in Histology, University of London
at the London Hospital Medical College.

Price 26/-

The new approach to Histology is the functional one, and this book endeavours to present the subject in this way. Beginning with "The Cell" the structure of organs and tissues is discussed in relation to the chemical nature of their components, their physiological function, and the structural changes which result from alterations of physiological state.

Besides theoretical considerations the book also has a practical value, as the chapter on "Technique" gives details of a number of histochemical procedures for the demonstration of enzymes and other chemical substances.

It will be of great value to medical and science students, both undergraduate and post-graduate, to research workers and to technicians in laboratories. It should be used also as a supplement to existing textbooks on Histology, and it is a "must" for those interested in the physiological approach to the subject.

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Dean of Faculty
of Medicine
Pretoria
Prof.
L. J. Te Groen's

Guest Editorial

AT THE OUTSPAN

Fifty-five years ago my parents had a farm 28 miles from Pretoria where we used to spend our holidays. We travelled by ox wagon and during the day we stopped at outspans where we chatted and exchanged news with other parties. We had plenty of time. In the late afternoon we outspanned at Kaffirspruit and made camp for the night. Some of us slept on, and others under the wagon. The next afternoon we were at the farm, and nostalgia comes over me when I think of those holidays and our mode of travelling.

Twenty-five years ago I went on a hunting trip in a small Ford lorry. This lorry had a leaking radiator, and at every spruit or spring I had to stop and fill the radiator and water bin. There were still parties with ox wagons outspanned at many of these spruits, but I had no time to exchange news and ideas. What a change had taken place - not only in our part of the world, but everywhere.

Is it this nostalgia that makes us say that students, interns, assistants, lecturers and professors must have time for reflection

(some call it recreation)?
What must we reflect on?

It is necessary and of the greatest importance to study every patient, and we must not hurry past so many patients, especially the patient with the inoperable tumour or incurable disease. Methods of examination can be learnt, but observation and experience is individual and subjective. We need an outspan so that we can think and reflect and then we can discuss our opinions and experiences. Students will say: "But we have no time. What about examinations?". Perhaps it is a pity that examinations and examiners had to be instituted. The State, different universities, competition and fair play maintain and uphold this necessary evil.

An important world conference on under-graduate medical education will be held from the 24th to 29th August in London. It will be most interesting to hear the views of the different authorities responsible for this training. I am quite sure that they will stress that some time should be set aside every day for reflection. At present the student's and the teacher's time is fully occupied by lectures, tutorials, ward rounds and clinics, because the subject of medicine is so vast, and new knowledge and advances so staggering that we often do not know whether we are coming or going.

There are also other difficulties, namely the different bodies or organisations that deal with a patient, for example the municipality, the Province, hospital, Central Government, health centres, clinics etc. Overlapping and shifting of responsibilities cause friction and frustration. Another, and a very important fact, is that the teaching hospitals further have a dual purpose. (a) training of the medical student, and (b) the training of the student nurse. Many of the medical

LOOKING BACK OVER THE FIRST 33 YEARS

BY Professor R. A. DART. (6th in this series)

Our Graduates' sense of collaborative service.

To my way of thinking this sense, one might term it a conditioned reflex, was an inevitable consequence of the wide variety of professional destination, sex, race and religion in our undergraduate body. Severed from the amenities of Milner Park; and cabined, cribbed and confined by hundreds in laboratories built for a quarter and even an eighth of the number they were forced to accommodate; or learning to make do with tumble-down private residences instead of spacious halls, our undergraduates - medical, dental, therapeutic and nursing - discovered new student values.

They fought for the right to establish aside from, yet within the greater community of the Students' Representative Council, the quasi-independent Students' Medical Council. They demanded their share of the fees they paid, the right to run their own tea-room and be financially responsible for their own common rooms. Away back in Seymour Heymann and Isadore Goldblatt's time, if I remember correctly, they established The Leech. It was something new in Medical Students' publications; facts and science replaced obscenity and nonsense; it became in a brief space a quoted source for the Surgeon-General's Catalogue of medical literature. As far as I know, nothing like that had happened before to a Medical Students' Journal. Borborygmi were of course inevitable but were quietly relegated to the roneoed sheets of the Auricle! Each July became with the passage of time a serious scientific congress organised by students and The Leech became its mouthpiece. That tradition still lives; you built better than you knew; last July's massive congress dealt with

Cancer! Tuberculosis, Nutrition and similar weighty themes have occupied previous numbers. The serious congresses organised by the medical students formed a standard in the University that had inevitably to be followed by the other faculties and the S.R.C. itself.

The Leech was only one of the fields in which the medical students blazed a path for other medical schools and their fellow-students in the other faculties of this University to follow. From Seymour Heymann, Cyril Adler, George Warren, 'Bill' Duthie and 'Laurie' Adler onward through many other names the Medical School gave Presidents to the S.R.C. This school gave the lead to this University and to all South African cities with medical schools or without them in awakening the social consciousness of the community first of all to their hospitals. They raised, as the Hospital Board's reports show in 1929, the year of their first Rag £1,222, in 1930 £2,889, in 1935 £4,793 and in 1941 £9,139. The peak year was 1949 with £11,150 handed over to beneficiaries after all Rag expenses had been met. That was Sidney Brenner's year as President of the S.R.C. The University had taught the people to give gaily and when the Province finally assumed its Hospital responsibilities, the S.R.C. merely transferred the alleviating influence of the monies collected to other social sores.

SCIENCE SOCIETY
presents a lecture by:-
Mr. Barnes on,
"RESEARCH INTO PORPHYRIA"
on Friday 8th May,
HARVEIAN ---- 1.05p.m.

Alexandria Clinic.



Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic

By Dr. M. Susser.

The Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic has a long and intimate association with the University. The Academic Staff of the University have always played an important part in its management; students have made substantial contributions, through Rag, in establishing and maintaining the clinic. Many of its essential functions are possible only because of the financial aid provided by the annual robbery perpetrated by the student body.

Although there are a number of general practitioners, the University Clinic is the only organised personal health service in Alexandra, a city of 80,000 people. More important, however, is the fact that there is no other mid-wifery or preventive or promotive health service in the township.

The importance of this service should be estimated against the background of an infant mortality of over 400 per thousand, a fantastic figure (it should possibly be scaled down a little because while probably all deaths are registered, some births are not). In the season there are over 80 infant deaths a month from summer diarrhoea. This is the measure of social conditions. In spite of these many adverse factors beyond our control, much of the disease in Alexandra is due to ignorance, an ignorance which can be attached and appreciably affected by a health service provided it has sufficient funds. Our invaluable partner in this endeavour is the Entokozweni Family Welfare Centre.

The death rate amongst infants attending our well-baby clinic regularly is nothing like that for the general population, while the still-birth rate amongst cases attended by the clinic (about 2000 last year) is as low as any in

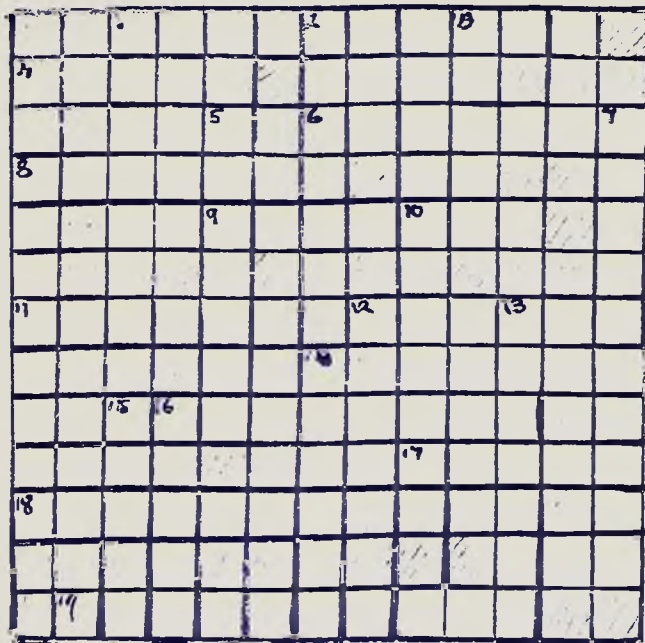
the country, including European hospitals. It is clear then that something can be achieved by this work.

The greater part of the work however is the personal health service provided for sick patients. There were 36,730 consultations in 1952, and 35,403 casualties and dressings. The fees are low, and paid once only for a year's service, so that we deal largely with the poorer sections of the people. Our patients can pay little or not at all. A clinic service such as this, which includes domiciliary nursing, can perhaps best be appreciated against the picture of the sick and destitute African - such destitution is the very abyss of desolation.

All final year medical students spend some time at the clinic, and this period is, as they all agree, as important as any in their training. For the first and almost only time they exercise real responsibility; they meet with illnesses and problems quite unknown to the hospital practice, conditions which the general practitioner is constantly faced with and must know how to handle. On the other hand the students are an integral part of the clinic; they are the mainstay of the 24-hour service which the clinic provides. This service would hardly be possible without them.

The work of the Clinic, which includes much that I have not discussed, is constantly expanding. The demand for the service grows steadily year by year and the number of patients advances inexorably. But SO DOES THE FINANCIAL STRAIN. The budget for 1952 was £22960, an enormous expenditure for a voluntary

EASY AS A B C BY D & E.



Rules for Entering Auricle Crossword Competition.

1. Only Medicals, Dentals, O.T.s, and P.T.s may enter.
2. No member of the Auricle Staff is allowed to enter.
3. Entries must be handed in to the Secretary of the S.M.C. by 12 o'clock Saturday.
4. All correct entries will be placed in a hat from which the winner will be drawn.
5. A fee of 3d. will be charged per entry, and any number of entries may be submitted.
6. One prize of 10/6d is offered.

RESULT OF COMPETITION NO. 1.

Congratulations to Allison Joan Buchanan.

Joan your prize of 10/6d. can be collected at the S.M.C. Office.

(The Editor apologises for the clue to 14 across which was incorrect. Consequently Miss Buchanan's solution had one mistake)

Across.

1. Would these quacks starch Alan? (10)
6. Keep us in a mark (7)
8. Probably said by Eve in Northern Rhodesia! (5)
9. Eric can be found in this country (7)
11. 950 more than 2 (6)
12. Also found in 9 (6)
15. An aeroplane must nag (7)
17. For all the good it does it could be pushed up a rectum (5)
18. Not to be confused with a sign (7)
19. Supreme Excellence! (10)

Down.

1. Carries (7)
2. Father of Antiseptic Surgery (6)
3. To get a really cryptic clue, I can't (5)
4. There's ten cents in these spices (10)
5. These cavities commence as a large wickerwork hamper (6)
7. Requires once more (5,5)
10. A whole number is in part of a greeting (7)
13. Near the walled city (7)
14. A road, thanks to the Scotsman? (6)
16. Higher up - as a little boy would put it! (5)

Solution to Competition 1.

Across: 1. laid 3. Elba
7. One 8. despot 9. nature
10. eat 11. nests 14. sidle
17. adder 20. alder 22. air
23. events 24. escort 26. pin
27. orgy 28. riot.

Down: 1. leap 2. drapes
3. elated 4. aloe 5. totes
6. rents 12. end 13. tie
15. ill 16. lie 18. donkey
19. rasps 20. arena 21. doctor
23. echo 25. toot.

EDITORIAL

THE *Librarian* SAYS:

RAG

The attention of all medical students is drawn to the two articles on Rag appearing in this issue. This Medical School is a hive of activity at the moment what with the Exhibition, Conference etc. and in these circumstances it is essential for everyone to do their bit and to ease the strain. The Auricle sincerely urges its readers to co-operate and to give assistance wherever possible.

DEBATING SOCIETY

Last year the Debating Society Committee met three times and produced, we believe three debates. This year we have been treated to one debate and the standard was low. The lack of an active Debating Society is strongly felt by many students. It is high time that the committee used some initiative. There are several public debating societies whose members would be only too pleased to pit their wits against ours and the fact that such debates could only be held at night should in no way discourage the society.

What about a debate with Pretoria University? Surely that could only be profitable. If another suggestion is necessary - an interesting argument developed in these columns recently on Cybernetics. We feel certain a full scale debate on the subject would be appreciated.

Gentlemen of the Debating Society, where art thou at this hour? Medical School hath great need of thee.

5th Years remember Exam Papers from 1939 to 1949 are available at the S.M.C. Office for 5/- a set.

make it possible to cover at least a section of the recent progress.

A.C. Dick

Among the new editions of standard works are three of interest to students. They are: Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia, by C.L. Hewer, 7th edition; An Atlas of the Commoner Skin Diseases, by H.C.G. Semon, 4th edition; and Textbook of Medical Treatment, edited by D.M. Dunlop, 6th edition, all published this year.

In the five years that have passed since the previous edition of Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia was published, there have been so many developments in this branch of medicine that the appearance of a new edition is justified and welcome. There is much fresh material in the book though the general arrangement has not been changed. One very useful aspect is that synonyms for many anaesthetics are given so that information required may be found on looking up any name by which the anaesthetic is known.

The Atlas of Commoner Skin Diseases has proved very useful in the past five years, and the new edition will be gladly received by those interested in dermatology. It contains a number of new illustrations and the standard of these is as high as the previous edition.

There are not many comprehensive and satisfactory textbooks on therapeutics, so the arrival of a new edition of Dunlop is very pleasing. It has been thoroughly revised and many new sections have been added, including Chemotherapy, Rehabilitation, Treatment of Poisoning, and Chemotherapy of Malignant Disease.

It is impossible for anyone to keep pace with all the developments in Medicine nowadays, but books such as Dunlop and Hewe

MNEMONICS.

By von Schnork

(or The Curse of Hippocrat)

Contrary to the Public Knowledge,
New uses of words are found at
College.

Language that formerly everyone
knew,
has other meanings to an erudite
few.

The demon of this is the science
of "Mnemonic",
Created solely for the normally
laconic.
For everyone puzzled, these lines
have been written,
As protest to all - from one whose
been bitten.

"Hamlet came to town shouting
loudly to Polonius",
A Shakesperian quote? - So much
Bolonius.
The Bard on this earth these
words ne'er entoned,
But his characters here for stu-
dent study are loaned.

(Hamate, Capitate, Trapezium,
Trapezoid)
Alas poor Yorick, you cannot avoid
(Scaphoid, Lunate, Triquetrum,
Pisiform)
Your master from giving carpals
easy form.

Chemistry too has come under the
axe.
RE6 SO4 a formula? - No, just
syntax.
For those who think it a sulphate
will be told it's a lie.
Because these, mark you, are just
muscles of eye.

Anatomical structures are now
granted life,
Given leave to talk while exposed
by a knife:
"The lingual nerve took a swerve
around the hyoglossus.
Said Warton's duct, "Well, I'll
be damned, he's gone and double-
crossed us".

I could if I would quote many
like these,
For they number more than
holes in a cheese.
The rest however are far too
crude,
Needing the pen of a Balzac,
or someone as lude.

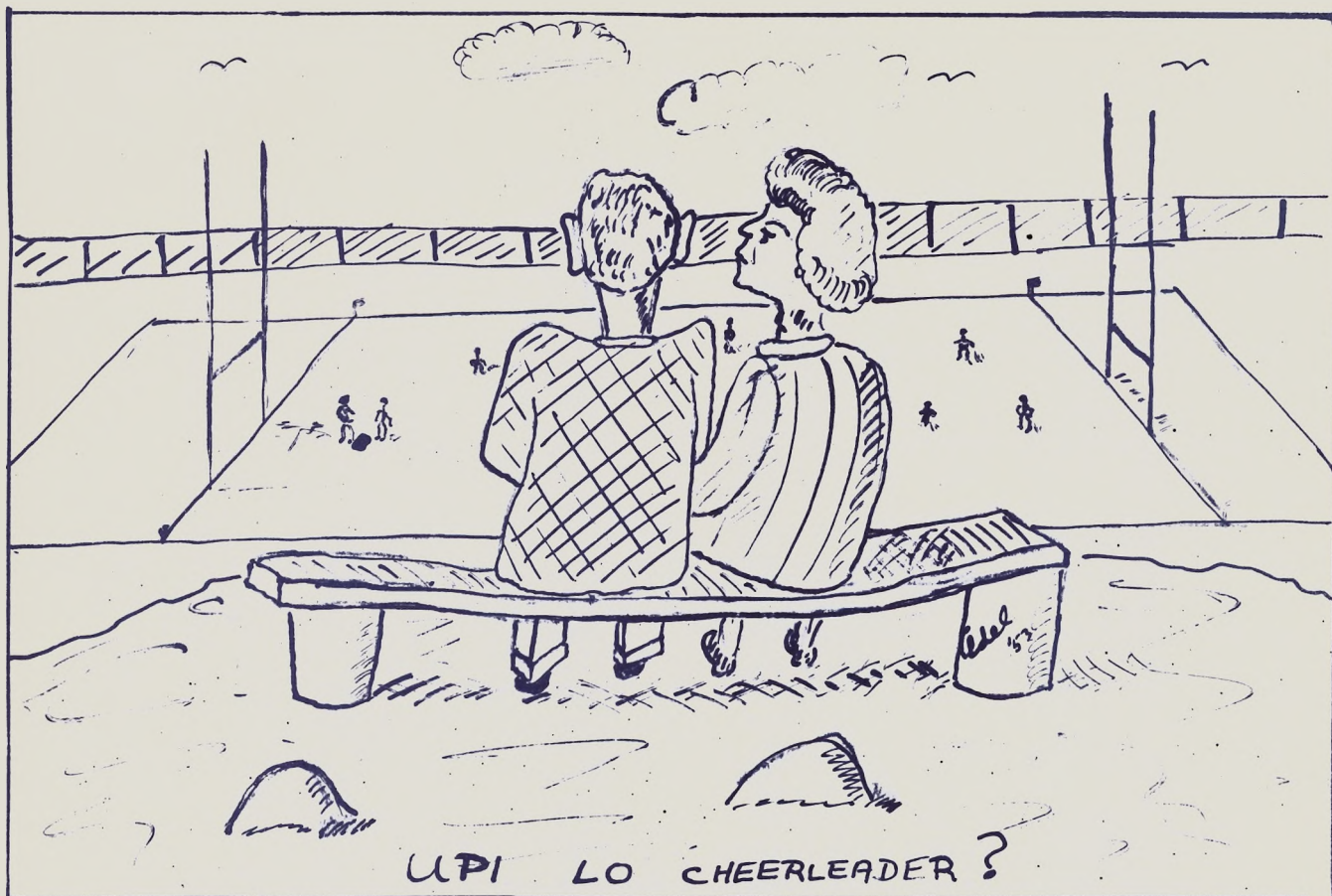
Now let me issue a timely
warning
To those in front of books
a-yawning:
Never become so supersonic
As to live in the mythical
world of the mnemonic.

Rather be governed by gram-
matical rules,
Than let abbreviations be
your tools.
Or one medical morning you'll
find as you wake,
Your befuddled brain nutty as
fruitcake.

Say what you mean; Mean what
you say,
And this, like an apple will
keep psychos away.
Let SCALP mean only what's
over head,
And not, as surgeons say,
it's layers instead.

You will then, unlike me,
keep your sanity,
And live to doctor all humanity.
Take my word for it, or you'll
become
As abstruse as borborygmi in
a tum.

My eyesight now is getting
blurred.
My metre now is getting slur-
red.
I think I should now go to
B E D
Which no doubt you will think
means Best Ever Dead.



Socrates On Baths.



The bath will be beneficial to many patients, sometimes when used continuously, sometimes at intervals. (Occasionally use must be restricted, because the patients have not the necessary accommodation, for few houses have suitable apparatus and attendants to manage the bath properly. Now if the bath be not carried out thoroughly well, no little harm will be done. The necessary things include a covered place free from smoke, and an abundant supply of water permitting bathings that are frequent but not violent, unless violence is necessary. If rubbing with soap be avoided, so much the better; but if the patient be rubbed, let it be with soap that is warm, and many times greater in amount than is usual, while an abundant affusion should be used both at the time and immediately afterwards. A further necessity is that the passage to the basin should be short, and that the basin should be easy to enter and to leave. The bather must be quiet and silent; he should do nothing for himself but leave the pouring of water and the rubbing to others. Prepare a copious supply of tepid water, and let the affusions be rapidly made. Use sponges instead of a scraper, and anoint the body before it is quite dry. The head, however, should be rubbed with a sponge until it is as dry as possible. Keep chill from the extremities and the head, as well as from the body generally. The bath must not be given soon after gruel or drink has been taken, nor must these be taken soon after a bath.

(Works of Hippocrates. Translated by W.H.S. Jones. Regimen in acute diseases.)

(With apologies to Socrates, this work was written by Hippocrates. Ed)



SPORT



- To those who may be asking what's happened to our inter-class sports this year? - the question is quite justified. What is happening?

Well firstly to those cricket enthusiasts amongst you - the absence of games has been due to a real difficulty - namely that of procuring a cricket mat and grounds. This has still not been acquired but negotiations are being continued and we hope to have one soon. If so, then perhaps a friendly or two will still be arranged and if not lets look forward to a good season next year.

As regards the other sports - namely soccer, hockey, rugby etc due to the relative inexperience of the members concerned who are in charge of these sports - they have been a bit slow off the mark - but we are promised that games will start within the next week. So classes get your teams ready in anticipation. First years by the way, are also competing in the inter-class matches.

Tennis will begin in two weeks time - as soon as the Inter-varsity tournament is over. The squash ladder I hear, is moving well and soon a knock-out squash competition will be held.

There is also to be a male and female table-tennis knock-out competition in the near future.

So boys and girls watch the notice board under the heading Medical School All Sports for details of sport to be played in the near future.



EAT AT
THE
Refectory



CHESS



Inter-year Competition.

It's here - the very first inter-year Chess competition ever to be held at Medical School. And the first leg is taking place this Thursday - Thursday 7th May - down in the Physiotherapy Room during lunch-hour.

The first match of the season is between the mighty 5th years against those hard working 2nd years.

5th year Chess players, hand in your names to your classmates A. Klein or D. Klachko - and H. Levenstein will gladly accept names of the 2nd years.

Each team is to consist of six players, and only one Chess game will be played by each team member against his opponent.

6th years are represented by Broide, 4th years by Blecher and Luntz and 3rd years by Klintworth, so all Chess players in the above years please hand in your names to your representatives.

Visitors are most welcome - bring your lunches on Thursday and watch the boys sweat it out.

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A MESSAGE FROM MEDICAL RAG REPRESENTATIVE.

Guest Editorial (ctd from pg.1)

Rag has again exploded into front page news. Not much time is left for preparing yourselves. Remember we need your help. For you Rag is fun - but there is a serious side to Rag as well, and as far as medical students are concerned, this is a most important side. Of the three beneficiaries, the Alexandra Health Clinic affects us most, and it is to our benefit to support the collection of money for the Clinic.

HOW CAN YOU HELP RAG?

- 1) By supporting the Rag Procession on Saturday, May 16th to your greatest ability. (In so doing you can enjoy yourself and take part in the festivities).
- 2) By assisting in the sale of Wits Wits Magazines (you can obtain them at the S.M.C. Office).
- 3) By selling tickets for the Court of Injustice, which will be held at the City Hall on Wednesday the 13th May in the evening (S.M.C. Office).
- 4) By EACH STUDENT selling one book of Motor Car Competition Tickets (20 tickets to a book). You can get them from your Class Rag representative. Note the competition closes on June 1st only.
- 5) BY ATTENDING THE RAG FANCY DRESS DANCE ON THE NIGHT OF RAG AT THE CITY HALL. Tickets are already on sale at the S.M.C. Office for 25/- each. Get yours NOW before Milner Park holidays are over and they buy all available tickets.

Remember this is your RAG. Saturday May 16th. The town is ours to do with what we desire.

N.B. I am here to help you with any difficulties.

D.M. Gruebel Lee

teachers do not seem to be aware of this, or they do not attach sufficient importance to the training of a nurse, else they (the medical staff) would not insist on requiring the presence of the Ward Sister or Staff Nurse for a great part of the day, to the detriment of the practical training of the student nurse and the nursing of the patient.

Must we not now pause and reflect on this question: Am I fully aware and conscious of our ultimate aim and purpose, which is the better care of the patient?

Alexandra Clinic (Ctd from P.2) organisation to bear. In addition costs have greatly increased; the price of drugs and equipment have in many cases more than doubled over the last few years.

The more that Rag collects, the bigger the clinic allocation. This allocation is a most important source of income for the clinic; its value in application you can assess in terms of what I've said above.

NIGHT SCHOOL.

At a meeting held in the Harvei which was filled to overflowing (Mr. Kleiner kept overflowing) it was unanimously decided to allow the Night School to use the Mens' Common Room. An Amendment asking for an investigation into the possibilities of installing a door to seal off the kitchen was held over until the zealous proposer did some investigating.

BRIDGE CLUB

Match point duplicate tournament Pairs only. Entries to A. Morris 4th year, or SMC Office.

TO BE HELD SOON.



J's

Page.



[JACK'S CORNER & JOE] = J's

"Doc H*XL*Y!" cried the Humboldt Ape,
 "Why is my pan this vexing shape?"
 Back came the answer grave and slow:
 "Determinism made it so,
 Inheritance...Blind Cosmic Force
"
 "Ah!" breathed the grateful Ape..
 "Of course!"
 Timothy Shy.

Said Mickey M...
 ...
 ...

A bouquet to the probationer who though that Labour Day was nine months after Union Day!

WHOSE WHOSE?

Our congratulations to Jennifer Sammons for rehabilitating Basil Southwood.

FELICITATIONS to Garden Klentworth.

Does the water on Jan Miller's knee still start to boil when he thinks of a certain radiographer?

Gedfrey Gatz says that "Sweet Lorraine" is still on top of the hit parade.

We hear that M*rl B*ss*nger is still unattached. This is not due to any lack of effort on the part of certain students.

It appears to us that John Blacher has gone HAZEL nuts.

Jive queen V*l*C*chr*ne's name remains unlinked at the moment. We suspect that she's carrying a torch for a man who is far, far away.

Joe's pet J*an has forgotten how to wag(n) 'er tail since we found her "laat in die nach" at the Crescent eating curry and rice.

G*rd*ld Schne*r says that if we mention his name in this column he'll SUE us!

Daffynitions

Monotony: Being allowed only one wife.

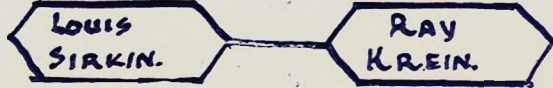
Spring: The time of the year when young men's thoughts turn to what the girls have been thinking about all winter.

... when the people make a mistake and one of them continues to pay for it.

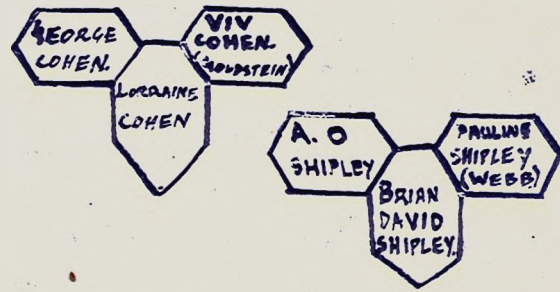


SIMPLE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Strong chemical attachment between rings; (link can be broken by powerful reagents!)



New Chemical Compounds (possible asymmetric synthesis?)



OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ABOVE.

Overheard at the 'Varsity Swimming Pool one evening.

"Hey you, take your hand off my knee". No not you! You! "

FELLOW- STUDENTS: ~~...~~

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L.S.P. Davidson, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.

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The whole effect is that this book is a clear presentation of the modern concepts of medicine and one which students will find of great value as a systematic presentation of the main causes of sickness.

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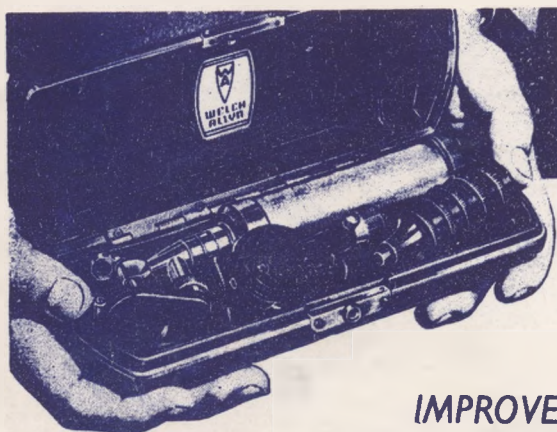
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