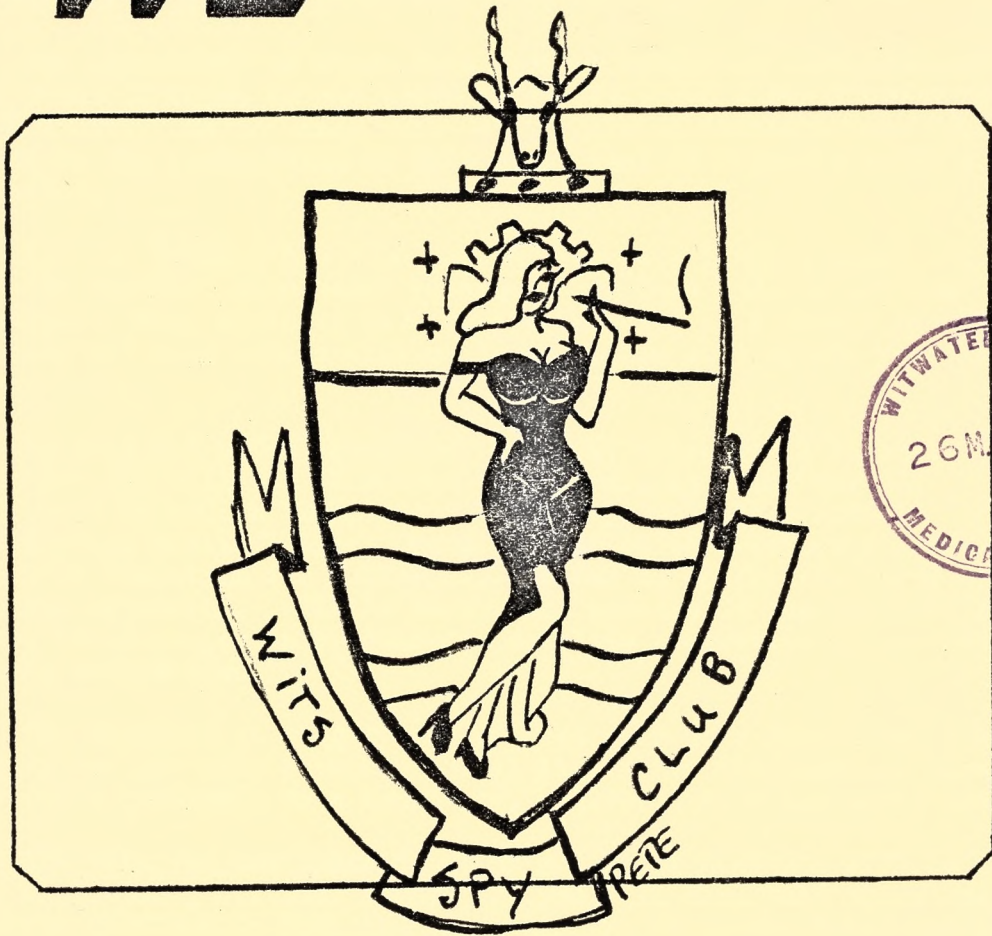
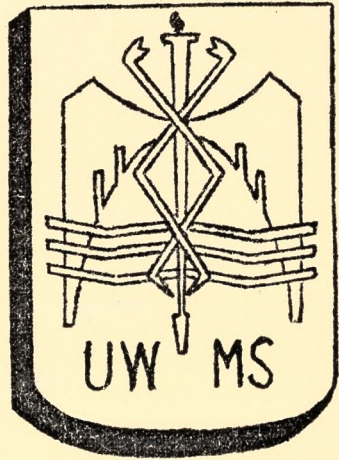


THE



AURICLE

Cover designed by A.M. LEVINE

Vol. 10 No. 2

March, 1959

GUEST EDITORIAL *from ...* *the* DEAN

It gives me unlimited pleasure to be able to address the Students of this Medical School through the medium of THE AURICLE.

At the outset, I would like to welcome the First Year Students. Congratulations to you on entering a fine school - a school with forty years of tradition and numerous famous alumni of whom we are proud indeed. You are about to inherit the wisdom and traditions of Medicine which have accumulated over the centuries since and before the time of Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine.

The University of which this Medical School is a constituent part - one of which we can again be justly proud - was founded by Jan Hofmeyr. He and many other distinguished teachers have taken a part in the up-building of this great seat of learning which you now enter.

Medical Science has been growing for over 2,000 years. In the past few decades, phenomenal advances have been made in all its branches. Many diseases have been eliminated as a result of these advances and many others will no doubt follow suit within your lifetimes.

To give but a few examples: Malaria, which until recently accounted for millions of deaths every year, is being rapidly eradicated by modern techniques. Leprosy, a disease greatly feared since Biblical times and a disease which previously meant a life of isolation for sufferers, can now be completely cured within a matter of months. Yellow Fever, the scourge of the tropical Atlantic costs, is no longer to be feared; complete protection is now made available by vaccination.

The advances in surgery are perhaps even more phenomenal - heart surgery has now made possible normal living for thousands of persons previously condemned to a sedentary, sheltered life and early death.

All this you now inherit but do not think that you will be able to live comfortably off your legacy for you will find that there are many unsolved problems in Medicine too - Cancer, Rheumatic Fever and Arteriosclerosis are notable amongst those still to be elucidated.

The course you are entering will introduce you to all this but a great deal of effort on your part is essential. The course is a strenuous one but, nevertheless, most rewarding. Live in day-tight compartments and do not worry too much about the future. A twenty-four hour day provides of adequate sleep, rest and work and yet time for recreation.

In concluding, I urge you make full use of the wide educational and extra-mural facilities which the University provides.

E.H. CLUVER

THE AURICLE STAFF WISH ALL TEACHERS AND MEMBERS
OF THIS SCHOOL, A HAPPY EASTER AND AN ENJOYABLE
VACATION

L'AFFAIRE SPY

BY C.R.

It is a rather difficult matter at this stage to evaluate the full significance of the "Spy Controversy" which is raging, not only on the Wits Campus but also in the whole country; and which has indeed assumed the status of a situation of world-wide interest. However, certain interesting factors do emerge from the startling disclosures that have been made:

1. Major-General Rademeyer, Commissioner of the South African Police, did not hesitate to declare that it is "common practice" for students at universities all over the country to report on "certain activities of certain sections of universities" to the Security Branch of the Police; - this admission, followed upon the statement by Major Spengler, Chief of the Security Branch on the Rand, that all that he knew about spying at universities is what he read in the newspapers.
2. A provisional judicial order was granted by Mr. Justice Ludorf on a petition of the Security Branch restraining the Sunday Express from publishing a photograph of the spy who is described as "the woman who did espionage work for the S.A. Police at the University of the Witwatersrand".
3. The Special Branch is carrying out its investigations in terms of Section 2 (c) of the Official Secrets Act which states "Any person who ... obtains, collects, records or publishes or communicates to any person any ... information which is likely to be directly or indirectly useful to an enemy, shall be guilty of an offence ... " This Section has the marginal heading "Espionage". One is, at this stage, entitled to ask several pertinent questions:

Who is suspected of having contravened Section 2 (c) of the Act? Is it the spy herself? This possibility can be rejected immediately. Is it then Messrs. Wentzel, Shingler and Goldstone? If so, it may be relevant to ask: "Who is the 'enemy' to whom this information is likely to be useful?" The word "enemy" is semantically confusing, but its most likely meaning in this context, taken with the heading "espionage", would necessarily involve reference to a state of war between two countries. If so, with which country is South Africa in a state of war? Perhaps Dr. Albert Hertzog may yet be in a position to inform us.

4. Part of the clumsy smoke-screen that has been set up by the Police and the Minister of Justice in order to cloud the main issue of spying in the University, was Major-General Rademeyer's statement: "Who are these men?" (presumably referring to Messrs. Wentzel, Schingler and Goldstone) "I call them the Gestapo, for these methods are Gestapo methods". Any person who has heard the edited record of the actual interview with the spy would be justified in supporting the three persons referred to, in seeking legal advice and attempting to obtain redress for this utterance in a Court of Law.
5. One of the statements made by the spy during the course of her interrogation was that she was instructed by Sergeant K. of the Security Branch to report on the activities of certain students who were mainly medical students. It is also clear that there is more than one spy at the University, and it is a distinct possibility, in view of the particular interest that the Security Branch appears to display in Medical Students, that there is a spy at Medical School.

(To be concluded in the next issue)

the RESEARCH FRONTIER

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with some aspects of research projects at present under way in our Medical School. The Department approached in this issue is the Department of PHARMACOLOGY.

This year, 3rd year students heaved a sigh of relief when they were informed that the subject of Therapeutics would no longer be dealt with in their year, but subsequently in the clinical years. The entire teaching staff of the Pharmacology Department now consists of Dr. Hovy alone with the able assistance of Mrs. de Maar as a lab. assistant and Mr. Dunn who is the departmental technician. This year students have one practical weekly, as was the case in previous years but their syllabus has been cut by nearly one third. Due to the staff shortage, the Department has been unable to undertake many large-scale research activities. As a result, Dr. Hovy, in an inspired moment, decided that one half of the students would have a normal practical, while the other half was occupied in some of the very interesting research projects. The two groups of students alternate weekly and as a result, each student is engaged in research work once fortnightly (officially) and more often when he has the time. The students are divided into four groups and the projects involved are as follows:-

1. WOUND-HEALING Native witch doctors in S.W.A. have for many years been using the root of an as yet unknown plant to promote the healing of wounds. The root has also been used by a local medical practitioner allegedly with great success. One of the large drug houses has sent some of the root to the Department, with the request that Dr. Hovy undertake to determine whether the claims made by its users are justified. Should the root indeed be found to have curative properties, one of the larger Swiss pharmaceutical firms has offered to extract the active principle.
2. CANCER For some time now, a Zulu witch doctor has been attributed with the power of being able to cure malignant tumours. He has compounded a powder of some kind, the constituents of which are not yet known. A single bottle of this substance administered orally, has been claimed to eliminate completely any malignant growth. Dr. Hovy is in possession of some evidence to this effect. Dr. Volker (previously of the Anatomy Department) managed to obtain some of the powder from a shop-keeper in Zululand who has endeavoured for some years to wheedle it from its maker. The three bottles were very kindly given to the Department. Dr. Hovy feels that claims of this kind should be treated with the greatest reserve but, on the other hand, that suspicion alone gives insufficient ground for discarding them without investigation - and, well ... who knows ??? Even if the claims are unsubstantiated, the students will have learned how to extract plant drugs, administer them, care for experimental animals, etc. To quote Dr. Hovy, "Negative results are also results"!
3. ALCOHOL - a subject of great interest to most medics. The entire project is based on the work of Dr. Oskar Diethelm and his associates who, in 1955, published a book in America "Etiology of Chronic Alcoholism". The authors claim to have demonstrated certain biologically active substances circulating in the blood of psychotics which are even characteristic for certain psychoses. These substances, on assay, have proved to be very similar in action to certain well-known neurohormones. Some such neurohormones were found to be present in the blood of alcoholics in whom alcohol has the ability of reducing their concentration resulting in a different outlook on life. Two aspects of research can be considered:
 - (a) Pharmacology has a modern, very vigorous branch which deals specifically with the metabolic background of the psychoses, viz. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY. There is hope for an eventual therapeutic cure for all psychotic conditions, as, e.g., Schizophrenia is now treated with Rauwolfia.
 - (b) For the alcoholic, an antidote better than alcohol may be found. The tendency to become an alcoholic is believed to be due to a psychotic condition.Since it is practically impossible to make alcoholics of experimental animals, attempts will be made to facilitate such effects by means of psychotomimetic drugs. This search for psychotomimetic drugs is a major research project of the department and as this is a long term experiment, only part will be done by students. The research into this field has been undertaken at the specific request of an outside group of psychiatrists, clinicians and biochemists.
4. MTS 263 (SANDOZ) This drug is a new cholinolytic and is a derivative of atropine. It has other amazing properties in that while it has the same effect as atropine, it is less toxic. Larger doses are, however, necessary for the same effect, i.e. suppression of intestinal mobility. On comparing equivalent amounts of atropine of MTS 263 on the basis of one unit of intestinal intubition, the new drug has none of the unpleasant side-effects of atropine viz. dry mouth, enlarged pupils. The students will now further investigate these properties, e.g. by measuring mydriasis (pupil enlargement) and measuring the effects of both drugs on salivation and note the difference, etc. For measurement of pupil enlargement and contraction etc. the department has obtained the services of a local ophthalmologist.



Editorial

I would like to use this Editorial space to write down a few thoughts on that much maligned body the S.M.C. One so often hears students asking - "What is the S.M.C.?" "What do they do?" and the comments heard about the S.M.C. are sometimes so strongly worded as to be unprintable.

After attending numerous S.M.C. meetings, and having an intimate part in their doings, I think it incumbent upon me to explain a few things about the S.M.C.

The S.M.C. is elected by the students themselves and is, therefore, truly representative of the students. Some of the work of the S.M.C. is obvious to most students. Their office looks more like a store than an office. Students can purchase books, instruments, stationery and all the paraphernalia associated with medical study from this office at prices far below those anywhere else in the city. The S.M.C. also runs a second-hand book sales department through which students can sell books which may be useful to other students.

The greater part of S.M.C. work seems to pass unnoticed by us. Liaison between the students and staff - the government - hospital authorities - medical firms in town - the University Council and countless other bodies is admirably undertaken by the S.M.C.

Consider the following: the S.M.C. brings all causes of dissatisfaction regarding curricula, examinations, time-table arrangements, facilities at the school, etc. etc. to the notice of the powers that be ... often with beneficial results. The matter of students paying hospital fees is being vigorously taken up by the Council and here again they hope to obtain benefits for us.

Among other S.M.C. activities which "speak for themselves" are "Leech", Conference, Clinic, the Refectory and maintenance of lockers and common rooms. These are all conducted by sub-committees of S.M.C. - anyone who has worked on any of these projects will know that they are matters which require a great deal of work. Publications do not merely fall out of the Press; Clinics and Refectories require to be controlled.

I think I have by now made my point. Not for a moment do I suggest that the running of the body is perfect but the work is done by people who are primarily students with exams and other things to think of. Next time you feel like maligning these people, consider the mountain of work they do and even better - lend a hand with the work!

S. FARBER

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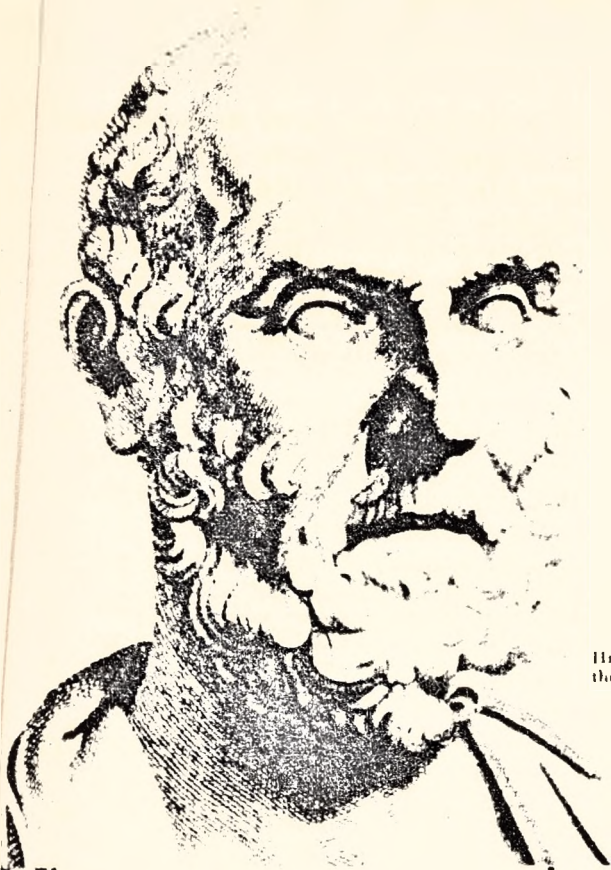
HIPPOCRATES

AND HIS OATH

HIPPOCRATES FATHER OF MEDICINE

Very few facts are known of the life of Hippocrates. He lived about the Fifth Century B.C. Contrary to common belief, he had little knowledge of Physiology or Anatomy but he was endowed with a mind as sharp as a blade and a faculty for observation which was outstanding in a period blighted with superstition and strange thoughts on the workings of the Human Body. His greatest contribution to medicine is the immortal Oath which bears his name.

Hereunder we reproduce the original Oath of Hippocrates.



Hippocrates,
the Father of Medicine.

I SWEAR BY APOLLO THE PHYSICIAN
AND AESCULAPIUS AND HEALTH AND ALL HEAL AND ALL THE
GODS AND GODDESSES THAT ACCORDING TO MY ABILITY AND
JUDGMENT I WILL KEEP THIS OATH AND THIS STIPULATION -
TO RECKON HIM WHO TAUGHT ME THIS ART EQUALLY DEAR TO ME
AS MY PARENTS TO SHARE MY SUBSTANCE WITH HIM & RELIEVE
HIS NECESSITIES IF REQUIRED TO LOOK UPON HIS OFFSPRING IN
THE SAME FOOTING AS MY OWN BROTHERS AND TO TEACH THEM
THIS ART IF THEY SHALL WISH TO LEARN IT WITHOUT FEE OR
STIPULATION AND THAT BY PRECEPT LECTURE & EVERY OTHER
MODE OF INSTRUCTION I WILL IMPART A KNOWLEDGE OF THE ART
TO MY OWN SONS AND THOSE OF MY TEACHERS AND TO DISCIPLES
BOUND BY A STIPULATION AND OATH ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF
MEDICINE BUT TO NONE OTHERS I WILL FOLLOW THAT SYSTEM OF
REGIMEN WHICH ACCORDING TO MY ABILITY AND JUDGMENT I
CONSIDER FOR THE BENEFIT OF MY PATIENTS AND ABSTAIN FROM
WHATEVER IS DELETERIOUS AND MISCHIEVOUS I WILL GIVE NO
DEADLY MEDICINE TO ANYONE IF ASKED NOR SUGGEST ANY SUCH
COUNSEL AND IN LIKE MANNER I WILL NOT GIVE TO A WOMAN A
PESSARY TO PRODUCE ABORTION WITH PURITY & WITH HOLINESS
I WILL PASS MY LIFE & PRACTICE MY ART I WILL NOT CUT PERSONS
LABORING UNDER THE STONE BUT WILL LEAVE THIS TO BE DONE
BY MEN WHO ARE PRACTITIONERS OF THIS WORK INTO WHAT-
EVER HOUSES I ENTER I WILL GO INTO THEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE SICK AND WILL ABSTAIN FROM EVERY VOLUNTARY ACT OF
MISCHIEF & CORRUPTION AND FURTHER FROM THE SEDUCTION
OF FEMALES OR MALES OF FREEMEN AND SLAVES WHATEVER IN
CONNECTION WITH MY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OR NOT IN CON-
NECTION WITH IT I SEE OR HEAR IN THE LIFE OF MEN WHICH
OUGHT NOT TO BE SPOKEN OF ABROAD I WILL NOT DIVULGE AS
RECKONING THAT ALL SUCH SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET WHILE I
CONTINUE TO KEEP THIS OATH UNVIOLATED MAY IT BE GRANTED
TO ME TO ENJOY LIFE AND THE PRACTICE OF THE ART RESPECTED
BY ALL MEN IN ALL TIMES BUT SHOULD I TRESPASS AND VIOLATE
THIS OATH MAY THE REVERSE BE MY LOT

NANTERINGS

MEDICAL BALL

Through no fault of the other faculties, Medical Ball has ceased to be the social event of the year. Either medicals have less time and money to spare or the number of 'presentable' girls has decreased. Anyway, the fair number that pitched up had a good time - in fact, the Ball was a roaring success. The Dance Committee under the chairmanship of Harold Serebro are to be roundly congratulated on the excellence of the music and decorations. To appreciate the catering, however, one needed to have a lessened appreciation of one's surroundings; in fact, a marked degree of inebriation was necessary. The Dance Committee reports that no one was fished out of our newly famous fountain afterwards.

GENERAL MEETING OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

The annual General Meeting of the S.M.C. was held in the Harveian Lecture Theatre a few weeks back. The reports presented to the meeting by the various speakers were of an important nature - pity there were so many students unable to come and so few interested enough to attend the meeting.

AWKWARD POSITION IN "CASUALTY"

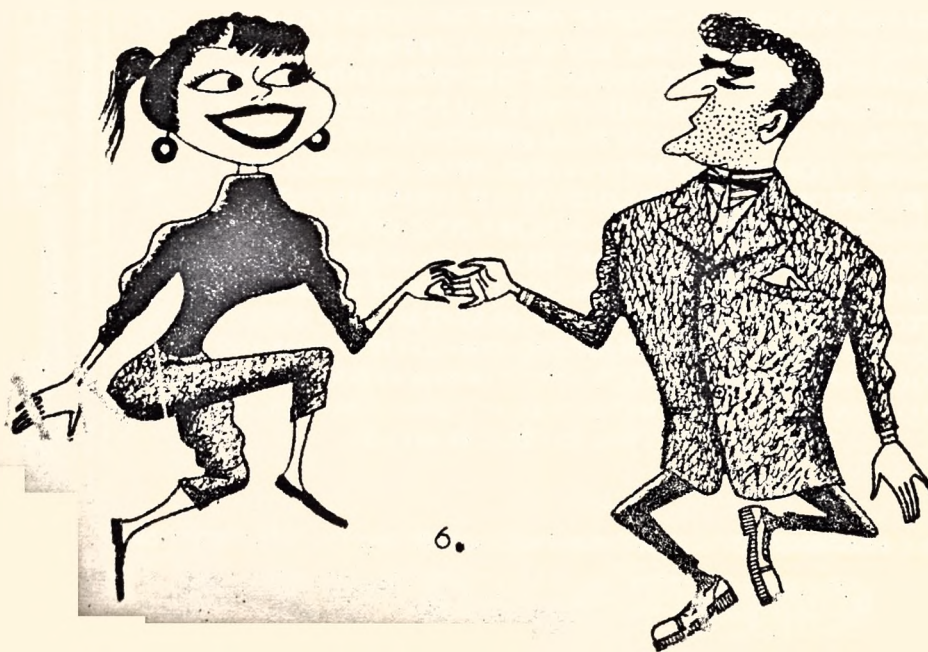
The notice board in Casualty at the General Hospital is covered all over with notices. These many notices contradict each other time and again and one such notice states: "no student who has not stitched before will be allowed to stitch in 'Casualty'" ... If all the hospital departments had to adopt such an attitude our hospital training would become rather pointless!

DEMOCRACY AT WORK

The notices covering the Students Meeting at which prominent SRC members spoke were torn down from the trees along Esselen Street. It seems that the person (or persons) who did this do not agree with the policies of the SRC. To them I say there are more efficient and mature ways of expressing your views. The word 'Democracy' is one which is bandied around the University precincts with great abandon. 'Democracy' embodies the principle of freedom of speech and expression. If you have views to put forward, do so through the correct channels. Do not resort to maniacal outbursts such as tearing down placards or shouting at meetings. Also do not forget that the Auricle is available to you and if you want your views aired, we will be glad to publish your letters.

BLEBLIT

'Bleblit' is a word which means absolutely nothing. One of the editorial staff calls everything and anything a Bleblit: to me the word describes a definite being, a human of a special sort. He is the chap who is well versed in the art of criticism. He sits in the refectory or in Wiener's and runs down everyone. He knows exactly what needs to be done, and has vast theoretical knowledge as to how it should be done. IF he was chairman of, for instance, the Medical School Bird-Watchers Society, then things would really move. "Why don't the committee arrange to go out to the Sahara Desert to watch the guinea-fowl mating there? Surely that is the ultimate in bird-watching experience?" "If only the committee weren't a pack of fools we could be the top bird-watchers in the world" ... etc. etc. ad nauseum. If Mr. Bleblit would only join the Society of Bird-Watchers he would learn of the difficulties facing the committee and he would learn that guinea-fowl don't mate in the Sahara - in fact they do not even live there.



Nurses page

Nurses reading this column may be about to write finals or waiting for results ... either way, we wish you Good Luck.

The University Term is drawing to a close; there will be the usual run of Firm Parties. Have a ball at these parties ... but beware of any liquid refreshment offered to you by a medical student!!!

Congrats. to Staff Nurse Yvonne Amery on her engagement; and to Student Nurses Jeannette Raath and Topy Hutchinson on their engagements.

Six girls are taking a flat facing Resdoc ... I wonder why ... could it perhaps be for Medical reasons?

Patients in Surgical wards will in future be specialised by students. A pleasant surprise for the nurses; about time the students did some work!

A message of cheer to the girls in Ward 32 ... Get well soon - you're needed on the wards.

NEW GAME Walk past the Nurses' Home at about 5 to 2 in the morning. You will see many cars parked slap bang outside the main entrance ... Are there nurses in these cars? ... Yes, they're there ... but you'll have to look very close to see them.

With this issue, we begin a series of cartoons by 'Sally'. The cartoon in the last Auricle was not by Sally the nurse but by one of the medics who, by coincidence, also signed himself 'Sally'. We would like to apologise to Sally (the nurse) for any inconvenience she may have suffered from this coincidence.

SHORTIES

Familiarity breeds ?

Eunuch ... A disorganised man.

Shoulder strap - A device to prevent an attraction from becoming a sensation.

One rat to the other: "My feelings for you are purely bubonic"

It was their first date and they were both thinking of the same thing. She called it mental telepathy, he called it beginner's luck.

If all the girls who sleep at lectures were placed end to end ... they would be more comfortable!

A lion ate a bull and roared loudly to proclaim his satisfaction. A hunter heard him and shot him. Moral of the story ... When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut!

The budding practitioners of forensic medicine will detect the wisdom of the following rhyme:

Full many a man both young and old
Has gone to his Sarcophagus
By pouring water icy cold
Adown his hot oesophagus

4th Year Student taking a history:
"Now Mr. McTavish, how many cigarettes do you smoke daily?"
Mr. McT.: Oh, any given number!

News! Baby born with moustache -
Mother tickled to death.

Just coming up for air -



- To say "Good Luck!" to all Finalists

ENTOKEZWENI

KEITH HEIMAN

Nearly fourteen years ago, Entokezweni was formed in Alexander Township. The development from that time when, in a small pre-fabricated structure, a staff of one European and three African social workers catered for the needs of 44 families (approximately 200 people), has indeed been considerable.

Today the buildings of Entokezweni extend over the major part of the upper end of No. 3 Square in the Township. There is a staff of 2 Europeans and about 20 Africans including 5 Social Workers, a Nursing Sister and 2 Domestic Science Teachers and also a part-time European Honorary Doctor today, who cater for approximately 2,000 people of the Township. Despite this wonderful progress, the work of Entokezweni still only touches on the fringe of what is to be done. The population of the Township has been estimated officially at over 100,000 - a mass of humanity herded together in an area of one square mile. The living conditions of these people leave much to be desired and, when they need assistance or guidance, they automatically turn to Entokezweni.

The facets of the work done are untold; if possible, no one is turned away whether it be the woman requiring sewing or cooking tuition, the child needing the benefits of either nursery or grade school, the adolescent attending play centre after school hours, the invalid or mental case needing medical attention or the distress case not knowing where to find food for the next meal.

It is in the play centre, where as many as 100 may come for an afternoon, or in the Youth Club which has approximately 100 regular attendants, that the student may be able to help provided he or she is prepared to spend a few hours regularly every week or fortnight. Any student who has a special interest in any activity which is constructive, for example, boxing, baseball or carpentry to dramatic art or choral activities, will here in Entokezweni find an enthusiastic group of Africans prepared to work hard and learn whatever the student has to teach.

Last year, Rag Fund donated £8,000 to Entokezweni and yet only a very small percentage of people from Medical School have ever been there let alone thought of doing any work there. Any offers to help in any field of activity will be only too welcome. The children are there and willing. They are fairly longing for somebody to come and help them and deeply eager for somebody to take a little interest in them.

"Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven".

Dental Notes

If anybody reading this feels down in the mouth, please forgive me. I hope that this will cause you to smile - even if you are edentulous following the adventures of the students at Dental Hospital.

Toothy Tit-Bits:

Dudley Friedman is the most popular dental student in Johannesburg. He has a fan-club following up all his bites ... that is when he bites those pretty dolls!

Ray Hicks seems to be the only contented student in third year. His wife says so!

Isak Schliebush has been crowned "Orthodontic King" ... His experience enables him to pull a wire better than any other student.

Third-Year-Hoan: How can we manage 300 points this year - in previous years only 200 and 100 points were required.

Lionel Ziman has taken to racing (cars). In his new car, he flies from Medical School to Dental Hospital yelling "Hail to Sterling Moss".

- that it shall flourish

An Address by Charles Dickens 1812 - 1870

Charles Dickens rarely wrote a story without bringing a child into it; not an ordinary child to make us smile, but a wistful or pathetic child whose sorrows he espoused as a cause. He was an active leader in providing care and treatment for the children of London, well reflected in the long-forgotten address he made as Chairman at the dinner on behalf of the Hospital for Sick Children on 9th February, 1858, which appears below.

"It is one of my rules in life not to believe a man who may happen to tell me that he feels no interest in children. I hold myself bound to this principle by all kind considerations, because I know, as we all must, that any heart which could really toughen its affections and sympathies against those dear little people, must be wanting in so many humanising experiences of innocence and tenderness, as to be quite an unsafe monstrosity among men; therefore, I set the assertion down, whenever I happen to meet with it - which is sometimes, though not often - as an idle word, originating possibly in the genteel languor of the hour, and meaning about as much as that knowing social lassitude, which has used up the cardinal virtues and quite found out things in general, usually does mean.

I suppose it may be taken for granted that we, who come together in the name of children, and for the sake of children, acknowledge that we have an interest in them; indeed, I have observed since I sat down here that we are quite in a child-like state altogether, representing an infant institution, and not even yet a grown-up company. A few years are necessary to the increase of our strength and the expansion of our figure; and then these tables, which now have a few tucks in them, will be let out, and then this hall, which now sits so easily upon us, will be too tight and small for us.

Some years ago, being in Scotland, I went with one of the most humane members of the humane medical professions, on a morning tour among some of the worst lodged inhabitants of the old town of Edinburgh. In the closes and wynds of that picturesque place - I am sorry to remind you what fast friends picturesqueness and typhus often are - we saw more poverty and sickness in an hour than many people believe in a life. Our way lay from one to another of the most wretched dwellings - reeking with horrible odours - shut out from the sky - shut out from the air - mere pits and dens.

In a room in one of these foul places, where there was an empty porridge-pot on the cold hearth, with a ragged woman and some ragged children crouching on the bare ground near it - where, I remember as I speak, that the very light reflected from a high damp-stained and time-stained house wall, came trembling in, as if the fever which had shaken everything else there had shaken even it - there lay, in an old egg-box, which the mother had begged from a shop, a little feeble, washed, wan, sick child. With his little wasted face, and his little hot, worn hands folded over his breast, and his little bright attentive eyes, I can see him now, as I have seen him for several years, looking steadily at us. There he lay in his little frail box, which was not at all a bad emblem of the little body from which he was slowly parting, - there he lay quite quiet, quite patient, saying never a word. He seldom cried, the mother said; he seldom complained; he lay there seeming to wonder what it was a' about.

God knows I thought, as I stood looking at him, he had his reasons for wondering - reasons for wondering how it could possibly come to be that he lay there, left alone, feeble and full of pain, when he ought to have been as bright and as brisk as the birds that never got near him - reasons, for wondering how he came to be left there, a little decrepit old man, pining to death, quite a thing of course, as if there were no crowds of healthy and happy children playing on the grass under the summer's sun within a stone's throw of him, as if there were no bright, moving sea on the other side of the great hill overhanging the city: as if there were no great clouds rushing over it; as if there was no life, and movement, any vigour anywhere in the world - nothing but stoppage and decay.

There he lay looking at us, saying in his silence more pathetically than I have ever heard anything said by any orator in my life, 'Will you please to tell me what this means, strange man? and if you can give me any good reason why I should be so soon so far advanced upon my way to Him who said that children were to come into His presence, and were not to be forbidden, but who scarcely meant, I think, that they should come by this hard road by which I am travelling - pray give that reason to me, for I seek it earnestly, and wonder about it very much' - and to my mind he has been wondering about it ever since.

Many a poor child, sick and neglected, I have seen since that time in this London; many a poor sick child I have seen most affectionately and kindly tended by poor people in an unwholesome house and under untoward circumstances, wherein its recovery was quite impossible; but at all such times I have seen my poor little drooping friend in his egg-box, and he has always addressed his dumb speech to me, and I have always found him wondering what it meant, and why in the name of a gracious God, such things should be?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, such things need not be, and will not be if this company, which is a drop of the life-blood of the great compassionate public heart, will only accept the means of rescue and prevention which is mine to offer. Within a quarter of a mile of place where I speak, stands a courtly old house, where once, no doubt, blooming children were born, and grew up to be men and women, and married, and brought their own blooming children back to patter up the old oak staircase, and to wonder at the old oak carvings on the chimney pieces. In the airy wards into which the old state drawing-rooms and family bed-chambers are now converted, are such little patients that the nurses look like reclaimed giantesses, and the medical practitioner like an amiable christian orge. On the walls of these rooms are graceful, pleasant, bright childish pictures. At the beds' heads, are pictures of the figure which is the universal embodiment for all mercy and compassion - the figure of Him who was once a child Himself and a poor one.

Besides these little creatures on the beds, you may learn in that place that the number of small out-patients brought to that house for relief, is no fewer than ten thousand in the compass of one single year. In the room in which these are received, you may see against the wall a box, on which it is written, that it has been calculated, that if every grateful mother who brings a child there will drop a penny into it, the Hospital funds may possibly be increased in a year by so large a sum as forty pounds. And you may read in the Hospital report, with a glow of pleasure, that these poor women are so respondent as to have made, even in a toiling year of difficulty and high prices, this estimated forty, fifty pounds.

Lastly, gentlemen, and, I am sorry to say, worst of all - (for I must present no rose-coloured picture of this place to you - I must not deceive you), lastly - the visitor to this Children's Hospital, reckoning up the number of its beds, will find himself perforce obliged to stop at very little over thirty; (The liberal response made to this appeal enabled the Committee to increase the number of beds for In-patients from thirty-two to forty-four. In the summer of 1865 additional wards were opened, and the number of In-patients increased to 75) and you will learn, with sorrow and surprise that even that small number, so forlornly so miserably diminutive, compared with this vast London, cannot possibly be maintained, unless the Hospital be made better known; I limit myself to saying better known, because I will not believe that in a Christian community of fathers and mothers, and brothers and sisters, it can fail being better known, to be well and richly endowed.

Now ladies and gentlemen this, without a word of adornment which I resolved when I got up not to allow myself - this is the simple case and this is the pathetic case, which I have to put to you; not only on behalf of the thousands of children who annually die in this city, but also on behalf of the thousands of children who live half-developed, racked with preventible pain, shorn of their natural capacity for health and enjoyment. If these innocent creatures cannot move you for themselves, how can I possibly hope to move you in their name?

The dream-children whom I would now raise, if I could, before everyone of you, according to your various circumstances, should be the dear child you love, the dearer child you have lost, the child you might have had, the child you certainly have been. Each of these dream-children now lying in the Child's Hospital, or now shut out of it to perish. Each of these dream-children should say to you, 'O help this little suppliant in my name; O help it for my sake!'

There he lay looking at us, saying in his silence more pathetically than I have ever heard anything said by any orator in my life, 'Will you please to tell me what this means, strange man? and if you can give me any good reason why I should be so soon so far advanced upon my way to Him who said that children were to come into His presence, and were not to be forbidden, but who scarcely meant, I think, that they should come by this hard road by which I am travelling - pray give that reason to me, for I seek it earnestly, and wonder about it very much' - and to my mind he has been wondering about it ever since.

Many a poor child, sick and neglected, I have seen since that time in this London; many a poor sick child I have seen most affectionately and kindly tended by poor people in an unwholesome house and under untoward circumstances, wherein its recovery was quite impossible; but at all such times I have seen my poor little drooping friend in his egg-box, and he has always addressed his dumb speech to me, and I have always found him wondering what it meant, and why in the name of a gracious God, such things should be?

Now, ladies and gentlemen, such things need not be, and will not be if this company, which is a drop of the life-blood of the great compassionate public heart, will only accept the means of rescue and prevention which is mine to offer. Within a quarter of a mile of place where I speak, stands a courtly old house, where once, no doubt, blooming children were born, and grew up to be men and women, and married, and brought their own blooming children back to patter up the old oak staircase, and to wonder at the old oak carvings on the chimney pieces. In the airy wards into which the old state drawing-rooms and family bed-chambers are now converted, are such little patients that the nurses look like reclaimed giantesses, and the medical practitioner like an amiable christian orge. On the walls of these rooms are graceful, pleasant, bright childish pictures. At the beds' heads, are pictures of the figure which is the universal embodiment for all mercy and compassion - the figure of Him who was once a child Himself and a poor one.

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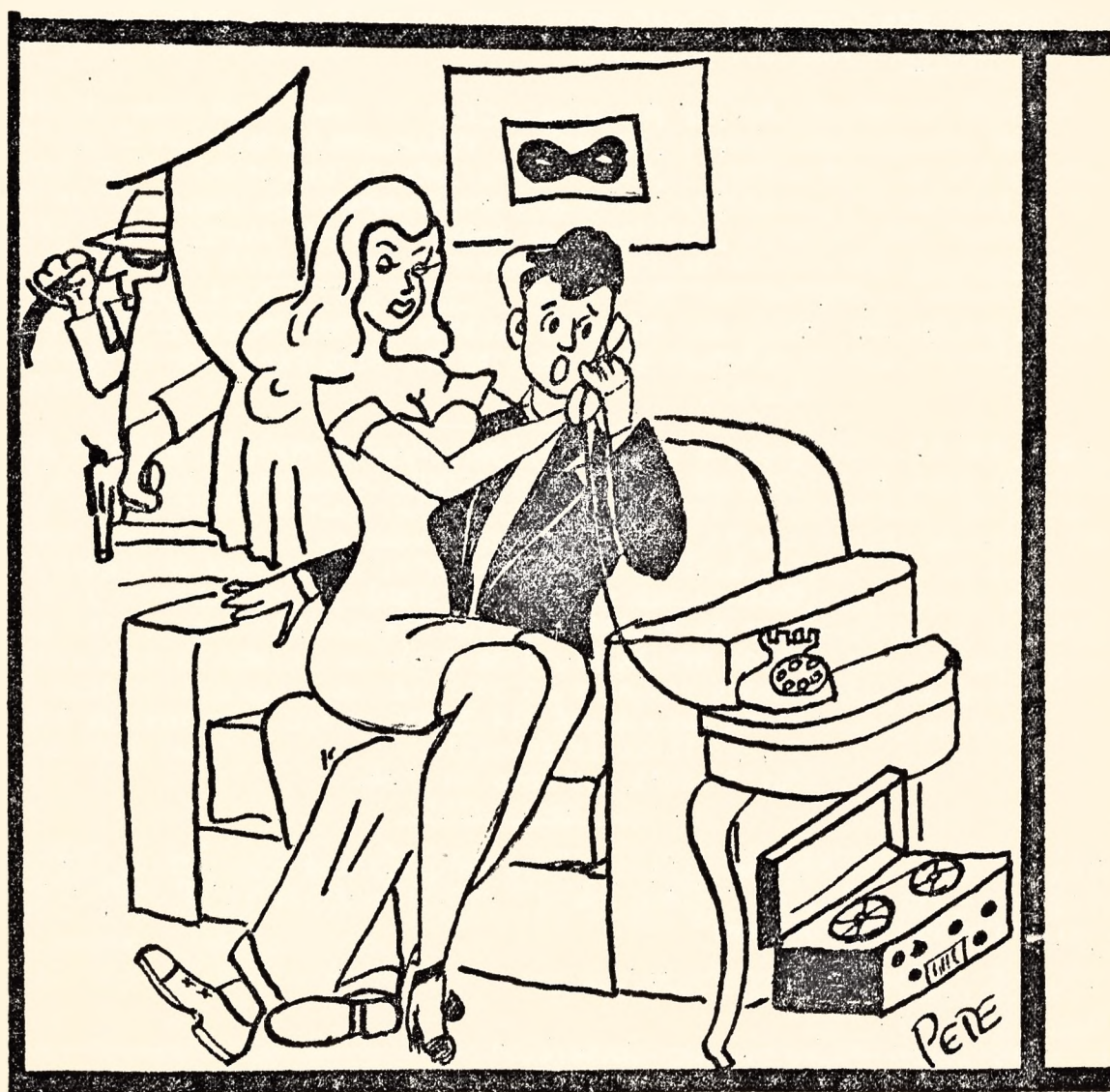
The dream-children whom I would now raise, if I could, before everyone of you, according to your various circumstances, should be the dear child you love, the dearer child you have lost, the child you might have had, the child you certainly have been. Each of these dream-children now lying in the Child's Hospital, or now shut out of it to perish. Each of these dream-children should say to you, 'O help this little suppliant in my name; O help it for my sake!'

Well! - and immediately awaking, you should find yourselves in the Freemason's Hall, happily arrived at the end of a rather long speech, drinking "Prosperity to the Hospital for Sick Children", and thoroughly restored that it shall flourish."

We haven't a Charles Dickens today - but we have a grand body of people banded together in the service of cripples, known as the National Council for the Care of Cripples in South Africa.

In order to raise funds for its vital task of helping cripples to HELP THEMSELVES - in other words REHABILITATION - it inaugurated the Easter Stamp Fund for Cripples. The proceeds of this annual autumn drive for funds is used to assist Cripple Care projects of a national nature and the Council's Regional Cripple Care Associations to maintain their services and expand them. These services cover a wide range of activities such as Aftercare Homes to release hospital beds, Aftercare Visiting and Domiciliary Treatment, Rural Orthopaedic Clinics, subsidising transport and salaries of personnel to carry out these essential services.

An Easter Stamp on an envelope, means you have not only contributed, but have helped to spread the message of renewed hope and opportunity for a cripple.



O.K. I've got the Confession - now can I have the doll?

WHAT'S YOUR E.Q.?

An eponym is the name of a disease or syndrome derived from the name(s) of person(s). How many of the following do you know?

<u>Some common ones:</u>	Addison's Disease	A.D. adrenal cortical hypofunction
	Addison's Anaemia	Pernicious Anaemia
2 points for each correct	Bell's Palsy	Facial nerve paralysis
	Buerger's Disease	Thrombo-angiitis-obliterans
	Chaga's Disease	American trypanosomiasis
	Tay-Sach's Disease	Infantile amaurotic familial idiocy
	Weil's Disease	Spirochaetel jaundice
	Concato's Disease	Polyserositis
	Dietl's Crisis	Renal colic due to kinking of the ureter in nephroptosis
	von Recklinghausen's Disease	Neurofibromatosis
<u>Some less common:</u>	Addison's Keloid	Scleroderma
	Bannister's Disease	Angioneurotic Oedema
3 points for each correct	Carter's Disease	Madura Foot
	Thomsen's Disease	Myotonia Congenita
	Romberg's Disease	Facial Hemiatrophy
<u>Place Names:</u>	English Disease	Rickets (perhaps Syphilis)
	Gibraltar Fever	Brucellosis
3 points for each correct	Natal Boil	Cutaneous Leishmaniasis
	Ande's Disease	Erythrocytosis from altitude
	Japanese River Fever	Tsutsagamushi Fever

Rating: Possible 50 points

Over 40 . . . You're a liar
30 - 40 . . . Come join the Auricle staff
20 - 30 . . . Probably a Dental Student
10 - 30 . . . Probably a member of the S.M.C.
0 - 10 . . . This is for Medics not for Engineers

Student to Butcher: "Shilling dog meat please, without bones if possible. The Chief is coming to the Firm Party and he has no teeth".

Professor: I won't begin to lecture until the room settles down.
Voice from rear: Go home and sleep it off, old man!

Alack alas, it is the gas
Which comes when I take food.
From my behind, there comes a wind
Which my ill blows no good.
I have not seen an action
Since the day of old Tobruk.
I fear there is impaction,
But I can't get down to look.

During the war some British officers were entertaining some Polish officers. Trying to be friendly, one Briton asked a Polish officer if he was married. Conversation ran as follows:

British Officer: "Are you married?"
Polish Officer: "Yes"
British Officer: "Have you any children?"
Polish Officer: "No, my wife cannot impregnate"

Realising that this was not quite correctly expressed, the second British Officer tried to improve on his English and added: "She is impregnable". A friend of his, recognising the blunder he made, thought he would help him out and said: "What he actually means to say is that his wife is inconceivable". The fourth Polish officer felt that he could clarify matters for the Britons better than his three friends - and added: "No, no, what they really mean to say is that his wife is unbearable".

The LIBRARIAN says

Among the books on medical history recently acquired by the Library are several containing material on eighteenth century medicine. Besides having an article on the Hunter Brothers, the current issue of Medical History has one on William Hunter's friend, William Cullen - a brilliant teacher who was first at Glasgow and then at Edinburgh and who gave his lectures in English instead of Latin. One of his pupils was John Brown, originator of the Bruonian System according to which all diseases fell into two classes - the sthenic group and the asthenic group. One treated the former by administering sedatives like laudanum and the latter with stimulants like whisky. Brown was a victim of his own therapy because he died from drinking forty drops of laudanum in a glass of whisky before a lecture and repeating the dose several times in the course of it.

In Sidelights on the History of Medicine, which is edited by Sir Zachary Cope, are biographies of other medical worthies. This book is a collection of some of the lectures on medical history given during the last forty years at the Royal Society of Medicine. There is an article by Sir Arthur S. MacNalty on Edward Bancroft, an American doctor who practised in London during the War of Independence, was a friend of Benjamin Franklin, posted as an American patriot, wrote a standard text on dyeing and dyestuffs, and was such a successful spy for the British Intelligence Service that his espionage activities only became known seventy years after his death. He used knowledge thus gained to his own advantage. He kept back the news of the surrender at Saratoga so that he could make "a killing on the London Stock Exchange" and thereby made a large sum of money.

In the same book there is a lecture given by A.R. Cushny on William Withering, discoverer of digitalis. When he lived in Birmingham, he belonged to the Lunar Society "which met monthly at the full of the moon". At its meetings, all branches of science were discussed. Withering wrote a textbook of botany, was interested in chemistry, examined the fossil bones of a tiger, wrote about Stonehenge, besides writing his Account of the Foxglove and some of its Medical Uses. An old Shropshire woman first told him that foxglove cured dropsy. When he was dying, one of his friends is supposed to have said, "The flower of English medicine is, indeed, Withering".

Of a rather different nature and Methodist in viewpoint, is the book called John Wesley among the Physicians. John Wesley had no love for the doctors of his time, saying that they used obscure language and "compound medicines consisting of so many ingredients that it was scarce possible for common people to know which it was that wrought the cure". He wrote a great deal on medicine, opened dispensaries and gave medical advice whenever he felt it was necessary. He disapproved of the practice of bleeding patients, also of administering Peruvian bark for fevers, but was an exponent of electro-therapy, and this was his treatment for raging madness: "Set the patient with his head under a great waterfall as long as his strength will bear".

References

1. Morris, W.I.C. (1959) Brotherly Love. Medical History. 3:20-32
2. Johnstone, R.W. (1959) William Cullen. Ibid 3:33-46
3. Cope, Sir Zachary (1957) Sidelights on the History of Medicine. London. Butherworth.
4. Hill, A.W. (1958) John Wesley among the Physicians. London. Epworth Press.

M.B.LUCAS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ideas for a design for the forthcoming Conference "The Alimentary Canal" would be appreciated by the Conference Committee. Please hand these in at the S.M.C. office, soon.

STUDENTS HEALTH INSURANCE

In a small house just behind the Florence Nightingale, there exists a Clinic. In fact, its been there for many years. Unbelievable you say ... in fact you didn't know about it. Well, perhaps a few details to enlighten you will be of benefit.

The function of the above Society is two-fold. It provides all students with free medical examinations and it assists students in defraying their medical expenses. It operates a clinic for the purpose of these medical examinations and is under the direction of the Senior Assistant in Medicine, assisted by Specialists on the staff of the Clinical Department of Medical School.

The scheme has the approval of the South African Medical & Dental Association and operates under the aegis of an Advisory Committee consisting of the Principal of the University, the Professors of Medicine; Surgery; Gynaecology and Obstetrics; and Pathology.

Although medical students were previously excluded from the scheme of Sick Benefits, the Committee has decided to reverse this for a period until 30th June, 1959. Whether these benefits are continued in the latter half of the year or not, will depend on the Transvaal Administrator's reply to the petition lodged with him by S.M.C. The petition is re: Free Hospital Treatment for Medical Students".

Until something of a more definite nature is known about this Hospital Treatment, we appeal to you as medical students to make full use of the benefits the Society provide. If you desire more information, please contact the General Secretary, Mrs. Clayson, at the Clinic at 63, King George Street, Hospital Hill (just behind the Florence Nightingale).

Committee *on* MEDICAL EDUCATION

On Wednesday 17th September, 1958, at an S.M.C. meeting, the following motion was passed:

"That the Curriculum Committee be disestablished and that in accordance with S.M.C. policy, a Committee on Medical Education be established".

A subsequent motion read:

"The function of the Committee shall be a consideration of Medical Education at our Medical School, and where deemed necessary by the S.M.C. the communication of these views to the Faculty via the Dean".

This in brief, is the beginning and purpose of the Committee on Medical Education.

It is a known fact that students are continually offering suggestions both for improvements to the existing curricula and facilities, as well as in many cases bemoaning the lack of social entertainment. Undoubtedly, the list of "what's missing" could be increased but the quantity is of minor importance. What the Committee wants to hear is your complaints and suggestions, not six months later, but when you first give utterance to your thoughts. It is up to you to make the effort of giving us your ideas and we, in terms of our function, shall execute them to the best of ability. The scope of Terms of Reference of the Committee are briefly as follows:

1. Students
2. Staff
3. Facilities
4. Education
5. Extra-curricular activities and amenities

YOU say you have a complaint about the education offered - what must you do? Quite simple. Write it out, sign it, and give it either to me or else to the S.M.C. General Secretary. Either way, the Committee will get it and discuss it at their next meeting. So start writing NOW and keep us busy.

ARNOLD LEVIN
Secretary

The Chief Butcher Bull of the S.M.C.
Up the Hill.

Dear Microbe,

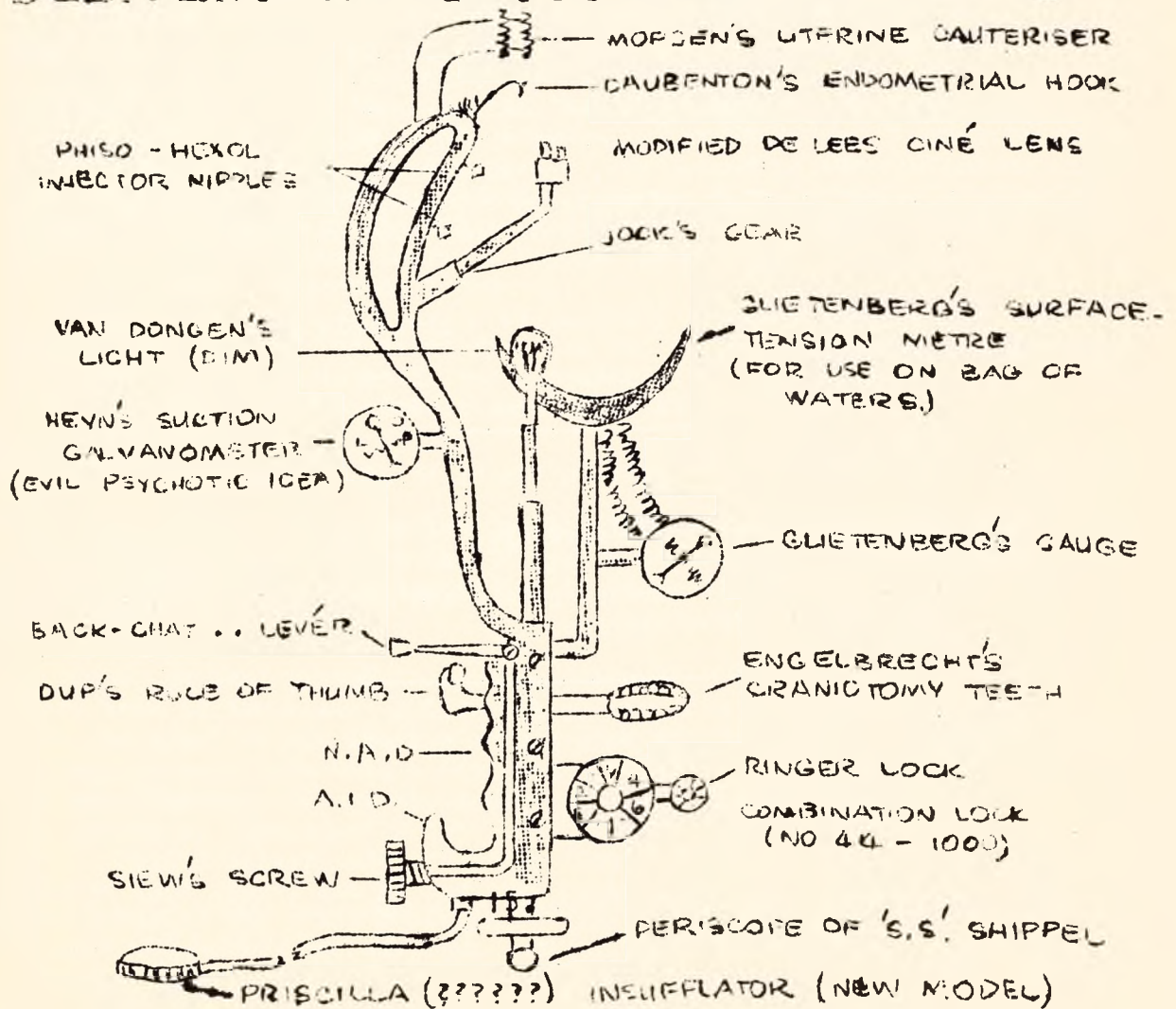
In reply to your letter (published in Torque - February, 1959), I have definitely come to the conclusion that you wield your chopper with more dexterity than your pen. Your reference to scum intrigues me and, in consequence, I issue a personal challenge to you to appear on the appointed day of the Medic-Engineers fracas in top-hat and tails. The choice of weapons is yours, but I suggest tiddly-winks as this is one of the few methods of combat in which bones can be used.

Realising the general inefficiency of your Faculty, we have appointed a squad of 24 stretcher bearers to remove the fat lice that come crawling down the hill to play us games. We only need 24 chaps as we only expect 12 of your blighters with sufficient courage to roll up. (Last year half your teams never arrived, due possible to the coldness of the fat feet).

(Signed) MIKE OERTEL
President S.E.C.

This letter was received a few days ago by Pete Arnold. Inter-faculty sporting activities have been arranged - Swimming, Cricket, Golf, "Pinnies", everything! Watch the tree notices.

MODIFIED SMELLY'S FORCEPS FOR DELIVERY OF OBSTETRICAL MISTRESSES



CLASS NOTES

IN FACT - FACULTY NEWS

PROF. PAUL DUDLEY WHITE

Personal physician to President Eisenhower is in South Africa under the auspices of U.C.T.'s visiting Lecturers' Trust Fund. He will be in Johannesburg during the Easter vacation. The S.M.C. are trying to make arrangements for the Professor to give a lecture-demonstration to the students. As yet, nothing is final - watch the tree notices for further details.

HOSPITAL FEES

The position of medical students under the new ordinance is quite clear - they will be classified exactly as members of the general public are. The position at the hospital is not so clear - a number of students have been attended to at the hospital without payment on the grounds that they are members of staff; others have been classified and have paid up; still others have been classified as private patients but have not been sent accounts. The S.M.C. has taken up the matter and are attempting to have things arranged so that medical students should not require to be classified again - nothing is certain but we hope to be able to report progress in the next issue of Auricle.

INTERNAL NEWS

Class Sports: Various inter-class sport meets have been arranged - teams to compete with the Engineers will be chosen at these events turn up, have a ball and get into the medical school teams.

NURSES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

The relationship between students and nurses is, as usual, "most cordial" but the girls do have some moans ... "The students are O.K. but why do some fellows always come to clerk cases at meal times?". "The Duty Room is the nurses' room. Some students take over the duty rooms and sit there for hours on end discussing cases, etc. and we girls have to apologetically request permission to enter and write up reports, fill in drugs, etc. We appreciate company but when ten students take over and demand tea, well - it's a bit thick.

"I think the medical students are great!" - obviously a junior nurse speaking - but she'll learn!

Congrats to Les and Beejay Elliott on the birth of a bonny son;

to Myera Gershater on her marriage;

to Judy Issroff, Arthur Rubenstein and Ron Tucker on winning the Westdene Scholarships.

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

Dear Sir,

In the past, the Dental Students have taken an active part in medical extra-curricular activities and it is with regret that one doesn't find any dental news in your news letter. Why aren't there a few pages of the Auricle allotted to the Dental Students - at least for no other reason than to improve relations between the two faculties?

(See bottom of page 8 Ed.) 16.

Sincerely yours,
I. TODRESOWITZ

SPORT

WEIGHT-LIFTING CLUB

It was in Cape Town last year during May that the Wits. University weight-lifting team completed a hat-trick in winning the S.A.U. title for the third successive year. Fortunately, all the members of the victorious 1958 team are still at 'varsity and while each is not guaranteed of a place in this year's side, they nevertheless comprise a very powerful and useful nucleus on which to build a team.

Of course, it is far too early in the year to predict who will wear the blue, white and gold colours of our Alma Mater in Pretoria later this season since the Club has been fortunate up to the present in acquiring excellent lifters each new year. However, one way or another, the Trophy should be won by our team once again.

This year is to see quite a change in the Club's training facilities. Instead of being limited to small, stuffy rooms which have been our quarters for the past six years, we are to be situated in a large new gym which has been erected down the hill adjacent to the swimming bath.

Training commences in earnest as from now - new and old members alike will be most welcome to visit our renovated Club. Enquiries concerning the activities of the Club can be obtained from Raymond Coll and Clive Noble in IV year.

SWIMMING CLUB

Once again Wits. have won the Johannesburg League. However, in spite of this, it has not been a very successful season. We lost Inter-'varsity for the first time in 25 years and suffered defeats at the hands of Zoo Lake and Wanderers. These defeats do not, however, indicate a decline in standard at Wits. - on the contrary, the general standard has never been higher. It is only proof of the general improvement in swimming throughout the country. Both Wanderers and Zoo Lake were very strong and each contained several Springboks.

The experiment of entering two sides in the 1st League was successful and the 2nd team finished high up in the League. The "social" 3rd team, after being 2nd in the 2nd League for a number of weeks, lost form after the vacation and suffered some heavy defeats. These were, however, compensated for by some fine parties at the Milner Hotel on Friday nights. Four swimmers, viz. Eric le Roux, Lawrence Rennie, Yntze Schrauwen and Peter Hugo were selected to represent Transvaal.

Water Polo The 1st and 2nd teams finished 3rd and 4th in the 1st League respectively. For both teams it was a season of ups and downs. Two players - R. Schwartz and H. Pelsler were selected for Transvaal.

CLASS CRICKET

The very sport-minded 6th years last week retained their unbeaten record when they convincingly defeated the 5th years at cricket. The 5th years showed an appalling lack of interest and the team fielded was very much below strength.

Batting first, on what proved to be a most lively matting wicket, the final years were soon in trouble. Zullie Rubenstein (6th) had his stumps uprooted at the start of his innings as his mind was far away - presumably visualising his next date with a Vaal Dam "joller". Broot and 'Old Man' Wood now got together and saw the score past the double figures mark. Wood was joined by 'Mouseman' Wright, the skipper, and these two piled on the runs. Hilton Silver and Jeff Boner (5th) were doing sterling work in the field at this stage, but it was Alec Kalell (5th) who brought off some fantastic saves in the gully position. Urbani (5th) who had taken all the wickets so far with his medium-paced seamers, soon dispersed of Ivan Marais

and John Liebenberg who were both reported to be good batsmen but never got going. Wright, who was batting like a tiger, was joined by 'Card-sharp' Shor (6th) and a big partnership loomed ominously for the 5th years. Alan Gotlieb (5th), however, had other ideas and had Bernard leg before as he went for a big sweep to let (21 runs). Gordon and Bluhenthal (6th) both batted with tenacity and had to be dug out and still the 'Mouseman' stayed on. Eventually a rising ball from Urbani found the edge of his bat and Semus Ou Tim (5th) snapped up a brilliant catch in the gully. Mike was clapped off the field for a very well played 33.

The 'funeral boys' Ron Joffe and Mike Heymann were fortunately batted low down of necessity and hitting everything in sight (including a glorious 6 by the latter) put the score on 123. The ball now being lost, the 6th years declared. Urbani had taken 6 wickets and was ably supported in the bowling by Messrs. Meyers, Lampert, Ou Tim, Kussel and Gotlieb. After washing down the biscuits which actually tasted worse than they looked with - of all liquids - cold drinks, the game continued.

Shor, bowling with the venom he last displayed as a schoolboy, soon captured a wicket. The 5th years were in trouble. Facing a mammoth total with no recognised batsmen, Urbani joined Len 'Stoutheart' Kahn and these two proceeded to dig in. Shor, who had now abandoned his shirt and was displaying his virile torso to some admiring (or was it terrified?) schoolgirls, was tired and Roy Wood resumed the attack. Urbani was now giving evidence of the possible chance of overhauling the score. Kahn, seeming to lose patience, skied a catch and was out (11). Jackie Kussel joined Urbani but, in his eagerness to keep the new batsmen away from the bowling, rather carelessly overcalled a single and Kussel was caught well out of his ground. Basil Kuming, who had kept wicket admirably, seemed to be tired and going for a big hit was caught.

Things now looked grim - 3 wickets for 38. Gotlieb stayed to play some defensive shots while Urbani, who by now was seeing the ball well, was piling on the runs. 'Beast' Meyer's mind was obviously with his fair-haired little wife and taking his captain's directions to heart, padded up to a ball on the wickets and was bowled. His amazement simulated that which he displays when he is overtrumped in contract bridge! Silver and Ou Tim stayed a while but the conditions were against the 5th years. By now, two full soccer sides had joined the fray and were booting innumerable balls all around the show. The only reason why they didn't kick us off as Roy Wood put it, was that we were bigger than them! With the score at 80 for 8, Urbani decided to close up shop and play out time, but losing concentration for a single ball offered a catch to Mouseman off Rubenstein's bowling which he readily snapped up. He had scored 49 most attractive runs. Al Kalell (the Amorous "A") and Jeff Boner, after being threatened with all sorts of bodily violence, strove to avoid defeat amidst the chaos of the soccer players and to crown it all, a smokescreen from a nearby factory. The 6th years, however, had smelt the blood and were eager for the kill. Off the 3rd last ball of the match and to the horror of the 5th years, Wood clinched the issue with a ball that landed "plop" on old Jeff's stumps. He swears it was a "no ball".

Thus ended a most entertaining and exciting afternoon's cricket. It is regrettable that the more junior students show such a lack of interest as these inter-class games are excellent fun and ideal for building extra-curricular friendships among the students. Wake up Sport Reps!

ROWING

At the time of writing, the University Rowing Club is about to embark on a weekend dash to East London to row in the annual Buffalo Regatta on the Buffalo River on Saturday, 29th March. Wits. are entering five crews made up of 17 oarsmen, 5 of whom are at present seen floating around Medical School. Rod Adams (3rd year Medicine), John van Eerden (2nd year Medicine), Julian Steyn and Dave Nobbs (both 4th year Dentals) are rowing in the Junior Eight, - Rod also representing Wits. in the Novice Four event. Jan Read (4th year Medicine) is rowing in the first four and eight, the former boat being entered in the main event of the afternoon for the

Buffalo Grand Challenge Trophy. This Trophy is the most sought after prize amongst South African oarsmen, being about the oldest Rowing Trophy in the country as well as being worth a small fortune.

After this regatta, the Club will be very actively preparing for the National Championship Regatta being held at East London towards the end of March. The prospects at the moment of a successful year's rowing, look particularly rosy as 7 out of last year's South African Champion Eight crew are still rowing. Most of the Junior and Novice oarsmen who rowed so well last year in winning all Junior and Novice events at Intervarsity are hard at training again and are very determined to repeat their successes.

The rowing programme till the end of May is well filled with local regattas, all of which Wits. is hoping to attend and win. The first week in July is again occupied by Intervarsity rowing - Wits. being hosts again at possibly Vereeniging or Mazdspoort, Bloemfontein. Last year, due to a sudden influenzal outbreak amongst the senior oarsmen, both senior events in which Wits. were strongly fancied, went to U.C.T. However, this year, provided no casualties or illnesses occur, Wits. Boat Club have an ideal chance of winning all five Intervarsity Rowing Events. As regards the Medics vs. Engineers Sports, Jan Read is pretty confident of putting up a Medical four capable of thrashing any other faculty - the "grease monkeys" included!

Mrs. Phillips 'phoned to tell the S.M.C. that she appreciated very much the fact that students didn't pester the Registrar's Office for exam. results etc. - as they had done the previous year - thus enabling them to work uninterrupted and bring out the results far earlier than usual.

WESTDENE PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP

The following awards have been made to 4th, 5th and 6th year medical students. Each Westdene Products Scholarship is worth £100 and the awards are made to medical students of high academic standards and showing a sense of social responsibility by taking an active part in student affairs:

Mr. Ronald B.K. Tucker	6th year
Mr. Arthur H. Rubenstein	5th year
Miss Judith Issroff	4th year

HOW'S YOUR APPETITE?

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S T O P P R E S S

CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM ! ! !

THE S.M.C. has established a new form of contact between the students and the Faculty of Medicine. After each meeting of the Board of the Faculty, the President of the S.M.C. calls upon the Dean and discusses matters which have arisen and been discussed and decided upon by the Faculty. The information which is received is passed on to the Editor of Auricle to be incorporated into the next issue or into a special issue, depending on the importance of the matters concerned.

The first meeting of this nature was held on Friday, 19th March, when the President was informed by the Dean of the following matters of interest to the student body.

1. The S.M.C. wrote a letter to the Faculty in February requesting the Faculty to reconsider the re-institution of supplementary examinations. On receipt of this letter, the Heads of the Departments were asked to submit memoranda on this subject to the next meeting of Faculty, where it was decided, subject to the approval of the Senate, that for 1959, supplementary examinations would be granted to those students who failed in the November examinations, but who were considered by the Departments concerned to stand a fair chance of passing a supplementary.

Accordingly there will be supplementary examinations for all years from 1st till 4th for 1959, subject to the discretion of the Department(s) concerned, and, of course, to the approval by the Senate of the change in regulations.

In these years the examination might not necessarily be written, but the mode of examination will once again be at the discretion of the examiners.

A committee has been set up to report to the next Faculty meeting on a permanent plan for supplementary examinations in the future, and it is hoped that there will be discussion between this committee and the S.M.C. before the report is made.

2. The block system has been altered slightly, subject to Senate's approval, such that fifth year students will only have a three-week break before the commencement of the final year, but their clinical work will finish well before the time of writing of their final examinations. There will also be a

P.T.O.

three-weeks vacation in July of the final year. The last two months or so before the finals "will be available as a finishing off period rather than for block system work which often involves getting up at night". (Agenda for Faculty meeting of March, by permission of the Dean.)

3. Of interest to those students doing or yet to do third year are the present plans of alteration to the curriculum, coming into force this year, subject to the approval of the Senate. Pathology has been increased by 60 hours to 600 hours, Pharmacology has been decreased by 60 hours to 150 hours, Physiology has been increased by 240 hours to 360 hours, 20 hours each are allocated to Psychology and Medicine and 60 hours to Surgery, including Surgical Anatomy. These figures total 1,210 hours.

A further proposed form of contact, already implemented on an informal basis, is direct contact between the S.M.C.'s Committee on Medical Education and the Faculty's Board of Studies. The respective Chairmen of these committees have already met on a number of occasions to discuss specific topics, but it is hoped that the scope of their meetings, and of proposed meetings between the two committees can be much extended.

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