

# THE AURICLE



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THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

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OCTOBER                      -                      1942

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# THE AURICLE

MAGAZINE OF THE STUDENTS' MEDICAL COUNCIL

*Volume 7 No. 2*



*October, 1942*

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## Editorial Opinion

### STUDENT ENTHUSIASM.

"It is so easy to arouse enthusiasm and so difficult to maintain it." This fact has, we feel, been brought home to us more forcibly today than at any previous period in the History of our Medical School.

This year Medical Students have initiated a large number of tremendously significant projects, and now the onus is on them to maintain and foster these idealistic schemes, so as to fully justify their inception.

All of us have heard of the Non European Nursery School started this August by the Women Medical Students. This scheme is to be extended, and another School is soon to be opened at Alexandra Township. Certainly no individual who has not been directly responsible for the creation of the former school, will appreciate the infinite amount of time and labour that has been expended in realising this ideal. We know too, that this fine work has the blessing of a very large majority of the Student body. But it takes more than goodwill to keep an organisation such as this alive. It has already been suggested that the Occupational Therapy Society avail themselves of the offer of an interested layman, whose full time task it will be to superintend the knitting and the running of the Nursery School. Whether they do this or not is their concern, but one point is painfully clear; unless they are assured of constant and unfailing support from all our students here, they will not be able to maintain the high standard of efficiency they have achieved today.

Another equally important aspect of student activity has been the Students Medical Council's resolution to make themselves responsible for the running of the Fordsburg Clinic. This Clinic, started last year by Dr. Kloppers and continued by Dr. Lopis — both of the Medicine Department — is responsible for the health of nearly 100 needy families in Fordsburg area. Like all successful schemes it has now become too large for these two men to manage, and so they have appealed to students as the obvious assistants in this work. The meeting called in this connection was attended by a large number of medicals of every year who expressed their willingness to assist, but time alone will tell whether this was a cursory wave of enthusiasm or the eagerness borne of a readiness to serve.

Last year too, numbers of students clamoured for some practical outlet for their desire to help the war effort. After a great deal of negotiating on all sides, a C.P.S. Medical Unit was brought into being, but the first enthusiasm having worn off, only 40 students, out of a possible 200—300, were willing to take the oath.

In N.U.S.A.S. too there is enormous scope for active students to do a real job of work. The policy recently enunciated by the Students Union is to promote constructive activities among S.A. Students, with a view to obtaining a concerted student effort in the attempt to improve social conditions.

A young scheme, such as this, is full of possibilities and any student who is prepared to offer constructive criticisms, useful suggestions or better still, practical help, will be very welcome indeed. Yet how many medicals have availed themselves of this opportunity?

A significant achievement of 1942 has been the initiative taken by our first year students in bringing to the notice of Medicals and non medicals alike, various aspects of our Medical responsibilities that many of us are wont to overlook.

These Medical Sociology Lectures offer endless opportunities for interested students to accumulate more than just textbook knowledge, and afford them the chance of speaking and listening to some of the most prominent men in our profession today. The intellectual background given them by these six lectures is the kind of equipment vitally necessary to the role they will have to play in planning a new future for Medicine in South Africa. It is a great pity that more Medicals were not present at the lectures of Dr. Harvey Pirie, Col. Laing, Dr. Gale and Dr. Shapiro, the first four lectures of the series.

From this brief review of the more far-reaching student activities this year, certain deductions are very evident.

Firstly, that there is no lack of imagination amongst our medical students that can and do find very practical outlet for their ideas. The fact that our medicals are certainly more active than other students is undeniable, but the obvious deficiency is this: that it is useless to initiate new and important schemes unless we have the knowledge that our initial efforts will be sustained, and that in developing, schemes will gather impetus and enthusiasm rather than slip into an untimely oblivion.

But how, we may well ask, can this be managed? The answer is obvious. In our Medical School alone there are about 700 students, and Milner Park houses over 200 enthusiastic first years. If only half of these students were to interest themselves in these and other projects, we would have a body of approximately 500 whose activities would take the form of a concerted student effort, and any successes achieved or failures experienced would be the responsibility of the majority of Medical Students and not of a handful of active students as it is today.

The majority of really capable Medical Students have decided that the organisation of activities in our school is the monopoly of a small group. This is certainly true. Due to an amazing student apathy (which incidentally is not found in Universities overseas, where the average age of students is much higher than our own) the onus of all our organisation falls on a relatively minute number of students, whilst the remainder reap the fruits of these labours having contributed nothing. Another thought frequently expressed by medicals is to the effect that the people at the head of things are eager to remain as selective as possible, and to prevent all other students from pulling their weight in the running of their school. In some cases this is probably true, for any man is liable to become intensely jealous of his successes, if he alone is responsible for them, and thus it is our business to see that student responsibilities are evenly distributed.

But the reverse also applies, for when offered a chance to do an excellent job of advertising on the Leech, students determined to remain selective and to leave this work to the sort of person who could do these things; and so it is that every single responsibility is left to the few people prepared to shoulder them. Such a state of affairs, however, cannot last interminably. In his recent address to Medicals at the General Meeting of Students, our Dean proclaimed, "The World cannot be Hitler-made, the World cannot be Churchill-made, the World can't even be Dart-made," and the same principal applies to our somewhat restricted "World." Our Medical School cannot and should not be "made" by a handful of stalwarts, even if they are prepared to do it.

With conditions as uncertain as they are today, we must take time by the forelock and gain the most experience and achieve the finest results that we possible can.

Remember that many hands make light work, and that the more participants there are the more there can be done.

MEDICALS LEAVE YOUR ARMCHAIRS AND "THE SKY WILL BE YOUR LIMIT."

# DEMOCRACY TRIUMPHS CITY STEPFATHERS?

How many students are aware of the recent attempt by the Johannesburg City Council to dictate the lines along which they should think and act?

By the "economic Blackmail" of cutting down the annual University grant — knowing that such a step would seriously hamper the proper functioning of an already impoverished institution — they tried to enforce their unreasonable and undemocratic views.

It appears that certain members of both staff and students had committed the unpardonable sin of taking an intelligent interest in the manner in which they, as citizens, were being governed.

Some had dared to criticize the economic and native policies of "their" city. But still worse certain so called "communist intellectuals" had actually assisted labour councillors in the recent municipal elections. While appreciating the dignity of being a "University City" and the fact that the University is "good for business — What price culture now? — this was something they could not tolerate. "Where would all this end?" they asked. Perhaps the money would be used to establish a chair of communism in the University!

These and many others other equally puerile suggestions were advanced by a member of the governing body of the largest city in Africa, as a reason for cutting down the University grant.

From the other side of the house however some intelligent and progressive speakers, members of the Labour Party and Nationalist Party, in no uncertain terms, attacked the present educational system which made Universities dependent on private charity and forced members of our University Council to go with their pride in their pocket to beg, from an unreasonable council, for finance to keep the torch of learning alight. They insisted on the principle that all education including Universities, should be financed completely by the State, and that it should be free to all, irrespective of race, colour or creed. Another good suggestion was that a chair of Public Administration should be established at Wits.

Today students of the Wits University, in common with all freedom loving peoples of the democracies, are laying down their lives to bring about a state of Society which will put into practice the principles of the Atlantic Charter, especially Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Thought. With equal determination we will fight to the death any attempt to rob us of these freedoms on the Home Front.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY.

The article in the adjoining columns was handed to us some time back. The editorial board, desiring as always to present its readers with the truth, even if it hurts, decided to publish it. This was the beginning of a long uphill struggle against appeasers and obstructionists. We were told that to publish it would be to cut our lifeline, meaning that the municipal grant to the University would be refused — that to publish it would achieve no object — that we should "let sleeping dogs lie." Appeasers kept up a plaintive wail — "I agree with you in principle, but don't print it." We were called "parlour Communists," "Armchair intellectuals" — and were held responsible for publishing the "Labour News." All this is untrue. Our aim is to present the truth to students, nothing more, nothing less.

Finally, at a meeting of the Journals Committee, the principle was definitely established that the Auricle would print anything that it deemed fit. Nevertheless, the article in question was sent to the Principal, whose sober and mellow judgement is reflected in his reply (The emphasis is our own):—

I see no objection to your printing the article "City Stepfathers" in your paper. I assure you that there is no fear of the Council or Senate selling the birthright of the University or of the City Council asking anything which would lead in that direction.

I must however point out that the recent negotiations between the City Council and the University Council were made very difficult for us owing to the fact that it was disclosed that a group of Medical Students at the Medical School had acted with extreme rudeness to the Mayor. This is the sort of thing that cannot be tolerated, under any circumstances. The Mayor is our Chief citizen, and as such is worthy of the fullest respect from all his citizens. I have apologised to the Mayor on behalf of the students and he considers the matter closed, but I cannot emphasize too strongly that such conduct is quite

(Continued on page four)

## We Only Heard—

- That Dr. T. W. B. Osborne is now in Geneva.  
 That the Lunch-hour Society is now in full "swing."  
 That the C.P.S. can now salute to the front.  
 That all students congratulate Mr. R. L. Caunter on his new arrival.  
 About the opening of the new Women's Common room- because we were not invited.  
 That the refectory is supplying yeast and orange juice to the nursery school.  
 That the gate to the drive has been widened for the benefit of erratic drivers.  
 That students wonder if this means a certain lady in the athology department.  
 That the Auricle is getting on in the world.  
 That our article on Dr. Joe Gillman in our last issue was quoted by the Forum and the Forward.  
 That the S.M.C. sent Felicitations to the Nurses Union.  
 That the Dental Ball was a great draw.  
 That the demand for ice-packs is increasing.  
 That this may be due to the proximity of examinations.  
 That all students wish themselves and all others the very best of luck.  
 That the S.M.C. photograph was touched up but John T. Russell's Socks(?) were untouched.  
 That the Sunnyside girls set a shining example by their dance in aid of the Occupational Therapy Society.  
 That this was a reflection of the send-off that the proceeds from the Auricle sales gave the society.

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(Continued from page three)

unworthy of our medical students.

Students will at all times be permitted to express their views but this must be done in a courteous manner. Hooliganism is not the conduct of a student and cannot be tolerated.

## I FEEL BETTER NOW

Most Medicals have delusions of grandeur — I know I had. When they leave school and enter the faculty they talk glibly of doing medicine for humanity's sake, dream of peering down microscopes and anaesthetizing guinea pigs, project themselves into operating theatres — gloved and masked, with nurses shuffling and passing instruments. How much of this is fostered by M.G.M. and Paul De Kruif, and how much is born of their own inherent good, I don't know. However let the honours be shared.

The process of reducing themselves and medicine to their true perspective, is directly proportional to the years completed. The grim realisation that they are never likely to be anything more than G.P.s practising effete curative Medicine, (for those that can afford it) soon gets into their systems, and a passive immunity is soon established. Sitwell said "The world is sick and is in need of medicine." Students now immune aren't interested.

Now I was thinking about these things on my way down to the Brenthurst Hospital. Here two graduates from our Medical School, Major Penn and Capt. H. Bentel are doing remarkable work. I know I cannot do them justice, but let me give you some idea of the work they are doing. Major Penn was sent overseas at the request of the Union Government, to do research in plastic surgery, and Capt. Bentel is his anaesthetist. The results achieved as judged from some of the before and after photographs, have to be seen to be believed. Added to this, Major Penn has had constructed to his own pattern a jaw splint which is believed to be the best of its kind in the world. But other aspects of this hospital indelibly impressed me, and let me say I am not a sentimentalist.

The Hospital is set in beautiful surroundings unlike the N.E.H. and the dust swept military hospitals. Lectures on all topics are given to the patients, and the spirit of comradeship that exists between doctors and patients is exemplified, by the scolding Capt. Bentel received from some patients for not turning up to play the banjo the previous night. I spoke to some of them and they are filled with confidence and a passionate respect for both Major Penn and Capt. Bentel.

All this at a time when soldiers are saying "Put a doctor into a uniform and he ceases to be a doctor."

You know what it feels like to wake up in the morning and find the world covered with snow? I feel better now!!!

# “FREE HOSPITALISATION”

## A CRITICAL SURVEY OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S FREE HOSPITALISATION REPORT.

Mr. H. F. Pentz, Transvaal provincial secretary, has submitted a scheme for Free hospitalisation which deserves our critical attention. The scheme emerges as a new and elaborate bureaucratic organisation which is to be grafted onto the established defects of existing health facilities in the Transvaal.

The report is the outgrowth of the evidence submitted by the Hospitalisation Committee (August 1939) which, owing to wartime conditions has lapsed; the executive of the Transvaal provincial council instructed Mr. Pentz to examine the interim report and formulate a scheme based thereon.

Mr. Pentz commences his report by replacing the Commission's definition of Hospitalisation (embodying both preventive and curative treatment) with the definition “only giving medical and surgical care and curative treatment in a hospital, a convalescence home, a chronic sick institution, an outpatients department or a decentralised clinic, or through the medium of a district nursing or midwifery service, or any development under these heads.” He considers redundant the statement that a hospitalisation scheme “Should be directed to the achievement of positive health and the prevention of disease no less than the relief of illness.”

The report ignores completely the fundamentals of Free Hospitalisation:—provision for all, and a mechanism whereby it would be made available for all — it does not provide for the building of more hospitals, clinics, medical schools etc., and only provides to a limited extent for improvements and developments in existing departments of the medical services.

A close analysis of the Pentz report reveals that even the term “free” is purely relative — in fact, Mr. Pentz defines a *private* patient as “one who selects his own medical attendant and/or pays full hospital charges.” Mr. Pentz has hoped by this scheme to remove the drain incurred by illness on the medium-income classes by offering them free hospitalisation. These people, 2 per cent of the total population of South Africa, gain by this innovation the doubtful privilege of either having free hospitalisation or paying the price in full — whereas at present there exists a graded payment on the basis of income. This privilege will be obtained at the expense of the low income groups, who at present are enjoying free hospitalisation and who are in desperate need of medical attention.

The financial cost of this scheme (£546,000) is to be raised by a special hospital tax, applicable to every individual, European and non-European earning over £3-0-0 per month. All that will happen is that existing facilities in provincial hospitals will be re-arranged in favour of those at present paying for their Medical Services. Mr. Pentz considers that extensive hospitalisation for the Native is unnecessary, denying the clamouring of the Native for hospital accommodation. Comment on this point is superfluous.

Mr. Pentz has found place in his report to discuss the preponderance of Jewish Medical Students in the Medical Schools and implies that as a result “medical practice is losing its vocation and becoming just another outlet for business acumen.” Mr. Pentz as a Civil Servant admits that Jews are tacitly withheld from several callings, including the Civil Service, and submits why the Medical Profession is overrun with Jews. This type of discussion typifies racial prejudice and antisemitism and must be eradicated at all costs. Mr. Pentz implies that selection of Students on a racial basis as well as on that of merit, would counteract the present commercialisation of the Medical Profession, losing sight of the fact that the commercialisation is a result of social and economic conditions beyond the control of the practitioner.

A planned, organised, comprehensive medical service is long overdue, but that this service must of necessity be bought with a coin which is a subtle alloy of despotism and racial discrimination is unadulterated drivel. What is offered is miserably inadequate, and the best that the crapulous wheezing monster that is medical service today can wish for is a swift, clean, intelligent death, based on the widest possible reconstruction, with preventative medicine as its key stone — not a scheme based on the tottering foundations of the old system, and glibly labelled “Free Hospitalisation.”

## Who Me? — Yes You!

When future historians look back at our age, they will indeed be able to say, that our contemporaries lived in a period of fundamental historical changes. On the one hand we have witnessed the creation of the first Socialist State, and on the other the rise of organized national hysteria in the form of Fascism or National Socialism, and its inevitable outcome — war.

In Germany in 1918, in 1923, and again in 1933, there were great economic upheavals, accompanied by a marked rise in the political understanding of the masses. But the uprisings of 1918 and 1923 failed miserably, precisely because there was a lack of leadership.

It is my intention here to deal with the question of leadership and with the part Universities have played, and can play in producing it.

I should firstly like to define what is meant by political leadership, and to point out that it cannot be divorced from other historical factors. All the political leader can be expected to do, is to assess correctly all external factors, to act in accordance with them, and not independently of them, i.e. he must be able to move within given historical developments.

Freedom, as Engels defines it, is a consciousness of necessity. If the potential leader tries to go outside this consciousness, he is doomed to inevitable failure. "The combination of conditions that are necessary to cause an eclipse of the moon does not and cannot under any circumstances include human action, and for this reason alone projects to assist the eclipse of the moon can arise only in a lunatic asylum. (G. V. Plekhanov: The role of the Individual in History).

Apply the above to the principles of political leadership, and it becomes clear that the political leader must be conversant with scientific data, i.e. with an empirical attitude to his environment, and that he must recognize and accept causal necessity.

Students and the scientist, through their privileged position in society, have become acquainted with scientific laws and such other knowledge, which is outside the grasp of the majority, and are best qualified to assess and act in accordance with historical necessity.

It is therefore not surprising that, when glancing at the European Socialist movement, we find that the Universities and their students have always taken a decisive part in the struggle for the betterment of mankind. In Russia where the majority of leaders of the Revolution were University students, students participated in every

major and minor uprising long before the revolution. They conducted secret study classes, edited secret papers, agitated amongst the masses, led strikes, etc.

In Germany, until they ceased functioning as centres of learning, the Universities were hotbeds of rebellion. Scientific Socialism was born in German Universities, and received considerable support from many German intellectuals.

In Yugoslavia, the country I am best acquainted with, students have always been leaders of most political actions. The University of Zagreb was closed by the authorities with monotonous regularity, the students never failing to reply by sit in strikes. During these strikes tens of thousands of sympathetic workers would assemble outside and march through the city in politically organised demonstrations. In Belgrade, a far more politically conscious Centre, students took a more direct part in political organizations, and were frequently executed or exiled by the reactionary authorities. Princip, Bosnian student and patriot, sacrificed his life, for what he thought would be the emancipation of his people, when he assassinated the Austrian Crown Prince.

The Students in the whole of occupied Europe are to-day valiantly opposing Fascism. The Heroism of the Czech students should be an example to us all, no less that of the Yugoslavian scholars who are so courageously participating in guerilla warfare against the invader.

South African students, however, with very few exceptions, are showing an appalling apathy, and a shameful disinterest in the political life of their country. This can possibly be ascribed to the fact that South African Europeans as a whole are so entirely divorced from the masses of the people, and that their attitude to these masses is emotional rather than scientific. It is a most ironic fact that those who clamour against the injustices and horrors of Fascism are nevertheless prepared to see similar injustice being perpetrated in South Africa.

Unless South African students wake up to their responsibilities to society, and unless they do so rapidly, they will soon be faced with an academic career of an arbitrarily predetermined and compulsory "scientific" attitude, such as can be found in the gleichgeschaltet Universities of Germany, which is not only the negation of all scientific enquiry, but also of all human dignity and progress.



# WITREOUS HUMOR

An East End of London boy, aged ten, evacuated to Berkshire, is supposed to have written this essay on cows:—

"The cow is a mamal. It has six sides, right, left, and upper and below. At the end it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk.

"The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so that the mouth can be somewhere. These horns are to butt with, and the mouth is to moo with.

"Under the cow hangs the milk; the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell, one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country. The cow is called an ox.

"The cow does not eat much but what it eats it eats twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because all its inside is full up with grass.

Public Health.

## THE MENU AT THE FINAL YEAR DINNER

Reid & Enjoy Mellenkraib's Diet.

W' Hoses ovaries

(Its up to craibs)

Consomme amniotum

(We dauth if its good)

Entre a la Black

(Shaw its good)

Roast Po Cock

(Schneider here nor dere)

Roast Lumma a la Breb c vernix

(Balkind's delight)

Heyns 57 Salad Versions (internal

(Heyman darts good)

Strachanberries and Krigem

Hot omental cake & custard

Casea vivier Almond Bayerskits

Final Year fruition

Teauria

Cafe au Louw

Fouche's a verra gooda dinner

\* \* \*

Dr. Kl - pp - rs. (to final years) Auricular fibrillation is simply auricular flutter with a speed wobble.

\* \* \*

Student (to recently married student who has just returned from a shopping expedition): I see you have a turnip about the size of a tumour.

\* \* \*

Chief: Doctors die of the disease in which they specialise, you know. The cardiologist dies of congestive cardiac failure, the nerve specialist of his brain tumour and the venereal man of syphilis. The only man who is safe is the gynaecologist.

\* \* \*

Prof. Cr - - b: "What is the most common cause of unconsciousness? You see it everywhere even in the lecture theatre?"

Fr - - dm - n: "Sleep."

\* \* \*

Phys. Lecturer: "Why has this class got such big latent period?"

Voice from the deep: "Perhaps it is because you're such a weak stimulus!"

\* \* \*

Sister B-st-r: Don't you envy me doctor? Imagine me on the beach with the sun beating down on me.

Mr. Alm-nd: Whose Son?

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## CRISIS in INDIA

India — a land of three hundred and eighty million peoples, has recently been and still is the centre of world focus. There, is being enacted today perhaps the most tragic chapter in the history of our generation. This tragedy becomes even more poignant for, while the down-trodden nations of Europe are fighting for a recently lost freedom, India fights to unfetter itself from the shackles of foreign bondage under which it has laboured for some two centuries.

Their trials and tribulations are of particular interest to us. In a way their fight is our fight; for the principles at stake are our own principles. And above all the swift and historic events now coming to pass in India must be worthy of our profound thoughts (as students) because they are to a major extent the result of mass student activity. So much is this so that academic activity in India has come to a standstill. Practically all the universities have had to close down of necessity, for in this hour of India's trial the students, men and women alike, have given up their all, to place themselves, their learning and scientific training at the head of a nations fight, for the cause of righteousness.

But it would seem that it is the inescapable law of nature, that the achievement of anything worthy of respect must invariably be paid for at the altar of sacrifice. A bloody reign of terror unleashed by the imperial powers that be, now rocks the length and breadth of India. It is perhaps the most ruthless attempt on the part of a foreign government to suppress the rising tide of a national demand for legitimate freedom and independence. For voicing the very demands — high ideals for which the so-called progressive nations are allegedly prosecuting this war so vigorously — the leaders of the Indian people have been clapped behind jail bars.

It is significant to observe that this indiscriminate persecution is being perpetuated at the very dictates of an Empire that prides itself as the champion of democracy. The paradox would indeed evoke laughter were it not so tragic.

But on that account, India does not find itself leaderless. For at this crucial moment in the destiny of their country the Indian Student Body have rallied forth to the clarion call of a distressed nation.

There is indeed a grave responsibility, for on their shoulders lies the future of an entire nation. Today they are discharging that responsibility with self-less zeal and determination. They are

laying down their lives let alone their careers as a supreme sacrifice that must be made in the name of truth and duty. They are being jailed in the hundreds! They are being shot down in streets. They are being whipped in their scores! But no amount of murderous persecution can damp the spirits of those who fight with truth as weapon and ally. For even the devil knows that evil cannot prevail over truth for long.

Indeed the role of the Indian Students in the liberation of their country will go down as one of the greatest and noblest landmarks in the annals of Student activity.

As fellow students and colleagues, as men and women of the same calling and creed, we the Students of this university can be proud and justly admire the heroism of our fellow students in India. Their ordeals will not be in vain.

RAMESH DUKHI.

\* \* \*

### LUNCH HOUR MUSIC RECITAL.

A bi-weekly Lunch-hour Music Recital has at last been instituted in Medical School. It is held in the Anthropology Lecture theatre at 1 o'clock on Mondays and Thursdays. A Committee has been elected G. Findlay (chairman), M. Cormack (sec.), P. Koch (treas.) and the Music Society so formed is anxious to secure a grant radiogram from the S.M.C. or the Developments Fund.

All interested students are cordially invited, especially if they are prepared to lend records. The aim of this recital is to provide recreation for students and a medical education at the same time. Both the selected work and the composer are discussed and an attempt is made to make the programmes as varied as possible. Swing fans and Classical fiends alike, here's your chance to make Music!

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However perfect may be the wings of a bird, it can never rise on high without the support of air. Facts are the air of the scientists! Without them your "theories" will be a waste of energy.

But with all your studying, experimenting and observations try not to remain on the surface of the facts. Do not turn yourself into a keeper of an archive of facts. Seek to penetrate into the secret of their origins; persistently search for the laws which govern them.

PAVLOV.

---

# Die Nuwe Mediese Fakulteit te Pretoria

'n Pers reklame. Die twisgebulder van betekenisvolle stemme. Selde het 'n onderneming sy geboorte onder meer ongunstige omstandighede gehad. Kanonne in Europa, broederhaat in ons eie land. Te midde van sulke omwentelende toestande kom 'n eie Afrikaanse Mediese Fakulteit tot stand. Dit kan groei tot 'n magtige kulturele en wetenskaplike wapen in die hande van die volk, of kwyn as dit omgeskep word tot 'n twisappel. Op ons, (Die Witwatersrandse Mediese Skool) gaan, as die ouere instelling, 'n sekere mate van verantwoordelikheid rus. Dit kom ons dus te pas om die saak op die keper te beskou.

Die studente en staf van ons universiteit is, in die algemeen, die Pretoriase onderneming hoogs gunstig gesind. Sy bestaan is ongetwyfeld geregverdig. Die voordele verbonde aan die nuwe inrigting is oorweldigend. Daar is skatte te ontgin in die wetenskap van eie bodem, en Suid-Afrika het ongetwyfeld die manne om dit te doen.

Dit is juis in hierdie saak van intellektuele krag waar die uitsig so skoon is. Afrikaanse leerkragte sal nou uitgebou word in ons gesamentlike poging. Dit is 'n gulde kans vir die ontwikkeling van meer wetenskaplikes, — die kosbaarste kulturele besitting van enige volk. Ons jong wetenskap meet sy kragte met die ouere, en tot 'n sekere mate uitgeleefde, oorsee. Pretoria sal ons tot 'n onuitputlike hulpbron strek.

„Geld, geld, dit sal geld mors!” was die groep van die swakmoedige. „Ons kan dit nie nou bekostig nie,” herhaal die klaaglied. Is dit geld mors van 'n nasie om te bou vir sy toekoms? Sal ons moet wag tot ons strydkragte terugkeer voordat ons kan bekostig om 'n bewys te lewer aan hulle en aan die wêreld dat ons vasberade is in ons strewe om beter lewensomstandighede?

Maar laat ons nie swyg oor 'n vrees wat diep in die gedagtes van ons almal skuil nie. Die student eien homself geregteelik toe, 'n aktiewe deelname aan die politieke lewe van sy land. Rassehaat, egter, bevorder geen wetenskap, veral nie die mediese nie. In hierdie opsig kan ons alleen op die gesonde verstand van ons landsgenote vertrou.

Alle mediese studente het tot dusver hul opleiding in hierdie land Engels ontvang. Die samewerking het 'n heilsame invloed gehad op beide die Afrikaners en hul Engelssprekende kollegas. Ons het die kans gehad om die grondslag van ware Suid-Afrikanerisme hier te lê. Die sterk toename van die Afrikaanse element is een van die opmerklikste ontwikkelings van die laaste

jaar op ons mediese skool. Ons glo almal dat dit gestrek het tot die groot nut van albei rasse. Dit is alleen met harte vol kommer dat ons die einde van hierdie samewerking tegemoet staar.

Laat ons dus nie die toekoms blindelings instorm nie. Ons is bereid om die nuwe Mediese Fakulteit ten volle te steun, maar terselfdertyd besef ons dat die toestand swanger van onaanname moontlikhede gaan wees.

„Broer hier is my hand; die pad voor ons is klipperig.”

ARNOLD KLOPPER.

\* \* \*

## FORDSBURG CLINIC.

The Fordsburg Clinic took a great step forward recently when the Fordsburg Clinic Society under the chairmanship of Harding Le Riche was formed at a Meeting held on September 2nd.

The Clinic is at the moment open only on Wednesday afternoons and the treatment is of necessity purely palliative but it is nevertheless hoped to establish a clinic run on preventive lines using the now famous Peckham Clinic as a model.

Clinical years will take histories etc. and treat cases under the supervision of Dr. Lopis.

3rd years will visit homes of patients in conjunction with Sociology students as well as take routine blood tests etc.

Second years will do urine analysis etc., and also take anthropometrical measurements.

Helpers are needed. Your co-operation is earnestly requested.

\* \* \*

## AS AANS—

As aans die sterre helder skyn  
Hoog aan die hemelboog oorheen,  
En ook die maan haar sagte straleglans  
Op stroompies stil laat reen;  
Wanneer die vredevolle klankgeluid  
Van veldmusiek my streef;  
Dan skep ek in my fantasie  
Vir my 'n maat om saam die uur te deel.

Dis dan of alles om my heen  
Nie haar verfraai, maar sy  
Wat met haar wonderkrag  
Alles meer volmaak berei.

En dromend juigend leef ons mee  
So elke skoon genot en avontuur  
Wat maak dit saak al is dit maar 'n droom, —  
Ek smaak die vreugde van 'n salig uur! R. C.

## BOOK REVIEW

*Health Protection in the Soviet Union*

N. A. Semashko.

State Medicine is coming. As the future Medical Men of this country, it is our bounden obligation to study this vastly significant experiment, which has opened up for the "Everyman" of the Soviet Union a future freed from the worry and horror of disease, both mental and physical.

Under our present Social and Economic system it is impossible to have the resources of the government placed at our disposal for Medical reorganisation. Nevertheless it is for us, as the future medical men of South Africa, to agitate for the principals of mass health until such time as the moribund ministry of Public Health is replaced by a more enlightened and progressive ministry.

N. A. Semashko gives a brief and illuminating comparison between the medicine of Tzarist and Soviet Russia. He shows how the control of Medical services is organised for the maximum of economy and efficiency under a single Commissariat of Health. The Commissariat organises Medical centres all over the Union and by the accumulation of statistics, ascertains the areas which need the greatest amount of medical service.

Briefly the functions of the medical centres are:—

1. To prevent disease through infection by:—
  - a. Anti-epidemic measures, e.g. vaccination.
  - b. Sanitary inspection of food by trained inspectors, often attached to a Medical School.
  - c. Inspection of housing and housing sites.
  - d. Inspection of hospitals.
2. To protect mother and child. (See co-operation).
3. To propagate sanitary education by means of pamphlets, newspaper articles, radio, screen etc. No efforts are spared to carry out an education of the masses concerning health. Advertisements calculated to rouse fear with their consequent effect of neuroses and hypochondriacism so necessary for the upkeep of doctors in capitalist countries, are stringently forbidden.
4. To inspect regularly the health of School Children, to organise physical culture and games, to superintend their diet etc.
5. To organise Chemist shops in order that a more strict control may be kept over drugs, poisons, etc.

Co-operation amongst Medical and other  
Social Organisations.

M. Semashko points out that health is the

primary duty towards the state. Continual stress is laid on prevention of disease. To propagate this principle the closest co-operation exists between Medical men and all other social organisations. These organisations co-operate to reduce industrial risks, study the position of women etc. In the Soviet Union, M. Semashko points out, women have equal rights with men, including the right to work in the same industries. In cases of pregnancy, women get special consideration. They get from six to eight weeks leave both before and after delivery. The deliveries are carried out in a net-work of sanatoria. During that time the woman retains both her job and her salary. No deductions are made. Thus it is not necessary for women in the Soviet Union to stop teaching when they marry.

As another example of co-operation, let me quote the necessary, but often minimised relationship between medical man and Architect. In this country, Architects seldom, if ever, call in a medical man to give an opinion on the suitability or otherwise of a piece of land or vice versa. In the Union the closest co-operation is observed. No house may be built if it is unsuitable on health grounds and all houses are regularly inspected by sanitary inspectors.

In the Soviet Union there is no professional snobbery. Medical men, Dentists, sanitary and other health inspectors, Psychologists, Dieticians Physio-therapists and labour Organisers work in unison for the common good. In all these functions woman take a very prominent part, and this can only occur where social and economic security is the order of the day. All medical attention is free, and no man is penalised because he is forced to take sick leave.

In the Soviet Union Prostitution and Alcoholism are regarded as social problems rooted in social conditions e.g. bad housing, lack of cultural recreation, etc; to quote "The fight is not waged against the individual, but against prostitution (and alcoholism) as a social phenomenon."

M. Semashko also gives a brief account of medical practice and training. He lays emphasis on the short-term post-graduate courses attended by practically all doctors. M. Semashko's book is an interesting, concise, informative introduction to that vast subject and I recommend it heartily to all protagonists of State Medicine for South Africa.

PINCUS CATZEL.

# ODDS and ENDS

S.A. NURSES UNION.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Students Medical Council, I wish to convey through you our best wishes to the Nurses in their efforts to secure more favourable working conditions.

Yours faithfully,

E. B. ADAMS,

Secretary S.M.C.

Medical Students will applaud the action of their Students Medical Council in sending the above letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Trade Union Propaganda and Organising Committee.

We are well aware of the impossible conditions under which the majority of our nurses work and many students would wish to give more than verbal support to so deserving a cause.

A joint Committee of Nurses and Trade Unionists was formed to decide upon a type of organisation most suited to the Nursing profession, that would be responsible for protecting the interests of all members whether they are probationers, staff sisters or matrons.

This Committee has since been reconstituted and the Nurses are attempting to bring about the desired reform through their own trained Nurses' Association.

It is the wish of all students that the efforts of this Association be attended with the success they reserve.

Good Luck Nurses, we're with you.

\* \* \*

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE GROUP

Discussion and criticism have been a feature of every meeting — the speakers have maintained a good standard. Science students and others have made a substantial contribution to the success of the Meetings. Mr. Klopper's address on "Addison" was delivered in Afrikaans and at the next meeting the main address will again be in Afrikaans.

Students have appreciated the attendance of Dr. Teddy Gillman at all their meetings. His sponsoring of this group, and his contributions to the discussions have been of inestimable value.

CONGRATULATIONS PAT !

Patricia Emily Hingle, has been elected Senior Woman Student after a keenly contested election.

From her previous record of activities at the Medical School we feel that the women students have made a wise choice and that they recognise in her a fine leader and hard worker. We hope that this will spur her to still greater efforts. Miss Hingle is on the Committees of the Womens Common Room, Entertainments, Nursery School, and Refectory and was largely instrumental in starting the Knitting Scheme.

These facts speak for themselves.

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## Stop Press

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MUST WE PAY?

STEP TO RAISE FEES

Notices have appeared at the University to the effect that from next year, University fees are to be raised by 20%. No reasons have been given for this drastic, and in our opinion, unwarranted increase. Student feeling is running very high, and at a general meeting of all second years, a resolution deprecating this step was passed.

This matter is also being raised at the forthcoming S.M.C. and S.R.C. meetings.

We wish to bring the following points to the attention of the University authorities:

1) That books, instruments and the general cost of living has already made it difficult for students from poorer families to carry on with their course. This additional expense will prohibit present and future students from receiving a University education.

2) Medical fees are already among the highest in the British Empire. Since the out-break of war, both the staff and general facilities have been limited.

3) Finally, we maintain that all Education, including University education, is the responsibility of the Government, and as such should be free to all sections of the community. Entrance to University should be considered on a merital and not a financial basis.

We are determined to oppose any such step taken by the authorities, unless an adequate and reasonable enquiry into the matter is undertaken.

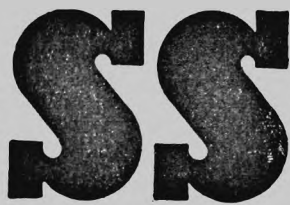
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# KNITMARE

This poem is unfinished and we offer a prize of 10/6 to the best ending received. (Closing date 18th November).

When good Professors peptalk it's almost a general rule  
For wisdom's pearls to fall unheard by members of the School,  
But there always is a strong man who, when chicken-hearted quail,  
Goes in and (very nearly) wins — this hero of my tale.  
This time the Good Professor chose to boost as he thought fitting  
The women students who had taught the Bantu patients Knitting;  
Resolved that this accomplishment male members should impress  
He said "this work needs qualities which mere males don't possess,  
For men can push and pull and shove and thus impress the masses  
But when it comes to care and tact there's no one like the lasses."  
A born tactician, he went on to score a direct hit  
Shouting "imagine Gonski teaching Natives how to knit!"  
Now, when a man is singled out he usually cuts up rough  
Staff Sergeant Alec Gonski was made of sterner stuff,  
And he resolved that instant (the time was half past ten)  
To set about his arduous task and reinstate the men.  
And he avowed on female help he would place no reliance,  
All references he'd find himself (of course the man's done science).  
Accordingly he rushed to town, despite his colleague's jeers  
And bought an elementary book, called "Knitting without Tears!"  
At 9 p.m., the hour when fifth year swotting reached its peak,  
He firmly settled down to learn the "casting on" technique.  
He read page one, a dozen times — he knew it off by heart,  
As if he couldn't learn to knit — he'd show professor Dart,  
Indeed he was the very man to represent the males  
To show that where a woman wins, a HE:MAN never fails,  
In fact, who'd have been better? And echo answered "Who?"  
He read page one the hundredth time and turned on to page two.  
At 4 o'clock next morning when the stars began to wane  
Our hero had just reached the stage where he could purl and plain;  
Unhappily the more he learnt the more his spirits fell  
What would have happened had he finished, is not mine to tell,  
For, deciding that refreshments might well improve his mood,  
He left his book upon his chair and went in search of food.  
Now great minds think alike, they say, to this I can't agree,  
No other superintellect has e'er conformed with me,  
But Gonski and his Bulldog Bill have outside heads indeed,  
And both minds had the selfsame thought — the single wish "to feed."  
And in the Pantry Alec knew a man could eat his fill,  
Another, well aware of this, was hungry Bulldog Bill,  
But he knew Alec could tuck in, and there'd be no ill-feeling,  
Yet, let a hungry Bulldog try, and he'd be whipped for stealing.  
And thus it was as Alec G approached his favourite lair,  
Poor Bulldog Bill the optimist was snuffing round the chair  
Until his eyes lit on the book — and he thrilled to the core  
For one thing that he did enjoy was paper in his maw,  
Thus as the goodly pantry shelves fast underwent reductions  
The Bulldog Bill was dealing with the casting off instructions.  
As Alec — much refreshed returned, with ought he felt he'd cope  
Our canine finished swallowing the necessary dope . . . . .

The details of their meeting will be hid from one who seeks  
But a sadder, wiser Bulldog could'nt wag his tail for weeks.  
Now here's a fundamental law, and you'll agree dear friend,  
Its no use knowing how to start if you don't know how to end.  
But Alec had that faith that is peculiar to great men,  
(And anyway the dog could not produce the page again)  
So he rapidly decided that he'd let the matter drop  
And he'd start his patient knitting and then learn how to stop.  
At 8 a.m. most medicals are slumbering like lords,  
But 8 o'clock that morning found our Alec in the Wards  
Fast he espied his victim — who was blissfully "just sitting,"  
"Here was the very person who should learn to do some knitting!"  
With frequent reference to his book there weren't too many hitches,  
And so by 10 o'clock Alec had cast on 60 stitches  
Then the trouble really started, and he thought he'd throw a fit,  
For it seemed no human being could teach this patient how to knit,  
But doggedly he carried on determined he should win  
And after hours it appeared — something was sinking in,  
And minus breakfast, lunch and tea, his head was in a whirl  
But when the clock struck 6 p.m. the man could plain and purl!  
Returning home at seven to his family's disgust  
Our hero went to bed to sleep the slumber of the "just"  
Next morning early he awoke, he certainly felt fitter  
He ate a hasty breakfast and dashed off to see the knitter.  
He gazed upon the garment, doubtless many things were wrong,  
But worst of all, it was already dangerously long!  
Procrastination is the thief of time they're wont to tell,  
But here it was the robber of expensive wool as well,  
Because the ardent knitter doing plains and purls in pairs  
Produced an outsized piece of work that flowed on to the stairs;  
Apparently determined that all records he should beat  
He plained and purred until his monstrous scarf could touch the street  
And still dissatisfied, this man continued to do more  
Until Professor Dart had to dissect it from his door,  
And the crazy knitted fabric now was very far from light  
So they mobilized the O.T.A. to roll it up at night  
And still it went on growing and still our friend did naught,  
Until an irate policeman's threat to send him straight to court  
Shook Gonski into motion and he evolved the plan,  
To summon the Professors aid, and own up like a man.  
And this time there was no delay between the thought and deed  
He raced to the Dean's Office with the maximum of speed  
He burst into the Sanctuary, All Jo'burg heard him shout  
"Twas you who got me in this mess and you can get me out!"  
The good Professor sniffed the air — did he sense danger pending  
Or was it that he wished my tale to have a happy ending?  
And after consultations with S. Africa's best lawyers,  
He engaged two males whom we can term Professional destroyers  
And like Penelope of old, (except they worked for pay)  
They spent the night unravelling what had been done by day.  
And all went well until the day our patient left the ward.



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*Trek — Saam*

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