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The Auricle

S.O.S.
Save Our Stomachs
Mr. A.: "Why are you looking
so replete and satisfied?"
Mr. B.: "Ah, you see I've just
dined at the
Medical School Refectory."

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MEDICAL HISTORY MADE

History was made at Brisbane, Australia, last October, when an application by newly-qualified housemen of the Brisbane General Hospital for an award governing salary and working conditions was granted by the Queensland Industrial Court. This is the only known occasion on which an Industrial Authority has been asked to fix, and has fixed, an award for doctors.

The housemen concerned had been receiving £200 per annum, plus board and lodging, and had been working an unlimited number of hours per week and shifts of unlimited length, as dictated by the Hospitals Board. They applied for a remuneration of £500 p.a. (plus board and lodging), a maximum week of 54 hours, and a maximum shift of 16 hours. The Court granted the housemen a salary of £350 p.a. (plus board and lodging), and granted their requests concerning hours and shifts.

In the course of the hearing, the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of housemen were fully discussed. The special difficulties of housemen who had poor parents, and found it difficult to save sufficient to marry, buy a practice, or undertake post-graduate study, were emphasised. The fact that housemen gained much very useful experience in the course of their work was taken into consideration by the Court.

In its judgment the Court said: "It is obvious that the applicants are employees within the meaning of the Industrial Acts, and that they are performing a very real and valuable service to their employer, and to the community. There is, therefore, no reason why we should not deal with the application."

The case is especially interesting in that, although it was carried to its conclusion by a group of housemen, it was initiated by a group of students. The movement was begun by the University of Queensland Medical Society in 1943, when the plan of campaign was laid down.

"This is the first occasion to my knowledge when University students have united to fight for decent conditions upon graduation," said one of the chief protagonists of the movement, in an interview reported in "Semper Floreat," the newspaper of the University of Queensland.

The housemen at the Johannesburg General Hospital receive an emolument of £44 8s. (including cost of living allowance), plus board and lodging, for their first six months; they receive slightly more for their second six months.

COURSE IN NATIVE LANGUAGES

It has been suggested that The Auricle start a course in Native languages for Medical students, this course to be run by a competent African teacher. We think this would be of advantage since Medical students spend so much of their time at the Non-European Hospital where it is often impossible to obtain a coherent account of an ailment from a patient with a scanty knowledge of English.

The course would necessarily be only a brief one, designed to give just sufficient knowledge to enable a student to ask simple questions and understand replies.

We hope to print the first "instalment" of the series in our next issue.

NON-EUROPEAN HOSTEL

A hostel for Bantu students is being built near the University grounds at Milner Park, on a site presented by the City Council. The need for suitable studying facilities for African students has long been felt and it is hoped that this scheme will meet with the requirements. The building is being paid for out of Native Trust Scholarship Funds. This money is voted to the Native Scholarship Trust by the Native Affairs Department and comes from Native Taxation. The maximum amount tenable per scholarship is £205 per student, and it is felt that this will be sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance, board and lodging as well as fees.

The hostel will have accommodation for 30 students, including both men and women, preference being given to Medical students. Provision is being made for possible future extension of the buildings should this become necessary. There will be two students per room. It is hoped to provide all students with bicycles to obviate the necessity of their having to use municipal transport.

TO SECOND-YEARS

"Physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor, and no small part of social problems comes under their jurisdiction." — (Sydenham.)

This would seem to be a fitting theme for discussion, at a time when Health Plans and Social Security are the order of the day. I shall confine myself to pointing out its lesson, which should be of special interest to everyone at Medical School, but more particularly — since many here are already conscious of it — to the students who are at Medical School for the first time this year.

We, at Medical School, physicians in the making, have a common aim in mind. Therefore, it behoves us to co-operate, and to further our education in a spirit of collective effort, in an atmosphere of mutual sympathy. We feel that this ideal is realised to a far greater extent at Medical School, than at Milner Park, where the heterogeneous nature of the student body precludes the possibility of much unity of outlook. It is, therefore, to a brotherhood that we would bid you welcome.

Only part of our work lies in the attainment of a medical degree. The greater part lies in our duty to humanity. It has long been realised that it is not enough to minister the needs of the sick. More and more, we are finding the emphasis laid upon prevention — man must not only be cured when ill, he must be prevented, as far as it is humanly possible, from becoming ill. And the corollary of this prevention of disease is the promotion of health — the most recent development. This stresses the building-up of such social conditions as will be most conducive to a healthy and replete life. In this sphere we far overstep the bounds of Medical Science, as such. We find ourselves compelled to investigate sociology and economics — the roots of the problem of the transition of man from a state of "negative" health to one of positive, maximum health.

But why this discussion of Medicine as it is in the new scientific era? The answer is that you must think about these problems from the beginning, when you are admitted as medical students to a School of Medicine. These ideas deserve reflection: they must be worked out and persevered with, by each individual student. Coleridge said that every man should be master of the art of reflection. We can become versed in this pastime only by practice, and now is as good a time to start as any.

MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

"The old order changeth giving place to new." — Sometimes this change is slow and imperceptible and it is only when we look back over the years that we realise how great has been the change — sometimes it is sudden and violent and it is thrust upon our consciousness with such force that there is no need to look back over the years. Such a sudden change is now with us in Medicine both in the practice and in the educational sphere of our art. The shocks of war, the urgent demands for social security, the intense and growing public interest in preventive medicine are compelling us to review our position in the community as a whole, and among other things, to review particularly the training of medical students.

There is little doubt but that in the future the medical practitioner must play a greater part in the communal life of society; that he must appreciate and carry out to the full his civic duties, and in his training he must equip himself for so doing. In the past it has been possible for too many of our students to content themselves with the mere acquisitions of technical skill — a means of livelihood — and to concern themselves little, if at all, with the broad humanitarian outlook and principles which were, are and always will be the real basis of the practice of medicine.

Emphasis is gradually being removed from the curative aspect of medicine to the preventive — to the preservation of health and the joy of living. This implies a complete re-orientation in our education of the medical student — the inclusion of many subjects scarcely ever referred to in the curriculum and the cutting down of others that have bulked largely in our past teaching. It means a more intensive study of human nature — a study of economic and social factors which we today realise play such an important part in the break-down of health. It may mean a study of politics and political philosophy. Medicine can no longer carry on in splendid isolation. The face of medical education must change. Fortunately, amongst our students there have been some who appreciate the coming changes and have initiated experiments quite apart from formal backing — experiments such as are carried out at Fordsburg and Alexandra, and it may be that from these "informal" ways that expert guidance for the future of medicine may be derived. The future in many respects lies in your hands.

A. SUTHERLAND STRACHAN.

NEWS FLASHES

- ★ Authorities being interviewed re changing of 2nd year time tables so that meal-times can be staggered and Refectory congestion relieved.
- ★ Die ontwikkelingsfonds sal genader word met die oog op ontbou van meer muurkassies.
- ★ Deposit on locker keys to be raised to 10/- to guarantee their return.
- ★ Attempts being made to obtain lockers in N.E.H. for Non-Europeans in Clinical Years.
- ★ „Boet” Kloppers onlangs aangekom uit Amerika, is aangestel as eerste Professor in Medisyne aan die Fakulteit vir Geneeskunde in Pretoria.
- ★ "Leech" now the official journal of the Students' Dental Society as well as Students' Medical Council.
- ★ Students' Benefit Society will open on the 19th February. Medical students are urged to make their appointments for examinations and get them done before the University opens.
- ★ Development fund has allocated £60 for purchase of radio for Women's and Men's Common Rooms.
- ★ Fordsburg clinic started scheme of serving meals at night, two weeks ago — now serving 81 meals per evening.

tion: they must be worked out and persevered with, by each individual student. Coleridge said that every man should be master of the art of reflection. We can become versed in this pastime only by practice, and now is as good a time to start as any.

Again, welcome to Medical School. Enrich its precincts by creative work, and enlarge its atmosphere by creative thought. May success attend your efforts.

Night School Issue Publicized

The debate at the recent general meeting about granting the use of the men's common room to the Night School was reported in four local newspapers: "The Star," "Die Vaderland," "Die Transvaler", and "The New Era." Both these last condemned the motion as being contrary to the policy of segregation and "Die Transvaler" featured it under headlines second only to the Russian news.

OBITUARY

We extend our condolences to the families of Julius Sher and Harry Nochumsohn, two of our last year's colleagues. Harry was killed in Italy with the 6th Div., Julius was drowned in an accident at Margate. Although they were at Medical School for only a short while, they were respected and admired by all who knew them.

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The Auricle

Wednesday, 28th February, 1945.

Guest Editorial

PROVINCIAL OR CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION?

"Hulle word siek, hulle gaan dood, hulle word maar net begrawe."

THIS doleful quotation from the evidence submitted by the Graaf Reinet board to the Health Commission has been cited in the report of the National Health Services Commission as summarizing the existing state of health services in South Africa. Our present position has been shown to be haphazard and disjointed, a patchwork of provincial and parochial efforts, hindered most effectively by a lack of co-ordination and unification of the various authorities. In a Government survey in 1939, 44.51% of boys in Pietermaritzburg and 90.43% of boys in Letaba showed positive signs of ill-health.

This apparent confusion and failure to provide adequately for the health needs of the people has been attributed to a number of factors, amongst which are the absence of vital statistics, lack of resources by local authorities, inability of 90% of the population to pay the price of health and non-availability of personnel. Notwithstanding the above analysis of the obstacles between the ideal of "health" as defined today and our present situation, we would submit that the fundamental bar to adequate provision of health-services is lack of unified control and direction.

To date the Government has accepted the National Health Services Scheme "in principle," with the proviso that the hospitals remain under control of the Provincial Authority. The commission's recommendation, however, was that only non-personal services be relegated to the sphere of the provinces. These would thus be relieved of the financial burden of hospitalization and would be able to devote more energy to the maintenance of non-personal health services (housing, nutrition, sanitation, etc.) in conjunction with the smaller local authorities. The Government is evidently unwilling to change the constitution of the country in such a way as to enable a central committee, responsible to Parliament, to control all phases of the personal Health Service of the country.

Superficially, perhaps, the difference between Provincial and Central control of hospitalization is of minor importance but closer inspection of the problem leads to the realization of the extremely serious inadequacies resultant on the Government's decision to permit the control of hospitals to remain in the hands of the Provinces. A committee, purely advisory in character, consisting of representatives of the provinces and the Government, has been set up. This apparently replaces the "transition committee" which was recommended by the Commission for the purpose of organizing health services during the difficult period of transition from the present unplanned to the future planned system.

Central direction with regard to planning and full co-ordination in research matters and in health measures, without overlapping of responsibility, is indispensable for the most effective use of our limited personnel and for the very necessary compilation of complete nationwide records. There are very definite advantages to be accrued from making available total national teaching resources; from the integration of the hospital services with the extra-institutional phases of curative services and with personal preventive health services (which at present lie outside the aegis of the Provinces); and from successful medical regionalization with due regard to bio-

logical and epidemiological boundaries and not to historical lines drawn arbitrarily on a map. These advantages are numerous and worth any "legislative inconvenience" which may be encountered en route.

The decision of the Government to retain Provincial control of the hospitals is unfortunate, particularly in view of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's racialistic and bureaucratic approach to hospitalization and medical education (as seen in the recent Pentz report) which compares most unfavourably with the highly commendable attitude of the champion of Central Government control, viz. "We are opposed to any selection between one race and another; we recommend that in the National Health Service no distinction should be made on grounds of colour, creed or sex in the selection of Medical and Dental students."

We salute you, Colonel Gluckman.

BEGIN 1945

WEER staan ons aan die begin van nog 'n studiejaar. Weer koester elkeen van ons ideale wat die volkegrense oorskry. Weer is elkeen besiel met die beste voornemens. En ook goed so. Want niks kan verwerklik word wat nie eers oordenk is nie. Trouens sommige denkers wil dit he dat die werklike werklikheid per slot van rekening suiwer geestelik is. Nou, sonder om ons op die terrein van die wysbegeerte te begeei, wil ons net hier aanstip dat hierdie leerstelling niemand deur 'n enkel eksamen gehelp het nie.

Nogtans herhaal ons: Dit is goed dat ons hierdie geesteshouing het. Want: Daar bestaan niks wat nie eers 'n geestesprodukt was nie, behalwe die Oorsprong van alles wat is. Die wêreld moes eers 'n gedagte in die verstand van sy Skepper gewees het; die plantegroei, die diere, die stoflike wêreld, die plange-richte wermtigheid van alles, ja, al hierdie dinge moes op een of ander tyd in die gees bestaan het, al was dit dan ook die gees van 'n alwetende, almagtige Skepper.

Niks wat die mens tot stand gebring het, het nie sy oorsprong in die gees van die mens gehad nie. Kultuur word deur sommige omskryf as die skeppingsprodukt van die mens — dit kom nie daarop aan of dit 'n pragtige beeldhouwerk is nie, of 'n vernuftige roman, 'n stewige brug, of 'n kunstige kerktoring, en of dit maar 'n gewone skryftaal is nie. Hierdie geestesprodukte is Kultuur. Ja alles wat tans bestaan moes eers bedink gewees het.

Maar... En hierdie is 'n groot MAAR: Dit het nie by dink gehly nie. Deur inspanning is dit wat gedagte was omskep tot 'n tasbare of sigbare werklikheid. Nie alleen is dit dus 'n kwêssie van dink nie, dis ook 'n geval van Doen. Die mens stel sy eie grense. Die inhoud van sy gedagtes asook sy hereidwilligheid om homself in te span en te doen, bepaal waartoe hy in staat is. Sou iedereen net 'n vae besef kry van hoe onbeperk die mag van die enkeling met die regte geestemilieu is, sal ons verbaas staan oor die potensiaaliteit van die mens — en, mag daar bygevoeg word, sal ons ons hande saamslaan in aandoening oor die geweldige nuttelose verkwisting van vermoens.

Dus, weer herhaal ons: Dit is goed om voornemens en ideale te koester, dit is goed om oor die toekoms te droom, dit is goed om planne te beraam. MAAR, daar durf dit nie bly nie. Ons moet die koste bereken van dit wat ons wil en dan 'n begin maak om hierdie koste te betaal. In hierdie geval is die betaalmiddel hoofsaaklik Plijsgetroue Inspanning.

En nou, bewus dat ons self die grense van ons gesigseinder en die mate van sukses van ons dade stel, pak ons hierdie jaar, 1945, aan. Laat die dade van elke student, op elke terrein van die studentelewe getuig van die volheid en hoe aard van sy of haar dagtelewe en die veel-sydigheid van belangstelling.

STEP - TALK

Robes of Authority

What does our S.R.C. talk about? Lots of interesting things. You should go along and listen. At one meeting last year they were very worried and perplexed about the question: Academic dress for S.R.C. members — to be or not to be? On thinking about the subject one finds points for and against. Academic robes certainly lend the wearer an air of distinction and authority — so necessary at an S.R.C. meeting. But then, on the other hand, the said robes are so very cumbersome, and on a hot summer's evening are apt to make one feel that one's too, too solid flesh is melting, thawing and resolving itself into a dew, which of course is awkward and detracts somewhat from the afore-mentioned dignity. In short, it's all very difficult and disturbing. The S.R.C. discussed the subject for some time, but no definite decision was made. Apparently, it involves a constitutional change, and probably a two-thirds majority at a general meeting of the student body would be necessary before it came into force as a regulation, which, you will agree, so complicates matters that the subject has been dropped.

Stemreg vir Tweedejaars

Op die Algemene Vergadering van mediese studente is aan die lig gebring deur die S.M.R. president dat volgens die konstitusie goedgekeur deur die S.R.R., tweedejaarsstudente nie mag stem gedurende die eerste semester van hulle jaar nie. Hierdie stipulasie is streng uitgevoer deur die president en rek ook, sodat die tweedejaars apart plaas moes neem tot tyd en wyl 'n tweede meerderheidsstem van hulle seniors hulle weer teruggebring het.

Die toon deur sommige tweedejaars aangeslaan by hul afskeiding, het getoon dat hulle verontreg gevoel het maar was hulle bereid om hulle hulle al in bereik deur nou in kalmte op te tree deur b.v. hulle klasvertegenwoordigers met instruksies na die volgende S.M.R.-vergadering te stuur.

The Auricle Hears . . .

THAT the vacation being over, students are settling down to make the best of 1945.

THAT the increase in the population due to the influx of Second Years is most noticed in the Refectory at Lunch Time.

THAT the addition of the new items to the menu and the system of serving cold lunches upstairs are particularly bright ideas.

THAT students congratulate Doris Bronks, Joan Kristal and Joan Abrams on their recent marriages.

THAT Hodda Maisel and Dr. John Robinson are being congratulated on the occasion of their marriage.

THAT others to join the ranks of the married, are Roelof Coertze and Poen de Wet. Congratulations!

THAT it looks as if the £90,000 building in the Medical School is going to take as many days.

THAT students congratulate Mrs. Bligh on the birth of a daughter.

THAT the S.M.C. offices have been re-organised.

THAT students may now find Miss Kronik's affections more remote and platonic than ever, behind the barrier.

THAT among the Medical Students who joined up in June last year, Doriman, Bernberg and Gaylis are in the Front Lines.

THAT Fifth Years topped the poll in the S.M.C. elections.

Fascinating Fossils!

The wide open space in the middle of the Medical School has been the centre of attention of nearly all students, vacantly vacillating between lecture rooms and laboratories in the vicinity. Earlier in the year, the "bull-dozer" rivalled the Plaza as the chief means of distracting students from their work. At any time of the day one could see white-coated worshippers lining the windows, watching the monster at work. Now it has gone and left behind it blank emptiness. There have been many bright suggestions as to how this "emptiness" could be used. Someone suggested pushing the rest of the Medical School into it. It could, of course, be filled with water and used as a swimming pool for students, who would doubtless use the roof of the dissection hall as a diving board. It might even be possible to turn it into a sunken garden with lawns and flowers; perhaps even swings and seesaws — what fun! In fact, there is almost no limit to the possibilities. New developments are awaited with great interest.

Gambling

"Gambling belongs to two phases of society: a cankered over-civilization, such as exists in rich aristocracies, and the reckless life of borderers and adventurers, or the semi-barbarism of a civilization resolved into its primitive elements." — O. W. Holmes.

Penny-pushers, please Note!

Suffer mores

Second Years have not been given a very enthusiastic welcome to Medical School. The "No Thoroughfare" rule about Anatomy Corridor still holds from last year, and to add to it, this year the Physiology Corridor is locked and bolted. Many Second Years do not know the Topography of our building and in attempting to get from the Vesalian to the Histology Laboratory, after negotiating the Pathology Laboratory, the Library, the Surgery Department and various "Private" offices end up in the street and are tempted to go home.

"MARGY"

(In Glorious Technicolour)

South African Margarine may be coloured blue or pink.

The present great shortage of butter has caused quite a bit of a flutter. Queues of women are grumbling. That food schemes are tumbling. But there's been an event too delicious:

Parliament has turned quite officious;

For it's made a suggestion That the human digestion is conscious of colour and hence, Has a seasoned artistical sense. For the state is to make margarine, Technicoloured blue, pink, perhaps green.

But M.P.'s can't decide on the hue: Salmon pink versus soft baby blue. Now excuse my asking this quiz (Of a kindly professor of phys.)

"Has the enzyme lipase, In katabolic phase, An expert conception Of colour perception And aesthetic sensations as well?" — Or can't physiologists tell?

— ARRIE.

FIBRILLATIONS

We salute the 3rd year who realised that the Muir he read the less he knew.

We salute the second year who thought that all skeletons were Red.

A student called Cholmondley Colquhoun As a pet kept a baby habolquhoun; The doctor said, "Cholmondley Do you think it quite colmondley To feed a habolquhoun with a spolquhoun?"

African Adult Education

By BETTY LUNN

The question of adult education is one which is attracting the attention of both Government circles and the general public, in England, and to a lesser extent in South Africa. In the United Kingdom, a new Education Bill, embodying considerable reforms, has recently been passed, and an expansion of adult education is planned for the post-war period. Even in South Africa, the Government has appointed a commission to enquire into the question of adult education. It has not, however, published its report yet.

From available data, it appears that practically all European children between the ages of 7 and 16 enjoy full school facilities. There is an average of one teacher to every 22 pupils, and the state expenditure is about £20 per pupil per annum. As far as Non-Europeans are concerned, the position is not nearly so satisfactory — only 3 out of 11 Bantu children receiving any schooling at all. Of these, about 75 per cent. are in Standard II or below, while about 3 per cent. are in Standard VI, so that about one native child in 600 receives education beyond the primary school and a very small percentage ever becomes literate. The teachers are of low academic standard and poorly paid, and the schools are badly equipped. The Transvaal Director of Education said that the premises in the majority of cases were "dilapidated, shabby, unhygienic and badly situated." In one room, for example, he found 373 pupils with five teachers trying to conduct separate classes simultaneously. The average teacher has a class of 44 pupils, which is too large a number for one person to manage. The State expenditure is, £3 per year for every Non-European pupil at school.

From these facts we can see that the Bantu population as a whole is almost totally illiterate. Even in the unlikely eventuality of the introduction by the Government of free compulsory education for all Non-European children, there would still remain millions of ignorant adults. These illiterates are a burden on the society to which they belong. They are enslaved by their primitive conceptions of witchcraft, and their tribal traditions, and are furthermore unable to play a constructive part in industrial development. Increased productivity, South Africa's greatest single need, cannot be achieved with an illiterate and backward African population.

Judging by the general attitude towards Non-Europeans in the country today, it is unlikely that any large scale Government scheme for Non-European adult education will be introduced for some time to come. It is therefore self-evident that the task of educating Africans must devolve upon voluntary organizations. That there is an acute need for such education can be seen from the spontaneous formation and growth of night-schools, run by various voluntary organizations, in the larger urban areas. In Johannesburg there are about half-a-dozen fairly large night-schools run entirely by voluntary groups, as well as an unknown number of smaller transient schools. These all operate in the face of considerable difficulties. The teachers are usually untrained, and even if qualified, cannot always adapt themselves to the special problems involved in adult education. As they are not paid, they do not attend regularly, and the pupils are subject to frequent changes of teachers and teaching methods. Even when the teachers do come regularly, they teach one night a week only, so that the same class is taught the same subject by as many as four different teachers during the week. This difficulty has been partly overcome by planning the course so that each teacher deals with a specific portion of it. (Thus, one will always take reading, while another will always take dictation and grammar, etc.)

In spite of the many difficulties, however, the pupils are pathetically anxious to learn, and teachers do not have to contend with any disciplinary problems or

to complain of inattention. Attendance, nevertheless, fluctuates quite considerably, and for this there are many reasons. Some pupils return to their homes for long periods, and then come back to school on their return to Johannesburg. Night-shift work often prevents regular attendance, while bad weather results in a large drop in the number of pupils, as many are inadequately clothed and have to walk several miles to school.

With all these handicaps the progress of the pupils is phenomenal as compared with that of children in day schools. Although there are only 6-8 school hours a week, most pupils pass through the elementary standards in half the time usually taken at normal schools. Tribal beliefs and prejudices are rapidly lost and pupils assimilate basic scientific facts very readily.

An attempt is now being made to co-ordinate and expand the existing facilities. A Federation for Non-European Adult Education has been formed, with representatives from all the larger organizations. The council intends to standardize syllabuses, to evolve new teaching methods, and to write suitable text-books. A number of industrialists are interested and it is hoped to collect sufficient funds to establish a widespread network of night-schools throughout the Keel, with paid African teachers for the lower classes. It is essential that all existing schools should co-operate in this venture. There are many common difficulties, the main one being experienced in teaching English, as there are no suitable text-books for adults. Of the existing books, those written in simple English are too childish in content, being designed for school children, while those with contents suitable for adults are too difficult with regard to vocabulary. Another difficulty is the provision of simple texts for the teaching of History, Geography and Hygiene. Altogether there is a great deal of educational research to be done. Medical students can help with this work at their recently established school. They are in a position to make it serve as a centre for health propaganda for the entire neighbourhood. On nights when the hall is not in use for classes, lectures could be given and films on farming methods, soil erosion, diet and hygiene (with special reference to venereal diseases) could be shown. If these lectures were well advertised throughout the district, many Africans would obtain instruction of immediate practical benefit. (Particular stress should be laid on the showing of suitable films. According to The Star of 10th February, 1945, Dr. Eybers, head of the recently created division of education, stated that it was inevitable that the film would play a very important part in the development of the African native. He would learn the essentials of health and hygiene; how to improve his herds, increase the yield of his crops and combat soil erosion, and a host of other subjects. These lessons would be given to him in his own language since the sounding of selected films in the vernaculars was contemplated. The School could also make special arrangements with Non-European libraries for the borrowing of books by the more advanced pupils. In fact there are almost unlimited possibilities for re-

The slight change in the format of The Auricle is due to an unavoidable technical difficulty.

TO MY CO-FAILURES

You've failed: and so one extra year must do—
You've cursed, and swore the Prof. was down on you —
You knew your stuff — of that there is no doubt —
You'd worked like mad — you knew it inside out —
The papers were all stiff — but you did well!
Just how you failed you cannot really tell!

And so you moan — because you're left behind —
You've lost your pals who shared your daily grind,
Your present colleagues p'raps look down on you —
You're shy to talk to those who have got through —
The teaching staff maybe will knock you round —
Yes, life is hard — IF THOUGHTS LIKE THESE ABOUND . . .

So when you're all alone, and calm in mind,
Just settle down and try your best to find
The reason that you failed — the how and why?
Perhaps it was because YOU DIDN'T TRY?
Perhaps you LOAFED all year, or went to FLICKS?
Maybe your health had played you DIRTY TRICKS?

Whate'er it was — DIG OUT THE DEADLY ROT!
AND NE'ER AGAIN WILL FAILURE BE YOUR LOT . . .
It all boils down to this — so stop your bluff —
YOUR WORK WAS STRAW: YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOUR STUFF!

You'll have the time this year to give it stick —
YOUR FUTURE YEARS WILL THEN BE BUILT ON BRICK . . .

BEWARE OF PITY — 'specially for yourself —
And LAUGH AT LIFE — at least you've got your health!
I must admit, though, I'm a little peeved —
For one whole year to hide the rhymes I've weaved
Around the names of those whose task 'twould be
To teach me Pharm. and Med. and Surgery . . .

I've lost my hair in finding rhymes for "Brebner",
It can't be done — the only word is "Brebner"!
The hours I've spent in seeking rhymes for "Crab"
("I've thought of "babe" and also "astrolabe")
For "Flossie", too, I've even found a rhyme —
But that you'll hear no doubt in one year's time . . .

So now you see how happy is YOUR lot —
Compared with MINE — THE "POET" WITH NO PLOT!

LLW.

SEARCHED AMONG THE RULERS OF ADULT education, and Medical students as a compact body are in a particularly convenient position for carrying out an experimental project of this nature. Once syllabuses and teaching methods have been worked out, the scheme would be readily enlarged, and with standardized methods, it would be simple to establish similar schools in most urban areas. South African students might well follow in the tradition of the European universities by spreading their knowledge, instead of being passive recipients of University teaching, and thereafter using their degrees solely for private gain.

The education of the adult African in addition to being an ideal worth striving for from the humanitarian point of view, is a step both practical and necessary from the socio-economic point of view. This will become even more evident in future years when the country will have to turn its attention more and more from gold mining to the industries and the African population will have to fit into a changing economic environment. Even at the present time, however, there is a great need for educational facilities for adult Africans. What is wanted, and what night schools are attempting to give, is basic educational training. It is not expected that this will result in the production of great scholars, but the pupils will acquire knowledge of immediate practical use and will find it easier to adjust themselves to their strange urban environment.

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READERS' FORUM

Nova Bibliotheca

When are the authorities going to do something about our library? I maintain that the Medical School library is a disgrace. If a library is to provide adequate facilities for study it must be

- large enough,
- adequately stocked,
- quiet,
- well illuminated.

Our library is none of these. The appalling congestion that occurs at "swotting" time towards the end of the year is known to most of us. **Our school needs a large, spacious, modern library with comfortable seating accommodation for at least 200 students.**

The number of volumes is far too small for the needs of the large number of students that use the library. Many of the shelves stand empty during the year, and students have to wait for months for certain books because of the shortage of copies. There is a miserable paucity of the rarer reference works, while even some of the standard and classical texts are not represented. The system of classification is very mystifying and bewildering, books on the same subject often being widely separated while others on unrelated topics stand side by side.

Obviously a quiet, congenial atmosphere is essential for profitable study. Our library has been placed in a strategic acoustical position, lying defenceless in range of continuous bombardment by all the din of a busy street. To concentrate in the presence of motor horns, steam engines, screeching brakes, etc., requires superhuman effort and endurance. A battery of rock drills is more conducive to good study.

And finally the dingy darkness reminds one of mediaeval scholasticism. Surely we could have a place with more light and air and less of the dim murkiness that pervades our present cloister. It would at any rate save many students unnecessary eye strain.

I hope that students will not cease to agitate until something is done to improve this disgusting state of affairs.

— TINEA LIBRIS.

AURICLE SUB-COMMITTEE

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ANSWERS TO CONTRIBUTORS

S.B. Thanks for mighty effort. Sorry, can't insert.

M.S. Quite good stuff, but of interest to one class only.

B.G. Thank you for poem—we are holding it over.

M.J.G. Thanks for the very scintillating and brilliant contribution. The committee feels that they cannot part with it — hence its absence from this issue. (We are keeping it for later use.)

E.F.H. Although we think it important that the view-point you mentioned should be made known, we can't use your article as it stands.

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Profiteering?

With childish credulity, I believed, in my sweet untainted innocence, that the Supply Association was an organisation which existed for the benefit of students; that it was a non-profit making, co-operative venture run by students for students, to enable us to obtain our necessary armamentarium at the cheapest possible prices, thus considerably assisting those less affluent among us who are at the Medical School under constant financial strain.

Imagine then my dismay and disappointment when I discovered that Supplies are actually charging higher prices than are being asked down town. Is this right? Why is this so, and who gets the profit? Surely by buying wholesale in large quantities, Supplies could make it possible for students to obtain articles at prices lower than those asked in town.

DISILLUSIONED.

Supplies Replies

In replying to "Disillusioned's" rather serious accusations we would like to point out that probably due to his "sweet untainted innocence" he is under a misapprehension as regards the Supply Association's affairs. In our attempt to improve his knowledge as regards these affairs, we submit the following points for his careful scrutiny:

1. We have to make 5 per cent. profit on all sales to cover expenses.

2. We attempt to keep prices as low as possible by buying in large quantities, and where this is impossible, as it is with most instruments during war-time, to resell articles without making any profit.

3. No article has been sold by us at a price higher than that charged by reputable firms in town for the same article. We would therefore, like to know to which articles Disillusioned refers.

4. It is unfortunately not our privilege to fix the prices of any small unknown firms in town, which may sell articles at cheaper prices.

Is it perhaps due to his childish credulity that Disillusioned has diagnosed without examining?

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Twee kultjies rond aan elke wang,
Twee ogies wat my hart bevang,
'n Mondjie rein, so soet, so sag,
'n Gesiggie fraai wat altyd lag.
So het ek haar dan eers ontmoet
In wisseling van ys en gloed.

Nou sit ek hier na lange jare,
Getroud, en reeds met vroeg, gryns hare . .
Die deugde van haar vroeër roem
Besit sy nog, maar destyds ongenoem
Gaan hul gepaard in oortreffende trap
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Formulary of the University Dental Hospital. 1939 1/-
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