

Sporting Notices

MEDICINE has entered a team in the Inter-faculty Cricket Competition. The first match takes place on the 15th October, and anyone desirous of playing should contact the faculty sports representative (K. Watson, Med. V) by the 11th October.

In early November there is a proposed cricket match between Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and a combined team from Sydney and St. Vincent's Hospitals. The tentative date is the first or second Wednesday afternoon in November; the exact date shall be determined at the next meeting of the Medical Society. Any members of the above hospitals who wish to participate please contact their Hospital Year Representatives.

SWIMMING

The Sydney University Swimming Club will shortly commence its activities. Regular Saturday morning meetings are held at the Domain. Every swimmer is invited to come along—handicap events are held each week and a trophy is presented to the swimmer who has the highest point score at the end of the season.

The Club Championships are usually held in February or March. The Inter-Varsity Championships will be held in Brisbane during the long vacation, and Sydney will be sending along a team to defend its Inter-Varsity title.

The University has entered a water polo team into the Metropolitan Competition, and all intending players are asked to enquire at the Sports Union Office.

K. WATSON.

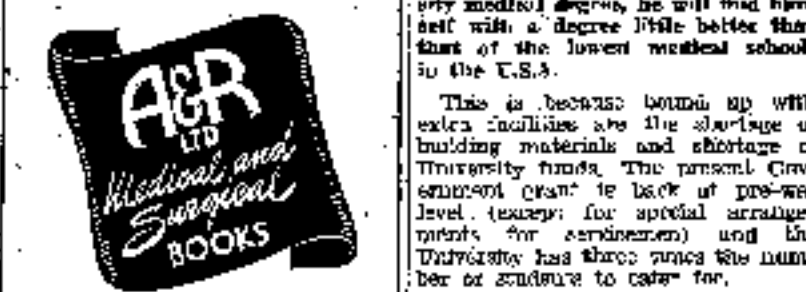
WHAT'S IN A NAME. Must Fifty Per Cent. Fail?

A NAME—that can be printed—is required for this new paper. We have given it that paradoxical name, "Innominate," for the first issue.

All suggestions should be forwarded to the editor or your year representative immediately. To date the following suggestions have been received:

- GREEN
- RED MONTHLY
- CADUCEUS
- TRIDENT
- HYGIENE

"Society" is at present favoured by the Medical Society Council. If you have any preferences and no more suggestions, let your year rep. know.



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BOOK REVIEW

"A History Of Medicine"

DURING a medical course we are continually reminded of the enormous debt we owe the "past" and the great privilege we are unthankfully accepting while passing through medicine. Occasional references from our text books, or held in reserve devoted to the history of a subject only succeed in stimulating an avid interest in the past without giving any real satisfaction. A printed attempt to make us forthrightly to present the "history of medicine" in a message are instances. So, naturally, it is left to the student either to "research" this knowledge for himself, or receive an unbalanced medical education. Even the interested student is again handicapped by the small number of English books available. Any new book, therefore, can only be welcomed.

However, Dr. Castellani's history can be welcomed for its intrinsic value as well. It presents an excellent opportunity to remove your ignorance in this important field of medicine. It is a large book of one thousand pages, including 498 illustrations. A list of his references and authorities is appended, giving you every chance to pursue any particular subject.

No book of this size could hope to be 100 per cent. complete. A disappointing omission is the absence of mention of Australasia and Australia schools (even St. Charles Hospital South receives scant mention). In all other respects, the book is excellent. Despite the fact that it is a translation, it is easily read, and the account is given in a pleasant, unpretentious, but not only in its early out-look, but in its treatment of the subject.

For each period the author first discusses the relation of the medicine of that period to all other aspects of life to medicine, such as religion and social conditions. He then chooses the "leading" medicine, and gives a short biography. It includes in this way the three forms of competence—entirely contribution, to medicine and the heritage they bequeathed to the succeeding generation, thus affording an opportunity to carry out Pasteur's injunction: "Worship great men."

As medicine developed it subdivided, and in this book a separate section is given for each subdivision, practical in any period. In this way a clear picture of the ever-increasing scope of medicine is truthfully presented. Most deficiencies occur in the last hundred years. The author naturally tends to emphasize the part played in the development of medicine by the "leading" medicine, in the English translation, this is not unreasonably so. The advantage of having medical history in the perspective, it gives you a chance to judge the present state of knowledge, and removes a short biography. It includes in this way the three forms of competence—entirely contribution, to medicine and the heritage they bequeathed to the succeeding generation, thus affording an opportunity to carry out Pasteur's injunction: "Worship great men."

If you have not yet read a history of medicine, now is the time to do it. Castellani's history is an excellent book to give you a permanent foundation for present and future medical knowledge. R.V.D.

"A History of Medicine," by Ariete Castellani, M.D., translated and edited by E. B. Krumholz, D.D., Ph.D., A. A. Knapp, New York, 1946. Our copy by courtesy of Angus & Robertson, Price, 60/-.

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INNOMINATE Monthly Bulletin of the Sydney University Medical Society

Vol. 1, No. 1, OCTOBER, 1946. Issued Monthly

EDITORIAL

Today you are witnessing an experiment. The oldest student society is publishing this paper. That it is prepared to do so shows the virile spirit at present on the Medical Society Council.

That there is a need for it is shown by the number of articles coming forward. It will also be successful in bridging the gap between the Medical Society and Medical Student.

We can expect criticism for attempting to become more sectional in our interests, but this can only be denied. A newspaper of this nature will succeed in arousing new interest in inter-faculty sport, debates, and all other student activities. It is to be a monthly publication and is therefore not aiming to compete with "Honi Soit" but rather to supplement it from the medical viewpoint. I have seen medical articles completely discarded in the "Honi Soit" office because of lack of space and the fact that they are too "narrow." The used paper will cater for these articles.

If another defence is required, another point is the size of our faculty. Our 1500 students equal or exceed the size of other universities. The policy of this paper is to be as liberal as possible and, if the articles submitted allow, a broad scope will be covered in each issue. From experience, it is clear that rather than reduce the total number of articles written, the amount of writing will be greatly increased. Thus we can expect the Medical Journal to benefit from this paper as well.

PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY. On occasion it seems that all available laboratories and lecture rooms have been exploited to their maximum for the present session year. This year contains "only" about 200 students. There are no more laboratories, etc., available.

HISTOLOGY. This department has always been underworked. In business, students have been at a disadvantage, as they have been unable to hear the lectures. All of these things have been suggested this year, and unless marked extensions take place in this section, standards in this will be hopeless.

THE REMEDY. The Faculty has foreseen these difficulties and has been making efforts to remove them. Minimum proposals have been submitted to the appropriate authorities.

STUDENTS have been presented new practical rooms to give accommodation for 1000 students in Biochemistry and Histology. A building under construction will be ready in the short space of a few months. So far there is no sign of the new building, and apparently the building is to be a last-minute dash as the beginning of this year.

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ANATOMY. Here the shortcomings of present accommodation have become increasingly apparent over the past few years. The dissecting rooms were overcrowded when there were 200 in 200 students in them. With over 1000 attending this year, the suggestion there has become realistic.

THE number of bodies has not increased to any extent, and the dissection of dissection units, even if divided through the 200 or practical work available for each student. In Anatomy, the staff has always given as much individual tutoring as possible during the year. They have been able to maintain this during 1946. But whether they can do it for 500 students in 1947 is a doubtful question.

The Faculty and even student representatives have approached the authorities in an attempt to have more bodies available for dissection. Professor Rankin, in conjunction with...

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Issued Monthly

MUST FIFTY PER CENT. FAIL?

Plans to Accommodate First Years

With an unprecedented number of students in first year medicine this year—equal to four times the size of the present final year—graduates and undergraduates are wondering what will happen to the standards of our University.

The maintenance of standards clearly depends upon the quality of the staff and the facilities available. The quality of the staff is at the same pre-war level. However, as size certainly can't be increased in proportion to the number of students. Thus to gain full advantage of the staff, large extensions in facilities must be made.

So our reporter interviewed Dr. Professor Dow, and compiled the following report on the efforts being made to maintain the standards. Especially efforts were made to find out what increase in facilities is being prepared for the coming year. The present facilities have been based on a maximum year class of 200, while the Dean has been reported in the press to be expecting 800 in fourth year, in 1949.

The Faculty has made some efforts to have this position remedied. The shortage of cadavers and dissecting room space is at present the most serious problem. The Senate has promised another large dissecting room, but has not done anything about it yet.

The Department of Public Health has taken no specific action to help at present only some of the bodies of people dying in State institutions are available to the Anatomy Department. The authorities, including the Health Department and the Minister for Health, are making a study of the problem of supply and demand of bodies, and are hoping to have a solution in the near future.

When asked who would be the Minister for Health, Professor Dow replied: "The body of anyone dying in a State institution without next of kin shall be the property of the State and shall not be buried without the permission of the Chief Officer of Health."

This simple change would make an almost complete improvement in the present position. That a solution should be found to do it shows their lack of responsibility. They have left the University with the full responsibility of educating a large number of students, but are unwilling to make any definite effort to solve it.

The Faculty Council is clearly a hindrance.

SENIOR MEDICINE

As stated earlier, facilities in the new Medical School are based on a year-class of 200. There is no more room that can take more than 200 students, and practical classes have a maximum capacity of about 25.

However, the Faculty has been presented a lecture room to hold 500 students with the provision of extra laboratories is under consideration. Unless these facilities are provided, it will be impossible to teach the subject efficiently.

The bottleneck in the senior years appears to be Pathology. While containing a large number of specimens, the Pathology program is of limited capacity, and frequently it becomes crowded under the strain of a 150 students.

Also in Pathology, more than in any other subject, efforts are made to give the maximum of individual tutoring, with excellent results of course. Also the post-mortem room, which holds more than 100 at a time, is used for practical work. Large (and probably unlikely) increases in staff may allow individual tutoring to continue. But it seems impossible to expand post-mortem facilities.

The position is not quite so bad in Biochemistry. But a larger lecture room and more practical classes are required.

MAYOR BABIES

The standard course in Obstetrics requires a student to spend four weeks to residence during which year, and two weeks during which year, to do a total of 12 weeks. The standard is required, but the Faculty course compares favourably with the standard. Whether this standard will endure...

W. W. WOODWARD.

