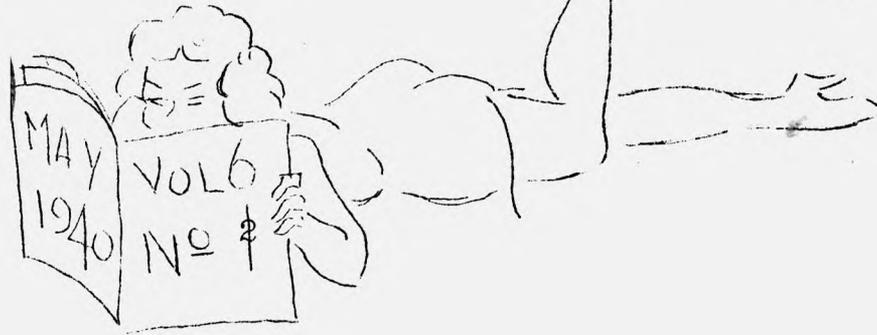


THE AURICLE



"My stomach isn't right - I'm afraid I'll lose my job"
Student: - "Ah - dyspepsia!"
"No - a hula dancer."

EDITORIAL OPINION

THE OFFICERS' TRAINING AMBULANCE.

The establishment of an officers' training ambulance at the University has now been accomplished, following a similar move at the University of Cape Town some little time ago.

Although the University authorities for years have advocated that facilities for training should be provided, not only for medical students but for the whole University, it is only within the past few weeks that the Defence Department has given its approval to the scheme and that the necessary organization has been set up.

Now that this has been done it is imperative that all students should ask themselves seriously whether for their own sakes as well as for the benefit of the community at large they should not throw themselves wholeheartedly into the scheme and be prepared to sacrifice the small amount of time and convenience required to ensure their being adequately trained and equipped to meet all emergencies.

We in South Africa, despite the extension of hostilities in Europe to countries which have desired to remain neutral, are still inclined to think that we can afford to wait until the war comes very much nearer to us before we need bother about what our share in it may be. If general mobilisation of the resources of the country comes, as there can be little doubt that it will it is obviously much more advantageous that, so far as man-power is concerned, the mobilisation shall be of trained or at least partially-trained individuals, rather than the gathering together of a mass of untrained and inexperienced material.

It is not to be expected that the necessary training can be achieved without some sacrifice on the part of all concerned, but it must be borne in mind that things which are obtained without effort are seldom worth while and, furthermore, that the effort demanded of us in South Africa is surely trifling in the extreme compared with that of the people of Europe. Yet, in the ultimate issue and beyond any question, the fate of South Africa will be decided in Europe.

The purpose of the units now being formed at the Medical School and the University is, as their names imply, to train students to become officers. An officer cannot do his job efficiently unless he has had a thorough grounding in and been put through the same evolutions and training as the men whom he is to command. He must be able to do all that they do and do it better because of his superior education. Strangely enough, this does not seem to be generally understood although one would have thought it sufficiently obvious. It would be absurd to attempt to recruit the University staff from persons who had never been students or undergone the training appropriate to their subjects and the same analogy applies in every walk of life.

We aim, therefore, at providing facilities for students to pass through the ranks of the ambulance unit, qualifying in turn for the various grades of non-commissioned officer and ultimately for commissioned rank.

In the event of general mobilisation there is little doubt that at least the final three years of medical students will be retained to complete their studies. Mobilisation of the unit as a whole is not contemplated; the sole purpose is to train officers who may, after qualification, be employed in one or other of the

EDITORIAL OPINION

A.C.F. ambulances.

As soon as he is medically qualified a student ceases to be a member of the O.T.A. but he then has the satisfaction of knowing that, in addition to being medically qualified, he is qualified militarily to take a commission in the S.A.M.C. with the certain prospect of being able to do his job with the maximum of efficiency and of being an asset and not a liability to the country.

A.D.S.

(The second in our series of Guest Editorials).

-----oOo-----

T H E D I N N E R

The cancellation of the Annual Dinner came as great surprise. All the arrangements had been concluded and all that was necessary was the student support. The Entertainments Committee are absolved from all blame and we think their action, in asking for an S.M.C. ruling, justified. But this should not have been a signal for the display of weak knees by the S.M.C.

The fact that a week before the function there were indications of the S.M.C. involving itself in a considerable loss should not have weighed as heavily as it did. Students are notorious for their habit of making a go of things at the last moment.

The opportunity offered, but was spurned, once and for all to rehabilitate our social status in the eyes of members of Staff and Honoraries. After last year's debauch such a vindication of the Students' high spirits seemed necessary. That some of our guests are almost as much to blame for the absence of ordinary decorum does not seem to have occurred to them.

If drink is the root of the evil, let us have a teetotal affair. The S.M.C. could give the guests a cocktail party and at the dinner itself only white wine need be served. The evening might even be terminated by an impromptu dance. The idea of creeping home in a drunken stupor would then be removed.

-----oOo-----

PARKING PROBLEMS

Medical Students, no doubt, would be the first to support members of the profession in their fight for recognition by the Traffic Department. Arrangements that would allow the necessary time for parking anywhere without fear of prosecution would be very welcome.

It is, therefore, all the more surprising that, notwithstanding the very special appeal of our Dean, Students still continue to park opposite Medical House and so, themselves, help to aggravate the whole problem.

Is it not time for the student to become a little more consistent?.

-----oOo-----

CURRENT COMMENT

THE EAR 'EARS

THAT general dissatisfaction is being expressed with the cancellation of the Dinner.

THAT the students feel that it is not the best way of damping their spirits.

THAT the Dean is disgusted with the litter of cigarette stubs and burnt matches in the Anatomy Dept. and has now strictly forbidden smoking in the Dissection Hall and the Vesalian Theatre.

THAT the distinguished 6½ years are now in the midst of a determined exam effort.

THAT all students wish them the best of luck.

THAT people are wondering whether the rugby successes of the past two weeks have anything to do with the fleeting visit of Capt. A. Gallaway.

THAT people trust Trevor Jones will soon return to the side.

THAT there is increased evidence of what might be termed - the stiff military upper-lip.

THAT a certain senior lecturer is not able to lecture to his class, unless his favourite armchair is present.

THAT Medicals played a prominent part in Rag Fete.

THAT all students, senior and junior, are expected to participate on Rag day and help to make Rag as successful as possible.

THAT the standard of recent symposia has fallen far below that which it was expected would be maintained after the success of the first few.

THAT medicals are very proud of Messrs. Halliday (Capt.), Warren and Doman who were members of the successful Wits touring tennis team.

THAT Dr. W. Girdwood and Dr. J. Jankowitz are being congratulated on their respective engagements.

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THE PLAY - 1940

Once again the Medical School Players are rehearsing for their annual presentation, but this year their efforts have an added significance. Firstly they have to erase the failure of last year and secondly, they will have to acquit themselves very handsomely if the full benefit of playing in the University great Hall is to be derived.

"The Wind and the Rain" by Merton Hodge will be staged on June 20th, 21st, 22nd and rehearsals are proceeding very well under the able guidance of Miss Cecilia Colley. As the play deals with the lives of Medical Students in Edinburgh, there will be plenty to interest medical students here.

The Play deserves the support of all students and the prices are within the reach of all.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

QUINISCIUS - Will use in next issue
ditto.

It would be well, at first, to place on permanent record our sincere thanks to all those responsible for the success of the Conference. The Onderstepoort Committee, Messrs. Bishop, Foull, Loveday, Cavannagh and Veldman, deserve all praise for a well prepared plan of action.

After morning tea we adjourned to the Library Hall where the Conference was opened by Dr. P.J. Du Toit who extended an official welcome to the Wits Delegates. He applauded the contact of Medical and Veterinary students.

"The atmosphere of friendliness and collegiality is one I welcome heartily and hope to see continued regularly" said Du Toit. He said he thought that these meetings must be to the mutual benefit of all and should help in comprehending the other man's point of view.

Mr. A.J. Leontsinis thanked Dr. Du Toit for his kind remarks and explained the regrettable absence of Mr. K.L. Allan, Chairman of the Cultural Activities Society, who was responsible for the arrangements at the Medical School.

THE PAPERS

Mr. H. le Riche read the first paper on Milk Hygiene and dealt with statistics to show the value of milk as a food. The amount of milk consumed daily per person here in South Africa is low and when the native is included, almost negligible.

Mr. Bishop's paper dealt with the factors concerned with milk production and the health of cows. "The modern cow has been induced to produce more milk than Nature intended". Unless placed on a national basis, investigations towards production of tubercle free milk will continue to be haphazard.

The biochemistry of Milk was dealt with, after a fashion, by Mr. Luck (Wits). His future attempts will be watched with interest.

Mr. Foull (O'P) gave a comprehensive account of the methods to be adopted in assuring a clean, safe, pure supply of milk. The three factors, cows, dairy and milkers play as important a part as distributor and consumer.

This ended the set papers on the subject and the discussion which followed was very limited owing to time. When Mr. Kagan began to delve into the socio-economics of the position, the Chairman said he felt that that was an entire subject for discussion by itself and was, therefore, reluctantly compelled to curtail such discussion.

The Conference was adjourned at this point for lunch.

In the afternoon a short period was devoted to discussion of the subject of the morning session and after Mr. T. Gillman and Dr. Gluckman had spoken, the subject for the second session was opened.

ABORTION:

Mr. Shippel surprised his colleagues by a splendid rendering of the subject of Abortion. His diagram was a piece of good work. A more complete and satisfactory account it would be difficult to get anywhere.

The next paper was read by Mr. Veldman (O'P) who spoke in Afrikaans. He dealt with abortion in cattle and had it not been that he had to rush his paper, it would have proved as interesting and informative as the previous speakers. As it was he had barely enough time to make the most important observations on the subject.

Mr. Rice spoke in his characteristic style on the evils of legalising abortion, indications for procured abortion and the subject of criminal abortion. His remarks on the last point were made with gusto and received with delight.

The discussion which followed was again limited and only Mr. Gillman and Dr. Gluckman were able to speak.

SOCIAL:

Cocktails at five in the men's residence proved very acceptable and one was able to drink in the spirit of the day.

A highly successful dinner and dance followed at the Metro Hotel, where Dr. Du Toit, Mr. G.S.T.L. Warren and Mr. Bishop were the speakers.

F A C T A N D F A N C Y

Anti Whispering Campaign

Don't ever make love in a buggy,
For horses carry tails.

-----oOo-----

As man draws near The Common goal
Can any plight be sadder
Than his, Who's Captain of his Soul
But can't control his bladder.

(Sidney M.J.)

-----cOo-----

"Reflections on Ascheim Zondek"
Or "Hell hath no fury like a woman spermed"

(Sidney M.J.)

-----oOo-----

SONNET TO NURSE

Fair Maid in white who standeth by my cot;
When you are near my slackend pulse doth quicken,
When you are close, I cease to mourn my lot;
And I rejoice that I did lately sicken.
My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky,
But not as high as when you make my bed;
For when you tend my wounds, I heave a sigh
And thank my lucky Stars I'm not quite dead.
Yet I'm afeared that life is made mundane,
By attention dull of Pan and bottle,
When even "love" is listed under "Brain"
And daily motions all emotions throttle.
Oh Nurse! I feel a feeling in my heart,
Pray mark it well - but not upon a Chart.

J.F.R.

-----oOo-----

"Cows can be infected with Humanis type of Tb bacillus"
Depends on the type of Cow!

-----oOo-----

All the worshippers of Venus are sincerely
glad they've seen us
When Nemesis o'ertakes them in their
trade;
And even very shy men, narrow devotees of
Hymen,
May invoke our patron Saint Lues'
aid:
So if you need our assistance, don't main-
tain that haughty distance -
In our clientele all classes freely mix.
See, they flock from rich and mean street up
to Hospital Hill and Smit Street!
Ring us up - our number's EHRlich 606.

Acknowledgement to "R.B.P." - St. Barts H.J.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEDICAL DINNER

The Editor,

Sir,

The cancellation of the Medical Dinner is virtually an ostracism by the general body of Students, evidently indicating their disapproval of the individual behaviour on part of our very heterogeneous society. Naturally every student should not take offence at these remarks as they do not apply to all of them, but it would be worth everybody's while, if they considered the following, maybe, pungent, statements:-

1. Is a traditional practice such as the Medical Dinner to be abolished because of sheer lack of student support?
2. Are most students not old enough to decide definitely a week beforehand whether they can go to an important affair?
3. Do certain medical students lack a mature sense of responsibility in conducting themselves in public?
4. Must organizing committees run after students to ask them to entertain their teaching staff?
5. When alcoholic beverages are available, is it not shameful and rank bad manners for students to overstep, in public, the mark of gentlemanly decency? Stuporose and obstreperous exhibitions are not in the slightest conducive to an average tolerant society's good humour.
6. Students are too apt to indulge, in delightfully vague and ambitious talk and criticism, but the very crux of our future is the practice of knowledge.
7. What is desirable of the student body is sound action as a whole and some support of leading organisations. This disinterestedness does not apply only to the Medical Dinner but to important lectures and to various debates arranged to encourage progressive thought and action.

Yours etc., A.J.L.

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MEDICALS ARE NOT FUNNY

The Editor,

Sir,

This year's Wits Wits is regarded by most people to be up to the standard of, if not even better than, last year's issue. It must be understood that the standard of the paper depends not only on the ability of the Editor, but also, to some considerable extent, on the support he receives from students in the way of contributions.

I have noticed that Wits Wits has met with quite a lot of criticism from Medicals. They seem to think that there is plenty of room for improvement. I would like to point out that Wits Wits, in attempting to be purely funny, sets itself an extremely difficult task. Medicals would, however, be fully entitled to criticise, if they themselves were prepared to do their share in the way of contributions. But I learn from the Editor of Wits Wits that he received only one item from the Medical School! There must be, and are, at least a few Medicals who are fully capable of producing witty articles, but are just too lazy to take any interest in the welfare of Wits Wits.

This is a most inexcusable state of affairs, and I sincerely hope that those who have the ability, will in the future make some effort to support this student paper. But what I implore is, don't just sit back in an easy chair and criticise.

THE HEIRESS.

by "RAMON DUNYAN"

This particular dame I'm telling you about, seems to come straight off the cover of one of those "True Romances", or something like that. She makes the other girls in the town look silly. All the guys fall for her, like they tell me Rome fell. She always gives as much bounce as any golf ball, and has about as much back-chat as an echo.

Well, this same dame finishes school; and starts to nose around for some other pastime. She hears about a profession called Medicine, and, with the aid of a little grey matter, soon finds herself installed at the Medical School. The guys she meets there call her The Heiress. This is due to the citizen whom the dame calls her Pop. This guy's got plenty, and in fact, so much to spare, that he even sends Nuffield a couple of quid every month. The Heiress knows her potatoes, so she just sits around most of the time, waiting for Pop's own personal Ascension Day.

As time passes, the Boss of the Faculty has a shrewd idea that this dame knows less about Anatomy than is good for her. He plans to give her a viva, and reckons he can make her look really silly. The Heiress doesn't turn a hair and sidles into his room as calm as a cabbage. Here the Boss shoots a hot one about some artery straight at her. This artery happens to be something new in the dame's life, but she takes a chance and let's him have an answer, quick. The Boss knows a good deal more about Anatomy than marbles, and he lets the dame know that he considers that she has been talking more than nonsense about this artery affair. The Heiress thinks fast, on account of the fact that she has got it pretty clear that she is now in the middle of a tough spot. She gets under control, and in a flash she lays the Boss a bet about this matter. In fact, she bets him a tenner that he is slipping up over this artery. The Boss is shaken really badly, and he reckons that it's on the cards that this dame is right. He hasn't got so many tenners that he'd like to chance a bet, anyway. The dame is looking more than confident, too. He tells her she's got it right about this artery, he was only fooling. He doesn't pump her any more, either, in case she causes any more trouble.

The Heiress get through her whole course by using this gag. She qualifies, but then she soon turns up the profession. This is on account of the fact that she makes so many people dead, and this makes her sore. The other day her Pop dies, so I reckon that very soon she finds the right guy.

H.C.

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"THE THREE RACKETEERS"

It was with mixed feelings that the "Three Racketeers" slouched up the University drive to attend the first parade of the Officers Training Ambulance.

Their conversation was more or less on these lines: "What do you think we'll do tonight?" said the first.

"Well, I suppose the sergeant will come round and measure us for our uniforms, and ask what size boots we take", replied the second.

"Maybe he'll ask us our Christian names", volunteered the third, with a sarcastic smile.

The scene was changed. Sharp commands were ringing out. Four or five squads were carrying out the various manoeuvres in response. A whole squad turned smartly to the right, with the exception of one man who turned left. "There's only one right in the army", snapped out the sergeant.

"I didn't hear your command", replied the rookie.

F O R W O M E N O N L Y

One fascinating thing about the Women's Common Room is the notice "For Women Only" which all men make a point of reading whenever they have the opportunity to enter the sacred portal. Certain persons had an official opportunity on Wed. May, 8th when some very distinguished men, including Yours truly, were present at the invitation of our Senior Woman Student, Martha Slabbert, and the members of the Common Room Committee. We came to break a bottle of champagne (actually we drank tea) over the splendid new chairs and desks which have just been installed. The hostesses were most charming and provided an excellent tea out of their own pocket. Our Secretary for Supplies used the occasion for a high power sales talk on the specially imported flapjacks with the Medical Crest. One is shortly to be raffled and the proceeds will be devoted to purchasing our specially imported ash trays and what nots!

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THIRD YEAR CLASS SOCIAL

The organising Committee are to be congratulated on a very fine success. The writer thanks them for the cigarette case he won in their novel novelty dance.

The Presentation of the 1939 Class prizes was the most important item and Dr. Strachan and his staff deserve the praise of all for instituting the scheme. The form of the prizes, Five Pounds hard cash is better than any other. For having displayed the greatest aptitude for Pathology, Mr. C. Gettliffe received the Pathology prize and Mr. A.G. Cottle received the prize for the best student of the year. Each replied suitably and Mr. Gettliffe made some touching remarks which were taken in very good cheer by those for whom they were intended.

Dr. Strachan expressed the hope that some good would come of this prize scheme and visualised the possibility of a special bursary.

The Committee consisted of Messrs. Mirlin, Mendelowitz and Gonski and the Misses Bronks and Hingle. Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. and Miss Strachan, Dr. and Mrs. J.G. Becker and Dr. C. Chatgidakis.

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DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

- RAG BALL - WANDERERS - SATURDAY, 25th MAY.
- INTERVARSITY DANCE - NEW UNIVERSITY HALL - SATURDAY, 1st JUNE
- MEDICAL BALL - WANDERERS - JUNE 5th
- OPENING OF GREAT HALL - JUNE 10th.
- "THE WIND AND THE RAIN" - GREAT HALL - JUNE 20th, 21st, 22nd.
- COMMERCE SWING BALL - 28th JUNE.
- N.U.S.A.S. CONFERENCE - 1st WEEK OF JULY.

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Continued from page 7

"That's a lie, and if it's not a lie it's a untruth," was the sergeant's crushing reply.

So the drilling continued, a little light relief being provided here and there by a sergeant tripping over the mat, or by one of the officer's (drawn from the Medical School staff) amiable salute to one of the considerably smarter sergeants. At long last came the order to dismiss.

Three figures were marching smartly down the drive towards the University gates. Chests were thrust out, arms swinging, heads held high, the "Three Racketeers".

A PAGE FOR SPORTS MEN

ATHLETICS

Although the part played by Medicals in bringing home the spoils of Intervarsity for the Sixth time in succession was the most important contribution to Wits' effort, the whole team is to be most heartily congratulated on its success. Special mention must be made of Victor Turnbull whose fine win in the 220 and record in the 440 was a great achievement. More power to your elbow Vic! Ken Warr came up again with a rattling fine performance to win the half and set the Captain's example.

It is a great pity that a one mile walk event does not figure in the Intervarsity programme, for in Louis Eisenberg Wits have the outstanding mile walker in South Africa to-day. Following on his annihilation of the University record with a time of 7 mins. 8 secs., he accomplished the remarkable time of 6 mins. 55 secs. a week later in a special handicap event. This time in only 11 secs. outside the South African record established some 20 years ago. The record is now in danger and Eisenberg is confidently expected to set up a new time next season. Go to it Louis!

RUGBY:

The tour during the short vacation did not prove at all successful. It is thus all the more satisfactory that in their subsequent match in the Grand Challenge Competition they were able to acquit themselves so handsomely at the expense of Unicorn, who were made to bite the dust for the first time this season, and Wanderers. Veritable giant killers indeed, but it is hoped that it will not prove a flash in the pan.

TABLE TENNIS

In the last issue it was said that the Club was dying a slow unnatural death. This has stimulated the Chairman to inform us of their activities. As a result we have to change our opinion of the Club and now we trust they'll go from strength to strength.

Results

1st Team: Beat Y.M.C.A. 18 - 9; Beat Blue Triangle 17 - 10;
Beat Southern Transvaal 16 - 11.

Kagan, Rogalsky and Goldberg have been the most consistent scorers.

2nd Team: Beat Kensington; Beat Johnstone; Beat Commerical;
Lost to Tramway Clericals.

The Captain, Reichman, has set a high standard for the 2nd Team and on only the last occasion have the team, as a whole failed to respond.

ICE HOCKEY

After winning the A section of the league the Club fought its way clear to the final last Saturday night. It was a great pity that they went down to the Lions in this match, but, nevertheless, the Club has had a very good season and we are proud of its success.

INTER FIRM TENNIS

Mr. Douglas's firm have won the Cup this year. The team consisted of:- Mr. Lurie, Dr. Josselson, Warren (Capt.) Woods, Coll and Gordon. Prof. Brebner's firm lost a closely fought match by one game.

SPORTS EDITOR:

1940 R A G F E T E

The Rag Committee have done it again. With characteristic disregard for their own interests, and with a mind only to the ever-increasing demands of the Hospital for financial assistance, the 1940 organising Committee of the Rag Fete have conducted an enterprise which will swell the Hospital Appeal Coffers in no small way. It ran throughout the whole of Saturday, May 18th, and apart from the praise which must be freely given to the organisers, the students who willingly shouted themselves hoarse behind the stalls, and the generous donators who gave and gave again, the Hospital will remember with gratitude that community which has earned for itself the enviable name of The Great Gold-hearted Johannesburg Public.

From the Engineering Students' "Joy-wheel" - upon which I looked with admiration from a safe distance - to the humble "Red, White and Blue" Darts, there was a constant ebb and flow of people who dipped continuously into their pockets, and if they won, returned their winnings, and if they lost, smiled and dipped again. The "Braai-veisaand" was an innovation - and a very successful one, too, - and the coffee which three charming ladies and a gentleman served, was really good. The slot-machines were only too well patronised (I myself am cheerfully three and sixpence poorer owing to their peculiar fascination).

To the students who are entering the Rag with all their indomitable energy, the "Auricle", in company with other responsible periodicals of the University, offers its thanks, its gratitude and its admiration. Remember that now, as never before, the Hospital needs aid. Remember that the Government gives one shilling for every shilling you collect, and that every penny, every ticky, every sixpence represents a post in the barrier against disease and disablement.

M.G.

M O C K T R I A L

On the night of Monday 20th, the Rag trial was mocked at the City Hall. While the cross-examination was in the hands of Advs. Shacksnovis and Ettlenger, the three unjust men on the Bench were Adv. Morris, Rev. "Tubby" Eaton, and Prof. Dighton Stammers.

The court immediately went into a huddle over various offences of which the Mayor was accused. Mrs. Geoffery Joel's garb, as well as her cooking, was then severely reprimanded. The feminine, though hard-hearted jury, having found these two citizens guilty, heard the case of John Connell, who was ultimately fined for making far too much noise with his organ.

Finally Bob Connolly, the Bachelor Mother, was accused of ill-treating his Johnnie Elkeman, who appeared as a witness in the case. After his guilt had been thoroughly proven, Bob Connolly dashed onto his easel, first three caricatures of Their Lordships on the Bench, then one of Hitler, and in conclusion, two etchings of General Smuts. These last two were put up for sale, and brought in another £13 to join the Rag's grand total.

Before the court adjourned for the night, the Principal of the University said a few words of appreciation and congratulation to the students, and all those responsible for the success of the trial.

H.C.