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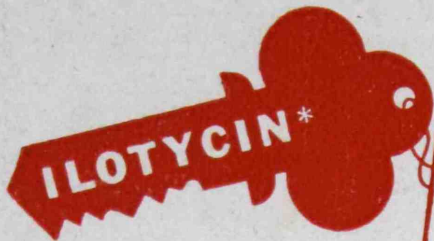
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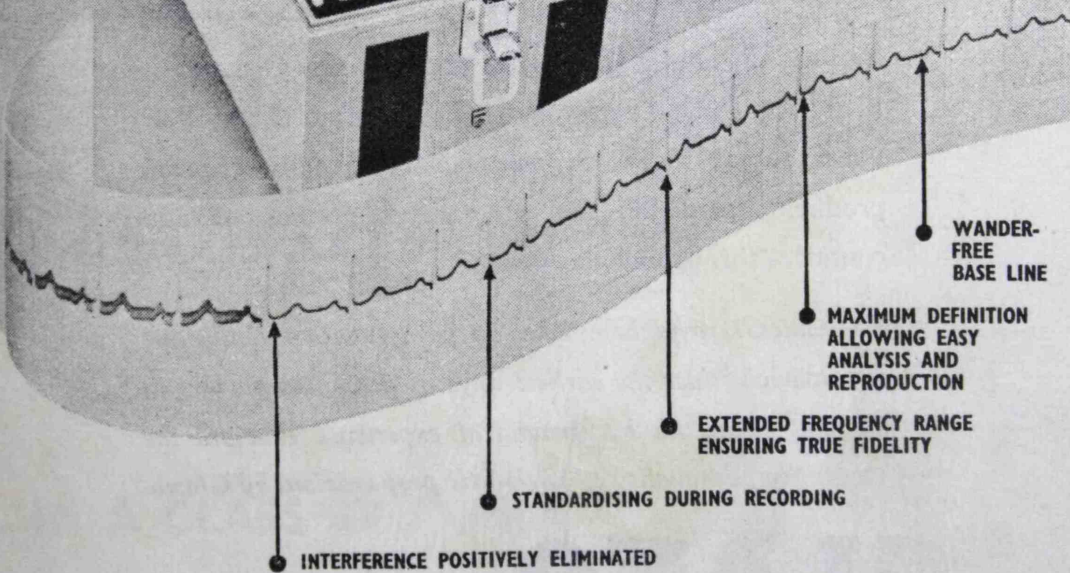
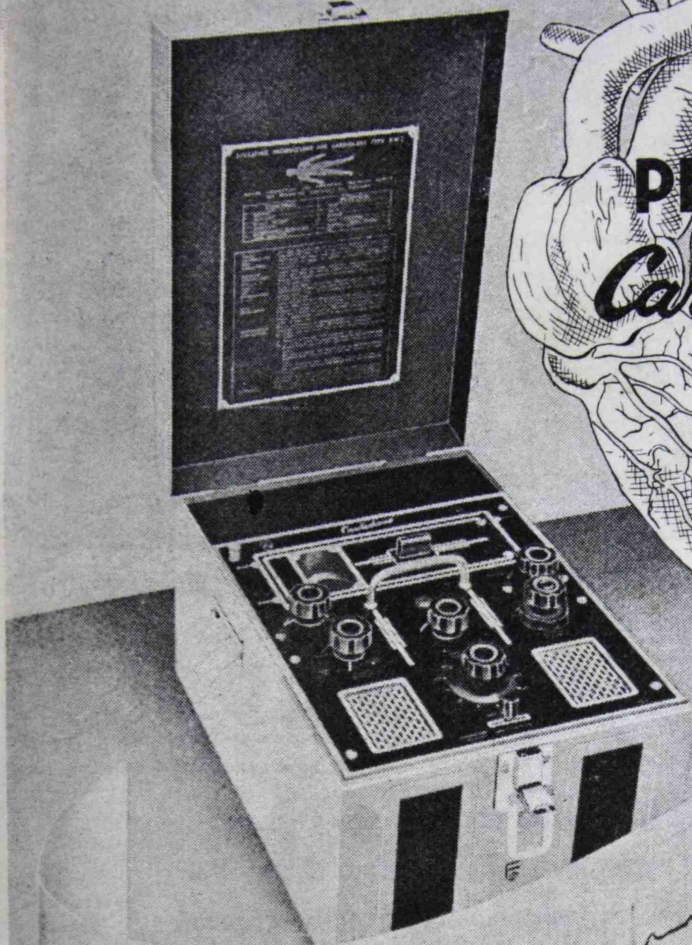
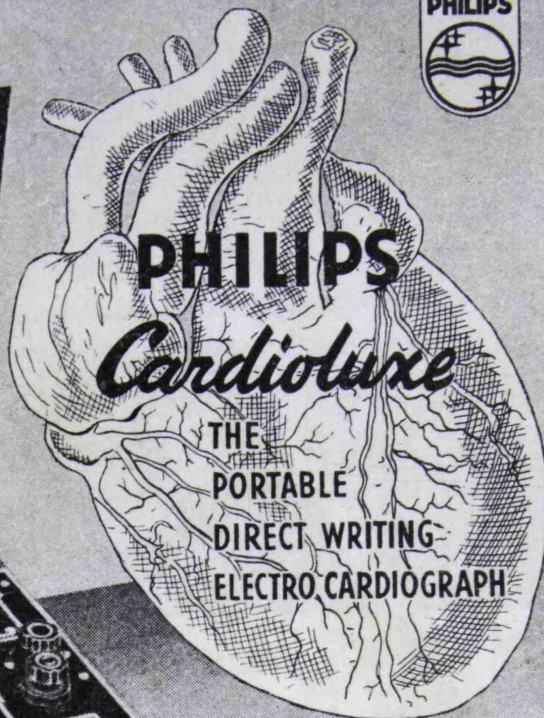
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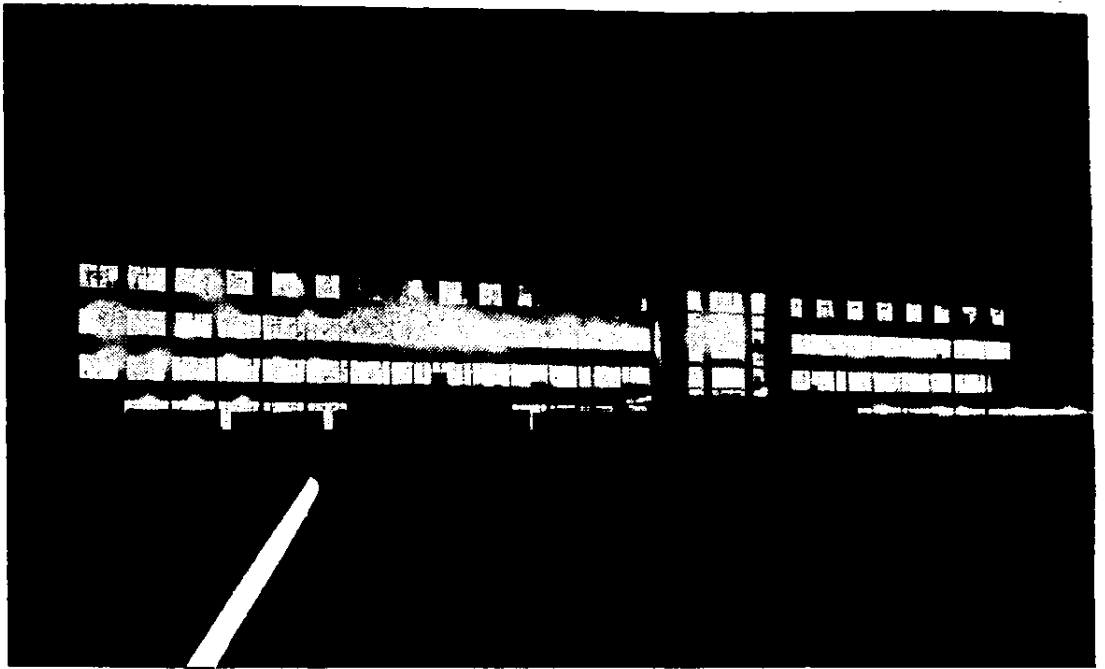
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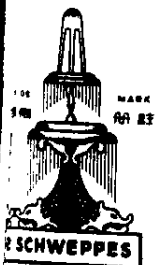
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(1) Martin-Scott, I.: Brit. M. J. 1: 837, 1949.



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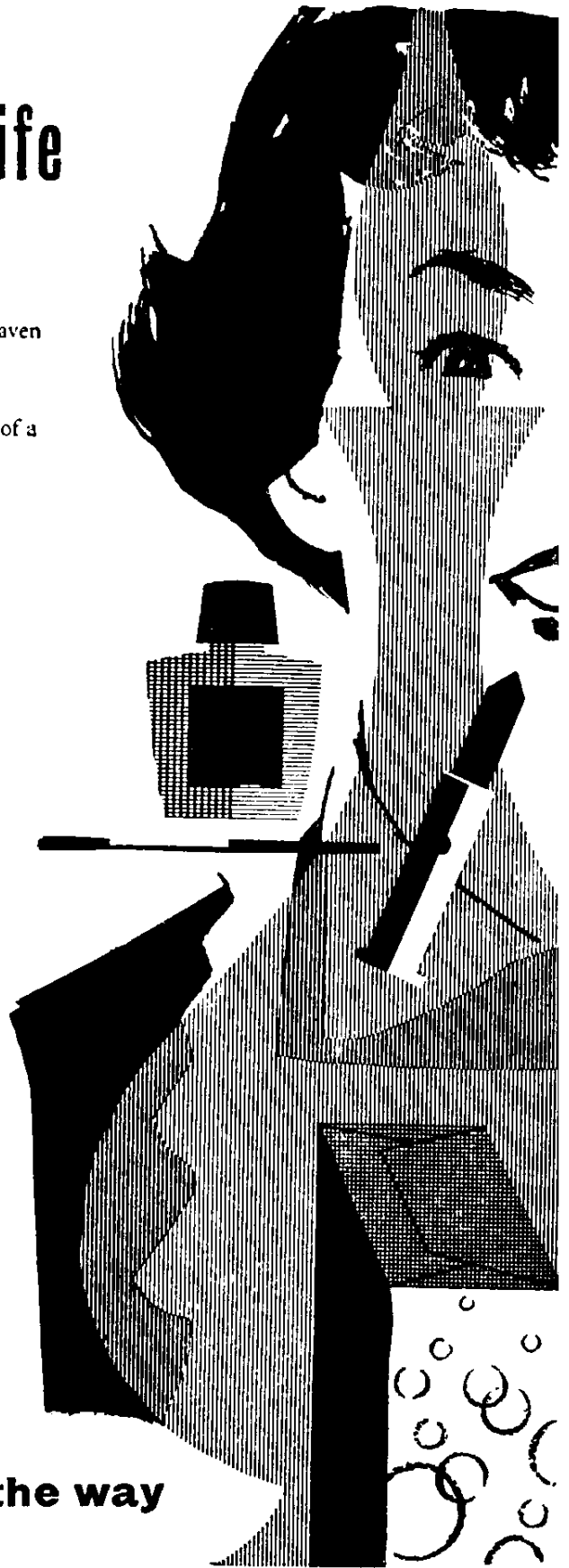


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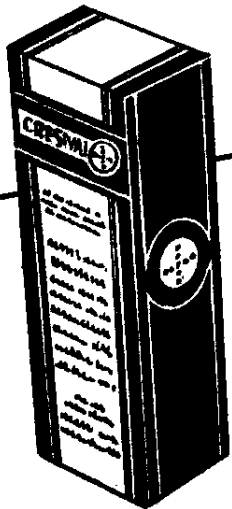
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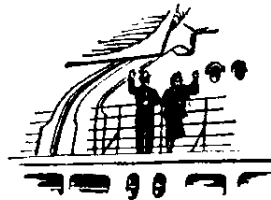
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# ELIXIR

*Journal of the Hong Kong University Medical Society*

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AUTUMN



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**Editorial and Business Address:**  
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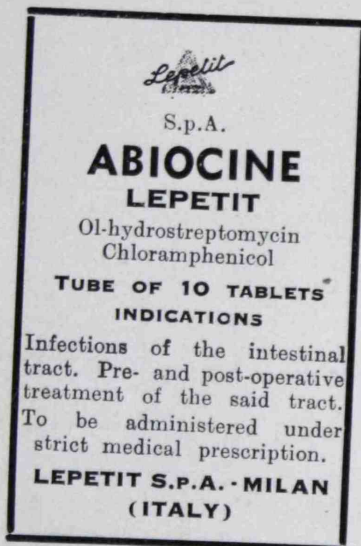
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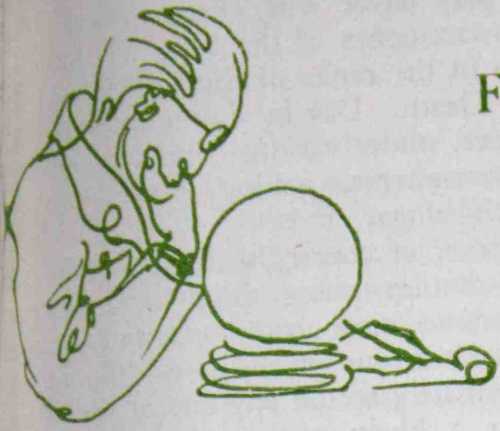


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## FACT, FANCY AND OPINION



### JUDICIAL SLAUGHTER

ON JULY 13th an attractive 28-year-old woman died on the gallows in Britain for the murder of her 25-year-old lover. It was a simple case. She waited for the man, outside a public-house, and when he appeared she shot him several times. The act was premeditated and deliberate. There was at no time any dispute as to these facts, and the Court had no alternative but to find her guilty and sentence her to death.

Britain arose in a furore against the sentence passed upon Mrs. Ruth Ellis. None the less, the sentence was carried out. Her's was a deed of plain murder. She had claim to none of the protections that may save a discovered killer from death, and to do her heart and courage justice, it seems that she resisted all attempts to have her lay such claims.

Once all the Courts have had their say, there remains a final hope in the royal prerogative of mercy. The Throne, through the agency of the Home Secretary, may, and without reason stated, override the sentence of the Courts. This prerogative is not a matter of the emotional whim of the reigning monarch; in fact the monarch never voices an opinion. It is entirely up to the private decision of the Home Secretary whether he will or not recommend the Crown to show this mercy. In this matter the Home Secretary's only concern must be the public interest.

Why then, with all this public outcry, did not he rescue Mrs. Ellis from the gallows? The answer is simple enough: except in curious circumstances, where strict interpretation of the letter of the law would bring about a result never conceived by the legislators, the law must be upheld, for once

bring the law into disrespect or doubt and the stability of the nation is attacked.

So Mrs. Ellis died, and the cry of protest that is still going on is not against the destruction of this one, handsome creature, but against the law that provides for the judicial slaughter of any man or woman.

We all tend to avoid consideration of difficult and distressing problems unless they are forced upon our attention, and it is unfortunate that most of us give little thought to the grave moral problems implicit in the whole business of legal executions, until some particularly dramatic execution occurs. The hanging of a run-of-the-mill, working class murderer passes almost without comment. Mrs. Ellis's whole life and background made her an intriguing and romantic figure to the average newspaper reader, and this, combined with her youth, her sex, her physical charm, and the fact that she had two young children, resulted in a wild boiling over of public emotion. Thousands of people gathered outside the prison gates for the moment of the hanging, and they chanted Ellis's name, together with the names of two others whose death on the gallows in recent years has stirred up public misgivings.

Many countries have abolished capital punishment, and following the execution, the British Press reprinted bitter and outspoken criticisms of our legal system from newspapers abroad.

All this heat and emotion makes a measured judgment impossible; and it is likely that by the time tempers have settled, so will thought on the problem have confined itself once more to a few steady campaigners, and the legal profession.

The problem *is* immensely difficult; there

can be no doubt of that. Thoughtful men and women who may see eye to eye on most great moral issues, can be bitterly opposed in their views on the ethics of execution. Ten days after Ellis's death, *The Lancet*, which for long has championed abolition, printed a Leading Article condemning in forthright but not immoderate terms the whole idea and paraphernalia of capital punishment. The article ended: 'Let us hope that those Members of Parliament who have launched a new attempt to get the law changed will succeed in freeing us from this recurrent demoralisation'.

Next week *The Lancet's* correspondence columns carried a letter from Sir Francis Walshe. The note had evidently been penned in a spirit of indignation quite equal in any lack of objectivity to the 'incoherent appeal to the emotions' of which he accused *The Lancet*. At least one of his shafts against the Editor was based upon a hot misreading of the original article, which he further described as 'barren of any rational concept of justice or appreciation of the rule of law.'

Other letters in that and the following issues expressed the widest possible range of views and feelings; including a suggestion that it may be seriously questioned whether it is ethical for prison medical officers to assist in any way at an execution, to be present, to certify death, or to perform a post-mortem examination afterwards.

Whatever the right, here is a moral problem which all of us share responsibility for. It is too important an issue to be thought about only when some particular drama stirs our emotions and biases our judgments. We hope to publish considered opinions from persons of good will.

## NEW THEORY

Those of us apparently doomed to an early death by an unshakable lust for tobacco, sometimes strive to ease the conscience of our declining years by accusing other and less friendly things of being to blame for the rising incidence of bronchial carcinoma.

Two unpleasant, modern intruders, margarine and diesel oil fumes, have already been impugned. We now present, without much shame, Our Own Theory.

Chromosomes control the activities of cells. X-rays play havoc with chromosomes. Day by day carcinoma of the lung is edging its way up in the ranks of the Captains of the Men of Death. Day by day more and more people are, under various beneficent schemes and governments, getting X-rays plunged into their lungs.

It is true, of course, that during the last quarter century many things and customs have become more common, and because lung cancer is one of these, we should not indiscriminately accuse any one of the others of being a likely *propter hoc*. But Our Theory is able to argue the matter more closely.

Bradford Hill in London has proved to the satisfaction of his fellow statisticians that there is a significant correlation between the amount of tobacco smoked by a person and his liability to bronchial carcinoma. *Ergo*, cry the sophists, smoking is the cause of lung cancer. But smoking, and particularly much smoking, makes you cough; and having a cough is the most powerful cause of having your chest X-rayed. Therefore, if X-rays are the Nigger in the Woodpile, heavy smokers may expect to be the major victims. More men die of bronchial carcinoma than do women. Again, it is argued, men are the heavier smokers. That is not entirely true, with our own limited and personal experience, but what is true is that far more men have X-rays of the chest than do women. Not only are men far more inclined to worry about their health, and therefore more inclined to seek the comfort of an X-ray picture of their working parts, but men are more in the way of X-rays, by virtue of army service, or factory employment, just because most of them leave home every day, and enjoy more time and opportunity for experimenting with the frills of life.

In a recent letter to the local press, a correspondent stated: 'Most fortunately, the injured was not seriously hurt after diagnosis by X-ray from hospital.'

He may have said truer than he knew. X-rays, so readily thrown by doctors into patients' tissues, are tricky beasts, and we know too little of the subtle changes they promote in cells. Possibly the doctor in Egypt who charged his patients for 'X-ray' examinations undertaken with the aid of a



second hand motor cycle engine, was a fairly good man to go to.

### HORSE SENSE

A lady at Oxford University called Dr. Goyra Williams, who may claim the rich description of 'research psychologist' has recently achieved the sort of thing that research psychologists spend their time achieving, and has shown that with kindness, patience and understanding, a horse may be ridden and controlled without a bit.

If psychologists have any value (and who is there amongst the ranks of psychologists who would deny that they do?), it is that they occasionally remind us, chiefly through the columns of the popular press, of truths well stated in the Bible and similar ancient

works, which have since been unduly neglected.

Bits, of course, were invented by bad riders for bad riders. Horses don't like them, and horses and men came to reasonable terms long before bits were thought of.

But the real profit in the research is the remark that it evoked from Lt.-Col. Llewellyn, captain of the winning British Olympic show-jumping team in 1952. He said: 'It is a highly commendable effort. That sort of thing is quite frequently seen in circuses and it is a refinement of the art of whacking a donkey over the head with a chain as practised by Arabs for centuries'.

Just, we suppose, as electro convulsive therapy is a refinement of the art of beating lunatics with clubs, as practised in Britain

### THE HEART OF THE MATTER



*IN RESPONSE TO numerous requests from our readers and various creditors, we proudly present a special camera study of the Editor of ELIXIR at work on the material for this issue.*

for centuries. Anyhow, it's all jolly, jolly good psychology.

### YOU CAN'T FIRE ME; I QUIT!

On August 5th, Pope Pius XII wrote to the Abbot of the Monastery of the Greek Order of the Basilians, by way of greetings on the occasion of a celebration, and expressed the hope that the Greek Orthodox Church might see its way to rejoining the true fold of Rome.

The official reply, if any, is not recorded, but Grecian prelates are reported as saying that if Rome is to abandon its heresy, the Orthodox Church would gladly receive back its misled children.

This reminds us of various attempts that have been made in the past to effect a reconciliation between physicians and surgeons.

### CURRENT RESEARCH

Those who have been complaining that this University is backward in the pursuit of original knowledge will have been encouraged by a note in the Hong Kong Government Report for 1954.

A paragraph describing current research in the Faculty of Arts draws attention to a linguistic analysis of characteristic features of moral situations with reference to confusions in subjectivist theories of ethics.

That should silence the critics.



## "SIGNALS"



IN THE SPRING number of *Elixir*, 1955, the editor found room for some passages from an old book of medical recipes, which had the benefit of several entertaining illustrations by one of our own artists. Encouraged by this and by the applause, as I suppose, of the cicadas outside, I turn to another manuscript book, sent here by a benevolent book-hunting friend, and see what it may yield me. It has been a very beautiful volume, containing thick eighteenth-century writing-paper and plenty of it, bound in crimson morocco elaborately ornamented in gold, and lettered on the back SIGNALS.

But inside we have this title-page: "The Princess of Babylon – by Voltaire. Translated by Eliza Chetwood." She filled about half the book in a good hand. It looks like a remarkable romance, and dipping into it I am rewarded with this passage:

"This, Madam, is what has occasioned his departure. One of the most amiable princesses of the blood is smitten with a passion for him & has given him a rendezvous at her house at noon; he went away at break of day, & has left this billet which cost my relation many tears – 'Beautiful princess of the blood of China, you deserve a heart which has only been dedicated to you; I have sworn to the immortal Gods never to love any but Formosant Princess of Babylon, & to teach her how by travelling to govern her passions. She has had the misfortune to yield to an unworthy King of Egypt' . . . .

Perhaps when I have gone through all the story the editor will accept it as a serial for *Elixir*, which may not always be entirely against romances.

On the title-page is added, "Mama gave me this book Dec<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1812 to write Receipts in. Glanmire." A cure for earache is promptly given, and the fate of the translation thenceforward is to be coated or interlarded with many other recipes, in

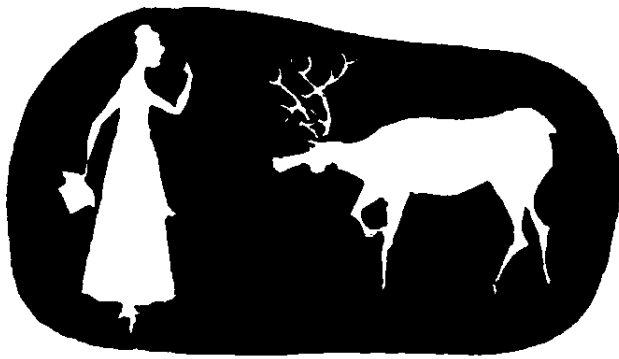
several hands, including early Victorian. From this source I can now indicate, if desired, a Sheep Wash for Mange, or how to make Cocoa Nut Pudding; a Cure for a Strain in the Back Sinew of a Horse, or the cookery of Prince Albert's Pudding; For Inflammation of the Trachea, or for Dressing Maccaroni. The usual old opening moves are painfully frequent: "Oyster Sauce. Take 2 dozen oysters." "Lobster Soup. Take 6 pounds of lean veal" for the stock merely.

One medical recipe may do for more than one trouble: "For the Small Pox, or Measles." – "Dissolve 10 grains of sal ammoniac, & the same quantity of crabs eyes, in broth, make the patient drink it, & repeat it every day, till the crust falls off."

Mad dogs generally rush into these books, and if they manage to bite someone, remember: "Near Cork-Beg the residence of Colonel Fitzgerald a mad dog bit two children & a cow, the children were given the juice of Ribworth plaintain & have had



no symptom of Hydrophobia, the Cow went mad."



Clergymen used to serve as village doctors here and there, and my book quotes a letter from the Rev. Dr. Bacon, I think in Northamptonshire. An old woman in his parish had long had cancer. The surgeon's "visits were an act of charity, as he conceiv'd her case to be hopeless. I was at this time studying Botany and amus'd myself with enquiring into the use of plants & herbs; the virtues of Clivers [cleavers, or goose-grass] came in my way, I recommended them to the woman who through the divine blessing was perfectly restored." The great point is to gather your cleavers from the hedge bottom "every morning before the sun dries them." They are made into a juice and an ointment.

I should hardly have expected a herbal, "efficacious remedy for recent Consumption" dated 1845, but one is in this miscellany, and all the ingredients from colt's-foot to furze-blossoms are as you may say fair play. "Imperial Pop." A version of ginger beer. It should be tested here, all the essentials being so easy to get. Perhaps it would be less practical to make our own candles, but

I remember better candles than we now sometimes have to rummage out when modern improvements fail us. Now, "To cure & smook Tongues in the Archangel Manner - Take fresh Reindeer or Ox Tongues," and note that you need a few pine fir Tree roots which must give a gentle cool smoke for 7 days. And one more mystery: "Artificial Asses' Milk."

While I was going through these signals from the past, which may still have much more meaning in them than might be supposed, one scrap of paper suddenly appeared with nothing more on it than this printed heading.

LUNATIC ASYLUM,  
COUNTY and CITY of CORK.

But that is scarcely a relevant reference, certainly it is no recipe either for getting in or getting out. Possibly one of the physician's wives owned my queer but purposeful manuscript book, which I observe contains only one item in verse. Evidently one of the remedies had had an opposite effect:

*An Epitaph*

Go spotless honour, & unsullied truth,  
Go smiling innocence, & blooming youth,  
Go female sweetness, join'd with manly sense,  
Go winning wit, that never gave offence,  
Go soft humanity, that bless'd the poor,  
Go saint-eyed patience from affliction's door,  
Go modesty that never wore a frown,  
Go Virtue & receive thy heavenly crown.

Have we advanced from there?

E.B.

(The decorations are by Prudence Rowe-Evans)



# SOME ASPECTS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE "ORIENT"\*

AS A CANADIAN who has spent most of his life in the Far East I am very grateful for an opportunity to take part in this Seminar. I hope, however, that the subject on which I have been asked to speak may not be removed too far from the interests of most of you. I believe that only a few of those present are medical students, but since I shall speak in non-technical terms and since anything concerned with health appears to interest most people perhaps you will bear with me.

I must apologize for the somewhat misleading title given to this talk. When I accepted an invitation to speak on this subject it was on condition that the word "Orient" be limited to those areas in Asia with which I have had first-hand contact. Therefore, important regions are excluded since I have no real knowledge of medical education in Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Indo-China, Burma or lands farther to the west. Most of my experience has been in China, supplemented by three years of work in Hong Kong. From the latter place I have visited the Philippines, Malaya and Thailand, so shall include some observations made in those countries.

Since most of my time has been spent in China it is inevitable that much of what I have to say concerns that country. Although the Chinese have an ancient system of medicine and a vast library of books dealing with almost every aspect of the diagnosis and treatment of disease, and although this system is still the only one available to a majority of the Chinese people, I shall not describe it. It is enough to say that the traditional system was entirely pre-scientific with a basic philosophy that has many similarities with those of other schools of medicine which flourished before the age of science. Relatively few attempts, and those not very successful, have been made to establish educational institutions for the training of a profession in the traditional system. Practitioners acquired their art by

reading the ancient books and by learning, more or less as apprentices, from older members of the profession. To have been the son of a successful physician, or to have had not only a father but a grandfather as well in the profession, was regarded as one of the highest qualifications for the practice of medicine.

China had her first serious contact with modern medicine about 120 years ago when the first medical missionary, Peter Parker, was appointed to that country. Parker, from the beginning, realized the importance of education if his work was to succeed. In this he anticipated the attitude of the majority of the hundreds of medical missionaries who followed him. For a long time, however, attempts at training were widely scattered in scores of so-called one-man medical schools. Often such a school would accept a few students and carry them on to graduation before admitting another class. Obviously instruction in the basic sciences was very limited and often mostly theoretical. Human dissection was usually impossible, so the student learned his anatomy from charts and models and from the patient on the operating table. We must remember that at that time medicine in Europe and America still retained a strong pre-scientific flavour, and that its greatest advances had been in the basic sciences and in surgery, the latter due to the discovery of anaesthetics and the introduction of anti-septic and aseptic procedures. Most of the great scourges were still almost as deadly as in earlier centuries, among them typhoid and typhus, the dysenteries, bubonic plague and cholera. It is true that small-pox could be prevented and that most cases of malaria could be cured with quinine, but it was relatively easy for the practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine to add quinine to his already large pharmacopeia and to practise vaccination against small-pox. In the main, the public saw no compelling reasons for adopting what it called "western"

\* Address to the Canada-Japan Seminar of World University Service, Tokyo, August 5, 1955.

medicine. People were ready to grant the superiority of western surgery, but before most of the great killer diseases they saw that the western-trained physician was as helpless as their own doctors.

In addition to surgery, however, another major contribution was brought to China by the medical missionary. This we may call the spirit of compassionate service. The traditional system was commercialized, and virtually all its practitioners were motivated by selfish ideals. Public health did not exist, there were practically no hospitals, remedies were kept secret, no medical journals were published in which new discoveries were freely shared with others, and even the few new books which were produced consisted mostly of expositions of ancient doctrines or collections of time-honoured prescriptions. The new idea introduced from the West was that of responsibility, the revolutionary idea that the mere existence of pain or disease involved others in responsibility to alleviate the pain and to cure and prevent the disease. Certainly the story of the Good Samaritan exerted a very strong influence on the lives of those who went as medical missionaries to China, and through those men and women it acted on the embryonic medical profession which was receiving its training from them.

But this sense of responsibility, or conscience, also impelled these people to try to bring to China the best of scientific medicine, for they were convinced that anything less than the best of which they were capable was unworthy and unchristian. They came to believe that the only way in which the values inherent in scientific medicine could be convincingly demonstrated was by the establishment of medical schools sufficiently well equipped and well staffed to provide thoroughly sound training in the basic sciences upon which modern medicine rests. And early in the twentieth century such a programme was developed. At first this was on too grandiose a scale, for the China Medical Missionary Association actually planned for the establishment of at least one good medical school in every province of China. Before long, however, the impossibility of implementing this scheme was apparent and by the amalgamation of some of the schools which had been started and by

the refusal to open new ones the number was gradually reduced to seven or eight, and finally to the four which survived the Sino-Japanese War (West China, Cheeloo, St. John's and Lingnan). Some of these included courses in pharmacy and the West China Union University also had a Faculty of Dentistry. At the same time schools of nursing had been developed in a large number of centres, as well as a number of schools of midwifery and of hospital technology.

In the meantime other developments had been taking place. One of the most important of these occurred in 1921 when the Rockefeller Foundation re-opened the Peking Union Medical College, after taking it over from the founding missions, and later organized the China Medical Board as a supporting foundation. Then for the first time it was possible to demonstrate on Chinese soil what a scientifically adequate medical school should be. The P.U.M.C. was intended as a model, and although it was beyond what other agencies could afford, it exerted an enormous influence upon the development of scientific medicine and of medical education in China, whether under mission, government or other auspices. The other outstanding development was the establishment of government medical schools in various parts of China, some as faculties of national or provincial universities and others as independent colleges of medicine. Sporadic attempts at such had been made for a long time, but it was not until about the third decade of the present century that any of these medical schools seemed to have achieved a permanent basis. In at least one case a mission founded and supported school of medicine became a national college. About the same time other centres of medical education sprang up. Some of these were under foreign auspices and appeared to have as one of their purposes the promotion of prestige for certain nations who felt that the British and the Americans had gained advantages because of the work of their missionary societies and of the China Medical Board. Some were of purely Chinese origin, including a number of rather low grade. To all the above must be added several army medical schools in which the standards were below an acceptable minimum. As a result

of all these processes a total of 27 medical colleges, exclusive of army schools, was listed by the Ministry of Education at the outbreak of war in 1937. Some maintained standards as high as the best in other countries; others fell below what would be tolerated in most European or American lands. Nevertheless, both official policy and general desire were for the education of a medical profession which should equal the best that other nations could produce. As a temporary expedient certain low-grade schools were permitted to exist because it was believed that China's health problems were so vast that they could be solved only by producing large numbers of doctors as quickly as possible, even if standards were not always maintained. But the ultimate aim was a thoroughly scientific and well trained profession, most of which would be incorporated in a system of state medicine. Every possible contact was maintained with international health agencies, and large numbers of medical men and women were sent abroad for advanced training. Most of these returned to become teachers in medical schools.

The rapid progress and expansion was not seriously checked by the difficult years of the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-45. Most of the medical schools in areas occupied by the Japanese moved, ahead of the army of occupation, to new sites in western China. Although such necessarily hurried and difficult treks involved loss of some valuable equipment, the difficulties themselves called forth the best in those who made the moves. Remarkable ingenuity was shown in devising substitute apparatus and research work, even in the basic medical sciences, did not cease. During this period also several entirely new medical colleges were founded. After the war, as the transplanted institutions returned to their former homes, many found themselves stronger than before the war in both staff and equipment. The programme of advanced study abroad for future teachers had been continued all through the war years, assisted by various international agencies. With the war over, new equipment and medical supplies poured into China in an almost embarrassing flood. Everything looked rosy for a great advance.



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Then came the Communist Revolution, and by the end of 1949 the new government was in virtual control of all continental China. At once changes were instituted in almost every phase of life, including medical education. Those which affected medicine most closely may be summarized as follows:

1. *The New Ethics.* This decreed that medicine was not, even in theory, at the service of all men. Medical aid was to be provided only for "the people," but was to be refused to "the enemies of the people." The entire population was divided into two classes: "the people" and "the enemies of the people." The latter group was denied all rights, including the right to medical service. Moreover, it became the duty of the doctor to decide the class to which a prospective patient belonged and then to act accordingly.

2. *Rejection of Scientific Objectivity.* External authority now decided the "truths" that were to be accepted and the "theories" that were to be rejected as false. This began in genetics when the doctrines of Lysenko

became officially "true." It was soon extended into therapeutics where certain methods of treatment (notably what was known as tissue therapy) were promoted by decree, and was finally applied to the entire field of medicine as all teachers in medical colleges were ordered to teach according to the principles of "Pavlovism." Many of those who taught in medical colleges were ordered to Peking for special courses of study in the required ideas and techniques. Objectivity, in science as elsewhere, was condemned. It was insisted that no problem could have two sides, and therefore to question an officially promoted doctrine was traitorous.

Medical centres were ordered to "co-operate with" traditional Chinese medicine. This seemed to mean the uncritical adoption of certain ancient methods of treatment, such as acupuncture.

3. *Lower Standards of Medical Education.* Under the Nationalists recognized medical colleges, except for certain army schools, were held to a minimum course of

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six years. Some required seven and even eight years of training, including pre-medical work and one year of internship. The new government ordered all medical colleges to reduce the course to a maximum of five years, including pre-medical and interne work. A considerable fraction of this reduced curriculum was to be devoted to political training. The number of students was greatly increased, while at the same time fewer qualified teachers were available. Some had escaped to Taiwan or abroad and all foreign teachers left the country or were expelled. Some Chinese professors committed suicide during the "three-anti" movement of 1952, and others were imprisoned to be released later with all impulses to original thinking carefully suppressed. Mass production methods were used in teaching in which the lectures of one professor were reproduced, either verbally by assistants or in mimeographed form, to reach great crowds of students. Opportunities for individual work in laboratory and hospital were correspondingly reduced.

4. *Reorganization of the Medical Profession.* Part of this programme was attempted through a radical revision in medical education to result in every student becoming a "specialist" immediately upon qualification. No more general practitioners were to be produced; instead, the new graduate would be a surgeon or an internist, a paediatrician, an obstetrician or an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist; some would be public health men, some dentists and others pharmacists. In this way the practice of medicine by an individual would soon become impossible, for each clinic would require at least seven or eight persons to include all fields. It is revealing that the period of training for a pharmacist was the same as that for any other "specialist," thus disclosing a deplorable confusion on the part of the educational authorities between those who dispense remedies and those who practise medicine. A further remarkable fact is that no provision was made for the training of diagnosticians. Everyone was to become a specialist in some form of treatment, except for the public health group which was to be expert in prevention.

By further modifications in the educational programme 2-year and 2½-year courses were introduced, also for the training of

"specialists." Before I left China in 1952 the university with which I was connected had been obliged to accept 200 students for such courses. Fifty were to qualify as surgeons, another fifty as eye, ear, nose and throat specialists, fifty more as dentists and the remaining fifty as pharmacists, — all at the end of two and a half years. I believe that these short courses have now been abolished, for even the most doctrinaire communist must have hesitated to trust his eyesight to the skill of the young "specialist" two and a half years out of middle school.

5. *Denunciation of "Western" Medicine and Glorification of Russian Medicine.* This movement indicated a complete misunderstanding of the nature of scientific medicine, which transcends all national boundaries and is truly international. The use of all foreign languages, except Russian, was prohibited in 1950. Translations of Russian textbooks are now used very extensively, but unfortunately much of the work of translation was done very hurriedly by men who appeared to know little of the subject matter, so errors were numerous. Many of the books were too elementary for use in medical education. No doubt improvements have taken place during the last three years.

At the same time western contributions to medicine were denounced, but especially its "idealism," which was now to be replaced by dialectical materialism. The achievements of western scientists were minimized, while those of Russians were exaggerated. Sometimes one would think that Pavlov must have been the only person who had made any great contribution to scientific medicine, for almost every "truth" was made to stem from him.

The future of medical education on the Chinese mainland is uncertain. At present, only a minimum of information filters out. Some of it bears the rosy hues of propaganda; some of it is black with pessimism. Until free communication is restored, and the medical educators of China and of other countries are once more permitted free access to each other's institutions we can only guess at what is going on.

In Formosa a medical college is included in the University of Taiwan, and there is at least one military medical school on the island. I have not visited Formosa, so have

no first-hand information, but from reports received and from the amount of American assistance that is being given it is probable that real progress is being made and that a modern medical college is being developed in the university there.

I now turn to the British colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore. A medical college was started in the former about 70 years ago, in the founding of which Patrick Manson and James Cantlie (both knighted later) had major shares. Through its early years the college was closely associated with the hospitals of the London Missionary Society. Its most famous graduate, although he never practised medicine, was Sun Yat Sen whose life was saved some years later by Sir James Cantlie after he had been kidnapped in London by agents of the Manchu Government. Not until 1911 was a university organized in Hong Kong, and the College of Medicine then became its Faculty of Medicine. Work was interrupted by the recent war, during which buildings and equipment were destroyed. But in 1946 it was re-established and has progressed rapidly to become larger and better equipped than before its destruction. At present it graduates about 50 students each year, but plans to reduce this number somewhat by limiting the entering class to 50.

In Singapore a School of Medicine was opened in 1905, later named the King Edward VII College of Medicine. Its work was also interrupted by the war, but was resumed immediately afterwards with renewed vigour. In 1949, the College of Medicine was amalgamated with Raffles College to form the present University of Malaya. This contains the only centre of medical education for Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. The official programme of the university calls for expansion until about 100 medical students qualify as doctors each year, but at present the average number of graduates is less than one half of this figure.

The medical faculties of the Universities of Hong Kong and Malaya have certain similarities due to their British origin and British connection. Both are faculties of universities which are careful to preserve their autonomy and academic freedom. Although they receive generous government

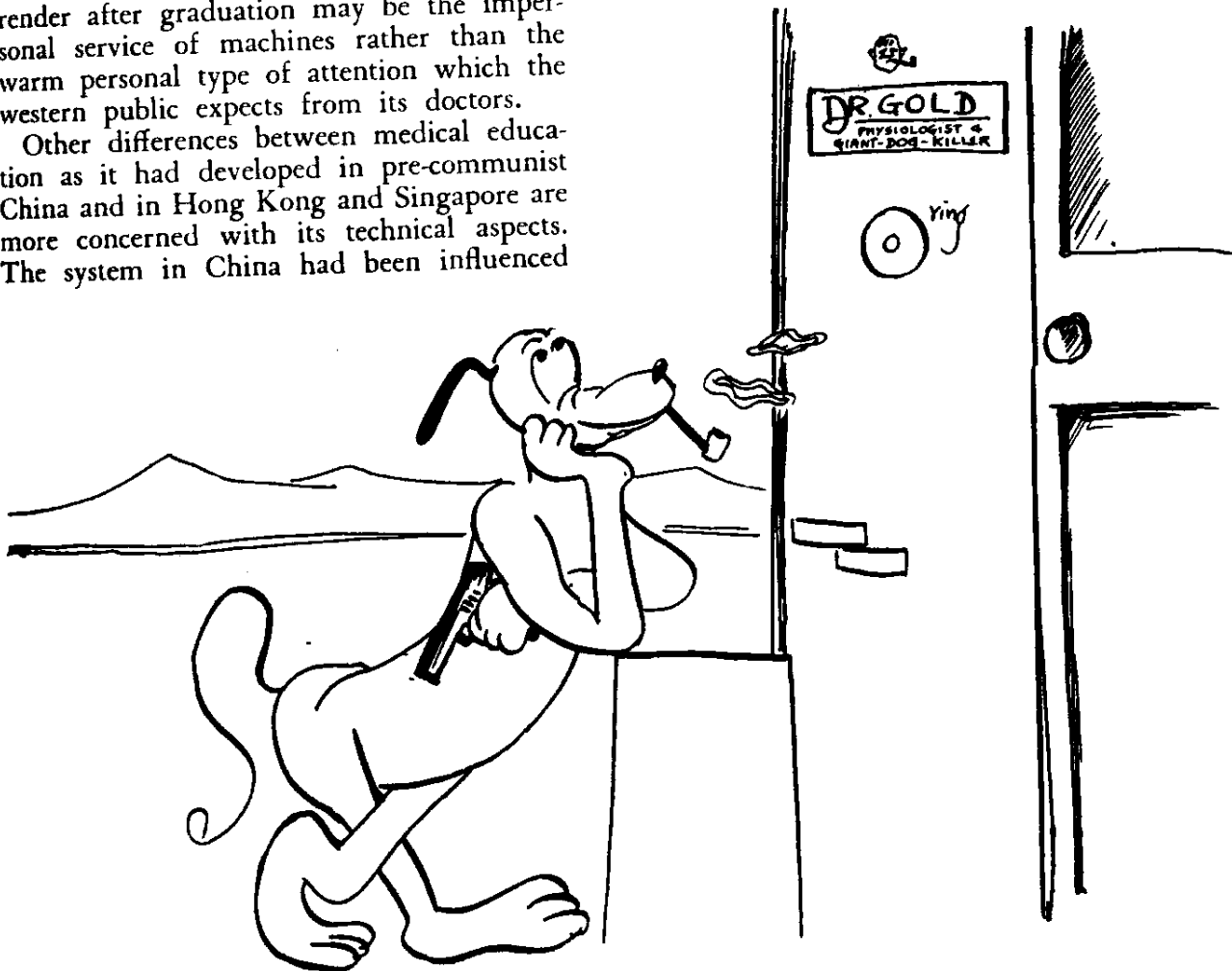
grants (much more generous in Singapore than in Hong Kong) they are not "government universities." Government has no direct control over policy, staff or curriculum. Indirectly, by reducing or threatening to reduce financial support a government could make it difficult or impossible for the university to carry out a policy of which it disapproved, but pressure exerted in this way would result immediately in such an outcry that its attempt is doubtful. In this heritage of academic freedom these universities differ radically from those in China. In pre-communist China, even private universities were compelled to follow the general regulations of the Ministry of Education, although a certain latitude in interpreting the regulations was permitted. For example, the standard medical curriculum allowed a 20 per cent. variation in either direction from the required number of teaching hours for each subject. But in addition, many other variations were unofficially or tacitly agreed to. A six-year course, including pre-medicine and internship, was decreed. Nevertheless, the Peking Union Medical College required eight years of university work, and both Cheeloo and West China Union universities refused to cut their courses to less than seven years. Except for a formal protest each year from the Ministry, following its annual inspection, no action was taken. In communist China the system is completely rigid. There are no private universities, and every institution down to its smallest details is controlled from above. Political representatives sit in all university meetings to see that there is no departure from the centrally directed policy. Up until the time I left China in 1952 the representatives came armed to the meetings. Academic freedom, as it is treasured in Hong Kong and Singapore, would be regarded as treason in Peking or Chengtu.

There are other differences between medical education in pre-communist China and in the British territories. My impression is that fewer students in China entered upon the study of medicine with commercial motives than in Hong Kong. A higher proportion seemed to possess ideals of service to the community. Quite probably some of this difference was due to the high financial returns awaiting the medical prac-

itioner in post-war Hong Kong in contrast to the meagre rewards expected by the majority of doctors in China. With the development of state medicine in China few medical practitioners expected to become rich, aside from some of the more highly qualified specialists in the larger cities. In communist China even these have lost what wealth they formerly possessed or hoped to possess. How communism will affect the idealism of the average medical student remains to be seen. Up to the time I left China the students with whom I came into contact were those who had entered the university of their own free will and had elected to take medicine before the communists came into power. Many of them were dismayed at communist ethics, but pleased with the emphasis on service to the people. As new generations of more fully indoctrinated students enter the medical schools to which they are assigned it is probable that they will see no conflict between communist ethics and communist idealism. But the service that they will render after graduation may be the impersonal service of machines rather than the warm personal type of attention which the western public expects from its doctors.

Other differences between medical education as it had developed in pre-communist China and in Hong Kong and Singapore are more concerned with its technical aspects. The system in China had been influenced

more by those of North American countries than by those of Britain, continental Europe or Japan, whereas the Universities of Hong Kong and Malaya are closely patterned after those of the United Kingdom. In general, slightly more stress is laid upon the pre-medical and pre-clinical sciences in North America and the medical course is erected upon a broader foundation, which often includes such subjects as psychology, anthropology, statistics, genetics, sociology and foreign languages. The British universities tend to spend more time on the clinical aspects of medicine, to allow the individual student greater freedom and then to fail him at examination if he cannot demonstrate that he has used his freedom wisely. The North American system tries to select for the study of medicine only those students who have been so well prepared that there is relatively little likelihood of future failure. The British system admits younger and less mature students in considerably larger numbers than can be graduated, and then weeds out or delays the graduation of the less



suitable. A student may spend years in trying to pass the final examinations, and almost every medical school has its stories of those who have finally succeeded after perhaps a dozen or so semi-annual attempts. Which system produces better doctors has not been decided. Probably the stature of the good physician is less determined by the system than by the quality of the men under whom he has studied. I am convinced that the personal influence of the great teacher and the traditions which descend from him to later generations are among the most important assets of any medical school. The student who is so unfortunate that he misses exposure to these graduates with a handicap. It is one of the tragedies of Asian medicine that the present regime in China is doing its best to defame almost all those who taught in the past and to destroy every trace of them from the memory of the present generation of students. In other countries, such as Hong Kong and Malaya, the war caused such a break in continuity that many of the old traditions were lost and new ones are having to be created.

My knowledge of medical education in the Philippines is much more superficial. Three years ago I spent a month there in rather intensive study of the situation, and unfortunately formed some unhappy impressions. The University of the Philippines, the government university in Manila, was then the only university able to provide an adequate type of medical education but even it was facing difficulties. It was said that politics played too prominent a role in the administration of the university and in the selection of staff. Salaries for full-time teachers were inadequate, so that most of them had to do outside practice to make ends meet. Since I was there, however, the university has received considerable American assistance in staff and equipment. The China Medical Board, for example, has provided the College of Medicine with a new library building, and well qualified senior men have been supplied on a temporary basis by various American and international organizations. The educational standards of the University of the Philippines are good, and those who graduate there should be well prepared. The system follows that of the United States.

Of the four other medical schools then in the Philippines, one has had a long history. The University of Santo Thomas was established in 1587 by Spanish missionaries, but its Faculty of Medicine was not opened until 1871. Unfortunately this university finds it necessary to accept enormous numbers of medical students, and I was informed that 1,200 was the size of the first year class (1,000 new students and 200 students repeating the work of the first year). The university was not equipped or staffed to handle this number, but since it was entirely dependent upon student fees for its maintenance it found it necessary to accept these enormous classes in order to meet expenses. This is a most pernicious system, and makes impossible any sort of adequate medical education. But there were worse medical schools in the Philippines, at least one of which was so frankly a commercial project that it made no secret of the fact that the first charge each year against its income, derived entirely from student fees, was the dividend that had to be paid to the owners of the school. Only after this had been met might staff salaries be paid, and if anything then remained supplies and apparatus for teaching might be purchased.

In view of this commercialization of medical education it is not surprising that the Philippines faces a most serious situation in the distribution of its doctors. In 1952, at the time of my visit, about 7,600 physicians were registered, nearly one half of whom were in Manila and environs. In this region the physician/population ratio was about 1/500, but in many of the provinces it ranged from 1/10,000 to 1/35,000. Unless the commercial spirit is replaced by more idealistic motives the health problems of the rural areas will remain unsolved without stringent government action to force the doctors into a system of state medicine able to provide facilities for the less favoured regions. It is probable that state medicine in some form is the only practical solution in most of South East Asia, not only because of the prevalence of commercialized medicine, but also because of the poverty of so many of the people and the high cost of scientific medicine. Today no doctor wishes to practise beyond the reach of a hospital containing expensive equipment and a trained staff of nurses and

technicians. In addition, the powerful drugs which have replaced to a great extent the naturally occurring remedies common a generation or two ago are relatively much more costly. In the long run it is usually cheaper to cure a patient with a few doses of a highly potent but expensive substance, but few patients realize this or are able to meet the cost of modern treatment. Therefore, they may continue for weeks or months in states of invalidism or semi-invalidism although a few days of proper treatment could have wrought a cure. Only an effective state-financed system of public health, including both preventive and curative medicine, will overcome the difficulty. I am convinced, however, that the plan now being tried in communist China will not prove very successful since it is handicapped by lack of money to purchase the needed drugs and equipment, especially those not produced in China; by false national pride which insists on the so-called co-operation between traditional, pre-scientific, Chinese medicine with modern scientific medicine; by lowered standards in medical education, the results of which will deprive the profession of adequate leadership; and by officially imposed doctrine which prevent local initiative and experimentation. By avoiding these errors the Philippines may be able to solve their health problems, provided they are willing to make some radical changes in the present situation.

Thailand I visited very briefly in 1954. Medical education began there about 60 years ago, and at present there are two medical schools in Bangkok, both of which are connected with the University of Chulalongkorn. A site for a third medical school, to be a part of the same university,

had been acquired in Bangkok also. Apparently the policy is to centralize all medical education in the capital under the control of the government university.

My visit was a very brief one, therefore only a few sketchy impressions are possible. The medical schools appeared to be understaffed and not too well equipped, although there was great variation among departments. However, new buildings were being erected for both schools, new equipment was being installed, a considerable number of the staff was studying abroad whose return would materially strengthen both schools, and quite a lot of help was being given from American sources. All this should result in much improvement. I had the feeling, however, that the common mistake of accepting too many students for the facilities available was being made here also. Some of the classes numbered close to 200. The general picture confirmed a long-standing belief that the health problems of South East Asia cannot be solved by either tacitly allowing the standards of medical education to fall in order to give inadequate training to large numbers of students, or by deliberately shortening the period of training



and admitting large classes. The latter policy, the deliberate reduction in educational requirements, is being followed in communist China. The tacit approval of low standards is to be seen in the Philippines and possibly in Thailand also, although in the latter country the centralization of all medical education under one government university may permit rapid advance to a satisfactory level.

In conclusion, I offer a few brief statements, which may help you to see the situation in medical education and the

problems which the medical profession faces in several of the countries of East Asia.

1. The health problems in this area, especially the problems of rural health, cannot be solved by any of the traditional systems of pre-scientific medicine developed in China or elsewhere. Only modern scientific medicine, which is expensive, is able to offer a programme of curative and preventive medicine adequate to the situation.

2. Where the majority of the people are poor or relatively uneducated, or both, only some form of state medicine can be effective.

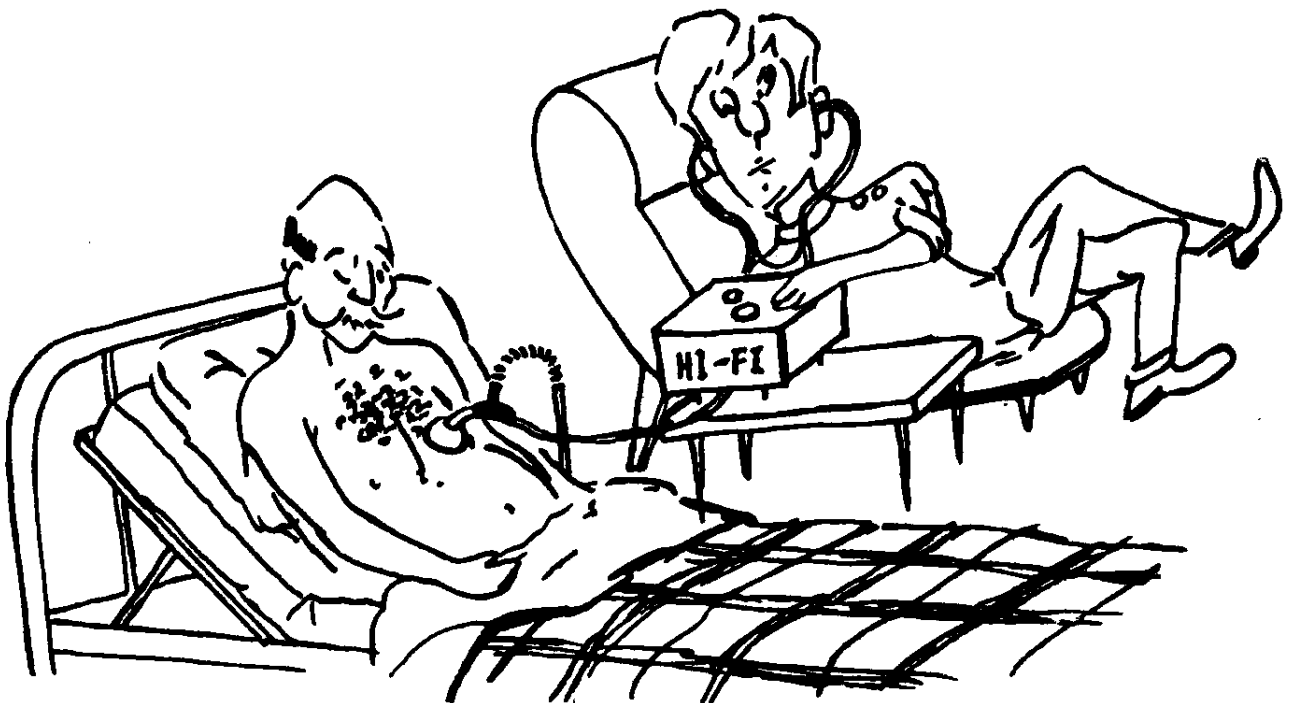
3. Any system of state medicine can succeed only if the medical profession, which must operate it, is composed of

scientifically well qualified men and women motivated by the high ethical idealism which is characteristic of the medical profession at its best.

4. Such a medical profession cannot be produced if educational standards are lowered. The subsidiary personnel, necessary for the programme, must not be trained as doctors but as various grades of nurses, technicians and assistants.

5. Freedom to experiment must be permitted both in medical education and in the methods by which the doctor serves the public. Bureaucracy and authoritarianism stifle progress, and progress must be constant if today's and tomorrow's problems are to be solved.

LESLIE G. KILBORN.



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#### ARGUMENTS ON MEASURING NUTS END IN A DRAW

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# Aer Bathing Suit Became Transparent

## Firm Sued For \$20,000

Charleston,

South Carolina, Aug. 10.

Claudia A. Hamilton of Dillon County says she went swimming in a new bathing suit at a South Carolina beach and when she emerged she suffered the following:

Mortification and humiliation, shock, permanent injury to her nerves and "psydic injury to her personality."

The bathing suit, from the waist down, became transparent, she claims in her suit for \$20,000 against the Glamour Shops, Inc., of New York. She said she purchased the garment in the firm's Dillon shop.

Crowds spotted her rising from the sea in a semi-nude state, she claims, and a friend rushed to knock her back into the water to cover her from the gaping males.

She said she was forced to walk the gauntlet up the strand encased in a towel "for protection from the leers of the public..."—Associated Press.



*Claudia A. Hamilton from the County of Dillon  
In her brand new bathing suit went a'swimmon,  
But on paddling back to the Caroline Shore  
She didn't have on what she thought she'd wore;  
Shocked, horrified, ashamed and shaken was she  
To perceive her person twixt waist and knee.*

*But there's a silver linin' to every cloud  
(Even when one's modesty is bruised and bowed)  
She took her bathing suit back to the shop  
Saying, 'You'se guys'll pay plenty for blowing the top!  
'Glamour is your name, but it's best concealed,  
'For the better parts o'wimmin should never be revealed'*

DOUGLAS BLAND



# THE MEDICAL HOP



THE LARGEST COMPANY of undergraduates ever to pay good money for dance tickets, crowded the Great Hall on the night of May 28th.

The girls were all beautiful, and the gentlemen the handsomest lot that ever were seen. Either the girls were shy of their beauty, or the gentlemen were afraid of losing their lovely partners to unprincipled rivals, because almost the whole exciting business was conducted in twilight.

A brief concession of light was made during the supper interval, however, and then the few gentlemen in the Hall who were not completely absorbed in their own popsies, did have a chance to see what visions of grace they had been missing in the dark. The impression gained was that the ladies were delighted at this opportunity for showing off their gowns, but that the gentlemen wished that everybody, and particularly photographers, would just mind their own business, and why don't the lights go off again quick?



So stimulating was the atmosphere, that at one stage a fine specimen of Male Fern, or *Dryopteris Felix-mas*, began sprouting from the scalp of the Professor of Medicine.

As usual, raffle prizes had poured in from our friends, and for a full half-hour the President's wife had the time of her life handing out riches to everybody in the place except, or so it seemed to him, your humble reporter.







Miss Daphne Yeo was obviously tickled pink by her prize, and everybody was delighted when the Dean's wife scored a bottle of brandy.

Finally the Pro Vice-Chancellor nobly bid \$157, and secured, in the face of bitter opposition, a grand surprise package, auctioned by Mr. Tunnell. The money went to the Scholarship Fund, but nobody ever did discover what was in the parcel.

Arthur, up there on the far left, and Gordon, up there on the far right, did us all very well.



## YACK YACK YACKETY YACK YACK YACK



*Behold the women!*

*The  
 Trilly thrilly  
 Rather silly;  
 Chatter natter  
 Rather scatter  
 Brained young women;  
 Who know nothing  
 Except that they ARE women.  
 Who do not even know  
 That it is not enough  
 To know  
 Nothing -  
 Except that they ARE women.*

LITTLER

## A SCIENTIST'S ODDYSEY

THERE ARE ODD unhappy students in our midst who impress us less by their capacity for independent thought than by their proficiency in memory. And a climate of opinion has set in here and elsewhere, which (somewhat injudiciously) associates with this a general conclusion about Chinese intellectual habits; so that there is a notion dispassionately expressed, as I have heard, that Chinese students of science do good work as members of a research team rather than in relative independence. This may or may not be a genuine psychological problem, but there can be no doubt that the assiduous bibliolatry and the rooted worship of ancient authority in the traditional culture had created a pattern of intellectual life in many respects foreign to the questing, agnostic and scientific temper of modern times.

The common mistake made when pursuing such a question is that of accepting comfortable pseudo-biological explanations; and the danger is there when one fails to appreciate the importance of learning and of cultural incentives and is thereby obliged to seek an explanation, for example, in Race. Nothing can be more facile than to write certain abstract nouns with capital letters, apotheosize them, and thus to find in them ultimate explanations. Similarly, it is only a little less easy to beatify, as it were, Language, and, unmindful that it was invented by man for practical use and not discovered perfectly formed in nature, see in it a sufficient principle of explanation.

Those who are less infatuated and credulous will ask for more. Intellectual creativity and originality are both psychological and social problems, and express themselves in the humanistic as well as the natural sciences. The fruitful question to ask is, why did science and scientific technology not develop in China? It does not require much boldness to pose this question, but he must be possessed of considerable *hubris* who attempts to answer it. Fung Yu-lan and Hu Shih have given partial answers, but, confined as they are to philosophy and logic, they do not satisfy even a lay enquirer.

At last we have now the conclusion of a scholar-scientist, who has devoted more than a decade to the elucidation of this problem. No one but Dr. Needham\* could have undertaken the task, and the results of his labours are given in seven volumes which will long adorn British learning, and which have already been compared to the greatest works of the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe.

The author holds officially the title of Reader in Biochemistry in Cambridge University, but has long evinced broad philosophical and humanistic interests. After making important discoveries in biochemistry, he turned to the strategic field of chemical embryology, which forced upon him the fundamental problems mechanism and vitalism, of particle and field, part and whole, and of form and process. To a deep concern for the philosophy of organism he added a profound interest in the history of science and technology, especially in their social and economic aspects. He acquired a knowledge of Chinese and travelled widely in China, first going there on the invitation of the British Government as scientific liaison officer during the last war. He thus had an unrivalled opportunity to pursue his interests, and contributed a series of articles on scientific activities in war-time China to *Nature*. He has been able to collect an immense amount of material, and with the help of a Chinese collaborator, Mr. Wang Ling, of Academia Sinica and Trinity College, Cambridge, has been for several years critically evaluating, collating and translating them.

The scope of this work is best indicated by the questions which the author asked of himself. 'Why should the science of China have remained, broadly speaking, on a level continuously empirical, restricted to theories of primitive or medieval type? How, if this was so, did the Chinese succeed in forestalling in many important matters the scientific and technical discoveries of the

\**Science and Civilization in China*, Vol. 1, by Joseph Needham, F.R.S., Cambridge Univ. Press, 1954. 52/6.

*dramatis personae* of the celebrated "Greek miracle", in keeping pace with the Arabs (who had all the treasures of the ancient western world at their disposal), and in maintaining, between the 3rd and the 13th centuries, a level of scientific knowledge unapproached in the west? How could it have been that the weakness of China in theory and geometrical systematisation did not prevent the emergence of technological discoveries and inventions often far in advance (as we shall have little difficulty in showing) of contemporary Europe, especially up to the 15th century? What were the inhibiting factors in Chinese civilisation which prevented a rise of modern science in Asia analogous to that which took place in Europe from the 16th century onwards, and which proved one of the basic factors in the moulding of modern world order?

And lastly he asks a more controversial question touching on his own philosophical interests: 'how was it that Chinese backwardness in scientific theory co-existed with the growth of an organic philosophy of Nature, interpreted in many differing forms by different schools, but closely resembling that which modern science has been forced to adopt after three centuries of mechanical materialism?' The characterisation of Chinese thought as organismic is now a fashionable theme, but Dr. Needham's discussion will no doubt give weight to the apparently independent conclusion of L. Abegg in her semi-popular book, *The Mind of East Asia*.

There must, of course, be a certain amount of common ground before comparisons of this kind can be attempted. When Europe in the 17th century nurtured Galileo, Kepler, Harvey and Newton, China sustained Ch'en Ti, Ku Yen-wu and Jen Jo-ch'u. The first two Chinese founded in China the science of phonology, and the last philology; and in so doing they made use of the inductive method and developed a body of knowledge 'answering to the most rigorous canons of evidence, accuracy and logical systemization'. But whereas the Europeans worked on stars, balls, levers, inclined planes and the human body, the Chinese studied words, books and documents. As Hu Shih said, while Chinese humanistic science only created more book learning, Western natural science created a new world. There were odd anticipations

of western scientific knowledge, e.g., the recognition of the nature of fossils, the calculation of the intervals for an equal-tempered scale, but none of the specific sciences were liberated. Priorities in discovery naturally are of no importance at all for the history of the established sciences, for these had to be brought to China by the Jesuits in the early 17th century; they are however of the greatest importance for the understanding of the development, not only of Chinese, but also of Western civilization (and can we not say, also of ourselves?). Let us turn then to the contents of the book.

This first volume has an important bibliographical introduction, and gives a general geographical and historical survey of the old Empire. The most notable sections deal with the travel of scientific ideas and techniques between China and Europe, and it is revealing to read of the numerous technical developments in China which antedated mostly by several centuries what was found in the West, and which were in all probability transmitted westwards. (Dr. Needham relies on primary sources to a very large extent, references being given in Chinese script.) Eastward with the Jesuits travelled the screw, the crankshaft, clock-work and the force-pump for fluids. But westwards had spread not only those familiar inventions which helped to break down feudal castles in Europe and make possible the exploration of the seas and the dissemination of learning, but many others besides. An interesting quotation from Francis Bacon's *Novum Organon* is given on p. 19. These facts are of course nothing more than historical curiosities, but even as such they are of sufficient interest for some of the commoner examples to be noted: canal lock-gates, piston bellows, cross-bow, cast-iron, segmented arch bridge, iron-chain suspension bridge, porcelain, kites, helicopter tops, silk handling machinery, draw-loom, chain pump; and somewhat later, the use of coal and paper money. Nevertheless, the question is raised whether Dr. Toynbee's characterization of Western civilization as possessing, uniquely, a 'mechanical penchant' is accurate. The divergency in later development between China and the West makes doubly significant the problem to which the author has addressed himself.

The whole work, we are informed, is finished in manuscript, and the present volume gives the tables of contents of later ones. Volume 2 dealing with the History of Chinese Scientific Thought will be of general interest; it will be the first time that a distinguished natural scientist and philosopher of science has submitted the whole field of Chinese thought and civilization to examination. Of special interest to medical men, and particularly psychiatrists will be the section on the judicial trials of animals, contrasting European and Chinese attitudes to biological abnormalities. Volume 3 deals with Mathematics and the Sciences of the Heavens and the Earth. Volume 4 is concerned with Physics, Engineering and Technology. Volume 5 is devoted to Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry. Volume 6, dealing with Biology, Agriculture and Medicine, will no doubt be the first really satisfactory treatment of the nature of Chinese medicine with due consideration of its principles and techniques against the general background of scientific development, as well as its social relationships. Sections on forensic medicine, social medicine and the status of the medical practitioner are included. Too often discussions of Chinese medicine fail to go beyond a mere cataloguing of certain empirical achievements in pharmaceuticals and general therapeutics, the recognition of certain diseases, and the bald recital of underlying proto-scientific ideas. Wong and Wu's work is not free from criticism in this respect and the occasional papers that one sees in popular journals are insufferably naive. The last and 7th volume will from the author's point of view be the most important as it deals in general with the Social Background. In this he discusses, as limiting factors to the development of modern science, the special characteristics of the old feudal bureaucratism, the inhibition of capital accumulation by merchants and of its application in industry, language, logic, antagonism between mental and manual work, the custom of keeping technical ideas within the family, and the role of religion.

One notes that there is no attention given to psychology as such. No doubt the scope of this subject is difficult to delimit, but the interests of modern empirical psychology are well defined and it would be useful to see what the ancients have written in this

respect. That this is not an impractical suggestion is proved by the fact that already American psychologists have found interest in a translation of a third century work on personality types, Liu Shao's *Jen Wu Chih* (translated by Shryock in 1937). There was of course no recognition of psychology as such in the traditional philosophy, but in fact Confucian formulations were often psychological in content. For instance, the well-known passage in *Ta Hsueh* concerning the cultivation of the individual and the foundation of social order, which Fairbank has cited as an example of lack of logic, is in fact a pithy discussion of educational psychology.

But let us desist from pedantry. Let us, with Lao Tse, sacrifice the sages, and put away the professors. I have myself come to know the book as an excellent bedside companion, not because of a surfeit in me of phlegm or a constitutional weakness of my sinews, but because a book like this, dealing with little known aspects of a whole civilization, is bound to contain many facts capable of whiling away the twilight hours of even the most listless. The section on bibliographic sources, for example, is a fascinating introduction to the tools and materials of the sinologist, so that marginal men like us, after reading it, will be able to see him in somewhat more human proportions. On p. 135 there is an account of a most interesting scholar-naturalist and technician, Shen Kua, who kept notes wherever he travelled of all manner of strange and rare things, a man whose fussiness and meticulousness was surely obsessional in basis. Then there is on p. 219 a story concerning the great Arabic physician and alchemist, Rhazes (c. 900), and a Chinese scholar who was his guest. The latter, we are told, mastered Arabic in five months and before he left took down in Chinese shorthand the sixteen books of Galen with perfect accuracy, faster than it could be read to him in Arabic. On p. 218 there is an account of a 14th century Persian physician and Prime Minister who caused a compilation to be made of Chinese medical knowledge, and curiously enough proclaimed that the Chinese ideographic language was the most suitable language for science because, unlike the alphabetical languages, the meaning of a word did not depend on its pronunciation.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Since our last issue went to press we have received the following donations to our Scholarship Fund: Professor L. G. Kilborn, \$100; N. V. A. Croucher Esq., \$93; Proceeds from Auction at Medical Society Dance, \$157. These gifts are most gratefully acknowledged. The Fund's total to date is \$3,808.

Contributions may be sent to: The Circulation Manager, Elixir, c/o Department of Physiology, Hong Kong University. Cheques should be made payable to: Hong Kong University Medical Society Elixir Account.

It is interesting to learn that Mongol and Chinese girls were sold as slaves in Florence during the 14th and 15th centuries. Dr. Needham remarks with unconscious humour that they contributed useful genes to the European population, but wonders if they also transmitted any ideas or techniques (p. 189). On p. 211 he mentions a Chinese pharmacist who rejected certain Indian and other drugs, pointing out in a foot-note that 'although he was a northerner from Hopei, he was a great enemy of onions'. Seldom has humour been more cunningly hidden amidst so much learning! But this is not uncharacteristic of the author.

He also relates (p. 150) how one day, while reading a Taoist text under the guidance of the late Professor Haloun at Cambridge, the latter desired to skip certain passages which he thought were simply nonsensical fables about animals; but, insisting on going through these, he discovered to his astonishment that the Taoist was saying that certain marine animals changed in size following the waxing and waning of the moon, an observation which he remembered Aristotle himself had recorded, and which a biologist confirmed in 1924. He asks if a Greek-speaking Scyth could have transmitted Aristotle's observation to a Chinese-speaking Hun, and thinks this improbable. It is the vast expanse of space

and time over which the author's thought so nimbly ranges that makes this book so intriguing. And (although Dr. Needham does not make this point himself) this incident he reports suggests how rewarding it could be for natural scientists to turn sinologues; and how sinology, as a body of systematically evaluated knowledge, could perhaps have been peculiarly moulded because of the circumstance that almost all sinologists have been *littérateurs* and humanists.

The idea of a systematic study of the present subject, which impelled him to go all the way to China, took shape in his mind nearly twenty years ago, as he tells us, when three Chinese students settled in Cambridge to work for their doctorates in biochemistry and first introduced him to the language. He regards them, in characteristic imagery, as the hormone or evocator of this book, and it is dedicated to the father of one of them, a 'Merchant-Apothecary of the City of Nanking'. No more graceful tribute has been paid by teacher to student; and no student journeying abroad to become a *chuang-yuan*, as the saying goes, could have worthier reason for his existence.

P. M. YAP.



**SIR ARTHUR  
MORSE ANNOYED**

**Strike's Blow At  
Tourism**

**SERIOUS DAMAGE**

S.C.M.P.

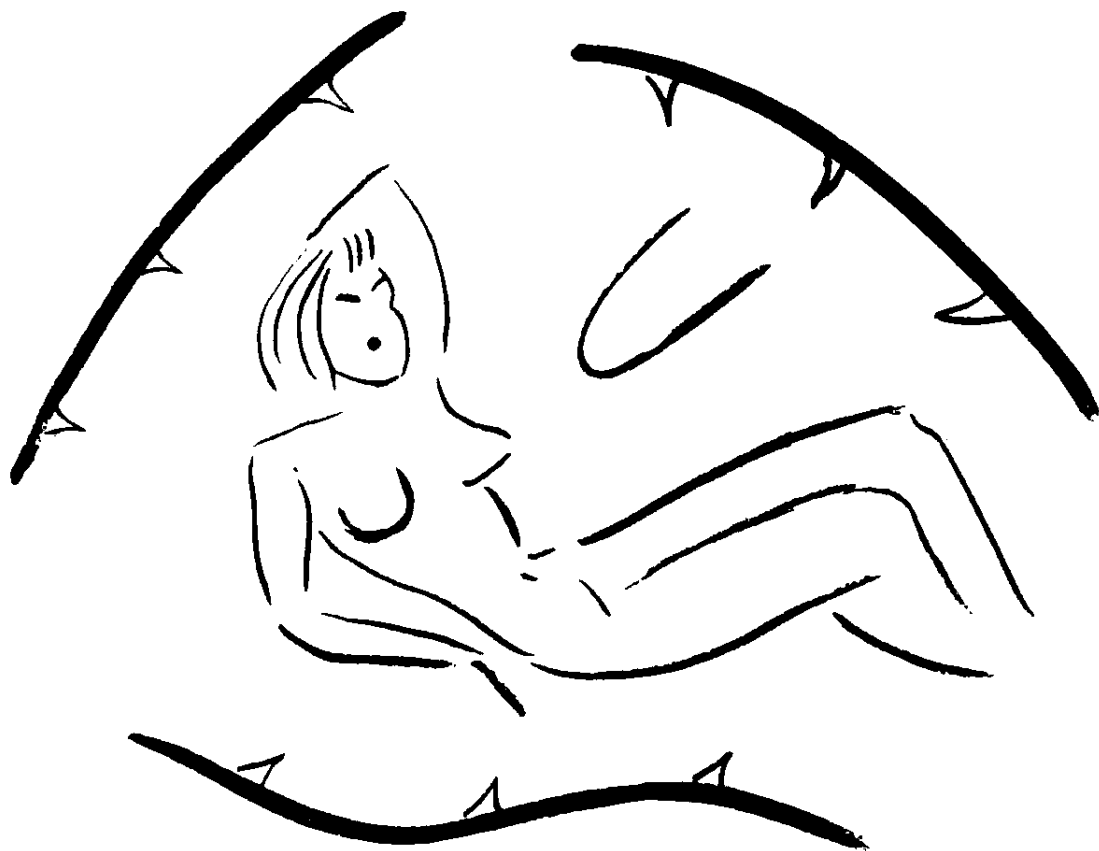
But that's what's bound to happen when you get a large man lashing out at something smaller than himself.



**U.S. NEGRO GROUP PASSES  
MOTION**

Headline, S.C.M.P.

Feeling the black draught?



## INNOCENCE

(The Sleeping Princess)

*I do not live by thought oppressed,  
In my wonder happiest,  
Sleeping on the pleasurable night  
Of innocence,  
And leaping into gladness on the wave  
Of mighty stars, that seem to have  
No other use, but for magnificence.*

*The mild horses halt by the thorn,  
The gentle generous knights get down,  
Tangling the spiny curse about their hearts  
In bloody plight,  
And spangling all the thicket with their lives,  
The while I sleep. With bitter hooves  
The idle chargers clump in the moonlight.*

*The uses of my dreams grow old,  
The stars recede, the winds unfold;  
An ebb deserts, a flood engulfs my soul.  
For he is near.  
The prince, the terrible beloved stands  
Within the door; his vivid hands  
Even with a fond touch wake fear.*

## CHASTITY

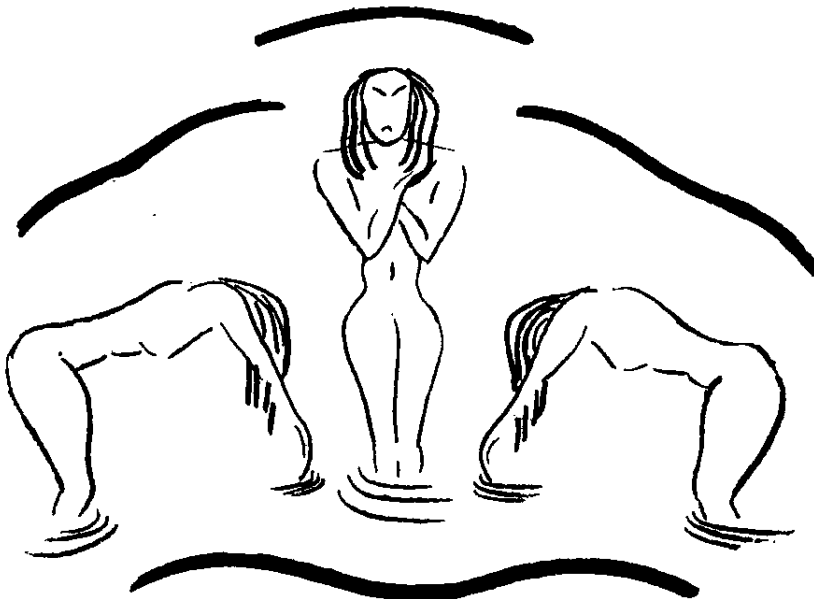
(The death of Actaeon)

*Diana, the Lady, stalked  
Forth in a great brightness.  
Very cruel, and excellently proud,  
Very unfamiliar and chaste,  
Stalked Diana, down a little hill,  
Not bending the grass or the little flowers.  
And the spring air came and went out from her lips,  
And curled inside her tunic and out, and  
Took no heat or odour from her breast,  
Neither inside nor out, none was there.*

*And she bathed in a dense grove, in a cold pool,  
In a covert of hot girls, whom punishment awaited  
For inevitable lapses  
(some were made rooted trees, and some formless water);  
And animals stood by, of the thin-legged  
And small-headed kinds, imbecilic, fleet,  
Timid, and malicious.*

*Such a beast, but more noble-looking,  
Senior, with wide horns,  
Made this goddess of a hardy man, and he,  
When his silly hounds brought him to bay,  
Cried not 'Mercy Diana, Goddess, pity me!  
Nor with his dainty and sharp hoofs sought  
To work shrewdly about their solid chests  
And flat frowning heads,  
But "Down Slayer!" he tried with a long mouth to say  
"Oh Herakles, Tiger, not know me! Oh, my life is gone!"*

ADRIAN ROWE-EVANS.



## INVISIBLE MEN?

THE FIRST FACT I learned about the University of Hong Kong was that it grew out of Hong Kong Medical School. After I began to teach in the Faculty of Arts I discovered that some of the students to whom I was attempting to discourse on English poetry were frustrated doctors, victims of the Second M.B., which was represented to me with doubtful accuracy as a kind of massacre of the innocents. These unfortunates were gallantly making the best of the Faculty of Arts but every now and then their eyes would stray longingly towards, presumably, the School of Anatomy. Of actual medical students, however, I saw nothing. They were said to be incarcerated up Pokfulum Road, working like dogs and invisible even on such colourful occasions as union elections and Women Undergraduates' Club tea-parties.

At the end of three years in the University, however, I have actually seen some of our potential doctors: I know that they may be found playing cricket, or the piano, or collecting subscriptions for *Elixir*. On the occasion of the visit of Prof. Braun-Tigerstedt (of blessed memory) they were even to be heard as far as the Great Hall where the Faculty of Arts was bent over its desks being, as we quaintly say, examined. But we do not see them very often. This leads me to meditate discursively on the question: What constitutes university life?

This is a hoary question and I ought to apologise for asking it again. But the problem in Hong Kong seems resistant to solution. My struggles with the expressive but bewildering Cantonese language have at least reached the point where I know that a University is a Big School. The name is unfortunate. School is a nine-till-five affair from which the student escapes in the evening: a university (whatever the original meaning of the word) suggests an all-embracing learned institution. A Big School is a place where knowledge is unloaded from teacher to pupil: a university is a centre for study, research and the exchange of ideas. It would, of course, be grossly unrealistic,

even if it were desirable, to suggest that students pursue knowledge for its own sake: nearly all need the job at the end (although if academic work is not, at any rate for part of the time, a pleasure, a student must count himself unfortunate). Dean Gaisford was at least honest when in a sermon preached before the University of Oxford he praised the study of Greek for its ennobling and uplifting effects and added that "it also leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument". What Greek was in nineteenth-century Oxford, perhaps, medicine is in twentieth-century Hong Kong – except that medicine is probably more useful.

University education is vocational not only in the sense that it provides X with a liberal spread of butter on his bread (or shrimps in his chow faan, as you will) but also in the sense that it trains X to do what his community needs from him. Our University was clearly one of the products of the needs of China and South-East Asia for doctors, technicians, scientists and officials. Thus Hart, who was much interested in the project of a university in Hong Kong, wrote to Lugard in 1909: "Applied science will suit the Chinese requirements": and Lugard spoke of the University, at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone in 1910, as a place where young Chinese men (not women; they had to wait for admission for another eleven years) could acquire higher western education more cheaply than by going to Britain, Europe or America, and with less disruption of national and family ties. If this were all, the University would have been little more than a technical institute. In fact, the Preamble to the Ordinance establishing the University already says rather more and suggests what the founders had in mind:

"Whereas it is desirable to establish a University within the Colony of Hong Kong for the promotion of Learning, Arts, Science and Research, the provision of higher education, the conferring of degrees, the development and formation of the character of students of



all races, nationalities and creeds, and the maintenance of good understanding with the neighbouring country of China:"

"The development and formation of character" sounds somewhat old-fashioned today, but it will serve as well as a more streamlined phrase. It implies that a student ought to find in the University new aspects of himself; he ought to become a person. "The University" cannot do this for him. (What, anyway, is "The University" in this context?) He can only do it for himself, helped by an atmosphere of civilisation and tolerance in which he, his ideas, his personality, matter. His ideas will probably not be original, they may even be idiotic, but it is only by entertaining them and giving them head-room that he will ever develop ideas which are more original and less idiotic.

Did the founders merely pay lip-service to the idea of a university? It seems not. In the small university of those days, each faculty must have been less isolated from the others; students, intermingling, educated each other without realising it.

After about 1925 a new note enters the pronouncements of university dignitaries. The University should be, it is now said, a meeting-place of cultures, not merely a place where Asian students acquire western techniques. The motives underlying this change of policy seem to have been mixed: but if the idea is valid the motives are of minor importance. Crudely stated, it means that when a student at last puts on his bachelor's gown and hood and poses outside the Chemistry Building to have his photograph taken he has not only acquired Letters After His Name, but he has also become wiser in the ways of the west, as well as those of his own cultural heritage; and of course it also means that foreign members of the University, staff or students, have learned more of the ways of China. On the level of post-graduate research it means a great deal more, but this is not my theme. The idea of mutual understanding is certainly more exciting than that of providing a cheap local substitute for an

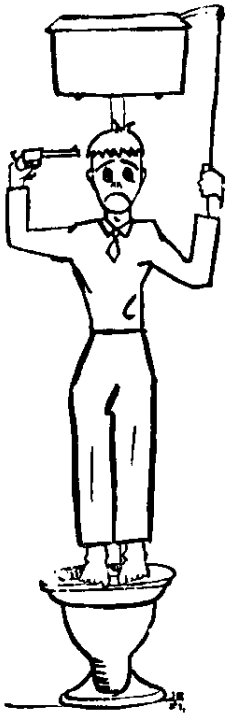
expensive education in the west. I do not know if it can be realised, but I am convinced that if we stop wanting to realise it we revert to the status of "Big School". Our present isolation from the mainland of China, probably unforeseen by the founders, only makes the need greater.

Any university study needs to flourish in a complete university life, and this is what we have not yet achieved. The lack is certainly felt. I have never yet listened to a Union presidential candidate who did not say that his policy was to promote closer co-operation between faculties: I can only assume that they have all been defeated by the size of the problem. It is certain that

a student cannot move about freely in the two great worlds of Chinese and European culture if he cannot even move outside his own faculty.

I do not propose to attempt a complete description of what I conceive undergraduate university life to be. I will simply point to an index. I recall the notice-boards in my college. They were, and certainly still are, invariably covered with posters of all colours and all possible appeals. Here the aesthetes of the English Club announced that two

dons would fight over the question whether poetry and science are incompatible: there the Austrian Club invited one to sherry and a talk on ski-ing (academic, this, in flat, muddy Oxford): here the Student Christian Movement discussed Christianity and the Welfare State: there the Campanological Society enticed one to bell-ringing. Here was a concert of Tudor music (silver collection): there, recorded classics of jazz (free). You might choose between a college dance and a learned paper by an eminent pathologist. (Yes, some did choose the pathologist.) The blue and white poster of the Conservative Club, the Liberals in orange and the red and black of the Labour Club hung side by side in intelligent mutual tolerance. Then there were all the sports clubs. Then came the Student Christian Movement again, offering to bring you morning tea (twopence a cup) or to clean your bicycle (a shilling, and cheap at the price) as part of their annual collec-



tion for their funds. All this activity, all this talking, all this consumption of coffee, was part of our education; we certainly educated each other. Furthermore, in this way we met lecturers outside the lecture-room; and — which we perhaps arrogantly thought an even better thing — they met us.

No great administrative effort was involved (except, perhaps, in the luring or intimidation of speakers to address all these clubs). All you need is a roof and four walls, a few chairs (late-comers must sit on the floor), a cup of tea, or a beer, or a Coca-Cola each, and a speaker who will make you talk too. Undergraduates may get together at parties and what are so oddly called "social functions": but there are always the odd people who like to pursue ideas, and a party is hardly the place for that. For such people ideas, all that we mean by "culture", are not just a kind of trimming added on to the serious things of life; neither are they a penance, any more than academic work is always and uniformly a penance. Here in Hong Kong we have such a varied community of people that we all have something to teach and something to learn, without getting didactic or pompous. If the meeting of east and west is desirable (I assume it is) and possible, it will be achieved not through mass meetings and prepared speeches but through meetings of friends who have in common a few fundamental beliefs about the value of honesty, tolerance and truth (or at least the quest for truth) and a pleasure in thinking their own thoughts, something to say and some pleasure also in the sound of their own

voices (common) and of each other's voices (less common). Is it really true that Faculty Societies can only lure members to lectures by baiting the hook with buns and Coca-Cola? Surely not. And why should not Faculty Societies invite each other's members to their lectures and parties? Do you have to be an economist to care about Asia's economic problems? or take an honours degree in English to read anything more strenuous than comics? or study physics to know a little about atomic energy? and is it a criminal waste of time to care about these things if you are going to be a doctor?

Of course, we do not do too badly in this University; but, for myself, I miss the Invisible Men, the medical students. Do they have to work so hard that they have become invisible? It is usually reckoned that a steady eight or nine hours a day of intellectual work is as much as the human brain can stand (more or less, of course, depending on the brain). Is the medical brain superior to this human frailty? or does it have to be put to bed early, or be taken out to relax on two dollars worth of sex-and-sadism in the cinema? Perhaps: I do not know. And I suppose it is theoretically possible to be a good doctor and still, outside your work, lead the mental life of a ten-year-old. Theoretically, yes: but are good doctors really like that?

MARY VISICK.

Reference:

T. C. Cheng: The Education of Overseas Chinese. (Doctoral thesis: copy in Hong Kong University Library).



SMYLY'S TETRALOGY

Fortunately my goggles were like Emile's and I grabbed my blue false nose and blew.

Usually swallowing should be enough to clear the passage between nose and ears—the Fallopian tubes—to equalise the pressure both sides of the ear drum.

*From article by Mr. Smyly, Sunday Post-Herald.*

Yes, that's the trouble with those unfortunate people who have blue false noses and Fallopian tubes in the head; what with the ovaries filling up the middle ear, and the uterus hanging down the back of the throat, it's often very difficult to maintain any satisfactory sort of airway.



NEW LOOK IN RUSSIA

*There was a young lady of Omsk  
Fell in love with a worker from Tomsk.  
He was punk with a spanner  
And dud as a planner  
But terribly good in a romsk.*

English as She is Taught  
or

'Dad's in the Army now'

Parents who wish to make their own uniforms may obtain the materials from Whiteaways.

*Excerpt from Peak School Prospectus.*



All

Hail

1905

~~1949~~

Malaya! 1955

IN OCTOBER OF this year, our sister University in Malaya celebrates her Golden Jubilee, and upon this glorious occasion, ELIXIR humbly offers this special commemoration supplement as a token of admiration and respect.

Founded on October 8th 1949, by Ordinances of the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of the Colony of Singapore, the University of Malaya has startled the academic world by her rapid progress. So fast has this been, that she has reached her Jubilee in six short years; an almost unheard of achievement. Nottingham University, founded in 1948, a whole year before the University of Malaya, is not expecting to qualify for Jubilee celebrations until as far ahead as 1998; and we here in Hong Kong, in spite of having started our grinding career in 1911\*, still feel that we must look forward to another six or seven years of halting effort before we can credit ourselves with half a century's worth of work well done.

So All Hail to Malaya! Well done, Big Sister! The glimpses of your epic story in our next few pages are presented in the hope that others may become aware of some of the easier, practical applications of Relativity.

\* It is true that our University grew out of some sort of Medical College or other, started by a chap called Manson in 1887; but that's hardly the point;—or is it?



## THE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

WE HAVE BEEN most fortunate in securing one of the extremely rare surviving photographs of the University's Grand Opening Ceremony, way back in '49. This old tin-plate, yellowed with age, came to light recently amongst a pile of *Tiger Tim's Weeklies* on a second-hand book-stall. It's once youthful owner had evidently placed it between the pages for safe-keeping, and then, with that careless abandon typical of the very young, forgotten all about it.

The central feature of the photograph is the original University building. The materials and the design were far in advance of their period, and in the whole, long history of the University, no further additions have been found necessary, save for a small matched which now stands upon the hillock on the left.

Of architectural interest are the primaeval piles, which raise the bottom floor well above the ground level. This ingenious device prevents entry into the University by any creature unable to negotiate a step-ladder, and thus virtually does away with the necessity for a matriculation examination.

The Vice-Chancellor is standing at the head of the ladder, robed in the light-weight gown which had recently been approved by the Central Committee of Tropical Vice-Chancellors. He is waiting to receive guests, several of whom are seen arriving in the new horseless carriages, which were just coming into popular use at the time (although, in fact, the gentleman in the car to the right of the ladder was not an official guest, but an Inspector from the Pig Marketing Board, who had chosen this unfortunate moment to investigate a rumour that the Professor of Biology was attempting to pass off two unwanted members of his staff with a litter of Berkshire Whites destined for the slaughter-house; this being contrary to the provisions of Cap. X, Sub-section 13, Para 182 of the Pig Marketing Board Consolidated Permanent Emergency Regulations (Malaya) 1949. As it turned out, there was no truth in this rumour; the faculty members concerned having

merely taken up temporary residence with the Berkshire Whites pending the erection of new staff flats).

Following the inspired inventions of that old tar, Macadam, the main drive has now been paved.

Guests attended from far and wide, travelling not only overland, but also by sea and air. The picture captures one visiting academic from Oxford approaching the landing stage on his punt, and the Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University arriving by one of the early flights of the now world-famous B.O.A.C. Service.

It is a gratifying thought that although all this took place so long ago, many of the distinguished personages who attended the opening ceremony are *still alive*, and have signified their intention of attending the Jubilee Celebrations this October.

The breathtaking decorations are to the credit of the financial perspicacity of the Bursar, who won for the University a complete set of the Flags of All Nations by investing the then considerable sum of fifty cents in a raffle at a church bazaar. Because of this feat, friends and students gave him the affectionate nick-name of 'Raffles', and because the Bursar is by far and away the most important and significant figure in *any* university, the new institution soon became popularly known as 'Raffles College'.

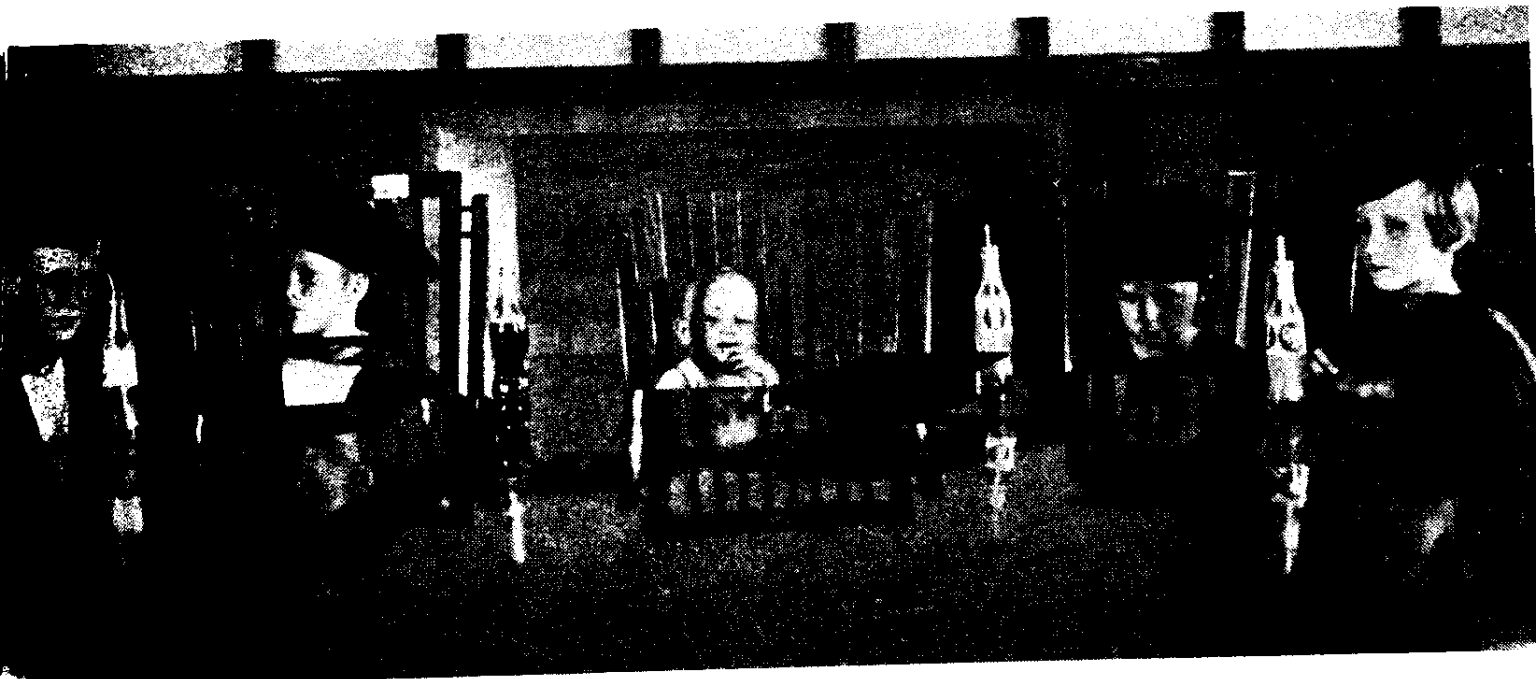
The sign-post at the right of the picture labelled 'Nan Yang University' is something of a mystery, since diligent researches have failed to establish the fact that any institution of that name ever existed. Similarly, it has been impossible to identify the sheep following the path indicated by the sign-post.

The Sugar Caine, for which the University is now famous, had not at that time been planted.

The tiger is searching for Balm.

The eminence in the left background is Mount Olympus.

## MEN AT WORK



BRIDGING THE GULF of time, our next picture shows a Tiny Group at a recent Senate meeting, each nursing a Tot. This fine old custom originated in the very early days, when meetings sometimes lasted all the afternoon, and most of the Members were still on two-hourly feeds (being somewhat premature).

An unexpected motion had been laid on the table by the Emeritus Professor in the middle, but his colleagues refused to speak to it, averring that the Chair was not the proper place from which to make a motion of that sort, the Secretary complaining that the paper work also was a strain.

Following this, attention was given to a complaint that entry into the University had become too easy, and it was resolved that in future the back door be kept locked.

Miss Con Strue, PH.D. (far right, picture) has since resigned from the University and joined the Board of Directors of Brass Oscars Inc., Hollywood.

Interviewed by our Correspondent, the President of Brass Oscars Inc., (Joe Get-What-You-Can-How-You-Can Slickschmidt) said: 'She's for us! That gal comes from the greatest little sales promotion outfit in the East. - No kiddin'!

## SCIENCE SECTION

*AS A FINAL contribution to our survey of the fifty glorious years that have passed since the University of Malaya was founded in 1949, we are privileged to re-print the Paper that Rocked the Scientific World to its Very Foundations, and won for its author, Professor Harfamo, holder of the chair of Astrological Constants in the University of Malaya, the Nobel Prize for 1954. Admittedly it was the prize for Literature which he won; the Members of the Swedish Academy being under the impression that they had discovered a new and brilliant practitioner of the Frightfully Free Expression school; but this fact in no way detracts from the fundamental scientific worth of the writing.*

### HOW LONG IS A YEAR?

by

Aloysius Harfamo

*From the Department of Astrological Constants,  
University of Malaya*

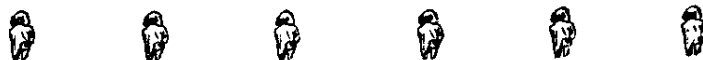
MOST OF US, I suppose, if asked to give our ideas of the length of a year, would make some conventional reply in terms of a certain number of days, with a qualifying clause to cover the particular circumstances of Leap Years.

This view, unchallenged since the days of Newton, is based on the subjective assumption of the logical necessity for a possible and indeed recurrently inevitable occurrence of the absolute simultaneity of separated events.

When one realizes that inertial mass and gravitational mass are always proportional to one another; and when we further consider the similarity between the effects of a gravitational field and those of an accelerated co-ordinate system, we begin to feel the existence of *a-priori* reasons for regarding the fixed mass of a cosmic quantum as being no more than relatively integrated with its electro-magnetic counterpart, and so we see that although we may on *Newtonian* grounds imagine or even *know* that it is Monday, there are equally and often more cogent reasons for regarding the day as Tuesday, or even last Sunday.

From this it follows that a year may be just as long, or just as short, as the individual wishes it to be; entirely according to his cosmic stance, and in the foreseeable future we may well have reached such an understanding of these matters that it will be possible for us to manoeuvre the space of fifty years into the time of a mere six.

The effect of this upon the Academic World is likely to be profound.



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# Stress and Strain

OR

*Adaptation to Environment*

SECOND M.B.! Anyone who has sat for such an exam will admit that it is *one* experience in his life that he cannot quite forget. Around the phrase itself is woven an intricate pattern of emotion; of hope and fear, of joy and disappointment, of rapture and bitterness, and studded on this filigree of feelings are tears of remorse and despair.

Thus it was with leaden hearts that the 3rd Year Medicals of 1955 faced their doom. Despite the encouragement and sympathy of others around, their faint glimmer of hope was dimmed by the results of preceding exams. They crammed; they fretted; they hoped, and they despaired. Alas, that *would* be their Waterloo!

Yet the results were unexpected and shocking to others as well as to the candidates themselves. Seventy-four out of eighty-one passed! It was epoch making in the medical history of Hong Kong University. Almost the whole class had been resurrected to the Queen Mary Hospital for clinical studies. But their reception by the said quarters was far from pleasant.

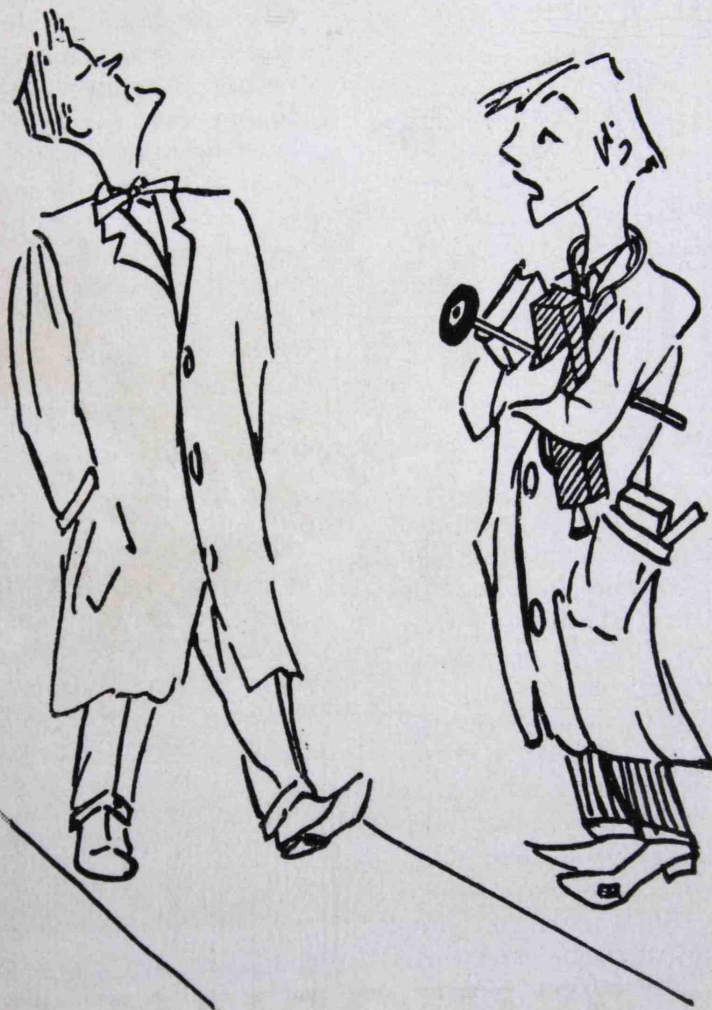
The seniors browbeat this sample of mass production, for theirs had been a glorious struggle for establishment in the Queen Mary. The authorities concerned regarded

this strange mass of humanity with much distrust. Because of their large number, they swarmed the wards, corridors and students' room, unintentionally obstructing traffic. In the lecture theatre, they looked in vain for adequate accommodation, for the little room had never met with such a vast number of students. New seating was ordered, but for weeks the poor, lost souls

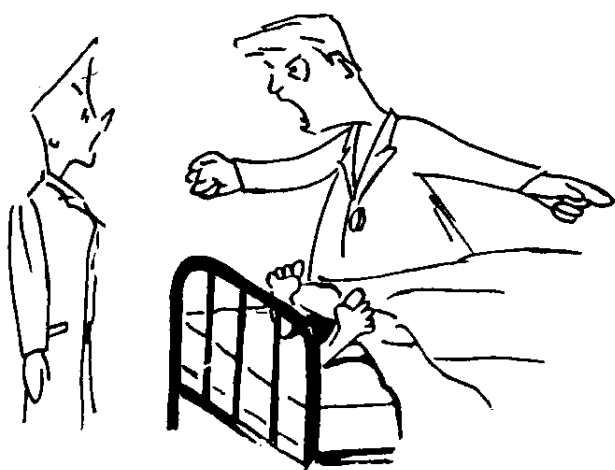
sat on the hard, unyielding floor, disconcerted and baffled, and gazed up at the countenance of the lecturer from sea-level. When it came to the fair members, the squat position offered a continuous frolic for their skirts under the tantalizing charm of the electric fan above.

While the maidens suffered to see their apparel in rhythmical motion, and only partially serving its function of protection, the lads in another part of the room groaned silently under the sweltering heat of lab. coats thickened with polysaccharide. Despite the rivulets of perspiration

coursing down their body surface, their eyes remained fixed (though somewhat dazedly) on the speaker upon the platform, mechanically following his movements. No yawning, no shifting of gaze to the cloudless sky outside, for such an act would result in the offender's immediate bodily removal from the lecture room.



Besides the lectures, the students dutifully followed their instructors around the wards. They stood obediently by patients' beds, listening closely to the wisdom spoken, and whilst the minutes ticked into interminable hours, the blood slowly pooled in the legs, and heads became dizzy. As if by a conditioned reflex, leg muscles twitched in silent protest, striving to force a little extra blood back to the hungry auricle, and body weight was shifted from one foot to another. In one case dizziness went so far that the sufferer had to be helped from the ward.



*Y - yes Sir!*

Suddenly, amidst the daze, a bombshell in the form of an exam was exploded upon this new batch. Still convalescing from the impact of Second M.B., and suffering from recent stresses, their little brains were thrown into havoc by the announcement.

But obedient and dutiful as ever, they all arrived promptly on the ill-fated day for their written exam. To their utter dismay they found the one hour paper had been stretched into a two hour affair, and without notice. Those who had come armed only with a cup of coffee groaned. For others, the second hour encroached on their meal time. Had they been informed earlier, the poor starved souls could have been better prepared, but now the hunger factor was added on to their existing mental and psychological depression. While stomachs writhed and revolved, the upper coiled recesses stubbornly refused to function properly.

The unhappy episode over, most found it painful to recall the contents of their written

papers. But did not the great Walter Cannon say that in the face of changing environment - stress included - tending to upset homeostasis, the organism reacts in such a way as to restore the balance? And if the stresses were pathological, should the organism be held responsible for the abnormal behaviour exhibited during adaptation?

No sooner had homeostasis been re-established than another stress occurred. The ill-fated students were requested to assemble for a discussion of the results. Fear of reproach dominated their minds. On that mournful morning they gathered in the lecture theatre to face the music. Suspense hung in the air, mingled with a sense of dread and ill omen. Hearts were wrung in agony. The apex beats rose high. In one case the apex beat was reported to have been felt in the throat. The palpitations felt were physiological. As each name was read out with its accompanying grade and 'remark', beads of perspiration stood out on everyone's forehead. Mouths became dry - hands clammy. The sympathetic system was going strong. To most it was a renewal of that horrible nightmare of 2nd M.B. They had gathered to face the music, and

*The 'music' in their hearts they bore,  
Long after it was heard no more.*

Psycho-analysis shows that the poor victims are simple folk who had deservedly passed their 2nd M.B. after much toiling. The above is a sorrowful account of their unhappy reception into a strange, new world. Adaptation is still incomplete.

ANON.

\* \* \*

English as She is Taught  
or

'It's the excitement, dear! She's  
a regular bundle of nerves.'

Physical Examinations: Initial examination upon joining and re-examination every few years if a child shows on apparent defects, usually during the Christmas term.

*Excerpt from Peak School Prospectus.*

\* \* \*

FREAK BOBY BORN  
IN LUZON

Yes, indeed!

*Headline, S.C.M.P.*

# LONGEVITY

*Why should there be such turmoil and such strife,  
To spin in length this feeble line of life?*

BACON.

THERE IS PROBABLY not a single problem that has drawn the attention of scientists, philosophers and writers so much as the problem of longevity and the struggle with senility.

The prime instinct of all living creatures is for survival. Ageing and death stand in direct opposition to the instinct. That is why man, since ancient times, has been searching for methods and means for staving off old age and hindering death.

Faust made a contract with the Devil to this end, but expression of the wish has not been limited to poets, and in 1780 a scientist, John Henter, produced a treatise, telling his readers how to live to be a thousand.

Henter's elixir was not the Devil, but a simple matter of

degrees. He advocated freezing. Freezing, he held, could slow the processes of life to nothing; leaving intact the physical machine. Thus warm wakefulness and icy slumber

might alternate at intervals for centuries, leaving it to the individual to spend his span of hot existence at any rate he would.

It was a happy scheme, and it is sad that

Henter had not, apparently, the faith to freeze himself, and that the carp and sausage-dogs he did freeze lay stiff and still when frozen, and just as stiff and just as still when finally hotted-up. Henter was disappointed, and went mad.

Recently surgeons have imitated Henter, and frozen patients before operations so that the metabolic requirements of the tissues are reduced. It is then possible to carry out procedures involving interruption of the blood supply to a part or to the whole body in a manner that previously would have spelt the

death of the tissues thus deprived. This fact makes Henter's scheme seem somewhat less fantastic.

But let us examine our problem in the



ONE OF OUR own Grand Old Men, Sir Robert Ho Tung. At the age of ninety-three he travelled to London to receive his second Knighthood from the Queen. He is seen here disembarking from the aircraft on his return to Hong Kong. Whilst in London, Sir Robert lived largely on a diet of sour milk.

light of modern thought; for many strong and modern views have been expressed.

All living organisms pass through definable and successive stages of development. They are the embryonic, the infantile, the adolescent, the mature and the senile. Development is slow, and so is ageing, and physical age is not to be measured in terms of birthdays. University professors are ordinarily required to retire at 60, yet it is not uncommon for persons to pass their century with a nimble body and a spry mind. Likewise, it is not uncommon, sad to say, for the mind's spryness to wither long before official retiring age is reached.

Dr. Heniot, a member of the French Medical Academy, relates an amusing story in his book *How to Live to a Hundred*. He tells how Cardinal d'Armagnac once noticed a man of about 80 sitting on a porch and sobbing violently. The Cardinal asked him why he was crying, and was astonished to be told that the old man had just been beaten by his father! On entering the house the Cardinal found the father to be a healthy youngster of 113, whilst sitting next to him was *his* father, a spritely 143. Dr. Heniot himself died at the comparatively early age of 103.

At the other end of the scale come those unfortunate creatures who because of a pituitary deficiency wither and die, apparently of 'old age', whilst still in the years of childhood.

All this has raised the question: 'Does man die too soon?', for if one man can survive his century, why should another fade away in half the time? And if the early fader is abnormal compared to the late; may not the late be abnormal compared to an ideal? Can we plot a theoretical span?

Christopher Huffeland, an 18th. century German physician, stated in his book *Macrobiotics, or the Art of Prolonging Life*, that the proper life expectancy is in the neighbourhood of two hundred years. His contemporary, L. Buffon, believed that life span may be related to the period of active growth of the body. Buffon estimated the growth period in animals by making serial measurements of bone lengths. He then calculated that for most species, life span is five to seven times that of the growing period. Assuming man to follow the same

rule, and to have a growing period of about twenty-five years, he gave man a possible life expectancy of something between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy-five years.

Another method involves estimations of the functional capacities of various individual organs. By gaining some idea of the rate of loss of functional capacity that sets in after a certain age, a mathematical prediction of the maximum useful life of the organ may be made. This work led to a figure of between one hundred and sixty and one hundred and eighty years as the limits of human endurance.

Although neither of these methods is above criticism, it is interesting that the figures obtained should agree so closely.

More ancient than attempts to estimate the possible life span have been formulae for prolonging or regaining youth. The Fountain of Youth is an early and ubiquitous theme for myth, and mixed with the many elixirs that have been prescribed are many and strange theories regarding the cause of ageing; some modern theories being no less fantastic than many primitive ideas.

The ancient Egyptians attributed senility to the accumulation of toxic substances within the body and suggested as remedies purgatives, emetics, diuretics and diaphoretics.

The Chinese think old age comes with the disappearance from the body of 'rejuvenating essences'. To counteract this loss, Chinese medicine recommends human milk, the menstrual blood of virgins, organs of unborn children, sexual organs of wild animals, and the stings of bees and snakes.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine (who incidentally lived to 104) prescribed the administration of human blood for longevity. Many famous historical personages were treated by variations of this method, but without the desired effect.

The famous physician Paracelsus (16th Century) supplied patients with drops of his own *Elixir of Life*, but must have failed to take his own medicine, because he died before reaching his sixth decade.

These early theories failed to recognise ageing as an inevitable and physiological process. Some more modern theories have this idea as their theme.

Amongst modern researchers into the

ageing problem perhaps the best known is I. Metchnikoff who published his ideas in the latter part of the last century. Metchnikoff made a distinction between senility as a natural physiological process and premature senility, and he divided cases of premature senility into two groups: (i) those due to accidental causes, and (ii) those due to the constant struggle within the body between the 'noble' cells and the connective tissue cells. By 'noble' cells he meant specific, well-differentiated cells such as nerve cells, cells of the renal and liver parenchyma, and so on.

Metchnikoff saw as a first cause of the disorganisation of the body in old age, atrophy of the cells in the central nervous system, and particularly of brain cells regulating the functions of vital organs. He examined numerous sections of the human brain and noted that whilst in some parts nervous elements predominate, in others connective tissue cells reign supreme. The older the organ, the greater the number of connective tissue cells.

He conceived the compact connective tissue as forming a kind of sheath to enfold the brain; the individual strands forming nests to accommodate the neural cells. He imagined these connective tissue cells to proliferate with age, thus squeezing out the 'noble' cells upon which nervous activity depends. This he termed sclerosis, and he observed the same phenomenon in almost every organ of the body.

In his view it was this reduction of the 'noble' cells that led to impairment of memory and intellectual capacity, the appearance of digestive disturbances, and other failings common to old age. He concluded, therefore, that any attempt to stretch the life span must be directed towards protecting the 'noble' cells.

Metchnikoff had reached a point of view regarding the apparent antagonism of 'noble' cells and connective tissue cells as a result of painstaking observations, but at this juncture he joined the school of diet fads and named food the leader of the enemy armies.

The theory is that what we swallow gives rise to chronic intoxication because of the accumulation of poisons arising from the bacterial decomposition of undigested food particles in the large intestine.

According to the micro-biologists, man

passes out with the excreta about twenty-five trillion putrefying bacteria each day, and these bacteria form about one-third of the total faecal mass. During the process of decomposition of undigested food phenol, skatol, indol and other harmful substances are produced. These poisons, Metchnikoff assumed, are absorbed into the blood and carried to the 'noble' cells, poisoning and destroying them. It is a good idea which lacks nothing but proof.

Some clinicians have carried this idea to the extent of advising and practising the surgical removal of the large intestine. This, they argued, would deny the microbes their breeding ground, and consequently prolong life. 'I am firmly convinced,' wrote Dr. Dispasot, 'that with the removal of the large intestine in childhood we would live much longer.'

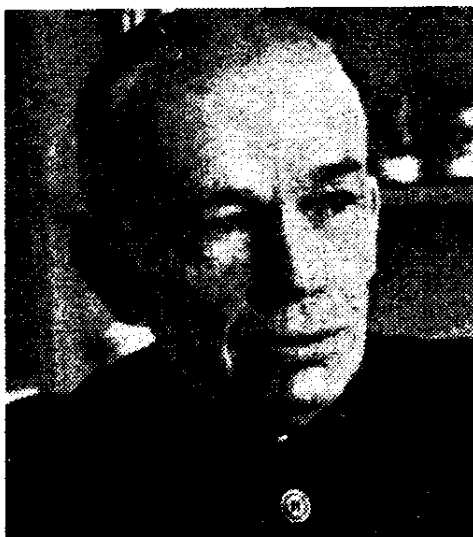
Metchnikoff did not advocate such drastic measures. To combat the millions of bacteria that lodge in the large intestine he suggested the feeding of sour milk products - yoghurt, kefir and so forth - from childhood. These products act more or less as antibiotics. Being the ferments of milk-acid bacteria, they are the natural antagonists of putrefying bacteria. Although Metchnikoff forgot the need for proof, it is an interesting fact that Bulgaria, the home of yoghurt, boasts more centenarians than any other European country.

A variation of Metchnikoff's theory was proposed by Dr. Bogomoletz. Instead of protecting 'noble' cells, he urged war against connective tissue by lowering its vitality. His research included painstaking investigations into the properties and functions of the 'enemy'. With time he began to look upon his erstwhile adversary as an indispensable ally, and appreciated its importance in the organism. Cells deprived of nutrition are unable to live, and it is through the medium of blood, a connective tissue, that they obtain the necessary elements of nutrition and rid themselves of waste products. The connective tissues also supply phagocytes which destroy certain pathogenic organisms, and connective tissues act as a filter, cleaning the blood of foreign bodies.

From these observations Bogomoletz concluded that connective tissues are the watchdogs of the body, and that a weakening of the connective tissues leads to the invasion

of the unprotected organs by foreign and dangerous elements. Healthy connective tissues mean healthy 'noble' cells, and these mean a healthy body, and this means a long life.

For maintaining the health of connective tissues Bogomoletz employed an antigen made of ground connective tissue cells which he injected into horses. Thus he hoped to obtain an anti-reticular or cyto-toxic serum, which, injected into humans, would act as a powerful stimulant to connective tissue growth.



Bogomoletz

This happened in Russia during the late 1930's, and soon people began to look upon his serum as a wonder drug, and attributed all sorts of therapeutic values to it. To illustrate the effect of the serum Bogomoletz quotes the case of a child who was taken to hospital severely ill with scarlet fever. The serum was administered, the child's temperature shot up, and a crisis was produced which lasted several hours. In a few days, however, the child improved incredibly, and eventually recovered completely. Bogomoletz hastens to add that his serum would not cure all cases of scarlet fever, and that the case in question was a mild one. To the uncharitable, the incredible feature of this case might seem to be that the child survived the administration of the serum.

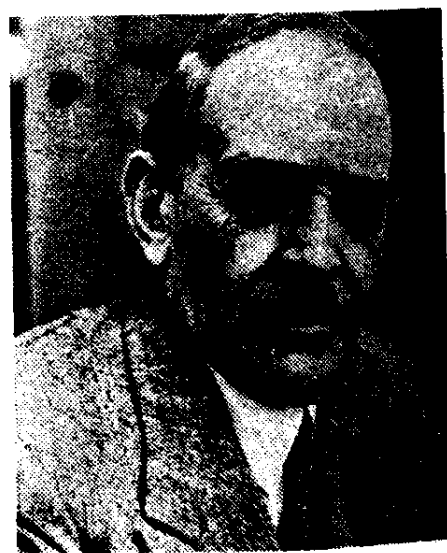
Although attributing such an important rôle to the connective tissue (Bogomoletz named it 'The Root of Life'), he advanced not a single explanation for the weakening which he imagined it suffered with the

years. This utter absence of objective evidence may be the reason why Bogomoletz and his serum entered limbo together.

At about this time interest began to centre upon the newly appreciated rôle of the ductless glands in the economy of the body, and the idea arose that senility was associated with a weakening of the endocrine system. Numerous experiments resulted in the adoption of various methods for the reactivation of the endocrine glands. Amongst the recommended stimulants for the nervous system was an extract from the sex glands called 'spermines' produced by Brown-Séquard, and a method of tying off and cutting the seminal vesicles elaborated by Dr. Eugene Steinach.

But the most publicised attempt at hormonal 'rejuvenation' was that of transplanting monkey sex glands into aged people, and the person responsible for this fashion was a Russian emigré named Dr. Serge Voronoff. For a time Voronoff and his 'monkey glands' were all the rage, the scientific world, no less than the public, joining in the original acclamations. Voronoff died famous, but the average expectation of life remained the same.

Voronoff's eclipse has not eclipsed interest in the possible relationship between ageing and hormonal activity, and as recently as June this year two French doctors, J. A. Huet and J. Destrem, reported to a medical



Voronoff

conference held at Colmar that positive results had been obtained from the com-

bined administration of hormones and vitamins to old people. According to these workers, such treatment resulted in the elimination of giddiness and hearing difficulties, improvement in the cardiac and respiratory systems, increased weight and appetite, and a revived interest in life. So might almost any treatment that involved the very special interest of the doctor in the patient, and the limited information available does not allow a proper assessment of this work.

If the idea is accepted that ageing is due to some general or systemic influence, then the endocrine system is the natural field for research into the problem, and previous failures to influence the ageing process by the administration of various hormone preparations by no means diminish the promise of such an approach. We are only just beginning to gain some understanding of the manner in which endocrines influence cellular activity, or of the fashion in which the activity of the different ductless glands is controlled. In this respect Hans Selye's conception of the 'stress syndrome', carrying with it the idea that anxiety, fatigue, infection, injury and all manner of stresses and strains may sooner or later throw out the normal pituitary-adrenal balance, is possibly the beginning of a major advance in our understanding of the healthy survival of the body.

The use of isotopes in metabolic research has offered another new approach. Schoenheimer's work led to the idea of a 'dynamic equilibrium' existing between the materials of the body. We know now that the protein structures of the body are continually being broken down and rebuilt. Cellular protein is the foundation of life, and the complex mechanisms of its dissolution and synthesis obviously offer broad opportunity for interference by some subtle change in the internal environment. It is here that the researches of the endocrinologists and the biochemists may meet and yield rich harvest.

The Russian biologist, O. Lepeshinskaya, and the Czech, Dr. Rujichka, see ageing as a process associated with a disturbance of the dispersion of protein within the cell. They hold that in age, condensation of the protein, and dehydration of the protoplasm occurs, with a consequent failure of cellular function. They have searched for some agent capable of reversing this process, and

believe that certain sodium compounds may serve, more or less, such a purpose. Their work is still at an early stage, but should they show that sodium has an integral part to play in maintaining the cellular organisation of proteins, a significant step forward may have been achieved, for we know that the suprarenal glands exercise an intimate control over sodium metabolism.

There is a long way to go, but today the problem of old age is no longer in the hands of magicians and alchemists, and it is not a futile search for some miraculous Elixir of Life. It is all of modern medicine, and modern medicine includes the two new specialties of gerontology and geriatrics (from the Greek *Geron* - old man). In Europe, America and Russia special clinics and sanatoria for aged patients have been opened, and much thought and effort is being applied to the problem of maintaining the elderly in health and contentment within the general community.

Gerontological societies have been formed, uniting hundreds of scientists and clinicians in a common struggle for human longevity, and old age is no longer the private burden of the aged, but an accepted social and medical responsibility.

We may pause to wonder what would happen to our world if all of us became capable of living to be 180; but that is another problem.

ALFRED PAVOT.



**SHOOT THOSE WORMS!  
THEY MAY BE DANGEROUS!**

Washington, Sept. 7.

Tiny primitive worms have been found in Alaska, providing evidence that the continents of Asia and North America were once joined together. The worms have previously been found only in Siberia, it was learned.—*S.C.M. Post Special*.

Does McCarthy know about this yet?

\* \* \*

**MONEY MARKET**

Carl Dreyer's Danish film "Ordet" (The Word) won the Venice Festival's top award, the Golden Loan of Saint Mark, here to-night.

*S.C.M.P.*

That reminds us; must ring up that chap Turner and find out what rate of interest the Saints are charging these days.



# Stolen Car On Roads Of Canton

## Packard Taken From HK Actress

The green Packard saloon, stolen while parked near Sunning House in Wanchai on July 19, has been seen on the roads in Canton.

A reliable source disclosed this to the S. C. M. Post yesterday, adding that the car—when last seen — still bore the Hongkong licence plates, with the registration number HK2688.

The luxurious \$30,000 American car belonged to Miss Fong Yim-tan, well-known Chinese actress and film star.

get the right weather for operating — a nice bit of fog up Canton way, along of good clear technicolor off Cheungchau where the screen widens — right then I'll be up and over, the moment I get my lil ole lugger out of the Yacht Club.

Mind you, it'll take a bit of saddling up. I'll have to have the caravel broadened in the beam, to take a Packard easy. And I'm short of a couple of Oerlikons, shipped urgent to Luang Prabang. And I got to get the craft disguised as a floating fish restaurant, to put them good for nothing Commie Czars off my trail. But there ain't nothing impossible in Hank Kong, as you rightly said in your Thanksgiving Day Editorial, "we got private enterprise, ain't we?"

Do me a favor, tell that limey Deputy Assistant Sub Inspector he can lay off; I seen him patting them sampan girls on the head, and if he don't keep outa my gun turrets he's gonna get taken for a ride.

But first you be so good as to contact that great little trouper and tell her from me personal, I'll be right on. She ain't gotta worry

Green Gables,  
Stubbs Road,  
Hongkong (B.C.C.),  
August 16th, 1955.

The Editor,  
ELIXIR.

Sir,

This is to assure you it warnt none of my operators got that automobile over to Canton. No sir; contrary-wise, it was some other guys muscling in.

I been outa town a coupla days and only when I got back to Kennedy Town I heard about it. Gee, I was real sorry; reckon its a gosh darn shame. I was over to Nathan Road in a couple of frames and, believe you me, Mr. Editor, I hung up that coyote Tweedie by the earflaps till he tole me all he noo and then some.

But a call two seconds later at the ole Hollywood Temple, and I got the real dope. Yessir, that lil ole priestess, what she don't know ain't worth smuggling. Not for nothing she's been in the U.S.I.S. all those years. Aw shucks, I guess I'm kinda sentimental about her — which is jest natural, seeing as how she useter be my holster-amah, way back when I was in short Westerns. I could stay a long sequence, jest holding her hand and listening to her tell me what the C.I.D. don't know.

Anyways, to get back to the action shots, this is to say to you Sir, just you tell Miss Fong she kin relax and quite worrying. I got it all cased up. The minute I

her sweet head about the publicity angle neither; I cabled my agent, he's taking right over.

And you tell the P.R.O. this soldier will be waiting at the Barker Road stop, any-time in a good sidelight, with the ignition key in his pocket, all wrapped up in an Essential Imports Certificate. Yes sir; it'll be a real pleasure; I reckon I owe this country sumpin.

Wishing you all good fortune, I am,

Cordially yours,

HANK LEE.

# LARK GABLE SUSAN HAYWARD

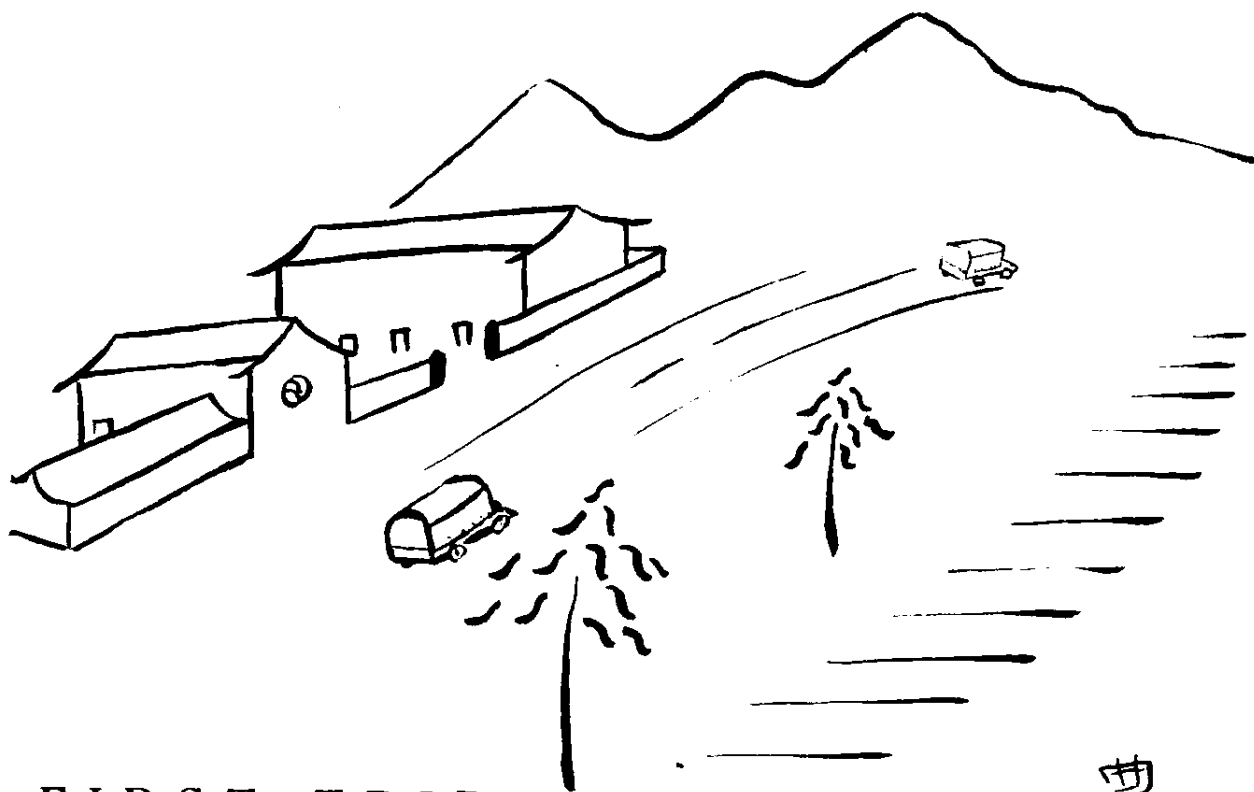


in 20th Century-Fox's

## SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

From the Novel by Ernest K. Gunn

A CINEMASCOPE PICTURE



## FIRST TRIP

曲  
哥

THERE WERE FIVE of us. We were members of the Friends' Ambulance Unit going out to join the China Convoy; a transport service for medical supplies run by the F.A.U. and subsidised by the International Red Cross. Mike was in charge of the group and we left the port of Greenock on a bleak Christmas day in 1945. After a month of the usual shipboard nonsense the voyage became interesting for the first time as we weaved our way up the Hooglie River into Calcutta.

The F.A.U. operated from three main centres at that time. The main office and garage was in Chungking, with two other garages; one five hundred kilometres south of Chungking at Kweiyang in Kweichow Province, and another five hundred kilometres south of that again at Kutsing in Yunnan Province. We still kept a small office with an agent in Kunming.

We had flown over the mountains of India and Burma and spent five days in beautiful Kunming with its huge old temples cut out of the rock of the mountain side overlooking the lovely West Lake. Then, one morning, we piled into Bobby

Goo's charcoal-burning truck and left Kunming. I never saw it again.

Just outside Kunming we crossed the railway tracks where we saw a notice on a telegraph pole saying "PASSENGERS ON TRAINS AND TRUCKS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SHOOT AT THE TELEGRAPH INSULATORS." I settled back happily on the top of the truck and thought "This is where modern civilisation ends and life begins." The truck was empty apart from a few spare parts and there was plenty of room in the back but it was now full of thick yellow dust which billowed continuously over the tail-board. So all seven of us either sat or hung on top of the driver's cab. I practised my Mandarin on the charcoal-boy who was riding with us. We arrived at the Kutsing Hostel at about 10 p.m. having travelled the last five miles behind another truck which covered us in dust the whole way.

For the first week in Kutsing we pottered around the garage doing odd jobs. On Sunday Ron, Doug and Bob arrived in from Kweiyang: a town just under 500 miles 'up the road'. The Kutsing Section

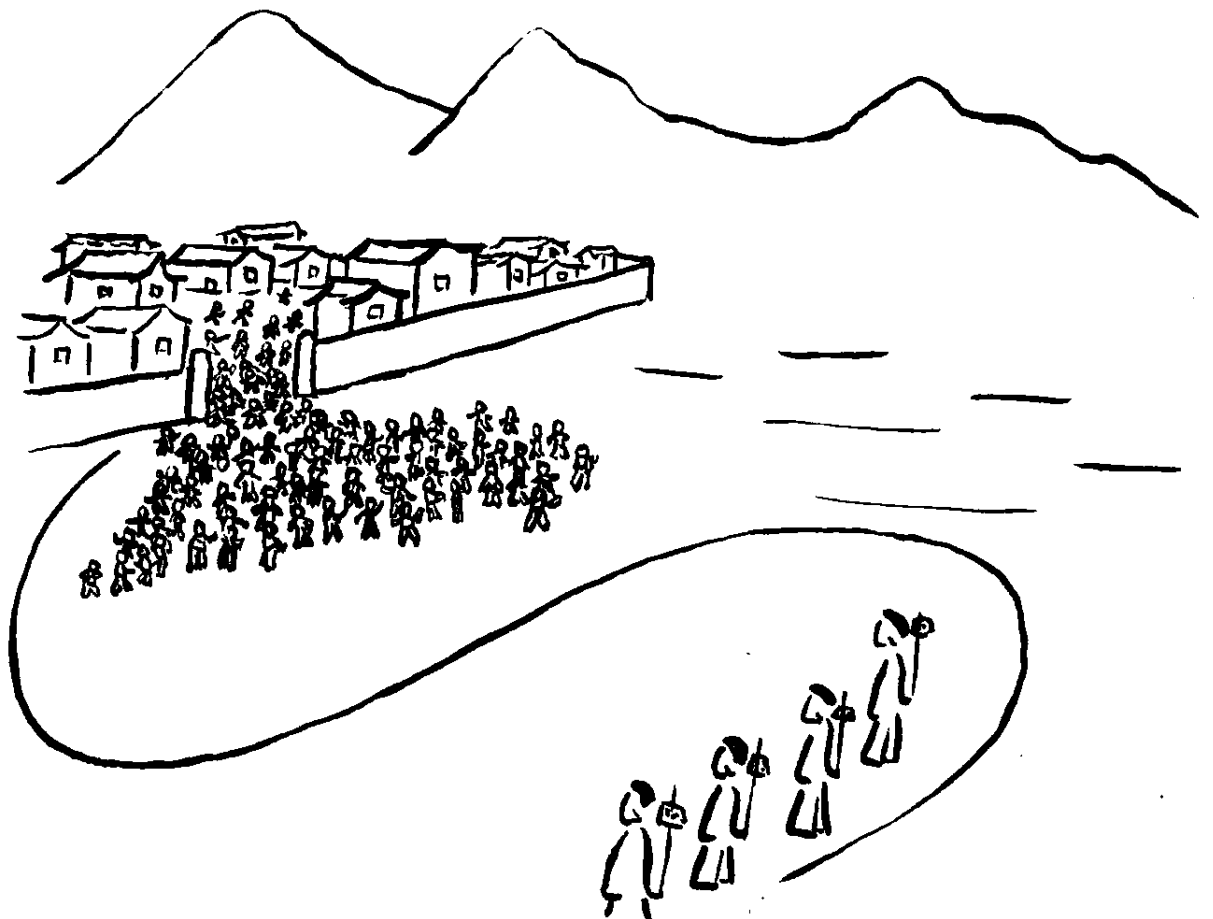
Leader said that I was to join them on their return trip. I was to go as co-driver to Ron who was Convoy Leader. For the next few days I crawled all over the truck with him, doing the routine check-up. It was during this period that I learned never to call a truck a lorry and to talk about kilos, not miles.

The night before the convoy left I sat inside the cab of our Dodge three-tonner and listened to the railway-crossing guard just outside the garage who was playing on his bamboo pipe. I can't adequately describe the haunting sadness of his music. It had a sweet, mournful, nostalgic sound. A lament for the better things of life, neglected and lost in the mad scramble for mere existence. I have been told that the Chinese Army never allowed their soldiers to carry these pipes because the music made them so homesick.

On the morning of departure we were standing in the yard of the garage when bugles sounded outside on the road. In a few minutes a column of Chinese gendarmes

swung into view. In the middle of the column were four prisoners dressed in black with black skull-caps on their heads. Their hands were tied behind their backs and through the ropes which bound them was stuck a bamboo wand. At the top of the wand in each case was a white paper label which protruded behind and above the prisoner's head. On the label was written the man's name and his crime. These men were said to be bandits and were being taken to an open space outside the city of Kutsing to be shot. At the sound of the bugles a huge crowd teemed out of the city like locusts, heading for the execution ground. Had I been in China a little longer I might perhaps have taken this a little more philosophically. As it was I felt myself go hot and then freeze with fear and apprehension. I wanted to be sick for about two hours after that. Half an hour later we heard a rattle of rifle-fire and saw the locusts streaming back into the city.

We didn't start very early. We set out just before lunch. Travelling with us was



a Chinese girl called Jeanette on her way to become warden of the hostel in Kweiyang. By lunch time we had reached Chang Yi where the Americans had a large air-strip during the war. We stopped for lunch in a roadside restaurant and I had my first experience of fried 'pao-tse'. These are bags of dough, about the size of a small eating-apple, filled with savoury meat and fried in an open pan.

After lunch we pushed on through Panhsien and began the steep climb which lies beyond it in the hot afternoon sunshine. Ron let me take the wheel throughout the afternoon and complimented me on my smooth changes into second so that my cup of happiness was full and brimming. Every few miles we passed Chiang Kai Shek's soldiery marching on both sides of the road coming out of Burma to fight the Communists in the North. They had their rifles slung across their backs and as we passed between two columns on the narrow road it was difficult not to hit a butt on one side or a barrel on the other. These soldiers were tough and well fed in those days and Ron comforted me with stories of what happened if one chanced to injure one of them in passing.

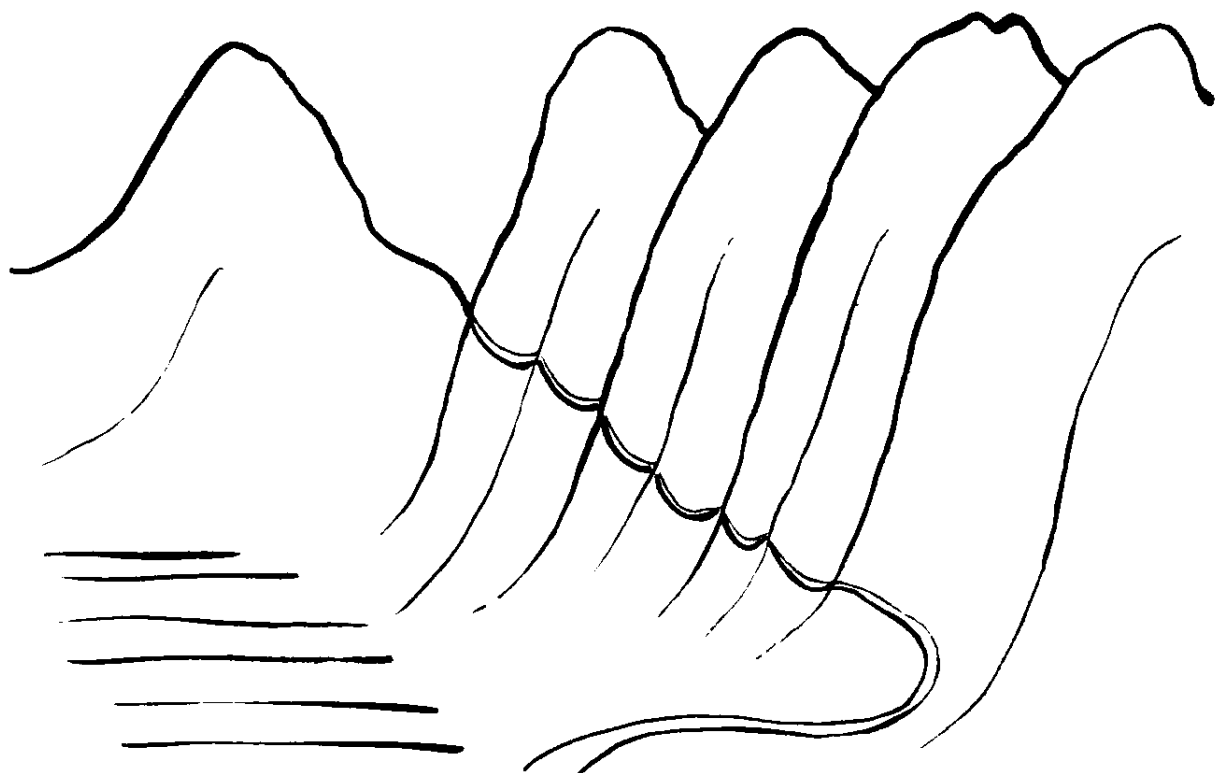
Towards evening it began to rain and Ron was driving again. Jeanette had gone to sleep on my shoulder and I began to think the trip had great possibilities. We had just passed through a small village and were coming around a corner when we almost ran into Bob's truck with the right rear wheel in a very shallow ditch. Ron got our truck in front of Bob's and tried to pull him out but the back wheel just slithered along until it was stuck in a deeper part of the ditch. Ron decided to leave it at that. He parked our truck behind Bob's and he and Doug went on in the third truck to the next town to get help. Jeanette went to sleep up on the bed-board of our truck, I curled up in the cab, and Bob slept in the cab of his own tilted-up truck. About 10 p.m. a Chinese Army convoy came by with big six-wheel drive, American G.M.C. trucks. They tried to pull Bob's truck out too but it just scuttered along the ditch until both the front and back right wheels were in it. It looked a lot tidier but the truck was in deeper than ever.

I didn't sleep well that night. I had heard stirring tales about the bandits of Yunnan Province and imagined the surrounding hillsides bristling with fierce men carrying stolen U.S. Army rifles, bandoliers of ammunition around their shoulders and long wicked looking knives in their belts. Somehow China lost its novel charm for me that night. At about 6 a.m., just after I had dozed off for the first time, I was abruptly woken by the sound of a bugle. Little fires started up on the hillside opposite us. I remember thinking that these bandits were very noisy and chose very peculiar hours to attack. When daylight finally appeared we found that the hills were indeed swarming with armed men. There were soldiers everywhere. They must have camped down as soon as it became dark the previous night and we had got stuck right in the middle of their camp. There couldn't have been a bandit for miles around with so much soldiery at large.

During the morning Bob and I unloaded the heavier stuff off his truck and around 11 a.m. Doug and Ron turned up having been unable to find help. We were just planning how to go about getting the now two-thirds empty truck back on the road when along came Mark Jones' Convoy from the opposite direction. His 4 trucks were empty and with three, one behind the other, pulling in reverse and a fourth at the side to stop Bob's truck from tipping over sideways, we soon had it back on the road and loaded up.

We said goodbye to Mark and proceeded merrily on our way. Lunch-time found us out of the lush countryside with paddy fields going up to the mountain-tops. We had entered the wild, barren terrain which heralds the approach of the Panchang Gorge. All through the afternoon we laboured in first and second gear up the steep side of the Panchang and towards evening we dropped down gently into Puan. In Puan we settled down for the night.

I slept in the back of the truck that night. In the morning we refuelled and re-oiled. Dawn on the road is a very wonderful thing. All around us charcoal boys were churning away at the handles of the charcoal blowers, setting up a whirring crescendo culminating in a clatter as the drivers put flaming waste to the carburettors to ignite the producer



gas and engines burst into life. There was a time when we had had to do this too, but now most of our trucks were running on a mixture of raw alcohol laced with high-octane aeroplane fuel. To the initiated and interested it is an established fact that most of the more potent Chinese wines, while going very well with lemon-juice powder from U.S. Army K-rations and a minimal quantity of water, are equally capable of propelling motor vehicles in an emergency. I admit, with diffidence, that there were a few teetotal transport men: they, poor souls, never discovered the wider applications of this sinful beverage.

It rained throughout the third day so Ron drove. The mud surface on the road was just like butter. One touch of the brakes when going down hill and one would find oneself rolling down the side of a mountain. We watched with bated breath as Bob's truck ahead of us slid first to one side of the road and then to the other. On the next bend Bob stuck his head out of the window and grinned. He was enjoying himself! During the afternoon we approached the twenty-four bends. First of all there were two gentle bends and then half a mile of straight road running smack into a mountain which blocked the

end of the valley. I wondered how on earth we were supposed to get around it or through it. It certainly never occurred to me that we might go over it and Ron, smiling to himself, kept me guessing. Then I saw the road zigzagging like a coiled spring up the side of the mountain. The second bend is by far the sharpest and steepest and has a brick wall on its upper side. A good driver must be able to get around it in one sweep. The big army G.M.C. trucks had to scrape the wall to do it. As we went up one stretch, Bob and Doug were on stretches above us; the wheels of one truck level with the top of the one below it. During the war the U.S. Army had to bring big amphibious vehicles up these bends. Every time they came to a bend they had to push the tail of the vehicle around with a bulldozer, bit by bit, letting it go forward a little each time until its nose was in the right direction, and so on until they'd climbed all 22 bends. As we approached the top the sweep of each bend became wider and we reached the plateau at the top. By evening we were in Annan; a town famous for its oranges in China. We pushed on a bit further until we reached a town called Yuan Ling and there we stopped for the night. Yuan Ling is a

very pretty little country town. All the buildings are made of wood. The 'Fan Tien's' are roadside eating-houses on the ground floor, opening on to the street. Upstairs is a hotel with little wooden open-work windows covered with thin paper; bed-bugs provided but no bedding. We ate in one of these fan-tien's which served beautiful hot food and slept on our trucks.

We refuelled that night because we wanted to reach Kweiyang on the next day. After we had finished we watched a long, illuminated dragon go by in celebration of Chinese new year. By this time I was in love with Jeanette and so was Doug. We were not the first nor were we to be the last. She is married now to a fellow Cantonese with whom she first escaped to Free-China from Hong Kong and she has two children.

The following morning we turned the corner at the end of the main street and left Yuan Ling behind. We rolled gently down into a valley at the bottom of which was a rich green carpet of paddy. As we approached the town of Kuan Ling Chang with its mei-hua trees and buzzing cicadas, we began to notice the peculiar little round hills dotted all over the valley bottom which characterise this southern part of Kweichow Province. Throughout the morning we had been encountering the Miao tribesmen; a primitive race which lives mostly in the mountains, remaining aloof from the Chinese in all respects except trade, and of much earlier origin in China than the Chinese.

By noon we had reached Huang Kuo Hsu (Yellow Fruit Tree). I wish I could have said it was beautiful. It was very grim indeed. Two army convoys had become

interlocked and jammed in this little market town. It was raining and the famous waterfall was just a miserable trickle. Three months later when I came through with another convoy, the sun was shining; the town was full of Chinese farmers and Miao in their colourful clothing; the market was in full swing; the snow in the mountains had melted and the falls hurled water over their brim with a mighty roar.

When we had penetrated the jam we went on across the wide open plateau with its odd little round hills. All the villages in this area were built of white stone and roofed with slate. Each village was surrounded by a thick, sturdy white stone wall. By two o'clock we had reached the large walled-city of Anshun. As in all the towns of this plain the predominant colour was white. We had lunch at a 'fan-tien' owned by a Cantonese known to the China Convoy as the 'Pao-tse King.' Here again we had lovely fried pao-tse, both sweet and savoury.

After lunch Ron said I could take the wheel again. The road was wide and, for the Burma Road, smooth. The sun came out and the surface dried. We made very good time and evening found us waiting outside the checking station in Kweiyang whilst Ron had our papers examined. In half an hour we pulled up with a screech of brakes outside the hostel in a street called Hwang To Po. In a few minutes we were surrounded by Convoy drivers of American, Australian, British, Canadian, Chinese and New Zealand origin, getting the welcome that only the convoy could give.

There were other convoys, longer, tougher and maybe more interesting; but my clearest memories are of that first trip.

H.W.P.J.



English as She is Taught

or

'Take no notice of that woman!  
She lacks authority!'

No pupil may be absent from school for reasons other than illness, or with permission of the Headmistress.

Excerpt from Peak School Prospectus.



English as She is Taught

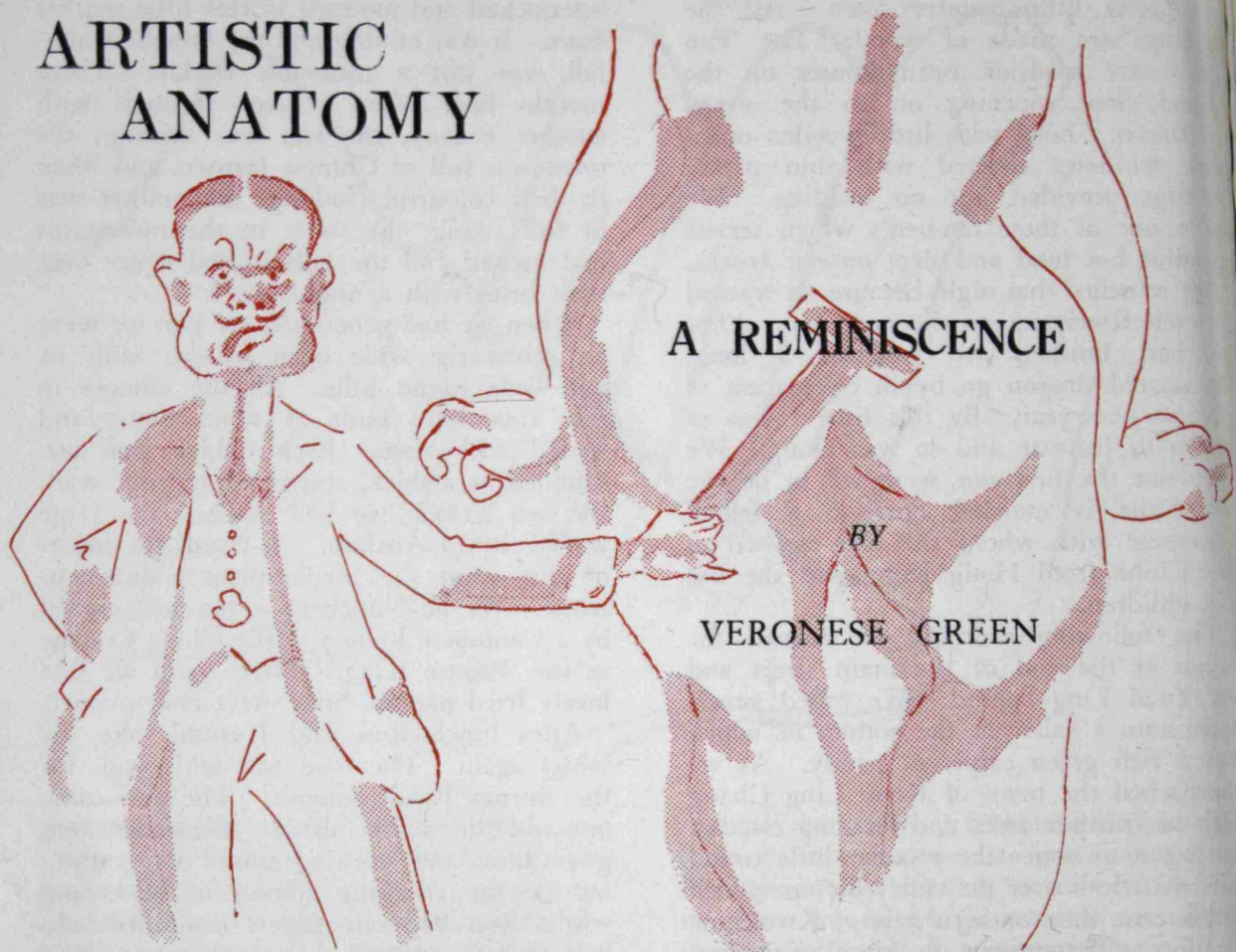
or

'Don't touch that certificate!  
It may be infectious!'

Written explanations must be sent to the School after absences for sickness, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, if an infectious disease.

Excerpt from Peak School Prospectus.

# ARTISTIC ANATOMY



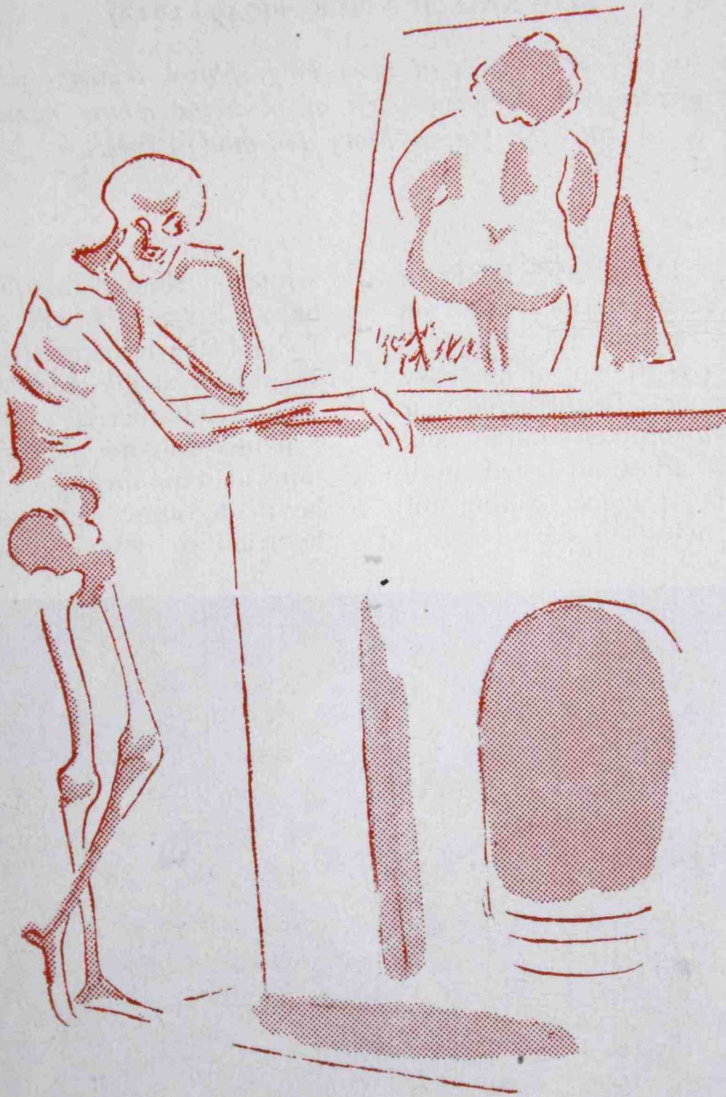
WHEN I WAS a student at the Royal Academy Schools in the late nineties, we had a professor of Anatomy called Macwhirter. He had once been a medical man but decided to raise himself a step higher in the gutter and took to art. He never exhibited, but ran a lucrative practice painting carcinomas of the liver and similar bric-a-brac for the London medical schools, or so it was said. Professional etiquette did not allow him to speak of his models to us so we never really knew. His job in the studios was to knock the rudiments of anatomy into us and knock them in he did. Bounding into the life class he would seize the nearest student's drawing board, glare at it disgustedly and then commence a terse monologue on these lines: "It goes like this" (smearing a heavy thumb over the representation of the model's abdomen) "and then like this," (prodding an even heavier thumb in the student's abdomen). "When it reaches the age of forty the whole thing sags." How right he was.

In case you are puzzled, gentle reader, it is perhaps necessary to explain that in those days the ambitions of an art student were purely representational and to achieve them some knowledge of anatomy was considered indispensable. As Macwhirter put it: "How can you pitiful daubers appreciate the surface form of a model if you don't understand the structure beneath." This was before falsies became fashionable. Now, of course, it is legitimate to make a figure painting look like a cave bound promontory or a sad kipper and enchant the gallery boys, but it was anatomy that sold art in my time, my boy. After all, when you painted your "Nymph at Dawn" expressly to catch the eye of a wealthy soap manufacturer at the summer exhibition, you had to be able to get just the soupçon of right emphasis on the sub-trochanteric accumulation, otherwise where was your nymph? If it comes to that, where was your soap manufacturer, obviously looking for a chap who knew his anatomy.

Speaking of  
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Speaking of nymphs, we had a model in the schools called Millie. She had once been a barmaid in the Strand and weighed two hundred pounds in her unstockinged feet. But Millie had the soul of a poet and a dreamer. We once asked why she had deserted the saloon bar for the model's throne. "It's so peaceful," came the reply, "I can stand all day and think beautiful thoughts, it's so nice for a girl." We accepted her explanation for she was the ideal model. Once upon the throne she took up a pose set and relapsed into a trance-like reverie in which she was deaf to everything. We often had to bellow in her ear to signify the day was ended. Millie was the delight of Macwhirter who found her the perfect subject for his lecture, "Fat and its effect on surface form." One day he was well away, Millie towering above him oblivious, on "The fat of the gluteal region." "In no other part of the body does fat accumulate to such an extent as it does here," he assured us, emphasising a truth we have since realised is obvious. "In the female, who has small muscles, the buttocks

are characteristically large and almost entirely due to fat." Macwhirter had a habit of pointing out the regions on the model under discussion with a large T square. Carried away by his enthusiasm on this occasion, and possibly lulled into a sense of false security by Millie's customary somnolence, he brought the T square down with a resounding smack at his last remark. He must have caught her during a change over in her day-dreams for Millie gave a visible start, lost her balance and crashed from the throne like a log on top of the hapless Macwhirter. He was stone dead and looking like a Nanking duck when we dragged him from underneath her and the imprint of his gluteus maximus was clearly visible on the floor. The portion of plank-ing was sawn out and hung up in the schools as a



memorial to a martyr in the cause of artistic anatomy. As for Millie, she was a little dazed. "It was so peaceful," she said, "and then suddenly I seemed to fall on the poor gentleman. It's so awful for a girl."

\* \* \*

DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD  
IN ATOMIC FIELD

Mushrooms, no doubt.

Headline, S.C.M.P.

\* \* \*

SIAMESE TWINS ARE PARTED;  
GO HOME TO BANGKOK

Coals to Newcastle.

Headline, S.C.M.P.



## ROUND THE WARDS (II)

EDWARD JENNER (1749 - 1823)

*The second of a series of brief biographical sketches telling something of the great men of medicine whose names title the Queen Mary Hospital wards.*

JENNER, THE DISCOVERER of vaccination against small-pox, was the son of a Berkeley vicar. He joined St. George's Hospital in London as a student of medicine at the age of twenty-one. In the same year he became one of John Hunter's pupils, and their friendship and affection lasted until Hunter's death in 1793; Jenner asking for Hunter's advice on many an occasion.

Jenner was a fervent nature-lover, as shown by his two famous verses *Address to a Robin* and *Signs of Rain*, and in 1773, one year after graduation, he returned to Berkeley to practise as a country doctor. Both Hunter and Jenner were interested in natural history, and they kept up a correspondence. At that time

their experiments were centred upon hedgehogs, and in March 1778, Hunter, in asking Jenner to send him some hedgehogs, wrote: ' . . . I am hedgehogless.' In September, learning that Jenner was crossed in love, Hunter wrote: 'Let her go, never mind her. I shall employ you with hedgehogs.'

Ten years later, Jenner was married, and upon the birth of his first-born, Hunter

wrote: 'Sooner than the brat should not be a Christian, I will stand Godfather, for I should be unhappy if the poor little thing should go to the devils because I would not stand Godfather.'

Jenner was not satisfied with the preparations of some medicines in common use, and he made some experiments. In particular he tried to obtain a preparation of tartar

emetic that was 'regular in standard and uniform in operation.' He published a small pamphlet on this, and Hunter asked him to burn it 'lest all the world be making it.'

Before long Hunter and Jenner reverted to their natural history; this time they studied cuckoos. In 1792, Jenner obtained the degree of M.D.

from St. Andrews University, and he gave up general practice in the same year.

It is said that when Jenner was a student at Sodbury in his early days, he asked a little girl about small-pox. The girl replied: 'I cannot take that disease, for I have had cow-pox.' These words imprinted themselves upon his mind, and he contemplated the application of cow-pox on a grand scale



for the prevention of small-pox. He wrote of his ideas to Hunter, who gave him the characteristic, curt reply: 'Don't think, try; be patient, be accurate.'

On May 14th, 1796, he performed his first vaccination upon an eight year old country boy, James Phipps, using the pustular matter from a milkmaid, Sarah Nelmes, who had contracted cow-pox in the usual way. Then, on July 1st, he inoculated Phipps with small-pox virus, but no small-pox developed. The immunization had been successful.

In 1798, he applied to the Royal Society for permission to present his findings before the Fellows, but his request was refused on the grounds that 'he ought not to risk his reputation by presenting to the learned body anything which appeared so much at variance with established knowledge and withal so incredible.'

Undaunted, Jenner published his results in a seventy-five page paper with a very long title: *An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae, a Disease discovered in some of the Western Counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of 'The Cow Pox'.*

Between 1799 and 1806, Jenner published five pamphlets recording his latest experiments and improvements in his methods. Gradually he gained the confidence of the public, and by 1800, six thousand people

had been vaccinated. He rose to fame, he became known all over the world, and the reverence and respect that he now enjoyed is well illustrated by the following story: in 1813 a relative of his, a Captain Milman, was captured by the French in the Napoleonic wars. Jenner wrote a letter to Napoleon, asking for Milman's release. Napoleon, on reading the letter, exclaimed: 'Ah! C'est Jenner; je ne puis rien refuser à Jenner' and Captain Milman was released.

In 1802, the British Parliament voted Jenner a grant of £20,000 for his discovery, for had he been selfish he could have kept secret his method of vaccination, and amassed a great fortune for himself, but he had publicized his work, and even suffered financial loss.

In 1813, Oxford University made him a Doctor of Physic, and on March 16th, 1821, he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the King.

Though he practiced a short while in London, his love for Nature and simplicity made him turn back to his native Berkeley. There he vaccinated many poor people, and dealt with correspondence so far and wide that it soon became voluminous. He died at Berkeley of apoplexy on January 26th, 1823, in his seventy-fourth year. A monument was erected to his memory in Trafalgar Square in 1858. His tombstone bears the following lines:

*Within this tomb hath found a resting place  
The great physician of the human race --  
Immortal Jenner! -- Whose gigantic mind  
Brought life and health to more than half mankind.  
Let rescued infancy his worth proclaim,  
And lisp out blessings on his honour'd name;  
And radiant beauty drop one grateful tear,  
For beauty's truest friend lies buried here.*

C. C. CHANG.

\* \* \*

### ISN'T FAME WONDERFUL!

Question: "For what is William Beaumont noted?"

- Answers:
1. Wm. Beaumont was noted for his gastric digestion.
  2. Wm. Beaumont was noted for having a gastric fistula.
  3. Wm. Beaumont was the first to make a gastric fistula in a human being.
  4. Wm. Beaumont was noted for experiments carried out on Alex St. Martin, who possessed a stomach which was visible from outside.
  5. Wm. Beaumont is noted for studying gastric secretion in Alexis St. Martin who had a wound in his chest.

## SPUZZED AMONGST THE HIPPOS

*ELIXIR takes pride in presenting a second extract from Mr. Edwin Lo-tien Fang's masterpiece, 'MODERN ENGLISH CONVERSATION'.*

### AT A WEDDING PARTY

- Cheng: So spuzzed today?
- Lee: Spuzzed? Yes, going to attend a nuptial.
- Cheng: At Downtown Club? I've got an bid from Pans also. You don't ask your heavy date to go there with you?
- Lee: You mean Miss Chu? No heavy date yet; she's my daddy. She's not acquainted with Pans. And your better half will not join with you there?
- Cheng: She's been with her parents a dozen of days in Hangchow.
- Lee: Well, we may go together. I think we have to go now, the ceremony is to be held at ten.
- Cheng: Okay.
- Lee: You see all the alley is lined with hippos; we may be late comers, I fear.
- Cheng: Yah, the B. and O. is striking up, and the master of ceremony is there to announce the program. I wonder who is to preside over the nuptials to-day, as Pan's father is away in Peiping.
- Lee: Pan's uncle will officiate on his behalf but Miss Liu's mother will attend in person.
- Cheng: But how comes it to pass that Pan and Liu get married? Did they experience the same flapperitis as we do?
- Lee: No. They're co-eds at the Shanghai University, though not of the same department. Mr. Pan is a big boy and also a bale of fire in the engine coll. He has long been in love with Miss Liu for her wise, prudent and obliging deportment.
- Cheng: Yes, I have long heard Miss Liu is a choice bit of calico. She's well versed in mathematics. Their marriage must be a success. But you know the go-betweens that are standing on the platform?
- Lee: Yes, on the right is Mr. Yeh; on the left, Mr. Chien. Both are Pan's bunkies.
- Cheng: And the witnesses?
- Lee: The one in tuxedo is Mr. Zung, prof of technical engineering, and that one in black jacket and blue long gown is Mr. Yu, prof of Chinese literature.
- Cheng: Then this wedding may be said to be a coll wedding.
- Lee: Yah; they are all brilliant stars of the university. - Look here! the happy couple are tripping forth to the ceremonial hall. They are as bright as fresh, as two lotus flowers blooming on a limpid pond.
- Cheng: Yes, the bouquet of lily especially makes a harmonious contrast with the bridal habit. And what's more charming is the pair of sparkling eyes in the well-formed figure. No wonder they take it big of their union. You see how gleefully and gracefully they exchanged their wedding rings for them.
- Lee: Yes, well, Prof Yu is now making an address to the happy couple. He is very humane and humorous, and is apt to pride himself upon his eloquence.
- Cheng: Indeed, his speech is witty, sportive and interesting. But you see the wedding cake and nuptial cups are already served up on the banquet over there, yet we have no chance to offer our compliments and greetings.

Lee: Let George do it. You see it's a sumptuous feast, and there are so many guests here, it is impossible for the bride and bridegroom to receive us separately. Do you know where will the new couple pass their honeymoon?  
 Cheng: No. And you know?  
 Lee: Perhaps in Tsingtao, where Mr. Pan has a beautiful country seat on the beach there.

\* \* \*

GAME PIE

*There's a deathly 'ush in the baker's shop;  
 Three a.m., and the loaves to bake!  
 But Baker Bloggs, 'es fast asleep;  
 Stuffed to the gills with Topsy-cake!*

*Then 'is Missus's 'and on 'is shoulder smites,  
 And is Missus's voice coos soft and low:  
 'Get up! Get up! You floury slob!  
 'Get up! Get up! and mix the dough!*

*But Baker Bloggs is a fiery bloke,  
 And 'is Missus is soon in a terrible fix;  
 For 'e rises in wrath from 'is sodden couch,  
 And 'e cries with an oath: 'It's YOU I'll mix!'*

*And that's why the Baker's a widower now!  
 And that's 'ow 'is Missus, she come to be slayed!  
 And that (and the secret, it's got to be broke),  
 That's 'ow the first pork pies was made!*

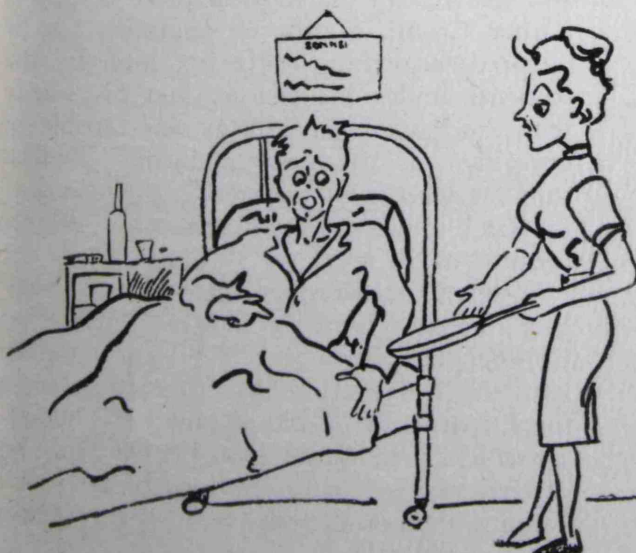
JEREMIAH.

\* \* \*

NEW TYPE OF CIVIL SERVANT?

Mr. Louis Colmans has been appointed an approved person to issue gas-free certificates . . .  
*News item, S.C.M.P.*

\* \* \*



ENIGMA

*He who can just does it well;  
 He who can't prefers to tell;  
 What is he who fills his breach  
 Teaching teachers how to teach?*

\* \* \*

ALL'S FOR THE BEST  
 IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE  
 WORLDS

*Let us make no dirty jokes  
 About the rather fancy blokes  
 Running our administration.  
 Is it not their proper station?*

## NOTES AND NEWS

### CHAIR OF ANATOMY



Professor Francis Chang arrived early in September to take up his appointment as Head of the Department of Anatomy. The Chair is thus filled for the first time since Professor Banfill's resignation in December, 1951. During this long gap, an adequate teaching programme has been maintained by the faithful efforts of a skeleton junior staff, aided by part-time lecturers from outside. Dr. Marjorie Lee and Dr. Esther Anderton deserve particular credit for their work in keeping the Department going. If the newly created post of Senior Lecturer in the Department can be filled, anatomy here has a bright future.

Professor Chang holds an M.Sc. degree from his own University of St. John's, Shanghai, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, New York. He was for twelve years Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy at St. John's, and whilst there established an unchallenged reputation as the finest anatomy teacher in China. His wife, Dr. Kathleen Chang, obtained her medical degrees in New Zealand. She worked in her husband's Department in

Shanghai as Lecturer in Applied Anatomy. They come to us from the University of Malaya, where Professor Chang has for several years been Senior Lecturer in Anatomy.

Professor Chang states that his first concern will be the reorganization of teaching, second the task of building up a sound, anatomical museum, and third, the promotion of research. Although the staff has been increased, more will be needed before the Department can be considered fully developed. In the field of research, he himself is interested in the comparative morphology of the head and neck.

His former students remember him with affection and respect, but recall that he was a stern disciplinarian. He himself claims that age has mellowed him. Both he and his wife carry about with them an air of great friendliness, and even greater awareness and determination. We welcome them heartily, and look forward with confidence to taking pride in an Anatomy Department equal to the best.

### FERGUS CRONIN

Father Fergus Cronin, s.j., took over the Wardenship of Ricci Hall in 1947. Ricci has always been a popular Hall with medical students, 39 out of the present 58 residents being students of our Faculty. For this reason the medical profession owes Father Cronin a debt of gratitude, for he inspired something akin to love in the students under his charge, and his sturdy sense and warm humanism was capable of bringing out the best in them. Medical students who spent their undergraduate days in Ricci under him will be better doctors because of it.

Father Cronin resigned from his Wardenship recently, and is now at Wah Yan College, but happily retains a connection with the University as part-time Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy. His successor at Ricci Hall is the Rev. Fr. Dargan, s.j., whom we welcome, and wish as much happiness in the task as Father Cronin always evidently had.

## ANDERSON GOLD MEDAL



John Anderson came to Hong Kong in 1924 as the first Professor of Medicine after a career which had included zoology, general practice, six years of Army medical work, and four years of research in problems of tropical medicine, notably filariasis.

Professor Anderson stayed here for five years, during which time he completely reorganised the teaching of medicine, and established a high reputation both as a consultant and as a man. He has an undoubted place amongst those who have shaped our medical school.

He resigned his Chair in 1929 to head the Division of Tropical Medicine at the Lester Institute, Shanghai, but died an untimely death on March 28th, 1931 following an operation for appendicitis. He was then in his 53rd year.

In his will he left a sum of money to the University for the establishment of a prize in the form of a Gold Medal, to be given annually to the medical student securing the highest aggregate of marks in all the Professional Examinations; that is, all University examinations from 2nd M.B. onwards. The winner of the Anderson Medal is therefore an outstanding student, not simply with a flare for one or two subjects, but consistently able to be amongst the few top students in every subject.

After the war, the income from the endowment was no longer sufficient to meet the greatly increased cost of a medal, and

for a time a prize of books was substituted. The Board of the Faculty felt strongly, however, that a prize of books was an inadequate expression of the spirit behind Professor Anderson's bequest. The generosity of a few individuals made it possible for medals to be presented to all the post-war winners, and the University Council has now added a sum of money to the original endowment in order that the income shall cover the cost of an annual award.

The medal is  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. Our picture shows the obverse, on which is a bas-relief of John Anderson, made from a photograph which appeared with his obituary notice in the *Lancet*. The reverse carries the University Crest.

The winners since the war have been: Irene Osmund (1952), Sylvia Chui (1953), Khoo Boon Kheng (1954) and Sylvia Loo Siew Wah (1955).

## PHARMACOLOGY

Applications have been invited for the post of Lecturer in Pharmacology within the Department of Physiology. This is in implementation of a decision to include more laboratory work in pharmacology in the medical course, and so to give students a broader basis for the understanding of therapeutics.

## Frauds In Art On Exhibition By Paris Police

*Headline, S.C.M.P.*

But does not this amount to a usurpation of the functions of the British Council?

## FOREIGN VISITS

Dr. Doris Gray was given leave and a grant to attend the International Diabetes Association Conference at Cambridge in July, and the International Biochemical Congress at Brussels in August 1955. Dr. Gray, previously Lecturer in Biochemistry, was appointed Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry from July 1st, 1955.

Dr. A. S. H. Wong, Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, was given leave and a

grant to attend the Fourteenth British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford in July 1955.

Dr. L. F. Tinckler, lately Lecturer in Surgery, has been awarded a senior Fulbright Travel Grant to enable him to take up postgraduate studies at the Presbyterian Hospital, New York.

#### HONOURS

The Senate has decreed that the degrees of M.B., B.S. may henceforward be awarded with Honours. The award of Honours will be decided upon performance in examinations throughout the professional course.

#### PRIZES

ANDERSON GOLD MEDAL: Miss Sylvia Loo Siew Wah.

HO FOOK AND CHAN KAI MING PRIZE FOR HIGHEST AGGREGATE OF MARKS IN THE FINAL EXAMINATION: Miss Ellen King and Miss Sylvia Loo Siew Wah.

DIGBY GOLD MEDAL IN SURGERY: Miss Alice Poon Shun Haan.

GORDON KING PRIZE IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY: Miss Therese Lu Ti Li.

AW BOON HAW PRIZE IN OBSTETRICAL AND GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY: Dr. Margaret J. King.



## CORRESPONDENCE

### HEALTH SCHEME FOR HONG KONG

Dear Editor,

I regret not being ready in time for this issue, as I had hoped, with another article on the question of a "National" Health Scheme for Hong Kong. But this is to assure you that myself and some others continue to be seriously interested, are giving the matter further thought, and hope to carry on the discussion in forthcoming issues.

I appreciated the interest taken by the local Press. In particular the report in the *Sunday Post Herald*, which canvassed some random sample of the diverse public reactions, was useful. But on the whole you will agree, Sir – and doubtless it will have surprised you no more than it surprised me – that there has been no dazzling outburst of collective enthusiasm for the suggestions I sprinkled forth in my article.

We will however persist, and do our best to formulate appropriate and effective plans; meanwhile I would be glad to receive any information or suggestions of a constructive kind.

Yours sincerely,  
STUART KIRBY,  
Dept. of Economics, H.K.U.

### HORACE WELLS

Sir,

On page 31 of the Spring number of *Elixir*, your contributor makes out his case for Horace Wells as being one of the prime discoverers of anaesthesia and states that no mention of him was made in my article "Gentlemen, this is no humbug" in the previous (Xmas) number of *Elixir*.

As my article was subtitled "Some observations on an old friend – ether" and the late Mr. Horace Wells was concerned with nitrous oxide only, his inclusion in my article would be about as appropriate as placing Vesuvius or Mount Etna into a non-smoking compartment of the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

I have the honour, Sir, to remain,  
Your obedient servant,  
Z. L.

### NEW NAMES FOR OLD

Sir,

Being an undergraduate, I am naturally perplexed by much of the problems I learn, particularly by the following questions. I would therefore welcome comments from readers who are more senior members of the Medical profession:

1. Hypertension – That the manifesta-

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 3



tions and pathology of Hypertension are not due to increased blood pressure alone is probably a correct assumption. Cannot the condition be renamed to something like 'Syndrome of Arteriosclero-Nephro-Hypertension?'

2. Peptic ulceration - That there is a disagreement as to which form of treatment, whether Medical or Surgical, is the correct treatment for peptic ulceration exists. Will the establishment of a Gastrologist, as distinct from a Gastro-Enterologist, who combines both Medicine, Surgery and Psychiatry, solve the problem?

Yours etc.,  
CONFUSED MEDICAL STUDENT.

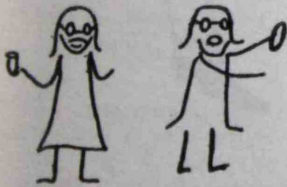
DON'T LET'S BE BEASTLY TO PSYCHOLOGISTS

Sir,  
With reference to your slighting remarks about psychologists in *Fact, Fancy and Opinion* of the last issue; the following:

*It is dangerous, especially for men,  
To mock the eminent gentlemen  
Who prove that things are well as they are  
Mothers best for babies and suchlike.  
They might be forced into feminine ways  
of thought*

*And prove satisfactorily  
That babies are not the best thing for women  
And not be aware that thereafter,  
Only lady scientists would have fun  
Proving the useless usefulness of men.*

Yours etc.,



\* \* \*

SEA WATER BEING PRESSURE COOKED IN TITANIUM POTS

Headline, S.C.M.P.

Colonial Welfare and Development boys on the job again?

The sender of the first correct entry opened after the closing date was Mr. Tan Jui Meng, of Eliot Hall. If he will call at the Department of Physiology he will be presented with a cheque for \$25.00, made out to the book-store of his choice.

Correct entries were also received from the Misses Lily Veronica Yen and Leonora Lok, and from Messrs. Tsao Yen Chow, Gordon Low, Tso Shiu Chiu, and Chan Sai Lung, and Dr. A. C. da Roza.



English as She is Taught  
or

'Go Teach Your Grandmother  
to Suck Eggs'

Ministers of Religion and Sisters visit the School for religious instruction.

Excerpt from Peak School Prospectus.

\* \* \*

Ottawa, Sept. 4.

University scientists here are working on a soap that can be eaten.

S.C.M.P.

But the cooks in the hostels have known all about this for years!

\* \* \*

EXPERIENCED registered doctors required by Church clinic for services from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Please write Box 709, "S. C. M. Post."

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My



**MARVIN**

couldn't be wrong!



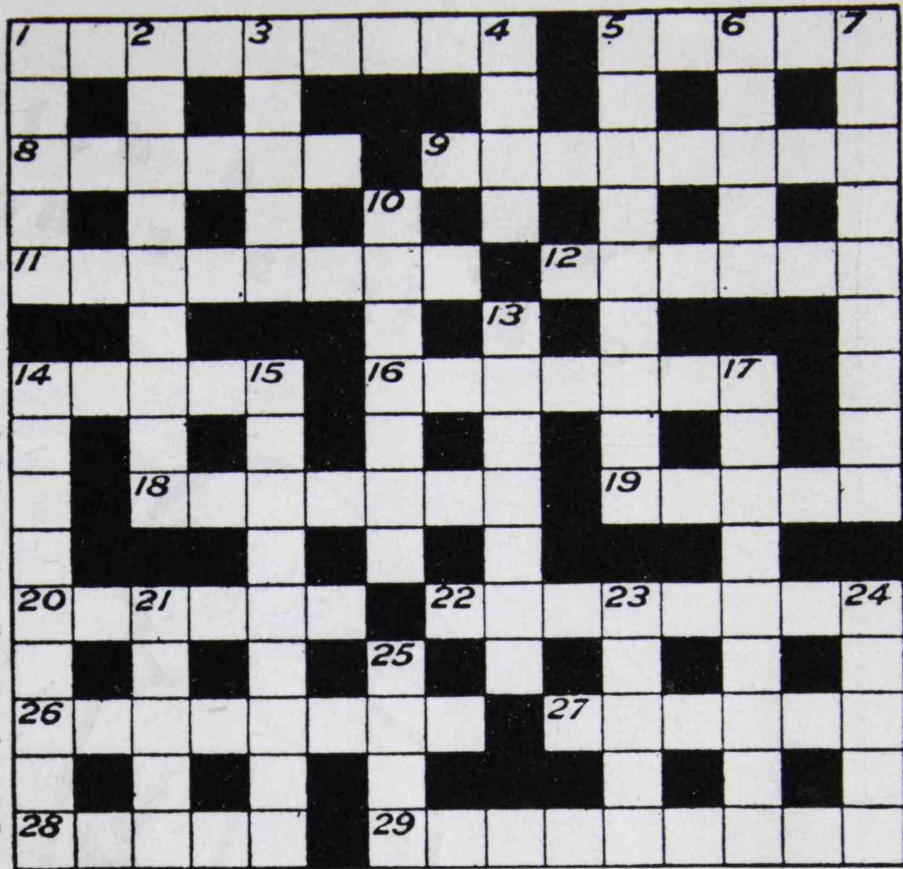
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# ELIXIR PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 4

## ACROSS

- 1) Twins, but not identical. (9)
- 5) The lowest form of animal life? Pretty sickening, anyhow. (5)
- 8) Omen. (6)
- 9) 5 across can be this on chick embryos. (8)
- 11) About four fifths of air. (8)
- 12) The epic Ricci hides a yellow acid. (6)
- 14) Nasty, irritating, childish cough. (5)
- 16) Poetically picturesque. (7)
- 18) Sounds like an agreement to a joint undertaking, but is really so much rabbit fodder. (7)
- 19) Indian class. (5)
- 20) Rearrange unions a little for community singing. (6)
- 22) Re-disect, making all the parts separate. (8)
- 26) Husbands of unfaithful wives. (8)
- 27) This enterological cave dweller has us all taped. (6)
- 28) Attempt a task; or what you write about it afterwards. (5)
- 29) Pesky ague flies. (9)



## DOWN

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 'What the hammer? What the chain? 'In what furnace was thy—?' William Blake. (5)</li> <li>2) But not for growing moon-flowers. (9)</li> <li>3) Number six in the Zodiac. (5)</li> <li>4) Tour back for an army in flight. (4)</li> <li>5) Civil riot may give rise to a bitter and acidic epithet. (9)</li> <li>6) Deer are rare, but the middle even more so. (5)</li> <li>7) Attractive, in a nice but naughty manner. (9)</li> <li>10) He married his mother and fathered a complex. (7)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13) When you have this, pyogenic organisms may be 9 across from the fluid in which you find 14 down. (7)</li> <li>14) Red or white, but never blue—not even in aristocrats. (9)</li> <li>15) The science of disease. (9)</li> <li>17) One sort of puncture, but higher than most. (9)</li> <li>21) Look around, just in case the old kings of Peru are in hiding. (5)</li> <li>23) May have a motor or horses, but it takes a different kind to help you through 24 down. (5)</li> <li>24) Passed by degrees for degrees. (5)</li> <li>25) Well! Well! The very — — — — ! (4)</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

*This competition is open to all medical undergraduates and interns. Fill in the puzzle, detach this page, and send it in a sealed envelope marked 'Crossword' to the Editors of Elixir, c/o Department of Physiology. Books to the value of 25/- will be given to the sender of the first correct solution opened after the closing date, November 15th, 1955.*

\* \* \*

**MAKE SURE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS ELIXIR NOW! NOTHING LIKE IT HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE, AND, BE IT IN OUR POWER, NOTHING LIKE IT WILL EVER HAPPEN AGAIN. FILL IN THE BLUE FORM ENCLOSED IN THIS ISSUE, AND STAND WELL CLEAR!**

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to help a scholar?**



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and interest, year by year**



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With this issue, most of the subscriptions taken out as a result of our appeal a year ago expire. We were most encouraged by the original response, and the number of our subscribers has enabled us to put the magazine on a sound financial footing. If our old friends will stay with us, and thus ensure a good income from subscriptions for the year ahead, we shall be in a position to transfer a substantial sum from the Magazine Account to the Scholarship Fund.

Have you enjoyed ELIXIR? We have tried to make it interesting and entertaining. If, in your view, we have succeeded, will you please fill in the subscription form enclosed with this issue, and send it back to us in the Business Reply envelope provided? To save yourself (and us) the trouble involved in renewing subscriptions each year, why not fill in the blank Banker's Order Form? Your bank will then pay us your subscription once a year. By this painless process you will be supporting us, and at the same time giving yourself the pleasure of three issues of ELIXIR each year until you cancel the Order.

The Banker's Order Form also gives you the opportunity of making a small but regular annual contribution to our Scholarship Fund. If a sufficient number of people make use of this scheme, we shall be in the happy position of seeing the way ahead.

And what about your friends? We want more readers. Two forms are enclosed, so if you have a friend who does not take ELIXIR, and whom you think would like it, pass a form on; or, more happily, give him a subscription as a Christmas present. Come to that, send out ELIXIR subscriptions as Christmas Cards this year. If you will send us a list of the names and addresses of your friends whom you would like to greet in this fashion, we will send a Christmas number of ELIXIR to reach them before Christmas Day, together with a Greetings Card bearing your name. Enclose \$7.00 for each subscription.

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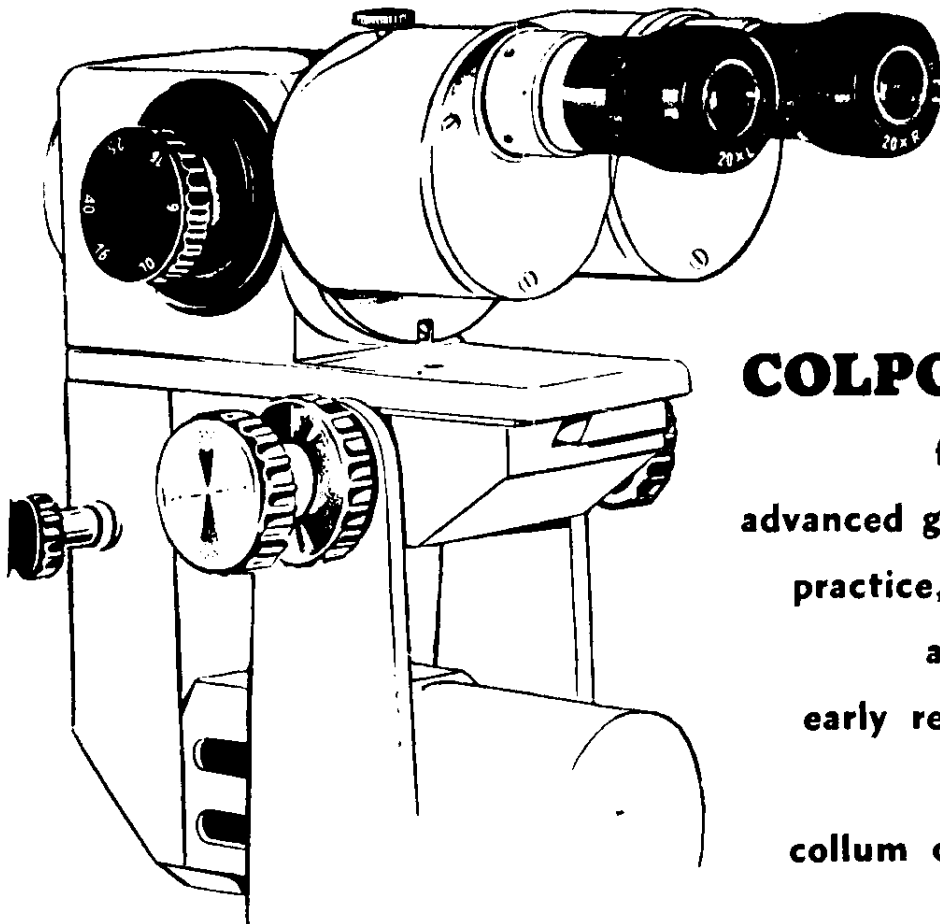
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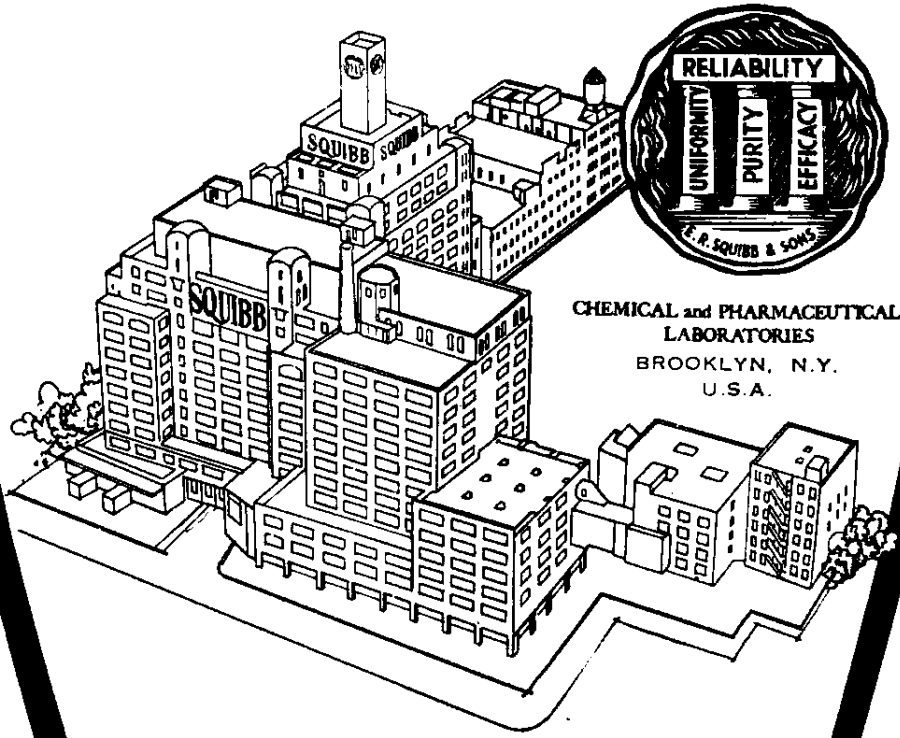
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