

EDITORIAL : VAN DIE REDAKSIE

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Medical School of the University of Cape Town. It was on Thursday 6 June 1912, that 'the opening ceremony of the anatomical and physiological laboratories' of the South African College took place. At this ceremony Dr. E. Barnard Fuller, Chairman of the Senate of the College, gave an account of the origin and growth of the Medical School and speeches were delivered by the Honourable F. S. Malan, Minister of Education, and the Rt. Honourable John X. Merriman, former Prime Minister of the Cape Colony. The opening of these laboratories marked not only the commencement of a faculty of medicine at the then South African College, but also the commencement of medical education in South Africa.

From earliest times, when Surgeon Commander Jan van Riebeeck established a settlement to provide fresh food for the fleets of the Dutch East India Company, and a hospital to tend their sick, the supply of medical manpower did not meet the demand. Realizing the difficulty of attracting medical practitioners to the outpost at the tip of the African Continent, the Company encouraged its 'barber surgeons' to retire to the Cape. In the early days of the Cape Colony the armed forces provided personnel to staff the medical services. As time went on, increasing numbers of civilian practitioners settled at the Cape, many of whose names

are honoured in South African medical history.

In the latter part of the 19th century the idea developed that facilities should be provided for the training of medical practitioners in South Africa. This suggestion did not meet with unanimous approval; indeed many leading practitioners objected to it, but, in spite of opposition, the South African College arranged to offer courses in the basic sciences to prospective medical students. The consent of the University of Edinburgh to the recognition of these first-year courses was received in June 1904, and the consent of the Universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow followed in September. In February 1905, the British Council for Medical Education gave full recognition to the South African first-year courses. With this recognition the College was in a position to offer intending medical students the first year of study in this country, with the prospect of completing the course in an overseas medical school.

The first Anatomy Act was introduced in 1911, at the instigation of the Council of the South African College, but the establishment of Departments of Anatomy and Physiology was not achieved without overcoming great opposition. Eventually, with the financial backing of Wernher and Beit, opposition was overcome and chairs of anatomy and of physiology were founded. The first incumbent of the chair of anatomy was Robert Black



OPENING CEREMONY  
of the Anatomical and Physiological Laboratories.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday, June 6th, 1912.

1. The Council and Senate will assemble in the College Grounds at 11.25 a.m., June 6th, to receive distinguished guests.
2. The Company will assemble in the Hiddingh Hall, the Chairman of Council presiding.
3. Scripture Reading by the Rev. J. M. Russell, M.A., B.D.
4. Prayer by the Rev. I. P. van Heerden. B.A.
5. Dr. E. Barnard Fuller, Chairman of Senate, will give a short account of the origin and growth of the Medical School.
6. Speeches by the Hon. the Minister of Education and the Right Hon. J. X. Merriman.
7. Votes of Thanks will be moved by the Rev. J. M. Russell, Chairman of Council.
8. The Company will proceed to the New Laboratories, when the Chairman of Council will ask Mr. Hesse, the Architect, to present a Key to the Minister of Education, who will then open the Laboratories.
9. Inspection of the various rooms.

Facsimile of programme at opening ceremony (6 June 1912)

Thompson, and William Adam Jolly took his seat for the first time as professor of physiology in the University Senate on 3 October 1911. It was on this foundation that the Medical School of the University of Cape Town was built. The foresight and determination of the earlier pioneers, notably Dr. E. Barnard Fuller, father of the Medical School and thus of medical education in South Africa, led to the expansion of the teaching facilities to the clinical subjects and eventually to the award of the first medical degrees in South Africa in 1922.

The link between the teaching of medical students and fundamental medical research is axiomatic. Since its foundation the Medical School of the University of Cape Town has been distinguished in both fields. The greatest single research asset it enjoys is the availability of a multiracial population for comparative studies. Cape Town is one of the few places in the world where such a multiplicity of races is available for study under modern conditions with highly trained research workers and reasonable research equipment. The Medical School has not failed to make use of the facilities at its disposal and notable contributions to science have been made in recent years, which have served to justify the confidence of the early sponsors of the School.

The 'foundation disciplines' of physiology and anatomy have played their part. The former has done valuable research in electrocardiography, phonocardiography, endocrine physiology, nutritional and metabolic studies and techniques of assisted ventilation, to name but a few. The latter has made contributions to knowledge of human development and growth, both before and after birth, the anatomy of the heart and blood vessels in man and animal, the anatomy of the ear, and the mechanism of hearing in man and animal. The anatomical characteristics of the Bushman, Hottentot, Bantu, and Cape Coloured people of South Africa have been studied and important research has been done on prehistoric man in South Africa, particularly on the fossil remains from Boskop in the Transvaal, Florisbad in the Orange Free State and Elandsfontein near Hopefield.

It is on this basis of fundamental and far-reaching research in the preclinical sciences that research and teaching in the clinical departments have been founded. Preclinical

and clinical disciplines progress together and the closest liaison is maintained between them.

The influence of the teaching at the Medical School of the University of Cape Town on medical practice throughout the Republic is shown by the fact that at each of the medical schools in this country, Cape Town graduates occupy important clinical and other chairs. This influence is evident not only in South Africa, but also in many countries in the English-speaking world, where graduates of the Medical School of the University of Cape Town occupy clinical posts at all levels, including chairs at leading universities. At the same time the link between the Scottish universities, evident in the early recognition of the courses offered by the University of Cape Town, is still maintained, and to this day graduates of the universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow occupy chairs at the Medical School of the University of Cape Town. The clinical staff are, in the main, Cape Town graduates, but many senior appointments are held by distinguished graduates of other universities.

Names that are proudly associated with the Medical School include Prof. W. A. Jolly, the first Professor of Physiology and first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Prof. M. R. Drennan, Professor of Anatomy for over 40 years; Profs. C. F. M. Saint, A. W. Falconer and E. C. Crichton, the 'big three' of the clinical years; Sir Carruthers Beattie (Sir Jock), the Principal and Vice-Chancellor under whose guidance the School was formed; Prof. F. Forman (Frankie), who has spent a life-time at the Medical School; and 'Archie' Lamb, who had charge of the 'bawns' required for instruction of second-year students.

The thousands of graduates from this Medical School (there were 2,566 on the register on 31 December 1961) will no doubt grow nostalgic in re-living their undergraduate days, but the entire medical profession of South Africa, together with the profession in the Western World, will join us in congratulating the Medical School of the University of Cape Town on its 50 years of achievement, which has brought this country to the forefront of medical knowledge. The Medical School will be officially celebrating the occasion at its Jubilee Celebrations during the last week of January 1963.

## DIE 50-JARIGE HERDENKING VAN DIE GRONDLEGGING VAN DIE MEDIESE SKOOL VAN DIE UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Donderdag, 6 Junie 1912, is 'n besondere belangrike dag in die geskiedenis van die geneeskunde in Suid-Afrika. Dit is so omdat daar op daardie dag, met die opening van die anatomie- en fisiologielaboratoriums, die grondslag gelê is van voor-kliniese geneeskundige onderrig in Suid-Afrika.

Alhoewel die eerste skemering van 'n eie geneeskundige skoling suid van die Sahara alreeds in 1896 deurgebreek het met die ontstaan van 'n hulp-skool in Madagaskar, het die eerste werklike eie en volwaardige opleiding in Suid-Afrika en in Suidelike Afrika pas eers met die oprigting van die Departemente van Fisiologie en Anatomie in 1912, en die latere stigting van die Geneeskundige Fakulteit aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad in 1918, begin. Die ander geneeskundige skole, wat soos volg oor die vasteland ver-

sprei is, het daarna gevolg: Witwatersrand in 1921, Makarere in 1924, Pretoria in 1943, Khartoum in 1948, Dakar in 1950, Durban in 1951, Lovanium (Leopoldstad) in 1954, Stellenbosch in 1955, en Elizabethstad in 1956. Vandag is die toestand van sake só dat meer as 70% van alle praktiserende geneeshere in Suid-Afrika aan die een of ander van die Suid-Afrikaanse geneeskundige skole gekwalifiseer het.

Die oprigting van die Departemente van Fisiologie en Anatomie, wat, soos ons hierbo aangedui het, tot die latere stigting van die geneeskundige skool self gelei het, het nie sonder veel moeite en teenstand geskied nie. Selfs so 'n belangrike figuur soos Cecil John Rhodes (wat kort na die begin van die eeu oorlede is) was gedurende sy leeftyd

sterk gekant teen plaaslike geneeskundige opleiding. Dat daar uit Afrika altyd *iets nuuts* te wagte was, was so 'n aanvaarde verskynsel dat dit selfs by lede van die ouer beskawings spreekwoordelik geword het; dat daar uit Afrika egter *iets goeds* te voorskyn kon kom, is toe (en word nou nog) deur baie mense betwyfel!

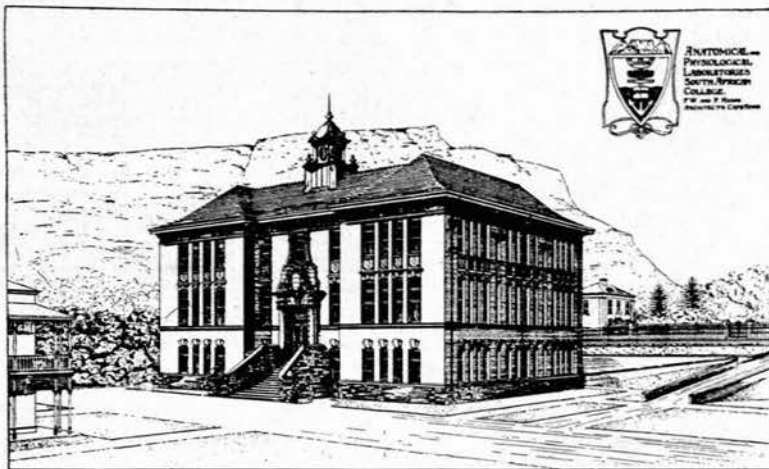
As daar iets is wat hierdie twyfel behoort te verdryf (dat daar uit Afrika iets goeds kan kom) dan is dit die verbasende sukses waarmee die voortsetting van geneeskundige opleiding aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad bekroon is. Ons kan, om ons bedoeling te verduidelik, begin deur te verwys na die besondere aard en kwaliteit van die opleiding wat studente in die geneeskunde aan dié Skool in

Kaapstad ontvang het en nog ontvang. Gesteun deur die simpatieke hulp wat sedert die vroeë dae van die Skotse universiteite en van beroemde Skotse leermeesters ontvang is, en verder versterk deur die gebruik van ons eie Suid-Afrikaanse kragte, is 'n onderwystradisie aan die Kaap opgebou wat vir geen ander ter wêreld hoef terug te staan nie. Dat dit só is, word bewys deur die feit dat die Universiteit van Kaapstad trotse en bekwame geneeshere hier kon oplei; dat sy nagraadse studente op die hoogste vlak kon meeding met studente uit alle dele van die wêreld, en dat baie professore in geneeskundige vakke, wat oor die lengte en die breedte van die wêreld versprei is, oudstude van die Universiteit van Kaapstad is.

Benewens die kwaliteit van die geneeskundige opleiding

self, word 'n geneeskundige skool ook gekenmerk deur die omvang en waarde van die geneeskundige navorsing wat binne sy mure gedoen word. Ook hier is die Geneeskundige Skool van die Universiteit van Kaapstad 'n voorloper en 'n leier. Een van die treffendste dinge wat op hierdie

gebied gebeur het, is die ontstaan van onvergelyklik-goeie navorsingseenhede aan hierdie skool, op haas elke terrein van die akademiese en kliniese geneeskunde — 'n toestand van sake wat te danke is aan die verbeeldingryke leiding van mense soos Sir Carruthers Beattie en proff. W.A. Jolly, M. R. Drennan, C. F. M. Saint, A. W. Falconer, E. C. Crichton, F. Forman, J. F. Brock, en te baie andere om hier te noem.



Anatomie- en fisiologielaboratorium — 1912

Die groot aantal praktisyns wat as geneeshere opgelei is aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad en wat ons land en sy mense op alle moontlike geneeskundige gebiede bedien, sal met belangstelling en trots terugkyk op die prestasies van hul alma mater oor die afgelope 50 jaar. Vir hulle sal dit goed wees om by hierdie herdenking egter ook te onthou dat daar selfs nog 'n groter plig en trou verskuldig is as aan 'n spesifieke alma mater — die plig wat elke geneesheer deel met elke ander geneesheer, waar hy ook al opgelei is — om te sorg dat ons geneeskundige standarde altyd so hoog as moontlik gehou word om so-doende te verseker dat ons altyd in staat sal wees om die diens wat ons het om te lewer, sonder verslapping, op die hoogste vlak te kan bly lewer.