

## VAN DIE REDAKSIE : EDITORIAL

## TIENDE AKADEMIESE JAARDAG—FAKULTEIT VAN GENEESKUNDE VAN DIE UNIVERSITEIT VAN STELLENBOSCH

Op 1 Julie 1956 het die eerste dosent-geneeshere die Karl Bremer-hospitaal betrek, waarvan dr. R. L. M. Kotzé toe reeds as Mediese Superintendent en mev. E. M. L. Volsteed as Matrone aangestel was. Aangesien die Karl Bremer-hospitaal deur die Kaapse Provinsiale Departement tydelik daargestel is as opleidingshospitaal, kon die Fakulteit van Geneeskunde dus met sy opleidingswerk en sy ander akademiese werksaamhede begin.

Die Akademiese Jaardag wat vanjaar weer, soos by vorige geleenthede in die verlede, by die Burgersentrum in Bellville gehou is, was dus eintlik 'n heel spesiale geleentheid aangesien dit die tiende verjaardag van die Fakulteit van Geneeskunde van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch verteenwoordig het. Sedert die stigting van die Fakulteit in 1956 het die senior personeel van die Geneeskundige Skool soos volg gegroei: Prof. F. D. du Toit van Zijl is aangestel as eerste Dekaan en ook as Hoogleraar in die Chirurgie. Daarbenewens is prof. A. J. Brink en prof. J. N. de Villiers aangestel as Hooglerars in Interne Geneeskunde en Verloskunde en Ginekologie respektiewelik. Prof. H. E. Brink, Hoogleraar in die Fisiologie, was reeds in diens van die Universiteit. Later is prof. J. F. van E. Kirsten as Hoogleraar in die Anatomie aangestel en prof. H. W. Weber as Hoogleraar in Anatomiese Patologie. In 1962 word prof. H. D. Brede tot Hoogleraar in Menslike Mikrobiologie bevorder en dr. C. P. Retief word aangestel as Senior Lektor in die Geneeskundige Patologie. 'n Jaar later word dr. F. P. A. Foster as Senior Lektor in die Anesthesiologie aangestel. Daarna word 'n reeks voltydse en deeltydse aanstellings gemaak. In 1965 word 'n leerstoel in die Radiologie geskep en prof. C. J. B. Muller word as Hoogleraar aangestel. In dieselfde jaar volg dr. F. P. M. Engelbrecht prof. H. E. Brink in die Departement van Fisiologie op.

Sedert die stigting van die Fakulteit van Geneeskunde tien jaar gelede het dit verbasend vinnig gegroei. 'n Groot aantal personeellede in voltydse en deeltydse hoedanighede is aangestel en die aantal voorgraadse studente het gegroei totdat die totale getal vanjaar 419 is. Tot aan die einde van 1965 het die Fakulteit alreeds 128 geneeshere gelewer. Ook word voorsiening gemaak vir verskeie nagraadse kursusse. Die Geneeskundige Skool van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch maak op die oomblik ook al voorsiening vir die opleiding van spesialiste in elf vertakkinge van die geneeskunde. Daarbenewens word ook 'n groot bydrae gelewer tot opleiding van personeel in die tegnologiese en paramediese verplegingsdienste.

Aangesien dit die tiende verjaardag van hierdie Fakulteit was, het die verrigtinge van die Tiende Akademiese Jaardag dus ook 'n spesiale betekenis gehad. Die Akademiese Jaardag van die Fakulteit van Geneeskunde het al 'n instelling geword waarna 'n groot aantal belangstellendes elke jaar vooruitsien. Dit geld natuurlik die dosente

en studente van die Fakulteit self en dit geld ook 'n groot aantal medici van buite wat ten spyte van hul drukke werksaamhede gereeld 'n poging aanwend om die Jaardag by te woon.

Die Tiende Akademiese Jaardag wat op 4 en 5 Augustus plaasgevind het, het in alle opsigte 'n hoë standaard bereik. Die bydraes wat gelewer is, dek die werk wat in feitlik alle afdelings van die Geneeskundige Skool gedoen word en verteenwoordig dus 'n beeld van die kliniese sowel as die navorsingsaktiwiteite van die skool. Daar is vanjaar egter 'n stap verder gegaan deur 'n spesiale akademiese gedenklesing in te stel. Hierdie idee het by mnr. H. P. Pansegrouw, Voorsitter van die Hospitaalraad van die Karl Bremer-hospitaal, ontstaan en is met waardering deur die skool verwelkom. Die eerste gedenklesing het dan ook 'n baie hoë en luisterryke vlak bereik. Dit het die vorm van 'n openbare voorlesing aangeneem wat gelewer is deur dr. A. J. A. Roux, Direkteur-generaal van die Raad op Atoomkrag. Die onderwerp waarvoor dr. Roux gepraat het, is 'Die aanwending van radioisotope en straling in navorsing en ontwikkeling op die gebied van die lewenswetenskappe'.

Soos in die verlede het 'n spesiale paneel van beoordeelaars na al die voordragte geluister, en daar is besluit om die F. D. du Toit van Zijl-medalje hierdie jaar toe te ken aan dr. J. J. W. van Zyl vir sy bydrae oor 'Die moontlikheid van diep hipotermie in hiperbariese toestande'.

By die geleentheid van die Tiende Akademiese Jaardag is ook die Derde Studentedag gehou. Studente uit die derde, vierde, vyfde en sesde jaar het bydraes gelewer wat 'n verbasende hoë vlak van oorspronklikheid weerspieël. Almal wat in die gehoor was sowel as die paneel van beoordelaars was baie gunstig beïndruk deur die bydraes wat deur die studente gelewer is. Hierdie metode van self-werksaamheid as onderwysmetode kan nie sterk genoeg beklemtoon en aanbeveel word nie. Die prys vir die beste voordrag is toegeken aan mnr. A. G. MacMahon, vyfde-jaar-student, vir sy bydrae oor 'Mannitol in curare anaesthesia—a preliminary investigation'.

Hierdie Derde Studentedag en die Tiende Akademiese Jaardag is op Vrydagaand 5 Augustus afgesluit met 'n dinee-dans in die Arthur's Seat Hotel in Seepunt.

Die Akademiese Jaardag van die Geneeskundige Skool van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch het nou ontwikkel in die vorm van 'n jaarlikse akademiese feesgeleentheid op 'n hoë akademiese en kulturele vlak. Dit is 'n instelling waarop die Universiteit van Stellenbosch met reg trots kan wees. Die verrigtinge van hierdie Jaardag, waaronder die verwelkomingswoord van die Dekaan, die bydraes wat gelewer is of opsommings van die bydraes, en die gedenklesing van dr. Roux, sal mettertyd in die *Tydskrif* gepubliseer word.

## THROUGH THE VISUAL BARRIER WITH THE AID OF SOUND

The transcending of prejudice of any form is a jealously guarded privilege of the medical profession in its role of alleviating human suffering. Blindness afflicts all racial groups, and help to those stricken knows no racial barriers. An opportune time has occurred with the publication of this ophthalmological issue of the *Journal* to give both praise and publicity to a non-medical organization that well merits the accolade. To the visually afflicted, 'Vision through sound' has been made possible by *Tape-aids for the Blind*, a voluntary, non-profit making organization whose work and devotion has helped free the blind from the shackles of their darkness and isolation. To quote Louis Braille: 'The blind are the loneliest people in the world. Am I never to know what lies beyond the confines of hearing and feeling? Only books can free the blind.'

Seven years ago the enthusiasm of a tape-recording hobbyist resulted in the idea of putting a book on tape for the benefit of the blind and from this meagre beginning *Tape-aids for the Blind* has grown so that in 1959, 3,156 hours of reading matter was sent out to members of all races, colours and creeds. By 1965 this had risen to 71,069 hours. The Organization's funds are dependent solely on the generosity and goodwill of the public.

In its Durban studios a library of several hundred tape-recordings has been compiled, embracing novels, biographies, history, poetry and books on numerous technical subjects. These have been recorded in English, Afrikaans, Xosa and other Bantu languages, as well as a few in German and French. There are at present over 300 titles in the library.

As membership grows steadily, about R10,000 *per annum* is required to maintain this service adequately.

People from all walks of life undertake this recording work voluntarily, cutting into their leisure time to do so. An audition committee, composed partly of blind members, chooses those whose voices possess clarity, personality and the ability to make the characters in the literature

which is being recorded, form subjective impressions in the blind listener's mind. Monitoring, editing and the correction of verbal slips or inaudible sounds is accomplished by a technical team.

Education for the blind in the form of textbooks on tape will aid the student who wishes to study for examinations. This is of course an expensive undertaking. Tape recorders are supplied at the lowest possible cost and, if the person is unable to afford it, these are lent free of charge.

A new development has been the recording of letters for communication between one blind person and another. Apart from recreational reading, a more specific service is work on syllabuses for blind students from primary school level to university. The Government is investigating the possibility of financing books-on-tape for schools for the blind, and this may well extend to university level enabling the ultimate attainment of degrees. In fact, a blind graduate of the University of Cape Town recently obtained his law degree with the help of 'tape-aids'.

'Vision through sound' is the motto of *Tape-aids for the Blind*. The lonely can read, the hobbyist can learn to develop his interest and students can and will be better able in the future to study and do so in a practical and realistic manner. The gratitude of the blind is sufficient reward for the altruists who make 'crashing of the visual barrier' a practical reality. One can only admire the work and thought of these public-spirited citizens who are of such help to their afflicted fellow-men. The Organization deserves the well-wishes of us all and the expansion of its activities will open the doors of isolation further.

Acknowledgement is made to Mr. Owen Bruyns, who has supplied us with some pertinent information. He is the Chairman of the Cape Town Regional Office and can be contacted at 'Melody', Matapan Road, Rondebosch (telephone 69-4583). The headquarters and library of the Organization is 806 Payne's Building, West Street, Durban. Their address in Johannesburg is 8th Floor, Cape York, 252 Jeppe Street (telephone 23-9291).

## THE PARAMETER HURDLE

We have been forcibly struck through the numerous articles submitted to us for publication, by the use of the mathematical term 'parameter'. The definition in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*<sup>1</sup> reads as follows: 'Quantity constant in case considered, but varying in different cases'. The word is beginning to obey the law of diminishing marginal utility—the more it is consumed, the less appetizing it becomes. A leading article in the *British Medical Journal*<sup>2</sup> has commented on the frequency of its appearance in scientific articles and is worthy of quotation:

'Those hardy students whose reading of original papers extend beyond the titles will have noticed of late a technical term that has come into fashion. It is "parameter"—Greek in derivation, slipping neatly from the Anglo-Saxon tongue and clearly a bearer of the old message that science is measurement. Incidentally it gives the impression that

what the writer of it is doing is science . . . That "parameter" is a useful term is evident from the frequency with which it appears in the literature today. But many readers would find it more useful still if they could understand it. Those writers, therefore, who feel an obligation to communicate their thoughts to potentially interested readers, and not merely to record them for the assistance of staffing communities, would help many a lame duck to reach the pool of learning if they pause before putting a parameter in the way.'

Those respected members in the field of mathematics and science whose word it is would be amused by its prolific over-usage by our writers in the field of medicine—which has been defined as an Art.

1. Fowler, H. W. and Fowler, F. G., eds. (1964): *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 5th ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press.  
2. Leading Article (1966): *Brit. Med. J.*, 1, 1063.