

VAN DIE REDAKSIE

EDITORIAL

Nasionale Tandheelkundige Gesondheidsweek

Alle geneeshere, tandartse, en trouens die hele bevolking van ons land behoort aan hierdie saak te byt en dit deeglik te deurkou. Oor die algemeen gesproke is ons nie bekend vir ons goeie tande nie, en dit is nie die gevolg van enige gebrek in die kwaliteit van die versorging deur ons tandartse nie, maar hoofsaaklik weens 'n skouerophalende houding wat tandversorging betref. In Suid-Afrika, meer as in die meeste ander wêrelddele, word kunsgebit ná 'n sekere ouderdom as 'n normale en volkome onvermybare deel van die lewensbestaan aanvaar. Omdat dit as so onafwendbaar beskou word, is die publiek oor die algemeen nie so geskok deur die aankondiging dat alle tande getrek sal moet word, as wat mense in ander lande waarskynlik in sulke gevalle sou gewees het nie.

Onderrig, veral in ons skole, is noodsaaklik, en geneeshere kan hul deel bydra deur pasiënte op die noodsaaklikheid van gereelde tandversorging te wys, maar wat veral gedurende die Nasionale Tandheelkundige Gesondheidsweek beklemtoon gaan word, is 'n algemene bewustheid van die tand as 'n belangrike struktuur wat aandag vereis, en die gesondheid waarvan van die uiterste belang is. Hierdie week duur van 5 tot 10 Augustus 1974 en dit is iedere leser se voorreg en plig om alles in sy of haar vermoë te doen om dié week as reklametyd vir tandhigiëne opsy te sit.

Die boekie *Ek en my Tande/You and your Teeth*, uitgegee deur die Afdeling Lekepublikasies van die SAMJ sal gedurende hierdie week aan die publiek beskikbaar gestel word; weer, soos in die geval van soortgelyke publikasies, volkome kosteloos. Die

boekie is opgestel in samewerking met die Tandheelkundige Vereniging en veral met die vriendelike hulp van lede van die Tandheelkundige Fakulteit van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. Ons vertrou dat dit in 'n lankbestaande behoefte sal voorsien en dat dokters sorg sal dra dat hierdie boekie onder die aandag van die publiek gebring sal word. Soos met die ander publikasies van hierdie Afdeling, kan bykomstige eksemplare bestel word deur te skryf aan: Afdeling Lekepublikasies, Suid-Afrikaanse Mediese Tydskrif, Posbus 643, Kaapstad, 8000.

Iedere dokter, wanneer hy 'n pasiënt volledig ondersoek, kyk vanselfsprekend ook na die toestand van die tande, want soos ons almal bewus is, kan allerhande siektebeelde tot die tande teruggevoer word. Maar benewens hierdie normale kliniese aandag, wil ons vra dat die Tandgesondheidsweek ook gebruik word om die korrekte versorging van tande pertinent onder die pasiënte se aandag te bring. As die week geslaagd is, sou ons byvoorbeeld graag as speelgrondgesprek by 'n gegewe laerskool wil hoor: 'Nee, ek kan vandag niks reg doen nie. Al my somme is verkeerd en ek borsel boonop heen-en-weer, in stede van op-en-af'.

Die Mediese Vereniging het al die in verlede, wanneer dinge skeef loop, so effens sy tande moes wys, maar nou het ons die geleentheid om, saam met ons eweknie-beroep, die tandartse, ons tande in vrede te ontbloot en te sê: 'Kom staan saam met ons, sodat ons 'n bevolking kan bou met gesonde bytkrag'.

Reading Instructions

The public are constantly warned that they must read the small print on contracts before putting their signatures to them. It would seem that we have, in the medical profession, not yet even reached that stage. We are still struggling to make out the headlines and the bold lettering. We regularly publish our 'Instructions for Authors' and, in addition reprints of the expanded instruction sheet, with the title 'How to write an article for the *SAMJ*', are available on request. Nevertheless, these pointers are largely ignored by our contributors and in this editorial we wish to mention a few of the more irritatingly common omissions.

There is a serious paper shortage, but this still cannot be regarded as sufficient reason for submitting a manuscript on thin, transparent paper with single-spaced typing. Authors should also please note that letters for the correspondence page, just like articles, must be prepared for the printer, and single spacing is unacceptable in such letters. Offenders as far as format and style are concerned are those who submit a carbon copy or, worse than that, a photostat copy of their manuscripts. Such articles are regretfully almost automatically rejected unless their quality is so superior that we are prepared to make a special exception. Surely, if an author wants his brain-child published (and if he does not, why submit it?) it would seem to us to be common courtesy to send the original. Apart from the veiled insult and the purely practical difficulties such as illegibility of pencil marks on photostat paper, we understandably tend to be suspicious that this particular manuscript has been submitted to various journals without success, and all that is left over in reasonably presentable form is either a photostat or a carbon copy. Before our

reading the accompanying letter (if there is one) or even glancing at the text, the author has already lost more than 50% of his chances for acceptance.

Referees are requested on an accompanying reprint entitled 'Guidelines for Referees', to please submit their comments on a separate sheet of paper, and in the language of the manuscript, so that it can be sent to the author. This request must apparently be regarded as the equivalent of the proverbial fine print. We are deeply grateful to our referees, for without any open recognition or any compensation of any kind they are happy to assist us, but it would make life much easier if the few points set out in the instruction sheet are complied with.

The 'Instructions for Authors' specifically state that figures should not be used at the beginning of sentences. If an author or his typist slips up in this regard it is no great hardship to correct it during editing, but if the article actually starts with such a figure, instead of it being written out as requested, we do wonder whether the research was not perhaps as lackadaisical as the author's attention to often repeated guidelines.

Unnecessary references, merely supplied by an obliging librarian, are the bane of our lives at the editorial office. In one instance we discovered that what was given was an original reference and the next 5 items referred to correspondence in the same journal, but in connection with an academic grammatical dispute and totally unrelated to the subject of the original article.

It is really strange that a person will undertake important research, go to considerable trouble to put the results on paper and then apparently do his best to ensure rejection of his manuscript.
