Medical Scheme Exhumed

Since this article was written for Salient, in February, 1948, precisely nothing has been done to put into effect a practical scheme. There was one brief passing mention of the Health Scheme in the Circular to Clubs concerning the requirements of the proposed Student Building, but apart from that the issue has been decently and reverently interred. This month there will be an election of officers of the Association and on June 28 the oral report of the Association will be considered. If the students will have the constitutional right to talk their heads off. The medical scheme however must be pushed ahead and something worked out and presented to the Government. The time for delaying and wordy protestations is over.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW.

Since its very early days Salient has been interested in health, nutrition, and preventive medicine generally. In June, 1945, special issue attention was drawn to prevalent malnutrition in New Zealand and Salient offered the 'following practical measures for the consideration of University students, and those who are in authority':

(a) The Government should cease advertising, over the air, foods and patent medicines whose contents do not attain a prescribed standard.

(b) A service similar to that given by the British Sugar Corporation's Unicorns should be immediately commenced by the New Zealand Government.

(c) Radio talks, circulars, newspaper articles demonstrating the principles of correct feeding should be broadcast by the Government.

(d) The Government should immediately organise scientific research on a large scale on the subject of malnutrition and food values in New Zealand.

(e) Films like the Nutrition Film which is made by the Government and shown widely should be shown to students in all classes and when they are shown they should be immediately amended as follows:

(i) The formula of all patent medicines should be declared to the authorities.

(ii) Remedies sold as cures for certain serious diseases should be absolutely prohibited.

(iii) Advertising of foods and patent medicines should be severely restrained.

(iv) The operation of the Act should be extended to cosmetics.

On 27th April the following appeared in the Editorial of Salient:

"The Physical Education Committee of the Students' Association has made the bold and forceful statement that 'All Universities should make provision for the physical education of undergraduates'. The field of education which has been so negligently neglected and was the subject of a report to the New Zealand University Students' Association is the one to meet the needs of the New Zealand University students.'

B.M.A. proposes...

The most important item to be pointed out is the Medical Examination for all first year students, with a view to selecting those students indicating a suitable course of physical activities. The exam is used by the students to attend lectures in the Health scheme or the Medical scheme. 'A large body of V.U.C. students are quite fussy about the value of periodic physical check-ups as a necessary feature of student life, and a safeguard of the students' future. College life brings together students from all sections of the community, imposes severe mental and physical demands on the individual... Periodical physical examination can detect much concealed disease at an early stage in its career and by bringing the disease to the student's control save the student from future repercussions and the treatments needed if the disease continues unchecked."

The proposal that all first year Medical Adviser be appointed to V.U.C. has been put forward. Medical Adviser would undertake to give general medical examination to all students enrolling in that subject, to be followed by periodic overhauls in subsequent years.

Students in favour

In 1948 a referendum vote was taken and out of the 800 students attending the Medical examination only 485 of the 682 voted in the scheme for an annual medical examination. In 1944 a voluntary examination was conducted. Just over one third of the students attending lectures completed the examination. In a report submitted by the committee it was suggested that for the efficient running of the scheme it was necessary for the examination to be compulsory. This was based on records from the University of New South Wales which carried out the scheme and from the students who assisted. In 1945 and 1946 an extra great deal was heard about the Medical Scheme, although a great deal of solid work was done by small committees who were investigating possibilities, writing reports, getting opinions of medical men, professors, students and lecturers, on the best way to organise and run such a scheme.

American model

An extract from a Salient report of April 23, 1947, in connection with the American and Canadian tour of a party of V.U.C. biology students is of interest here:

"Compulsory Medical Schemes "Every University visited had a Compulsory Medical Scheme which was generally financed by a small fee charged to students. These schemes have been running successfully for years and are taken for granted by all students."

"In March, 1947, an article headed "Anti Grave-Digging" Salient directed his initial impetus to which is now widely known in the College year. The examinations to be of an advisory nature, a report to be made to students on attendance at University... The programme would be put into operation with a minimum outlay on the part of the student..." and the second point in its favour is that the Health scheme is interested in this kind of necessary work, and all efforts would be made to find New Zealand Universities into line with the rest of the "C.""

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Reds again

As long as students act the silly schoolboy role, they will remain in a reasonable childish fashion, as at Cappoquin. The students were treated with paternal indulgence and it is allowed that one "is only what one is". Let us grant it, let the students get a serious thought in their heads. Editorial thought that it was a good thing to be medically examined or to think that it was a bad thing for the Dutch shock. Indulgence and safety is a very different tale to be told. Distortions become the order of the day. The University becomes once more filled with the great red danger. The pleasant runabouts of Cappoquin have been replaced by half-baked theorists of Marx and there is hell still to come. The student is still difficult for us to see just how these transformations took place within the College but the papers assure us it is so.

... And B.M.A. proposes...

One astonishing feature of the Medical Scheme at this stage is the wording of the proposals received by the Health Scheme Committee here from the B.M.A. The Committee is not even asking the B.M.A. for its assistance and advice in the development of this College and you can imagine their surprise when they received a document in terms unpleasantly reminiscent of "Truth". However let us not be rather interested when you look at the B.M.A. report of 27/5/47 in which a quoted statement from the B.M.A. advocated compulsory medical examination for students.

It becomes more obvious as time passes that it is essential for students to have a compulsory annual medical examination as a step in the direction of effective preventive medicine. Every year some students fall prey to T.B. and other communicable diseases of whom many could have been cured much more rapidly and easily if they had been discovered at an earlier stage. The point is raised again and again in various schemes which will eventually not only give an annual examination but provide a health centre for the students through all their student life. Salient believed in the efficiency of the medical examination in 1939 and continues to do so.
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1950.

LOST CAUSES

MAYBE Universities are the last and final refuge of lost causes, from classical education to the Shakespeare-Bacon row. And maybe we, being but a college paper, are little better than the rest.

But as this is the silly season when everyone is working too hard to think out any new ideas, and when the stir of the election on the horizon causes some students to take every other one of the jobs which Salient is charged with—"out" our own past lost cause—the medical scheme.

The article we print in this issue will not be new to some of you. Those with memories stretching back as far as 1948 will recall that in our anniversary issue of that year we printed an article on the medical scheme at VJC, its history and prospects. You may find something familiar about this article—because it's the same one.

In no way better than this could we show just what has happened of note since 1948. There may have been rumblings within the Exco, but not even a tiny mouse has emerged from the labour—if there was any. The situation stands as it did then. The need is as bad; the arguments as cogent now as then; the possibility that a Student Union Medical May be at last be built, an additional reason for strengthening our ideas about this quite vital scheme.

One of the first priorities for the new Exco must be the medical scheme. Students who opposed compulsion for the sake of war have no argument with compulsion for the sake of health.

If nothing happens, then perhaps the editor in 1952 will be able to reprint this again.

-D.G.

SALIENT is not intended to be an organ for reporting every or indeed any club activity in this college. The mere reporting of club affairs is not what this paper is intended to do. We pretend to be nothing more than an opportunity for you and your friends or enemies to back out your verbal battles, and for ideas to be placed before the students of VJC. Ideas which should be before them in more than one sense.

No reports of club activities are of direct concern on some point of opinion at issue, unless they deal directly with actual opinions, we don't intend to spend a great deal of space in printing. This will mean that sports reports will have to be concise and, if possible, critical, rather than more repetitious of what any interested body could have seen in the paper a week before.

EXTRA SONGS

COPIES of the programme section of the 1950 Coppell are available free at the Student Union. Those who missed extra Coppell are urged to get these programmes while they last.

THEM THEY'RE FREE.

NO MAN'S LAND

The Caf. again

SIR—I support the submissions of the managers of the Caf. in their statement in the last article on the Caf. you printed. There is little doubt that she is working under extreme difficulties in this place, and this is made no better by the number of students who don't cooperate in the slightest to make her job easier. There are seldom more than 50 volunteers to work behind the counter. There are often long lines of students who want to come prepared to talk after the Caf had been closed until they are reminded by her that she has to clean up. A sort of petty things make life hell for one who is trying to do the thing work with the caf. facilities.

We are to blame as much as anyone if the Caf. doesn't suit our taste. A little more willingness to work and a little less criticism may turn the Caf into something worthwhile.

L. M. Parfait.

Misrepresented

SIR—Copies of this year's issue of The Exceed have only just reached me here.

I am appalled to think that my spiritual home can have cast me in this light, and even more appalled to think that the editor has not been aware of my existence on my unexampled self. Like those on Rita Hayworth and Queen Elvis, the reports are preposterous. I am not dead.

T. (Geddi) Rupakarna, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Complaint

SIR—Since I first came to this place, I have been amazed at the indenent anonymity of the "culture" clubs around here. I am given to understand that there exist a club for the discussion of historical subjects, another for the discussion of philosophical subjects, a club for the specific purpose of studying socialism, one for the specific purpose of studying the club which studies socialism, and there may be more, for all I know.

There are other clubs, like the Glee Club for instance. But what in the world is up, to quote this year's variety show at the Opera House, Where are these clubs? Do they advertise their meetings? Do they ever publish reports of their findings? I seem to remember one report for the Socialist Club and one for the Debating Society. Otherwise one would gather that the only reason people come up here at all was to play games.

Can we have some low down on the social scene?

Ripping Freeth.
HOW TO SAVE DEMOCRACY
... in one easy lesson

OUR FREE PRESS has given its customary one-eyed story of the Communist Party Dissolution Bill recently introduced in the Australian Parliament by the Menzies Government. The side they do not publicise is the mass protest against the Bill from student, trade union, religious and other circles. We reprint these statements from copies of Australian university and union papers, these few excerpts:

Rev. Frank Hurley (Methodist, one of the five Victoria clergymen who accompanied the delegation to Canberra on April 27):

"I know there are people of all shades of opinion who believe to the fact that it is the Communists today, and after they are suppressed, tomorrow it is the Jews, and then the trade unions will be split in two, and then it will be the Church — and then the war."

Presbyterian Church, Melbourne University:

"We protest emphatically against the threatened ban on the Australian Communist Party. Such action is an infringement of the basic liberties which are essential to the development and progress of society."

—(Fortnight, 24/3/50)

Professor Wright (Physiology, Melbourne):

Referring to the clause in the Bill which makes a branded "Communist" responsible for proving his innocence:

"When you abolish an organisation and accuse a person of being a member of it, how on earth can anyone prove his innocence? The only person who can show the accused to be innocent will be the inciting officer of that organisation. But the organisation having been abolished, the accused's only way of proving his innocence is to be abolished."

—(The M.U. Political Science Society, 11/3/50)

Primrose Mawell (English, Melbourne):

"... in any way to combat an ideology you don't like is to practise its best ideals. The bad ones will fade away in time."

Labour Party and Liberal Clubs of M.U. have come out in opposition.

Mrs. Jessie Street (graduate of Sydney University, wife of the Chief Justice and Leader-General of New South Wales, former Labour Parliamentarian, candidate, present N.S.W. Peace Council):

"The Bill should be referred to a committee on the Bill.

"I wish to recall the great bravery and self-sacrifice displayed by the men and women of all races in World War II, waged by the United Nations against the Axis Powers of the Anti-Comintern Pact.

"I also recall the democratic enthusiasm of every person of the United Nations by the promise that after the war they would enjoy liberty, equality, independence, self-government and living standards of living."

"How many lives were gladly given that these great liberties should be enjoyed by all peoples? When the U.N. was formed, these promises— all placed above all—were included in the U.N. Charter.

"What happened? Those who claimed absolute power for men and women or equal treatment for white and non-white races are called Communists! Those who support independent living standards for the people of all countries are called Communists!

"Those who work for living standards for the people are called Communists! Those who seek to guard our precious heritage of democratic rights and civil liberties are called Communists!

"... Is the U.N. Charter a Communist document?

"A Bill is before the Commonwealth Parliament which aims to deprive Australians of the democratic liberties and civil rights which we have won in countless bloody struggles since the time of Magna Carta!

"Furthermore, the foundation principle of British justice, that a person shall not be convicted until he is proved guilty, is to be sacrificed."

—(The Tribune, 13/3/50)

Mrs. E. Madeleine Wood, B.A. (widow of the late Professor G. Arnold Wood, Flinders, Bachelor of Science, well-known to many V.C.U. students):

"I wish to support the statements of Mrs. Jessie Street about the Anti-Communist Bill.

"The Bill violates not only the individual clauses, but the general clauses of the United Nations Charter which all members of Parliament are pledged to support.

"How can any man or woman have freedom from fear? when, on information received, he may at any time, with no reason being given, be denounced as a Communist?

"Some of us have worked actively for peace and the welfare of all people... Are we to be denounced and jailed for297 our activities? Are we to be deprived of our freedom of speech and of discussion, of our right to criticise our leaders for not strenuously seeking the greatest common measure of agreement with the leaders of other nations, rather than exaggerating differences of opinion, and thus stirring up suspicion and hatred?"

—(New South Wales Weekly, 13/5/50)

Mr. A. E. Monk (president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions):

"It is obvious that this Bill is designed to pave the way for attacks on the whole trade union movement.

"It is the first step to fascism."

—(Australian Worker, 1/4/50)

Mr. J. Hailey (secretary, Australian Workers' Federations): "Whatever one's opinions of the Communist Party or of Communism, this Bill provides no boundaries; its boundaries of action depend entirely upon the whim of the administrator."

—(Circular to his unions, May, 1950)

Passport to Pimlico

THUS is all those things which Extrav 1950 was not: all those things without which no Extrav will ever be popular. From start to finish, Passport to Pimlico is a rollicking, ribald ribbing of every finest British adjective, including currency restrictions to theutschein system.

Just as Gulliver's Travels, Swift managed to make man look silly by reducing him to a frog; and in the puppet shows depicting the heated matters of principle with which the public puff themselves up in a thoroughly justifiable rage, we want an excuse to have a flight back without being reduced to the scale of Passport to Pimlico.

The satire is very near, particularly in the "awarawar"—which was worthy of the best Extrav traditions. This sort of thing doesn't come our way very often: in 10 years maybe no one will be able to see much more than the humor in it, but this edge of its satire is pretty much localized in time. But for the moment, it's a fresh and delightful sally.

The story doesn't matter in this comment; and it would spoil it if you (Continued on P. 4, column 4.)
The Lysenko Dispute

This is part two of an article setting out a point of view on Lysenko. "Saliens," printed an article on this subject in 1948, and raised a slight row at the time from people who did not believe in any sort of gradualism. If you don't agree with the viewpoint here expressed, then you have the right to say so. He continues, quoting Asby...

"One would expect, therefore, Lysenko's claim to be supported by exhaustive and convincing experiments, carried out with proper controls and proper plants. If it isn't, then Lysenko's claim is wrong.

"Lysenko attributes to specific plants and "control" plants, i.e., plants in normal conditions of use, as checks on his other plants, are used. The latter he considers unimportant, although regarded by scientists as standard practice throughout the scientific world. Usually large numbers of plants are used for experiment so that the results can be statistically analyzed but the biologist do not admit to blind chance... we must maintain that biological regularities do not resemble mathematical laws."

Chimeras

A certain amount of the evidence that vegetative hybridization can be attracted to the observation of chimerae, i.e., plants which, as a result of their tissues, although the individual tissues retain their individuality to the extent that they are recognizable cytologically as coming from their respective parents. Such hybrids can only be reproduced by cuttings or further graftings as any seeds which may be produced will be formed from one tissue or the other and will show only hybrid characteristics of the parent from which the tissues came.

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There must be a number of freshers—and new-freshers too, for that matter—around the place who say "What is the Executive? Who are they?"

The voting for all Executive positions is by a preferential system. Where the person who wins the election is, with over 2000 votes cast for him, for example, it would be possible to run the affairs of the Association with only one permanent body member. This consists of 13 people. Five of these are officers of the Association—that is, they are chosen directly for the offices they hold. These are the president, the men's and women's vice-presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer. Apart from these officers, there are four women (other than the president) and 10 men members. Once they are selected, the Executive members meet at least once a term to get the affairs of the Association. And in a technique that differing control of all the Association's activities, and control of the students' organization, are the occasional student affairs. And then there is, of course, the Cafeteria. That 52/6 of you is administered
by these 13 people, and from a purely professional point of view, it is as easy to understand the problems of a large organization as the problems of a large organization.