

SHIFTING DULLNESS

DAVISON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Box 2889 DUMC

February 27, 1978

Special-For Y'all

AMSA CHINA TRIP

The China applications are here!! The final information and the application forms are here for the AMSA trip to China, August 2-23. The forms and information can be picked up at Dr. Bradford's office. If you have any other questions, see Jackie Rutledge.

MUSICIANS NEEDED

Attention all musicians (and I use the term loosely!). The Student-Faculty Show is looking for a few good players to titillate the audience with amazing acts of manual and lingual dexterity. Don't miss this golden opportunity to strut your stuff in front of the Duke Medical Center's most famous (and infamous) celebrities. For information, call David Howell 493-2777 or Mike Dresser 489-8295 or 684-3584 (nights).

contests

TRENT PRIZE

A prize of one hundred dollars is offered for the best paper on a subject in the history of medicine by a medical student currently enrolled at Duke. There are no requirements concerning length. Papers should be submitted on or before April 15, 1978 to G.S.T. Cavanagh, Curator of the Trent Collection. Entries must be typewritten and double spaced. The judges reserve the right to make no award if the papers are not considered of sufficient quality. Please see Dr. Shirley Osterhout or Mr. Cavanagh concerning this.

A.A.RICHMAN ESSAY AND RESEARCH CONTEST

The American College of Chest Physicians announces the Alfred A. Richman International Essay and Research Contest. \$1,000 will be awarded for the best essay and research paper. Entries are due by May 31, 1978. Further information is available in the Davison Society Office. Applications can be obtained from Dr. Shirley Osterhout.

seminars

The Family Practice Club is presenting a seminar on "The Social and Medical Aspects of Small Town Family Practice," led by Dr. Wester and associates. Dr. Wester is a family practitioner in Henderson, N.C. The seminar will be held in the Administrative Conference Room, next to the red elevators, at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 2, 1978. Refreshments will be served.

Externships, etc.

Information on the following programs is available for review in the Medical School Library Reserve Room in a book entitled, Electives Away from Duke.

The Stanley S. Lamm Institute for Developmental Disabilities of the Long Island College Hospital is pleased to announce the availability of an 8 week summer fellowship program for 3rd or 4th year medical students interested in Pediatric Neurology. The fellowship will cover the period July 1 to August 31, 1978. A stipend of \$800.00 is available. Certain flexibility in the schedule may be possible on application.

The Atlanta Urban Corps of Georgia State University, is again offering a summer Medical Internship Project for students having completed one, two, or three years of medical school. It is a ten week program from June 12 to August 18, 1978. Further information is available from the Davison Society and Dr. Shirley Osterhout.

The University of Tennessee Clinical Education Center is hosting a reception and tour for medical students to acquaint them with the programs (clerkships and electives) and facilities available at the Chattanooga campus. The reception will be March 25. Further information available in the Davison Society Office.

This article is part of a series on externship/summer opportunities.

It was on a cool summer morning that I pulled into the parking lot of the Henderson Family Medicine Clinic, Henderson, N.C. I had anxiously anticipated this morning for some time, viewing it as an opportunity to more carefully evaluate Family Medicine as a career choice, and to weigh it against my other two alternatives, Internal Medicine and Psychiatry. It would also give me an experience in practicing some "real medicine," dealing with common medical problems as a primary care physician, something which I had not often had the opportunity to do while at Duke.

I noted that the Family Medicine clinic only occupied a portion of the building with a drug store, and other offices occupying the remainder. The clinic itself consisted of a large waiting room and a business and records office in front, about ten examining rooms, an X-ray room, a small lab, a library lounge, and four doctors' offices in back.

I was soon greeted by Dr. Millard Wester, Duke Class of '42. We had a short talk during which he explained that a room would be provided in the basement of Maria Parham Hospital across the street, and that I could eat all my meals in the hospital cafeteria and charge them to the Family Medicine Clinic account there. He then introduced me to the other three doctors of the clinic, (Dr. R. Tucker, Dr. B. Tucker, and Dr. R. Drake, all Carolina grads) as well as to the rest of the staff. I was also introduced to a fourth year Carolina student who began orienting me to the workings of the clinic.

From then on, I felt right at home, and began the business of seeing patients. At lunch time I was shown the room at the hospital which I would share with Tom, the UNC student. The room was known as "the cave", and I readily recognized why. It was a long narrow room, containing two hospital beds, two bed tables, a chair, a trash can, and a coat rack. Not too impressive, but I called it home for the next four weeks.

Across the hall was the hospital cafeteria, and lunch as well as other meals proved to be a pleasant surprise. It was a small cafeteria, serving primarily hospital personnel. Consequently, most of the food was homemade, and of excellent quality, right down to the homemade ice cream. (The food was also very reasonably priced, as a full dinner including dessert and drink cost less than \$1.)

The next four weeks provided a variety of common medical problems, and an experience which I will long value and cherish. A typical day started with 7:00 AM hospital rounds, followed by a quick breakfast. Next came a stop at the clinic lounge where a drug company representative would be waiting to give all the details on their latest product.

From 8:30 - 12:30 I saw patients, taking a short break around 10:00. On Tuesdays, we went to the Henderson County Country Club to discuss business aspects of the clinic. (This was educational in itself). After lunch there was usually another drug representative to contend with before seeing more patients around 5:00.

Following dinner, my evenings would be spent either reading in the hospital library, watching some occasional TV in the lounge, seeing what interesting cases came in through the ER, occasional visits to the fourth floor to talk with some of the nurses.

I saw anywhere from 6 to 10 patients a day, and my patient experience covered a wide range of problems, including chest pain, low back pain, industrial injuries, depression, boils, otitis, black widow spider bites, TB, trichomonas, syphilis, pulling nails out of fingers, mumps, poison ivy, and high blood pressure. I learned that common things are indeed common.

I was part of a code five and I saw one chronically ill patient die. On occasion, I would admit patients to the hospital while the other doctors continued working in the clinic.

And there was Dr. Wester's fish hook trick - used to remove those hooks that had somehow strayed from their original targets into someone's skin. This trick, which involved just a string wrapped around the curved end of the hook, proper tension and pressure, and a sharp jerk, was guaranteed to so amaze patients that they were tempted to put the hook back in and ask him to do it again.

For recreation, the town of Henderson is not much. However there is Kerr Lake, which I visited several times and have memories of shooting stars, swimming, and good drinks. When I asked some of the hospital staff what they did here for recreation, they replied, "We go to Raleigh or Durham."

All in all, I found this to be a very rewarding experience, much removed from anything I have done at Duke. I saw common medical problems, and four different approaches toward their treatment. I learned of the mechanics of running a Family Medical Clinic, and I saw some of those 95% of patients who are not transferred to DUMC and who are managed efficiently and effectively on an out-patient basis by the MD.

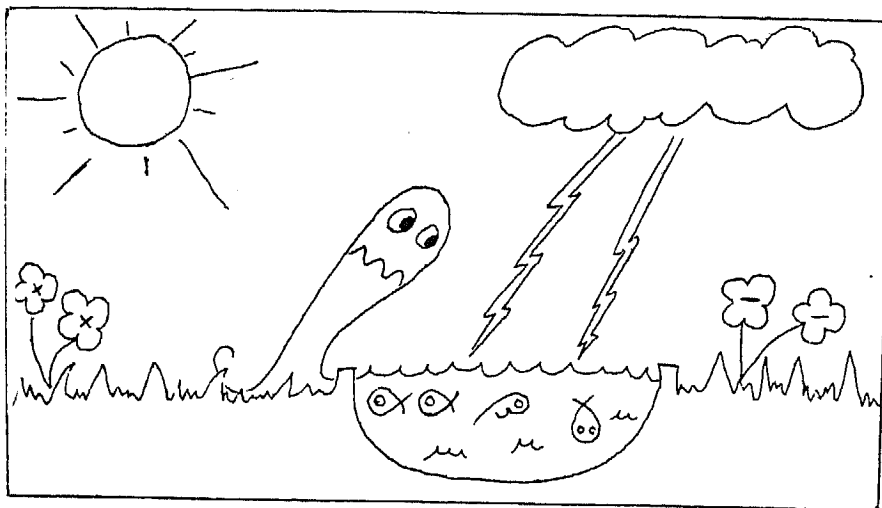
-Gary Humphrey

residencies

Information on the postgraduate training program in neurology offered at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque is available in the Davison Society Office.

PATHOLOGY PUZZLE

The winner last week was Bob Drucker, MSIII. The answer was TREPONE - stable, labile, primary, union, healing. Congratulations! There won't be a prize for this week's puzzle because Shifting Dullness will not be coming out next week. Have a good vacation!!



A _____ event.

BOLINSLUG O _ _ _ _ _ O O
 HECADOT O _ O _ _ _
 NILLAKAE _ _ O _ _ _ .
 NALCONOMOL _ _ O _ _ _ O _ _ _

smile awhile

I started up in life - I may as well own up and admit - with just an ordinary everyday stock of brains. In my schooldays I was much more bent upon mischief than upon books. I say it with regret now. But as soon as I got interested in medicine, I had only a single idea. And I do believe that, if I have had any measure of success at all, it has been solely because of doing the day's work that was before me just as faithfully and honestly and energetically as was in my power.

Sir Wm Osler,
 Albany, 1899