



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

news & views

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STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

The University Council met on 29th January, 1975 and among other things considered a report by the Vice-Chancellor on the reopening of the University.

In his report the Vice-Chancellor informed the Council that consequent upon decisions made by Council the Senate of the University laid down conditions for the readmission of students. He informed Council that these conditions were publicized in the press on 23rd December, 1974 and students were invited to reapply.

Of the 4508 undergraduates registered prior to the closure of the University 4293 had applied for readmission. Only six of those undergraduates who applied for readmission were not readmitted on disciplinary grounds whilst all postgraduate students have been readmitted.

The University Council noted that the action of the Vice-Chancellor in declining to readmit those responsible for organising the disturbances last August was consonant with Council resolution 837 of 12th August, 1974 under which the University Administration had been requested to institute such disciplinary action as may be appropriate. Council therefore confirmed and fully supported the Vice-Chancellor in the action taken.

Council also deplored the personalised attacks made on the Vice-Chancellor which had recently appeared in the press, and expressed its continued confidence in and support for the Vice-Chancellor.

Council noted with gratification that classes and other academic activities in the University were now back to normal, with students working at their studies diligently and that Senate has already made arrangements for the disrupted programme to continue with no provision for long vacations in order that the programme can be completed by September, 1975.

Council also expressed its appreciation at the readiness on the part of the academic and other staff to accept a heavier load of work resulting from a more intensified programme so that the requisite syllabi for the various degree courses may be satisfactorily completed.

Full discussion by Council has taken place on the recommendations of the Committee appointed last year under the chairmanship of Mr. I. Lugonzo to investigate the causes of recurring disruptions in the University, and appropriate action will be taken thereon.

B.M. GECAGA
Chairman of Council, University of Nairobi
3rd February, 1975

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

(10th and 17th December 1974,
29th January 1975.)

STUDENTS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED

At its meeting of 10th December 1974, the Council of the University of Nairobi decided that a student body should be established under a University Statute as an integral organ of the University.

On re-opening of the University discussions should be instituted between the student and the Administration with a view to drafting the appropriate Statute to facilitate the establishment of the organisation and to iron out other matters related.

The constitution of the students' organisation will require the approval of the University Council.

The Ministry of Education has already supported the re-establishment of a students' organisation as required under the University of Nairobi Act, 1970.

Students' Centre Started

The building formerly used as Kitchen 11 has been allocated to the student body to be used as a STUDENTS' CENTRE. The details of the running of the centre will be discussed between the students and the Administration.

The Council has also called for discussions between the Administration and academic staff in order to finalise terms for the establishment and recognition of an Academic Staff Association.

On staff retirement, the Council has requested the Oyugi Committee to look into the possibility of implementing the Lugonzo Committee's recommendations on premature retirement and an annual assessment of members of staff performances in their duties and the effectiveness of the latter recommendation as worthwhile personnel management tool.

Need for Departmental Meetings

The Council has noted with concern that some Departments do not observe the provisions of the University Statutes to hold meetings at least once a term. It has therefore directed that the Senate should consider appropriate actions on those Departments that did not observe this requirement.

More Doctors for Students

In view of congestion at the University Health Centre, the Council has recently decided that the panel of consulting doctors be increased from the present two to four. This will be implemented after the physical reorganisation of the health centre to cater for a larger University Medical Centre.

Council Acts on Water Crisis

At its meeting of 29th January, 1975, the University Council approved a sum of £23,000 to be used to improve water supply at the Kabete campus. The contractor assigned to this crash programme is working round the clock to avert the present and future shortages.

At the same sitting, the Council approved the extension of car loan for tutorial fellows under the normal terms governing the University Car Loan Scheme.

NEWS FROM SENATE

(December 22nd and 25th 1974)

POST-GRADUATE STUDIES RE-EXAMINED

A special committee has been set up to examine the whole area of post-graduate studies in the University, its functional and organisational requirements and make recommendations to the Senate. The Committee consists of the following:-

Chairman of Deans' Committee - Chairman
Prof. R. P. Patel
Prof. F. F. Indire

Rewarding on Merit Stressed

The Senate has requested the Development, Planning and Establishment Committee to look into the feasibility and machinery for assessing and rewarding staff on the basis of merit having regard to the finances available to the University and to examine the criteria on which salary entry points should be fixed and promotion to various grades should be made.

After considering the whole problem of congestion at the Central Catering Unit and the proposal by the students that a cafeteria system be introduced, the Senate agreed on the following:-

■ That the Time Tabling Committee, in consultation with the Faculties, amend the time tables in a way that some lectures are held between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. at which time the congestion is normally at its peak.

■ That the present catering arrangements be continued on the understanding that there will be some lectures between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. and that Kitchen 11 dining hall will be used by vegetarian students in order to reduce congestion at the Central Catering Unit.

■ That the Student Welfare Committee be requested to explain to students upon their return the financial implications of a full cafeteria system and ascertain the wishes of students on the system they would prefer.

Double-Deckers to Stay

The Senate also decided at its meeting of 25th November 1974 that double-decker beds will be retained in the Halls of Residence and students who opt to make use of such beds be required to do so in writing.

In allocating student accommodation, preference will be given in the following manner:-

First and third year, Foreign students, the physically handicapped, Medical students in 3rd, 4th and 5th Clinical years. Students sponsored by organisations such as the Community and Posts and Telecommunications and others will, in future, be housed by their sponsors.

Parents who live in Nairobi have been strongly urged to accommodate their sons or daughters in their homes in order to reduce congestion in the Halls. This would spare spaces for those students who come from far away.

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Student Representatives

The Senate recommended to the Council that one student representative be appointed by students to serve on the Bookshop Management Board.

Faculty Boards should review individually student representation on the Boards and make such recommendations to Senate as they consider will enhance the effectiveness of such representation.

University Gazette

Having considered the importance of communications within the University community, the Senate agreed its special meeting last December that "News and Views" should continue to be produced initially once every two months as an organ for disseminating information to the University Community and that efforts continue to be made for the improvement of its format and presentation.

The Senate also considered powers within its jurisdiction and among other things agreed that Faculty Boards should as much as possible be involved in the

discussions of their estimates and establishment before recommendations on these are forwarded to the Senate. It also re-stated that the Development, Planning and Establishment Committee should continue its responsibilities of advising Senate on the development and the planning of the University, but that the committee itself should not be involved in the details of the preparation of estimates. Copies of the minutes of the committee will in future be deposited in the Library.

Nomination by Secret Ballot

In choosing candidates for the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Senate will in future use the secret ballot method nominating three full-time professors of the University and forward their names to the Council for final selection. The Senate also agreed that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor should not normally at the same time serve as Dean of Faculty, Director of Institute, or School or Chairman of a department.

S.C.R. Subscription Increase

A new Senior Common Room Committee was appointed recently, consisting of the following:-

Prof. S.M. Alala, Chairman; Dr. N. Nyangira, Secretary; Mr. J. Kimura, Treasurer; Dr. B. Kipkorir, Deputy chairman; and Mr. R. Omwakwe, Mrs. M.N. Muriuki, and Mr. I. Nyambok as members.

A general Meeting of the S.C.R. has approved increase in subscriptions. It resolved to increase membership subscriptions from shs. 20.00 to shs. 30.00 per term for members of main campus.

For members at Kenyatta College, Kabete, Chiromo and Kenyatta Hospital, it was resolved to increase subscriptions from the present shs. 10.00 to shs. 20.00 per term.

The Committee welcomes new academic, Senior Library and Administrative staff to Membership of S.C.R.

APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION

THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS
APPROVED THE FULL APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING

Name	Post	Department
Dr. W.Z. LUTU, Dip.Vet.Sc. (E.A.), B.V.Sc. (E.A.) Dipl.T.V M., M.Sc. (Edin.)	Senior Lecturer	Clinical Studies
Dr. C.M. KARUE, B.Sc. (Agr.), M.S., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Animal Production
Dr. J.I. RICHARDS, B.Sc. (Hons.), Ph.D. (Cantb.)	Senior Lecturer	Animal Production
Dr. S.I. MUHAMMED, M.Sc., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Vet. Pathology
Dr. L.A. WAMOLA, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Med. Pathology
Mr. H.O. PAMBA, B.A., M.Sc.	Senior Lecturer	Med. Pathology
Mr. C.B. LUNAN, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G.	Senior Lecturer	Obst. & Gynaec.
Dr. A.K.L. KISIA, M.B. Ch.B., F.F.R.C.S.	Lecturer	Surgery
Dr. G. MAINA, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Biochemistry
Dr. Z.H.M. VERJEE, B.Sc., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Biochemistry
Mr. E.G. MUCHUNGA, B.A.	Lecturer	Comm. Health
Dr. J.J. GAUDET, B.S. M.S., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Botany
Dr. C.L.H. LEWIS, M.B.Ch.B., F.F.R., D.M.R.D.	Senior Lecturer	Diagn. Radiology
Dr. O. KOLER, B.Sc., Ph.D.	Lecturer	Sch. of Journalism
Dr. N.M. FISHER, B.A., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Crop Science
Dr. J.P. SINGH, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.	Senior Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. P.M.R. KIANGI, B.Sc., M.Sc.	Promoted to Sen. Lecturer	Meteorology
Mr. H. VIRJI, B.Sc., M.Sc.	Lecturer	Meteorology
Miss A.O. PALA, B.S., Ed.M., Ph.D.	Lecturer	I.D.S.
R. H. RIMI, B.A., M.S.W.	Lecturer	I.D.S.
Dr. H.K.M. WACHIRAH, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	Lecturer	I.D.S.
Dr. R.K. SINGH, I.Sc. (AG.), B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.	Lecturer	Botany
Miss C.J.E. ABREU, B.A. M.Ed.	Lecturer	Edu. Foundations
Dr. G.N. AMAYO, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	Lecturer	Edu. Foundations
Mr. R.J. NJOROGE, B.A., M.A.	Lecturer	Edu. Foundations
Mr. D.N. SIFUNA, B.Ed. (HON.), M.A.	Lecturer	Edu. Foundations

Confirmation of Appointments

Dr. G.M. MUTISO	Senior Lecturer	Government
Dr. F.M. LUTI	Lecturer	Mech. Engineering
Dr. S.K. ONGERI	Senior Lecturer	Paediatr. & Child Health
Dr. J.M. NJAI	Lecturer	Paediatr. & Child Health

RESIGNATIONS

Name	Post	Department
D.A.M. GEBBIE	Professor	Obstetri. & Gynaeco.
H.P. OJIAMBO	Senior Lecturer	Medicine
D.S. BARHAMBATT	Lecturer	Surgery
A.N. HAMIR	Assistant Lecturer	Clinical Studies
P.R. BENNETT	Senior Lecturer	Ling. & African Lang.
A.H.T. PARKAR	Senior Lecturer	Paediatrics
K.C. KURIEN	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry
F.E. KHOJA	Lecturer	Mechanical Engineering
S. TOLLERSRUD	Visting Professor	Animal Production
N. RAJAN	Lecturer	Economics
I. FURTADO	Lecturer	Edu. Comms. & Techn.
Z. AHAMED	Lecturer	Biochemistry
R.A.L. LAKHOO	Lecturer	Surv. & Photogrammetry
J.N. MUNGAU	Tutorial Fellow	Electrical Engineering
G.L.R. MOETI	Lecturer	Mathematics

STAFF NEWS

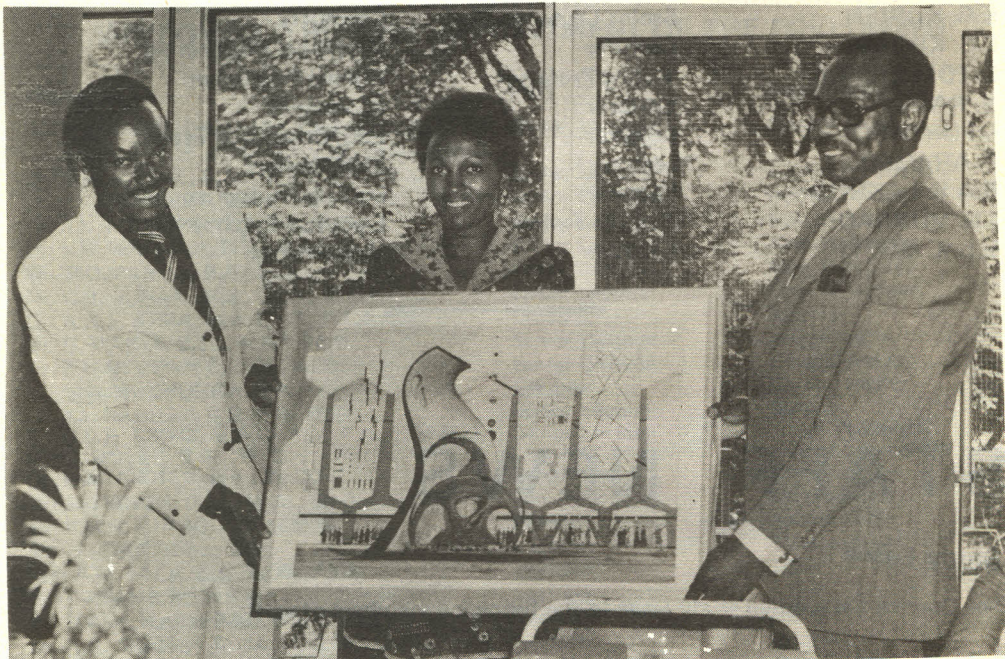
Study Leave

The Council has granted study leave to the following members of staff:

1. Mr. J.O. Onyango: one year study leave with effect from 1st February 1975 to enable him to enrol for an M.Sc. course in Operational Science at the University of Sussex under an Inter-University Council Fellowship.
2. Mr. P. Ouma-Nagemi: 4 months' study leave starting from this month to enable him to undertake a course in Research Design and methodology at the University of Edinburgh as part of his Ph.D. work on an Inter-University Council Scholarship.
3. Mr. S. Ashioya: one-year study leave with effect from 15th September 1974 to enable him to undertake a course leading to M.A. degree in Public Administration on a Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship tenable at the University of California.
4. Mr. David Nyika: Three-year study leave starting from June 1975 to enable him to pursue studies towards a Ph.D. degree in Surveying on an Institute at Ohio State University.

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WHAT'S GOING ON



TRIBUTE TO THE OUTGOING REGISTRAR

The Chairman of the University Council, Mr. B.M. Gecaga, and Professor B. A. Ogot, as a member of the Council, paid growing tribute to the outgoing Registrar and secretary to Council, Mr. S.W. Karanja, and wished him every success in his new career. Mr. S.W. Karanja is joining the East African Portland Cement Company as Managing Director. He has been with the University since 1st January 1964 and was appointed Registrar in July 1965.

At a luncheon organised on his behalf by the University Council, Mr. Karanja expressed gratitude for the co-operation he had received from the Council members and members of staff during his 13 years' service with the University. He also wished the University every success.

On behalf of Council, Mr. Gecaga presented Mr. and Mrs. Karanja with a farewell gift.

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Ndoria to Act

Mr. Murigu K. Ndoria, Deputy Registrar, has been appointed Acting Registrar of the University with effect from Monday 10th February 1975. Mr. Ndoria joined the University on 1st March 1965.

Dating Young Lavas

Prof. N.J. Skinner attended the Colloquium on African Earth Sciences at Leeds University from 2nd to 4th January 1975. He read a paper entitled "The recent secular variation of declination and inclination in Kenya and its application to the dating of young lavas" of which W. Iles and A. Brock were co-authors.

Liberal Leader Visits University

Hon. Jeremy Thorpe, Leader of the British Liberal Party, and Mrs. Thorpe visited the University of Nairobi on Thursday 9th January 1975. He was welcomed to the University by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J.N. Karanja. He was shown around the Main Campus and the Medical School. Mr. Thorpe was on a short visit to Kenya and Zambia.

£¼ Million from Norad

The NORAD Resident Representative, Mr. Olav Lindstad has presented a cheque for the sum of Sh. 42,000/- to the Deputy Registrar, Mr. M.K. Ndoria.

This money is part of a total sum of Shs. 250,000/- which NORAD has set aside for Staff Development Programme Aid for the University.

The sum of Shs. 42,000/- will go to pay for the extensions of scholarships for 6 candidates who are undertaking post-graduate studies in Veterinary Physiology, Electrical Engineering, Medical Biochemistry, Geology, and Botany.

The balance of Shs. 208,000/- is to be sent to the University of Nairobi as soon as nominations have been made for the other candidates.

Speaking on behalf of the University, Mr. M.K. Ndoria, the Deputy Registrar, thanked Mr. Lindstad for the help that NORAD is continuously giving to the University of Nairobi.

Radioisotope Course for Technician

Mr. E.K. Njogu, a Senior Technician in Veterinary Anatomy, attended a course on radioisotope laboratory techniques at the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission and the National Centre for Radioisotope application from 24th August to 26th October 1974. The course was sponsored by the International Agency for Atomic Energy in corporation with the Ghana Government, and was attended by scientific workers from eleven different African countries.

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STAFF NEWS . . . Continued from P7

Leave of Absence

The University has granted Prof. R.J. Olemba a two-year leave of absence starting from 1st March 1975 to enable him to participate in UNEP Scientific Programme.

Travel Assistance

The University has granted a return airfare to Mr. G.K. Kamau, Lecturer in Law, to enable him to travel to Oxford to complete his B.C.L. examination at Wadham College, Oxford.

Dept. of Agricultural Economics

Mr. Kareko Gatere, Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, took part in a refresher course on "Planning and Execution of Agricultural Extension Programmes" at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, from 18th November, to 14th December, 1974.

Staff Exchange Programme

A staff exchange under the auspices of the Inter-University Committee has recently taken place. Dr. J.B. Otieno-Malo of Department of Physics spent three weeks at Makerere University in November 1974 and in exchange, Dr. J. Mwanje spent about 5 weeks in Nairobi during January 1975. Both delivered courses of seminars in their areas of specialisation.

Student Employment

The Dean of Students has finalized interviews by the National High Level Allocation Committee for the jobs available for Tanzania students. Only three out of a total of 53 such students were not interviewed and the committee has assured that the three will be given jobs they have requested for in the application forms.

Two officials from Uganda Public Service and Cabinet Affairs is scheduled to lecture to the Uganda finalists on the prospects of a career in the Uganda Civil Service. The lecture will be held in Taifa Hall on 6th February 1975 and interviews conducted the following day.

Contacts have been made with Kenya Employers in an attempt to secure jobs for the Kenya citizens who will be completing their courses this year at this University. Promising messages have started to flow with a bias for engineers and very soon many of the Kenyans will be interviewed and eventually placed in the jobs available in the Country.

Student Accommodation

A number of students who were sleeping on double-decker beds and quiet rooms have been shifted to occupy any regular beds and rooms left by the students opting to stay outside the campus. Only six male students remain on the double decker beds. They will be shifted to regular rooms when vacancies arise.

Finding in Comparative Physiology of Some of East African Vetebrates

The Comparative Physiologist is an opportunist, searching for situations in nature which permit a clearer look into the fundamental problems of physiology and biology. The animals of East Africa present such a situation. There are as many interesting physiological problems to be investigated as there are animals. At the present time, these animals are still numerous and exist in a wide variety of habitats. Recent investigations carried out by Kjell Johansen and G.M. Ole Maloiy at the Department of Animal Physiology, Nairobi, has revealed some interesting novel physiological features.

These two physiologists have looked at the physiology of such animals at Lake Magadi Tilapia, Monitor Lizards, naked mole rats, flamingoes, apodas (a limbless amphibian) from Taita Hills; bush babies and antelopes.

In one study for example, the Oxygen uptake of the apodas at 15°C has been measured as well as a complete study of the respiratory properties of blood. The extraordinary finding in this study is the remarkably high oxygen capacity of the blood and the lack of a Bohr's effect. To date no other amphibian studied is known to show these peculiarities.

These researchers have also found out unique metabolic and physiological strategies which enable the extraordinary teleost fish, **Tilapia grahami**, to comfortably inhabit hot alkaline springs of Lake Magadi. The pH of the water in these springs is around 10.4 while the temperature is between 32°C and 40°C.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL
PHYSIOLOGY

Anti-Cholera Jabs

Eighteen thousand doses of anti-cholera vaccine were administered by the University Health Centre to University students, senior staff, their families and their domestic and junior staff last month.

This was done in order to protect the University against the deadly disease following the outbreak in Western Kenya in December, 1974. The campaign started on the 7th January, 1975 and was completed by the 15th January, 1975.

Our medical Officer, Mr. K. Githahu has commended the Department of Advanced Nursing and staff in the Health Centre who did the work. The jabs were given in disposable needles. Dr. Githahu has also appealed to members of the University to strictly adhere to the rules of hygiene as this is the most effective way of keeping off the disease.

Pedestrians Sub-way

The main contractor for the State House Road Pedestrians Sub-way will shortly be handing over the tunnel on completion. The tunnel is now virtually complete with only minor details left. Over the past three years students have stressed the need for this pedestrians crossing in order to reduce their encounter and motorists along State House Road. The construction of the tunnel commenced on the 1st May, 1974, and has caused the University Shs. 276,127/20. The construction was delayed due to the hard lock which required extensive rock blasting.

The Dean of Students has requested students to use the tunnel when crossing the road otherwise.

"News and Views" has also been informed that five staff houses at Westlands were completed at the end of last month. These are four bedroom houses, each with a study. The total cost of the construction runs to 1,046,000. They will be allocated to senior staff by the Housing Committee in due course.

RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

Meat Research Lab Set Up

The Department of Veterinary Anatomy has developed a new Meat Research Laboratory, run by Dr. N.C. Stickland, who is investigating the muscle of various game animals to elucidate their meat potential.

A laboratory of Comparative Anatomy has also been established in the Department, in which Dr. M.D. Purton is engaged in research in comparative anatomy, as well as the preparation of teaching material.

Dr. D. Oduor is working in a surgical anatomy section in the Department. It is hoped that this subject will be taught as a new course within the Department in the near future.

Other Research

Dr. M.J. McVeigh, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, has been granted funds for Computing facilities to assist in the demographic analysis of religious statistics.

Mr. L.H. Muench, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, has been granted funds for investigating public policies and lower income housing markets, a case study of Kampala.

First Time for 'A' Level Physics

For the first time, the 'A' level physics examinations have been entirely set and marked within East Africa. Professor P.K.S. Raja (Examiner-in-Chief), Dr. J. B. Otieno-Malo, Mr. P.S. Bhogal and Mr. J. Patel served as Examiners for these examinations, the marking of which took place in December 1974.

OUR FEATURE:

What is Pharmacy?

Dr. C.K. Maitai, Dept. of Pharmacy

Most people know a pharmacist or "chemist" as someone who dispenses drugs in hospitals or in other authorised premises. Few realise that dispensing of drugs occupies an insignificant place in Pharmacy curriculum and is often covered outside the formal training. Pharmacy can be defined as that branch of applied science which involves total knowledge of drugs, their source, action formulation, availability in body, possible harmful effects, detection, identification and estimation in various medical preparations. It is one of the disciplines comprising the health profession. A pharmacist serves both the laity and the other health professions as a major source of information and advice about drugs.

To appreciate what is involved in pharmacy profession one need to know what the training of pharmacists entails. Although there is much diversity in training of pharmacists in different countries, the course content taken in its entirety covers very much the same material. In all cases, the teaching of professional subjects is preceded by a pre-pharmacy course comprising of instructions in basic science subjects (chemistry, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology and mathematics.) The more typical professional subjects (pharmaceutics, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacognosy) are designed so as to enable the student to understand and appreciate the scientific basis of drug action and the factors likely to influence drug availability in the body. Thus it is not just enough to know that a particular drug is useful, without considering whether such a drug will be available at the required site in the body in adequate concentration.

The following are the typical professional subjects covered in pharmacy curriculum in all universities.

Pharmaceutics (Physical Pharmacy)

This involves the study of preparation, preservation, standardisation of biological (vaccines, antisera) and chemical products, practical methods of sterilisation, test for sterility of pharmaceutical products especially those intended for injection, preparation and presentation of drugs in suitable dosage forms (solids or liquids) and factors likely to influence solubility, stability and availability of drugs in the body. For example, it is necessary to ascertain as much as possible that a given tablet will disintegrate in the gastrointestinal tract within a given time, otherwise it might pass out with faeces, without the drug being absorbed. It is also necessary to rule out the presence of toxic contaminants in medicinal substances. Pharmaceutical manufacturing is usually covered in great details. Finally, there is forensic pharmacy, which deals with legal aspects of drug distribution.

Pharmaceutical Chemistry (medicinal chemistry)

This deals with synthesis of common drugs from simple chemical compounds and analytical techniques applied in isolation, purification, identification and estimation of drugs. A thorough knowledge of use and application of various instruments is essential. Analytical techniques find wide application in quality control of drugs where it is often necessary to ascertain that the preparation contains the stated amount of drug. Several drugs deteriorate rapidly, especially in solution, and there is always the remote possibility of giving the wrong dose (either too little or too much) due to faulty manufacturing techniques.

Yet another important consideration in pharmaceutical chemistry is that of trying to relate the chemical structure of a drug to its observed biological activity and subsequently, trying to predict how such activity can be improved upon, through minor changes in the structure.

Pharmacology

This study tries to explain the mechanism by which drugs influence the physiological system of the body in health and in disease. Considerable time is devoted to study of how the body reacts to the presence of drugs, i.e. metabolism and elimination of drugs from the body. Often there are several drugs or combination of drugs which can be used for the same purpose and in choosing the drug several factors have to be taken into consideration. An important area of study is that known as chemotherapy, that is, use of drug to kill micro-organisms (bacteria etc.) while doing minimum damage to the patient. It is probably true to say that the only harmless drug is a useless one. For this reason, much time is spent in discussing the undesirable effects of drugs, especially those that tend to limit their usefulness. The harmful effect of other chemical substances, normally not used as medicines (e.g. insecticides, rodenticides etc.) are covered in a related discipline called toxicology. The student also gets training in various biological methods used for estimating the potency of drugs.

Pharmacognosy

This involves study of natural products (of animal and plant origin) used as medicines either in crude form or after isolation. Emphasis is mainly on methods used in identification and characterisation of crude substances and their active constituents.

Traditional pharmacy training has been "product-oriented" but there is now a deliberate attempt to shift this emphasis to "patient-drug" interaction. This innovation has created a new discipline called **clinical pharmacy** and although this is still at the experimental stage, there is reason to believe that this might be the trend in future.

Space does not allow me to review the relationship between Pharmacy and the other health professions. In the past, the Pharmacists in Kenya "operated" under the paternal guidance of their colleagues in the medical profession. This was inevitable because there were only a few of them, all trained overseas, and by virtue of their numerical strength they could not make an impact. Besides, many of them were non-Kenyans with other non-professional problems to worry about. With the introduction of a Pharmacy course in the University of Nairobi, there is reason to believe that, in future, the Pharmacists will be able to shape their destiny, more independently and complementarily from their medical colleagues. The same could be said of the dentists.

HUMOUR

Supermarket

He had gone about half-way home when he realized he had been given the wrong change. He rushed back, went to the end of the queue, waited his turn and finally got his chance:

"I am sorry, but you gave me the wrong change."

"When did this happen?"

"About 20 minutes ago."

The check-out counter man rose to his full height, pointed imperiously to a sign on the wall and declaimed: "All errors in change must be reported at time of check-out or they will not be rectified. Signed: The Management!"

"You mean it's too late?"

"I'm afraid so."

All right, "the customer said as he walked out, "too late is too late. I just wanted you to know that you gave me three pounds too much."

Bad Company

An elderly man of convivial habits, but also bookish, was hailed before the bar of justice in a small country town.

"Ye're charged with bein' drunk and disorderly" snapped the magistrate. Have you anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced?"

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousand mourn," began the prisoner, in a flight of oratory. "I am not so debased as Poe, so profligate as Byron, so ungrateful as Keats, so intemperate as Burns, so timid as Tennyson, so vulgar as Shakespeare, so - - - -"

"That'll do, that'll do," interrupted the magistrate. "Seven days. And, Officer, take down that list of names he mentioned and round 'em up. I think they're as bad as he is."

This letter was forwarded to the Editor by the Dean of Students.

Nicolas O. Abinya,
Hall 10,
P. O. Box 30344,
NAIROBI.
23.1.75.

The Dean of Students,
Nairobi University.

Dear Sir,

It is very apparent that there is a coughing epidemic on the campus, particularly among the first-year medical students. I was one of the first victims but my case is not very serious. However, many of my colleagues are suffering helplessly. The Medical Staff does not seem to realise what is happening and continue giving treatment as for ordinary coughs. This special cough is a terrible one which threatens to rip open the thoracic cavity with a terrible sensation of twenty elephants walking up and down the jugular notch. Last night it was so generous as to render my roommate sleepless for the whole lot of the dark twelve hours.

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The Editor of "News & Views" invites contributions from our readers on any appropriate subject.

GAMES

Games Tutor Reports on Sports

One of the major drawbacks in having the University of Nairobi so close to the City of Nairobi has been the lack of space for development, especially for the large areas required for sports facilities.

The only sports grounds which the University inherited were some sub-standard pitches on a low-grade black cotton soil area adjacent to Uhuru Highway. There are, however, two large waterlogged depressions filled with swamp grass. A three-year development plan was therefore put into operation to bring all existing facilities up to standard and to reclaim the swampland and use it for the construction of additional facilities.

Considerable progress has already been made. An eight-lane athletic track the same size and shape as that of the Mexico Olympic stadium is now complete, as is a full Olympic size 50 metre swimming pool which has been built just below the Halls of Residence. The pool, with a large flat area at each end and a maximum depth of only 2 metres, was designed as a safe pool for recreational swimming and is now enjoyed by large numbers of students and staff and their families. A totally separate diving pool is planned as a later stage of development.

The ground floor of the Central Catering Unit has been walled in and is being converted into a gymnasium for boxing, weight training, judo and karate.

But it is the whole skyline of this area which has seen the most dramatic change. Hundreds of thousands of tons

of soil and rubble have been dumped at no cost to the University from the building sites of Nairobi. This has now been levelled into a series of plateaus which will be used for hockey, tennis, basketball and volleyball once the areas have settled. A further large area of swamp land at the southern end of the fields is at present being treated in the same way, so that when complete we will have reclaimed some four acres of otherwise useless land and converted it into much needed sports facilities at very little cost to the University.

Coming Events

In addition to the weekly programme of practice games in soccer, hockey, basketball, rugby, volleyball and athletics, a number of matches take place during each week in most sports. Details of both practice games and matches are daily posted on all notice boards. Rock-climbing expeditions to Lukenia as well as further possible expedition to Mount Kenya are planned for this term. A mammoth Swimming Gala in which there will be events for men and women students, Staff and their families, as well as members of the general public is planned for early March. Full details of these and other events will appear on the notice boards.

John Velzian GAMES TUTOR

Continued from P15

I believe this a special case which requires special attention. Would you please, as the Dean of Students, kindly agree to convince the medical staff that precautions particularly in mature stages of an epidemic are very necessary.

Yours faithfully, A.A.O. Abinya.

By the 26th January the Warden of Halls 10 & 11 reported that "all danger was over." Humour potential of our future medics is apparent. EDITOR