

# Infirmiry Infirmities

by Charlie Pratt

Under "Health Center" in the SALTIRE, the student handbook, it states: "Admittance; The Resident Nurse will render first aid service at no extra cost," "Services by the College Physician: Monday through Saturday the College Physician is available for consultation and treatment at 7:00 a. m. promptly."

Whether these statements conform to the actual operation of the College Infirmiry is becoming a crucial concern. Both students who have had poor experience with infirmiry personnel and facilities, and those who have only heard stories about it, find that the St. Andrews medical facilities fall short of students' and faculty's

needs and expectations.

This is not the first time that the infirmiry has come into question. Last year in "pre-dawn" (Vol. 1, No. 3-- April 16, 1970), it was found that the infirmiry was selling medicine purchased at wholesale value for as much as 50% above the cost value. In addition, the infirmiry was accused of selling "sample drugs" to students, when they are acquired free-of-charge by the infirmiry.

A number of people have complained about their encounters with the infirmiry. This sample of students reflect some very serious drawbacks in the health services' operation and personnel. A month and a half ago, Brod Hale injured his shoulder and went directly to Dr. Hugh McArn who diagnosed

his shoulder separation as only a bruise and told Brod that he would be all right in a few days. Brod went to another doctor who immediately recognized the problem as a separated shoulder needing pins.

Another student, Jim Silman, refractured his leg last year and went to the infirmiry to consult with Dr. McArn. Without taking X-rays or collecting any other diagnostic data beyond a short examination, he told Jim that it was a bruise.

In other instances, particularly with Jim Silman who developed a kidney problem, and another who began having dizzy spells, Dr. McArn recommended that they see other specialists in those particular fields. He did not do this in the first two incidents.

Another complaint about the infirmiry operation is the erratic availability of first-aid help. Last year, Eddie Smith had to wait 45 minutes before anyone came over to Orange Hall from the infirmiry to assist him. He had fallen from his wheelchair into the courtyard and broken his hip. There has been numerous other occasions when the "full-time" nurse was needed but could not be found or could not come immediately.

The general access to the infirmiry is far less than at other colleges or academies. The only time that professional consultation can be had is between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. Other colleges of similar size have a full-time physician available, and health services not just including emergency cases on a 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. basis.

There have been good comments about the infirmiry as well. Within the operating functions of the infirmiry, Brod Hale said that the infirmiry as such operated well in terms of distribution of drugs and first aid health care. He also said that his relations with Mrs. Stevens had been good.

(Continued next week)

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# MEDIUM Message

Can't go trick-or-treating on Halloween?? Then maybe going to see a spooky opera is just the thing to give you shivers and chills as you prepare for the Night of the Unknown-n-n-n . . .

On the nights before and after Halloween--Friday, October 30 and Sunday, November 1--Gian Carlo Menotti's chilling opera THE MEDIUM will be staged and performed in the LA Auditorium by students from the School of Music and the Highland Players. The Medium, Madame Flora (sung by Mary Lou Walker), uses the seance for calling back the dead children of her weekly customers, the Gobieneas (Millie Broome and Jim Smith) and a new customer, Mrs. Nolan (Marie Bowie.) Madame Flora is aided in her trickery of fake ghosts and voices by her daughter Monica (Bonnie Stuart) and an adopted mute, Toby (Ron Wilkerson). Suddenly in the midst of a seance, Madame Flora (or Baba as she is also called) herself is touched by an unknown--a thing? a hand? a GHOST? ? ? ? ? She tries to explain it away through trickery by someone else, but when these answers fail, it appears her involvement with the spirit world has finally backfired on her. Her conse-

quent drinking and increasingly frenzied fantasies lead to a dramatic and chilling climax that should leave you shaking, and SHAKEN.

Gian Carlo Menotti is perhaps best known for his "Amahl and the Night Visitors", the first opera to have been commissioned expressly for television. Written in 1951, it has since established itself as a Christmas Classic. The Medium, written in 1946, is also highly popular, having achieved close to two thousand performances since its premiere. Menotti writes his librettos in English and therefore has also won success on Broadway, bridging the gap of theater and opera. His music can be sweet, tender, heartwarming; yet he has an extraordinary flair for what is dramatically effective. This exciting art is well expressed in his many operas, and especially so in "The Medium."

For an intriguing evening of unusually good music combined with ghostly drama, you are invited to attend the musical seance--THE MEDIUM, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, at 8:00 PM in the LAA. Mr. Somerville will be conducting, with Louise White at the piano. Mr. McDonald is directing the opera, with Mrs. Somerville as musical director.

## GIBSON

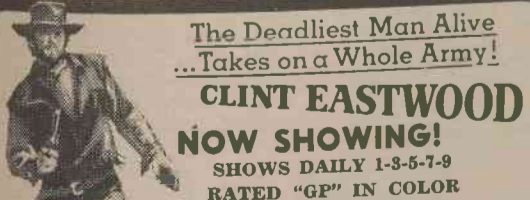


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