

THE PSYCHE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS — AND THE MEDIC NITE (excerpt)

C.S. Ho

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Medical students are in a very strange situation. They possess a strange knowledge — in the sense that they understand the structure and functioning of their own bodies — a knowledge that no other students possess to a similar extent. They possess a high rank in our society, and they are conscious, and ever anxious, of their superiority. Yet, under the high pressure of their studies, they have no time to reveal themselves fully in social relations.

Before they enter this faculty, they have been praised by their teachers and fellow sixth-form students as clever, hard-working, eager, etc. When they know that they are admitted into this (but before their first year really begins), their sense of superiority further mounts.

The situation is completely different when their academic year really begins. They find themselves isolated from the rest of the university students. Such isolation leaves them to face day after day students of own quality. In other words, their superiority is always masked by their being confined to a group of fellow Medics.

However, their sense of superiority still persists. Therefore they gradually accumulate the subconscious drive to show it.

Academic Work

Actually, their frustration can be removed, and their superiority satisfied, if they are given time — time to date the girls whom they like (but, alas, these girls are so far away), time to read more on the subjects of literature, philosophy and metaphysics, and thus improve their “mental world”, and time to actualize themselves, to fulfill their potentialities in other fields.

However, their heavy academic work leaves them with no time to do these things. They possess the talents, the superiority and the social privilege (or prestige?) that they have no time to make use of. Instead, they see other people carrying the better girls away in their arms, enjoying heartily, and running

most of the posts in the Union and the various clubs. And, these people, they know are less talented, have less social prestige and had been inferior to them when they were schoolmates in secondary schools. So, the medical students become more and more 苦悶 and the frustration goes on and on.

Repression And Social Rank

There is a lack in medic boys of self-imposed repression concerning sex. This is due to two reasons:

Firstly, the insignificance of girls in this faculty, compared with, say, the Arts Faculty (In conjunctions, it should be pointed out here that the medical students referred to in this essay are actually boys). Naturally, when the boy is together with the girl, he tends to behave himself in a more respectable way. The external limitation so set will gradually spread inwards to mould his mind. On the other hand, if there is “no” girls, he will be so “free” to speak of anything he likes, without further consideration, and without the fear of hurting the ladies. The effect of this can easily be observed by comparing the conditions inside a “mixed” hostel and a men’s hostel.

Secondly, the medical students among other students, solely possess the knowledge concerning their own bodies. This has very important influences on their moral concepts. They no longer keep to the moral standards that they have had before. They are going farther and farther away from vitalism. “Why so many damned reles, standards, sacredness, etc. when Man is but a machine, a system of reactions, and sensations are but to protect the individual, to motivate and drive him so that he may live, so that his species may continue to perpetuate!”

Thus, with the going on of time, the previous restrictions which he had in his secondary-school days gradually fade away.

It would be expected, then, from what has been said, that medic boys would utter foul slangs and speak of sex everywhere and at every moment of the day. However, it is not so. This is because they are aware that they have a high standing in — society. They have to show themselves serious, reliable and respectable in the public. This interesting contradiction can be seen from the fact that when two medic boys are talking to each other, they dare speak

of anything — really anything, including those never heard from the mouths of other students, while if he is speaking with another person (particularly a person who is not a U-student), he would appear so polite, sincere and respectable. The critical point concerning this is that the restriction is not a self-originated, self-generated and automatic one. It is a superimposed one, placed on them by the pressure of masspsychology.

And what would the result be?

A resentment against the restrictions, and a resentment against their own pretensions, and their own selves.

Summary Of The Psychic State

An aggressive but frustrated person, possessing a subconscious tendency to show off superiority; who is free from moral boundaries in his thinking, but has to pretend repeatedly; who is unable to find a normal outlet, and who has no higher level of pursuit due to the lack of time to fulfill the self.

(Please note that the above does not apply to EVERY medical student. There are of course those who are extraordinarily able. However, it probably does apply to the greater number of medic boys.)

The Outcome

Due to frustration, they become unscrupulous; just do not care what they are doing; possess no desire for improvement; and allow themselves to be drifted on and on.

But, at the same time, they want to show superiority. The effect due to frustration in this case leads them to whom their superiority in a wrong way — by doing something that others dare not do, by doing something so ugly — that they have the gut, and the privilege, to do such things. Partly, this is also due to their subconscious desire to revenge against the restrictions imposed on them.

These same things lead to the development of psychological delinquents. Luckily, the possession of a social rank and a promising future prevent the medic boys from doing so.

Then, there comes the Medic Nite.

The Medic Nite

The Medic Nite was definitely not designed for such purposes originally. However, the students naturally show the outcome of their psychic state in the performances they put up during the night. In other words, the performances of the Medic Nite become one of their outlets (another outlet of very similar nature is, perhaps, gambling, sensations). Their medical knowledge, in this case, only makes them more likely, and allows them, in satisfying their depressed mind, to choose the pathway of doing 濁野 in their Medic Nite.

Thus, the Medic Nite has become an occasion unconstitutionally but traditionally recognized as the time to put off all reputations, restrictions and other considerations in order to satisfy their desires — the desires of such a highly abnormal psyche.

Conclusion

So, we have such an occasion, and such performances, going on and on. We defend such performances in terms of tradition, but have we ever thought of how such a tradition originates? And why do we defend them at all — because we subconsciously welcome such performances ourselves!