



African Diary

by Dr. W. H. Mullen

The big thing since my last "diary" was my trip to Durban where I spent five full days. We travelled by Volkswagen from Modderpoort, passing through some of the most beautiful scenery I have yet looked upon. The Van Reenens Pass was particularly beautiful where we could see hundreds of square miles of rolling Natal hills. It was also somewhat of a thrill to stop in Ladysmith, a name which revived in my mind by high school studies of the Boer War and the famous events which took place here. We stopped for refreshments at Howick Falls on the Umgeni River. The Falls is a trickle compared with Niagara, but it had a majesty and grandeur all its own. It is over 300 feet high.

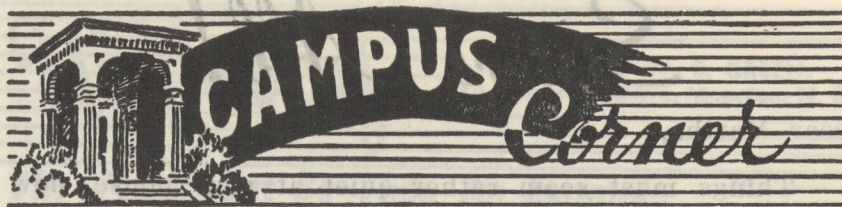
I was quite amazed at the change in climate from The Orange Free State to Natal. We were really beginning to feel autumn up here in this high altitude, about 5,200 feet, but as we moved toward Durban the climate was milder and softer, almost semi-tropical. It was a new experience for me to sit in a shady garden in March, quite surrounded by avocado, pear, and papaw trees, and within arm length of a great bunch of ripening bananas.

Durban is a beautiful city, with an ideal harbor. One evening it was my delight to watch the well-known ship Europa leave her docks and move up the coast with all her lights blazing. To get the feel of the town I walked about two or three miles through the main business sections. It was a study in contrasts. The streets were full of modern cars jockeying for position as in Halifax or Boston, but maybe the latest Peugeot would be followed by a hurrying rickshaw. Pedestrians presented another kind of contrast. In one block one would see a fashionably dressed "European" lady with spike heels, and the next moment an African woman in bare feet with a bundle on her head, or a graceful Indian woman in a bright orange or pink sari. I guess I couldn't have been too impressed by the men, except that one Indian man stopped me and in a very low and confidential voice tried to sell me some jewelry. It may have been expensive stuff, but it looked like junk.

Many of the shops were modern and tastefully arranged. I purchased several things in a quite typical Woolworth's. A few blocks away I could have bought a truck load of all kinds of horns, hooves, teeth, herbs, sticks, and endless varieties of liquid potions. I didn't inquire, but it looked like the central pharmacy for the local witchdoctor's association. I ended my walk about Durban with a brief look into the city aquarium, and finally sat on a bench by the beach. The sun was shining brightly over the warm Indian Ocean, and the wind blew some salt spray in my face.

It was my great privilege to meet many of the Congregational missionaries in the Durban area. For three nights I stayed in the home of Dr. Alan Taylor, superintendent of the quite famous McCord Zulu Hospital. While there the good doctors in the hospital offered to give me a checkup which I quickly accepted, not only

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CONGRATULATIONS TO CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS!

In the month of February the correspondence students in Old Testament wrote their first examination. We are happy to release a report on the results.

Rev. L. K. Mullen, who prepared the course and marked the papers, commented, "Some of the papers were positively exceptional!" In this category were the papers of Mr. Wallace Green, Mrs. Leola Barnes, Mrs. Ethel Stairs, and Mrs. Robert Landers—all ninety-three or more.

Others did excellent work and all deserve commendation, for the passing of the exam required considerable knowledge only gained through much effort. Others in the ninety bracket were Mrs. Linus Crabbe, Mr. John Alward, Mrs. Joe McDowell, and Miss Lois Merchant. The other successful students included Mrs. Mary Carson, Mrs. Juanita Chandler, Mrs. Gordon Graham, Mrs. Hazel Hopkins, Mr. Fred Hutchinson, Mrs. Gerald Inman, Mr. Harold King, Mrs. Annie Wright.

Many who took the course did not write the exam. Several had not completed the study by the date set for the examination. Some did not want to write the exam. Doubtlessly many of these could have passed the exam.

The examination results prove one important point: The average lay person is capable of taking and passing our correspondence course.

The comments from the students express their enthusiasm concerning the course. One student said: "I appreciated studying the Bible with a definite objective." Another said, "I just loved doing it."

Doubtlessly many of our lay people will anticipate our offering a correspondence course in the New Testament in the near future.

DATES TO REMEMBER

BETHANY GRADUATION: JUNE 9-11

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My Tribute

If I could take the heartaches

You have had along the way,

And change them into roses,

I would make a huge bouquet.

I would place it on a mirror

Close beside your easy chair,

And kneel in silence by it

With my heart reflected there.

Then you'd know the truths you taught me,

In your kindly, patient way,

Have been my guide and anchor

Through every troubled day.

And you could read life's record

With neither shame nor fear,

For I made it by the pattern

That you gave me, Mother dear.

Then this shall be my tribute,

The best I have to give:

I'm grateful to you, Mother,

That you taught me how to live!

Clara Ross Baxter