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Highlights from our archives

By 1974, when this advertisement for popular benzodiazepine nitrazepam appeared, the MJA's design had changed significantly. The front cover permanently displayed the coat of arms declaring "pro genere humano concordēs" and each new article began on a fresh page, ending the era of the run-on layout.



The more things change ...

Women were 19.1% of all medical graduates in Australia in 1972, and 30.5% of new enrolments in 1973. By the end of this decade a third of all medical graduates are likely to be women. Medical structures are not accepting or accommodating these facts, interpret them as a threat and respond by increasing rigidity of postgraduate training and intermittently expressing sympathy with the idea of restricting female entry.

Women doctors want to use their training, and make extraordinary efforts to do so. However, four Royal Australian Colleges have recently changed their regulations to require 4 to 5 years' continuous residency training following the internship years.

The effect will be to virtually exclude all married women from becoming qualified in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, and general practice, and to militate against joint practice with medical husbands, unless they postpone childbearing until the obstetrically undesirable age of about 30, which in other

contexts the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists would [not] encourage.

If [women] are to be retained in medical practice when their children enter the school years, instead of being diverted into more manageable occupations such as school teaching, or withdrawing from the workforce altogether, or being derailed into subsidising their husbands' careers, medical structures must facilitate the retention of these women.

The half-time and other patterns of residency training institutionalised for married women doctors in other countries not only enable continued exposure to professional developments, but also provide training and postgraduate qualifications for return to meaningful practice.

It is unlikely, however, that medical administrators will volunteer such changes in the absence of demand from women graduates themselves.

*Ione Fett, Anthropologist, Monash University
4 May 1974 (edited extract)*

Notes on the Journal

Sir: Recent favourable comments on the cover pages of the Journal have been interesting, and I join those who commend the change. The coat of arms in the centre of the front cover is an impressive work, but one feature requires some elucidation.

Does the unicorn have cloven hoofs? I had thought (following the opinion of Aristotle) that its noble lineage was related to the horse, rather



than the billy goat. Pliny (the Elder, I think) described it more in terms of the ass. Perhaps your artist had the stag in mind. I hope so anyway.

The unicorn's hoofs were certainly golden, at least in the more confident of the ancient

descriptions, as your cover suggests, but cloven! Really, Sir, I am amazed.

*Allan M Bryson, Sydney, NSW
23 March 1974*