Godslastering

Aan die Redakteur: Dit blyk uit die hoofartikel' van Oktober 1993 se SAMJ dat een van die redes hoekom ek my onn DIE AMR DUMIE TEGNISDIEENIs OOR Die Elek toe steeds teenwoordig is. Dit ten spyte van sg. 'geen diskriminisie teen godsdiens . . .' nie.

'I have heard it alleged that the reason Bethlehem, OFS, missed out on the honour that eventually went to Bethlehem, Palestine, was the fact that, despite an intensive search, there were simply not three wise men to be found in the Orange Free State!'

Dit is om die minste te sê oneervol, onsenstief en eintlik Godslasterlik om so om te gaan met die Heilige Skrif (Bybel) en spesifiek met die sponende verwysing na die menswordingsgebeurtenis van God-die-Seun, Jesus Christus ons enigste Verlosser en Saligmaker.

Daar is niks so onverdraagsaam as die liberalisme nie. Indien so'n opmerking enigens gemeka was ten opsigte van enige ander godsdiens of geskrif, soos bv. die Koran, sou u u pos kwyt wees en sou die SAMJ verbode verklaar gewees het.

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Cholera outbreak, Hibisba health ward, Zululand

To the Editor: Since February this year there has been a sizeable cholera outbreak in the Hibisba health ward. The experience of the first 46 cases (up to June) has been reported.1 However, the epidemic continues. To date a total of 77 cases have been proved by culture (Fig. 1) and more than 600 patients with presumed cholera have been treated at a residential clinic and in the hospital outpatient department. It is not known how many have been treated at home or by general practitioners. A small number of cases have been reported from neighbouring hospitals.

The male/female ratio was equal, and patients' ages ranged from a few months to 78 years, confirming that this is an outbreak in a previously uninfected area. Only 4 patients have died, but relatives have reported other deaths at home.

Recently a third, and geographically distinct, part of the health ward has become affected, and this is a cause for great concern.

The Health Inspectorate has co-operated with the hospital very effectively in responding to the epidemic. While

most of the population of this health ward have no access to safe water or human waste disposal, epidemics of this type will continue and may spread.

Colleagues are alerted to the possibility of cholera in the differential diagnosis of patients with diarrhoea. The vibrio was typed at the Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Natal, as Vibrio cholerae El Tor.

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Foreign-trained doctors

To the Editor: The editorial1 on foreign-trained doctors is unfortunately superficial and does not correspond with the facts.

Transkei is quoted as an example, mentioning Ugandan, Ghanaian and Kenyan doctors there. I have practised in this area for more than 25 years and claim a fair knowledge of the facts. By 1980 the shortcomings of the Transkean civil administration and the lack of security of person and property had become glaringly obvious despite the funding of billions of rands. The spate of recent murders and robberies is absolute confirmation. Many doctors therefore understandably relocated elsewhere and some were forced to leave, as has happened in rural hospitals in the Transvaal. These could not be replaced.

Because circumstances in Ghana, Uganda and Kenya are presumably so much worse than in Transkei, at least 200 graduates from these countries (of whom it cannot be said that their services are not required there) have moved to Transkei.

What is happening now is that every day considerable numbers of Transkean patients are presenting at East London hospitals or using bus transport to go even further afield, as complaints from Cape hospitals confirm. Frequently they are discharging themselves from Transkei