

Illiteracy at 7	Diskors ta' l-Istudenti	Strengths and Weaknesses of Small Islands	Trade Schools in Gozo	Theses by Gozitan Students
Profile: Joe Xuereb, sculptor	Aspects of Health of the Gozitan people	Tourists in Gozo	Il-Gwardjani Lokali	Book Profile: The Maltese Migrant Experience
Book Profile: The Placenames of the coast of Gozo	Mini-Medicine in Gozo	Poems	Typing Maltese Characters	Front Cover

For the second year running, the University of Malta, Gozo Centre has organised a series of lectures on the basis of medicine. The course, organised and given by Professor M.N.Cauchi has been quite popular and attracted an audience of 35-40 persons on each occasion.

The need for such a course has been felt for a long time. There is no doubt that our health constitutes perhaps our most important investment, and yet the majority of people know hardly anything about it. The proportion of students who have even the basic knowledge of human biology is alarmingly small, as seen by an analysis of the subjects taken at Ordinary and Advanced levels in our secondary schools. Any doctor can tell stories about the difficulties of communicating with the patient, difficulties largely due to the chasm that divides the professional from the client, a division compounded by lack of basic knowledge of biology.

It would appear that a number of medical schools overseas have also felt this need for expanding their teaching programme to the lay public. The recently published "NIH Mini -Med School Manual" prepared by the Office of Science Education, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA summarizes the programmes currently running in the US. They include also two 'international' programmes, namely one in Dublin and

the other, in Malta (Gozo).

In his introduction, Dr Bruce Fuchs, Director, Science Education, NIH, says: " I believe that the public yearned for more information on sicen and health" . This is the impression that we get also in Gozo. In a series of weekly lectures, various topics relating to health issues are discussed. The emphasis is on explaining how the body works normally, and what happens when something goes wrong. The course expects no prior knowledge of the subject and demands only an interest in the workings of this wonderful machine called the human body.

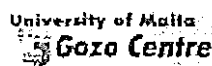
The Gozo Centre issues certificates of attendance. Those wishing to do so, may sit for a test and obtain a certificate of proficiency in the subject (equivalent to one credit).

The success of these courses encourage us to have a repeat performance next year. Those interested should obtain more information from the Secretary, University of Malta Gozo Centre. Tel:564559.

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