MADRID is internationally known for its bull ring.

And New Orleans has its bull pen.

It's not listed as such in the Chamber of Commerce "attraction book", nor will you find it specifically mentioned on the guided tour list of places to see in New Orleans.

But, ask any Tulane university medical graduate about Tulane's bull pen and they'll tell you that of all the incidents that happened during their undergraduate training, the bull pen stands out, clearer and sharper than all the rest combined.

Officially it is called the surgical diagnostic clinic and is held each Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Delgado amphitheatre of Charity hospital. Star performers are junior and senior medical students of Tulane and the chairman of the department of surgery in the Tulane school of medicine, Dr. Oscar Creech—the bull.

At 10:30 a.m., four patients from Charity's wards or outpatient clinic are brought into a small, diagnostic room adjoining the amphitheatre, where they meet the four or five students who will perform later in the bull pen.

The students have never seen their patients before. Their job is to find out what is medically wrong with them—through physical examination and case histories—in exactly 30 minutes. For at 11 a.m., the first student will present his patient and his findings to Dr. Creech and the amphitheatre audience.

Dr. Creech knows the history of each patient, but the audience, like the students, does not.

At exactly 11 a.m., the bull enters the amphitheatre arena and the 60-minute show is on.

As the first student presents his case, Dr. Creech either paces slowly back and forth or stands close by, listening, watching and waiting—for the first thrust. When the student is finished he steps back, mentally on guard for the first verbal plunge by the bull.

It comes and comes fast.

But instead of flashing horns, the bull uses barbed questions—why do you say that; what do you mean by relaxed position; why does your patient's heart sound the way you say it does; why is his skin yellow; how would he really act if he has what you say he has? Why? Why? Why?

With each answer the student gives, he gets more whys and hows in return. The verbal slugfest lasts from 15-20 minutes with Dr. Creech leading the student up to a correct diagnosis if the latter is wrong, or to an expansion of the diagnosis if it is right.

The Tulane surgeon never forgets that the clinic is a class, devoted to seeing and learning and not just a demonstration of students getting gored. He interrupts case presentation periodically to spell out a similar case in medical literature to the audience, give a quick lesson in anatomy, quickly outline the correct surgical procedure pertinent to the case in the ring, or describe the most modern therapy available.

Every so often, he turns to a resident physician, who is also in the know, and asks for further information on the case. If the particular student in the ring does not know an answer, Dr. Creech turns to the other students, who are sitting on the sidelines waiting to perform, to see if they do. He also fires questions at the audience.

When the first student is through, the Tulane surgeon resumes the case, makes the diagnosis in his terms, tells what will be done, asks if there are any questions, and then calls for the next case.

The process is then repeated.

Both junior and senior medical students take part in the clinic, with the juniors allowed an hour to "work up a patient." However, the bull is just as tough on them as the seniors. So are the other bulls—all doctors in the Tulane departments of surgery and medicine.

Substitute "Bull," Edward Krements, cross-examines student Colliton as session begins.

Tulane's Surgical Diagnostic Clinic teaches medical students how to learn quickly, correctly and back up every decision they make...or else get "gored" by the "bull"
In addition, Dr. Creech emphasizes that a wrong answer, dramatically corrected before such a group, will be remembered longer than a correct answer.

Patterned after the diagnostic clinic of the late Dr. Ernest Sachs of Washington university, Tulane's first bull pen was held in 1927 with varicose veins as the subject, and Dr. Alton Ochsner the bull. The first student did an elaborate job of case presentation and presented his diagnostic finding in his best dramatic manner.

He stepped back confidently.

The bull floored him with his opening thrust.

"Why?" he snapped.

The student fainted.

And the Tulane professors of surgery have been why-ing students ever since. Many of them now call the bull pen the why clinic.

Because of the popularity of the bull pen, no roll is ever called. And very few seats are vacant. Standing room only is the rule. The audience is usually made up of Tulane students, Charity hospital interns, residents, nurses, Louisiana State university medical students, practicing physicians of New Orleans and visiting doctors.

In addition, one of the first places Tulane medical alumni visit when they return to the school is the bull pen. Of all the many incidents that happened during their undergraduate training at Tulane, they say, the bull pen incident will be remembered most.

Lessons learned in the ring are never forgotten, they admit.

Perhaps this is one way of saying they carry the scars of the bull pen the rest of their lives.

Resident physicians of Charity, assigned to the clinic, must also be on their toes. Their actual patients are the ones presented, which means they must know their cases backwards and forwards.

Philosophy behind the bull pen is "to teach students how to think under stress, a practice they will be required to do all of their professional lives," Dr. Creech says. "They must learn how to think quickly and correctly, and be able to back up every decision they make.

"In a few years these same students will have their own medical practice and an office full of patients. In many cases they will have never seen their patients before they walk into that office. Their task is to make a quick and accurate diagnosis, case history, physical examination, prescription, referral, appointment for surgery and a number of other things. Meanwhile, his office is still full of patients waiting to see him."

Patients presented in the bull pen, the Tulane surgeon says, are typical cases, the kind students will meet in general practice. Periodically, a rare case is presented, because he says, "every once in awhile a general practitioner sees a rare case."

Bull pen philosophy is geared to the philosophy of the Tulane medical school, Dr. Creech emphasizes. "We are not trying to make surgeons out of these students," he says. "We train them to become physicians."

One of the best features of the surgical clinic, he adds, is that it is presented before "the critical eyes of a student's classmates. And no one is more critical than one's classmates. They have to make good."
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This is Tulane

THE predominant, positive element of these hectic times is progress.
Without it, hectic would become frantic.
But with it, the times are easily bearable, often enjoyable and always promising.
Insuring that it is always present is the task of individuals—one which demands similar, yet prior, progress in their training.
At Tulane University, this responsibility is being met with each new year promising to overshadow those past.
And as visible evidence of this continuing advancement there is the comprehensive building and modernization program on the campus, a program which shows similar growth in stature by the other component parts of the university—its faculty and student body.

Last year, for example, campus construction projects were valued at $11,198,000. The year was also highlighted by announcement of the university's $96,000,000 advancement program.

Of those construction jobs, two were completed by the end of 1958—the $935,000, 112-student Newcomb residence hall and food services building and the $75,000 Newcomb nursery school building.

And during the first half of this year the final touches will be put to the other projects—the $4,750,000 program for general renovation, repair, air-conditioning and heating all over the campus; the new, $2,650,000 University Center, complete with dining facilities, indoor swimming pool and other special recreational facilities; the new $350,000, 24-bed infirmary, and a $2,438,000, eight-story apartment building for married students, which is pictured on opposite page.

But this will not mean the end of progress, for during this year construction will begin on a $2,175,000 residence hall to house 516 Tulane students.

And, a little further in the future—a $13,000,000 science building; an $8,000,000 medical building addition, and a new $2,000,000 law building, as parts of the university’s $96,000,000 advancement program.