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Health Centre

REPORT

- for 1939 -

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Second Avenue, Alexandra Township

Alexandra Health Centre.



THE STAFF.

Alexandra Health Centre.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1939.

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Rev. Dr. DEXTER TAYLOR.	Mr. T. D. NEL.

Medical Officer: Dr. J. D. PRESTWICH.

Nursing Superintendent: Miss RUTH C. COWLES.

Acting Nursing Superintendent: Mrs. M. GRUNDY.

Alexandra Health Centre.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,

October, 1939, to May, 1940.

On October 1st, I assumed duty as M.O. at the Health Centre in accordance with arrangements made between the University of the Witwatersrand and the Board of Management.

As a result of the new system of co-operation, it is hoped that medical services, sufficient to their needs, will become available to those Non-Europeans of Alexandra Township who would otherwise be unable to obtain the necessary attention; this class comprises about 90 per cent. of the population. The medical services provided through the University are those rendered by the M.O. in charge and senior medical students; the services of specialists and professors attached to the medical school are also available.

As a result of its participation, the University will obtain for its most senior graduates experience in general practice. A few residents have expressed dissatisfaction at the idea of "Non-Europeans being made material for the experience of students". The following facts should be considered by those having this thought. These medical students are on the point of passing the final examinations qualifying them to practise; that is, in a few months, to secure their services would be beyond the means of those patients now enjoying their ministrations. A large number of Europeans would be very pleased indeed to have a scheme like this for their own benefit.

The following are a few details of what is done. All patients consulting at the clinic are seen personally by the Medical Officer in conjunction with medical students. Such cases as are referred to the District Nursing Services are visited daily on the district by two students visiting together. These examine the patient, ask details re treatment being carried out and impress on those in the house the importance of following out instructions. Progress notes are made daily and the M.O. advised of any change in the patient's condition; the case is discussed and necessary alterations in treatment

made. The doctor is thus kept in touch with patients and is enabled to make personal visits as indicated. Another useful feature is that in the event of a new medicine being necessary, this is delivered to the case in an hour or so.

Maternity cases are taken by a student and midwife together and visited by each individually during the lying-in period. Ante-natal cases are seen by two students and the doctor conducting the clinic.

A small laboratory has been set up where examinations can be made in investigating various conditions. These examinations would cost a great deal if done by the S.A.I.M.R. That they can be done locally at little cost is another great advantage of having our students.

Four rooms across the road, behind the Children's Creche, have been taken over. One is the "Lab.," another a store-room, while two are available for patients. One has been in use, whilst the other is just completed. We are indebted to Mrs. Davenport for blankets and other accessories which she has collected. It is hoped that a few beds available in the township will attract certain hospitalisable patients who at present refuse to go to hospital. 10/- a week has been suggested as a fee. This will prove not much more expensive than the case going to hospital, as frequent bus fares by relatives will be saved.

Inspection of school children was inaugurated at the end of last November. With voluntary aid from hospital doctors, medical school staff and doctors from town, some 1,300 children were examined in less than three weeks. Dietetic deficiency was evident mainly as conditions of vitamin deprivation and anaemia. The doctors expressed themselves as agreeably surprised at the general health of the children. Since the arrival of students, batches of 30 per week have been seen. These are from the Holy Cross School. It has recently been found practicable to examine 60 per week. The principals of the main schools have been given lists of those children requiring further investigation and treatment. A striking feature of the survey has been the exceptional number (over 700) of enlarged tonsils with enlargement of the corresponding cervical glands. Many of these cases express a wish to have their tonsils removed and one of the schemes contemplated is to have a small theatre here, where these minor operations may be done; specialists in town are willing to come as soon as we have the facilities. Over 220 of these children had carious teeth. No fillings were seen. Necessary extractions under local anaesthesia are offered at

sixpence each. Very few have them done because "the tooth is not aching, so why should it be taken out?" This attitude of mind applies to more serious conditions, e.g., early T.B., and needs to be combatted.

The Red Cross is willing to use its Propaganda and Education Department extensively in Alexandra Township. Lectures and films are available free of charge, as also is a suitable hall, through the courtesy of Mr. Campbell. It is hoped that the local authority will give its assistance to putting this scheme on a sound working basis. Plans have provisionally been made to commence this health campaign with a V.D. film, "The Two Brothers," on 22nd May. More can be done for health, particularly among Non-Europeans, by educative measures, than anything else. People must know a little of the why and wherefore of treatment before they can want it.

Our venereal diseases clinic has grown rapidly, especially since treatment was made entirely free. Unfortunately, we cannot really run this clinic as it should be run; we have not the accommodation.

This question of accommodation is a pressing one and, at the moment, is engaging the attention of our Board. Our working space is much less than half that required for present needs.

General nursing services are available to G.P. cases as hitherto. Certain improvements should be effected in the type of service carried out. The extent to which such improvement can take place depends on the capacity of the nurses to adapt themselves to conditions in this sphere of professional work, so different from those in a training centre.

In conclusion, I would like to pay grateful tribute to the work of Sister Grundy, who has felt no sacrifice of time or comfort too much to further the interests of patients and the prestige of the Health Centre.

—J. D. PRESTWICH, M.O.

Alexandra Health Centre.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

The year 1939 showed further expansion in the Centre's work and certain very important decisions were adopted.

First and foremost, after prolonged discussions with representatives of the University of the Witwatersrand, the latter agreed to provide a full-time Medical Officer for duty at the Centre for an initial period of six months and to defray the full cost of the appointment, the Centre making a small



contribution thereto. This provision has since been extended, pending completion of arrangements whereby the University will take an important part in the future work of the Centre.

In pursuance of the above agreement, Dr. Prestwich assumed duty on the 1st October, 1939, and the benefits accruing from the regular attendance of a medical officer have already been most striking and have laid the foundation for a notable advance in the operations of the Centre. Dr. Prestwich has proved himself, in every respect, admirably suited to the post.

In undertaking to provide medical services for the Centre the University had two main objects in view, firstly the giving of medical assistance where it was most required, and secondly, the obtaining of opportunities for final year medical students to get experience in various branches of medical work.

Alexandra Township is very fortunate in having enlisted the interest and active assistance of the University, which might otherwise have been directed elsewhere. To take a wider view, it is not too much to hope that the enlightenment of the future medical practitioners in the Union in regard to the medical needs of the African people, and the obtaining by them of some insight into the mode of life of urban Africans will stimulate their interest in, and sympathy with, the people with whom they will be brought into contact. This may have far reaching effects when these young doctors enter upon their professional careers throughout the country.

The initial experimental period having been so successful, the University has agreed to associate itself permanently with the work of our Centre and you will be asked to approve certain alterations and additions to our constitution designed to make effective the University's association in the work of the Centre and to facilitate the extension of our activities that will follow as a result of this association.

Your Nursing Superintendent, Sister Cowles, enjoyed a well-earned holiday during the latter portion of the year, and a portion of 1940, and we are delighted to welcome her back in time for our meeting. We are much indebted to Sister Grundy who relieved during Sister Cowles' absence and carried on the work most efficiently and devotedly. We wish her every success in her new sphere in Central Africa.

The following comparative figures show the development of the work of our institution during the last three years:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.
New Cases for District Nursing ...	2,613	2,055	2,386
Nursing Visits	17,507	13,176	13,973
Baby Clinic Attendances	7,169	6,688	6,498
Dressings and Treatments at Clinic	12,183	16,651	17,476

Special Disease Clinic	—	1,056	1,262
Medical: First Consultations	—	494	550
Midwifery Cases	—	—	84
Ante-natal Visits	—	—	382
Midwifery Nursing Visits	—	—	1,521

The midwifery service was started during the year and promises to grow into a major branch of the Centre's activities.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue:	1937.	1938.	1939.
Donations and Grants	£837	£1,312	£1,452
Patients' Fees	269	312	383
Salary Refunds	178	193	262
Other	—	—	12
Expenditure:			
Salaries and Wages	£613	£676	£866
Doctors' Fees	50	82	60
Medical and Surgical Supplies	444	474	666
Milk	89	116	135
Printing and Stationery	20	28	48
Sundries	61	110	201

The extension of our activities will, of necessity, mean that our expenditure will rise substantially this year and in years to come. The Centre's building is inadequate even for present day services and it will be the early duty of the incoming Board of Management to make a very wide appeal for funds, particularly for an extension of buildings so that the various types of work touched on by our Medical Officer in his report, can be efficiently carried on.

A detailed list of donations received during the year is attached to the audited Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account submitted herewith, and the Board wishes to convey its sincere thanks to these donors.

The Board is once more indebted to Mr. B. A. Key for his offices as Honorary Auditor, and to various other friends, both European and Non-European, too numerous to mention by name. In closing this report the Board wishes to convey its gratitude and appreciation to these friends and to say "Le ka moso."

O. D. SCHREINER,
Chairman of the Board.



"BUSINESS AS USUAL."

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

	To Salaries and Wages	£865 13 10			
	Less Refund by Public Health Department	261 18 0			
		£603 15 10			
	Doctors' Honorarium	59 14 0			
	Medical and Surgical Supplies	666 8 2			
	Milk	135 2 3			
	Printing and Stationery	47 18 11			
	Ambulance Charges	13 16 6			
	Telephone Rental and Calls	13 7 11			
	Sundry Expenses	173 16 11			
	Office Furniture Written off	13 0 0			
	Surplus for the year carried to Balance Sheet	119 18 7			
		£1,846 19 1			
	By Donations and Grants—				
	Alexandra Health Committee	£365 0 0			
	Transvaal Province	400 0 0			
	City of Johannesburg	100 0 0			
	Native Affairs Department, Pretoria	250 0 0			
	Director of Native Labour, Johannesburg	20 0 0			
	Martha Washington Club, Milk Grant	12 0 0			
	Proceeds Street Collection	133 4 11			
	Sundry Donations	171 12 6			
		£1,451 17 5			
	Patients' Fees	382 12 3			
	Interest	9 11 7			
	Sundries	2 17 10			
		£1,846 19 1			

Johannesburg,
28th March, 1940.

B. A. KEY, Honorary Auditor,
Incorporated Accountant.

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

<p>Creditors £90 9 11</p> <p>Accumulated Funds—</p> <p>Land and Building Fund as per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1938 £2,426 0 11</p> <p>Maintenance Fund as per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1938 492 19 3</p> <p>Add Surplus for the year ended 31st December, 1939 119 18 7</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">3,038 18 9</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">£3,129 8 8</p>	<p>Land and Buildings—</p> <p>Lots 115, 116, 117 and 156 Alexandra Township, at cost £285 15 0</p> <p>Health Centre Building, at cost 1,310 2 6</p> <p>Nurses' Cottages, at cost 785 10 0</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">£2,381 7 6</p> <p>Furniture and Fittings, at cost—</p> <p>As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1938 149 0 1</p> <p>Additions during year 11 6 0</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">160 6 1</p> <p>Office Furniture—</p> <p>At Cost 13 0 0</p> <p>Less written off 13 0 0</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">— — —</p> <p>Debtors 147 4 3</p> <p>Cash—</p> <p>At Bankers and On Hand ... 218 9 10</p> <p>Post Office Savings Account ... 222 1 0</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">440 10 10</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">£3,129 8 8</p>
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To the Members,
ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE:

I have audited the Balance Sheet of the Alexandra Health Centre, above set forth, and have obtained all the information and explanations I have required and, in my opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct statement of the Centre's affairs at 31st December, 1939, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me, and as shown by the books.

Johannesburg,
28th March, 1940.

B. A. KEY, Honorary Auditor,
Incorporated Accountant.

Alexandra Health Centre.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Transvaal Province	£400	0	0
Alexandra Health Committee	365	0	0
Public Health Department, Pretoria	261	18	0
Native Affairs Department, Pretoria	250	0	0
City of Johannesburg	100	0	0
Anonymous	52	10	0
Deferred Pay Interest Fund	50	0	0
Mrs. R. W. Davenport—Sundry Collections	21	9	0
Director of Native Labour, Johannesburg	20	0	0
Martha Washington Club	12	0	0
South African Reserve Bank	10	10	0
Mr. F. A. Stokes	5	5	0
Rand Provident Building Society	5	5	0
Orange Grove Nurses' School	3	3	0
Mr. Percy L. Hurd	3	0	0
Alexandra Bus Owners' Association	2	2	0
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Women's Association	2	2	0
Anonymous	2	0	0
Mrs. Tennison	1	10	0
Mrs. M. Lawrie	1	1	0
Mr. A. D. Viney	1	1	0
Mr. Hugh Russell	1	0	0

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