

Minutes of the Combined House Committee & Board Meeting

Held at the Bridgman Memorial Hospital

Wednesday, 8th July 1942, at 5 p.m.

1. Present: Miss Alexander, Dr. Carlisle, Mrs. Jamison, Mrs. Nickels, Mrs. Twycross, Mrs. Wagstaffe, Dr. Black, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Webber, and Mr. Johnson (Secretary).
2. Chairman: In view of the fact that the meeting was in the nature of a Board Meeting, Dr. Taylor was in the Chair.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Pim and Father Ross.
4. Minutes of the Board Meeting held June 16th were read and confirmed.
5. Accommodation: The Chairman stated that the purpose of the combined meeting was to give a report of the interview with Dr. Louw at which Dr. Carlisle, Dr. Black, Dr. Laing, himself and the Secretary had been present. Discussion had reviewed the present accommodation available for Native maternity cases. It had been suggested that the Princess Alice Hospital did not make any appreciable contribution to the hospitalization of general native cases, but that the additional 24 beds available there would make some considerable difference in relieving the pressure at the Bridgman. It was proposed that the Hospital Board continue its out-patient work at the Princess Alice and that the hospital accommodation be made available to the Bridgman. It was proposed that as soon as normal cases at the Bridgman were sufficiently convalescent they could be moved to the Princess Alice to complete their convalescence and be discharged from there.
It was admitted that there were several problems still to be solved in relation to this proposal, such as transportation of patients, staffing of the Princess Alice and so forth. It had been suggested that the doctor who attends the clinic daily might keep a supervisory eye upon the convalescing patients and that the whole organization be in the charge of a European matron with Native staff.
It was reported that the new Waterval Hospital had about 100 beds available which would not be used for some considerable time. The suggestion was made that this be drawn to the attention of the authorities with the urgent recommendation that these be made available for the Native maternity cases until needed or until other accommodation was available. It was agreed that this suggestion be investigated.
Nevertheless it was felt to be desirable to proceed at once with the arrangements concerning the Princess Alice Hospital, and the following Committee was appointed with authority to take any necessary action to consummate the proposed plan. Dr. Taylor, Miss Alexander, Dr. Black, Dr. Carlisle and the Secretary.
6. Report: The Inspectress of Nursing Homes had complained that the cork matting in the corridor was unsatisfactory as it tended to collect and harbour dirt. It was agreed that this be taken up and stored in the basement for possible use in the nurses' quarters.
The Inspectress had also complained of the condition of the enamel bowls used in the wards. Dr. Carlisle reported that they were in rather bad condition partly through the enamel being badly chipped and partly through being imperfectly cleaned. It was agreed to employ a schoolboy at 3/6 weekly to scrub the bowls regularly. It was also agreed to authorize the purchase of new bowls or to re-enamel the present bowls.
The use of tin plated bowls was discussed but it was felt that these would not be satisfactory.

7. Dressing Room: It was reported that Messrs. Herbert Evans & Co. had quoted £9 for the cleaning and painting of the walls of the dressing room after the cowl had been installed. It was agreed to accept this quotation and authorize the work.
8. Laundry: It was reported that in spite of the sending out of a certain amount of flat work to a laundry the burden of work in the Hospital Laundry was still too heavy. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of remodelling and extending the arrangements and in the meantime it was agreed to send out as much work as possible and necessary to relieve the situation.
9. Insurance: In view of the legal position which had come to light in connection with the threatened law suit against the Hospital the Chairman had made inquiries with regard to the insurance carried by the Hospital against such claims. The Hospital's Counsel had given the opinion that the policy at present carried by the Hospital would protect any of the servants of the Hospital in the event of claims being made against them. However, it was felt that the coverage given by the present insurance policy was rather small and that this matter should be investigated.
10. Desk: It was noted that Dr. Carlisle had not yet received her desk and apparently there had been some confusion as to whether the Chairman or the Secretary was to order it. The Secretary apologized for the delay.
11. Diet: It was reported that complaints were still being received from members of the Native staff with regard to the quantity and quality of the food being served to them. Very probably these complaints were justified owing to the present crowded cooking arrangements in the kitchen. It was hoped that the completion of the alterations now in hand would greatly improve the situation. Nevertheless it was agreed to give careful attention to the matter of diet and quality.
12. Assistant Matron: It was proposed that with the expansion of the work and responsibility of the Hospital it was time that an assistant matron was employed.
After discussion it was agreed to seek such a person and that the scale of pay should be £228 p.a. rising by £12 to £264 p.a.
13. Kitchen: The problem of improving the kitchen arrangements was considered and it was felt that it would be advisable to employ an assistant cook. The matter was noted for further consideration.
The question of obtaining additional kitchen equipment was also discussed and Matron was authorized to obtain any such material that she could when she could.
14. Dr. Krige: It was noted that Dr. Krige had repeatedly requested a "Clover's Crutch". It had been possible to obtain one from Messrs. Surgico-Orthopaedics for £3:5:0. The expenditure of this amount was authorized.
15. Sterilizers: It was reported that the sterilizers had been out of service for a considerable time through the failure of electrical parts and the difficulty of replacing. The failure of the sterilizers had greatly increased the work of the Hospital and was very inconvenient. It was suggested that possibly suitable equipment might be obtained from Messrs. Butterworth, and it was agreed to investigate the position.
16. Boarders: It was reported that there had been frequent cases of small children arriving with their mothers when they came to the Hospital for confinement. As there were no facilities whatsoever to care for such boarders at the Hospital it was necessary to arrange with the Children's Aid Society to provide for them.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.