

Bridgman
Memorial Hospital

118.40

29/10/38

34 Rochester Mainmons
29 October '38

Dear Dr. Xuma: -

It was not until
yesterday that I realised
you had returned home
as well as Mr. Rathbe.

This is just to tell
you how glad we all
are to welcome you
back once more.

It seems a very
long time that you

have been away.

Doubtless you will see a good many changes in our City and especially at Deland.

And the new Centre at Alexandria has been opened in your absence.

You have had a very interesting time overseas and I hope we shall have an opportunity of hearing

about some of your experiences.

May I congratulate you
very heartily on your award
of the D. P. H. of which I have
been reading today.

With kind regards,

yours very sincerely,

Clara Bridgeman

Health matters

9/5/45

— BRIDGMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

The CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the BOARD
cordially invite you to be present at the

Annual General Meeting

to be held at the Hospital on
WEDNESDAY, 9th MAY, 1945, at 3 p.m.

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Speaker :

Dr. GEORGE W. GALE, Chief Medical Officer to the
Union Department of Public Health.

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R.S.V.P.,

THE SECRETARY,
BRIDGMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,
BRIXTON.

TEA

BRIDGMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Johannesburg, South Africa

Four years ago in Johannesburg, a Swiss lady, Madame Dr. Margeruite Crinsoz de Cottens came to Mr. Bridgman and asked for work. She said there were so many doctors for white women in the city that she wished to do something for the native women. Dr. Crinsoz has a British medical degree, as well as a Swiss one, and her husband is one of the distinguished surgeons of Johannesburg.

Within a week, Mr. Bridgman had a couple of tiny rooms rented for a dispensary on the border of one of our worst slum districts. A year later a decent room was fitted up for Dr. Crinsoz and the practice has been growing steadily. Native men, women and children come from all over the city and from the townships along the Gold Reef, thirty miles east and west, and from Pretoria, forty miles away. They are of all denominations, and many of course with no religious affiliations.

When we left for furlough, July '25, Dr. Crinsoz begged my husband to get her a nurse and a hospital - "If only two beds," she cried! Miss Ruth Cowles, a niece of Mr. Bridgman's and a daughter of missionaries in Natal, was found over a year ago, eager to give herself to medical work on the Reef.

Miss Cowles is a college and normal school graduate, and a graduate of the Post-Graduate Hospital in New York City, and has had two years of District Nursing since graduation. She arrived in Africa last August. Just one week later came the news of her uncle's sudden death.

My husband had been too weak and ill during furlough to raise any money for a hospital. Upon me has devolved the fulfillment of this sacred responsibility. I am now planning to make this a memorial to Mr. Bridgman.

Johannesburg Municipality numbers about 293,000, but in Greater Johannesburg, which includes the towns along the Gold Reef, the population is estimated at over half a million - 300,000 of these are natives. Of this number 180,000 work in the mines. For these men there are hospitals attached to each of the larger groups of mines, but these do not provide for the many thousands of women and children living in the locations and towns along the Reef.

In the Municipality of Johannesburg, with its 130,000 natives, there is one native hospital built and operated by Government. Already this is overcrowded. Moreover, no provision whatever is made for maternity cases. A recent letter from Miss Alexander, the matron of the General Hospital (European) speaks of the great necessity for a maternity hospital for native women and babies. Dr. Ronald P. Mackenzie, the medical superintendent of the same hospital also writes: "There is urgent need for this accommodation (for native and colored women). The only provision is in the General Female Ward at the Non-European Hospital. This is a state of affairs that cannot be justified and calls for immediate reform. To my knowledge, there is no institution in Johannesburg that provides proper care and treatment for these unfortunate women."

No mission hospital of any denomination exists within many hundreds of miles of Johannesburg. We are planning on a thirty-bed hospital, largely for women and children, but not confined entirely to maternity cases. Dr. Margeruite Crinsoz is a clever surgeon and will doubtless have many surgical cases. We shall probably have one ward for male patients. Estimates from a reliable builder in Johannesburg put the cost of building a thirty-bed hospital at \$20,000. Equipment will be about \$10,000 more. We have expectations of raising the money for equipment among many friends in South Africa. Cordial expression has come from friends in Johannesburg to the effect that the land for the hospital can be provided and that a yearly sum of \$2,500 can without difficulty be obtained from the mining authorities because of the advantages accruing to the families of the native miners from such an institution.

I have been authorized by our Mission in South Africa and by our Mission Board at Boston to raise the sum of \$20,000 for building the Bridgman Memorial Hospital, and a further sum of \$60,000 towards an endowment fund to help maintain the running expenses of this hospital.

Signed: MRS. FREDERICK B. BRIDGMAN

Address until August 20th -
144 Hancock St., Auburndale, Mass.

Address for forwarding to Africa -
% Dr. Cornelius H. Patton, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Checks should be designated for Bridgman Memorial Hospital and made out to Mrs. Frank Gaylord Cook, Treasurer, whose address is 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

17. Enteritis: Dr. Carlisle reported that there had been an epidemic of Enteritis both among staff and patients at the Hospital. It was noted that although it was very unseasonable the epidemic was general along the Reef. In fact, it has been so prevalent at one of the Reef hospitals that the maternity ward had been closed completely for fumigation. It was also stated that possibly the virulence of the epidemic in the Bridgman had been in part aggravated by the poor diet of the staff.
18. Superintendent's Report: There was not time to hear the Superintendent's report in full, but Dr. Carlisle drew attention to the fact that in the past month there had been 21 infant deaths at the Hospital which was a very abnormally high number. She felt that this might in part be due to the current epidemic of Enteritis.
19. Condolence: It was noted that Miss Rogers had recently suffered bereavement in the death of her sister and the Board stood for a moment in silent sympathy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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R37?

Bridgman Memorial Hospital,
P.O. Bristow,
Johannesburg.

Dr Xuma,
Cor End 9 Rokeby Str.,
Doomfontein.

I heard from a reliable
source that you need a nurse. So
I beg to apply for the post.

I am here at Bridgman Memorial
Hospital, and have completed a year.

Hope for speedy reply
yours faithfully
Amelia Setlogelo

Health matters - Bridgman Hospital

BRIDGMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

BRIXTON

TELEPHONE 44-5579

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD:

Mrs. CLARA D. BRIDGMAN,
34, Rochester Mansions.

HON. SECRETARY:

Rev. J. DEXTER TAYLOR, D.D.,
19, Eleanor Street, Fairview.

HON. TREASURERS:

Messrs. PIM & HARDY,
Exploration Buildings, Commissioner Street.

34, ROCHESTER MANSIONS,

LEIJDS STREET,

JOHANNESBURG.

25th October 39

25/10/39

If you have time to come over to the Centre after your lecture for a cup of tea

Dear Dr. Xuma:-

You were good enough to promise to help us at Alexandra during Health Week, Oct. 30 - Nov. 4th 2^d Ave

The Principal of the Methodist School, Mr. D. Kambula, is expecting you to speak to his older pupils on Wed. - Nov. 1st at 9 a.m.

Also we hope you can be present during the latter part of Sunday a.m. Nov. 5th when the Health Parade will take place about 12 noon or later!

With kind regards,
yours sincerely, Clara Bridgman

BRIDGMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(BOARD OF MANAGEMENT)

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD:

Mrs. CLARA D. BRIDGMAN,
52, Putney Road, Brixton.
Phone: Mayfair, 322.

HON. SECRETARY:

Rev. J. DEXTER TAYLOR, D.D.,
19, Eleanor Street, Fairview.
Phone: 24-1890.

HON. TREASURER:

Mr. J. MONTAGUE PIM,
101/106, Exploration Buildings, Commissioner Street.
Phone: 33-3019.

101/106, EXPLORATION BUILDINGS,

COMMISSIONER STREET,

JOHANNESBURG,

1st May, 1940.

Dr. A. B. Xuma,
104, End Street,
Doornfontein,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your
contribution of £1. to Mrs. Bridgman's presentation.
Official receipt is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Treasurer.

Enclosure.

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XUMA, A.B., Papers

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