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THE DONALD FRASER
HOSPITAL
(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)

Report
and
Balance Sheet
for year ended
31st DECEMBER, 1945.

SIBASA
NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

Medical Superintendent's Report 1945

THE PATIENTS

In a primitive rural community such as Sibasa fear of hospital treatment and particularly of surgical interference deters many people from availing themselves of such services, and so it is very encouraging to find a steady increase year by year in the number of patients seeking admission to this hospital. In 1945 the number of in-patients treated increased by 115 compared with that in 1944. Looking back over our records we find that the work of the hospital has been practically doubled in the last seven years. In 1945 we treated 806 in-patients compared with 405 in 1939. This rapid growth has placed a considerable strain upon the resources of the hospital, and made the need for the extensions, decided upon in 1944, more urgent than ever.

Many of the patients come from very distant places to the hospital, and sometimes have great difficulty in getting there. One old woman living near the Kruger National Park fell and fractured her thigh. Her sons had to walk over 40 miles to the hospital to get help for her. We have always tried to take help to as many parts of the district as we can, and the doctor regularly visits 12 out-stations at which he sees patients. From these tours he brings back many patients to hospital, who could not otherwise get there. On one occasion this year 13 patients were brought back from one of these tours. The bad roads and the almost complete absence of bridges make these tours very difficult to maintain, and sometimes in the rainy season they become quite impossible. Whole sections of the area served are sometimes inaccessible for weeks at a time owing to the absence of bridges over the rivers.

In the last few years there has been a considerable increase in the maternity work of the hospital. Last year 106 confinements were attended, 103 in the hospital and three in the district. Of the cases treated in hospital, seven were delivered by Cæsarean section, and four by means of forceps. The remainder were delivered without instrumental interference. Although such a large proportion of the cases are normal and uneventful, we get evidence from time to time of the suffering and

risk which African women have to endure when skilled help is not available. One woman was admitted in April in an advanced stage of labour. She was delivered, but her life hung in the balance for many days, and it was two months before she was able to return home. Later in the year she had to undergo three major operations to repair the damage done during that confinement. The doctor was called to see another woman when he was out on tour in the district, and took her to hospital. She had been suffering for five days, while the old women of the kraal made unavailing efforts to relieve her. She died a few days after admission to hospital. Such cases illustrate very clearly the need for improved maternity services in the district.

Fear of dying in the hospital is a powerful factor in keeping many patients from entering it, but actually there were only 42 deaths among the 806 patients treated, equivalent to 5.2 per cent. of the total. The principal causes of death were as follows:—Burns 9, Malaria 7, Malnutrition (in infants) 5, Pneumonia 4, Wounds and Fractures 4. Four patients died within a few hours of being admitted to hospital.

A new development this year was that 38 men and boys came to hospital to be circumcised. An unusually large number of circumcision schools were held in the district during the winter months, and these patients preferred to have the operation performed in hospital rather than in these schools. There were many reports that boys were being forcibly removed to these schools, but it was almost impossible to obtain firm evidence of this. Certainly fear of this seemed to be the motive which brought many of these men and boys to the hospital.

Most of the patients are naturally unable to express appreciation of the help they receive in the hospital, and we were very pleased to receive a letter from one patient saying, "From the bottom of my heart I fail to find fit words with which to tender my heartfelt thanks and gratitude sufficiently to meet with the generous and kind treatment I had during my stay in the Donald Fraser Hospital."

THE HOSPITAL BOARD

The hospital is under the control and management of a Hospital Board. This year, Mr. P. G. Tweedie, Native Commissioner, Sibasa, has represented the Native Affairs Department, and Mr. J. Graham the Transvaal Provincial Administration on this Board. The Rev. F. Stakes, who has been a member of the Board since 1939, resigned as a representative of the South African Mission Council of the Church of Scotland, and his place was taken by the Rev. W. Samson. Other

members of the Board representing the Mission Council are Dr. N. Macvicar, who is the Chairman, Mrs. E. I. Aitken, and Dr. J. M. Stewart. The Medical Superintendent is a member *ex officio*.

The Board met twice during the year, and the Executive Committee three times.

THE STAFF

In my last report I referred to the appointment of a second doctor to this hospital by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland. Dr. Janet M. Stewart arrived here in May to take up this appointment, and she is giving most welcome and valuable help in the work of the hospital. We are also indebted to Dr. George Davidson, now of the Tugela Ferry Hospital, Natal, for his most helpful services for nearly four months in the first half of the year.

The Matron, Miss M. Butler, left at the end of June after giving three years' devoted service to the hospital. We are very grateful to her for her help during those years. So far we have not been able to appoint anyone in her place, but since the 1st December we have been fortunate in having Miss F. E. Wookey as Acting Matron.

Staff Nurse H. Makhafhola also left at the end of the year after a period of very useful service in the hospital.

In August we appointed one of the nurses trained in this hospital as a district nurse in connection with the hospital, and she has done good work in visiting the homes of the people in the neighbourhood. We hope in this way to bring the work of the hospital more closely into touch with the homes and lives of the people.

A special word of thanks is due to our secretary, Miss J. P. MacCallum, whose work was greatly increased this year by the building accounts which had to be opened.

During the year 15 student nurses were in training, two of whom completed their course successfully and were awarded the hospital certificate. Two failed to pass their promotion tests, and had to give up the course on that account. It is still very difficult to get girls with sufficient education from this district for training as nurses, and to make parents and girls realise that character, responsibility and practical ability are of as great importance in a nurse as the ability to pass theoretical examinations.

For the proper training of these nurses, and the satisfactory conduct of the hospital we very urgently need a matron and a sister tutor for the hospital.

THE BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

During the year a start was made on the much needed extensions to the hospital. Two small buildings, a new nurses' dormitory and a new mortuary were begun and have now almost been completed. In addition a very large number of cement blocks have been made in preparation for the building of the new pavilions. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing builders and labour, but arrangements have now been made for a contractor to start work in May, 1946. It is expected that the new buildings will take over a year to complete. The increasing need for these additions has already been mentioned in the opening paragraph of this report.

Meantime other needs are also becoming more urgent. A second doctor's house is required immediately, and the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland has indicated their willingness to provide this. More accommodation for the European nursing staff will also be needed.

During 1945 great trouble was experienced with our electric lighting plant, and at one time the hospital was without electricity for several weeks. We ought to take steps to prevent a recurrence of this experience and in order to do so, a new plant is needed with the present plant kept as a stand-by in emergencies.

With the continued growth of the hospital an improved water supply is also needed, and consideration must be given to the provision of a large reservoir and a filtration and purification plant.

During the year a three-ton Ford truck was purchased for the hospital and has proved immensely useful particularly in connection with the building operations. We also received the gift of a field ambulance from the Native Affairs Department, and this has been used for the conveyance of a large number of patients to the hospital. Although we very much appreciate this gift, it must be admitted that experience shows that on our very rough roads such a heavy vehicle is not the ideal conveyance for bringing very sick people to hospital.

Reference may also be made here to the grant of additional land which was made to the hospital during 1945 by the Native Affairs Department. The purpose of this land is to provide more grazing for

cows and so to enable us to provide more milk for the hospital. It needs to be pointed out, however, that the condition of the land is such that it will take at least two or three years to establish grazing paddocks, and it will therefore be a long time before the hospital is able to reap the full benefit of this grant. It is nevertheless a very valuable addition to the resources of the hospital.

Here I should like to pay tribute to the interest and assistance which has always been shown in our work by the Native Affairs Department. We are particularly indebted to the Agricultural Officer, Sibasa, for much practical advice and help.

THE OUT-STATIONS

In August, 1945, the new buildings forming the Graham Dispensary at Sibasa were formally opened by Mrs. H. W. Graham. This dispensary is now visited once a week by Dr. Stewart, and the number of patients seen there appears to be increasing. The new buildings are a great improvement on the very poor shack in which work was formerly undertaken. We hope that this dispensary is the first of many such to be built throughout the area. At present there are twelve other stations visited fortnightly by the doctors, and at only one of these—the New Union Goldfields—are there suitable buildings in which to conduct our work. The extension of a system of decentralised clinics linked with a central hospital appears to be the most practicable method of providing improved medical services in an area such as this in which the population is scattered over a very wide area. Plans are being prepared for building two such clinics during 1946.

THE SPECIAL APPEAL

There was an excellent response during 1945 to the appeal for funds for the extension of the hospital, and a total amount of £3,533 19s. 11d. was received, thus bringing the amount received from non-Government sources to £5,616 18s. 6d. In addition to this amounts totalling £11,168 have been promised by the Native Affairs Department and by the Transvaal Provincial Council. An amount of £16,784 has therefore been obtained since the appeal was launched in January, 1944. The estimated cost of the new buildings to be erected in 1946 is approximately £18,000, and this is simply for empty buildings, and does not allow for furniture and equipment, or for the other pressing needs to which reference has been made in this report. It is, therefore, very necessary that an effort should be made in 1946 to complete the amount of £25,000 for which the appeal was originally issued.

THE CHURCH AND SCHOOLS

A new school of five classrooms has been built at Gooldiville and is almost completed. The cost of this building is approximately £1,000, towards which a special donation of £600 has been received. The introduction of school feeding schemes in nine schools connected with the mission had added very considerably to our work during the year, but we felt that it was valuable to have this correlated with the health work of the hospital. The hospital staff continues to take a considerable part in activities outside the hospital, such as Church and Sunday School work, women's work and Wayfarers. The time has undoubtedly come, however, when all this work should be under the charge of its own missionary as distinct from the Superintendent of the hospital, who should be free to devote all his time to the development of the medical work, always in close collaboration with the other agencies of the mission.

STATISTICS

<p><i>A.—In-Patients :</i></p> <p>In hospital on 1st January, 1945 51</p> <p>Admitted during 1945 ... 755</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total under treatment 806</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>Discharged :</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Cured 573</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Improved 75</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Not improved 45</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Unknown 7</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Transferred elsewhere 5</p> <p>Died 42</p> <p>In hospital on 31st Decem- ber, 1945 59</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 806</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<p><i>Surgical :</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Major Operations ... 58</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Minor Operations ... 150</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 208</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p><i>Obstetrical :</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Confinements in hospital 103</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Confinements in district 3</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 106</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>Daily average of in-patients 52.8</p> <p>Total daily units 19,282</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
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B.—Out-patients (Treated by doctors) :

	Individuals	Attendances
At the hospital	1,916	8,335
In conjunction with district nurses ...	1,219	1,976
On tour without district nurses	1,709	3,992
Total	<u>4,844</u>	<u>14,303</u>

C.—Patients Treated by District Nurses :

Station	Patients treated at Nurses' Home or Dispensary	Visits to Patients' Homes	Maternity Cases Attended
Beuster Dispensary	191	—	—
School	334	43	—
Georgenholtz	204	84	1
Graham Dispensary, Sibasa ...	1,222	58	4
Rembander	641	33	6
Thengwe	308	34	7
Tshakoma	1,595	120	12
Total	<u>4,495</u>	<u>372</u>	<u>30</u>

D.—Total Number of Individual Out-Patients treated by Doctors and District Nurses—8,120.

DONATIONS TO SPECIAL APPEAL FUND

The Hospital Board gratefully acknowledges the following donations received during 1945:—

Mrs. Koker	£2 2 0
Mr. G. F. Barbour	3 0 0
The Robert Niven Trust	250 0 0
Misses MacCallum	10 0 0
Mr. J. MacCallum	45 10 0
Mr. I. Swil	28 7 0
The Governor-General's National War Fund	500 0 0
Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, in memory of Mrs. E. B. Jones	25 0 0
Dr. S. Kirk Cohen	10 10 0
In Memory of Mr. J. W. Noble	16 1 6
Mr. L. W. Odell	£1 1 0
Mr. and Mrs. Shuter	1 1 0
Mr. E. P. Fowle	1 1 0
Mr. and Mrs. H. Lister	1 0 0
Miss F. Varley	1 0 0
Indian Methodist Church, Maritzburg	1 0 0
W.C.T.U.	1 0 0
Mrs. W. A. Coss	7 6
Mr. and Mrs. Timm and family	10 0
Mr. E. W. Ireland	3 3 0
Mrs. Looney and family	1 1 0
L.P.A., Pietermaritzburg Circuit	1 0 0
Mrs. Thurlbeck and Rev. W. Mears	1 1 0
Boshoff Street Choir	15 0
Mr. and Mrs. McKeown	1 1 0
<hr/>	
Miss O. Tweddle	1 10 0
Mr. and Mrs. Skewis	1 0 0
St. Andrew's W.A., Pretoria	5 0 0
Transfer from District Surgeon's Account	311 16 10
Miss A. Hurd	1 0 0
Mr. A. Henderson	2 2 0
Allen & Hanbury's, Ltd.	1 1 0
Anonymous	2 2 0
Camphill Work Party	1 0 0
North Morningside W.G.	12 0 0

Carried forward £1,229 2 4

	Brought forward	£1,229	2	4
Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society	...	...	4	0 0
Mrs. Cliff	...	...	10	6
Northern Transvaal Co-operative Recruiting, Ltd.	...	...	1	1 0
Mr. C. Hanlon	...	...	5	0 0
Mr. D. M. Malcolm	...	...	5	0 0
Westdene Products	...	...	2	2 0
Mr. R. H. Ivy	...	...	5	0 0
Mr. John Martin	...	...	50	0 0
General Garages, Ltd.	...	...	10	10 0
Miss Rogers	...	...	2	2 6
Dr. and Mrs. Paterson	...	...	5	0 6
Mr. H. Welsh	...	...	26	5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Keen	...	...	2	2 0
Mr. and Mrs. Stone	...	...	1	1 0
African Gate & Fence Works	...	...	1	1 0
Transvaal Chamber of Mines	...	...	1,000	0 0
O.K. Bazaars	...	...	5	5 0
Mr. H. W. Graham	...	...	1,000	0 0
Mr. P. Rust	...	...	1	5 0
Mrs. G. Matime	...	...	10	0
Mrs. J. W. Noble	...	...	5	0 0
Anonymous	...	...	7	9 7
Mr. W. White	...	...	2	2 0
Mr. M. S. Geen	...	...	1	0 6
Miss M. Butler	...	...	5	0 0
Lennon, Ltd.	...	...	5	5 0
Barclays Bank, Ltd.	...	...	26	5 0
Mr. A. Ferrier	...	...	25	0 0
Mr. P. Rogers Cooke	...	...	100	0 0
			<hr/>	
	Total for 1945	...	£3,533	19 11
			<hr/> <hr/>	
Previously acknowledged, 1943	...	...	£250	12 6
" " 1944	...	...	1,832	6 1
			<hr/> <hr/>	
	Total	...	£5,616	18 6

The Donald Fraser Hospital

SIBASA,

BALANCE SHEET AT

LIABILITIES	
Church of Scotland	£1,263 10 0
Native Affairs Department	5,950 0 0
Grants.	
Transvaal Provincial Council	1,100 0 0
Grants.	
Deferred Pay Board	400 0 0
Sundry Donations	7,926 10 10
At Credit 1st January, 1945	£4,392 10 11
Add: Additional Amounts received during year	3,533 19 11
	£16,640 0 10
Sundry Creditors	660 18 2
Provision for Cost of Living Allowances due but unpaid 1944 and 1945	490 8 1
Open Accounts	170 10 1
Revenue and Expenditure Account	374 3 7
At Credit.	
	£17,675 2 7

We have examined the books and vouchers of the Donald Fraser Hospital and the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show a true and correct view of the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Hospital at 31st December, Pietersburg,
12th February, 1946.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT FOR

To Excess of Expenditure over Income	£229 5 6
„ Balance to Balance Sheet	374 3 7
	£603 9 1

Church of Scotland Trust

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

31st DECEMBER, 1945

ASSETS	
Buildings	£11,213 13 5
At Debit 1st January, 1945	£9,038 11 2
Add: Additions during year	1,889 11 8
Stocks of Materials earmarked for New Buildings	285 10 7
Furniture and Equipment	2,429 12 1
At Debit 1st January, 1945	2,333 12 1
Add: Additions during year	96 0 0
Motor Lorry	589 0 0
At Cost.	
Sundry Debtors	201 10 10
For Stores.	
Cash Capital Account	1,897 14 5
At Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.), Louis	
Trichardt—Building Account	1,886 14 9
On Hand	10 19 8
Revenue and Expenditure Appropriation Account	308 10 1
Capital Funds utilised for Current Expenditure.	
	£16,640 0 10
Motor Vehicles, Live and Rolling Stock	397 0 0
Motor Vehicles Depreciated Values	308 10 0
Live and Rolling Stock per Ledger	88 10 0
Stores and Stocks on Hand	100 0 0
Estimated amount.	
Sundry Debtors	414 8 6
Revenue Grants Outstanding.	
Cash	123 13 3
At Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.), Louis	
Trichardt—Current Account	120 11 7
On Hand and Deposit	3 1 8
	£17,675 2 7

have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion state of the affairs of the Hospital according to the best of our knowledge and the 1945.

NEST, DENTON & CO.,
Chartered Accountants (S.A.).

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945

By Balance at Credit 1st January, 1945	£34 19 0
„ Native Affairs Department	260 0 0
Donation of Ambulance.	
„ Capital Funds utilised for Current Expenditure	308 10 1
	£603 9 1

The Donald Fraser Hospital

SIBASA,

HOSPITAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE		
To Provisions	...	£638 19 5
Groceries, Butter, Eggs, Milk, Meat, Fruit and Vegetables, etc.		
„ Surgery and Dispensary	...	466 12 3
Drugs and Dressings	...	£449 14 4
Instruments and Appliances	...	16 17 11
„ Domestic	...	324 15 10
Bedding and Linen	...	129 17 0
Hardware and Crockery	...	19 2 11
Cleaning and Chandlery	...	31 17 0
Repairs and Renewals, Furniture and Equipment	...	81 12 9
Fuel and Lighting	...	62 6 2
„ Establishment	...	425 10 7
Repairs to Plant and Buildings	...	341 15 1
Rent and Insurance	...	83 15 6
„ Salaries and Wages	...	1,688 9 0
Furlough Relief Account	...	100 0 0
Medical and Nursing	...	964 9 3
Native Wages	...	152 19 11
Cost of Living Allowances Paid	...	242 7 4
Provision for Cost of Living Allowances due but unpaid for 1945	...	228 12 6
„ Administrative and Miscellaneous	...	635 9 4
Audit Fees, 1944	...	31 10 0
Depreciation, Motor Vehicles, 20%	...	71 10 0
Bank Charges	...	1 13 10
Postages and Telephones	...	27 7 0
Printing and Stationery	...	55 13 1
Railages	...	25 1 0
Repairs to Typewriter	...	2 8 0
Salaries	...	210 0 0
Travelling and Transport	...	210 6 5
	Total Expenditure	£4,179 16 5

Pietersburg,
12th February, 1946.

Church of Scotland Trust

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945

REVENUE		
By Patients' Fees	...	£894 6 5
„ Grants and Donations	...	3,056 4 6
Public Health Department	...	£221 4 6
For Infectious Diseases.		
Transvaal Provincial Council	...	1,250 0 0
General Grant.		
Native Affairs Department	...	785 0 0
Native Nurses	...	£485 0 0
Superintendent's Salary	...	250 0 0
Medicines, Thengwe Dispensary	...	50 0 0
Church of Scotland	...	550 0 0
Deferred Pay Board	...	250 0 0
„ Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income to Balance Sheet	...	229 5 6

NEST, DENTON & CO.,
Chartered Accountants (S.A.).

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