

Fees, bursaries, etc.:

The fees for the course will be £60 a year during the two pre-medical years and £75 a year for the medical years. Hostel accommodation will be available at Wentworth at £40 per annum.

As the accommodation is limited, the number of students to be admitted must also be limited and all intending medical students must appear for a personal interview with the Selection Committee before the middle of February.

A maximum of fifteen bursaries of £150 each per annum will be awarded on merit for the pre-medical course. These bursaries will be increased to a maximum of £200 each per annum for selected students tenable for the five years' medical course. A portion of these bursaries is repayable when the young doctor starts in practice, unless special concession is granted.

Full particulars, together with the necessary forms for admission and for application for bursaries, can be obtained from

The Assistant Registrar,
University of Natal,
P. O. Box 375,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Star 5/5/49

REGISTRATION OF DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

FIGURES FOR 15 YEARS

The registrar of the South African Medical and Dental Council in Pretoria, Mr. W. Impey, has given the comparative number of registrations by the council in recent years.

The figures show the big increase, in both the medical and dental professions, in the number of people who have qualified in the Union. To-day more than half the total number of medical doctors registered qualified in South Africa, compared with 19 per cent. in 1934.

At the end of 1934 there were 2,609 medical practitioners registered; to-day there are 5,220. The average increase between 1934 and 1937 was about 100 each year.

From then onwards the increase was, roughly, 200, except in 1942, when there was a decrease through the erasure of a large number of doctors' names owing to their addresses being unknown.

Between 1943 and 1947 the increase each year amounted to 300, and last year there was an increase of 200.

The number of doctors on the register who held South African qualifications in 1934 was 508; at present it is 3,007.

With regard to dentists, the increase between 1934 and now was only 139—about 10 per cent. each year. At the end of 1934 715 dentists were registered; the number to-day is 854.

Up to 1941 the number of dentists on the register increased slowly to 766. Then, through the erasure of the names of dentists whose addresses were unknown, the number at the end of 1942 dropped to 715.

After that, however, the numbers registering each year increased slightly. In 1943 and 1946 the biggest increases occurred—26 and 49 respectively. Last year the increase was 25.

UNION QUALIFICATIONS

Of the total number of dentists registered at the end of 1934 only 2.5 per cent. held South African qualifications; to-day the percentage is 20.4.

Mr. Impey went on to say that in 1934 114 doctors were registered. In 1938 the figure was 207, in 1942 it was 233, in 1946 it was 321 and last year it was 442.

The number of dentists who registered in 1934 was 11. In 1938 there were 12 and in 1942 only nine. But in 1946 58 were registered, and last year was a record, with 75 registrations.

In 1934 only 66 doctors and four dentists with South African qualifications were registered, whereas in 1948 291 doctors and 43 dentists were registered who had these qualifications.

Dealing with the number of medical students, Mr. Impey said that in 1934 there were 783 medical and 34 dental students registered with the council. By 1944 these numbers had doubled themselves. After that the numbers increased more rapidly than before.

The number of dental students increased notably and the number of medical students showed an increase, but this was due partly to the establishment in South Africa of a third medical school.

At the end of 1948 there were just under 2,000 medical students and 237 dental students registered.

The number of specialists registered at the end of 1948 was 806, which was equal to 15 per cent. of the total of practitioners on the register.

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NATIVE STUDENTS

CERTAIN ASSISTED MEDICAL TRAINING TO CONTINUE

Several replies have been received by the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand to a letter sent to the general councils of the Transkei, the Ciskei, and the High Commission territories, urging them to reinstitute their medical scholarships for Natives in view of the Government's discontinuance of its Native medical scholarships at the university.

The Transkeian General Council has stated that when it instituted overseas medical scholarships for Natives, it did so only as a temporary measure, pending the provision of facilities for Natives to study medicine in the Union.

"As soon as the Witwatersrand University was opened to Native medical students, the council's medical scholarship scheme ceased," said the council.

"STATE FUNCTION"

"The provision of medical bursaries is a State function and it is not considered that this council can reasonably be asked to provide them in the future. In any case, it would appear that a decision has not been reached by the Government as to whether such bursaries will be provided by it in future for non-Europeans."

A reply from the secretary of the Ciskeian General Council states that the Council still has two medical scholarships for Natives available and tenable at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"The conditions of the award of the scholarships are determined by the Council," the letter adds. "It is not the intention of the Council to withdraw either of the scholarships it has made available, nor it is the intention to divert them to Natal. Any change in the number, value or educational centre is one for decision by the Council, and the ultimate fate of these bursaries, therefore, lies in the hands of the Native councillors."

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30/6/49.

NO BREAK IN TRAINING OF NATIVE DOCTORS WILL OCCUR UNDER STATE'S NEW PLAN

From Our Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION will see to it that there is no gap in the training of Native medical students as a result of the ending of State bursaries for Native medical students at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the Secretary for Education, Mr. A. A. Roberts, in an interview.

The Government has agreed to the creation of a non-European college as part of the University of Natal. The college will have a medical faculty and the plan is to start lectures next year. The Government has agreed to provide the necessary subsidy. The outstanding question is how much will be required.

The Government is making part of Wentworth Camp at Durban, known as the Torpedo School, available for the Native college. At present these buildings are being used to store jute bags. When they had been cleared it will be possible to assess the cost of necessary alterations.

The scheme would have been further advanced than it is but for a recent change in plans arising out of the need to give up the part of the camp originally allocated for the Native college to some other purpose.

Mr. Roberts emphasised that the practice of training Native doctors at the University of the Witwatersrand was at best a temporary expedient. Under this arrangement ten grants of £50 10s. were given yearly to Native students at Fort Hare College for their pre-medical year. Out of the ten students only those regarded as suitable were sent to Johannes-

burg for the full course, with bursaries of £245 a year. This sum was raised for students entering Wits. this year to £257.

This year three Native students have qualified for the full medical course and have entered Witwatersrand University on bursaries. All Native medical students now at the university will be allowed to complete their courses and the decision to discontinue the bursaries will affect only those who would have entered the university next year. They will now go to Durban instead.

The idea underlying the bursaries was that the State badly needed Native doctors and was prepared to pay for them.

The need for Native doctors is as great as ever and that is why the Government proposes to push ahead with the non-European Medical Faculty at Durban. It was never entirely satisfactory having Native students at Wits., because they were unable to take part in the social life of the university. The decision to discontinue the bursaries was taken by the late Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr when he was Minister of Education, and when the prospect was emerging of being able to train Native doctors at Durban.

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NATIVES AS DOCTORS

Positive apartheid is a rare and sickly plant in the Herenigde Party's garden. Nationalist speakers have often insisted that the thing exists, but the trouble has always been to find a convincing specimen. Now a seedling which looked as if it might become an example of this mysterious growth has withered again. The start of the Non-European Medical School at Durban has been postponed for at least another year. This is more serious than it looks. There are at the moment barely 30 Native doctors to serve nearly 8,000,000 Natives in the Union. Meanwhile tuberculosis, venereal disease, infectious blindness and other diseases are sweeping this population and giving us some of the worst health figures in the world. The delay is serious for another reason also. Discontent has never been more explosive among non-Europeans than it has become during the past 19 months of Nationalist government. Many people who cannot agree with the present Cabinet are nevertheless thoroughly uneasy at the hostility to government in general and to Europeans in general which its clumsy and clamorous manoeuvres have succeeded in arousing. Those elements in the Herenigde Party which have been most active in trying to destroy the last vestiges of non-European political privileges and safeguards might have been expected at least to sweeten their pill by conferring early economic and social benefits as some token that their motives were not mere repression.

Yet nothing has been so slow to show itself in the non-European policy of the Government as precisely these friendly and positive measures. It is difficult to think of any one measure which would cost so little and mean in practice so much as the early establishment of the Durban medical school. The buildings in Wentworth Camp are there — as they were when the last Government announced the scheme early in 1948, and as they were when Dr. Stals, then Minister of Education, and the Secretary for Education, stated in 1949 that lectures should start early in 1950. Yet the school has not begun; its opening is now expected in February, 1951. Inevitably the doubt arises whether again, through various "difficulties," its opening will not then be postponed till 1952.

A determined Government effort to open the school by now could hardly have failed. The number of first-year students is likely to be about 20. Their subjects will be the ordinary first-year sciences taught all over the Union. Nothing seems to have been done to help them start elsewhere, so that they might enter the Durban school as a second-year class in 1951.

It is not even certain yet whether the Government will grant bursaries to help struggling Native students of ability to study at the Durban school, though it will apparently end its Witwatersrand bursaries for Natives when the Durban school is under way. There is even some ground for fear that the existence of the Durban school may be used as a pretext for State interference in the right of Cape Town and Witwatersrand Universities to admit what students they think fit—non-Europeans included. Surely a Government to whom the abundant promises to Natives made in the apartheid manifesto of the Herenigde Party mean anything would show a very different energy and drive in getting the Durban school started early.

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↳ more Africans have received their medical Degrees at Wits, making a total of 25 since 1945.

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