

9/18

SPEECH OF THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PATRICK LEWIS, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 21ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BARAGWANATH
HOSPITAL - CIVIC LUNCHEON - CITY HALL - THURSDAY, 1/5/1969.

Your Honour, the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr. Sybrand van Niekerk, and Mrs. van Niekerk, Members of the Executive Committee, Mr. Deputy Mayor, fellow Councillors, and a very special welcome to Col. Stallard, who is 97 years young, Ladies and Gentlemen :-

Vanmôre het baie van ons die plesier gehad om teenwoordig te wees by die Baragwanath Hospitaal om die 21ste herdenking van die oprigting van hierdie inrigting as nie-Blanke Hospitaal te vier. Mag ek sê, hoe bly ek is dat soveel persone wat nog verbonde was aan Baragwanath hier met ons saamgekom het vanmiddag. Ek wil vernaam Sy Edele die Administrateur en sy gade, en die lede van die Uitvoerende Komitee van Transvaal verwelkom, ook Dr. Verster, die Direkteur van Hospitaal Dienste. I am also delighted to welcome persons who were associated with the Baragwanath Hospital when it was a British Military Hospital. We have here persons who were patients at that hospital, who, when they had recovered, decided to stay and make their home with us. Many here were on the staff of that hospital. Also, we have friends who were on the Comforts Committee who befriended those patients. To all a very hearty welcome. And amongst those who befriended the patients is Col. Stallard, who had a farm, and still has a farm, not far from Baragwanath Hospital. He had an 'open house' for patients and he befriended many of them. Col. Stallard - a particular welcome to you. We are thrilled to have you with us. Col. Stallard, the banks are to-day issuing a R1 Silver piece and I would like to give you one of those pieces and I undertake to buy it back from you in 50 years time for R10,000.

We also have with us members of the Baragwanath family and members of the present Bara. Comforts Committee. Wat beteken die woord "Baragwanath" vir ons? Hierdie naam het eers bekend geraak in 1886 toe Mnr. John Albert Baragwanath in Johannesburg aangekom het. Hy het 'n pad-Hotel gekoop wat bekend bestaan het as "The Junction Hotel" op die perseel waar "Uncle Charlie's" vandag is. Daar was nog 'n Baragwanath wat beter bekend behoort te wees as wat hy is. Hy is Mnr. Orrie Baragwanath wat glo nog op 'n plaas woon, "The Downs" in die Noordelike Transvaal, sowat 36 myl vanaf Leydsdorp. Orrie Baragwanath was a prospekteerder wat saam met Frank Lewis, (geen familie van my nie) die eerste "claims" in die Noordelike Rhodesië Koperstreek afgestreek het. Drie jaar lank, van 1899 tot 1902, het hy en Lewis feitlik geïsoleer onder die Bantustamme van Noorde Rhodesië. Hulle was in diens geneem vir 'n drie-jaar kontrak om koper te soek so dit dikwels die geval is dat die prospekteerders wat die ontdekking gemaak het, net 'n geringe sommetjie geld ontvang vir hulle jare van swaarkry, van leiding aan swartwaterkoors en malaria. Dan het ons ook die Baragwanath-vliegveld. Toe is die Baragwanath Hospitaal opgerig in 1941 deur die Britse Leër om die troepe te verpleeg wat toring gekry het in die Midde-Ooste.

Na die Tweede Wêreld-Oorlog het die Transvaalse Provinsiale Raad die Hospitaal van die Britse Leër gekoop teen 'n bedrag van een miljoen Rand - en in Julie 1957 is Dr. Allen die taak gegee om die Hospitaal te verander in 'n algemene Hospitaal om die Bantoe mense te dien.

Die naam Baragwanath is nou bekend deur die lengte en breedte van ons land en ver oor sy grense.

Baragwanath Hospital! What thoughts does this conjure up in our minds? Can I tell you a little of what I know of Bara. and its people?

When the Province acquired the Hospital in 1947 they appointed Dr. J.D. Allen as its first Superintendent, Miss J. McLarty, who had been Matron at the Non-European Hospital, in Hospital Street, for 8 years, was to be Matron of the new Hospital. Her No. 2 was Miss Nancy Simpson, Miss Margaret Burnett, who recently retired from her post as Deputy Matron, was the person appointed to be in charge of Nursing Training, which was to become so important a part of Baras. development. To-day we are privileged to have with us Mrs. Allen, the widow of the first Superintendent. Miss McLarty, Miss Burnett and Miss Simpson are also with us to-day. To my regret I did not know Dr. Allen, but all who knew him pay tribute to his ability, his leadership, his inspiration in creating the atmosphere which, from the start made Bara. a happy hospital - a hospital with which people wanted to be associated. While I did not know Dr. Allen, it has been my privilege to know Jane McLarty, Margaret Burnett and Nancy Simpson.

In the Gospel of St. John we read these words :- "This is my Commandment, That ye love one another as I loved you. Greater love hath no man than this. That a man lay down his life for his friend."

To me it is not necessary to don (a uniform), a military uniform, or to rescue a child from the wheel of a bus to carry out this Commandment. I want to suggest to you that the success of Bara. has been this - that men and women of both races and both colours, whom we know, and many of whom are present with us here to-day, persons with the highest technical and medical skills have rendered service of a quality rarely excelled. A service to the African people which has been in part a practical illustration of "Greater love hath no man". The spirit of 'nothing but the best will do', that one's personal comfort was secondary. This desire to train and equip the African nurses to serve their own people has raised the status of this hospital to one of world-renown. This has not been accomplished without toil, without failures, without frustrations and weariness to a point of desperation. But there have been the rewards, the knowledge of a job well done, of African nurses being trained and passing their exams, of accepting responsibility, of being appointed to senior posts as Matrons, and one of the most amazing results has been the reduction in infantile mortality.

The Provincial Administration have played their part - they provided the buildings, they provided the equipment, provided the necessary finance to make this such a well-equipped hospital. It also is a teaching hospital in association with the Witwatersrand University.

I would like to mention some of the people who have done this. There have only been three Superintendents - Dr. Allen, Dr. Frank and the present incumbent, Dr. Kenny. They have all played their part in maintaining the spirit which Dr. Allen started. Miss McLarty was the Matron till 1953. When she retired she was given responsible

posts by the World Health Organisation, both in Africa and in Singapore, and is again helping at the hospital. Miss Nancy Simpson who, from 1953, has been the Matron, and who retires this month, has made a wonderful contribution, not only to Bara. but to the nursing profession. Then we have had the leadership of Dr. Jock Gear, who has been the Chairman of the Bara. Board for as long as people can remember. He has provided a link with the Medical School. Jock Gear was commonly known as "Little" Gear, or "Bottom" Gear or "Low" Gear. His brother, Harry, was "Top" Gear, his brother James was "Middle" Gear, and Jock was "Little" or "Low" Gear. That was his name, but it is not in low gear that he has worked at Baragwanath Hospital. The Gear family's contribution to medicine is an outstanding one for all to admire.

I am going to mention further names. I would like those, whose names are omitted, and I must omit some, to just take this as an example of the people who have served Bara. so well.

Miss Wendy Petersen of the Nursing College, Miss Pledger, the Dietitian, who feeds everyone so well. Miss Pledger, we have tried to out-rival you today. Miss Verna Douthwaite, who is Superintendent of the Nurses' Quarters, Professor Wilson, who originally was a patient, returned to the service of the Hospital and who has now been elevated to the position of Professor. Professor Lavery, Dr. Duffield, the anaesthetist, Dr. Wayburne, the paediatrician, his wife, Dr. Ginsberg, Dr. Lipschitz, Mr. Fatti, who helped, and who I understand is now helping again. Very glad to see you with us today, Miss Elsie MacGregor, who was in charge of the Maternity Section. Mr. Gordon, the Chief Pharmacist, Mr. Johnny van Loggerenberg, who was Secretary for many years. At Baragwanath this morning certificates were presented to 38 persons who had had 21 years continuous service at Baragwanath. People would not have worked there so long if it had not been that it was a happy hospital, and the inspired leadership it had all these years.

I would just like to also say a word about the Council's contribution because our work has been supplementary to the Baragwanath Hospital, and particularly to mention Dr. Spencer, who did such wonderful work in mass immunisation.

I have not mentioned the name of Bantu personnel, but they too, have played their part in this wonderful development.

My life has been enriched by knowing many of these people. They have not thought of themselves as heroes. They have been dedicated men and women who have used their talents, and talents they have had in no small measure. Their satisfaction has not been in the pay packet, but in a job well done. If a true picture of this quality of service to the Non-European population could be mirrored to the outside world what an answer it would be to this country's critics. In times of emergency Baragwanath Hospital has risen to great heights, such as occurred when we had this Langlaagte train accident.

As Mayor of Johannesburg one is honoured to know that people of this quality are citizens of one's city. I'm glad to say how proud I am to have been associated with that Hospital. //

This Hospital is now 21 years old. It is now bursting its seams, and it looks as though, in the near future, we'll have to have another hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have tried to sketch in a few words what this hospital has meant to us, to the Bantu people of Soweto, and to this beloved country of ours and I would now like to ask you to stand with me and drink a toast to Bara.

BA/6

8/5/1969
PRBL/JVJ.

SPEECH OF THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR PATRICK LEWIS, ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 21st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BARAGWANATH HOSPITAL -
CIVIC LUNCHEON - CITY HALL - THURSDAY, 1st MAY 1969.

Your Honour, the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr. Sybrand van Nickerk, and Mrs. van Nickerk, Members of the Executive Committee, Mr. Deputy Mayor, fellow Councillors, and a very special welcome to Col. Stallard, who is 97 years old young, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vanmôre het baie van ons die plesier gehad om teenwoordig te wees by die Baragwanath Hospitaal om die 21ste herdenking van die oprigting van hierdie inrigting as nie-Blanke Hospitaal te vier. Mag ek sê, hoe bly ek is dat soveel persone wat nog verbonde was aan Baragwanath hier met ons saamgekom het vanmiddag. Ek wil verneem Sy Edele die Administrateur en sy gade, en die lede van die Uitvoerende Komitee van Transvaal verwelkom, ook Dr. Verster, die Direkteur van Mediese Dienste. I am also delighted to welcome persons who were associated with the Baragwanath Hospital when it was a British Military Hospital. We have here persons who were patients at that hospital, who, when they had recovered, decided to stay and make their home with us. Many here were on the staff of that hospital. Also, we have friends who were on the Comforts Committees who befriended those patients. To all a very hearty welcome. And amongst those who befriended the patients is Col. Stallard, who had a farm, and still has a farm, not far from Baragwanath Hospital. He had an 'open house' for patients and he befriended many of them. Col. Stallard - a particular welcome to you. We are thrilled to have you with us. And Col. Stallard, the banks are to-day issuing a R1 Silver piece, and I would like to give you one of those pieces, and I undertake to buy it back from you in 50 years time for R10,000.

We also have with us members of the Baragwanath family and members of the present Bara. Comforts Committee. Wat beteken die woord "Baragwanath" vir ons? Hierdie naam het eers bekend geraak in 1886 toe Mnr. John Albert Baragwanath in Johannesburg aangekom het. Hy het 'n pad-Hotel gekoop wat bekend gestaan het as "The Junction Hotel" op die perseel waar "Uncle Charlies" vandag is. Daar was nog 'n Baragwanath wat beter bekend behoort te wees as wat hy is. Hy is Mnr. Orrie Baragwanath wat glo nog op 'n plaas woon, "The Downs" in die Noordelike Transvaal, sowat 36 myl vanaf Leydsdorp. Orrie Baragwanath was a prospekteerder wat saam met Frank Lewis, (geen familie van my nie) die eerste "claims" in die Noordelike Rhodesia Koperstreek afgestreek het. Drie Jaar lank, van 1899 tot 1902, het hy en Lewis feitlik geïsoleer onder die Bantustamme van Noorde Rhodesia. Hulle was in diens geneem vir 'n drie-jaar kontrak om koper te soek so dit dikwels die geval is dat die prospek-teerders wat die ontdekking gemaak het, net 'n geringe sommetjie geld ontvang vir hulle jare van swaarkry, van leiding aan swartwaatkoors en malaria. Dan het ons ook die Baragwanath-vliegveld. Toe is die Baragwanath Hospitaal opgerig in 1941 deur die Britse Leger om die troepe te verpleeg wat toring gekry het in die Midde-Ooste.

/Na

Na die Tweede Wêreld-Oorlog het die Transvaalse Provinsiale Raad die Hospitaal van die Britse Lêër gekoop teen 'n bedrag van een miljoen Rand - en in Julie 1957 is Dr. Allen die taak gegee om die Hospitaal te verander in 'n algemene Hospitaal om die Bantoe mense te dien.

Die naam Baragwanath is nou bekend deur die lengte en breedte van ons land en ver oor sy grense.

Baragwanath Hospitaal! What thoughts does this conjure up in our minds? Can I tell you a little of what I know of Bara. and its people?

When the Province ^{acq}quired the Hospital in 1947 they appointed Dr. J.D. Allen as its first Superintendent, Miss J. McLarty, who had been Matron at the Non-European Hospital, in Hospital Street, for 8 years, was to be Matron of the new Hospital. Her No. 2 was Miss Nancy Simpson, Miss Margaret Burnett, who recently retired from her post as Deputy Matron, was the person appointed to be in charge of Nursing Training, which was to become so an important part of Baras. development. To-day we are privileged to have with us Mrs. Allen, the widow of the first Superintendent. Miss McLarty, Miss Barnett and Miss Simpson are also with us to-day. To my regret I did not know Dr. Allen, but all who knew him pay tribute to his ability, his leadership, his inspiration in creating the atmosphere which, from the start, made Bara. a happy hospital - a hospital with which people wanted to be associated. While I did not know Dr. Allen, it has been my privilege to know Jane McLarty, Margaret Burnett and Nancy Simpson.

In the Gospel of St. John we read these words:- This is my Commandment, That ye love one another as I loved you. Greater love hath no man than this. That a man lay down his life for his friend.

To me it is not necessary to don a uniform, a military uniform, or to rescue a child from the wheel of a bus to carry out this Commandment. I want to suggest to you that the success of Bara. has been this - that men and women of both races and both colours, whom we know, and many of whom are present with us here to-day, persons with the highest technical and medical skills have rendered service of a quality rarely excelled. A service to the African people which has been in part a practical illustration of "Greater love hath no man". The spirit of 'nothing but the best will do', that one's personal comfort was secondary. This desire to train and equip the African nurses to serve their own people has raised the status of this hospital to one of world-renown. This has not been accomplished without toil, without failures, without frustrations, and weariness to a point of desperation. But there have been the rewards, the knowledge of a job well done, Of African nurses being trained and passing their exams, of accepting responsibility, of being appointed to senior posts as Matrons, and one of the most amazing results has been the reduction in infantile mortality.

/The

The Provincial Administration have played their part - they provided the buildings, they provided the equipment, provided the necessary finance to make this such a well-equipped hospital. It also is a teaching hospital in association with the Witwatersrand University.

I would like to mention some of the people who have done this. There have only been three Superintendents - Dr. Allen, Dr. Frank and the present incumbent, Dr. Kenny. They have all played their part in maintaining the spirit which Dr. Allen started. Miss McLarty was the Matron till 1953. When she retired she was given responsible posts by the World Health Organisation, both in Africa and in Singapore, and is again helping at the hospital. Miss Nancy Simpson, who, from 1953, has been the Matron, and who retires this month, has made a wonderful contribution, not only to Bara. but to the nursing profession. Then we have had the leadership of Dr. Jock Gear, who has been the Chairman of the Bara. Board for as long as people can remember. He has provided a link with the Medical School. Jock Gear was commonly known as "Little" Gear, or "Bottom" Gear or "Low" Gear. His brother, Harry, was "Top" Gear, his brother James was "Middle" Gear, and Jock was "Little" or "Low" Gear. That was his name, but it is not in low gear that he has worked at Baragwanath Hospital. The Gear family's contribution to medicine is an outstanding one for all to admire.

I am going to mention further names. I would like those, whose names are omitted, and I must omit some, to just take this as an example ^{of the people} who have served Bara. so well.

Miss Wendy Petersen of the Nursing College - Miss Pledger, the Dietitian, who feeds everyone so well. Miss Pledger we have tried to out-rival you to-day. Miss Verna Douthwaite, who is superintendent of the Nurses Quarters, Professor Wilson, who originally was a patient, returned to the service of the Hospital and who has now been elevated to the position of Professor. Professor Lavery, Dr. Duffield, the anaesthetist, Dr. Wayburne the paediatrician, his wife, Dr. Ginsberg, Dr. Lipschitz, Mr. Fatti, who helped, and who I understand is now helping again. Very glad to see you with us to-day, Miss Elsie MacGregor, who was in charge of the Maternity Section. Mr. Gordon, the Chief Pharmacist, Mr. Johnny van Loggerenberg who was Secretary for many years. At Baragwanath this morning certificates were presented to 38 persons who had had 21 years continuous service at Baragwanath. And people would not have worked there so long if it had not been that it was a happy hospital, and the inspired leadership it had all these years.

I would just like to also say a word about the Council's contribution because our work has been supplementary to the Baragwanath Hospital, and particularly to mention Dr. Spencer, who did such wonderful work in mass immunisation.

I have not mentioned the name of Bantu personnel, but they, too, have played their part in ^{this} wonderful development.

/My

My life has been enriched by knowing many of these people. They have not thought of themselves as heroes. They have been dedicated men and women who have used their talents, and talents they have had in no small measure. Their satisfaction has not been in the pay packet, but in a job well done. If a true picture of this quality of service to the Non-European population could be mirrored to the outside world what an answer it would be to this country's ^{critics} ~~criticism~~. In times of emergency Baragwanath Hospital has risen to great heights, such as occurred when we had this Langlaagte train accident.

As Mayor of Johannesburg one is honoured to know that people of this quality are citizens of one's city. I'm glad to say how proud I am to have been associated with that Hospital.

This Hospital is now 21 years old. It is now bursting its seams, and it looks as though, in the near future, we'll have to have another hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have tried to sketch in a few words what this hospital has meant to us, to the Bantu people of Soweto, and to this beloved country of ours and I would now like to ask you to stand with me and drink a toast to Bara. Hospital.

BA/6
7.5.69
JB/CL

Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

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.

This collection forms part of a collection, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.