

MEMORANDUM ON MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY AND THE PHARMACY BOARD - TUESDAY, 26TH ~~MAY~~, 1949  
am.

1. It is thought that it might be of value to place on record the following account of an interview between Mr. Kenneth Kirkwood, representing the South African Institute of Race Relations, Durban, and leading members of the Pharmaceutical profession and Pharmaceutical Board of South Africa.

2. Through the kind offices of Adv. E. Henochsberg, K.C., Mr. Griggs of Messrs. T. W. Griggs, Booksellers, Durban, invited Mr. Kirkwood to be his guest at the Rotary Luncheon held in the Hotel Edward on the above date in order to meet the representatives of the Pharmaceutical Society and Board who were in Durban for their General Council meeting.

3. Mr. B. Jacobson, M.P.S., President of the South African Pharmaceutical Society, was the guest speaker at the luncheon and Mr. Kirkwood was introduced to him before lunch and met, in addition, Mr. McIntyre, M.P.S., Chairman of the Durban Branch of the Society and Mr. Kramer, M.P.S., from Johannesburg, a member of the Executive.

4. Mr. Kirkwood raised the matter of the request to the Institute from the African Universal Improvement Association, Durban, for assistance to enable some THIRTEEN local Africans to qualify as Pharmacists. It was pointed out that NINE of the Africans are graduates in science (B.Sc.), ONE is a graduate in arts, (B.A.), while the remaining THREE are Medical Aids.

5(a). Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Kramer stated that the whole matter had been considered in the past, but that no definite decisions had been taken. They stated that the Pharmacy Board controlled the profession in South Africa and that an approach could be made to the Board for further information.

Briefly the following points were made by these gentlemen:

(i) That there is no restriction preventing Non-Europeans from qualifying as Pharmacists under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, No. 13 of 1928.

(ii) That it is necessary for all persons to fulfil the requirements laid down for Pharmacy students before admission to the profession.

(b). Mr. Kirkwood then asked about:

(i) The possibility of Africans being apprenticed to approved pharmacists.

(ii) The possibility of the dispensaries of institutions such as McCord's Zulu Hospital and St. Aidan's Hospital being approved as suitable for training pharmaceutical apprentices.

(c). In reply it was stated:

(i) That while there was no ground for opposing the apprenticeship of any African, social reasons made it difficult for European pharmacists to employ Africans in retail pharmacies.

(ii)/

(ii) That institutional training was not recognised under the existing legislation.

(d). Mr. Kirkwood then asked:

(i) If the Pharmaceutical Society would be prepared to exert pressure to have the relevant legislation amended to permit institutional training to be recognised?

(ii) If Pharmacists in mixed racial areas, and predominantly African and predominantly Indian areas would not find it helpful to have Non-European assistants?

(iii) Since Africans had been trained as Medical Practitioners, was it not desirable to encourage the training of African pharmacists?

(e). (i) It was admitted that the legislation could be amended, but it was still a matter for doubt if Pharmacists would support a move to have institutional training recognised.

(ii) Mr. Kramer indicated that he was personally in favour of seeing Africans trained, but that there were many difficulties in the way of doing so. One of the principal difficulties was -

(iii) the fact that Pharmacy, unlike Medicine, has both an economic and professional aspect, and the economic aspect requires very careful consideration.

(iv) A further point was whether Africans training under a European would receive precisely the same training as a European apprentice in similar circumstances. For example, if there were difficulties about attending to clients and customers, would the African not tend to be burdened with other work to the detriment of his training?

(f). In reply to a query about a recognised training institution being available, Mr. Kirkwood explained that Mr. Nattrass, O.B.E., Principal of the M.L. Sultan Technical College had stated that there would be no obstacle to his College being approved, once suitable candidates (i.e. apprentices) had presented themselves for training.

6. During lunch Mr. McIntyre indicated that he was employed in a wholesale pharmaceutical undertaking and was thus not in a position to make any comment, but he suggested that Mr. F. Barrow, Registrar of the South African Pharmacy Board would be the most useful person to consult about the Institute's queries. (Note: Mr. McIntyre had the Principal of his firm seated opposite so it was decided not to press the matter, particularly in view of the fact that Mr. McIntyre is a local man and thus easy to approach at a later date).

7. After lunch Mr. F. Barrow was approached and proved very helpful and courteous.

Mr. Barrow was shown the list of Africans requiring training and he noted their qualifications.

He provided the following information which is recorded for the information of members of the Committee of the Institute.

(a). (i)/

(a). (i) Matriculation is the minimum condition of entry to apprenticeship.

(ii) Candidates possessing a B.Sc. degree who have passed courses in Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Physics Examination may apply for exemption from the Intermediate Examination for the M.P.S.

(iii) Three years apprenticeship must be served in an approved pharmacy.

(iv) Twelve months full time training must be undertaken in a recognised training institution.

(v) On successful completion of the Final Examination, members are admitted to the status of M.P.S.

(b). Mr. Barrow explained that the Board was considering the question of institutional training, but that there were definite problems involved since institutions such as hospitals did not provide satisfactory training in the forensic aspect of pharmacy, nor in the ethical aspect. The duties tended to be more mechanical with pharmacists acting directly on physicians prescriptions within the institution. Human contacts were reduced to a very considerable degree and responsibilities such as the keeping of "Poisons Registers" etc. did not arise as in the case of independent retail pharmacists.

(c). Mr. Barrow kindly offered to provide any further information such as the detailed rules and the minimum requirements laid down for the training of pharmacists. His address is:

F. Barrow, Esq.,  
The Registrar,  
South African Pharmacy Board,  
Private Bag 171,  
Pretoria.

(d). Mr. Barrow was not aware of the possible facilities at the M.L. Sultan Technical College and showed interest in the College.

8. It seems clear that the courses open to the Institute at this stage are:

(a). To canvass local pharmacists to find if any are prepared to accept African, Indian or Coloured apprentices and to encourage them to do so.

(b). To encourage local pharmacists to give serious consideration to the question of lending their support in pressing for the recognition of institutional training so that more avenues might be opened for Non-Europeans eager to qualify in the profession.

(c). To ask medical practitioners, especially Non-European practitioners, to request the pharmacists who dispense their prescriptions to take Non-European apprentices.

9. Even if only one or two pharmacists are prepared to assist, the door will be opened for potential future trainees.

10. It is believed that Head Office have made considerable efforts to further the training of Non-European pharmacists and it would, therefore, seem advisable to ask Head Office for full information about the success of their efforts to date so that local activities may be co-ordinated with national. The question of according recognition to institutional training, in particular, is a matter of national policy and as recognition would require the amendment of existing legislation, it would seem that Head Office is in the best position to exert the necessary pressure, if it is considered desirable to do so.

29th April, 1949.

KENNETH KIRKWOOD.

Further to the memorandum prepared by Mr. Kenneth Kirkwood, before arranging for Mr. Kirkwood to lunch with Mr. Griggs, I had interviewed Mr. McIntyre of Allen & Hanbury's Ltd., and Mr. Natrass of Sultan Technical College, and I record the results of those interviews:-

(1) There is no difficulty whatsoever with regard to the training of apprentices to pharmacy at the M.L. Sultan Technical College.

(2) Mr. McIntyre appreciates the point of view put forward in relation to the training of Non-Europeans.

(3) Mr. McIntyre is of the opinion that the only way in which it will be possible to obtain an opening for apprentices is if the S.A. Pharmacy Board is agreeable to open the doors to apprentices being accepted at both hospitals and wholesale chemists.

(4) Mr. McIntyre suggested that whilst I was in Pretoria I should call on Mr. Barrow, the gentleman referred to in Mr. Kirkwood's memorandum who, it was thought, would not be in Durban for some time and thereafter on my return a discussion should take place between Mr. Eric Seymour, President of the local association, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Kirkwood and myself.

(5) In Pretoria I called at Mr. Barrow's office and found that he was in Durban. I interviewed Mr. Johnstone, his assistant, but the latter gentleman was not very co-operative and in fact could give me no information at all.

(6) On the 19th April at the Rotary Luncheon, Mr. McIntyre introduced me to the Principal of his firm who is out here on a visit and this gentleman, whose name I have forgotten for the moment, proved very helpful in that he appreciated that Non-Europeans should receive training. He also intimated that for many years apprentices in England were not allowed at hospital dispensaries nor at wholesale chemists, but that within the last two decades, the regulations had been altered to the great advantage of pharmacists. If I am not mistaken the gentleman concerned stated that he was now an examiner, and he stated that wholesale chemists and hospitals gave an equally good training if not better than retail chemists.

This gentleman furthermore stated that he was prepared to intimate to the South African Pharmacy Board his point of view during the course of the conference in Durban that took place last week, if an opportunity arose, but that he was doubtful as to whether the Board would do anything.

2nd May, 1949.

E. S. HENOCHSBERG.

**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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