

Box 91

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ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE
AND UNIVERSITY CLINIC.



REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE AND UNIVERSITY CLINIC.

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THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1944.

Mr. Justice O. D. SCHREINER, Chairman.
Rev. Dr. J. DEXTER TAYLOR, Hon. Secretary.
Miss E. J. S. MOODIE, Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. W. ARONSOHN.	Mrs. J. P. IMMELMAN.
Mrs. W. ARONSOHN.	Professor H. LE MAY.
Mr. W. H. BARNARD.	Mr. T. D. NEL.
Professor JAMES BLACK.	Mr. Justice W. H. RAMSBOTTOM.
Professor I. W. BREBNER.	Mrs. O. D. SCHREINER.
Professor R. A. DART.	Dr. R. V. STORR.
Mr. H. G. FALWASSER.	Professor A. S. STRACHAN.
Mr. K. M. GAMEDE.	Mr. S. SUZMAN.
Mr. DAN GUMEDE.	Dr. A. B. XUMA.

Medical Superintendent: Dr. A. MILLER.
Assistant Medical Officer: Dr. MATHILDA MENDELOW.

HON. VISITING STAFF:

Visiting Obstetricians: Dr. O. S. HEYNS, Dr. S. SHIPPEL,
Dr. N. E. C. DE LA HUNT.
Visiting Dermatologist: Dr. EVA BINION.
Visiting Paediatrician: Dr. H. LANGER.

Nursing Superintendent: Miss R. C. COWLES.
Assistants: Sister N. BATTERBURY.
Sister B. O. LAING.

Medical Aid: Mr. T. S. NGCWABE.

NURSING STAFF AT 31/12/44:

Nurse MARY THEMA.	Nurse ROSE MTIMKULU.
Nurse TALITHA PEBA.	Nurse MARJORIE MHLONGO.
Nurse ADELAIDE TSELENG.	Nurse ANGELINA NGCWABE.
Nurse DOLLY NDLAZI.	Nurse LETTA MATLALE.
Nurse TRYPHENA KUBHEKA.	Nurse FRANCIS NYATI.
Nurse EMILY ROSE NGWENYA.	Nurse NAOMI NAMABOLA.
Nurse CATHERINE NHLAPO.	Nurse NORAH TSHABALALA.
School Nurse: Nurse ROSE MAJOZI.	

ALEXANDRA

HEALTH CENTRE AND UNIVERSITY CLINIC.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

When the time comes to frame the report of the Clinic's work during the past year it is natural to ask oneself three questions: (a) How has the work been going? (b) What important developments, if any, have taken place? (c) How have matters shaped in relation to future progress? I propose to attempt to answer each of these questions briefly.

(a) The work of the Clinic has proceeded very well indeed. This was our first year in the new buildings and I am pleased to be able to report that they have exceeded our hopes. They have enabled our medical and nursing staff to carry on their work more smoothly and efficiently than ever; looking back one is reminded of the patience and devotion to duty that was required to cope with the volume of work in the old, cramped premises. There have, of course, been many problems of adjustment to the new conditions. Donkeys have assailed our new lawns and invaded the very consulting room of the Medical Superintendent. Lightning has toyed with the intricacies of our electrical system. But these and other trials have been faced with cheerfulness and the new responsibilities have been fully met. Dr. Miller's report provides an outline of the year's work but it requires a sympathetic imagination to fill in the picture of innumerable cuts, bruises, burns, lacerations, sores and fevers, in fact of every kind of injury and disease, that are being treated at the Clinic in ever growing numbers. We are glad to express our appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Miller, Sister Cowles and their able assistants.

(b) In last year's report reference was made to our anxiety to proceed as soon as possible with the development of "nutritional, educational and specifically preventive work" —a field approximating to that described by the National Health Services Commission as "Personal Promotive and Preventive Health Services." It is satisfactory to be able to report a real advance in this direction during the year under review. Funds were made available by the University Students' Rag Committee that enabled us to take the initial steps towards building up a department of our work to cover the field. Mrs. Kark is in charge of this department and has three assistants working under her. The field is a wide one and its boundaries are elastic. Following the lessons of

experience elsewhere, the plan has been to work from a relatively small group of some fifty families through a widening range until the whole township is covered. There is already clear evidence that the residents are attracted to the type of services in question.

Another new step taken during the year was the provision by the Board of suitable meals for our African nurses. The practice of leaving the nurses to make their own arrangements for meals had revealed certain disadvantages; in some cases they were not providing themselves with enough suitable food. The new scheme has been in operation since January, 1944, and is yielding satisfactory returns in increased health and efficiency. It constitutes a really important addition to the nurses' remuneration and has many advantages over a mere increase in cash salaries.

On the building side it is satisfactory to be able to report that the Students' Hostel erected by the University at its own expense is nearing completion. The Hostel will facilitate the thorough training of the students in outpatient and district work, while it should substantially increase the Clinic's capacity to treat patients at night and over the week-ends.

(c) So far as the future is concerned, I have already in referring to the preventive side of our work indicated a direction in which notable advances may be expected. During the year members of the National Health Services Commission visited the Clinic and discussions that have since taken place make it appear probable that the residents of the Township will derive considerable benefit from their investigations. Apart from the urgent need for a hospital in the area we are certainly far from having presently available for the service of the large population of Alexandra anything like the minimum medical and nursing staff that the Commission envisages as necessary. Both on the curative and on the preventive sides the leeway should be made up as soon as possible.

We are expecting during the next few months to be able to erect a further portion or portions of our original building scheme, the new buildings to be devoted primarily to preventive and related services. It is very desirable that the completion of our whole building scheme, including the important hall for lectures, demonstrations and health films, should not be long delayed.

In 1944 a change was made in our street collection arrangements. The Students' Annual Rag was held on the day allotted to the Clinic and the Rag Committee handed to the Board the sum of £500 for general maintenance, representing the amount that we would have expected to collect. In addition, as indicated above, the Rag Committee provided us

with the sum of £4,000 for the preventive side of our work, of which £1,000 was earmarked for maintenance. The assistance of the students in thus making available to us a substantial portion of what they received from the generous Johannesburg public initiated the advance in preventive work to which I have referred. Should the discussions with the Union Health Department, mentioned above, lead to a further widening of the area of operations in this direction, the students will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed very materially to this result. It is to be hoped that their efforts may lead to similar fruitful developments in the future and, in particular, that they will help us to raise the funds necessary for the completion of our building scheme.

Despite all efforts to keep expenditure under control our outgoings continue to increase. The expanding volume of work demands increases in staff and further medical assistance is required. It is gratifying to be able to record an increase by the Native Affairs Department in its annual grant from £600 to £800 but as yet we have not received from the Transvaal Province the increase that we had hoped for. In last year's annual report reference was made to the need for further annual subscriptions from the public of Johannesburg and in particular from the employers of residents in the Township. An appeal on these lines was planned to take place in November but in view of the transport difficulties that arose at that time it was deemed wiser to postpone the appeal for a while.

The Board wishes to refer to the retirement of Mr. D. L. Smit, the Secretary for Native Affairs, to whose sympathy and help the Clinic owes a very great deal. We wish him many years of healthy and pleasant relaxation from his arduous duties and trust that congenial opportunities may be found for the further exercise by him of those outstanding qualities that have endeared him to the African people. To his successor, Mr. Mears, we extend a hearty welcome.

In conclusion, I wish once more to convey the Board's sincere thanks to all, both inside and outside the Township, who have devoted so much time and energy to the furtherance of the work of the Clinic. It is to be hoped that their efforts will be supplemented by those of new recruits whose assistance would be welcomed. Mr. B. A. Key, of Messrs. Vaughan, Key and Payne, has again undertaken our auditing in an honorary capacity, and we are very grateful to him. The auditing of our accounts is not the comparatively simple affair that it was when the Clinic began its work.

O. D. SCHREINER,
Chairman.

STATISTICAL REPORT
BY MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Dressings.				1944.	1943.	1942.
Nurses	...	...	...	27,037	19,227	13,805
Students	...	...	...	5,728	8,638	8,747
Medical Aid	...	...	...	522	1,279	1,199
Total	...	...	...	33,287	29,144	23,751
Ante-Natal Clinic.						
Attendances	...	...	...	2,039	1,632	1,096
Bookings	...	...	...	475	472	287
Midwifery.						
Deliveries	...	...	...	524	363	263
Admitted to Bridgman	...	...	...	27	15	19
Total	...	...	...	551	378	282
Infant Clinic.						
Attendances	...	...	...	7,098	6,496	6,126
V.D. Clinic.						
Females	...	...	...	4,584	6,352	6,436
Males	...	...	...	1,401	2,169	2,132
Wasserman Tests	...	...	...	1,253	1,604	1,428
Total Attendances	...	...	...	7,238	10,125	9,996
Injections given	...	...	...	5,982	8,103	8,546
Medical Consultations.						
Old Cases	...	...	...	11,113	8,575	6,518
New Cases	...	...	...	9,619	8,315	6,870
Skin Cases	...	...	...	777	561	209
Gynaecological Cases	...	...	...	122	134	74
Infant Clinic	...	...	...	1,008	885	818
Dental Cases	...	...	...	261	538	463
Total	...	...	...	22,900	19,008	14,952
District Nursing.						
New Cases	...	...	...	3,291	3,054	2,196
District Nursing Visits.						
Medical	...	...	...	16,398	13,985	17,024
Maternity	...	...	...	6,196	5,504	4,061
V.D. Visits by Medical Aid	...	...	...	878	1,178	1,139
T.B. Visits by Medical Aid	...	...	...	275	410	122
Total	...	...	...	23,747	21,077	22,346

Tuberculosis Clinic.

Cases Notified	...	...	85	34	30
Cases admitted to Rietfontein Hospital	...	...	15	5	15
Cases nursed on District	...	...	37	29	15
Contacts examined	...	...	109	77	91
Contacts found positive	...	...	11	2	4

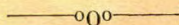
School Clinic.

Medical Cases	...	...	535	—	—
Dental Cases	...	...	805	—	—
Scholars Examined	...	...	12,765	—	—

Total Attendances.

Total Attendances at Clinic	...	...	74,011	66,482	56,012
Total Visits	...	...	37,036	21,440	22,609

A. MILLER.

**REPORT OF THE NURSING SUPERINTENDENT**

Throughout this first year in our new buildings, we have been very conscious of our debt to numerous friends who, through their continued loyal support, have made possible the present development of the work of the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic. From the moment we stepped into the new buildings, made shining and immediately habitable by an enthusiastic committee of ladies, we have been deeply grateful. At the time of dedication and opening of the buildings, the interest of friends was interpreted into specific gifts and practical service by all sections of the community within and without the Township. By church and school choirs this loyalty and interest was interpreted into music which brought delight to all.

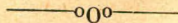
Through co-operation with the schools, the biggest and best Health Education Week was held in Alexandra at the end of October. The week culminated in a Health Parade resplendent with uniforms of Wayfarers, Pathfinders, little blue Sunbeams, and the joyful strains of two brass bands. Into the local street collection at that time, the church women threw themselves whole-heartedly, thus raising a goodly sum to add to Clinic funds. Following the custom of several years, school children from the Holy Cross Mission presented the Health Centre at this time with the sum of ten guineas collected for the most part in precious pennies to help less fortunate children. Red Cross V.A.D.'s from this same school have given practical assistance at the Clinic during busy

week-ends for the better part of the year. Other adult V.A.D.'s from the Western area of the city have given faithful help every Sunday morning during rush hours.

Friends from the Township, from Johannesburg, and from the U.S.A. have continued to contribute in cash and in kind towards the work of relief and prevention of disease. A generous gift from the "Rand Daily Mail Christmas Fund," a gift of warm blankets and of cash from the Native Affairs Department, together with many personal gifts, made possible the Christmas parties which were the grand finale of the year. Staff, blind folk, and mothers and babies joined in the celebrations. Fully six hundred mothers and babies were made glad by gifts of bags, baby powder, sweets, oranges, and toys for the toddlers. The shining eyes of a tiny tot trundling a minute red wagon, would bring Christmas into the heart of every donor.

To mention by name all of those who have contributed towards the work of the "Help Centre," as it is frequently called, is impossible here, but to each and every one we would express our deep appreciation. And, according to Bantu custom, would add, "And don't be weary of well-doing to-morrow!"

RUTH C. COWLES.



DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING 1944.

ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS presented purses			
at the Opening of the New Buildings, as follows:—			
Campaign Committee	... ..	£56	2 1
Daughters of Africa	... ..	10	11 10
School Children	... ..	7	5 9
Holy Cross Mission	... ..	5	0 0
Rev. Sechaba (African Methodist Epis. Church)	... ..	1	0 0
Rev. Tshabalala (Methodist Church of S.A.)	... ..	0	10 0
Rev. Milaha	... ..	0	10 0
Special Offerings at the Dedication Service	... ..	£80	19 8
		8	5 10
Anonymous	... ..	33	16 9
Adler, Mr. N. (Per City Organist, 1944 Music Festival)	... ..	0	10 0
Alden, Dr.	... ..	1	0 0
Anglo-Transvaal Cons. Investment Co. Ltd. (Annual)	... ..	100	0 0
Aronsohn, Wm. (Annual)	... ..	100	0 0
Brebner, Prof. I. W.	... ..	29	5 0
Baba, A. E.	... ..	0	15 0
Fergusson, J.	... ..	5	0 0
Fouche, Prof.	... ..	5	5 0
Friel, B. H. (Annual)	... ..	10	10 0
Gray, Mrs. M. N.	... ..	1	0 0
Greathead, Mr. & Mrs. J. M.	... ..	1	1 0
Greenberg, Mr. Justice L.	... ..	10	0 0

Hartshorn, Mrs. E. P.	5	0	6
Havenga, Mrs. A. (Per Prof. I. W. Brebner)	6	6	0
Hodson, Mrs. D. C.	2	2	0
Jagger & Co., Ltd., J. W.	2	2	0
Jeppe High School for Girls (in lieu of prizes to B. Gooch, Beryl and Zillah Schwartzman)	4	0	0
Johnson, C. J. and H. N.	100	0	0
Kinghorn, Mrs. W. M.	2	0	0
Le May, Prof. H.	5	0	0
Lewis, Stakesby	1	0	0
Lowick, Mrs.	5	0	0
Mackenzie, Mr.	0	10	0
McNeill, Mrs. M. A.	1	0	0
Millar, Mrs. G.	1	0	0
Moore, Dr.	6	0	0
Murray, Mrs. J.	5	0	0
Osborn, Mrs. T. W. B.	1	0	0
Old Apostolic Church of Africa (Per Grand Cinema Invs. Ltd.)	5	5	0
Patel, Mrs.	0	2	6
Phillips, H. L.	5	0	0
Pioneer Tool & Hardware Co. (Per Rand Daily Mail)	5	5	0
Raikes, H. R.	1	0	0
Reid, Mrs. H. A.	10	0	0
Rosenberg, E., F., C. & L. (Annual)	100	0	0
Rand Provident Building Society (Annual)	10	10	0
Rosenthal, E. (Per Mrs. N. E. Coaker)	3	3	0
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Women's Association	2	2	0
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Women's Association Junior Branch	3	0	0
Schreiner, Mr. Justice O. D. (Annual)	26	5	0
S.A. Commercial Travellers' Association	5	0	0
S.A. Liberal Insurance Co. (Per Prof. I. W. Brebner)	3	3	0
S.A. Reserve Bank (Annual)	10	10	0
Suzman Ltd., L.	25	0	0
Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Howard	10	0	0
Ussher Inventions Ltd.	5	0	0
Wium & Immelman (Annual)	2	2	0

University of Witwatersrand, Students:—

In addition to the amount of £4,500 contributed by the Students' Rag Committee—shown separately in the Accounts, the following donations have been received:

Students' Medical Council—proceeds "The Little Minister"	146	6	11
Commerce Students' Society	21	0	0
Students working at the Clinic in Feb. £1, and May £1	2	0	0

Proceeds of a competition for a Diamond Ring (presented by the Students' Rag Committee in 1943)—organised by Mrs. W. Aronsohn

36 10 0

£972 13 2

The figure for the Street Collection in Alexandra during Health Week was made up as follows:—

Cash in boxes	£42	16	9
Holy Cross Mission	10	10	0
Mr. Matchubele (on behalf of himself, the Swiss Church and Mission)	1	0	0
	£54	6	9

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE AND

BALANCE SHEET AT

1943.			
Accumulated Funds—			
As at 31st December, 1943	£4,454	3	6
Add—Surplus for year ended 31st December, 1944		38	19 3
Bequests—			
W. Mountstephen	2,000	0	0
M. A. Ellwood	50	0	0
	£2,088	19	3
	£6,543	2	9
Less—Loss on Sale of Lots 115, 116, 117, Alexandra Township		297	8 4
	£6,245	14	5
Special Donations towards the Building Fund—			
As at 31st December, 1943	19,455	16	8
Add—Grant received during the year from the Union Government (Departments of Education and Public Health)		4,000	0 0
£23,910	23,455	16	8
	£29,701	11	1
University of the Witwatersrand Students' Rag Committee. Preventive Section Establishment Fund—			
Building Fund		3,000	0 0
Maintenance Fund	1,000	0	0
Less—Expended during November and December, 1944		165	16 10
	834	3	2
	3,834	3	2
294 Sundry Creditors			277 13 8
£24,204	£33,813	7	11

To the Members, **Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic.**

We have to report that we have audited the Balance Sheet of the Alexandra of the Clinic, and we have satisfied ourselves as to the existence of the securities and explanations we have required and in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly affairs at 31st December, 1944, according to the best of our information and the

Johannesburg,

13th March, 1945.

UNIVERSITY CLINIC, JOHANNESBURG.

31st DECEMBER, 1944.

1943.			
Land and Buildings—			
Stands 189, 190, 191 and 192, Wynberg, with Buildings thereon (at cost).			
	As at 31st December, 1943	£19,856	17 2
£22,294	Add—Expenditure during year	4,061	16 6
		£23,918	13 8
Furniture and Fittings—			
	As at 31st December, 1943	370	0 0
	Additions during year	164	14 5
		534	14 5
370	Less—Depreciation	84	14 5
		450	0 0
Motor Car—			
	As at 31st December, 1943	300	0 0
300	Less—Depreciation	100	0 0
		200	0 0
Medical Equipment—			
	At Cost	394	19 7
	Less—Depreciation	19	19 7
		375	0 0
298	Sundry Debtors		365 6 5
Cash—			
	At Bankers, on hand and on Deposit with Post Office Savings Bank		8,504 7 10
942			
£24,204		£33,813	7 11

Health Centre and University Clinic above set forth, with the books and vouchers owned by the Clinic at 31st December, 1944. We have obtained all the information drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Clinic's explanations given to us, and as shown by the books.

VAUGHAN, KEY & PAYNE, Honorary Auditors,
Chartered Accountants (S.A.).

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

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