

1962

MS
J/W/B4/

7 Howie Rd,
Kimberley.

The Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

Dear Madam,

National Council for Mental Health - Kimberley,
October, 1962.

I ~~attended~~ attended all sessions of the Council meetings as an observer for the Institute of Race Relations, with the exception of the last, short one on Friday afternoon, when I think the only remaining business was the election of the new National Executive. However I was by no means the ideal observer as my Afrikaans is almost non-existent and a good deal of the Council's deliberations were conducted in this medium. For this reason my notes are a bit haphazard but I understand that there will be a full transcript of the proceedings. I have asked for a copy and will let you have it in due course. In the meantime, please find enclosed a copy of the annual report together with copies of the Council's social activities from the local press.

After the welcome to delegates, roll call etc, Prof. Lamont the Commissioner for Mental Health made a statement on the present state of accommodation in State mental hospitals, to the effect that the normal intake of patients was about 6,000 per year of which 75% were discharged back, improved in varying degrees. At the moment 23,000 persons are committed to mental institutions, and this number is increasing annually. Of this number, about half are European and half are non-European, but changes in forms of treatment are becoming necessary both because of medical advances and because the types of mental disorder are changing. Neurotics are increasing at an alarming rate and nearly all of these are European. There are many fewer long-term working patients than there used to be - the percentages are now 1.8 per thousand as against three per thousand ten years ago and it is in fact now very difficult to get together a team of working patients when one is needed. He felt very strongly that psychiatric medicine must be more closely incorporated with general medicine and that psychiatric wards must be available in general hospitals. This was not only better medical practice but would benefit the nursing staffs who found long-term, incurable cases difficult and boring. Also, out of all cases requiring mental treatment, 20% of Bantu and 25% European also required physical treatment. The position at the moment was that there are enough beds available for white mental and high-grade mentally defective patients: a slight shortage for low-grade M.D whites. In fact his Division actually had spare beds which they ~~xxx~~ had been prepared to offer to the general hospital service for long-term patients, but that the stigma attached to mental illness is still so strong amongst laymen that this offer had not been acceptable.

On the other hand the Black position was disastrous. There are 500 - 600 mental patients in police cells each month awaiting admission to mental hospitals, because there is nowhere else to put them. Coloureds will be dealt with by new accommodation which has been made available in the Western Province and there will soon be 700 beds available in the Transvaal. (In Bantu Areas). (This is what my notes say but the 700 must surely refer to Bantu not coloureds.) Since the last Council session outpatient services have been available but for them to be effective you must have specialist psychiatrists working in general hospital out-patients departments because of the stigma attached to mental institutions. There is at present an experiment of fusion of the two types of treatment going on in Pretoria. The psychiatrists work in all wards of the general hospital (including maternity etc) and at Weskoppies there is a full time pediatrician. There is also a movement afoot to do away with the old cumbersome machinery of certification of patients and to replace it by temporary committal orders: in the more progressive places this is working well.

Dr Scott Millar of Johannesburg, replying, said that he agreed that there had been much progress but that there was still a big field for voluntary organisations and that Annexure A to the agenda was a request to the Minister for more aid for these organisations.

Dr Maule Clark then said that he had particular sympathy with the forming of centres for the training of mentally retarded children such as the Jannie Brink Centre opened in Kimberley the day before: that these centres were useful for the children and good for the parents as well in that they ensured that the children's parents retained some degree of attachment to, and control over, them. They should get more support from the Government and that he would do his best to see that this help was forthcoming.

The delegate from Post Elizabeth said that they had been offered the money to build a centre for 50 mentally retarded coloured children and would very much like to accept but would there be subsidies to run it? The President offered to find out the position. It also appeared from discussion that there are no special schools for coloured children and that no department seems responsible for this amenity - the position must be defined.

Dr Cheetham from Durban asked how about Indians? There are only two small mental wards for the Indian community in the whole of Natal. He quoted a case in which an Indian had to wait three weeks before he could see the District surgeon in order to be certified.

The Commissioner said that the all-over position regarding non-white accommodation was bad but that separate facilities in Maritzburg would be made for Indians. But there was a desperate shortage. Durban wanted the certification procedure simplified with better liaison between the hospital staffs and Dist. surgeons. Dr Clark replied that he could go into it.

Newsletter.

The Administration of the newsletter has been taken over by the Printer who will make suggestions about a new format, title, etc, as well as suggestions for increasing the circulation. Discussion. Not very productive.

Unqualified Psychologists. Dr Murray stated that there was urgent need for some control over persons who were unqualified psychologists and quacks of various kinds, particularly where the protection of children was concerned as some of these persons were giving fake I.Q tests and vocational guidance tests and in many cases giving the most appalling advice. He requested a delegation to the Minister of Health asking for an Enquiry into these practitioners but agreed to wait until the outcome of the present enquiry into chiropractors was known, and in the meantime would prepare for action by getting the aid of the Medical Association, the Psychological Associations and similar interested bodies. Legislation was required for the registration of all practitioners and the present Act should be amended.

Psychiatric wards in General Hospitals.

A deputation has met the Natal Provincial Administration and the Director of Hospital Services has been approached on this issue. A beginning has been made, as Napier Ward in Durban has been opened and thanks are due to the Minister for this. Attempts are also being made to increase specialist psychiatrist staff at Addington hospital too, but integration must be increased between psychiatric and general medicine, in conformity with increasing overseas trends. Psychiatric wards have already been established in general hospitals in Johannesburg and Durban and part of the Council's job must be to encourage the trend.

Hospitalisation and Treatment facilities for Psychotic children.

Dr Grover said that the incidence of this condition is small but that facilities for treatment are necessary. Various M.H.Societies and other organisations had been asked for figures of psychotic children ~~xxx~~ they have dealt with over the past three years but their figures cannot be treated as a reliable guide as diagnosis is often wrong particularly with young children and the condition is too often confused with mental deficiency. She hopes to make a special study of psychotic children in the Cape - in the meantime asks for support from all bodies concerned and will report back at a later date.

National Division for mentally handicapped children.

Work has been started. See 5K. Page 12

Early Diagnosis of mentally handicapped children.

A special sub-committee will be appointed to find out whose responsibility (governmentally) these children are - the position at the moment is not clear.

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The position is very unsatisfactory but as most of this discussion was in Afrikaans I am unable to write more. I have specially asked the Director of the Council to let you have his typists notes on this.

Payment of salary subsidies to staff of Johannesburg Child Guidance Clinic.

The difficulty is that the Clinic is the one body participating in subsidies which is not a mental health society and therefore creates a precedent (which has already arisen) of other outside bodies asking for subsidies which the Council cannot afford. However the Council felt that the Clinic should certainly not be ditched at this stage in view of its valuable work and all other cases would have to be considered on their merits. No further subsidies are available from the Department of Soc. Welfare and Pensions to subsidise workers in Child Guidance Clinics, so representations should be made in that quarter stating that these clinics are not at present incorporated in the Council's work but that it is necessary that they should be, otherwise the work cannot continue, and maybe subsidies will be made available.

There was a long discussion about subsidies to clerical staff as the social workers were in many cases having to spend most of their time on clerical work. No decision.

The representative of the Nursing Association stated that there were now short courses available (three weeks) for trained nurses and Health visitors, with the aim of giving them some insight into mental nursing and rendering them more able to cope with mental cases in their work. Many members of Council felt that this course was too short to be of value but Dr - 's reply was that in any case the syllabus for both nursing and Health visitors had been extended to include more psychology so that the people taking the short course would not be starting absolutely from scratch and that three weeks, though short, would be of help and would be of particular value for health visitors in the aftercare of discharged mental patients.

The delegate from Port Elizabeth wanted a conference of head teachers of special schools, so that experience and knowledge could be pooled. Council felt that there was insufficient money available for this but suggested that principals within easy reach of each other could certainly try to get together in the meantime and bring their findings to next Council meeting when it might be possible to arrange something better.

You will note that I have not been saying that any resolutions so far were agreed by Council. This is because there never seemed to be any vote-taking or asking for agreement - presumably somebody knows whether there was agreement or not and it will appear in the minutes. (Or else I missed it through language lack.)

However here are a few on which there was a definite statement.

- 9(a) (1) Not agreed.
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- (3) Referred to executive committee.

(b)(1) Agreed.

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I hope some of this will be of help.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Owens.

7, Howie Road,
KIMBERLEY.

The Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

Dear Madam,

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH -

KIMBERLEY, OCTOBER, 1962.

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I hope some of this will be of help.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. Mary Owens.

A/8/34/1

12th October, 1962.

Mrs. A.B. Owens,
7 Howie Road,
KIMBERLEY,
Cape.

Dear Mrs. Owens,

The Director asked me to thank you very much for your report on the meeting of the South African National Council for Mental Health, and for the press cuttings and annual report. We shall look forward to receiving the minutes.

We are grateful to you for spending so much time and trouble on our behalf. The General Purposes Committee will hear the report at its next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

17/8/34/1

25th October, 1962.

Mrs. A.B. Owens,
7 Howie Road,
KIMBERLEY,
Cape.

Dear Mrs. Owens,

The General Purposes Committee was most interested in your report on the annual meeting of the South African National Council for Mental Health and asked that its thanks be sent to you.

The Committee was concerned at the figures given and has asked our Editor to give publicity in Race Relations News to the desperate situation of the Non-White mental patient.

With our grateful thanks,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

D/W/34/1

31st January, 1963.

Mrs. C. Rheinallt Jones,
17 Natal Bank Chambers,
90 Market Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Rheinallt Jones,

I enclose the Minutes of the last meeting
of the Council for Mental Health and the Annual Report.
So sorry it has been delayed and you have been very
patient.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

26 FEB 1963

JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

CHAIRMAN: MR. H. C. LEITH.
 VICE-CHAIRMAN: DR. H. O. SIMON.
 HON. TREASURER: MR. A. MILLER.
 HON. SECRETARY: MRS. C. RHEINALLT JONES.

Handwritten: MB/34/1

17 NATAL BANK CHAMBERS
 90 MARKET STREET
 JOHANNESBURG

P.O. Box 6182
 TELEPHONE 33-0438
 (MORNINGS ONLY)

19th February 1963

Mrs Scott,
 Administrative Secretary,
 S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
 P.O. Box 97,
 JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs Scott,

Thank you very much for sending me Mrs Owen's report which I read with great interest.

There does not seem to have been much progress made since the last meeting.

Many thanks, I am returning it herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature: C. Rheinallt Jones

C. RHEINALLT JONES
 HON. SECRETARY.

Handwritten flourish

14 SEP 1962

JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

MS
AB/34/1

CHAIRMAN: MR. H. C. LEITH.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: DR. H. O. SIMON.
HON. TREASURER: MR. A. MILLER.
HON. SECRETARY: MRS. C. RHEINALLT JONES.

17 NATAL BANK CHAMBERS
90 MARKET STREET
JOHANNESBURG

P.O. Box 6182
TELEPHONE 33-0438
(MORNINGS ONLY)

13th September 1962

The Administrative Assistant,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

Dear Mrs. Scott,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th instant in connection with the Mental Health Conference.

I am very amused that you feel that you will economise by appointing a local person to attend, as for many years now I have never charged the Institute anything for attending the Conferences, and have always submitted a long and detailed report - until you told me that it was not necessary.

You must realise from the above that I am extremely interested in the work, and I feel very hurt that I should have been completely ignored this year. I am most anxious to go. I would like to know, therefore, on what dates the meeting is taking place, and whom you have chosen to represent you amongst your Kimberley members.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Rheinallt Jones

Clare Rheinallt Jones.

[Handwritten flourish]

11/5/62

12th September 1962.

Mrs. C. Rheinallt Jones,
17 Natal Bank Chambers,
90 Market Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Rheinallt Jones,

The Director has asked me to tell you that in view of the urgent need to economise we have appointed someone in Kimberley to represent us at the forthcoming meeting of the Mental Health Society. If however you were to attend we should be happy to have you represent us as well.

Yours sincerely,

(MRS.) M. SCOTT,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

30th August, 1962.

The Organising Secretary,
S.A. National Council for
Mental Health,
P.O. Box 2587,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I enclose the form duly completed for
the Annual General Meeting of your organisation
and send our apologies for the delay in returning
it.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

30th August, 1962.

Mrs. A.B. Owens,
7, Howie Road,
West End,
KIMBERLEY.
Cape.

Dear Mrs. Owens,

We are so pleased you will be able to represent the Institute at the annual conference of the S.A. Council for Mental Health. The agenda will be sent to you in due course. You will be able to decide from that which sessions to attend if you cannot manage all.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

MS.

27 AUG 1962

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

HEAD OFFICE: AUDEN HOUSE, 68 DE KORTE STREET, JOHANNESBURG
REGIONAL OFFICES IN CAPE TOWN, DURBAN AND PORT ELIZABETH

PRESIDENT: THE HON. O. D. SCHREINER
DIRECTOR: QUINTIN WHYTE
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 97, JOHANNESBURG
TELEGRAMS: UBUNTU
TELEPHONE: 835-1781

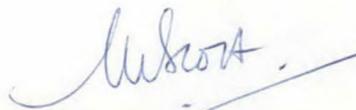
15th August, 1962,

Mrs. A.B. Owens,
7, Howie Road,
West End,
KIMBERLEY.

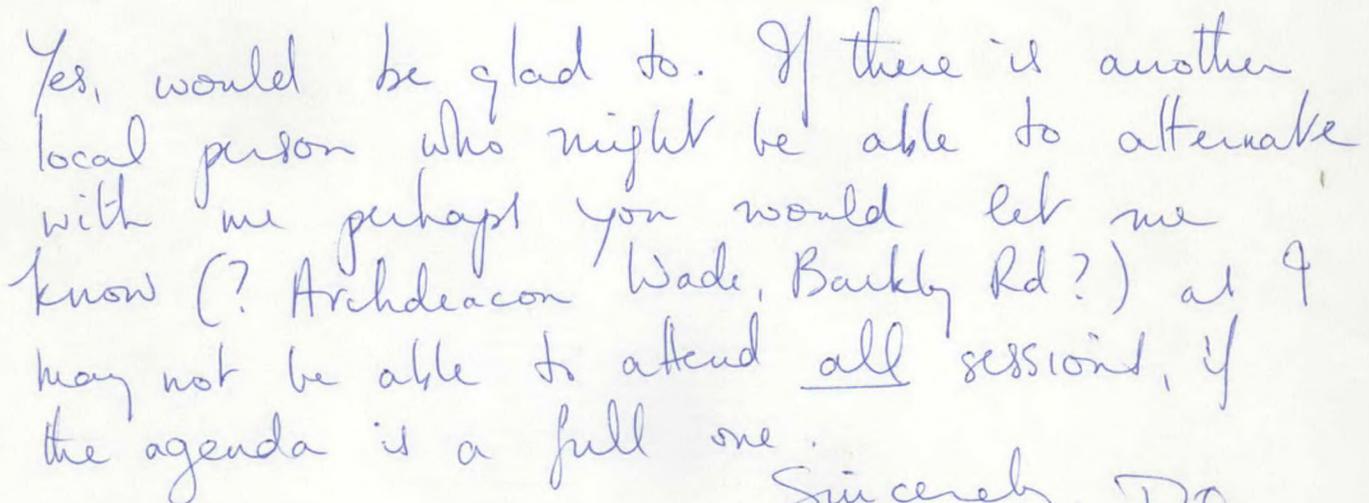
Dear Mrs. Owens,

The S.A. Council for Mental Health is holding its annual conference at Kimberley from October 3 - 5. We should be very grateful if you could represent the Institute at the conference and send us a brief report afterwards for our information.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.



Yes, would be glad to. If there is another local person who might be able to alternate with me perhaps you would let me know (? Archdeacon Wade, Barkby Rd?) as I may not be able to attend all sessions, if the agenda is a full one.

Sincerely, T.O.

15th August, 1962,

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7, Howie Road,
West End,
KIMBERLEY.

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Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

R. C. ELLIOTT

TELEPHONE 6871
(AFTER OFFICE HOURS 8462)

TELEGRAMS: "LEXICON."

P.O. BOX 179

13 AUG 1962
*S.A. Mutual Buildings,
Market Square,
Kimberley,*

SOUTH AFRICA.

RCE/GB

10th August, 1962.

The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am under the impression that I received from you sometime ago a letter requesting me to represent you at the Conference of Mental Health to be held in Kimberley from October 3rd to 5th. Unfortunately this letter has been mislaid.

If you did make such a request, it would be much appreciated if you could appoint someone in my stead. Just at that time I shall be extremely busy and will in any case have to leave for Natal on October 5th.

If at any ^{other} time I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Mr. Owens
Yours faithfully,



5th July, 1962.

Mr. R.C. Elliot,
P.O. Box 179,
KIMBERLEY,
Cape.

Dear Mr. Elliott,

The S.A. National Council for Mental Health will hold its Annual General Meeting in Kimberley on 4 and 5 October this year. We should be so grateful if you could attend some part of the Meeting on our behalf and send us a report.

We shall send the agenda as soon as it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte
DIRECTOR

Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Raad
South African National Council

vir/for

Geestesgesondheid—Mental Health

(W.O. 72)

OUR REFERENCE
ONS VERWYSINGSNO. _____

EMPIREGEBOU 609-11,
609-11, EMPIRE BUILDINGS,
KRUISSTRAAT,
KRUIS STREET,
JOHANNESBURG, Tvl.

9/a

15th June, 1962.

Re: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of this Council will be held in Kimberley on THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 4th and 5th OCTOBER, 1962.

You are cordially invited to be represented at the Annual General Meeting.

Your Organisation/Department may be represented by 1 delegate and is entitled to one vote.

Kindly inform this office at your early convenience, on the attached form, who your representative will be at this year's Meeting.

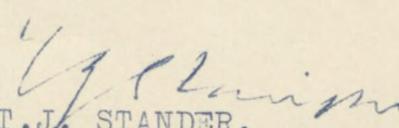
The formal opening of the Meeting takes place on Wednesday evening, 3rd October, 1962, at 8.0 p.m. Your representative is cordially invited to be present at this function. It is hoped that the Hon. the Minister of Health, Dr. A. Hertzog, will deliver the formal opening address.

The Conference papers and further particulars will be forwarded to you during August.

A list of hotels and tariffs will be sent directly to your delegate.

Receipt of the name and address of your representative ON OR BEFORE 31ST JULY, 1962, will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,


T.J. STANDER.
ORGANISING SECRETARY.

Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Raad
South African National Council

vir/for

Geestesgesondheid — Mental Health

(W.O. 72)

ONS VERWYSINGSNO. _____
OUR REFERENCE

EMPIREGBOU 609-11,
609-11, EMPIRE BUILDINGS,
KRUISSTRAAT,
KRUIS STREET,
JOHANNESBURG, Tvl.

9/a

15 Junie 1962.

i/s: ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING.

Die Algemene Jaarvergadering van hierdie Raad sal gehou word te Kimberley op DONDERDAG en VRYDAG, 4 en 5 OKTOBER 1962.

U word vriendelik uitgenooi om op die Jaarvergadering verteenwoordig te wees.

U Organisasie/Departement is geregtig op 1 verteenwoordiger en 1 stem.

Geliewe hierdie kantoor so spoedig moontlik in kennis te stel, op die aangehegte vorm, wie u afgevaardigde na vanjaar se vergadering sal wees.

Die formele opening van die Vergadering vind op Woensdag-aand, 3 Oktober 1962, om 8.0 nm. plaas. U verteenwoordiger word ook vriendelik na hierdie funksie uitgenooi. Daar word vertrou dat Sy Edele, die Minister van Gesondheid, Dr. A. Hertzog, die formele opening sal waarneem.

Die Kongresstukke en verdere besonderhede sal gedurende Augustus aan u gestuur word.

n Lys van hotelle en losiestariewe sal direk aan u afgevaardigde gestuur word.

Ontvangs van die naam en adres van u verteenwoordiger OP OF VOOR 31 JULIE 1962 sal waardeer word.

Die uwe,


T.J. STANDER.
ORGANISERENDE SEKRETARIS.

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