

not act.

THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

An Association of Churches and Missionary Societies of South Africa
for the Extension of the Kingdom of God.

✕

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"SENDING PRETORIA".

152, Nicolson St.,
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PRETORIA.
7th March, 1939.

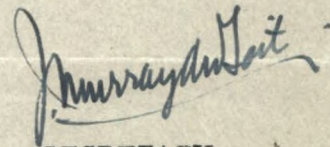
The Convener, Sectional Committee on Medical Work,
Senator, the Hon. Rh. Jones,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Much correspondence has been received regarding the World Conference of Workers for Cripples. Probably you know much about this already, but my Executive has instructed me to refer the discussion of South African participation in this Conference to your Committee. I shall be glad to know, therefore, whether you wish me to send you any of the correspondence.

The Conference is being called for July of this year. Our communications have been received from the Organising Secretary, 34, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Sincerely yours,


SECRETARY.

JMT/NT/S94

Provincial Council,

PRETORIA.

May 31st, 1939.

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I regret not replying to your letter of April 20th sooner, but at the time I had not the information and recently I have been laid up.

Executive Committee did decide last year to make the grants to Mission Hospitals on a patient day basis, but later the question of responsibility as between the Union and the Provinces was taken up, and it was then decided to make no change for the present, either in the basis or the amount of the grants. That is still the position. I was particularly keen to help Jane Furse, but was not able to do anything on the new estimates. I went up to open the new wards and I will take any opportunities that offer to assist them.

Elim is to get £500 more this year, they do a good deal of European work.

Personally I think we could easily, say, double our grants to all these Mission hospitals that are doing good work and not feel it.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) B. Goodman

MM.

August 22nd, 1939.

Dr. P.M. Shepherd,
Scottish Livingstone Hospital,
MOLEPOLOLE,
Via Gaborones, *
Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Dear Sir,

In the absence of Senator Rheinallt Jones, I have to acknowledge and thank you for your letter which will be brought to his attention on his return to Johannesburg in about two weeks time.

Yours faithfully,

NMSD.

September 21st, 1939.

The Reverend Father P.L. Meyer,
P.O. Box 114,
ALIWAL NORTH,
Cape.

Dear Father Meyer,

UMLAMLI HOSPITAL

I have ^{had} long arguments with the section of the Head Office of the Native Affairs Department which is concerned with the new regulation which demands that a board of control be established for every hospital which receives grants from the Department, and I have finished up with an argument with the Secretary for Native Affairs. Unfortunately I have not been able to persuade them that your Advisory Board gives them all they require. They say all other Missions are complying, although some are asking for time to communicate with their home societies.

It seems to me that if the Bishop turns his Advisory Board into a board of control on which he has the majority vote there will be no difficulty. The Secretary for Native Affairs says that he wants the departmental representation to have a voice in the control of the hospital. I tried to explain that he has that now. I must confess that I think the Department is unreasonable over a mere quibble. I emphasised that, after all, His Lordship has the burden of financial responsibility and that it would be most impossible if the finances of the hospital were controlled by the people, who had no financial responsibility at all. None of my arguments made any impression on the Secretary

for Native Affairs and I told him that I thought he was unreasonable.

If his Lordship can adopt my suggestion and form a Board of Control on which his own nominations have the majority vote then the matter is settled. If not the Department might be asked to allow the grant to go through at the present time and give His Lordship an opportunity of going into the matter more fully.

~~A very important opportunity is invaluable since~~ It is clear that the Department's attitude comes very close to state control and I myself would like to have an opportunity of discussing the situation with my Parliamentary colleagues.

I am sorry not to have been able to secure a better result.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/MM

P. O. Box 114,
ALIWAL NORTH,
7th September, 1939.

Senator the Rt. Hon. J.D.Rheinallt Jones,
The Senate,
CAPE TOWN.

Grants for Umlamli Hospital from the
Department of Native Affairs.

Dear Mr. Rheinallt Jones,

His Lordship Bishop Demont has asked me to write and request you kindly to come to our assistance as, owing to new demands on the part of the Native Affairs Department, the very existence of the Umlamli Hospital, in the Herschel District, is at stake. I am enclosing a copy of correspondence that has passed between the Native Commissioner, Sterkspruit, and myself on the matter, and His Lordship would very much appreciate it if you would kindly see the new Minister for Native Affairs.

The position is briefly as follows:-

The Native Affairs Department, through the Native Commissioner, Sterkspruit, has advised us that "grants from South African Native Trust Funds to hospitals will henceforth be contingent upon a Board of Control and Management being in existence for the proper control and management of the hospital on which Board the Department has a representative. Furthermore, such hospitals shall be liable to inspection at any time, by an officer of this Department or the Department of Public Health....." "These conditions will also apply to hospitals who receive grants from the 'Deferred Pay Board'."

About two years ago we asked the Department for assistance to increase the water supply for the Hospital by bringing down water from the mountain, as during several droughts we had to carry water by scotch-cart or lorry for several miles as the supply at the Hospital had been completely exhausted. The Department evidently intends to carry on with the plan (several boreholes had been put down at considerable cost, around £1,000 but without success), but demands that the above conditions be first accepted.

The following grants are received:-

Towards the Training Centre for Native Nurses,	325
Towards the Doctor's Petrol for visiting the District five times a week (Ciskei Bunga)	£380.
N.R.C. Voluntary Deferred Pay Fund,	100.
	<u>75.</u>

Hitherto, the Hospital has always been open to inspection by either the Native Affairs Department or the Public Health Department, the Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement have always been submitted to the Native Affairs Department through the Native Commissioner, Sterkspruit, Herschel District, and we have an Advisory Board consisting of the Bishop, the Manager as Chairman, The Native Commissioner, one Member of the Local Bunga, and myself as Secretary. Last year there was a deficit of £2747.15.5d, which the Bishop had to make good. Up to date the Hospital has entered four Native Nurses for the Prelim. Nurses Examination of the S.A. Medical Council, all of whom have passed with Honours, as well as four Europeans, all of whom passed, and two with Honours.

His Lordship considers that the Department of Native Affairs ~~is~~ has sufficient control under the present

system to satisfy itself that the money granted by the Department is well spent, and as its contribution to the Hospital, including the grant towards the Training Centre for Native Nurses, is so small in comparison with the private money given by the Church, His Lordship cannot see the justice of the new demands of the Department.

Other Departments subsidise private institutes, e.g. the Union Education Department subsidizes the St. Joseph's Trades School for Coloureds, Aliwal North, and all they demand is the right of inspection. We have received two inspections by Mr. H.S. le Roux, Inspector of Vocational Training, the last only two or three weeks ago, and he expressed himself delighted with the workshops and the training the boys receive. The subsidy of the Union Department of Education is far bigger than that of the Native Affairs Department, but they demand the right of inspection only. Why should the Native Affairs Department, who are allowed greater rights, still make further demands?

In about 1934 we wanted to have the Umlamli Hospital recognised as a Public Hospital for the purpose of receiving assistance from the Provincial Council. The P.C. asked for a petition signed by 25 (I think) registered voters. This was obtained. Then the establishment of a Board of Management and Control, and as there is no local authority in Herschel District, the Native Affairs Department must guarantee from two-fifths to a half of the annual deficit. Mr. Brink was then Magistrate, and he, as well as several other Magistrates, told us that the Department would not give the guarantee. Local efforts could not raise more than perhaps £50 per annum (the Show Ball, Sterkspruit, produced £2, a Police Ball at Palmietfontein about £3), and no one, other than the Catholic Church, was prepared to guarantee the deficit. So the prospect of Provincial Assistance fell through. The ~~Ex~~ various Magistrates of Herschel have said again and again that any other Board than the Advisory Board for the Hospital is impossible.

I do not like to say it, but I can assure you that if the Native Affairs Department persists in its unjust demands, His Lordship will close the Training Centre to Natives, as His Lordship has had sad experiences with Boards of Management and Control for such institutes.

Perhaps you would like to consult Senator Malcomess, the Native Representative in the Senate for Herschel, and then both of you might call on the Minister.

His Lordship asks me to convey his kindest regards to you, and prays for your success in this as in your other undertakings. Thank you very much for anything you are able to do this matter, and with all best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

Father P. Leger.
Secretary,
Umlamli Hospital.

No. 3/15/1
OFFICE OF THE MAGISTRATE,
STERKSPRUIT,
26th June, 1939.

The Secretary,
P. O. Box 114,
Umlamli Hospital,
ALIWAL NORTH.

Umlamli Hospital: Grants.

Sir,

It has been notified by the Secretary for Native Affairs for general information that grants from South African Native Trust Funds to hospitals will henceforth be contingent upon a Board of Control being in existence for the proper control and management of the hospital on which Board the Department has a representative. Furthermore, such hospitals shall be liable to inspection at any time, by an officer of this Department or the Department of Public Health.

In the circumstances, therefore, before any grant is made in future it will be necessary that applications be accompanied by a certificate given by the Native Commissioner to the effect that a properly constituted Board of Control is in existence and that the Department is represented thereon. It should also be stated that the Board is aware of the condition regarding periodical inspections as stated above.

These conditions will also apply to hospitals who receive grants from the "Deferred Pay Board".

So far as I am aware there is no Board of Control in existence for the control and management of the Umlamli Hospital, and the management would appear to be vested solely in His Lordship the Bishop of Aliwal.

Will you kindly inform me in due course of the attitude of the present management in regard to qualifying for the grants mentioned herein.

I am Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. - Wilkens,
Native Commissioner.

No.15/1/5/22/B.
Office of the Native Commissioner,
Sterkspruit,
14th August, 1939.

The Secretary, Umlamli Hospital,
P. O. Box 114, ALIWAL NORTH.

Sir, Umlamli Hospital: Grants to Hospitals etc 1940/41.

I am forwarding, herewith, four forms N.A.248 "Applications for Hospital Grant Etc." for completion in respect of the abovementioned hospital. These are required for the S.A.N.Trust Estimates for the 1940/41 financial year.

As previously indicated, grants from Trust funds are contingent (same as above letter).

These conditions apply to all grants provided on the Trust estimates for the current financial year which have not yet been paid.

It is trusted therefore that such a Board of Control will be constituted at an early date.

.....

Sgd. - Wilkens,
Native Commissioner, Sterkspruit,
Herschel District.

P. O. Box 114,
ALIWAL NORTH,
22nd August, 1939.

The Native Commissioner,
STERKSPRUIT.

Umlamli Hospital: Grants.

Dear Sir,

As requested in your letter No.15/1/5/22/B of the 14th instant, I have to return herewith Form N.A.248 duly completed and the duplicates signed and dated. I thank you for having them completed in your office.

As regards the Board for the Umlamli Hospital, His Lordship wishes to point out that from the very beginning a Hospital Board was constituted for the Umlamli Hospital, consisting of His Lordship, as Manager, the Chairman, the Secretary (then Father Maennersdoerfer), the Magistrate (Mr. Key, and later Mr. Brink, kindly consented to be a member) representing the Native Affairs Department, and one of the District Councillors. In the time of Mr. Brink, there was a resolution of the District Council (1934) accepting membership on the Board and appointing Councillor Sikiti to represent the D.D.. This Board is still in existence, but I have taken the place of Father Maennersdoerfer. His Lordship considers that this Board suits the purpose of the Native Affairs Department, as it gives the Department a definite control on the spending of the grants voted by the Department. You will remember that the attempt to form a Board as required by the Provincial Administration failed miserably a few years ago, because from the outset there was no person or body willing to guarantee the deficit, and as there is no local authority for the Herschel District, the Native Affairs Department must guarantee, I believe, two-fifths to a half of the annual deficit. Successive Magistrates of Herschel have told His Lordship that the Department would not consider such an unlimited responsibility. Again, as you know, local efforts to raise funds would be abortive, as witness the fact that a few years ago the Show Ball barely covered its own expenses.

His Lordship wishes to point out, as he has recently done to the Public Health Department, that officers of either the Health or the Native Affairs Department are always welcome on a visit of inspection, and furthermore that any statistics of the Hospital will gladly be given.

I have great pleasure in advising you for the information of the Department that the Native Candidate entered in April and the two Native Candidates entered in July for the S.A. Medical Council Preliminary Nurses' Examination all passed with honours. The resident Mission Doctor, Dr. Ditton, and the Staff are to be congratulated on the fact that all Native Candidates from the Umlamli Hospital have, to date, passed with honours.

Will you be so good as to recommend a grant of £75 for the Umlamli Hospital from the Voluntary Deferred Pay Interest Fund as has been granted annually,

Thanking you for all you are able to do for the Umlamli Hospital,

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. P.L.Meyer,
Secretary,
Umlamli Hospital.

No.15/1/5/22/B.

Office of the Magistrate & Native Commissioner,
Sterkspruit. 28th August, 1939.

The Secretary,
Umlamli Hospital,
P.O.Box 114, ALIWAL NORTH.

Sir, Umlamli Hospital: Grants 1940/1941.

With reference to your letter of the 22nd instant on the above subject, I have the honour to state that the Board referred to by you was formed in 1934 by His Lordship to secure freedom from custom duties in respect of building materials and equipment, and Mr. Brink, who was Magistrate of this district at the time, was asked to serve on that Board. Mr. Brink made it clear in his letter No.15/1/5/22 of the 17th August, 1934, that his acceptance of the invitation to serve on that Board was conditional on the Board being a purely nominal one and not charged with the management or control of the hospital in any way. In his reply of the 20th idem His Lordship stated "inter alia", - "As to the functions of the Board, they would not imply any responsibility for the financial liability or responsibility, but these functions would be advisory ones."

The Board in question is therefore not a Board of Control for the proper control and management of the hospital, the existence of which would entitle the hospital to grants from the S.A. Native Trust funds, vide my letter No.3/15/1 of the 26th June, last.

Under the circumstances, I have had to inform the Department that I am unable to furnish the necessary certificate.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. R.E. Gold,
Ag. Magistrate & Native Commissioner.

P. O. Box 114,
ALIWAL NORTH,
30th August, 1939.

The Magistrate & Native Commissioner,
STERKSPRUIT.

Sir, Umlamli Hospital: Grants 1940/1941.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.15/1/5/22/B of the 28th instant.

Your quotations from Mr. Brink's letter of the 17th August, 1934, and His Lordship's reply of the 20th idem, bears out what I said in my letter of a week ago, that when we tried to form a Board for the Hospital that would secure the usual grants to Public Hospitals from the Provincial Council, the attempt failed because neither the Native Affairs Department nor any body or person (other than the Catholic Church) was prepared to accept any financial liability or responsibility. The Board now existing was formed not only for the purpose of securing freedom from custom duties, but also for the general good of the Hospital. The District Council was requested to appoint a representative as the District Council had asked the resident Mission Doctor to visit the District once a week and offered a small contribution towards her petrol expenses.

I would like to point out that the Native Affairs Department contributes very little towards the Hospital itself. The main grant is towards the Training Centre for Native Nurses at the Umlamli Hospital, and not towards the maintenance and running of the Hospital. A small grant of £75 is made towards this from the Voluntary Deferred Pay Interest Fund, and another by the Ciskeian Bunga towards the petrol of the Doctor who visits the District five times a week instead of only once as was originally done. That the training centre justifies the grant is evidenced by the fact that up to the present all Native candidates entered for the Preliminary Examination of the S.A. Medical Council have passed with honours. I do not think that any there is another centre for the training of Native Nurses that has such a record. The amount contributed by the Church towards the Hospital itself last year was well over £2,000 (£2747.15.5d) in comparison with less than £200 contributed by the Department and the Ciskeian Council. For this small amount, the Department and the Local District Council have two members on the existing Board,

a right to the annual Report and Financial Statement of the Hospital, the right to call for any statistics that may be required, and also to inspection at any time by an officer of the Native Affairs or Public Health Department. More than one Magistrate has said that he cannot see any possibility of forming a Board for the Umlamli Hospital different from the one in existence.

Under the circumstances, His Lordship Bishop Demont requests the Native Affairs Department to supply him with the following information as regards the Board now demanded by the Department:-

- (1) Who would have the formation of the Board, the Catholic Church, the Native Affairs Department, or what body or individual? The original Board was formed by the Catholic Church.
- (2) Who would have to be members of the Board, from what bodies would they have to be taken or elected?
- (3) Who would be the Chairman of the Board? Would he have a casting vote?
- (4) Would the majority of the Board have a decisive vote?
- (5) What would the Board "manage and control", the grants made by the S.A. Native Trust towards the Nurses' Training Centre and the Hospital only, or the grants made towards the Hospital only, or also the private money spent by the Church?

His Lordship, finally, requests the Department to consider the matter very well before deciding to cripple or perhaps even to do away with the good work done by the Missions for the health of the people of the Native Affairs Department, work which the Department has confessed that it cannot do at present, because it has neither the staff nor the money to provide for it. The Umlamli Hospital and the District work could not be run by the Department under £15,000 per annum. His Lordship trusts that the very fine cooperation between the Department and the Hospital authorities in the past will be a pledge of the continuance of such mutual help, and of an agreement in regard to the present matter that will be acceptable to both parties.

As your letter has already been sent to the Department I am sending copies of this to the Chief Native Commissioner and to the Native Affairs Department so as to prevent any drastic action before proper consideration has been given to the matter, and before you can report.

Yours faithfully,
Sgd. P.L.Meyer,
Secretary,
Umlamli Hospital.

OFFICE OF THE MAGISTRATE,
STERKSPRUIT, 2nd September, 1939.

The Secretary,
Umlamli Hospital,
P. O. Box 114,
ALIWAL NORTH.

Sir, Umlamli Hospital, Herschel: Water Supply.

With reference to the application for the provision for the abovementioned water supply, I have the honour to inform you that the Secretary for Native Affairs desires to know whether the Hospital Authorities are prepared to accept the conditions laid down in General Circular 13 of 1939, the contents of which were communicated to you in my Minute No.3/15/1 of the 26th June, last.

I have informed the Department of the representations contained in your letter of the 30th ultimo.

I am, etc.
Sgd. R.E.Gold,
Ag.Magistrate & Native Commissioner.

7th September, 1939.

In reply I have asked for the information requested in my letter of the 30th August, above, before His Lordship will give his decision as to whether he accepts the conditions or not.

(Father) P. L. Meyer.
Secretary, Umlamli Hospital.

ANNUAL REPORT OF UMLAMLI HOSPITAL, HERSCHEL DISTRICT,
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st Dec. 1938.

During the first seven months of 1938 the resident mission doctor, Dr. M. Ditton, was absent on furlough overseas.

During the absence of Dr. Ditton the locum tenens was Dr. Goddefroy. Dr. Goddefroy's contract expired on the 15th April 1938, Good Friday, and His Lordship Bishop Demont, the Manager of the hospital, declined to renew the contract even though he was unable to secure a medical missionary in her place, until the return of Dr. Ditton. Dr. Ditton reported that no record of her district work has been made at the hospital. Complaints were general from Europeans and Natives alike of the district. Dr. Goddefroy declared herself to introduce communist principles into the Hospital and upset the whole management and especially the training centre and urged all the nurses to run away.

Since the return of Dr. Ditton matters have started being rectified as can be seen from the following facts. During Dr. Goddefroy's time the in-patients roll dropped to 13, whereas Dr. Ditton's average is almost 60. Only one nurse, Dolly Tyoko, has recently been dismissed by the hospital authorities as unfit to become a nurse. Three native nurses (probationers) passed their First Aid examination of the S. Af. Red Cross. One will be taking her Nurse's Preliminary Examination (Anatomy and Physiology) on the 2nd Tuesday in April, and others are being prepared for the July examinations of the S. Af. Medical Council. The Matron is qualified and registered in both general and maternity nursing. The attached statistics cover the last five months of the year only, though the in-patients are for the whole year.

From the time Dr. Goddefroy left until the return of Dr. Ditton at the end of July 1938, His Lordship Bishop Demont arranged for Dr. A. Heukamp to go up to Umlanli at least twice a week to attend the patients and give lectures to the nurses. On many occasions she was called up to attend to urgent cases.

Number of In-Patients: 683 Natives
25 Europeans
 Total: 708.

Number of Out-Patients: 1915.

Number of Out-Stations: 9.

Places visited and when: Monday: Tyinendini and Fort-Hoek.
 Tuesday: Mxokozeli's, Mabele and Telle Junction.
 Wednesday: Teresa Mission.
 Thursday: Gatberg and Governor's Drift.
 Friday: Bensonvale.

Miles travelled by car 1000 per month.

P.O.Box 114,
 ALIWAL NORTH,
 31st March 1939.

P. Meyer.
 Secretary,
 Umlanli Hospital.

UMLAMLI HOSPITAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
for the Year 1938.

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I N C O M E:

O U T L A Y:

Fees from Patients £426 - 1 - 11

Government Grant:

Native Aff. Dept. 335 - 0 - 0

Ciskeian Bunga 100 - 0 - 0

Board of Control 75 - 0 - 0

Dept. of Health
Hospital Fees
for Infectious
Diseases 197 - 19 - 0

Donation 100 - 0 - 0

Contribution:

Bishop Demont 2747 - 15 - 5

£3981 - 16 - 4

Household Expenses £629 - 5 - 5

Insurance:

Workman's C. 8 - 0 - 0

Medicine 170 - 4 - 4

Salaries & Wages 246 - 3 - 9

Furniture, etc. 672 - 17 - 2

Machinery, etc. 1455 - 13 - 2

Garage Work & Petrol 126 - 12 - 5

Motor Car 279 - 18 - 10

Coal, Paraffin,
Oil, etc. 43 - 1 - 3

Interest on Loan 360 - 0 - 0

£3981 - 16 -

This is to certify that the above statement is correct.

Aliwal North.

1st. January 1939.

+ Francis W. Demont

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