

(9) The "Christian Council" of " South Africa " 47 Pharmeding 26. Nov. 1941 10 Dec 47 42/41

20 members of the Medical Work Committee of the Christian Council of S.A. 10.5.11

Medical Aid Training of Natives

3.  
~~I enclose~~ As you will have seen in the Press, the Government has appointed a Committee on this subject. I understand that the Committee will begin its work in a few days' time. It is therefore urgent that ~~any~~ our Committee's views should be put forward at once. I have drafted a statement which is sent to you herewith. Please let me know at once if you agree with it or not & make any comments you think fit.

Since the statement was issued, I have received a memo. from the Chairman of the Government Committee & I find that the following further matter has been referred to the Committee: -

(1)

Please let me know your views on this.

~~Yours truly~~  
Yours truly  
(A. H. B. [unclear])

P.S. Please note that appendix I ~~is not~~ is not circulated. Also

Neil Macvicar

20 NOV 1947

*Smuts - Abenell - 1943*

NOTE ON MEDICAL TRAINING FOR NATIVES.

(1) In 1927 a Hospital Survey Committee presided over by Sir Edward Thornton, recommended the establishment of small clearing hospitals at suitable centres in Native areas under Native female nurses or midwives, who would look after casualties, hold baby clinics and treat simple ailments under instructions from the District Surgeon. The Committee also advocated that young Native men should be trained in first aid and in the recognition of infectious diseases and taught to deal with outbreaks under instruction, on the lines of the French system of Auxiliary Medical Assistants in West Africa (see page 9, U.G. 25 - 27). These male auxiliary medical assistants would be given definite areas of work and "would generally act as infectious disease inspectors and sanitary gossellers in their areas".

(2) Following on the work of this Committee, a Committee presided over by Dr. C.T. Loram was appointed to inquire into the training of Natives in Medicine and Public Health. This Committee reported in 1928 and recommended facilities for full training of Natives in Medicine and the training of Native Health Assistants with a three years' course based on Standard VI, the pre-medical or science year to be given at Fort Hare and the remainder at Johannesburg (see paragraphs 42 - 44 and Annexure D, U.G. 35, 28).

(3) No immediate steps were taken to give effect to any of these recommendations, and in 1929 the Rockefeller foundation of New York made an offer of £65,000 for buildings and equipment for training Natives in Medicine in South Africa provided the Government would find the funds for carrying on the work. The Government considered the time was not ripe for the establishment of a Medical Faculty for Natives and would not commit itself and so the offer fell away.

(4) In 1933, however, the Government appointed an Interdepartmental Committee on Native Medical Services, consisting of Sir Edward Thornton, as Chairman, Dr. A.J. Orenstein, Major J.F. Herbst, Dr. S.F.N. Gie and Dr. E.H. Cluver. This Committee recommended :

- (a) that since facilities for medical training in the Union for a medical degree could not be made available for Natives some State aid for a limited number of specially recommended individuals for the cost of such education oversea should from time to time be given - paragraph 6 of report;
- (b) that since the number of Natives who could fully qualify as doctors must necessarily be much too small to meet the medical requirements in the Territories, and because of the urgent need for providing some medical relief as soon as possible, special training of suitable Natives in a shortened course not leading to a medical qualification was the only practicable scheme;

and they proposed a course extending over five years with the Junior Certificate or its equivalent as the entrance requirement as set out in Annexure 'A'.

These/.....

These suggestions were adopted by the Government. But in practice the course has been based on the Matriculation Certificate, with a pre-professional year in Science followed by three years medical training at Fort Hare and a final year mainly at the McCord Zulu Hospital.

Details of the course are indicated in Annexure 'B'.

By the end of 1940 eight students had qualified and were absorbed by the Department of Public Health. One of those who qualified in 1939 has, however, resigned and is now taking the full medical course at the Witwatersrand University. At the end of 1941, eight will probably qualify, including one woman.

(5) The Department of Public Health is apprehensive that the appointment of these medical aids to independent posts will result in their engaging upon activities which may contravene the spirit if not the letter of the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, 1928, and the regulations framed under it.

The position has been further complicated by the fact that in 1940 the University of the Witwatersrand offered to admit a limited number of Natives to its full-time course of medical and dental training, and effect was given to this from 1st January, 1941, the arrangement being that students should take the first year's pre-medical course at the South African Native College at Fort Hare and the rest of their training at the Witwatersrand University.

With money provided by the South African Native Trust and the Transkeian Territories General Council, ten students are taking the pre-medical course at Fort Hare and six who had previously taken this course are at present taking a full course at the Witwatersrand University.

In view of these developments, the Public Health Department considers that, for the reasons given in paragraph 25 of the Loram Report, the present training given to medical aids is not satisfactory.

(6) The Committee is now asked to consider the position as it has developed and any modifications which it may be necessary to introduce.

(7) Another question the Committee is asked to consider is the development of the scheme for the training of Natives for degrees in Medicine and the effect of that scheme on other medical services.

In regard to this aspect, the question arises as to whether the Government should absorb these practitioners into its medical services for Natives or whether they should be left free to engage in private practice.

(Sgd.) D.L. Smit.

PRETORIA.  
14th October, 1941.

COURSE SUGGESTED FOR MEDICAL AIDS  
BY THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

First Year:

Pre-professional course in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and the language in which the professional instruction is to be given. The teaching of these subjects should be, not on the usual academic lines but should conform to the practical needs of the students further in their course.

Second Year:

Anatomy and physiology. In the anatomy course there would be no dissection on the part of students; they can receive all the training they need from models and previously dissected bodies. In the physiology course all experimental work on the part of students would be dispensed with. Demonstrations of experiments illustrating physiological processes can be carried out by the lecturer. The chemical physiology course would, however, have to be fairly full - including examination of urine, blood, foods, etc. The preparation of histological slides would also be unnecessary; a set of prepared slides could be used for demonstration purposes.

Third Year:

Pharmacy, pathology and bacteriology. These subjects would also be taught largely by "demonstration". The laboratory work would be of a strictly practical nature having for its aim solely the training of the student in the work he would be expected to perform as a Medical Aid, i.e. preparation of the common medicaments, collection of specimens for subsequent laboratory examination, and their preparation for transport. Examination of urine, sputum, faeces, blood, etc. in some of the most commonly met with diseases, in which the examinations are relatively simple.

Fourth Year:

Elements of medicine, surgery, midwifery and gynaecology. During this year a considerable amount of the student's time would be spent on clinical work in hospital wards.

Fifth Year :

The final year will be spent entirely in clinical work in the hospital.

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The Examination should be conducted, jointly, by the Education and Health Departments of the Union, the Secretaries of which would issue and sign the certificates. A register of certificated Medical Aids would be kept by the Department of Public Health.

COURSE FOR MEDICAL AIDS : THREE YEAR  
COURSE SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED.

The course will consist of three years' study at Fort Hare with a preparatory year's general science training and a final entirely clinical year at the American Zulu Hospital, Durban.

The Preparatory Year will be devoted to the study of zoology, botany, chemistry and physics, the students attending the courses at present provided at Fort Hare for the 1st year B.Sc. students. At the end of the year the student aids should sit for the 1st B.Sc. examination held by the University of South Africa. Passing of this examination will not, however, be considered essential for admission to the 1st year of the Medical Aid Course. The University standard in physics in particular is considered higher than is necessary for the Native Aid. The students who are to be admitted to the first year of study will be selected at the end of the preparatory year by Government representatives in consultation with the college authorities who would have available the records of class examinations held during the year. Personality and character will receive serious consideration in this selection.

FIRST YEAR.

Anatomy, Physiology, Organic Chemistry, Sanitary Science.

ANATOMY:

Instruction by use of models and prepared specimens on the structure of the human body. This instruction may be supplemented by dissection of mammals such as the baboon.

Hours per week ..... 12.

PHYSIOLOGY:

Demonstration by lecturer of experiments illustrating physiological processes. Examination by students of prepared histological slides. Full practical course in chemical physiology, examination of foods, digestive juices and blood; general characteristics, organic and inorganic of normal and pathological urine.

Hours per week ..... 12.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY:

Elementary study of the subject by means of lectures and practical laboratory work.

Hours per week ..... 3.

SANITARY SCIENCE:

Elementary study of physical geography, climatology and meteorology in their relation to disease. Ventilation, light; water supplies; dietetics; building. Life history and habits of flies, fleas, lice, mosquitoes, bugs, snails and rodents.

Hours per week ..... 3.

FIRST AID:

Elementary Course. Hours per week ..... 3.

SECOND YEAR.

Bacteriology, Pathology, Pharmacy, Public Health.

BACTERIOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY:

Elementary study of the organisms responsible for human diseases. Great proficiency should be attained in the

preparation /.....

preparation of material for laboratory examination, e.g. blood smears for malaria; sputum for tuberculosis; nasal smears for leprosy; blood for typhoids, undulant fever, syphilis, etc; pus preparations for gonorrhoea, etc. (This is particularly necessary as much of the most useful work of the future Medical Aid will be collection of material for subsequent examination in Government laboratories).

Hours per week ..... 12.

PATHOLOGY:

Elementary study of morbid processes. Considerable time must again be devoted to the preparation of material in a form suitable for dispatch and examination at a Government laboratory.

Hours per week..... 6.

PHARMACY:

This should be taught mainly by the hospital dispenser. Students should as far as practicable receive their training in the preparation of medicines which will actually be used in the Victoria Hospital.

Hours per week..... 6.

PUBLIC HEALTH :

Refuse disposal, Disinfection. Measures for combating the spread of disease. Typhoid, dysentery, typhus, plague, leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, bilharziasis, rabies, smallpox, public health legislation.

Hours per week..... 6.

FIRST AID:

Advanced course. Hours per week..... 3.

THIRD YEAR.

Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery and Gynaecology.

The whole of the third year will be spent at the Victoria Hospital, Lovedale. The professional staff of the hospital will provide such systematic lectures as are necessary for the proper understanding of the clinical instruction. Most of the instruction should, however, be given in the wards and out-patient departments. First aid work will be continued, the third year students acting as demonstrators to the junior students.

EXAMINATIONS.

College examinations will be held at the end of the first and second years. The Government examination will be held at the end of the third year. Successful candidates will the proceed for a year to Durban to attend on the clinical practice of the American Zulu Hospital, the Tuberculosis Hospital, the sanitary practice of the Health Department and other sanitary work. Practical first aid work will still be continued, a three hour period being devoted to this each week. The course during this year will be supervised and co-ordinated by an approved medical tutor. At its conclusion a practical examination will be held to test the suitability of applicants for work in the field.

Students who have passed the Government examination at the end of the third year, and the practical examination in Durban will be given certificates rendering them eligible for Government employ.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,  
P.O. BOX 384,  
P R E T O R I A.

No. 46/315.

25th July, 1935.

GENERAL CIRCULAR NO. 13 OF 1935.

Training of Native Aids.

In connection with the Government's decision to institute a course of training for Native medical aids for rural areas, Native Commissioners are requested to give the widest publicity possible to the following information regarding the training and employment of candidates :

Arrangements for the course at Fort Hare have been completed and the training of the first batch of Native students has already commenced. Candidates should hold the Matriculation Certificate and applications for admission should be addressed to the Principal, South African Native College, Fort Hare, who will furnish all particulars.

The Government hopes to be able to offer employment to all candidates who have completed their studies to the satisfaction of the College and the Government. It is expected that the scale of salary will be £175x10-300, with quarters.

D.L. SMIT.

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

TO ALL NATIVE COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICERS  
OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

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