

STUDY OF MAFUFUNYANE (POSSESSION) FROM THE  
SCIENTIFIC AND THE AFRICAN POINT OF VIEW.

Duplicate.

The term Mafufunyane is used generally to refer to various types of possession or insanity. Possession according to this concept seems to be of two types:-

- (a) Possession by an animal e.g. Tikoloshe, Icanti etc.
- (b) Ancestral spirits and/or foreign spirits.

- A. The study will be essentially psycho-medical in approach. It is proposed to:
  - (a) Observe, study and describe different types of cases and illness diagnosed as Mafufunyane (Possession).
  - (b) Ascertain whether the symptomatology and diagnosis of these cases or type of cases fit in with symptom-complex of mental states known in Psychological Medicine.
  - (c) Ascertain the prognosis of the types of illness.
  - (d) Study how the diagnosis is made and the type of treatment administered and its effectiveness.
- B. It will be necessary to study the type of personality involved in the various types of possession.
- C. The Inyanga, Igqira, Ngaka - His training, his methods, his success or failure. How and where the treatment is done.
- D. Length of work.
  - It will be essential for me to:
    - (a) contact a reputable Inyanga.
    - (b) Undergo training to learn his way of dealing with cases.
    - (c) See actual cases, how they are diagnosed and how treated.
    - (d) Visit rural areas like Swaziland and/or Zululand or
    - (e) Import the Inyanga or patient and maintain at my own expenses for the period desired. One has to pay for the training and for the privilege to observe and to be let into the secret of treatment of cases. For a period one has to be kept in touch with new cases and has to follow them through their period of treatment.
- E. Length of time of study.
  - This will depend on:
    - (a) The availability of a sufficient number of cases.
    - (b) The period of observation necessary to observe the treatments and their effects. At this stage it seems ~~though~~ it would take a period of two years to follow through adequately a sufficient number of cases.
- F. Cost of study.
  - To cover travelling, transport of cases and Inyanga and maintenance of some cases, as well as the training and privilege..../-

and privilege of observing as understudy and the cost of observation. I presume a sum of about £500.0.0. would not be too much. I propose that Dr A.W. Hoernle or Dr A.J. Orenstein who will assist in guiding and directing the study should control the fund either directly or through the University.

- G. As a member of the South African Medical Association and a Medical Practitioner, it seems to me that I shall have to have prior approval of the Medical Council for this study so that there will be no question about my conduct and association in this regard.

A.B. XUMA.

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