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ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE
and
UNIVERSITY CLINIC.



REPORT
- for 1940 -

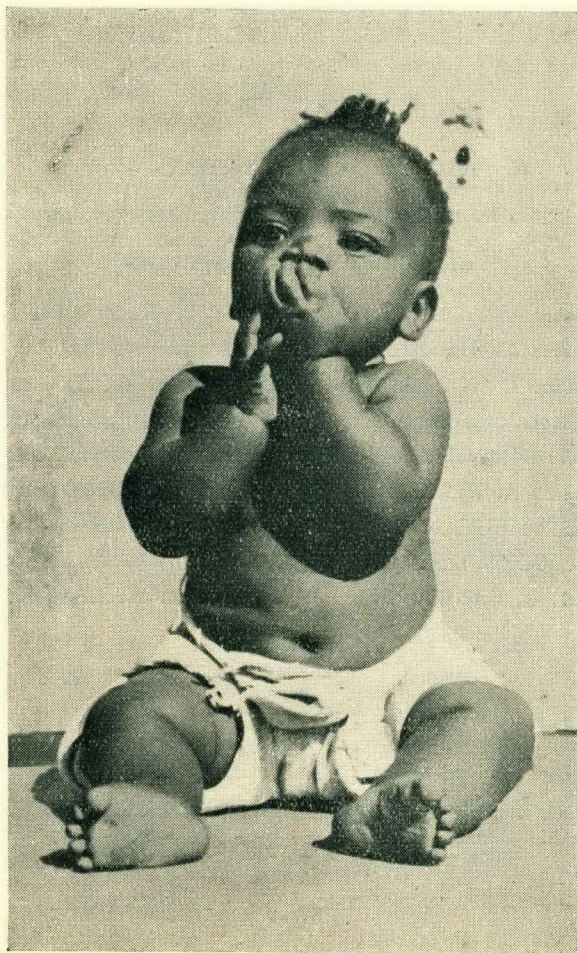
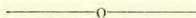


SECOND AVENUE ♦ ALEXANDRA TOWNSHIP.

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE

— AND —

UNIVERSITY CLINIC.



“HERE’S TO YOUR HEALTH.”

Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1940.

Mr. Justice O. D. SCHREINER, Chairman.

Rev. Dr. J. DEXTER TAYLOR, Hon. Secretary.

Miss E. MOODIE, Hon. Treasurer.

Professor R. A. DART.

Mr. A. R. MOATSE.

Professor JAMES BLACK.

Mr. T. D. NEL.

Professor I. W. BREBNER.

Professor W. H. CRAIB.

Professor J. L. GRAY.

Mrs. O. D. SCHREINER.

Mr. W. GRANT MCKENZIE.

Mrs. J. P. IMMELMAN.

Professor A. RICHARDS.

Mrs. E. P. HARTSHORN.

Mr. H. HILLMAN.

Rev. Dr. JOHN LENNOX.

Mr. I. GLYN THOMAS.

Mr. Justice RAMSBOTTOM.

Mr. H. G. FALWASSER.

Mrs. R. W. DAVENPORT.

Dr. A. B. XUMA.

Medical Officer: Dr. J. D. PRESTWICH.

Nursing Superintendent: Miss RUTH C. COWLES.

Assistant: Sister L. M. DOUTHWAITE.

STAFF:

Nurse OSARY HOKWANA.

Nurse ETHEL NEMBULA.

Nurse TALITHA LESOLENG.

Nurse AGNES POSWA.

Nurse HANNAH MASIPHA.

Nurse MARY THEMA.

Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

During this year our optimism of the latter months of 1939 has been more than justified, and our work among the non-Europeans of Alexandra Township has prospered beyond expectations.

Our medical students have come to be accepted by the people as an integral part of the medical services to the Township. They are more than welcomed by our patients, who are appreciative indeed of their interest and help. For the most part students have been extremely enthusiastic over their visits on the District and the majority seem agreed that conditions generally in the Township are far better than in many of the Native townships along the Reef in which they have had occasion to work. They have expressed surprised admiration at the way in which the Africans manage and keep their homes, in spite of their grave economic handicaps.

The work of the Clinic received a tremendous fillip through the return of Miss Cowles, her popularity and the trust which is placed in her doing a great deal to build up the practice.

Perusal of the following figures will indicate growth of some Clinic activities.

	1938.	1939.	1940.
New Cases for District Nursing	2,055	2,386	1,827
Nursing Visits	13,176	13,973	13,637
Baby Clinic Attendance	6,688	6,498	4,750
Dressings and Treatments	16,651	17,476	14,863
Special Disease Clinic	1,056	1,262	4,823
Medical Consultations	494	550	4,475
Midwifery Deliveries	—	84	90

The figures for some sections would indicate a decline; the explanation is that figures for previous years are not really comparable in certain respects, e.g., "New Cases for District Nursing, 1,827," represents essentially serious cases

requiring home nursing. In previous years these figures would include less serious cases not necessarily requiring nursing but put on district by private practitioners for purpose of observation by the nurses for a few days. Such cases of our own are requested to report again for further examination and private doctors refer now only bed cases. In our statistics these return cases would come under Consultations. For the same reason "Nursing Visits" would be expected to show a decline. Further, "District Cases and Nursing Visits" have to be restricted to more serious conditions only, as, having an extra non-European nurse at the Clinic, we have two instead of three general nurses on District Work and this means we have to restrict the number of their cases and do more at the Clinic in the way of follow-up consultations and treatments.

"Dressing and Treatment" figures also are hardly comparable, as the type of work has changed considerably, e.g., more serious cases are dealt with and often require treatment for several conditions at once, and take longer than very minor cuts and abrasions among school children, who were accustomed to coming unnecessarily often for new bandages. Considerable curtailing of unnecessary treatment of this type of case has had to be effected for economy of time and money. Further, of the 4,475 cases consulting at the Clinic, approximately 50 per cent. get initial treatments at the Clinic. These have not been entered under "Treatments"; this is due to lack of clerical staff, the nurses not having time to enter up these cases both on the consultation cards and in the treatment book. In addition, medicines for every case have to be dispensed.

Such incompleteness of records, for the reasons given, is itself an indication of the urgency of expansion taking place.

There has been a falling off of the Baby Clinic attendance; this is ascribable to the fact that previously a whole day was given up solely to the weighing of babies, the Baby Feeding Clinic being held separately the following day. These two Clinics are now held the same day with more concentration on feeding cases, with consequent falling off of healthy baby attendances. Some sixty whole day supplies of feed are now issued daily, compared with approximately twenty previously. Feeding cases are mainly ill or non-thriving infants and involve more time than healthy babies merely up for weighing.

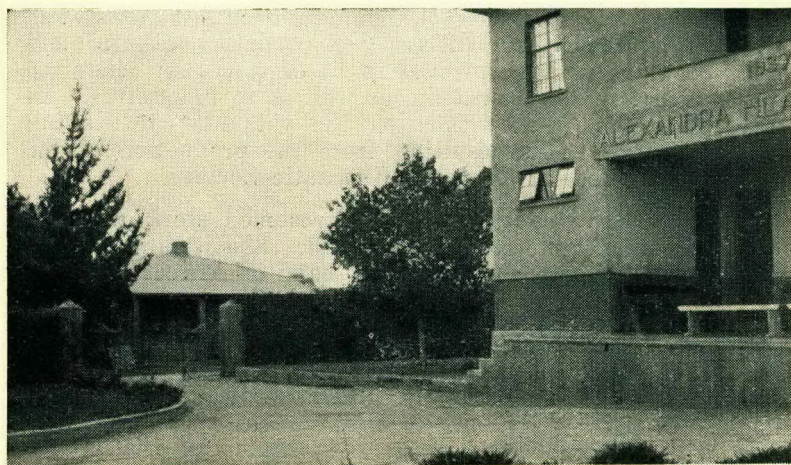
The work being done at our Centre itself has increased so much that another European Sister was added to the staff during the year.

The most notable growth has been in Consultations and Venereal or Special Diseases attendances. The figure for Consultations will be much increased for 1941, as at the present time we are doing close on 1,000 consultations a month, compared with some 200 in February last year. However, much further increase in numbers cannot be hoped for until increased facilities are obtained.

Our thanks are due to Drs. Liebman, Heyns and Altman for services regularly rendered during the year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Miss Cowles and Sister Douthwaite for their co-operation and unstinted service, and to congratulate the non-European nursing staff on their devotion to duty and interest in their work during the year.

J. D. PRESTWICH, M.O.



“THE GATE TO HEALTH.”

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1940.

During the year 1940 the plan of co-operation with the University of the Witwatersrand that we were beginning to try out in the latter half of 1939, became a working reality. After an experimental period, the plan was put on a lasting basis as a result of certain amendments to our Constitution which were adopted at our Annual General Meeting in June, 1940.

The Board, now reinforced by University representatives, has no hesitation in pronouncing the new arrangements to be an unqualified success, which is resulting in far more extensive and intensive health services being available to the inhabitants of the Township than was possible before. Under Dr. Prestwich's skilful and tactful guidance the work of the Clinic has made striking progress and has established itself more firmly than ever in the hearts of the people of the Township.

We are all very sorry that Dr. Prestwich is leaving us now and we extend him our best wishes for the future in his new sphere of work.

Under Dr. Prestwich the inauguration of the system of work by final year students was smoothly effected and what they are doing continues to be of very real benefit to the residents in the Township, as well as to themselves. In this connection, I may mention the valuable contribution to the Clinic's funds resulting from the production of the play by the Medical Students' Dramatic Society.

During the year Miss Cowles resumed work with all her old indefatigable energy and skill. She is now assisted by Miss Douthwaite and a devoted band of African nurses.

There have been changes in the Clinic's office-bearers, Dr. Dexter Taylor taking Mr. Goch's place as Secretary and Miss Elsie Moodie becoming Treasurer in place of Mr. Falwasser. We owe much to the selfless efforts of the retiring officials in past years, and it is satisfactory to know that they will continue to help us as members of the Board. Dr. Dexter Taylor, of course, needs no introduction to the residents of Alexandra, and in Miss Moodie there is no doubt that we have gained a very valuable colleague.

Mr. B. A. Key, our honorary Auditor, is on active service, but we are grateful to his partner, Mr. Payne, for continuing to do this most necessary work for us without charge.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death, since the close of the year under review, of Dr. Lennox, one of the more recent recruits to the Board. With Dr. Dexter Taylor, he represented the American Board Mission, the founders of the Clinic, and still among its most constant supporters. We shall miss Dr. Lennox's kindly presence and his wise counsel, enriched by years of experience in the service of the African people at Lovedale.

As will be seen from Dr. Prestwich's report, there has been a notable development in the Clinic's work; apparent decreases in certain departments are explainable by re-organisation and changes in record-keeping methods, while in other departments the expansion has been so rapid that it has been difficult to keep pace with it. Expenditure has grown to a serious extent owing to necessary additions to our staff and to the very greatly increased cost of medical and surgical supplies. On the other hand, there has been some increase in our revenue, mainly through the larger contributions of the patients themselves. It is most satisfactory to find that the residents in the Township continue to provide such substantial and growing contributions to the upkeep of the Clinic out of their all too small incomes.

No small assistance has been afforded by the group of ladies, led by Mrs. Davenport, Mrs. Immelmann and Mrs. Hartshorn, who by their efforts in organising the annual street collection and other functions, have added very materially to our funds.

The following comparative table shows Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1938, 1939 and 1940:—

Revenue:	1938.	1939.	1940.
Donations, Grants, etc.	£1,312	£1,464	£1,999
Patients' Fees	312	383	559
Salary Refunds	193	262	297
 Expenditure:			
Salaries and Wages	£676	£866	£1,374
Doctors' Fees	82	60	—
Medical and Surgical Supplies ...	474	666	851
Milk	116	135	118
Printing and Stationery	28	48	46
Sundries	110	201	189

Although we have only been a few years in our present building, the work has already far outgrown its capacity. At the last annual meeting the urgent need for new buildings was referred to and, although the times are difficult, steps are being taken to meet our requirements in this direction. In the first instance, we acquired two stands adjoining our

present property, the idea being to extend the Clinic by additional buildings. But it was felt that even when this was done, the pressure on space would be only temporarily relieved and that a more radical remedy was called for.

The Board was not unnaturally impressed with the difficulty of raising substantial sums of money at the present time but its doubts began to disappear when, at the beginning of February, 1941, Professor Brebner, who, with Professor Black and Professor Dart, has done a tremendous amount of work for the Clinic, made us the munificent gift of £1,000 for the new buildings. Another gift which we are most happy to acknowledge is the sum of £113 from the Southern Californian Federation of Congregational Women. This is only one, though an especially generous one, of the many contributions we have received, and still receive, from large-hearted folk in the U.S.A., for whose kindness we cannot be too grateful.

Recently we have acquired a suitable piece of ground, some three acres in extent, adjoining the Township and not far from our present site. In the purchase of this land we were generously assisted by Mr. William Aronsohn, who contributed £300 towards the price.

Mr. Chalmers, the University Architect, has drawn up an attractive provisional lay-out of the ground. There will be ample room for all the Clinic's activities, with quarters for members of the staff and a students' hostel. The plans include a small hospital, which it is hoped we may be able to erect before very long. The sum required to complete the scheme will be upwards of £20,000, but when the work is done the district nursing and clinic services of the Township should be reasonably well catered for for a number of years. At the same time we cannot lose sight of the fact that the extension of our premises will inevitably involve an increase in our current rate of expenditure and we trust that those State Departments and other bodies that have been contributing maintenance grants will see their way to increase them.

We propose to erect new and commodious buildings, but we must not lose sight of the dictum of the great Greek historian which may be paraphrased as "It is men and women who compose the Alexandra Clinic and not bricks and mortar." It is the enthusiasm and activity of all its workers and supporters that alone can keep the Clinic alive, ever-improving, organism. There is no limit to the possibilities of health service development among the needy. So long as there is no waste, one simply cannot go wrong in helping to maintain and expand the Clinic's work.

O. D. SCHREINER, Chairman.

ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE AND UNIVERSITY CLINIC, JOHANNESBURG

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

<p>To Salaries and Wages:</p> <p>Doctor £340 0 0</p> <p>Nurses £920 19 7</p> <p>Less Refund by Public Health Department.. 297 5 1</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 10%;"/> <p style="margin-left: 10%;">623 14 6</p> <p>Natives 112 15 6</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 10%;"/> <p style="margin-left: 10%;">£1,076 10 0</p> <p>6 „ Medical and Surgical Supplies 851 1 4</p> <p>„ Milk 118 0 7</p> <p>„ Printing and Stationery 46 7 0</p> <p>„ Ambulance Charges 13 17 6</p> <p>„ Telephone Rent and Calls 15 9 11</p> <p>„ General Expenses—Sundries 65 8 5</p> <p>„ Replacements (Household Equipment) ... 51 4 9</p> <p>„ Depreciation on Furniture and Fittings (5% on £160) 8 0 0</p> <p>„ Surplus for the year carried to Balance Sheet 314 0 7</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 10%;"/> <p style="margin-left: 10%;">£2,560 0 1</p>	<p>By Donations and Grants:</p> <p>Alexandra Health Committee £360 0 0</p> <p>Transvaal Province 450 0 0</p> <p>City of Johannesburg 100 0 0</p> <p>Native Affairs Department ... 350 0 0</p> <p>Director of Native Labour ... 20 0 0</p> <p>Martha Washington Club —</p> <p>Milk Grant 12 0 0</p> <p>University of Witwatersrand (for Doctor's Salary) ... 340 0 0</p> <p>Proceeds of Street Collection 195 16 10</p> <p>Sundry Donations 171 1 3</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 10%;"/> <p style="margin-left: 10%;">£1,998 18 1</p> <p>„ Patients' Fees 559 5 0</p> <p>„ Interest 1 17 0</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 10%;"/> <p style="margin-left: 10%;">£2,560 0 1</p>
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ALEXANDRA HEALTH CENTRE AND UNIVERSITY CLINIC, JOHANNESBURG

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

Sundry Creditors	£126 12 9
Accumulated Funds:	
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1939	£3,038 18 9
Add Surplus for the year ended 31st December, 1940	314 0 7
	3,352 19 4

Note.—In terms of Deed of Sale dated 22nd July, 1940, the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic has undertaken to exchange portion of its property for an adjoining area. In terms of this agreement the Centre will be obliged to pay an amount of approximately £90.

£3,479 12 1

Land and Buildings:	
Lots 115, 116, 117 and 156 Alexandra Township — as per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1939	£2,381 7 6
Add Further Expenditure on Buildings ...	£106 15 0
Less Sale of Material	6 8 6
	100 6 6
	£2,481 14 0

Furniture and Fittings:	
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1939	160 6 1
Less Depreciation	8 0 0
	152 6 1
Sundry Debtors	503 16 10

Cash:	
At Bank	116 11 8
On Hand	1 5 6
Post Office Savings	223 18 0
	341 15 2
	£3,479 12 1

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

We have audited the Balance Sheet of the Alexandra Health Centre and University Clinic, above set forth, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required and, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct statement of the affairs of the Centre and Clinic at 31st December, 1940, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books.

Johannesburg,
12th March, 1941.

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

SUNDRY DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING 1940.

F. A. Stokes	...	...	...	...	...	£2	2	0
Mrs. E. Whitehead	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
S.A. Women's Zionist League	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Johannesburg Women's Zionist League	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	6
Johannesburg Women's Zionist League (Jumble Sale)	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	0
S.A. Reserve Bank	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Rand Provident Building Society	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	0
Dr. MacVicar	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Solomon E. W. Lion	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
R. G. Baloyi	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Alexandra Standholders	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Charlston Goch	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
Miss Agnes Fearnhead	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
D. Mathole	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Dr. Craib	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	0
Miss J. Schreiner	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
City Jewish Ladies	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Miss Baker	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Women's Association	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Amounts collected by Mrs. Davenport	...	...	...	...	...	7	0	0
Alexandra Health Committee (for Health Week)	5	0	0
Proceeds of Play (arranged by University Students)	73	8	9

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