

2

NOTES ON THE REPORT OF THE UNION DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON
NATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

1. Paragraph 4. The number of registrable Native nurses is at present limited by the number of institutions giving full training. There is a fair number of girls with suitable educational prerequisites who are available and who have to wait for vacancies.

2. Paragraph 4. Hospitals under Provincial Administrations which have accommodation for the training of nurses and who can obtain suitable probationers should not limit their training to that of Nurse Aids.

3. Paragraph 5. Is it demonstrated that students are not available nor facilities possible for full medical training?

4. Paragraph 5. The maternity wards at the Bridgman Hospital are only lent for the training of European students on the express understanding that they will be reserved for Non-European students when this is required.

5. Paragraph 5. Without doubt the number of Natives who could qualify as doctors within the next few years is limited. It is by no means proved that the number would be much smaller, provided that suitable facilities were offered, than the number of Medical Aids it is intended to train and there are overseas at present (or available in the country) a certain number of fully trained Medical students who would doubtless accept medical posts

The report does not make it clear how expert diagnosis can be available from undertrained medical aids and much of the need in the country is for this expert diagnosis and treatment or for surgical assistance which presumably these aids could not supply or for skilled nursing which presumably trained nurses could better supply.

6. Paragraph 5. The special detection and treatment of specially prevalent diseases could be dealt with by specially trained, but much simpler service than that projected as Medical Aids.

On the other hand, except for the routine for such specially prevalent diseases, why should medical-aids rather than doctors "meet the needs of the Native population for a long time to come".

Would there be any reason (except that of expense) why the Government provided service should not be that of qualified people?

7. Paragraph 5. Is the number of Medical Aids it is proposed to train and the very great cost of this proposed training worth while as compared with the value of full doctors who would only take four years longer to train?

8. Paragraph 6. Must we accept the position that medical training cannot be made available in the Union?

If we must, then surely all students who would with reasonable likelihood of success be able to enter on this course if provided should have bursaries for the difference between overseas education and South African.

9. Paragraph 7. It is undoubtedly true that the number of Natives who could qualify as doctors or whom it is proposed to train as Medical Aids is much too small to meet the Medical Requirements in the Territories. But do we ultimately or even immediately gain by turning over to an inferior training, youths, many of whom might otherwise qualify fully, and by spending immense sums on such inferior training.

It must be remembered that nurses and nurse-aids are at present available for employment and could meet some of the need and that more could very rapidly be made available if more subsidies for training were forthcoming and if more openings for paid employment offered.

Such nursing services could be cheaply supervised from existing medical stations and might meet some of the need until more doctors became available; in many cases such nurses or nurse-aids would be as useful as Medical aids and they are already available to a small extent and could be increasingly so.

10. Paragraph 7. For the doing (we may hope under medical supervision) of a certain limited number of duties very well, some simpler training than this at present proposed might be arranged. To stabilise so expensive a course at a time when many Natives are already undertaking full medical studies and many more are wishing to do so; when many Native High Schools are preparing for Matriculation with good success.

11. Paragraph 8. A Native B.A. teacher will have required at least six years after Junior Certificate i.e. two years for Matric, three years for degree, 1 year at least for Professional training.

12. Paragraph 10. It does not seem evident that Fort Hare is the only possible place for such training. Much could be said for placing the course, if it must be arranged, at some place where more hospital facilities would be readily available, where qualified medical men would be available as parttime lecturers, and where (if Matriculation were required as the entrance examination, and it seems difficult to believe that Fort Hare would be willing at this stage to accept anything else) it might be hoped later to develop a real medical school.

13. Paragraph 15. Apart from capital cost the cost of the Training scheme is estimated at £3480 per annum, for the supply of ten medical aids per annum. This amount would allow of at least three more, in addition to those overseas, scholarships of £200 per annum for a six year's course or four per annum of £200 per annum for a five year's course.

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.