

THE DONALD FRASER HOSPITAL

(CHURCH OF SCOTLAND)

P.O. SIBASA, N. TRANSVAAL.



ANNUAL REPORT for 1939

Staff.

Medical Superintendent : R. D. Aitken, D.Sc., M.D., Ch.B.

Matron : W. G. Aitken, R.N., R.M.

Probationers : Third Year Two.
 Second Year Two.
 First Year Six.

Statistics.

Out-Patient Department.

A. Seen by the Doctor at the hospital and on tour :

Individuals 2,600 Attendances 7,120

B. Treated by nurses at outstation clinics :

<i>Station.</i>	<i>Individuals.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>
Sibasa	710	2,694
Georgenholtz	731	2,597
Khalavha (10 months)	145	654
Tshakoma	1,512	4,798
Siloam	414	1,772
Total	3,512	12,515

C. Combined total for hospital and all clinics :—

Individuals 5,140. Attendances 18,028.

In-Patient Department.

Number in hospital on 1 Jan., 1939 28

Admitted during 1939 377

Total, under treatment 405

Discharged :

Cured 313

Improved 23

Not improved 22

Died 10

In hospital on 1 Jan., 1940 .. 37

Total 405

Daily average of patients 29.75

Operations. Major 40

Minor 163

Total 203

Confinements in hospital 18

COMMENTS.

Staff. At the beginning of May Dr. Aitken returned from leave overseas, and resumed duty as Superintendent of the hospital. During his absence his place was taken by Dr. W. O. Petrie, who has since proceeded to Nyasaland to give much-needed help in the Mission Hospital at Blantyre. During the year that he spent here Dr. Petrie very successfully carried on the work, which showed a considerable increase over previous years. He gained the loyal support of the whole staff and the affection of the people, and much regret was felt that he was unable to remain here as a second doctor. We gladly record our gratitude to him for his help, and our good wishes for his future success and happiness.

The increased number of both in- and out-patients resulted in placing a severe strain on the trained staff of the hospital. It has now become impossible for the matron to supervise unaided the general management of the hospital, the treatment of the patients and the training of the nurses, and another sister or staff nurse is very urgently needed. Unfortunately the present financial situation of the hospital is such that it is very difficult to make provision for the necessary increase of staff. Only the steadfast devotion of the matron, Miss Aitken, has enabled us to carry on for so long without more help. As she is leaving us early in 1940, we take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the work she has done here during the last three years. Her help during the early years of the hospital's existence has been of the greatest possible value, and it is with great regret that we have to part with her.

Buildings. A new women's ward was completed at the end of September with the help of a grant from the Native Affairs Department. This ward is proving of the greatest value, even though it is not yet fully furnished and equipped. Owing to the increasing number of patients we had to put this ward into commission sooner than we had intended, and to try to furnish and equip it as funds became available. Even with this addition the need for yet more accommodation is already becoming evident.

Outstations. One outstation dispensary at Khalavha has been closed as the number of patients attending there did not

justify keeping a nurse there permanently. It is hoped to transfer this dispensary to Beuster at an early date. At some of the other centres there have been changes of staff, but at all the work has been well maintained, and is proving of increasing value.

Hospital Board. During the year the South African Mission Council of the Church of Scotland decided to appoint a Hospital Board, and the following gentlemen accepted the invitation to become members of the Board :—Dr. N. Macvicar, Rev. F. Stakes, the Additional Native Commissioner, Sibasa (Mr. R. S. Mundell) representing the Native Affairs Department, and the Medical Superintendent. The Board held its first meeting at the hospital in November, and appointed Dr. Macvicar as its Chairman.

General. During the year we had to deal with a very large number of cases of tropical ulcer. This condition has become prevalent in the district during the last two years, and is the cause of much misery and suffering to the Native people. Unfortunately there is the usual tendency to delay seeking treatment until the ulcer reaches such a size that healing is a long and tedious process. During the year we have tried various methods of treatment, and have now adopted a routine method which considerably reduces the time which the patient has to spend in hospital.

A special feature of the year's work was the admission of forty-three men and boys, who had attended a large circumcision school in the district and whose wounds had become infected with the same organisms as those responsible for causing tropical ulcers. The results for these boys were most distressing, and illustrate the danger of allowing such schools to be held. The Government appointed a Committee to enquire into the conduct of these schools, and the Medical Superintendent gave evidence before this.

The Superintendent also joined with representatives of other Mission Hospitals to give evidence before the Provincial Commission on Free Hospitalisation. Unfortunately past experience does not encourage us to hope that any real improvement in medical service for the Native people will result from the work of these Commissions.

I. CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Income.

Patients' Fees			£222	5	7	
Government Grants:						
Native Affairs Department	£250	0	0			
Provincial Council ..	250	0	0			
Public Health Department	70	16	0	£570	16	0
Deferred Pay Board				250	0	0
Mission Grant				450	0	0
Sundry Receipts and Donations ..				98	6	11
				<hr/>		
	Total			£1,591	8	6
	Debit Balance			49	5	10
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				£1,640	14	4
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Expenditure.

Surgery and Dispensary:						
Drugs and Dressings ..	£163	6	11			
Instruments ..	16	6	0			
Sundries ..	3	16	11	£183	9	10
Domestic:						
Bedding, Linen, etc ..	£101	11	8			
Hardware, Crockery, etc. ..	27	14	8			
Fuel, Lighting ..	81	12	1			
Provisions ..	221	4	10	432	3	3
Salaries				751	2	8
Wages				132	14	6
Furlough Relief Fund ..				43	10	0
Stationery and Postages ..				23	13	8
Miscellaneous ..				74	0	5
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	Total			£1,640	14	4
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II. CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Income.

Donations	£2 7 7
Grants from Native Affairs Department:	
Grant for 1938 carried forward ..	500 0 0
Grants in 1939	350 0 0
Sale of Bricks to School	5 7 6
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Total	£857 15 1
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Expenditure.

Debit Balance from 1938 ..	£2 18 9
Cement and Lime ..	3 8 6
Poles ..	1 10 0
Contractor for New Ward ..	728 1 6
Sanitary Fittings ..	25 16 11
Electric Fittings ..	4 1 6
Electric Engine ..	65 6 0
W. F. Johnstone and Co. for Timber ..	5 11 4
Sand and Transport of Materials ..	3 17 6
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Total	£840 12 0
Credit Balance	17 3 1
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	£857 15 1
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The above statement was approved at a meeting of the Hospital Board held in Johannesburg on the 29th January, 1940.

Certified correct

R. D. AITKEN.

Medical Superintendent.

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