

EDITORIAL : VAN DIE REDAKSIE

75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL

5 November marks the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the hospital in Johannesburg. In the late 1880s the future of the Rand had been assured by the extent and depth of the gold-containing conglomerates. A spirit of impermanence and uncertainty changed to one of confidence in the future and stability of the Witwatersrand. One of many expressions of this trust was the building of the 'permanent' hospital. Its foundation stone was laid in 1889 and a spacious new institution was officially opened in 1890.

At a time such as this it is fitting for us to stand for a moment in thought to honour the institution and to pay tribute to the memories of those men and women whose sense of duty and conscience determined its role in the medical services of the City of Johannesburg and of the whole country.

The anniversary is being celebrated in several ways in Johannesburg and it is fitting that this issue of our *Journal* should be published in honour of the occasion. The contents comprise contributions from most of the clinical departments of the Hospital together with a historical outline of its first fifty years. In the circumstances it is not surprising to note the scope and value of the articles, and we join with many well-wishers in congratulating the staff of the Hospital on the standard of their work. The status and influence of this institution are reflected by these contributions.

A jubilee occasion is perhaps a time for looking backwards, and no doubt thoughts of the future arise as well. Seventy-five years can be regarded as at least a coming-of-age period in the history of an institution. The adult members of the community of Johannesburg of 1890 are now no longer with us. Three-quarters of a century is thus long enough a period to allow a community with propriety to do honour to those who planned, built and served the Hospital. Their descendants will perhaps in general accept and take pride in the thought that they now 'stand on the shoulders of those who went before'.

In these columns we wish to associate ourselves with the thoughts of the Hospital Services Department of the Transvaal, of the City Council, the Medical Profession, the University and the Medical School, and the Staffs of the Hospital in their tribute to the achievements of their predecessors. To the present members of the organization in their various spheres of service we offer our congratulations on this occasion in the knowledge that they are increasing the stature and influence of their Hospital.

The discovery of the rich Main Reef of 1886 trans-

formed the Transvaal, and the industrial development of South Africa began. The City of Johannesburg rose on the high plains of the veld. Gold and uranium, and all that has flowed from the richness of these metals, have attracted and supported hundreds of thousands of souls in Johannesburg and the Reef. The Hospital in its history reflects this evolution. The early days of the Gaol Hospital perhaps symbolized a primitive attitude of the mining camp towards life and death under the conditions of the time. Steady expansion over the years, drawing on the skills and experience of the great hospitals of Europe, went hand in hand with the growth of the metropolis. The Johannesburg Hospital soon became the largest general hospital in Southern Africa. The early hesitant and simple attempts have over the years gradually changed the Johannesburg Hospital into an institution of which South Africa may well be proud. The association with the Medical School of the University of the Witwatersrand brought new and important dividends. The stimulus of the student in search of clinical experience raised standards of medical care and the challenge of medical training and research to the staff of the Hospital. Medical care of the sick, training of students—medical, nursing and paramedical—and clinical research became merged as an indivisible function of a great teaching hospital.

The training of nurses commenced at an early date, and not the least of our tributes goes to the Holy Family of Bordeaux whose members carried on nursing duties in the Hospital from 1888 to 1915.

The Medical School was granted facilities for clinical training of its medical students in the early 1920s. The first four medical graduates were in the van of the many hundreds who have since passed through and who can look back, we know with pride and satisfaction, to the days of their association with the Johannesburg Hospital.

To the doctors, to the nurses, to the architects and builders, to the administrative and technical personnel, and to the multitude of persons whose work in many forms created the Johannesburg Hospital, we pay tribute. In seventy-five years much has been achieved and there is every reason for our congratulations going to all concerned.

In looking forward we also associate ourselves with the good wishes of all those in Johannesburg who will look ahead expectantly in the knowledge that the Provincial Administration is contemplating expenditures over the next 10 years in the neighbourhood of R20,000,000 to provide Johannesburg with new and modern additions to its buildings and facilities.

DIE JOHANNESBURG-HOSPITAAL 1890 - 1965

Soos dit in die lewe van 'n mens die geval is, is dit ook die geval in die bestaanstyd van 'n mediese inrigting—dat wat eintlik van belang is, die eerbied vir die lewe is wat betoon word deur almal wat help bou het aan dié inrigting. Dit

is inderdaad die geval met die lang ry van mense wat hul dienste gewy het en nog wy aan die groei en bloei van die Johannesburg-hospitaal. En ten spyte van alles wat ons soms as mediese en verpleegsters-professies ten laste gelê

word, is die viering van die vyf-en-sewentigste herdenking van die stigting van die Hospitaal, 'n klink-klare bewys van die feit dat daar nog mense is wat bevrediging haal uit onbaatsugtige en toegewyde naastediens.

Van die tyd van sy eenvoudige begin af het die Johannesburg-hospitaal gegroei tot 'n groot, belangrike en dinamiese hospitaal-kompleks wat vandag 'n onmisbare rol speel in die voorsiening van gesondheidsdienste, nie net aan die stad Johannesburg nie, maar ook aan die hele land. Dit is só omdat die Hospitaal en al sy verwante eenhede nie net 'n behandelingsentrum is nie; dit is ook 'n opleidingsentrum en 'n navorsingsentrum van wêreld formaat.

Dit is 'n voorreg vir die *Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde*, as amptelike orgaan van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika om, deur die publikasie van hierdie gedenkuitgawe, by te dra tot die viering van 'n geleentheid wat van groot nasionale en ook internasionale

belang is.

Op 'n heel besondere manier glo ons as lede van die mediese professie dat ons 'n spesiale bydrae te maak het tot daardie soort kennis waarsonder niemand in hierdie land tot volle gesondheidsontplooiing kan kom nie. Die Johannesburg-hospitaal en alles en almal wat hy verteenwoordig, het in die verlede 'n kennelike bydrae tot dáárdie soort kennis en tot menslike welsyn in die algemeen gemaak.

Ons wil hiermee almal wat 'n aandeel aan die groei en werksaamhede van die Hospitaal gehad het en nog het van harte gelukwens met hierdie feestelike geleentheid. Ook wil ons alle persone en organisasies wat gehelp het om die publikasie van dié gedenkuitgawe moontlik te maak, verseker van ons innige dank en waardering.

Mag die Johannesburg-hospitaal lank en roemryk bly voortbestaan.