

South African Medical Journal

Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde

EDITORIAL

MEDICAL JOURNALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Last week we ended an article *Journals of Medicine* at the production in 1847 of Ebden's *Cape Town Medical Gazette*, which was followed by a period of nearly 40 years during which no further venture was made into medical journalism in South Africa.

In 1884 the first *South African Medical Journal* was started at East London under the editorship of Dr. W. Darley Hartley, the pioneer of medical journalism in this country. For one year it was produced as a monthly and then it was changed into a 4-page weekly. The journal office was moved for a time to the village of Cathcart and then back again to East London. This journal finally came to an end after an existence of 5 years.¹

A further interval followed, until in 1893 another *South African Medical Journal* was started as the result of action taken by the first South African Medical Congress, held in Kimberley. It was published in Cape Town by J. C. Juta and Company. The first editor was Dr. A. Edington, of Grahamstown, who after a few months was succeeded by Dr. G. G. Eyre, of Claremont, near Cape Town. Dr. Eyre, who continued as editor for over 5 years, was assisted by Drs. A. Edington, C. C. Elliott, E. B. Fuller, E. C. Long and W. T. Harris, who apparently acted as an editorial committee. This periodical ran as a monthly journal of 20-30 pages; it was described as the *Journal of the South African Medical Association*, though it was a privately owned undertaking. The editors put much energy and ability into the work,¹ but the difficulties were great, and were so much accentuated by the disorganization of the country by the war in 1899 that it was decided to suspend publication for the time being.¹

The next journals to appear were Dr. Darley Hartley's *South African Medical Record*, which was first published in 1903, in Cape Town, and the *Transvaal Medical Journal*, which was brought out in Johannesburg in 1905. The *Medical Record*, having started as a monthly journal, was published twice a month from February 1906 until the end of 1926, running to over 500 pages a year. It continued successfully with Dr. Darley Hartley as its editor and proprietor until both the Cape Town

VAN DIE REDAKSIE

MEDIESE TYDSKRIFTE IN SUID-AFRIKA

Verlede week het ons 'n artikel, *Mediese Tydskrifte*, beëindig by die produksie van Ebden se *Cape Town Medical Gazette* in 1847, waarna daar 'n tydperk van byna 40 jaar verloop het toe geen verdere baanbreking in die mediese joernalistiek in Suid-Afrika gedoen is nie.

In 1884 is die eerste *South African Medical Journal* in Oos-Londen begin onder redaksie van dr. W. Darley Hartley, die baanbreker op gebied van die mediese joernalistiek in hierdie land. 'n Jaar lank is dit uitgegee as 'n maandblad, en toe is dit verander na 'n weekblad met 4 bladsye. Die hoofkwartiere is tydelik na die dorpie Cathcart verskuif, en toe weer terug na Oos-Londen. Na 'n leeftyd van 5 jaar is die blad gestaak.¹

'n Verdere tussenpose het gevolg, totdat nog 'n *South African Medical Journal* in 1893 begin is as gevolg van stappe gedoen deur die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse Mediese Kongres te Kimberley. J. C. Juta en Kie. het dit in Kaapstad gepubliseer. Die eerste redakteur was dr. A. Edington van Grahamstad, wat na enkele maande deur dr. G. G. Eyre van Claremont, naby Kaapstad, opgevolg is. Dr. Eyre, wat vir langer as 5 jaar hierdie pos beklee het, was bygestaan deur drs. A. Edington, C. C. Elliott, E. B. Fuller, E. C. Long en W. T. Harris—hulle het blykbaar 'n redaksionele komitee gevorm. Hierdie tydskrif was 'n maandblad van 20 - 30 bladsye; hoewel dit 'n private saak was, was dit beskrywe as die 'Journal of the South African Medical Association'. Die redakteurs het veel energie en bekwaamheid daaraan bestee,¹ maar hulle het met baie moeilikhede te kampe gehad, moeilikhede wat tot so 'n mate vererger was deur die desorganisasie van die land as gevolg van die 1899-oorlog, dat dit besluit is om publikasie tydelik te staak.¹

Die volgende tydskrifte wat toe verskyn het, was dr. Darley Hartley se *South African Medical Record*, wat in 1903 in Kaapstad begin is, en die *Transvaal Medical Journal* wat in 1905 in Johannesburg gestig is. Die *Medical Record*, wat as maandblad begin het, is van Februarie 1906 tot aan die einde van 1926 twee keer per maand gepubliseer, en het meer as 500 bladsye per jaar beloep. Dit met welslae voortgegaan onder die redaksie van dr. Darley Hartley, die eenaar, totdat die Kaapstadse en die Johannesburgse tydskrifte saamgesmelt het om die nuwe *Journal of the South African Medical Association* te vorm.

and the Johannesburg journal were merged into the new *Journal of the South African Medical Association*.

The *Transvaal Medical Journal* was published by certain members of the Transvaal Medical Society who formed themselves into a non-profit-making publishing company. Its first editor was Dr. E. T. E. Hamilton, under whom the journal continued for 12 years.² He was followed by Dr. H. Watkins Pitchford for 2 years when, in 1919, Dr. G. D. Maynard took over the editorship. This he retained for 4 years, when he was succeeded by Dr. C. Louis Leipoldt, who served as editor for 3 years, until the journal was taken over by the Medical Association of South Africa. The name *Transvaal Medical Journal* was changed in 1913 to the *Medical Journal of South Africa*, under which name it continued to the end. When first published the journal was described as being 'published under the auspices of the Transvaal Medical Society'. In 1912 this was altered to 'the Witwatersrand Division of the Transvaal Branch of the British Medical Association', and in 1913 (at the time when the journal changed its name) to 'the Witwatersrand Branch of the British Medical Association'. This ascription, however, was discontinued on and after November 1919 when, evidently as the result of a controversy which was running at that time between the policies of remaining with the B.M.A. or establishing an independent 'South African Medical Association', the journal came out with the statement, 'The shareholders of the Journal must dictate its policy.' This journal was still in vigorous activity in 1926, when it voluntarily decided to merge into the one single journal of the newly formed Medical Association of South Africa (B.M.A.).² Its monthly issue usually ran to 24 or 28 pages.

The new *Journal of the Medical Association of South Africa (BMA)* was founded then in 1927, incorporating the *South African Medical Record* and the *Medical Journal of South Africa*. Dr. Leipoldt, editor of the last-named, was appointed editor of the new journal as well as secretary of the reconstructed Medical Association, and on Dr. Darley Hartley of the *Medical Record*, now advanced in years, the title of emeritus editor was conferred. The journal appeared twice a month from the first, but in 1949 it was converted to a weekly publication. In 1932 it changed its name to the *South African Medical Journal, Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde* under which title it still appears. This is the journal the reader is perusing, and its history will on this occasion be taken no further.

It remains to be mentioned that this *Journal* is not alone as a medical publication in South Africa. Besides the Association's quarterly medical journal it is accompanied by the *South African Journal of Medical Sciences* (Johannesburg, 1935) and 3 privately owned journals, *Medical Proceedings* (Johannesburg, 1955) and the *Journal of Forensic Medicine* (Johannesburg, 1953), and the *South African Practitioner* (Johannesburg, 1955), as well as transactions such as the *Memoirs and Publications* of the South African Institute for Medical Research (Johannesburg, 1913) and the *Proceedings of the Transvaal Mine Medical Officers* (Johannesburg, 1921).

Die *Transvaal Medical Journal* was gepubliseer deur sekere lede van die Transvaal Medical Society wat 'n nie-winsgewende maatskappy gestig het. Die eerste redakteur was dr. E. T. E. Hamilton wat 12 jaar lank aan die hoof gestaan het.² Hy is opgevolg, vir 'n tydperk van 2 jaar, deur dr. H. Watkins, en in 1919 het dr. G. D. Maynard die redaksie waargeneem. Laasgenoemde was 4 jaar lank redakteur, en toe het dr. C. Louis Leipoldt vir die volgende 3 jaar die redaksie waargeneem, d.w.s. totdat die blad oorgeneem is deur die Mediese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika. In 1913 is die naam verander van *Transvaal Medical Journal* tot die *Medical Journal of South Africa*, soos dit tot die einde bekend was. Toe die blad eers gepubliseer is, was dit beskryf as 'published under auspices of the Transvaal Medical Society'. In 1912 is dit verander na 'the Witwatersrand Division of the Transvaal Branch of the British Medical Association' en in 1913 (toe die tydskrif ook herdoop is) na die Witwatersrand Branch of the British Medical Association'. Hierdie benaming is egter oorboord gegooi in en na November 1919, toe die tydskrif, waarskynlik na aanleiding van die strydvraag wat destyds gewoeker het oor die beleid van by die B.M.A. bly, óf afgtig in 'n eie Suid-Afrikaanse mediese vereniging, met die volgende verklaring voor die dag gekom het: 'The shareholders of the Journal must dictate its policy.' Hierdie tydskrif was in 1926 nog lewenskragtig en aktief, en toe is dit vrywillig besluit om saam te smelt in die één tydskrif van die pasgestigte Medical Association of South Africa (B.M.A.).² Sy maandelikse omvang was gewoonlik 24 of 28 bladsye.

Die nuwe *Journal of the Medical Association, of South Africa (B.M.A.)*, waarby die *South African Medical Record* en die *Medical Journal of South Africa* ingelyf was, is in 1927 begin. Dr. Leipoldt, die redakteur van die laasgenoemde tydskrif, is as redakteur van die nuwe tydskrif, sowel as sekretaris van die hersaamgestelde Mediese Vereniging aangestel, en aan die bejaarde dr. Darley Hartley van die *Medical Record*, is die titel emeritus redakteur toegeken. Die tydskrif het eers tweekeer per maand verskyn, maar in 1949 is dit in 'n weekblad omgeskep. Reeds in 1932 het dit die nuwe naam *Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde (South African Medical Journal)* gekry, en so is dit vandag nog bekend. Dit is die *Tydskrif* wat die leser nou deurlees, en by hierdie geleentheid sal sy geskiedenis nie verder vertel word nie.

Ook moet dit gemeld word dat hierdie *Tydskrif* nie enig is as mediese publikasie in Suid-Afrika nie. Benewens die Vereniging se kwartaalblad, is daar nog die *South African Journal of Medical Sciences* (1935, Johannesburg), en 3 privaat-tydskrifte, die *Journal of Forensic Medicine* (1953, Johannesburg), *Medical Proceedings* (1955, Johannesburg), en die *South African Practitioner* (1955, Johannesburg). Dan is daar nog verhandelinge soos die *Memoirs en Publications* van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Mediese Navorsing (1913, Johannesburg), en die *Proceedings* van die *Transvaal Mine Medical Officers* (1921, Johannesburg).

1. Editorial (1903): S. Afr. Med. Rec., 1, 8.
2. Editorial (1926): Med. J. S. Afr., 22, 137.

1. Van die Redaksie (1903): S. Afr. Med. Rec., 1, 8.
2. Van die Redaksie (1926): Med. J. S. Afr., 22, 137.