

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1958

Obituary. It is with deep regret that we record the loss through death of the following members: Drs. H. D. M. Ackermann, G. S. Andrews, C. P. Bringle, C. E. L. Burman, K. Colsen, J. Drummond, H. A. Edwards, L. Farrel, J. Greenstein, F. O. Fehrsen, E. Isserow, H. Krafchik, J. H. Lategan, S. Levy, G. J. Luyt (Snr.), H. I. Maister, M. Marks, O. le F. Milburn, A. Moffson, A. M. Moll, G. van R. Mostert, D. O'Donovan, J. P. Pellissier, A. E. Pinniger, O. Popper, A. L. Saul, C. P. Theron, J. Theunissen, M. H. van Niekerk, D. P. Viljoen, F. T. Waldron, F. V. Werd-muller.

Membership. During the past year there has been an overall increase in membership of 91, the total membership now being 5,528. In addition there are 78 student members. Members are distributed as follows: Border Branch 209; Cape Eastern Branch 56; Cape Midlands Branch 228; Cape Western Branch 1,205; East Rand Branch 219; Griqualand West Branch 89; Natal Coastal Branch 559; Natal Inland Branch 192; Northern Transvaal Branch 543; Orange Free State and Basutoland Branch 384; Southern Transvaal Branch 1,296; South-West Africa Branch 80; Transkei Branch 83; Vaal River Branch 63; Unattached Members 285; Emeritus Members 28; Honorary Members 8.

Honours. During the year under review, 6 members of the Association have been honoured by the Federal Council by the award of the Bronze Medal for meritorious service to the Association. The members concerned are, for 1957, Dr. A. Broomberg (Natal Coastal Branch) and Dr. R. Theron (Orange Free State and Basutoland Branch) and, for 1958, Dr. P. Jabkowitz (Cape Midlands Branch), Dr. R. Schaffer (Border Branch), Dr. T. Schneider (Southern Transvaal Branch) and Dr. L. O. Vercueil (Southern Transvaal Branch). In addition the Council honoured the late Dr. J. Drummond, of Durban, and Dr. G. Martiny, of Johannesburg, by electing them to Emeritus Membership.

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting for the current year took place in Durban on 11 September 1957. At the conclusion of the formal business, Dr. H. Grant-Whyte, of Durban, was inducted as President by Dr. J. S. du Toit, the retiring President. The meeting was then adjourned until the evening, when it was re-convened in the City Hall, Durban, where it was combined with the Opening Ceremony of Congress. In the absence of the Governor-General, the Administrator of Natal, the Hon. D. G. Shepstone, opened the Congress. After the presentation of awards, Dr. Grant-Whyte delivered his Presidential Address. The Adjourned Annual General Meeting was followed by a reception at which the President and Mrs. Grant-Whyte received the guests.

Congress. A very successful Congress was held in Durban during the week commencing 16 September 1957. The Association was honoured by the presence of a number of distinguished visitors from overseas countries and was particularly pleased to have as its guest of honour Dr. T. C. Routley, of Canada, Consultant General of the World Medical Association, who was accompanied by Mrs. Routley. The Association is grateful to its Natal Coastal Branch, which was responsible for the organization of this most successful function.

Federal Council. There have been 2 meetings of the Council during the year under review. At the first of these, held in Durban on 11-13 September 1957, a newly elected Council met, and elected Dr. J. H. Struthers as its Chairman, with Mr. J. D. Joubert as Honorary Treasurer. During a very pleasant little interluc-

at this meeting, the Council took the opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the services so ably rendered to it by Dr. A. W. S. Sichel (who had been Chairman of Council for the past 12 years) and Dr. J. S. du Toit (who had served as Honorary Treasurer for the past 30 years), and to commemorate the occasion, the President, on behalf of the Council, made presentations to each of these stalwart members. The second meeting was held in Johannesburg on 23-26 April 1958. The average attendance at these meetings was 54 out of a total membership of 60. The Executive Committee of the new Council, comprising Dr. J. H. Struthers, Dr. E. W. Turton, Dr. H. Grant-Whyte, Dr. J. D. Joubert, Mr. B. A. Armitage, Mr. J. A. Currie, Dr. L. S. Robertson, Dr. R. Schaffer, Dr. A. W. S. Sichel, and Dr. R. Theron, met on 3 occasions. Two meetings were held on the day preceding the 2 Council meetings and a special meeting was held in Pretoria on 1-3 November 1957. Apart from the business transacted at these meetings, the Committee also dealt with certain other essential matters by means of correspondence.

Committees of Council

The Head Office and Journal Committee continues in its service of taking care of the administrative side of the Association's work, and increasing costs have made this no easy task during the last few years. At the last meeting of the Council a Committee of Enquiry was appointed 'with a view to reducing Head Office expenditure as much as possible compatible with efficiency'. This Committee has met and will report at the next Council meeting. The Council has already resolved that the annual subscription to the Association will be raised by £2 2s. 0d. as from 1 January 1959. As its financial affairs are in a somewhat precarious state, the Council also agreed to invite members to send donations to tide over this particularly difficult period.

The Federal Ethical Committee has not met during the year under review but gave views on 4 matters by correspondence.

The Central Committee for Contract Practice has continued to do a considerable amount of routine work and has dealt with a number of new applications for recognition. The new Tariff of Fees for Approved Medical Aid Societies came into force on 1 August 1957.

The Parliamentary Committee has had frequent meetings and has dealt with a considerable amount of business, most of which has been successfully concluded with advantage to members. The work of this Committee is increasing and was greatly helped by the establishment of the Association's office in Pretoria.

The Workmen's Compensation Act Sub-Committee has continued to act in liaison with the Commissioner and has attended to a number of routine matters.

The Sub-Committee on the Economics of Medical Practice, which had done much work investigating the economics of the various forms of medical practice with a view to making a recommendation as to what steps could be taken to initiate a medical insurance plan which could be supported by the Medical Association, was, at the request of its convener, discharged by the Federal Council at its meeting held in April 1958. The Council at the same time invited the Southern Transvaal Branch to watch the interests of the Association in the sponsoring of the proposed medical insurance plan in its area.

The various other Committees of Council, appointed for special purposes, have done valuable work in the spheres allotted to them.

Journal. The new full-time Assistant Editor, Dr. A. P. Blig-

nault was appointed and commenced duties on 1 June 1958. The number of contributions to the *Journal* continues to rise and, as a result of this, the *Journal* has increased in size during the current year. This has resulted in the proportion of printed matter to advertising matter increasing, which in turn has resulted in a less satisfactory financial position. It is hoped that in the coming year it will be possible to increase the income derived from advertisements, and that the *Journal* will be able to carry more news concerning the activities of the various Branches, Divisions, Groups, as well as of the work of the Association in general. The quarterly *S.A. Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine* does not have the recognition it deserves owing to its limited circulation. It does, however, serve as a useful medium for the publication of original papers of a special character.

Branches, Divisions and Groups. These continue to hold regular meetings and to serve the members resident in their areas. Although it is essential that business should receive attention, it is the clinical meetings that are most appreciated by the average member.

World Medical Association. The Eleventh General Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in late September 1957. On this occasion the Association was not able to have a member present as its official delegate, and is grateful to Dr. T. C. Routley, of Canada, who agreed to act in this capacity.

Finance. The accumulated funds of the Association decreased by £8,890 during 1957, and stood at £22,153 at 31 December 1957. A deficit of at least £9,000 is estimated for the present year and, as a fair proportion of the present capital is in a form which is not easily accessible, the need for assistance from mem-

bers, by means of the donations requested by the Honorary Treasurer, is urgent.

Benevolent Fund. There are 25 beneficiaries of this Fund. During the year ended 31 December 1957 grants totalling £3,712 were made, and the accumulated funds now stand at £44,352.

Library Grants. Grants have been made to the five Medical School Libraries totalling £800 during the year under review.

Medical Agencies. The Agencies maintained in Cape Town and Johannesburg continue to render valuable service to members, who are reminded that they are there for the assistance of all. The Medical Insurance Agency continues to provide a service through various forms of insurance—Public Liability, Motor Car, Life and Endowment—and the many forms of general insurance cover.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Council I would thank all who have contributed to the work of the Association, which has expanded considerably during the year under review. I refer particularly to the Honorary Officials and the members of the various Committees who have made such great sacrifices in giving so freely of their time in the interests of the Association and the medical profession, as well as to the Medical Secretary and the members of his staff, both in Cape Town and Pretoria, who have rendered yeoman service.

Pretoria
July 1958

J. H. Struthers
Chairman of Council