

C.P.A. NEWS

The 4th Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association Conference

NAIROBI 1987

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During my stay at Nairobi, Kenya I attended:— The European regional meeting, the Council meeting and the Conference of the C.P.A.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING

The European Regional meeting was held on Saturday 7th March 1987 in the afternoon. The main item on the agenda was the forthcoming election of President of the C.P.A. I took the opportunity to ask the Region to support us in our claim that the head of the Pharmacy Department at the University should be a pharmacist. It was decided that Dr Beckett and Mr Kerr were to write a draft letter which if approved by me was to be put to the consideration of Council. I also raised the question of the Institute of clinical Pharmacy which is to be set up in Malta. Dr. A. Beckett agreed to act as adviser but it was decided to ask the approval of Council for such an appointment.

COUNCIL MEETING

The Council of the C.P.A. met at the Kenyatta Conference Centre on the 7th and 8th March 1987. One representative per country attended the meeting. The agenda consisted of sixteen items mostly concerned with the Internal Administration of the Association. I propose to comment slightly on some items that are of particular interest.

A. Personal Membership — The C.P.A. is proposing member countries to urge pharmacists to become personal members of the Association. The fee is Stg.£5 and members receive any publication issued by the C.P.A. and on request, once a year an issue of the British National formulary. I believe that here we can give a contribution to the C.P.A. by urging our Maltese colleagues to become personal members of the C.P.A.

B. Malta to host the 1989 Executive Committee — The first formal meeting of the C.P.A. is to be the Executive Meeting which involves the officials of the Association and one represen-

A NEW MAN FOR A NEW ERA

Mr Alfred Scales of Canada who chosen to succeed Dr. J.N. Banerjee as President. Alf Scales is a community pharmacist and a former President of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. He demonstrated during the Council meeting that he is a strong personality, with positive ideas and a willingness to lead by example. He left no one in doubt of his own inaugural statement that he will be an "action oriented President".

C.P.A. is into its third presidential era. For the first twelve years under the leadership of Mr. Albert Howells, O.B.E., C.P.A. became firmly established as an important international pharmaceutical organisation, with clear philosophies and policies and a number of initiatives designed to improve the provision of pharmaceutical services in member countries. Since 1982, with Dr. J.N. Banerjee at the helm, the predominant feature of that era was the recognition of C.P.A. by international health organisations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Health Organisation. The Scales era has the opportunity to build on the successes of the past, and to use C.P.A.'s international reputation to bring about positive and lasting improvements throughout the Commonwealth.

tative per region. After some lobbying I put my formal proposal that Malta is to host the next Executive in two years' time. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

C. Pharmacy in Malta — Each member presented a report on the current situation of Pharmacy in their country.

The report presented by me dealt with

- Pharmacy education
- Pharmacy Board
- Control of Narcotic and Phycotropic drugs
- Repugations reopening of new pharmacies
- The policies which the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists feels are the most urgent and intends to persue in the coming months.

D. W.H.O. representative — During the past years the C.P.A. has developed close strong relationship with the W.H.O. A representative of the World Health Organisation was present in

Nairobi. The idea is that all policies and decisions of the C.P.A. are eventually approved by the W.H.O. which then asks the Ministers of the various countries for ratification. Hence this relationship is of the utmost importance. The W.H.O. representative has asked all C.P.A. members to send a copy of the Drug Legislation Act.

E. Pharmacist as Head of the Department of Pharmacy in Malta — On any other business I raised the issue of the Headship of Pharmacy at the University of Malta. The meeting approved a Letter which is to be sent to the Rector of the University and the Minister of Health. These Letters have already been sent. The Council also agreed to nominate Dr Beckett as official advisor to the proposed Institute of the Clinical Pharmacy in Malta.

F. Commonwealth Pharmacy Day — It was agreed that member associations would be encouraged to recognise June 16 as Commonwealth Pharmacy Day. The President will circulate an appropriate message to commemorate the date and every effort should be made in each member country to use the occasion to enhance the awareness of pharmacy by government and other influential bodies.

THE NAIROBI CONFERENCE

I am delighted to report that the Forth Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association Conference held between 9th March—12th March 1987 at the Kenyatta Conference Centre, extended all expectations in terms of attendance, organisation, content and outcome.

Well over 400 delegates and accompanying persons travelled to Kenya and with the local participants, brought the total attendance to over 600. This magnificent support transformed the CPA Conference into a major international event.

While everyone was delighted with the varied and colourful social programme, the main interest of the delegates was in the content of the conference. The topics dealt with during the Conference were the following:—

- (a) Policies for the acquisition of essential drugs
- (b) Good manufacturing practice/Quality Assurance
- (c) Product registration in developing countries
- (d) Drug abuse.

The organisation of the Conference was such that a working group of experts was set up for

each subject discussed. The conclusions of the working groups were approved at the end of the Conference and it is envisaged that these will be incorporated in the C.P.A.'s policies.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya in parallel with the conference arranged a pharmaceutical exhibiton, which created a great deal of interest locally as well as among the Conference delegates.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

During my stay in Nairobi I took the liberty of acquiring information about other Commonwealth countries. Table I is a comparative list of the professional fees and profits of these countries. As can be clearly seen, Malta fairs by far the worst in this field. I hope that the Chamber of Pharmacist will tackle the matter with urgency.

COUNTRY	PROFESSIONAL FEE	RETAIL MARK-UP
AUSTRALIA	Govt. Aus\$2.60 Private Aus\$3.30	25% Av.50%
BAHAMAS	NIL	25%
BARBADOS	EC\$2.00/item	5%
CYPRUS	—	25%
FIJI	45cents/item	Av.35%
GHANA	—	20.30%
GUYANA	—	25-33½%
INDIA	—	15-30%
JAMAICA	J\$2/item	30%
LESOTHO	—	100%
MALAWI	MK1.00	30-50%
MALTA	—	20%
MAURITIUS	—	15-27%
NIGERIA	—	33½%
NORTHERN IRELAND	NHS£1.15 Then 60p or 70p	Av.25% some 33½%
SIERRA LEONE	—	33½%
SRI LANKA	—	30%
ST. LUCIA	—	30%
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	YES	33½-45%
TANZANIA	—	25-30%
UGANDA	—	33½%
ZAMBIA	YES	Av.30%
ZIMBABWE	YES	33½%

I believe that my experience in Nairobi has been a positive and beneficial one. The matters which I was asked to deal with have been concluded positively. I am convinced that the C.P.A. is an organisation which is all out to help the member countries and it can be of great help to us. It is now our duty to work hard to engage as many personal members as possible and to organise impeccably a memorable Executive Committee Meeting.