

## MEETING . . . . .

**Emanuel Attard Bezzina****EDITOR OF THE FIRST M.U.P. JOURNAL****Mary Ann Sant Fournier, B.Pharm., M.Phil.**

The Editor of 'The Pharmacist', Ms. M.A. Ciappara, accompanied by the President of the Chamber of Pharmacists, Mrs. M.A. Sant Fournier recently called on Mr. E. Attard Bezzina at his charming residence in Zejtun, after he accepted the Editorial Board's invitation to be interviewed.

So whilst sitting comfortably in his cool conservatory overlooking his bougainvillae-adorned courtyard and quietly served coffee and biscuits by his gentle daughter, he reminisced about these past two decades and we must say that although we all three of us did not adhere too often to the main topic we were researching, we nonetheless obtained first hand information on a varied number of subjects from a veritable connoisseur.

Mr Attard Bezzina is a pharmacist but perhaps more of a politician, of the old-school if we may add — he had made also a very good diplomat as Ambassador of our country to the Federal Republic of Germany.

But back to the journal, **Who's idea was it in the first place to have such a 'patriotic' cover design featuring the logo of the MUP?**

Yes, that was Mr Attard Bezzina's idea, professionally executed by an artist whose name escapes us as it did him!

**Whose idea was it to issue a magazine?**

"Ah! that's easy . . . the idea of having a journal of the Union of Pharmacists which would be distributed to all pharmacists and doctors was conceived by none other than — the then President of the Malta Union of Pharmacists, the late Mr. Anthony Darmania who as we all know was a very active pharmacist, together with another enterprising colleague Mr. Francis Formosa."

**What was the main aim of the journal?**

"The main aim was to demonstrate to all pharmacists the wish of the Union to keep in close contact with its members and to keep everyone informed of the work and progress achieved in its struggle for the benefit of the profession and

its members."

**It was not an Educational or Technical Magazine**

"No . . . nothing as high in standard as your own today" (A compliment if ever there was one!)

**What problems did you generally face?**

"The usual ones an editor is faced with . . . lack of sufficient material; arrival of articles by dateline — you know it all (do we not?!) — this is why a quarterly journal was published so erratically."

Mr. Attard Bezzina was also Examiner in examinations for Compounders and he admitted that he was a lenient one. But his main interest has always been in politics and . . . fishing!

He had some very interesting and entertaining anecdotes to relate about his fishing expeditions with his M'Xlokk friends on their luzzu. He was a sort of 'lucky charm' because they said that when he accompanied them on a fishing spree they would always have a bigger catch — no alchemy here although he did admit that he would take aquanise along, which would attract the kavalli. Speaking seriously, Mr Attard Bezzina is of the opinion that research should be geared towards the needs of such a small country as Malta with its limited resources. For example, the fishing industry needs to study whether Palm Fronds actually attract lampuki because of the liberation of some chemical or whether it is just a question of offering a shaded area to the fish.

On the question of the increase in the population of swordfish in the Mediterranean, he suggested that this could be due to an increase in marine salinity, after the opening of the Suez Canal.

Time seems to have stopped at the cool house in St. Gregory Street, but the visit was most interesting, both from the pharmaceutical and the fishing point of view.