

MEETING . . . . .

## Francis Formosa

### ADVERTISING CONSULTANT OF THE FIRST M.U.P. JOURNAL

Mary Ann Sant Fournier, B.Pharm., M.Phil.

We met Mr. Formosa over tea at the Union Club in Sliema. Mr. Formosa had cordially accepted the Editorial Board's invitation to be interviewed in view of the 20th anniversary commemoration of the union journal.

Immediately one gets the feeling of what an enterprising person he had been . . . and still is. The Union editorial board was wise in choosing him as advertising consultant. A quick look at the magazine shows that it was literally laden with adverts.

"The idea was to make as much money out of the magazine as possible. The Union coffers were empty. But the sponsors responded and the magazine was distributed even then free of charge" . . . we promise we will not pass around the hat to help up towards the cost"!

Another good idea was to publish a number of extra copies to be sent to pharmaceutical associations around the world. These in turn would reciprocate and thus an interesting journal library was built.

Mr. Formosa was a very active pharmacist whom we had also lost sight of. He too like Mr. Attard Bezzina had many interesting anecdotes to relate. But whereas Mr Attard Bezzina's were of a varied nature, Mr. Formosa's were purely pharmaceutical!

Mr. Formosa and Mr. Darmania had worked hard for Malta to be able to join the family of FIP through the support of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

He spoke of his trip, on behalf of the Union to F.I.P. at the Hague in 1966 and to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Mr. Formosa recalled that as the journal itself says, the Union formed "under the aegis of the Chamber with the express intention of safeguarding the interests of the profession as a

whole making the practice of the profession worthwhile . . ."

At the time, the Union was hoping that the representative "Pharmaceutical Services Board" (was) the precursor of a statutory "Pharmacy Board" and 'throughout the period of its existence, the Union has investigated and, where justified, curbed the sale of medicines by unauthorized persons. "We managed to close down some culprit premises" said Mr. Formosa.

He recalled how hard they worked for the establishment of the Pharmacy Board which was set up to safeguard the prestige of our profession. Work for its establishment was initiated by the Chamber of Pharmacists in 1954, and it was in 1968 that bills were presented in Parliament. Soon after its formation both Mr. Darmania and himself resigned for personal reasons.

