

Pharmacy in Malta

FROM THE POST WAR PERIOD TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000

Symposium and Pharmaceutical Exhibition

A symposium consisting of presentations of the projects submitted by B.Pharm. Final Year Students was organised by the Pharmacy Department, University of Malta on Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th March, 1988. After an introduction by Prof. A. Serracino Inglott, A/Head of the Department of Pharmacy, the symposium was opened by the Hon. Minister of Education.



Two students making their presentation.

The first project presented was on the history of pharmacy. Various other traditional areas in pharmacy topics were dealt with by the students, in addition to several other areas such as Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics where the Department has a special interest. Peripheral fields to the pharmacy interests include Cosmetics and Forensic Science. Students who showed special inclination to these investigations were also encouraged. However the greatest emphasis was given to the modern role of the pharmacist in Clinical Pharmacy and Patient Care.

A total of 44 projects were ably presented. These projects have been published in abstract form in a book edited by Prof. A. Serracino Inglott.

The symposium was brought to a close by the Hon. Professor J. Rizzo Naudi, M.D., F.R.C.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly who commended the students on their high level of academic achievement, and emphasised that their education must not stop on graduating but is a life-long process.



A section of the audience. Front row, 1st from left is Prof. D'Arcy.

Titles of the areas into which the various presentations were subdivided:

History of Pharmacy

Chairman: Dr. P. Cassar

Forensic Aspects

Chairman: Dr. A. Abela Medici

Pharmacognosy

Chairman: Mr. A. Scicluna Spiteri

Stability Studies

Chairmen: Mr. C. Fenech
Mr. M. Zarb Adami

Use of Drugs in Malta

Chairman: Prof. R. Ellul Micallef

Health Foods and Nutrition

Chairman: Ms. Mary Bellizzi

Drugs in the Elderly

Chairman: The Hon. Prof. J. Rizzo Naudi

Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics

Chairman: Prof. A. Serracino Inglott

Patient Care

Chairman: Mrs. L. Wismayer

Cosmetics

Chairman: Dr. A. Vella

Industrial Aspects

Chairman: Prof. V. Ferrito

COMMEMORATION:**TRIBUTE TO PHARMACIST ANTHONY M. DARMENIA, Ph.C., M.R.S.H.**

The President Mrs. M.A. Sant Fournier making a commemorative address. L to R (seated) CMTU President, Mr. S. Spiteri, Hon. Minister for Social Policy, Dr. L. Galea, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly, Prof. J. Rizzo Naudj and the Rector of the University, Rev. Prof. P. Serracino Inglott.

The symposium was dedicated to the memory of Mr. A.M. Darmania, past Chief Pharmacist, former President of the Chamber of Pharmacists and President of the Malta Union of Pharmacists.

A special commemorative evening in honour of Anthony Darmania was held on Friday 11th October at the Science Lecture Theatre at the University.

This was opened by the Hon. Minister for Social Policy, Dr. Louis Galea, B.A., LL.D., M.P. Commemoration addresses were made by the President of the Chamber of Pharmacists, Mrs. M.A. Sant Fournier, B.Pharm., M.Phil. and the President of the C.M.T.U., Mr. Salvino Spiteri.

Dr. L. Galea said that Mr. Darmania's was a 'persistent reformist and had a future looking philosophy. As chief pharmacist, he was responsible for the practical training of pharmacy students at the hospital and was for many years examiner at the university. Thus it can be said that he achieved the symbiosis between the University and the Hospital in his area of responsibility informally. It is now perhaps that this achievement be consolidated by being embodied in formal and institutional ways similar to those which are already operative in the other departments of the faculty of medicine and surgery.

Mrs. Sant Fournier spoke about Mr. Darmania's contribution towards the professional practice of pharmacy in Malta. As President of the Malta Union of Pharmacists, he worked hand in hand with the Chamber of Pharmacists, for the establishment of the Pharmacy Board and the issuing of a code of ethics for pharmacists. In Mr. Darmania's own words 'a high standard of ethics is primarily a matter of conviction and personal discipline, the code of ethics may be excellent, the pharmacy board an ideal judge, but all to no avail if there is nobody to supervise the practice and where necessary guide, admonish and ultimately refer to the Board for determination.' However, the President said this inspectorate is still wishful thinking.

Mr. S. Spiteri spoke on Mr. Darmania's contribution in other areas of trade unionism.

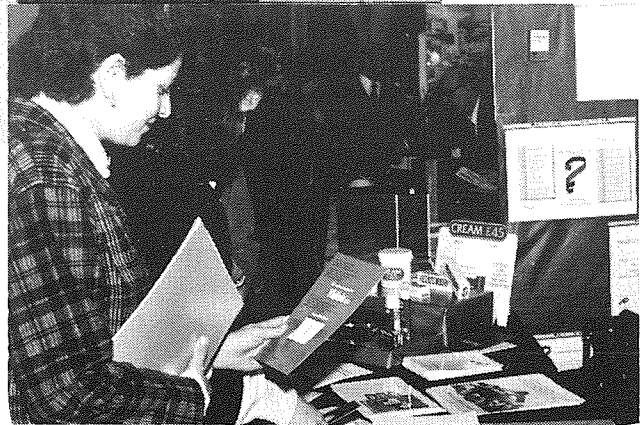
At the end of the commemoration, the President of the C.M.T.U. presented Professor P. Serracino Inglott as Rector of the University with a portrait of Mr. A. Darmania. The event was attended by the widow and children of the late Mr. A. Darmania together with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly, Prof. and Mrs. P. D'Arcy, other distinguished guests and pharmacists, doctors, paramedicals and students.

PHARMACEUTICAL EXHIBITION



The Chamber of Pharmacists' stand.

From L to R: Two students, Mr. Tonna, Ms. M. Zammit Montebello, the Treasurer Mrs. E. Lapi-
ra, Prof. P.F. D'Arcy, President Mrs. M.A. Sant
Fournier and the Editor Ms. M.A. C'appara.



A section of the Exhibition.

A pharmaceutical exhibition by leading drug firms was held concurrently with the Symposium at the University House.

The pharmaceutical exhibition was opened by the Hon. Dr. G. Hyzler, M.D., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary for Health. In his opening address, Dr. Hyzler referred to the increasingly important role of the Pharmaceutical Drug companies in the delivery of health care. He spoke of Government's commitment to improving the drug distribution system and the supply of essential drugs as part of the N.H.S. He concluded his speech by appealing to the private and public sectors to cooperate together so that the commitment of every country to 'Health for All' can be met.

The first stand each visitor came to was that of the Chamber. The theme of the stand was "A Sound Commitment to Pharmacy Education" and included preparations and photos of 'A Historical Retrospect', 'Continuing Education',

'The Student-Worker Scheme', 'Eminent Visitors'. The official journal of the Chamber "The Pharmacist" was featured and especially the special 20th anniversary issue was distributed to all pharmacists and students visiting the stand.

Pharmacists enrolling as members or renewing their membership in the Chamber were given their free copy of the British National Formulary under the first Pharmaid Scheme through the Chamber's membership in the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association.

On Sunday, the TVM current affairs programme "Malta u lil Hinn Minnha" visited the symposium and exhibition and interviewed the President of the Chamber, Mrs. M.A. Sant Fournier, Prof. P. D'Arcy and Prof. A. Serracino Inglott together with two fourth year students, Ms. Margot Zammit Montebello and Mr. Alan Tonna.

On this occasion the Department of Pharmacy published a supplement in 'The Times' on Friday 13th March. The Chamber was also featured by means of a contribution entitled "The Role of the Pharmacist in the Community — Ensuring the Safe Use of Medicines".