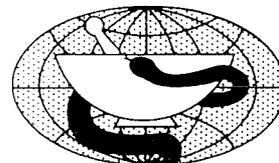


CONGRESS 1989

Mary Anne Ciappara B.Pharm.



Congress 1989, held on Sunday 30th April 1989 at the Aula Magna, Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta was organized by the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists and the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA).

It formed part of the Pharmacy Week held on the occasion of the holding of the Executive Committee meeting of CPA in Malta.

It incorporated the official opening of the Executive Committee Meeting together with two seminars entitled "Professional Services and Control in Community Pharmacy" and "Health Education, Lifestyle and Pharmacy".

The congress was a major event. It highlighted that:

1. Pharmacy is a profession rightly controlled by legislation and by professional codes of practice, the effective enforcement of which will safeguard public interest.
2. The Pharmacist is not just dispensing medicines but he is also dispensing advice on the medication and educating the members of the community on matters of healthcare.
3. The Pharmacist is an important member of the healthcare team.

The Congress was attended by the President and delegates, CPA the President and Council, Malta Chamber of Pharmacist, the Secretary and Registrar, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chief Government Medical Officer, the Deputy Chief Government Medical Officer, Head, Pharmacy Department, University of Malta, members of the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists other Healthcare Professionals, and students.



Rev. Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott, Pro. Rector, University of Malta officially opening the Congress. (left to right) Rev. Prof. P. Serracino Inglott, Mrs M.A. Sant Fournier, Mr A. Scales, Mr A. Howells

Official Opening

In her welcome address, the President of the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists, Mrs Mary Ann Sant Fournier, made reference to the historic building, the newly refurbished Aula Magna, where the Congress was being held, where in 1769, the Malta University in the academic sense of the word was established. The academic study of Pharmacy dates back even further, for it is probable that it began at the Holy Infirmary in 1676 when the School of Anatomy and Surgery was founded. In 1729, the first regulations for the running of a School of Pharmacy were enacted. Subsequently advances in medicinal and pharmaceutical knowledge brought about various legal enactments. By 1900 Chapter IV of the Second Sanitary Ordinance regulated the practice of pharmacy in Malta. In the

same year, the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists was founded to safeguard the prestige of the profession and ensure the ethical behaviour of Maltese Pharmacists. Today these same principals are enshrined in the statute of the National Association. The Chamber has always led the profession in its quest for excellent pharmacy education and professional practice. It is a member of CPA with which it has had close links since that exploratory founding conference held in London in 1969.

Mrs Sant Fournier continued by saying that the titles of the two seminars were carefully chosen to reflect areas of concern and progress and trusted that through the seminars there would be a greater awareness, indeed a reevaluation of the pharmacy profession in Malta by all concerned.



The Council, Malta Chamber of Pharmacists, the Executive Council, CPA with the President of Malta, H.E. Dr V. Tabone and Mrs Tabone at their residence, San Anton Palace.

Mr Alfred Scales, President, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association in his address spoke about CPA, which during these twenty years has been organised into an effective mechanism for promotion of better health care through the rational use of medicines and the appropriate use of the pharmacists manpower within the 37 member countries.

One of the stated goals of CPA is to provide assistance to any member country in developing a strong national association. Such association needs to be involved in both the licensing of pharmacists and in the on going registration and re-licensing procedures. In order to do this, to be a self disciplinary body, needs the full support of the national government in that country. He concluded by saying that "We are encouraging each member country to seek such a status, and to try to show governments that such legislation is in the best interests of its health service and its people. Legislation of itself is good and necessary but the enforcement of good legislation is also of the highest priority.

The congress was declared open by Reverend Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, Pro Rector, University of Malta. Prof. Serracino Inglott, a philosopher by profession, referred to the prototype of the Western Philosopher Socrates, who pictured himself as the administrator of Pharmako, drugs, that is substances which could be either medicine or poison, beneficent or maleficent, but in either case fascinating, full of charm with cryptic powers, the ambivalence of which could not entirely yield to analysis. Socrates considered writing and his own oral teaching as a form of drug useful as a cure for an ill. Socrates' view of his role as pharmakeus, of the philosopher as a spiritual pharmacist, culminates of course in his drinking of the drug with which he was condemned to put himself to death regarding it as a liberation from imprisonment in the disease-prone human bodily condition.

Prof. Serracino Inglott continued by saying that whereas the Socratic or Platonic view of education is complex, controversial and contestable, the view of healthcare in

general and of pharmacy in particular which is used as its model has an astonishingly modern air about it. It chimes with the emphasis on self responsibility for one's own health, with the Pharmacist as one of a team of scientific advisors to assist with rational counsel against distortion of the processes of natural growth, as much as with material aids for redress, in as much as possible when the distortion occurs. It is also in harmony with the emphasis on quality control of the delivery of drug services and their recognition as evils which are necessary to cure worse evils.

In a similar vein Prof. Serracino Inglott concluded by wishing CPA and the Chamber success in their efforts aimed at bettering the therapeutic, or sanitary use of the poisons that are their bread and butter.

Mr Albert Howells, Founder President, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, thanked the Rev. Prof. Serracino Inglott for opening the Congress and the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists for inviting the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association to host this important executive meeting.

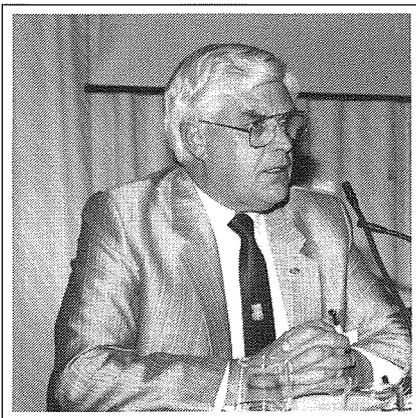
Mr Howells expressed his pleasure in once again being in Malta, an island rich in culture and history as is evident in the historic building where the Congress was being held and the Cathedral Museum of Mdina which was the venue of the welcome reception and the inauguration of the 'Pharmacists in Art' Exhibition. As founder President of CPA, it is the third time that he had experienced the warm and friendly hospitality of the Maltese Pharmacists.

When referring to the two joint seminars he said that it would give an opportunity for members of the executive committee to join together and help colleagues in Malta to make a fresh and, hopefully, successful advance with some long standing problems.

Professional Services and Control in Community Pharmacy

The morning seminar "Professional Services and Control in Community Pharmacy" was chaired by Mrs Mary Ann Sant Fournier, BPharm, MPhil, President, Malta Chamber of Pharmacists and Mr Raymond Dickinson, FRPharmS, MCPP, Secretary, CPA was rapporteur.

Three presentations were made, each of which focused on a particular aspect of the theme.



Mr B. Tidswell

Mr Brian Tidswell, FPS, JP, MIPharmM, Council Member CPA (New Zealand), CPA Pacific Region Representative, a community pharmacist, spoke on the 'Modern Community Pharmacist' and referred to the services a pharmacist gives with a particular reference to the situation in New Zealand.

Mr John Ferguson, FRPharmS, FPS (New Zealand), JP, Secretary and Registrar of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, spoke on the general trend for the future of legislation governing the context of Pharmacy. The current situation of Maltese community pharmacy practice and the problems being faced were highlighted by Mrs Patricia Mintoff, BPharm, a community pharmacist, member of the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists. A lively discussion followed the presentations.



The afternoon session (left to right) Dr G. Galea, Prof A. Serracino Inglott, Ms M.A. Ciappara, Mr A. Scales, Mr J. Grech and Mr M. Sesay.



Dr Banerjee, Immediate Past President, CPA making an intervention from the floor.

Health Education, Lifestyles and Pharmacy

The afternoon seminar 'Health Education, Lifestyles and Pharmacy' was chaired by Mr Alfred Scales, BPharm, President, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association and the rapporteur for this session was Ms Mary Anne Ciappara, BPharm, Secretary, Malta Chamber of Pharmacists.

A general overview of Health, Education, Lifestyle and Pharmacy

with particular reference to lifestyles was presented by Prof. Anthony Serracino Inglott, BPharm, Pharm, Head, Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta.

Mr Josef Grech, BPharm, a young Maltese Pharmacist, spoke on the important role the pharmacist has as a Health Educator in the Community. A broader view of what the pharmacist is doing in different countries in matters relating to Health Education was presented by



Mr Raymond Dickinson, CPA Secretary, CPA presenting the Statement of principles on Professional Services and control in Community pharmacy (third from left) the Hon. Dr L. Galea, Minister for Social Policy.

Mr Murtada Sesay, BPharm, Council member, CPA (Sierra Leone), representative of East Africa Region. Dr Gauden Galea, MD, MSc, Head, Health Education Unit, Department of Health (Malta), spoke on the efforts being done by the Health Department and on the ways by which the Pharmacist can give a valuable contribution. The presentations were followed by a short discussion.

Concluding Session

The statements of Principles on (1) Professional Services and Control in Community Pharmacy, and (2) Health Education, Lifestyles and Pharmacy, based on the discussion at the morning and afternoon sessions respectively, were presented by the rapporteurs, Mr Raymond Dickinson and Ms Mary Anne Ciappara and were approved by the Congress. These are published on pages 39-41.

The Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Minister for Social Policy brought the congress to a close. He said that the discussions of the congress clearly indicated that Pharmacists strove to identify new roles as well as develop their professional services in order to keep up with the changing times.

The minister said that at that time, his Ministry is evaluating the pharmaceutical services with the objective of ushering in a qualitative reform. The pharmacist-patient relationship is of extreme relevance and centred to the Government's strategy in its implementation of the 'Health for All' programme being promoted by the World Health Organisation.

His Ministry was also examining the Reports on Distribution of Health Service Medicines through Community Pharmacists, submitted by the Chamber in 1988 and the Report of the Free Drugs Scheme Working Committee submitted a few weeks back, so that measures will be worked out to provide new structures and a much better drug acquisition and drug distribution system. He remarked that the present system leaves much to be desired by way of the personalized service which is so appropriate and needed in a welfare society. The Government was considering to establish a list of the medicines which are essential to Maltese Society and gradually make it possible for patients to obtain their free medicines from a private pharmacy of one's choice.

The Minister when referring to the Pharmacy Board, reiterated the

government's policy to give a more meaningful role to professionals in the governance of matters related to their profession whilst ensuring better safeguards for the general public's right and interests. Headed that following the discussions with the Chamber, the Ministry would be in a position to present the necessary amendments to the laws in Parliament.

When referring to the theme of the second seminar Dr Galea said that his Ministry was attaching great importance to the significant of lifestyle of a health society. The Pharmacist in the Community has played a role in this activity in the past and would no doubt continue to do so in accordance with the needs of the present and those of the foreseeable future.

The Minister concluded by stating his belief that this role should be undertaken in the context of an integrated health team where the pharmacist is accorded the due professional status. This role is complementary and linked to the traditional image of the community pharmacist as a dispenser of medicines and to a lifestyle compatible with professional integrity and honesty.

The main sponsors for the congress who also put up a stand were
Joseph Cassar Ltd.
3M Health Care Ltd
Stafford Miller Ltd
Messrs Charles de Giorgio Ltd
A M Mangion Ltd.

Others who have also contributed to the successful organisation of this congress are:
Air Malta Ltd
Joseph Cassar Ltd
Chemimart Group of Companies
A Gera & Sons Ltd
Pharmacos Ltd
V J Salomone Ltd
A & V von Brockdorff Ltd.