

BOOK REVIEWS

The Facts: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

By Stanley Rachman and Padmal de Silva. 4th edition. Pp. xi + 184. R175. Oxford University Press Southern Africa. 2009. ISBN 978-0-19-956177-3

The Facts: Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder is an easy-to-read book which aims to provide a general overview of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and offer basic information describing the symptoms, causes and popular theories explaining OCD. This edition includes some advances in the field, with a note that psychological therapies prove as effective as drugs in the treatment of OCD, and endeavours to offer the reader a summary of the major research findings. Case studies are utilised to illustrate various aspects of OCD and its treatment. Included are chapters on the relationship of OCD to other disorders, the effects of OCD on families and relationships, as well as OCD in children. The authors discuss the treatments available, as well as practical advice and notes on self-assessment and treatment, including a relaxation exercise, inventories and questionnaires.

The book succeeds in providing accessible information for patients, families and general health care practitioners. However, South African mental health practitioners may be frustrated with the lack of contextual information and statistics, as those referred to are based on developed countries (US, UK and Canada), and may not be a reflection of the South African context. In addition the list of resources and organisations provided are specific to the UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

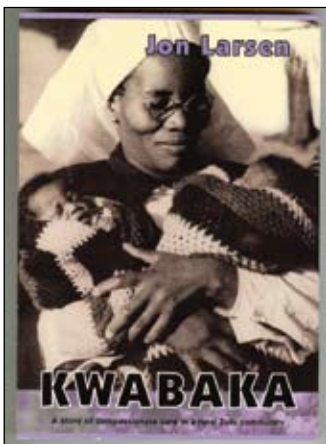
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KwaBaka. A Story of Compassionate Care in a Rural Zulu Community

By Jon Larsen. Pp. xiv + 274. Illustrated. R125.00. Cluster Publications. 2010. ISBN 9781 875 5053 83 4.



KwaBaka – the story of the planting of the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital and the remarkable caring community that grew around it.

In 1890 Charles and Margaret Johnson started a mission station at Masotsheni in Zululand, where, in 1889, the people had been involved on both sides of the battle of Isandlwana. Charles and Mary raised 10 children and remained at Masotsheni during the Boer War in 1897 and the Bambatha Rebellion

in 1906. Charles died in 1927 and Margaret in 1930, leaving behind over 40 church buildings, many junior schools and a high school at Masotsheni.

In 1935 William Lee, the Bishop, bought a trading store building in the nearby town of Nqutu, recruited 10 nurses and Dr Bessarabia, the district surgeon who was to visit once a week, and called it the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital. In 1945 Drs Anthony and Maggie Barker arrived to help the first full-time doctor at the hospital, Anne Borrow, who left soon afterwards.

The Barkers lived in the community, got to know the people and took a personal interest in each patient. They never bought a motor vehicle but bicycled around the area. Anthony grew a beard because the Zulus thought he looked too young to be a doctor, and became known as *Mahlekelanathi* – he who laughs in the forest. Maggie became known as *Mabhadazela* – she who never wears shoes. Anthony passed the higher Zulu language examination, obtained an MD from Wits on malignant malnutrition and passed the FRCS. Maggie became a skilled anaesthetist. They were very hospitable even though they were living in simple circumstances.

Because of the excellent care and teaching, the hospital attracted patients, students and visitors from far and wide. Regular contact with King Edward VIII Hospital's specialists included Professor Hugh Philpott, then a senior registrar in O&G, Professor Chapman – surgery, and Professor Barry Adams – internal medicine. Famous visitors included Oliver Tambo, Alan Paton, Gatscha Buthelezi, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. When, during apartheid, many black people were removed from white areas and settled in tent camps nearby, typhoid broke out. A visiting BBC television crew made a documentary called 'Dumping grounds', resulting in the hospital being visited by the security police.

Many nurses continued to work at the Hospital, although they were paid 25% less than at State hospitals. Chloe Zulu, the first Zulu matron, describes how 'We all played together. Whether you were black or white, you were getting the same treatment. That made us stay. The chapel services and morning prayers were central to our lives. My greatest joy was to see patients treated in a holistic and human way. That was so different from Baragwanath.' The State subsidy for doctors' salaries was shared equally between doctors classified into different population groups.

Dr Jon Larsen grew up in Zululand and heard Anthony speak while at UCT Medical School. He and his wife Jackie joined the staff of the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital in 1965. Jon took over as medical superintendent when the Barkers left in 1974. By means of stories, extracts from letters and pieces written by people involved at the hospital, Jon gives a real feeling of the living and working at Charlie J. One senses that the book is a labour of love. Jon left in 1977 to complete his specialisation in O&G. He helped to set up an excellent regional obstetric service for Zululand, which resulted in a marked drop in perinatal and maternal mortality rates. On the take-over of Charlie J by the KwaZulu-Natal government he notes with gratitude the support from Darryl Hackland, then a senior official in the KwaZulu Health Department. There are accounts from the medical superintendents who succeeded him – Greg Wells, Kevin McDonald and Richard Garratt. Richard graphically depicts the community violence between factions of the ANC and Inkatha that preceded the 1994 democratic elections.

The hospital has recently been beautifully rebuilt and the staff and community are justly proud of it. The staff in 2006 included Chief Executive Officer, Mr E M Xaba, who started as a personnel officer and served the hospital with distinction for over 20 years; Mr Khambule, Finance and Systems Manager; Dr Olfemi Dopeolu, Medical Services Manager; and Mrs M Z Khanyile, Nursing Services Manager. The nursing school campus is part of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The hospital has received many awards and the

vision of a health service in Nqutu fully managed by the Zulu people has been achieved.

The author poignantly describes his disappointment at the decision to disband the regional obstetric service, resulting in a marked deterioration in the perinatal and maternal mortality rates. Noting his own temptation to bitterness and resentment he then writes, 'If I can acknowledge that I am as vulnerable as the next man to become an oppressor – that often indeed, in the insensitivity of privilege, I have been the oppressor – then I can more easily walk in forgiveness and relinquish what I have striven for with great intensity, when it is taken from me. I can more easily give thanks for what has been achieved, for those lives touched with compassion, even when the opportunity for service is no more. I can more easily do what Bishop Zulu advised at that final mission hospital prizegiving and remember that I am called to serve the Lord and people, not the ideologies of governments.'

The Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital begun as, and continues to be, a beacon of light and hope in difficult times. It is a story that was worth recording and reading, and worth reading slowly.

Dr Neil Cameron

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Weinbren (5 March 1923 - 21 May 2010)

Professor Kenneth Weinbren, distinguished pathologist, passed away in London on 21 May 2010.

He qualified MB BCH at Wits in 1946. As a student he was president of the SRC for two years.

In 1950 he emigrated to England where he had a brilliant academic career. Much of his motivation for leaving South Africa was his strong anti-apartheid stance. In 1957 Wits awarded him an MD degree.

In 1963 he was appointed Reader in Anatomical Pathology at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith. From 1965 to 1966 he worked at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and Stanford University Medical School. In 1967 he was appointed Foundation Professor of Pathology at the new medical school in Nottingham, England. In 1972 he was appointed to the Chair of Anatomical Pathology at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith.

His special field of research was the mechanism and control of growth and differentiation of cells, with particular reference to the liver.

Kenneth was a cultured man who loved art and theatre. Friends and colleagues remember him as a man of exceptional kindness, who would go to great lengths to help those in need.

Kenneth was married for many years to Valerie, who predeceased him. He leaves four sons and grandchildren.

Professor C Isaacson

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