



Pharmacists' Gathering — PHARMACY BOARD IN THE OFFING

From A Correspondent

The President of the Union of Pharmacists, Mr. A. Darnenia, at the joint annual luncheon organized by the Chamber of Pharmacists and the Union at the Union Club, Sliema, said that this year they were celebrating an important event, their affiliation to the *Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique*. They were confident that this influential body would help them in their efforts to improve the practice of pharmacy in Malta.

Mr. Darnenia particularly welcomed the presence at the dinner of the new graduates and students who were their hopes for the future.

The guests at the dinner included the Minister of Health and Mrs. A. Cachia Zammit, the Chief Government Medical Officer, and Mrs. C. Coleiro, the Head of the Department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics and Mrs. J. Zammit Mampel, the Senior Medical Officer and Mrs. Cuschieri and the Senior Health Officer, Dr. P. L. Bernard.

The President, in his address, also dealt briefly on the practice of pharmacy and said that the Chamber and the Union were striving to establish the dignity and prestige which were essential to create and maintain the confidence of the persons whom it was their duty to serve. In years of intensive hard work they had gained the confidence and respect of the health authorities with whom they had to work in a spirit of cooperation if they were to achieve the desired progress.

Mr. Darnenia thanked the legal adviser for his generous and wise counsel, the Minister whose presence was evidence of the good relations between the Union and the Ministry and, last but not least, their Secretary, Mr. F. Formosa who had organized a very good dinner in pleasant surroundings.

Dr. Cachia Zammit, in his reply to the toast on behalf of "the distinguished guests"

said that he felt he was among colleagues, not only because of the Members of Parliament present but also because he, too, had qualified as a pharmacist and was fully aware of the heavy responsibility shouldered by the practitioners in ministering to the needs of their patients.

As an ex-Minister of Labour, he welcomed the organization of a strong union of pharmacists. The representatives of the profession were thus enabled to discuss and negotiate from a position of strength and on the other hand, if and when agreement was reached, the Union had the authority to enforce it among the membership. He confirmed that in spite of the difficulties and the inevitable divergences of opinion

the relations between the Union and the Ministry were good.

One of the important problems that was being tackled with earnestness was the amendment of existing pharmaceutical legislation. His Ministry would consult the Union on some amendments that were being prepared. In this respect he, too, welcomed the services of Dr. Mifsud Bonnici whose legal advice coupled with that of the Crown Counsel should produce legislation that was acceptable to the profession and the Government, and beneficial to the community whom all had the duty to serve. These were complex matters that required deep study.

He was glad to note that in spite of their natural impatience the Union appreci-

ated that excessive haste could result in regulations that would harm those very interests they strove to protect.

The Union was also pressing hard for the institution of a statutory Pharmacy Board. The proposal had been received with sympathy and was in the final stages of negotiation. He promised that in so far as it was in the public interest, this and all the other points raised by the Union would be given the serious consideration they merited.

The Minister complimented Mr. Formosa, the Secretary of the Union, on choosing a very good menu and he looked forward to next year's dinner when their leaders, and himself would be able to report progress.

Wing-Commander McCready, R.A.F. Station Commander at Hal Far, yesterday morning presented a metal carved crest of R.A.F. (Malta) to each of three employees at the Station, who have retired after many years of service.

The three retiring employees were Mr. J.M. Ellul, 60, Fitter Airframe Chargehand; Mr. A. Ellul, 60, M.T. and Vehicles Fitter Chargehand; and Mr. J.A. Fenech Soler, 61, Foreman of Trades.

Wing-Commander McCready praised the loyalty and devotion to duty of the three employees and on behalf of the staff and fellow employees he wished them good luck and many happy years in which to enjoy their retirement.

Picture above shows Wing-Commander McCready (centre) flanked by Mr. A. Ellul on his right and Mr. Fenech Soler with officers, staff members and employees at Hal Far yesterday.



Some of the pharmacists and their guests at the luncheon at the Union Club, Sliema.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. Evarist Saliba, Charge Affairs designate at the Maltese Embassy in Libya, arrived yesterday by air from Tripoli.

Sgt. G. Chianello, Manager of Alitalia in Malta, arrived yesterday by air from Palermo. He was accompanied by Laura Chianello.

Mrs. G. Cauchi arrived by air from U.K. accompanied by her son Jason, for a six weeks' stay to visit her parents Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Fittol of Sliema.

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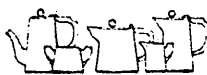
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