

DOCTORS IN PARLIAMENT*

J. K. DE KOCK, *President, Cape Western Branch (M.A.S.A.), 1963*

During the years that I have been a member of the Medical Association of South Africa and a member of Branch Council, I have listened to many speeches, debates, addresses and lectures delivered by my colleagues. I was often impressed by the clear and lucid thinking, reasoning, debating ability and eloquence of many of my fellow members.



Dr. de Kock

How well such a man would have fared in Parliament, was a thought that often arose in my mind.

It was only after reading *The History of Medicine in South Africa* by Edmund H. Burrows, that I realized how important a part medical men played in the development of our country as a whole. They took an active part in the affairs of the Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal and the Union of South Africa. Their interests were not limited to medical matters only, but covered a much wider field, including politics.

Who were these doctors who, over the years, entered politics? This is the subject of my address tonight: Doctors in Parliament. My original intention was to review the period from Union, i.e. 1910 to the present day. However, on reading Burrows' book I came across so many interesting and colourful personalities that I decided to include the periods 1854 to 1900, and 1900 to 1910. It is impossible in a review of this type to cover the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Natal during these periods as well; consideration will therefore only be given to the Cape Colony for the period 1854 to 1910, and from the date of Union to the present day.

THE PERIOD 1854 - 1900

Representative Government was granted to the Cape in 1854. The first Legislative Assembly of the Cape Colony met for the first time in the Banqueting Hall of the Goede Hoop Lodge, using this Hall as its Council Chamber, and continued to do so for the next 30 years until Parliament moved to the new building in Parliament Street in 1884. This Legislative Assembly consisted of 46 members. Medical men apparently took an interest in politics from the earliest days of our history. It was therefore not surprising that three doctors were elected as representatives to the first Cape Parliament. They were Drs. F. L. C. Biccard, James Abercrombie and James Christie.

Dr. F. L. C. Biccard was the son of Dr. L. G. Biccard, M.D., of Hanover, Germany, who came to the country as a surgeon major with the Batavians in 1803, and the first doctor officially licensed to practise in South Africa. Dr. F. L. C. Biccard was one of the select group of Cape-born graduates in medicine from Leyden University. He was licensed to practise in 1835. He practised successively at Durbanville, Cape Town and Malmesbury. For the last 10 years of his life he was in charge of the Infirmary on Robben Island. His name was associated with chloroform, since he was the first surgeon to use it in this country.

Dr. James Abercrombie, L.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.D., Aberdeen, was born in Edinburgh and came to the Cape in 1817. He became Dr. Bailey's first Resident Surgeon at the Somerset Hospital. Later he practised in Strand Street, Cape Town. He soon played a prominent part in the cultural life of the town. He was one of the first elders of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and a member of the South African College Council. He was elected to the Assembly in 1854 and to the Upper

House in 1865. It is interesting to record that it was on a proposal by Dr. Abercrombie that it was decided to begin the day's work in the Assembly with prayer—a practice which was taken over in the Union Parliament and continues to the present day.

Dr. James Christie, Diploma in Midwifery, 1839. His settling in the Cape came about by chance. He was landed at Simons-town from *H.M.S. Isis*, a fortunate survivor of the *Borneo*, a vessel in which he was making his first voyage as a ship's surgeon and which was wrecked off the coast of Mozambique. Licensed immediately to practise as a surgeon and accoucheur, despite his lack of a surgical degree, he settled in the small village of Beaufort West. He was the only qualified practitioner in a radius of 200 miles. He represented Beaufort West until 1870. Three years later he was elevated to the Legislative Council.

Dr. Henry White, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), 1834, Diploma in Midwifery, was the first doctor to hold cabinet rank. He settled in Swellendam and was appointed district surgeon, a post he held for 23 years. Passionately interested in agriculture, he participated avidly in all local district affairs, pioneering among other things the first reaping machine in South Africa. He retired from medical practice to his farm in 1857 and drifted into politics. He was elected to the Assembly in 1860 as the member for Swellendam. In 1870 he was elected to the Legislative Council and was privileged to be invited by John Molteno to become Treasurer General in the first Cape cabinet under Responsible Government.

Dr. J. W. Mathews, who was said to have had 'the most remarkable career of any medical practitioner in the Sub-continent', was a colourful character with an adventurous spirit. A Yorkshireman by birth, he settled in Verulam, Natal, in 1864. He set out in 1871 for the Diamond Fields, attracted by the prospect of rapid wealth, where the wild life of digging and doctoring was well suited to his adventurous nature. It is said that he lost the whole of the Central Hotel property in Kimberley in a single night; that he made a fortune ten times over and lost it as rapidly as he made it. He was elected a member for Kimberley in 1880, but resigned in 1883. He later settled in Johannesburg where he did all manner of things. In the early days he was one of the leading members of the Gold-fields. He was the author of a book, *Twenty Years' Personal Experience in South Africa*.

Sir William Bisset Berry, M.D., was an able and outstanding personality. He began his career as a ship's surgeon to the Arctic before migrating to the Cape in 1864. He settled in Queenstown and was appointed district surgeon. He became one of the leaders of the profession. He acquired an enormous medical practice and virtually became the consultant for the Upper Border. As the first mayor of Queenstown and in the vanguard of all civil improvements, he made a lasting contribution to the progress of the town. In 1894 he was returned to the Legislative Assembly for Queenstown and remained continually in Parliament as its member until 1919, when he retired. In 1898 he was elected Speaker of the House, a position he filled with great credit, for nine years. He was a polished orator and writer and an extraordinarily well-read man. He never spoke unless he understood his subject to the hilt.

Sir Leander Starr Jameson, P.C., C.B., M.R.C.S., M.D., was one of the most controversial figures in South African history. Born in Edinburgh, he received his medical training at University College, London, where he gained many academic honours. At the age of 25 he accepted an offer from Dr. J. P. Prince in Kimberley to join him in partnership. His ready wit, infectious gaiety and irresistible personal charm soon forced him to the fore. He was a born surgeon, resourceful, capable of immediate decision and of great manual dexterity. He forsook medicine in 1889 and became the trusted confidant of Rhodes. It was through him that Rhodes procured the concession from Lobengula which formed the basis of the Royal Charter of the

*Presidential address, Cape Town, 31 January 1964.

British South Africa Company. He treated Lobengula's gout with morphine. He became Administrator of Mashonaland. In 1895 came the disastrous raid, for which he took full blame and repented at leisure in Holloway Prison.

He succeeded Rhodes as leader of the Progressive Party and became Prime Minister of the Cape Parliament for the period 1904 - 1908. He entered the first Union Parliament in 1910, but retired to England in 1912. His remains were re-interred with those of Rhodes in the Matopo Hills near Bulawayo.

Perhaps owing to the fact that he had such a long political career and was mostly known by his title, it is often forgotten that *The Rh. Hon. Sir Thomas William Smartt, P.C. K.C.M.G.*, was once a medical practitioner. He started in general practice at Britstown. Elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1894 as a member for Woodhouse, he in succession represented Cathcart, East London, and Fort Beaufort.

He served as Colonial Secretary during the period 1896 - 1898, and as Commissioner of Public Works during 1900 - 1908. He was elected to the first Union Parliament in 1910 and was leader of the Unionist Party which came to an end in 1919, when it joined the South African Party under the leadership of General J. C. Smuts.

It is stated that *Johannes Henricus Meiring Beck, F.R.S. (Edin.), M.B.C.M., M.R.C.P., M.D.*, better known in later years as Sir Meiring Beck, was a South African patriot of the finest type, and that he made a lasting contribution to his country as physician and statesman. Born at Worcester he matriculated at the South African College with first class honours and proceeded to Edinburgh where he qualified in 1879 with first class honours. His academic brilliance earned him the name of 'Star of South Africa'.

He commenced practice in Worcester in 1883, but three years later moved to Rondebosch where he practised for the following 17 years, when he retired completely from medical practice. His professional work was only one of his many activities. He was one of the first members of the Colonial Medical Council in 1892, and its President from 1898 to 1900. He served as President of the Cape of Good Hope Branch of the British Medical Association. As Secretary of the original South African Medical Association he opposed affiliation to the British Medical Association and became one of the most enthusiastic, influential and indefatigable workers for the formation of a South African Association. In 1893 he was elected to the Cape Parliament as the Member for Worcester. He was a keen Parliamentarian and had a long and successful career. He became a Senator in the first Union Parliament and was appointed Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in the Botha Cabinet in 1916.

His interests were wide: electricity, photography—he is said to have been the first practitioner to take X-ray photographs in South Africa—Africana, music. He wrote the music of the now official University of Cape Town (and former South African College) song 'The S.A.C. is the College for me . . .' During the 1919 influenza epidemic he came out of medical retirement and attended patients as an ordinary practitioner in Pretoria.

The last name to be mentioned for this period is that of *Dr. T. N. G. te Water*, of Graaff Reinet. He was elected a Member of Parliament in 1894 and in 1896 was elected Colonial Secretary—a position which he held for 2 years. He represented Graaff Reinet from 1894 to 1903.

THE PERIOD 1900 - 1910

The membership of the House had gradually increased from 46 in 1854 to 95 in 1900. This was further increased to 107 in 1905. Thirteen doctors served as Members of Parliament during the years 1900 to 1910. Mention has already been made of Sir Thomas Smartt, Sir Starr Jameson, Sir Meiring Beck and Dr. T. N. G. te Water who continued to serve in this period.

Sir Starr Jameson was elected Prime Minister in 1904 and remained in office until 1908. He was not re-elected at the next general election.

During this time Sir Thomas Smartt served as Colonial Secretary from 1900 to 1904.

A well-known practitioner of Paarl, *Dr. A. L. de Jager*, was elected a Member of Parliament for the first time in 1905. He

represented Paarl in the Union Parliament for a number of years.

An interesting personality was *Dr. A. G. Viljoen* who was elected as the representative for Caledon in 1904. He practised at Caledon from 1882 to 1890 when he moved to the Transvaal and became the chief medical officer of the Government forces. He gave up medical practice in 1897 and returned to Elgin where he took up farming and succeeded in running his farm in a very thorough and scientific manner. He was nominated a Senator in the Union Parliament and retained his Senatorship until his death. He received the honour of a knighthood in 1916. He always retained his interest in medicine. Although he had retired from active practice, he gave gratuitous medical service to the poor people in his immediate neighbourhood.

Following is a list of the medical men in Parliament at that time (Table I):

TABLE I. MEDICAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, 1900 - 1910

Name	Constituency	Period of Service
Beck, Sir J. H. Meiring	Worcester	1899 - 1910
Bisset Berry, Dr., Sir William	Queenstown	1893 - 1907
De Jager, Dr. A. L.	Paarl	1905 - 1907
Hewatt, Dr. J.	Woodstock	1904 - 1910
Hoffman, Dr. J. M.	Paarl	1898 - 1904
Jameson, Sir Leander Starr	Kimberley	1900 - 1910
	Prime Minister	1904 - 1908
Murray, Dr. F.	Vryburg	1908 - 1910
Smartt, Dr., Sir Thomas W.	East London	1894 - 1910
Smuts, Dr. C. P.	Cape Division	1887 - 1903
Te Water, Dr. T. N.	Graaff Reinet	1894 - 1903
Vanes, Dr. A. B.	Uitenhage	1894 - 1907
Viljoen, Dr. A. G.	Caledon	1904 - 1910

This was the period after the Anglo-Boer War and the pre-Union era. A National Convention was called which met for the first time in 1908 to discuss the formation of Union between the Cape Province, Natal, and the former Republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Three doctors, Sir Thomas Smartt, Sir Starr Jameson and Sir Meiring Beck were representatives of the Cape Colony and took part in the deliberations of the Convention, which culminated in the formation of the Union of South Africa on 31 May 1910.

THE PERIOD 1910 - 1963

The Union Parliament

The first Union Parliament met on 31 October 1910. To this House were elected 121 representatives, and once again the medical profession was represented in this Assembly by 9 Members. They were Drs. A. L. de Jager, A. H. Haggart, R. McCauley, J. C. Macneillie, A. M. Neethling, A. H. Watkins, Sir Bisset Berry, Sir Thomas Smartt and Sir Starr Jameson.

At the same time three doctors were appointed Senators, viz., Sir Meiring Beck, Dr. O'Grady Gubbins and Dr. A. G. Viljoen.

Four of the above elected Members of Parliament, Dr. A. L. de Jager, Sir Thomas Smartt, Sir Bisset Berry and Sir Starr Jameson had previously served in the Cape Parliament. One of the medical Senators, Dr. O'Grady Gubbins, was appointed Minister without Portfolio in the Botha Government and thus had the honour of being the first medical practitioner to obtain cabinet rank in the Union Parliament.

The Leader of the Opposition was Sir Starr Jameson, and, when he retired in 1911, Sir Thomas Smartt became the Leader of the Unionist Party and continued in this capacity until 1919, when his party amalgamated with the South African Party under the leadership of General Smuts. Through the years which followed Union the medical profession always had representatives in Parliament. In all, the number of medical men who served as Members of Parliament during this period of 53 years since Union was 36.

It is, of course, impossible in a review of this nature to give pen pictures of all our colleagues who were parliamentarians. This could perhaps be undertaken at some future date by someone more capable than myself. However, many of us remember men like A. L. de Jager, R. Forsyth, E. P. Baumann, H. Gluckman, O. L. Shearer, Karl Bremer, A. M. Moll, A. J. Stals, B. Friedman and many others. I wish, however, to draw attention to two colourful personalities:

The first is *Dr. Louis Bosman*, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Edin.), F.R.I.C., B.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Cape), F.R.S. (S.Af.), biochemist and pathologist, M.P., Gardens. He was a man of wide interests and amazing energy, despite a physical handicap. It was said that he crowded 80 years of work into his 52 of life. His genius for friendship made him beloved. His influence in Parliament was strong, because he was determined never to be swayed by emotional bitterness.

Many past students of the University of Cape Town will remember him as lecturer in physiology from 1922 - 1934. Soon afterwards he qualified M.B., Ch.B. at the University of Cape Town and became a clinical pathologist. He was deeply interested in theology and qualified in holy orders, but was never ordained, although he often conducted a service as a lay preacher. During his younger days he toured with an operatic company as a member of the chorus. He served on the City Council and the UCT Council and Senate, he was an executive of the Western Province Rugby Football Union, a director of the Southern Life Insurance Co., and Chairman of the Parliamentary Temperance Committee. He was a member of Federal Council of the M.A.S.A. and in 1947 was elected President of the Cape Western Branch. He died suddenly during his year of office, a few days before delivering his presidential address.

The second personality is *Dr. W. P. Steenkamp* (snr.). He was a minister in the D.R. Church, a doctor of theology, a medical practitioner, a politician, a farmer, an author and a naturalist. Born at Calvinia in 1879, he matriculated at Wellington and completed his studies at the Theological Seminary, Stellenbosch. He served as a minister of the D.R. Church at Pretoria and Ermelo before proceeding to Amsterdam where he obtained a doctor's degree in theology in 1912. He had always been interested in medicine, and decided to begin his medical course in Berlin. For family reasons he had to interrupt his studies and return to South Africa. On his return from Europe he was inundated with calls from D.R. churches all over the country, but he chose to accept a call to the small, poor community of Nieuwoudtville. Soon afterwards he made arrangements to continue his medical studies in Dublin when World War I was declared, and he had to abandon the idea. Then came the rebellion. Always a man of outspoken opinion and not afraid to speak his mind, he was soon in trouble with the authorities and as a result had to spend a year in jail. He had, however, never given up the idea of qualifying in medicine. At the age of 44, in 1923, he once again decided to take up medicine, and with his son, W.P. (jnr.), left for Louisville, Kentucky, USA. They then proceeded to Holland where they obtained their Arts qualifications and where he obtained an M.D. degree. Soon after his return to South Africa, in 1929, he was elected a Member of Parliament for Namaqualand, where he was highly respected and much thought of. While serving in Parliament he continued his medical practice in Cape Town. He was a Member of Parliament for 14 years and a Senator for two years.

Mention must be made of *Dr. Z. J. de Beer*, former M.P. for Maitland, who, elected at the age of 25, must undoubtedly be the youngest South African doctor ever to have represented a constituency. Notwithstanding his youthful age at the time, he was able to hold his own in the debating chamber.

The record for continuous service is held by *Sir Thomas Smartt* who served without interruption for 35 years in the Cape and Union Parliaments, although Dr. Karl Bremer and Dr. H. Gluckman had longer service in the Union Parliament than he had—respectively 22 and 20 years. The following are the medical men who were members from 1910 - 1963 (Table II).

TABLE II. MEDICAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, 1910 - 1963

Name	Constituency	Period of Service
Baummann, Dr. E. P.	Rosettenville	1933 - 1936
Bisset Berry, Dr., Sir William	Queenstown	1910 - 1919
Bosman, Dr. L. P.	Gardens (C.T.)	1943 - 1947
Bremer, Dr. K.	Graaff Reinet	1924 - 1925
	Graaff Reinet	1929 - 1933
	Graaff Reinet	1933 - 1938
	Graaff Reinet	1938 - 1943
	Stellenbosch	1943 - 1948
	Ceres	1951 - 1953
	Vasco	1953 - 1953
	Appointed Minister	13 February 1951

Buntine, Maj. Dr. R. A.	Pietermaritzburg South	1915 - 1918
Davies, Lt. Col. Dr. W. T. F.	Yeoville	1915 - 1920
De Beer, Dr. Z. J.	Maitland	1953 - 1958 1958 - 1961
De Jager, Dr. A. L.	Paarl	1910 - 1915 1915 - 1920 1920 - 1920 1921 - 1924 1924 - 1929
De Wet, Dr. C. P. C.	Van der Byl Park	1953 - 1958 1958 - 1964
	Appointed Ambassador in London	1964
Eksteen, Dr. H. O.	Middelberg	1943 - 1948
Fisher, Dr. E. L.	Rosettenville	1958 -
Forsyth, Dr. R.	Cape Town Gardens	1920 - 1920 1948 - 1953 1953 - 1955
Friedman, Dr. B.	Hillbrow	1943 - 1948 1948 - 1953 1953 - 1955
Gluckman, Dr. H.	Yeoville	1938 - 1943 1943 - 1948 1948 - 1953 1953 - 1958
	Appointed Minister	9 November 1945
Haggard, Dr. C. H.	Rooedeport	1910 - 1915
Hewat, Dr. J.	Woodstock	1910 - 1915 1915 - 1920
Jameson, Sir Leander Starr	Grahamstown	1910 - 1912
Jurgens, Dr. J. C.	Geduld	1958 -
Lambrecht, Dr. H. A.	Colesberg	1929 - 1932
McCaulay, Dr. D.	Denver	1910 - 1915
Macneillie, Dr. J. C.	Boksburg	1910 - 1915 1915 - 1919
Meyer, Dr. T.	Odendaalsrust	1958 -
Moll, Dr. A. M.	Rondebosch	1938 - 1943 1943 - 1948
Neethling, Dr. A. M.	Beaufort West	1910 - 1915
Osborn, Dr. T. W. B.	Benoni	1947 - 1948 1948 - 1949
Potgieter, Dr. C. S. H.	North-East Rand	1929 - 1933
Radford, Dr. A.	Durban Central	1958 -
Shearer, Col. O. L., C.B.E., E.D.	Pietermaritzburg City	1943 - 1948 1948 - 1953 1953 - 1958 1958 - 1961
Smartt, Dr. Sir Thomas W.	Cathcart East London Fort Beaufort Hopetown	1910 - 1929 1924 - 1929
Stals, Dr. A. J.	Hopetown Ceres	1929 - 1933 1943 - 1948 1948 - 1951
	Appointed Minister	4 June 1948
Steenkamp, Dr. W. P.	Namaqualand Namaqualand Calvinia	1929 - 1933 1933 - 1938 1938 - 1943
Steytler, Dr. J. van A.	Queenstown	1953 - 1958 1958 - 1961
Swanepoel, Dr. S. J.	Gezina	1943 - 1948
Visser, Dr. T. C.	Vrededorp	1920 - 1920 1921 - 1924 1924 - 1929
Watkins, Dr. A. H.	Barkly	1910 - 1915 1915 - 1920
Wilson, Dr. B.	Hospital	1958 - 1961

The present Parliament has 160 members of which only five are doctors. They are:

Dr. C. de Wet*	Van der Byl Park
Dr. T. Meyer	Odendaalsrust
Dr. E. L. Fischer	Rosettenville
Mr. A. Radford	Durban Central
Dr. J. C. Jurgens	Geduld

*Dr. De Wet was recently appointed South African Ambassador in London.

DOCTORS IN THE SENATE, 1910 - 1963

Thirteen doctors have had the honour of being elected or appointed senators. Of these, Sir Meiring Beck and Dr. O'Grady Gubbins held cabinet rank during their term as

senators. Dr. Karl Bremer was a senator for two years, to be re-elected later to Parliament, when he became Minister of Health.

Dr. W. P. Steenkamp (snr.) was a member of the Senate from 1946 - 1948.

The medical senators are listed in Table III.

TABLE III. MEDICAL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, 1910 - 1963

Name	Period of Service
O'Grady Gubbins, Dr. C.	1910 - 1911
Meiring Beck, Sir J. H.	1910 - 1919
Viljoen, Dr. Sir Antonie G.	1910 - 1918
McKenzie, Dr. A.	1929 - 1933
Visser, Dr. T. C.	1929 - 1939
Steenkamp, Dr. W. P.	1946 - 1948
Bremer, Dr. K.	1949 - 1951
Rabie, Dr. J. C.	1955 - 1959
Kloppers, Dr. I. S.	1955 - 1960
Steyn, Dr. H. J.	1957 -
Pretorius, Dr. J. L.	1960 -
Woolf, Dr. E. B.	1960 -
Watkins, Dr. B.	1921 -

Four of the abovementioned senators, Drs. A. H. Watkins, K. Bremer, T. C. Visser, and W. P. Steenkamp had been Members of Parliament as well.

The present members of the medical profession in the Senate are Drs. H. J. Steyn, J. L. Pretorius and E. B. Woolf.

DOCTORS AS MINISTERS

The men who attained cabinet rank since Union were: Sir G. O'Grady Gubbins, Sir J. H. Meiring Beck, Sir Thomas Smartt, Dr. Henry Gluckman, Dr. A. J. Stals, and Dr. Karl Bremer.

Dr. O'Grady Gubbins, who was appointed Minister without Portfolio in the first Botha Cabinet, was an outstanding personality. An Irishman by birth and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, 1876, he was sent out to Natal by the War Office after the Insandhlwana Battle disaster in Zululand. He decided to settle in Newcastle, Natal. It was largely owing to his untiring exertions that the coal industry in Natal was put on a sound and satisfactory basis. He represented Newcastle in the Natal Legislative Assembly and later served as Colonial Secretary. He was knighted in 1911.

Sir Meiring Beck held the portfolio of Posts and Telegraphs in the Botha Cabinet in 1916, while Sir Thomas Smartt was Minister of Agriculture in the Smuts Cabinet from 1921 - 1924. Drs. H. Gluckman, A. J. Stals and K. Bremer held the post of Minister of Health in the Smuts and Malan Governments. Further mention will presently be made of these men.

Here I want to draw attention to an outstanding medical politician, who, although not a Member of the Union Parliament, is a very near neighbour. I refer to Lord Malvern, better known to some of us as Sir Godfrey Huggins of Southern Rhodesia. After qualifying at St. Thomas, London, in 1906 and obtaining his F.R.C.S. in 1908, he came out to Southern Rhodesia in 1911 and began general practice. From 1921 he confined his practice solely to surgery and became a consultant surgeon. He entered politics in 1921, became Minister of Native Affairs in 1933 and held the portfolio for 16 years. From 1948 to 1956 he served as Minister of Defence; he was Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia from 1933 to 1953 and Prime Minister of the Federation from 1953 to 1956. In addition he has held numerous directorships in various companies. He retired from politics in 1956, after 35 years of service.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Department of Health was established on 1 July 1919 as a result of the passing of the Public Health Act of 1919. The first appointments of Minister of Public Health and Secretary for Public Health were made in that year. Act No. 51 of 1946 changed their designations to Minister of Health and Secretary for Health. It is interesting to record that, up to date, the country has had 14 Ministers of Health, and of these only three belonged to the medical profession. They were Drs. Gluckman, Stals and Bremer and that they followed each other in succession in office. The following are the Ministers of Health and the Prime Ministers in whose cabinets they held office (Table IV):

TABLE IV. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Minister of Health	Date of assumption of office	Prime Minister
Sir Thomas Watt	1919	Gen. J. C. Smuts
Dr. the Hon. D. F. Malan	1921	Gen. J. C. Smuts
Sir Patrick Duncan	1924	Gen. J. B. M. Hertzog
The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr	1933	Gen. J. B. M. Hertzog
The Hon. R. Stuttaford	1936	Gen. J. B. M. Hertzog
The Hon. H. G. Lawrence	1939	Gen. J. C. Smuts
Dr. the Hon. H. Gluckman	1945	Gen. J. C. Smuts
Dr. the Hon. A. J. Stals	1948	Dr. D. F. Malan
Dr. the Hon. K. Bremer	1951	Dr. D. F. Malan
Dr. the Hon. A. J. R. van Rhijn	1953	Dr. D. F. Malan
The Hon. J. F. T. Naude	1954	Adv. J. G. Strydom
The Hon. J. H. Viljoen	1956	Adv. J. G. Strydom
The Hon. M. D. C. de Wet Nel	1958	Adv. J. G. Strydom
Dr. the Hon. A. Hertzog	1958	Dr. H. F. Verwoerd

Following are short biographies of the three medical ministers.

Dr. the Hon. Henry Gluckman

He retired from politics in 1958. He is at present farming at Grasmere, Transvaal, and is chairman and director of companies. Educated at King Edward School in Johannesburg, he received his medical training at the London Hospital, where he qualified. He commenced practice in Johannesburg and was appointed honorary consultant to the General Hospital from 1922 to 1957 and lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand from 1923 to 1940. He served as director of the Johannesburg City Council Special Treatment Centre from 1920 to 1940. For 36 years he was chairman of the South African Social Hygiene Council, and chairman of the National Committee for Health Education of the South African Red Cross Society. During World War I and World War II he served with the South African Medical Corps as a Captain and Colonel respectively. As National President of the National War Memorial Foundation, he presented to Parliament in 1957 the Roll of Honour and the Book of Remembrance. He was elected a member of Parliament for Yeoville in 1938 and returned unopposed in the Parliamentary Elections of 1943, 1948 and 1953. He did not offer himself for re-election in 1958. Appointed Minister of Health and Housing in the Smuts Government of 1943, his name is best remembered as chairman of the National Health Service Commission, popularly known as the Gluckman Commission.

The terms of reference of the commission were:

1. The provision of organized National Health Service in conformity with the modern conception of "health", which will ensure adequate medical, dental, nursing and hospital services for all sections of the people of the Union of South Africa.

2. The administrative, legislative and financial measures which would be necessary in order to provide the Union of South Africa with such a National Health Service.

The Commission covered a very wide field and collected a mass of evidence during the course of its investigations. The report was tabled in Parliament in 1944. The recommendations of the Gluckman Commission were not wholly acceptable to the Government, because of the Constitutional implications involved. The Government, however, decided that extra institutional services would be the responsibility of the Central Government. It accordingly commenced the implementation of the Commission's recommendations in respect of promotive health services and proceeded with the establishment of a number of health services in various parts of the country.

It is interesting to compare the terms of reference and the findings of the Gluckman Commission with those of the Snyman Commission of today.

Dr. the Hon. Albert J. Stals

Born at Tulbagh in 1880, he received his education at a farm school and later matriculated at Wellington. He was a scholarly type of man. After obtaining his B.A. in Literature at the University of Stellenbosch in 1903, he proceeded to Trinity College, Dublin, to study medicine. While doing his medical course he obtained a B.A. degree in Mathematics in 1907. He qualified in 1909 and later obtained his M.D. at the same University. Interested in law, he took the B.A., LL.B. degrees after qualifying in medicine. On his return to South Africa he commenced practice at Worcester. In 1923 he was elected to Parliament as the Member for Hopetown, a constituency he represented for nine years. On his election to Parliament he retired from active medical practice. In 1934 he was appointed to the Board of Trade and Industries and the South African Shipping Board. He was Chairman of the Volkskas Bank from

1943 to 1947. After an absence of 10 years he was re-elected to Parliament as the Member for Ceres in 1943 and continued to be its representative until his death in 1951. He was appointed Minister of Health, Education and Social Welfare in 1948. He was responsible for the introduction of Bills in connection with welfare organizations, housing, work colonies, and the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Amendment Bill. The Stals Sanatorium in Retreat is named after him.

Dr. the Hon. Karl Bremer

Born at Hopefield in the Cape in 1885, he received his education at Wellington. He qualified M.B., B.S. in London in 1910 and on his return commenced general practice at Cradock. During World War I he was on active service with the South African Forces in East Africa. After the war he acted as medical inspector of schools for a few years. He, however, preferred the life of a general practitioner and once again commenced general practice, this time at Graaff Reinet, where he remained until 1930 when he decided to specialize as an E.N.T. surgeon. He practised his specialty in Cape Town from 1931 to 1949, when he retired from medical practice. He was elected as a Nationalist Party member for Graaff Reinet in 1924. After a year in Parliament he resigned his seat in favour of a senior colleague who had lost his. He was re-elected in 1929 and continued to represent Graaff Reinet until 1948, notwithstanding the fact that he had left the constituency in 1930. In turn he represented Graaff Reinet, Stellenbosch, Ceres and Vasco. For a short period from 1949 to 1951 he was a member of the Senate. In 1951 he was appointed Minister of Health and he remained in office until his death in July 1953. He will be remembered as a President of the South African Medical and Dental Council during the period 1944-1950. A man of charm, tact and friendly nature, he was at all times willing to help his fellowmen. It is said that although he had political opponents, he never had an enemy.

He was responsible for the Public Health Amendment Bill of 1952, the Post Mortem and Removal of Human Tissues Bill, and the International Sanitary Regulations Act. The Karl Bremer Hospital, Bellville, is named to his memory.

DOCTORS IN PARLIAMENT BUT NOT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

There are a number of doctors, without whose help and assistance the Minister of Health will be unable to run his Department. I refer to the Secretaries for Health. The men who have held this office are the following (Table V):

TABLE V. SECRETARIES FOR HEALTH

<i>Secretary for Health</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Minister of Health</i>
Dr. J. A. Mitchell	1919 - 1932	Sir Thomas Watt Sir Patrick Duncan
Sir Edward Thornton	1932 - 1938	Dr. the Hon. D. F. Malan Dr. the Hon. D. F. Malan The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr The Hon. R. Stuttaford The Hon. R. Stuttaford
Dr. E. H. Cluver	1938 - 1940	The Hon. H. G. Lawrence
Dr. Peter Allan	1940 - 1946	The Hon. H. G. Lawrence
Dr. G. W. Gale	1946 - 1952	Dr. the Hon. H. Gluckman Dr. the Hon. H. Gluckman Dr. the Hon. A. J. Stals Dr. the Hon. K. Bremer Dr. the Hon. K. Bremer
Dr. J. J. du Pré le Roux	1952 - 1960	Dr. the Hon. A. J. R. van Rhijn The Hon. J. F. T. Naude The Hon. J. H. Viljoen The Hon. M. D. C. de Wet Nel Dr. the Hon. A. Hertzog
Dr. B. M. Clark	1960 -	Dr. the Hon. A. Hertzog

CONCLUSION

Doctors have, through the past century, played an important role in the development of our country and its Government. They have taken an active part in Parliament and made valuable contributions to its legislation. It is essential and vital for the welfare of the country and the medical profession in general that they continue to do so, even at some personal sacrifice to themselves. From this brief review it has been shown that the profession has, since 1854, produced capable members of parliament, ministers in various Governments, and an outstanding Speaker and a Prime Minister in the Cape Legislative Assembly.

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2. *The History of Medicine in South Africa* by Edmund Burrows, from which, with the author's permission, I quoted freely and literally.
3. The Secretary of Health, Dr. B. M. Clark, for supplying particulars relating to the Ministers and Secretaries for Health.
4. The Hon. J. T. Naude, President of the Senate and a former Minister of Health, for information relating to medical Senators.
5. Dr. J. K. Bremer and Dr. Stals' family for short biographies.
6. Dr. J. J. du P. le Roux, former Secretary of Health, for his assistance.
7. Dr. A. H. Tonkin, Secretary of the Medical Association of South Africa, for his advice.