



Museum Matters

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IPSWICH HOSPITAL MUSEUM Inc.

Committee :

Chairman: M Parcell

Secretary: J Kingston

Treasurer: E McNalty

Chairman's Chatterings

The March 1968 Queensland Nurses Journal has a copy of a key note speech that Dr E.V. MACKEY, a University of Queensland Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology gave on his views on how he saw the future of nursing.

Surprisingly, what Professor Mackey described for the future of nursing and health care was highly accurate. In detail he outlined the growth of the pharmaceutical industry, the impact of access to better diagnostics and innovative ideas such as transplant surgery. He even outlined in detail the impact of computerisation on healthcare in the future.

However, not all of Professor Mackey's assertions have come to fruition. He postulated the notion that teamwork within healthcare would disappear as a result of increasing knowledge and technology. He outlined that he saw a looming split in complementary skills between the nursing and medical professions. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is widely recognised that high functioning healthcare teams produce not only the best patient outcomes but the best patient experience. The healthcare team is now much broader than the walls of the hospital with collaborative care occurring between GPs, Community Service providers and hospital based Specialists.

Today the Queensland Ambulance Service is also an extremely important member of the healthcare team and initiates a range of emergency and lifesaving treatments before the patient is even moved. Ipswich is very fortunate to have a QAS first responder capability and a range of highly skilled paramedics.

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Past Hardships

We take for granted that if we are seriously ill or injured an ambulance will be available to transport us to hospital, but spare a thought for our local early settlers who often lived and worked in remote locations in the days before the ambulance service. When a medical emergency occurred, they were taken to the Ipswich Hospital by any available means.

In the second half of the 19th century there were many reports of shocking accidents and unbelievable stoicism. When a farmer clearing scrub at Pine Mountain was bitten by a black snake, his neighbour cut the wound and applied salt, but unsurprisingly the man became ill anyway. He rode his horse in to the hospital, but died that evening.

At Normanby Station a man had his leg smashed and almost severed when he fell from a bullock dray heavily laden with wool and its wheels passed over him. He was brought in to hospital by horse dray 'without bedding or bandage'. Stimulants were administered on his arrival before he could be moved from the dray. In a land-clearing accident at the Rosewood Scrub a young man was badly injured when a tree fell on him, breaking his leg in two places and 'driving a large stake into his breast right through to his back'. Close to death, he made the journey to the Ipswich Hospital by train.



Near Walloon a farmer sustained a large gash to his head 'laying his scalp bare' when he fell from his horse. He was carried to the Rosewood Hotel, then to the railway station by spring cart, and on to Ipswich by train where he was taken to hospital by a police constable.

Two other incidents at Walloon involved children. A 9 month old girl was badly burnt when she crawled into a fire. In what must have been a terrible ordeal she was brought to hospital by train. A 10 year



old girl bitten by a snake was given several glasses of brandy then she was also transported to Ipswich by train. Medical staff observed that she appeared drunk on her arrival at the hospital and had lost all muscular power. Several doses of ammonia were administered by the doctor and 'for two hours did Science closely conflict with the Destroyer' before the child rallied.

Patients were often close to death on arrival at the hospital, but some, like the 53 year old man suffering from chronic disease of the chest, did not survive the trip. He died on the road between Eskdale and Ipswich and was buried close to the cross roads at the Brisbane River.

Doctors sometimes travelled to the ill or injured, as in the case of a stockman at Grantham Station who fell from his horse and sustained serious injuries. When summoned by telegram, Dr Dorsey caught the train from Ipswich to administer aid to the injured man.

Hats off to our courageous early settlers, and the dedicated doctors and nurses who did what they could with primitive methods, medications and equipment.

Reference; tove.nla.gov.au:

Ipswich Fever Epidemics—end of 19th Century

Advances in science and medicine in the 19th Century included the development of antiseptics, immunization, improved anaesthetics and trained nurses. However fever epidemics continued to be the scourge of the community.

The fever ward built in 1872 continued to be used. In 1903 a local Doctor reports:

“Dr. J.A. Cameron who has been a patient in the Scarlet Fever Ward for the past six weeks was discharged on Tuesday last. Dr. Cameron has expressed his views on the present accommodation for the treatment of Scarlet Fever. The following notes are by Dr. Cameron.

1. One ward divided by a thin partition which does not reach to roof, every sound audible on both sides of partition, if adult patient were admitted ordinary decency could hardly be preserved.
2. Only one closet [toilet] for both sexes most awkwardly situated outside women's part, close to pantry where nurses are generally working.
3. No bath room and all baths have to be

given in a hipbath behind a screen. This is suitable for children, but objectionable for adults.

4. *There is no proper place to change into fresh clothes on the day of leaving.*
5. *The adjoining building occupied by convalescent patients is only a few feet away, being much too near.*
6. *The building itself is very unsuitable, there is no proper pantry, no washhouse, no linen cupboard, clean linen being kept in the nurses bedroom.*
7. *As well as being unsuitable for its present purpose, the building is becoming dilapidated, the rain runs through into the ward during any heavy shower.’*

By the end of the 19th century control of epidemics was recognised as a public health issue. An Epidemic Joint Board for local governments supervised the management of epidemics through a Medical Officer who referred patients to the Ipswich Hospital to provide care and treatment at the cost of the Local Governments. This was not always satisfactory.

In 1898 the Ipswich Hospital treated 142 cases of Scarlet Fever during an epidemic, and charged the several local Governments £581.11s.5d.

Laidley complained about paying for patients who could afford to pay for themselves, and patients who were not residing in Laidley when admitted; about no notification to Laidley until they were billed 6 months later, and why treatment couldn't be in Laidley.

The Medical Superintendent regarded statements that the Hospital wished to make money out of these charges as absurd. This was one third of the cost of treatment for fever patients in London. He explained that treatment of Scarlet Fever required 6 to 8 weeks of isolation to prevent contagion and that operating an isolation ward required separate staff and domestic services.

The following reports by the Medical Superintendent indicate how fever epidemics continued to have regular and serious impacts on the community.

State of Hospital Reports— compiled fortnightly by the Medical Superintendent to the Hospital Board

30th June 1901

The Scarlet Fever Ward was opened on June 14th for the reception of two little girls ordered to the Hospital by Dr. McDonald, Medical Officer to Epidemic Joint Board. The children attended the West Ipswich State School, and their prompt isolation has probably checked what might have developed into an epidemic.

A patient with Typhoid has been received from Blenheim Laidley, and the admission reported to the Local Authority, whose duty it is, under the existing regulations to communicate with the Commissioner of Public Health. Nine cases of Typhoid are still under treatment, an unusual number at the present season of the year.”

2nd December 1903

Deaths were:-

- *Aubrey Owen Vasco Trevis aged 29 admitted Nov. 14th died Nov. 18th from Typhoid Fever;*
- *Agnes Everdine, aged 55 admitted Nov.19th died Nov. 27th from Typhoid Fever;*
- *Hanna Maria Tucker, aged 28 admitted Nov. 21st died Nov. 29th from Typhoid Fever.*

Two of the patients who died from Typhoid were from Blackstone, from which township a severe type of the disease is being admitted, that is from an Australian point of view, but not nearly so severe as

that usually prevailing in England and Wales where the death rate from Typhoid exceeded 18%.

The following infectious diseases were treated during 1903. Total 249—

- Typhoid 161 cases;
- Febricula 49;
- Scarlet fever 26;
- Diphtheria 8;
- Measles 5;

The death rate for Typhoid Fever 4.3 % [7 cases]. No deaths occurred in the remaining diseases.”

During quarter ending

31st March 1904

65 cases of Typhoid Fever were treated.

Since the last meeting of the Board of Management I have made myself acquainted with the regulations of the Central Board of Health for the treatment of persons affected with Bubonic Plague and for preventing the spread of that disease. I am of opinion that the admission of a suspect case of Plague would to a large extent disorganize the proper working of the Hospital and be detrimental to the welfare of the other patients. A considerable number of the Staff would of necessity become “contacts” and be liable for five days quarantine or as long as the Central Board of Health might direct.

The plague patient would, (after bacteriological examination) be in charge of the Local Health Officer, and what steps would be taken should the person be too ill

to be removed to Cairnscross, I have, up to the present, been unable to discover.

My own attendance would have to immediately cease after the case was declared Plague, or I should be liable to a quarantine of five days.

Clause 2 of the Plague Regulations is as follows-

“When there is reason to believe or suspect that any person is suffering from Plague, the person in charge of the house or other place where the person is suspected to be suffering is, shall forthwith report to the Local Authority of the district and to the Central Board of Health”

If the above instructions are carefully complied with there will be no danger of patients suffering from Plague being brought to the Hospital.

It is evident after carefully reading the regulations now in force that the various Health Authorities are made solely responsible for the care of Plague patients, or such as are suspected to be suffering from that disease.”

Later the Medical Superintendent reported, “That extreme danger does exist is shown by the following extract from a paper read by Dr. Spratt, officer of Health, Hobart. “At the Pendlebury Hospital in one year fourteen patients in the ordinary wards contracted Scarlet Fever. Eight patients being treated for measles developed Scarlet Fever. Out of thirty nurses who were not occupied in the Fever ward four contracted Scarlet Fever.””

Recent Visitors



Margaret Macfarlane and Barbara Stephens

This quarter the Museum was honoured with a visit by the former Matron/Nursing Superintendent of the Ipswich Hospital, Miss Margaret Macfarlane and her friend and work colleague Barbara Stephens. The two enjoyed a cup of tea, lots of reminiscing and a tour of the Museum.

The museum also had a visit from a large group from St. David's Society (Welsh Church, Blackstone). The group were very interested in

the display and looking at the old photos of staff and buildings. The generous contribution made by the group enabled the museum to purchase a small display case which is now in use in the Jubilee Building foyer.

Also enjoying a visit to the Museum was a nurse from the Punjab, India. Geeta is visiting friends in Ipswich and was impressed with the display.

Community Engagement

Jane Kingston recently attended the Ipswich City Council Heritage Consultative Committee meeting. Prior to the meeting, the members were treated to a visit to the Old Woollen Mills at North Ipswich which is undergoing structural repairs.

Libby McNalty has given a talk on the early beginnings of the Ipswich Hospital to members of U3A.

In conjunction with the National Trusts Great Houses of Ipswich Open Day, the museum opened on Satur-

day September 9th. Brochures had been distributed to each of the open houses and National Trust volunteers kindly suggested visitors pop in to the museum, too. We believe we had close to 200 visitors. Special thanks to Michael Kelly (who counted the number of visitors so earnestly), Ross Blinco, Mary Purser, Pat Camplin, Judy Blinco, Libby McNalty and Jane Kingston who volunteered their time to welcome and inform the visitors. Thanks also to Helga McCutcheon who made her legendary jam and pickles which sold like hot cakes.

The Museum participated in the Ips-

wich Historical Society Open Day at Cooneana in August with a display that attracted many visitors - many of whom had a connection to the Ipswich Hospital.



Jane Kingston at Cooneana Homestead



Volunteer Training

The museum was successful in its application for a Regional Arts Development Grant to host a workshop for local museums and historical organisations on developing resources which could be linked to school curricula and

would be of interest to and meet the needs of school teachers and pupils. The workshop attracted members from the Soldiers Memorial Museum (RSL Ipswich), Ipswich City Council Library, Ipswich Grammar School Museum, Ipswich Historical Society and the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.

Exhibitions

The next exhibition planned for the museum "Pustules, Plagues, Poxes, Poultices and Pyrexias" will have some interesting and varied input from 3rd year students in Anthropology from the University of Southern Queensland. As part of their assessment, the students will either – as a group, plan the exhibition which will involve audience analysis, content, design, etc. or, as an individual, research and plan a display for one of

the cabinets. Several students have already visited the museum to see the area to be used for the display or to view the cabinet for the display.

A recent addition to our current display is a collection of toys originally used in the Sunshine Children's Ward. Now safely rehoused in the original Children's Ward marble top cabinet. The doll "Rosebud" (circa: 1960) appeared at Christmas time Sr Graham transformed the marble top cabinet into the land of make believe.

'Mary had a Little Lamb' was the theme on one such occasion.



Recent Inquiry - Helen Norris

The museum volunteers received this enquiry recently...

"Hi, My Grandmother had a brother who died on 25 Nov, 1892 at the Hospital. Is it possible to find out any further details from hospital records? From what I have discovered, he was in hospital for over a month. Would you possibly have records from that far back? Many thanks, Helen Norris."

Helen Norris is undertaking family research into the Auld family. She had found an old photograph of a boy called John Auld with a note attached stating that "little John died from typhoid in hospital". John was Helen's great-uncle.

We were able to locate information in the Reports on the State of the Hospital for the two weeks ending November 28th, 1882 which stated

"John Auld aged 8 admitted October 10th died Nov. 25th from hypertrophy of the mesenteric glands".

Hypertrophy of the mesenteric glands means that the lymph glands surrounding the intestines had become enlarged (probably due to infection). It was before the time of antibiotics so there would have been little treatment other than pain relief that the doctors could provide for him. The swelling of the lymph glands could have well been secondary to typhoid fever infection.



Helen popped into the museum to share her story and brought with her the attached photograph. Little John is standing at the gate of the Auld house in Station Road, Eastern Heights. Tragically his brother (shown beside him) died a few years later during an emergency operation on his appendix which was being performed on the kitchen table in the house.

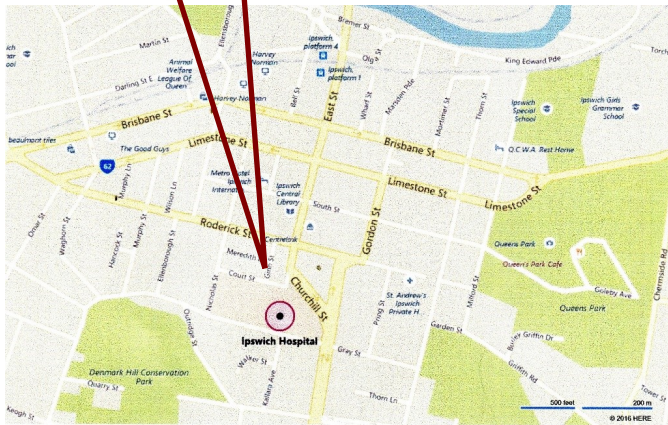
The museum was very happy to assist Helen. Reports on the State of the Hospital documents transcription is a current project. Having the reports digitalised allows us to more easily perform these types of searches for people. We are looking for volunteers to help with these fascinating documents. Let us know if you are interested.

Interested - join us as a volunteer



Ipswich Hospital Museum
Inc

LOCATION:
Ipswich Hospital
East St Entrance



CONTACT US:

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Friends of Ipswich Hospital Museum



Current Display Maternity and Anaesthetics



YOU ARE WELCOME:
Every Wednesday: 0900— 1200
or by appointment

(groups welcome)

FREE ENTRY