



HOSPITAL BULLETIN

Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee

H O S P I T A L

B U L L E T I N

July, 1973

Thought for the Month:

I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is try to please everybody.

- Herbert Bayard Swope.

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Editor: Nick Graham-Harrison

ROSSALL HOSPITAL

Rossall Hospital originally started life as a childrens' holiday home, a far cry from its present use as a geriatric hospital. During its 42 years of life the building had one dramatic moment when in December, 1954 the sea wall broke and the hospital was evacuated.

The Hospital, which was formerly known as 'The Cinderella Home', was opened on 8th May, 1931 by the 17th Earl of Derby. It was built by Allied Newspapers Limited from the proceeds of public donations to the Manchester Evening Chronicle Cinderella Clubs.

The purpose of the buildings was simply to provide free holidays during the summer months for the poor children of Manchester and Salford and these continued until the summer of 1939. Living some 50 yards from the beach must have proved a revelation to many of the children.

The solid, well constructed buildings stand only 50 yards from the sea-wall at Rossall and some half mile from Rossall School. In the account of the opening ceremony 'The Fleetwood Chronicle' commented on the all electric kitchens and remarked that "even the potatoes are cleaned by electricity."

In 1940, the Home was taken over by the Ministry of Health under the Emergency Medical Services scheme and re-named "Rossall Hospital." The Lancashire County Council then assumed administrative control on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

WAR YEARS

During the war years, chronic sick and aged persons evacuated from the bombed areas - including London - were admitted to the 135 beds which were brought into use for this purpose. Some of the evacuee patients remained at Rossall for up to 13 years.

From December, 1946, the Lancashire County Council used the Hospital for chronic sick patients from the County Area. The Hospital changed its name and became "The County Hospital, Rossall." In July, 1948 the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee assumed control at the start of the National Health Service.

Like all hospitals in the Group, Rossall has enjoyed its share of capital expenditure. Since 1948 much work has been carried out to improve the standards of accommodation and the facilities. But if any one factor stands out in the history of Rossall Hospital, then surely it must be the part played by the elements - and a dramatic role it has proved on two occasions.

EXPOSED TO ELEMENTS

Rossall Hospital stands an exposed part of the Fylde Coast. When the Hospital was built it stood in splendid isolation some 50 yards from the sea defences, approached only by an un-made track. There were no houses near-by as there are now. The tram, even after the Second World War, was the only means of communication with the outside world for patients, staff and visitors.

A present member of staff, Sister P. Gillet, remembers in the early nineteen fifties, when the gales were so violent that it was virtually impossible to walk down to the Hospital from the tram stop. Matron would frequently get her car out to meet staff off the tram and run them back again.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Among the major capital schemes completed at Rossall Hospital are new dayrooms, a sanitary tower block, boiler house, cubicle curtains in the wards and a landscaping scheme.

The dayrooms, on the ground and first floors, face westward (towards the sea) and were completed in 1969. These rooms provided greatly needed accommodation to allow patients to leave the wards during the day.

The sanitary tower block was finished in November, 1972 at a cost of £19,197. Facing north the block, on both ground and first floors, has again provided much needed extra space. The oil fire boilers were installed in a purpose-built building in 1969 at a total cost of £10,500. A stand-by generator is at present being installed at a cost of £2,660. Fire resistant doors and windows are now being put into the wards.

A landscaping scheme was completed last year at the side of the hospital facing the sea, including a patio where patients can sit out in fine weather. The patio is surrounded by a brick wall (as seen on the cover picture). The League of Friends of Rossall and Fleetwood Hospitals kindly provided seats, tables and umbrellas. At the present time Fleetwood Council is landscaping the area between the patio and the sea wall under a Department of the Environment scheme.

Rossall Hospital now has a total of 113 beds in six wards - 70 for women and 43 for men. The revenue expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1973 was £172,991.

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

No mention of Rossall Hospital is complete without a tribute to the Friends of Rossall and Fleetwood Hospitals. Founded in 1968, the League has devoted itself to improving the comfort of the old people. Not only do the League run a tea trolley for visitors, but they run a hairdressing service, visit patients, arrange birthday visits and transport for visitors.

Since 1968, the League have presented radio and television equipment, film projector, patients lifting aid, suction equipment and ripple beds.

At the present time, students of the Blackpool College of Technology and Art are building a minibus which the Thornton-Cleveland Round Table are presenting to the League. The minibus should be finished in the autumn and will be most valuable in taking patients on outings.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Later this year the Bulletin will publish a brief history of Victoria Hospital. The Editor is at present researching into the archives but he would welcome any material which readers can provide, especially concerning the years before 1939, the war years and the decade following 1945.

So if any readers can provide contributions they will be gratefully received by the Editor. Please write to the Public Relations Officer, Group Offices, Victoria Hospital.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Congratulations to Mr. John JENKINS (Medical Photographer) and his wife, Anne, on the birth of their second son (Philip Andrew) at Ward 9, Victoria Hospital on Sunday, 22nd July.

Mr. N. GRAHAM-HARRISON, Public Relations Officer, has been appointed a member of the Blackpool Youth Employment Committee.

Enrolled Nurse Emma ELLIS of Fleetwood Hospital married William Gulliford, S.R.N., Q.N. (a District Nurse at Blackpool) on 16th June at Elm Street Church, Fleetwood. We send the couple our best wishes.

Sister J. ANSELL has been appointed Sister in Charge of Coronary Care Unit at Victoria Hospital.

Staff Nurse M. O'DOR has been appointed Theatre Sister at Victoria Hospital.

Staff Nurse D. MACKAY has been appointed Sister at the Coronary Care Unit at Victoria Hospital.

Staff Nurse M.E. TURLEY has been appointed Sister on Night Duty at Victoria Hospital.

Sister M. SCOTT, Sister in Charge of the Psychiatric Clinic at Victoria Hospital, has left to take up a new post at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Sister I. BROOKE, Night Sister at Victoria Hospital, is leaving to open a nursing home at Lytham St. Annes.

Mr. R. McMULLAN, Principal Nursing Officer, is starting his new post at Booth Hall Childrens' Hospital in Manchester on 1st August.

Mr. J.B. TODD, Electrical Assistant at Victoria Hospital retires on 5th August, 1973 after 36 years' service. Mr. H. Robinson, J.P. (a Member of the Hospital Management Committee) presented Mr. Todd with a portable radio on 11th July. Mr. Todd's colleagues at Victoria Hospital also made a presentation to him.

MISS STUBBS RETIRES FROM ST. ANNES

Miss Ivy Stubbs, Higher Clerical Officer at St. Annes Hospital, was presented with a portable radio and two garden chairs to mark her retirement on 31st July.

Mr. H. Robinson, J.P., (a Member of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee) made the presentation to Miss Stubbs on Tuesday, 24th July to mark her 25 years' service at St. Annes Hospital. The Hospital staff gave her a tea trolley and hot water jug.

She started work at St. Annes in May, 1948 as a Clerk and was promoted to the post of Higher Clerical Officer in 1966.

Miss Stubbs is shortly moving from St. Annes to Poulton-le-Fylde where she will doubtless pursue her leisure interests in music, antiques and travel.

A WINTER WEEKEND AWAY!

DO YOU FANCY 3 DAYS IN THE SUN?

How would you like to head for the sunshine for three or four days next January or February? Leave winter behind, sunbathe and relax!

If sufficient staff and their families are interested in spending three or four days away, it is hoped to arrange a block booking of staff from the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Group to fly abroad - Spain, Majorca, Tangier, Cyprus or Greece are some of the possibilities.

Any parties would fly out on a Friday morning and return on the following Monday, allowing three nights away.

At this stage, it is not possible to give any indications of cost, except to say that block bookings mean reductions in price. If any members of the staff are interested, would they kindly fill in the form below and send it to Miss J. Watson, Nursing Officer, Devonshire Road Hospital, so that some idea can be gained of possible numbers. The Bulletin will keep you informed of developments.

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(Please detach)

TO: Miss J. Watson, Nursing Officer, Devonshire Road Hospital.

Yes, I would be interested in spending a weekend winter holiday abroad in January/February, 1974.

I would like to visit *Spain
 Majorca
 Tangier
 Turkey
 Greece
 Cyprus
 Portugal

* Please tick countries of interest.
Indicate numbers in your family who might accompany you

Signed

Department

Hospital

MISS HAYES

Miss K. Hayes, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., Nursing Admin. Cert. (Hospital) R.C.N., retires as Matron of Victoria Hospital on 2nd August.

Miss Hayes commenced training for the Register for Sick Children at the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children in the East End of London in 1937. She continued with training for the General Register at Kings College Hospital, London throughout the War years and then at the end of the War, undertook Midwifery training at the Barrett Maternity Hospital, Northampton.

In 1946 she took a Course in the care of patients with neurological disorders at the Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London, and in 1948 spent six months in Scandinavia observing Nurse training schemes and the Community Welfare Services.

After a further six years as Ward Sister and Night Superintendent at the Westminster Hospital, London, she took the one year course in Hospital (Nursing) Administration at the Royal College of Nursing and obtained the Diploma. After a short period back at Westminster Hospital, she was appointed Assistant Matron, Hillingdon Hospital, Middlesex and later as Matron of The Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

In July, 1962, she was appointed as Matron of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro and the Treliske D.G.H. Here she had the opportunity of seeing the development of a District General Hospital from the laying of the Foundation Stone to its commissioning in 1965. In December, 1965 she was appointed to the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool.

TOP FIRM COMPETITION -

"WE WAS ROBBED!"

The great day dawned miraculously sunny on Sunday, 8th July, and the choice hand-picked athletes of Blackpool Hospitals made their way towards Stanley Park Oval.

This was the day of the Top Firm Competition, the day we were going to slay the rest of puny Blackpool and return victorious, trophy held aloft.

Well, due to unforeseen circumstances, it didn't quite work out that way. The first game we sailed home in, or rather bounced, with John Barton (alias Charlie Farley) and Paul Whitfield heading balls through targets with unbounding accuracy.

Unfortunately, it would appear that that was when the gods started to turn their backs on us.

N.H.S. REORGANISATION NEWS

The N.H.S. Reorganisation Bill finished its Committee Stage on 24th May after 16 sittings. It was considered in Report on 12th June and had its Third Reading on 13th June. The House of Lords is due to consider the amendments made in the House of Commons.

HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORK

News sheet No. 8 carried the Parliamentary Question and Answer of 28th March about the transfer of hospital social work to local authority responsibility. The article below has been written to clarify the decisions and to explain the safeguards both for the hospital social work service and for existing hospital social workers.

Background

Under the Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, the personal social services which had hitherto been divided between local authorities' children's, welfare and health departments, were brought together into one unified department. The hospital service however continued to employ social workers in hospitals with a long tradition of specialised work in close association with the health professions.

Local authorities are by far the major employer of social workers and provide a service on a much wider basis than the hospital service. Figures for 30th September 1971 (the latest available), show that in England and Wales, 9115 social workers were employed in local authority social services departments, of whom 3800 were qualified; in the hospital service there were 2199 social workers, medical and psychiatric, of whom 1400 had full professional qualifications (all figures are expressed in terms of whole time equivalents).

Many hospitals provide no social work service at all. The main reasons for this are that there is no specific statutory requirement on the health service to provide social work services; and such provision has been left to the individual hospital authorities. Moreover, until the Butterworth report, hospital social workers received lower rates of pay than their local authority colleagues, who were not subject to the complexities of the National Health Service pay structure.

The Seeborn Committee, although social work in hospitals was excluded from their terms of reference, suggested that the organisation and responsibilities of these services should be reviewed in the light of their proposals for a unified social service department in local authorities.

Working Party on Collaboration

Against this background, and that of the reorganisation of the National Health Service, the Health and Personal Social Services sub-committee of the Working Party on Collaboration looked at the organisation of social work in hospitals, as part of the arrangements for collaboration between health and local authorities in the field of health and social services. Of the fifteen members of the sub-committee not directly employed by a Government Department, five came from the hospital service, one was a general medical practitioner, and the remaining nine came from local authorities chiefly from the health, education and social services departments.

It quickly became clear that the future of hospital social work was the most difficult issue facing the sub-committee. Many individuals and groups of hospital social workers, local authority social workers, and hospital administrators made their views known. The Sub-committee also met on two occasions representatives of the British Association of Social Workers (which incorporates the former Institute of Medical Social Workers and the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers).

Social work support is at present unevenly spread in the hospital service and it is one of the aims of the transfer to develop social work in those parts where it is now lacking. This is to be looked at by the new working party, which will also be considering how local authorities should organise support for the health authorities, how continuity of care can be best provided for patients moving between the hospital and the community, and generally, all aspects of the provision of care by the hospital health care teams. The working party will represent all interests concerned; it is expected to report by the end of the year.

Under the collaboration arrangements the joint consultative committee between each area health authority and its matching local social services authority will have a standing sub-committee specifically to supervise the provision of social work for the N.H.S. This should ensure that all matters concerning social work support for hospitals are properly and fully discussed between the two authorities. Local authorities will also be advised to appoint a senior officer in their Social Services Department with particular responsibility for arranging the social work support.

The financial arrangements for these proposals have been considered by the Working Party on Collaboration in conjunction with other proposals for sharing professional skills between local government and the N.H.S. and will be the subject of consultation with outside interests.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

MEMORANDA AND N.H.S. RE-ORGANISATION CIRCULARS

HM(73)14

HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL STAFF:- UNPAID QUALIFYING UNITS FOR EXTRA DUTY ALLOWANCES

This memorandum authorises the revocation of paragraph 120(d) of the Terms and Conditions of Service governing payment of extra duty allowances; it outlines the agreement made between representatives of the medical and dental professions and of the Health Department, which abolishes all unpaid qualifying units for extra duty allowances for certain grades of hospital medical and dental staff (This has been circulated to the appropriate officers).

HM(73)15-21 Reported previously.

HM(73)22

TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

This memorandum notifies increases in the rates of mileage allowances for private cars over 500 c.c. engine capacity, and increases in the public transport rate of mileage allowance, day subsistence allowances and train meal allowances in consequence of the N.H.S. (Travelling Allowances etc.) Determinations No. 2 and 3 respectively, 1972. Minor changes in the regulations regarding the payment of train meal allowances are also notified.

HM(73)23

CHARGES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENT PATIENTS

This memorandum sets out the hospital charges payable by private resident patients under section 1 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 for the period of twelve months beginning 1st April, 1973. (The memorandum has been distributed to all appropriate officers and the increased charges relevant to the private beds in the Group was notified to the Finance and Establishment Sub-Committee in March 1973 on the receipt of the Advance Letter on this subject).

