

MAY/
JUN

73



HOSPITAL BULLETIN

Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee

H O S P I T A L

B U L L E T I N

June, 1973

Thought for the Month:

Success in life depends on the I's;
Integrity, intelligence and industry. - Charles R. Stockard

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WESHAM PARK HOSPITAL

From the outside, Wesham Park Hospital gives the impression of well-constructed buildings, which have changed little since June, 1907. This was the year when the buildings, constructed by the Guardians of the Poor of the Fylde Union, first came into use.

But inside the story is very different for Wesham Park Hospital is a classic example of what can be done to transform a drab institution into a modern well equipped hospital.

The Hospital was built between the years 1903 and 1908 and comprised two main blocks (now Wards 6, 7, 8 and 9) and a small maternity unit. The Fylde Public Assistance Institution, as it was originally named, provided 140 beds for the sick poor and six for maternity cases.

There had originally been a workhouse in Kirkham before it was decided to move to the present site. It is an interesting, if sobering experience in these inflationary days, to examine an invoice dated July 6th, 1897. A Kirkham ironmonger supplied 36 sets of institutional bedsteads and spring mattresses (5 feet by 2½ feet) to the workhouse at a cost of £33.6s.

For nearly sixty years, the part of the Hospital known as the 'Highlands' was used as non-sick accommodation and it contained 154 beds for adults and 18 for children.

MILITARY HOSPITAL

During the 1914 - 1918 War, the sick wards were used as a military hospital. Administration passed to the Lancashire County Council in April, 1930, and the establishment continued to be maintained as a Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary, the latter providing accommodation for chronic sick, maternity and mental cases.

In 1940 the sick accommodation was increased by 210 emergency medical service beds in two additional wards and an Infectious Diseases Block of 32 beds. The accommodation was used for the reception of evacuees from London and the South Coast.

With the start of the National Health Service in 1948, the hospital became the joint responsibility of the Divisional Health Committee No. 3 of the Lancashire County Council and the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

In 1948 'The Highlands' comprising accommodation for 154 adults and 18 healthy children was run by the County Council, while the H.M.C. assumed control of the chronic sick and mental beds. The title of the Hospital was changed to 'Wesham Park Hospital.'

When the last residents left 'The Highlands' in 1964, the Hospital Management Committee assumed full control and embarked on the massive task of up-grading the buildings.

PUNISHMENT BOOK

But before passing to the story of the reconstruction, it is worth glancing at some of the details of the Punishment Book which records 86 cases between 1908 and 1945.

UPGRADING THE HIGHLANDS

In March, 1962 the Hospital Management Committee and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board started planning an extensive upgrading of 'The Highlands' - a story which is now reaching a successful conclusion.

Such a massive undertaking had to be carried out in stages, block by block and the first to be tackled was the one which now houses Wards 10, 11 and 12.

The reconstruction work proved one thing. The buildings were so well constructed that they were able to withstand the total internal demolition which was the first long step to providing eight modern wards.

As a result of the reconstruction, three excellent wards were provided with a total of 46 beds which were occupied in 1960.

In this three-storey block, two wings run off a central service area on each floor so that the wards are small and have an infirmary for the patient. Sleeping areas are distinct from day areas. Decorations are bright and attractive.

SECOND STAGE

The second major stage of reconstruction was the conversion of a second three-storey block, now Wards 14, 15 and 16. These three wards have a total of 49 beds which came into use in September, 1967. The block has a recently installed lift.

The final stage of the ward conversion came with the occupancy of Wards 17 and 18 (with a total of 35 beds) in May, 1972. This is the two-storey block originally used to house the nursery and nursery staff. It is linked by corridors (open at first-floor level) to the three-storey block of Wards 14, 15 and 16.

The block is ideal for ambulant elderly psychiatric patients it houses, as it adjoins an enclosed lawn where patients can be out of doors with the minimum of supervision.

Major reconstruction was also carried out in the main hall which is now the staff restaurant. Originally used as a dining room for residents, it was somewhat spartan with plain brick walls, organ gallery and lofty roofed supported by ecclesiastical looking timber trusses.

The hall has been imaginatively reconstructed with the removal of the organ gallery and the building of a false ceiling. New heating and ventilations systems have been installed. There are moveable screens which partition off a coffee lounge from the dining room.

KITCHENS MODERNISED

The kitchens have also been extensively modernised and improved and in January 1972 new staff changing rooms and toilet facilities were completed. All the up-grading work cost £150,000. From the outside the Hospital setting has remained remarkably unchanged, with spacious ground. But inside, the reconstruction has been remarkably successful.

~~But the changes have been more far-reaching than the modernisation of buildings and the provision of up-to-date equipment. As a result of great advances in the treatment of geriatric and psychiatric patients, much more can now be done to rehabilitate them.~~

Wesham Park Hospital now has a total of 418 beds - 315 of them geriatric and the remainder acute psychiatric and psycho-geriatric. The revenue expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1972 was £596,388.

MRS. WADDINGTON RETIRES FROM ROSSALL

Mrs. A. Waddington, S.R.N., S.C.M., retired as Matron of Rossall Hospital on 31st May, a post she had held since 1st October, 1967.

At a farewell luncheon on Monday, 21st May the Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, Councillor J.H. Hessey, M.B.E., J.P., presented Mrs. Waddington with a stainless steel tea service.

At the luncheon tributes were paid to Mrs. Waddington for the remarkable improvements she made to the patient care at Rossall Hospital; she worked miracles as compared with the position when she took over. Her nursing standards were of the highest.

She did her general training at Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn and at Withington Hospital, Manchester. She undertook her Midwifery Training Part I at Bank Hall Maternity Hospital, Burnley, and Part II at the Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.

Mrs. Waddington has held the post of Children's Ward Sister at Accrington Victoria Hospital, she was Occupational Health Sister at Lant's Bridge, Accrington; Clinical Instructor at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, and prior to coming to Rossall Hospital she was Sister Tutor at the Victoria Hospital, Accrington.

(Mrs. Waddington, due to the untimely death of her husband, is retiring from the service three month's earlier than she originally intended).

Mrs. Waddington will be leaving the area to return to Accrington where she will set up her home. Before she left, staff at Rossall Hospital presented her with a bookcase.

ST. ANNES HOSPITAL RECEIVES GIFTS

The Mayoress of Lytham St. Annes (Mrs. J.E. Gouldbourn) presented equipment worth over £500 to St. Annes War Memorial Hospital on behalf of the League of Friends of St. Annes Hospital, on Saturday, 16th June.

The gifts were received by Mr. H. Robinson, J.P. (a Member of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee), who was accompanied by Mrs. Robinson.

The Chairman for the event was Mr. A.E. Baxter (Chairman of the Social Services Committee of the League of Friends of the St. Annes War Memorial Hospital). Mr. Baxter was acting in the absence through illness of the Chairman of the League of Friends (Councillor G.R. Bowley).

The equipment presented was: 1 Summer House, 6 Canberra Chairs, 6 Corsair Chairs, 1 Coffee Table, 1 Litter Bin, 2 Garden Seats, 6 Overbed Tables.

Over 50 members of the League were present, including Mrs. G.R. Bowley (wife of the Chairman), Mrs. G. Bould (Honorary Secretary) and Mr. W.B. Roberts (Honorary Treasurer). Miss M.W. Scowcroft (Nursing Officer) and Mr. S. Lund (Hospital Secretary) were also present.

In addition to the gifts, the Inner Wheel Club of St. Annes have agreed to present two Geriatric Chairs to the Hospital, through the League of Friends, but, unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain delivery of the Chairs in time for the presentation. A specimen Chair was on view on the day.

Plaques to record the gifts have been placed in the Summer House and on the garden seats and overbed tables.

FROM VICTORIA TO ICELAND

S.E.N. Sees the World

Become a nurse and see the world. This is certainly the case with Maureen Kennedy who qualified for her State Enrolment at Victoria Hospital just over two years ago. Maureen is now working at the National Hospital in Reykjavik and finds everybody very friendly.

Maureen's involment with Iceland started when she successfully completed the Cardiac course at the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street in London. While ther, she became very friendly with an Icelandic girl - Hulda - who was doing the same course but on a later block.

In June, 1972, Maureen went to nurse at the Badirklirik at Valens in Switzerland. This was a Rheumatism and Rehabilitation Clinic looking after accident victims and polio cases. Maureen certainly retained links with England for there were three English Nurses and six Physiotherapists working there.

Last Christmas, Maureen contacted her Icelandic friend and joined her at the National Hospital in the capital.

Apart from work, Maureen has found time to see Iceland. Last Easter she went with three friends on an adventure trip to the Highlands and Glaciers. The party travelled in special buses with guides and slept in tents and village halls. There were some home comforts for a kitchen bus accompanied the expedition.

Maureen has also flown by air to the North Coast and has photographed the Midnight Sun and Northern lights which she describes as "fantastic".

Maureen lives in her own flat and is helping a Sister at the hospital to learn English. In return, she is receiving help in learning Icelandic. She finds the cost of living very high. It costs £6 to develop a roll of films. During her stay, Maureen has attended a G.N.C. meeting.

Maureen's parents, who live at Belvere Avenue, Blackpool, are hoping to visit her in August. Maureen is obviously enjoying her stay, especially being out in the open air. She writes: "the sun does not have to wade through miles of pollution".

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

The following have been appointed as Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons:-

Mr. Barry Griffith Skyrme PEACH, M.B., B.Ch., (Birmingham) 1959,
F.R.C.S., (Edinburgh) 1968, M.Ch., Orthopaed. (Liverpool) 1970;

Mr. John Daly TORRANCE, M.B., Ch.B., (Glasgow) 1959, F.R.C.S.,
(Edinburgh) 1967.

Dr. C.J. WOODS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., has been appointed to the post of second Consultant Paediatrician. Dr. Woods is currently Senior Registrar in Paediatrics at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, and also honorary tutor in Paediatrics at the University of Liverpool.

Dr. J.S. WRIGHT, M.B., Ch.B., D. Obst., M.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.P., M.D., has been appointed to the post of second Consultant Cardiologist. Dr. Wright is currently Senior Registrar in Cardiology, working at the Liverpool Regional Cardiac Centre at the Sefton General Hospital.

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NURSING APPOINTMENTS

The following nursing appointments came into effect as from 1st May:

Mr. H. HORSFALL, Senior Nursing Officer, Grade 8A,
School of Nursing.

Mr. K. STOVELL, Nursing Officer, Grade 7A,
School of Nursing.

MISS M. SCOWCROFT, Nursing Officer, Grade 7B,
St. Annes and Moss Side Hospitals.

MR. E.M. KILGARIFF, Nursing Officer, Grade 7A,
Psychiatric Unit, Wesham Park Hospital.

MISS D. GLEDHILL, Nursing Officer, Grade 7B,
Fleetwood Hospital.

Guidance will then be prepared and issued after appropriate consultation to the new health authorities, towards the end of 1973 or early in 1974.

Considerable local freedom will be given to the officer groups as to the methods they use for conducting these trials, the aim being to discover the most suitable approach, not simply to test a prescribed method. The guidance to be issued will be subject to modification and improvement in the light of experience.

HRC(73)8, issued in April, describes the setting up of these trials and provides further information about the development of planning in the reorganised National Health Service.

TOP FIRM COMPETITION ON 8TH JULY

Blackpool Hospitals are once again entering a team for the 3rd Annual Top Firm Competition which is being held at The Oval, Stanley Park, on Sunday, 8th July at 2.00 p.m.

Six enterprising gentlemen and six equally enterprising ladies are carrying the Hospitals' Flag, so come along and cheer the team along.

The teams, captained by J. Ogbourne, are:

Men
P. Whitfield
P. Horsfield
P. Burbeck
J. Barton
M. Dawe
K. Broadey

6 + 1 reserve

Women
D. Hampson
C. Smith
C. Bennett
J. Green
C. Arnold
J. Westby
E. Duerden

6 + 1 reserve

The three cheerladies who will give every encouragement to the team will be led by Miss I. Holden.

Admission to the ground will be by programme - price 40p for the stand
- price 20p for the ground
- price 10p for children for admission to the ground.

Programmes can be obtained from Mr. J. Craven at Victoria Hospital.

The team are in high spirits. They need your support. So have an early lunch, leave the Sunday papers at home and come to Stanley Park and enjoy yourselves.

NURSES' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

'As co-secretaries of the Blackpool branch of the Nurses' Christian Fellowship, we would be grateful if we could draw the attention of the members of staff to the aims and activities of the Nurses' Christian Fellowship.

It is generally felt by branch members that there are people working at Victoria (or elsewhere in the Group) who may desire to join in fellowship with other Christians. They do not do so, due to sheer ignorance as to our existence.

Although it is primarily a Nurses' Fellowship, ancillary and medical staff may wish to support us by prayer, and other means, by becoming "Partners". These will be most welcome at meetings. Further details will be forwarded on request.'

Andy Meal }
Pan Gibson } Student Nurses
Nurses Home,
Victoria Hospital.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
MEMORANDA AND N.H.S. REORGANISATION CIRCULARS

- H.M.(73)14 Net yet received.
- H.M.(73)15 Dental Hygienists; Dental Surgery Assistants; Dental Auxiliaries
This memorandum accompanies PTB Circular 289 which sets out agreements on Dental Hygienists, Dental Surgery Assistants and Dental Auxiliaries. Advance notification of the agreement was given to employing authorities on 22nd June, 1972.
(The memorandum has been circulated to appropriate officers)
- H.M.(73)16 Previously notified.
- H.M.(73)17 Routine Cervical Cytology Screening - Extension of Priority Group
This memorandum announces the Secretary of State's decision to extend the existing priority group for routine cervical cytology screening.
- H.M.(73)18 Contamination of Medicinal Products
This memorandum commends to hospital authorities the final report of the Medicines Commission on the prevention of microbial contamination of medicinal products.
(Copies of the report are being obtained for issue to appropriate members of the staff).
- H.M.(73)19 Hospital Engineers
This memorandum accompanies PTB Circular 295 which sets out an agreement reached by the Professional and Technical 'B' Whitley Council revising the salary scales and long hours gratuity arrangements for hospital engineers. (This has been circulated as appropriate).

