

OUR

HOSPITAL

STORY

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Seague Works

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been compiled by members of the Committee of the League of Friends of the Memorial Hospital with the help of Mr. Puffy Bowden and James Baldry, so that the memory of the Hospital, as it was, should be preserved. We wanted to bring together some of the facts, photographs and reminiscences before they were lost and to provide a memento for all those who cared for the Hospital.

We would like to thank especially all those who have kindly lent photographs and memorabilia. Dr. John R. Guy for allowing us to consult the Archives and whose advice has been invaluable; Mrs. C. Baldry for typing help; Mrs. S. Watkins for her drawing on the cover and all those who have kindly corrected our scripts.

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HOW IT ALL BEGAN

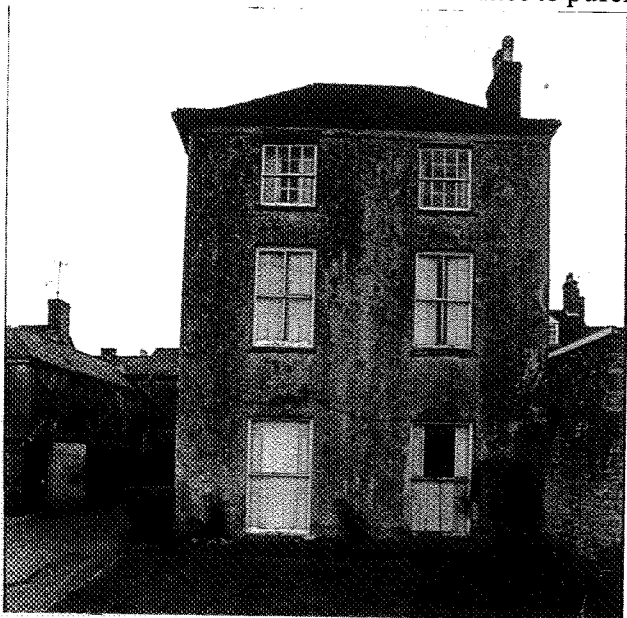
The object of the Cottage Hospitals was the provision of free medical care and attention for servants, apprentices and labourers. These hospitals were funded by subscriptions though subscribers did not benefit directly from their contributions and had to pay for their own medical attention. They were entitled to nominate one or more persons for free hospital treatment either as in or out-patients, e.g., a donor of ten guineas could have one patient in treatment at any one time; donors of twenty guineas could have two patients and so on for each ten guinea subscription. With the exception of Taunton, all the hospitals in Somerset were 'Cottage' hospitals, provided and maintained by public subscription, the patients being admitted on the 'ticket' system by the subscriber.

Records of most Cottage Hospitals have survived, but the Wincanton Memorial Hospital archives were destroyed in 1948 and we have to rely on the memories of a few survivors and even fewer records that have been kept privately.

A public meeting in December 1900, largely inspired by the enthusiasm of Dr. C. W. Edwards, resolved to found a Cottage Hospital in Wincanton and elected Trustees and a Committee. Dr. Edwards' experience of a Cottage Hospital in East Grinstead led to his desire to provide one — of similar size — at Wincanton in his new practice, as soon as possible. There is a memorial plaque to him in the present hospital. The building selected was situated in the High Street — still standing directly opposite the entrance to Carrington Way — and provided two wards each with three beds. Public support varied and there were many occasions when closure seemed imminent. By 1920, however, the work and the Staff



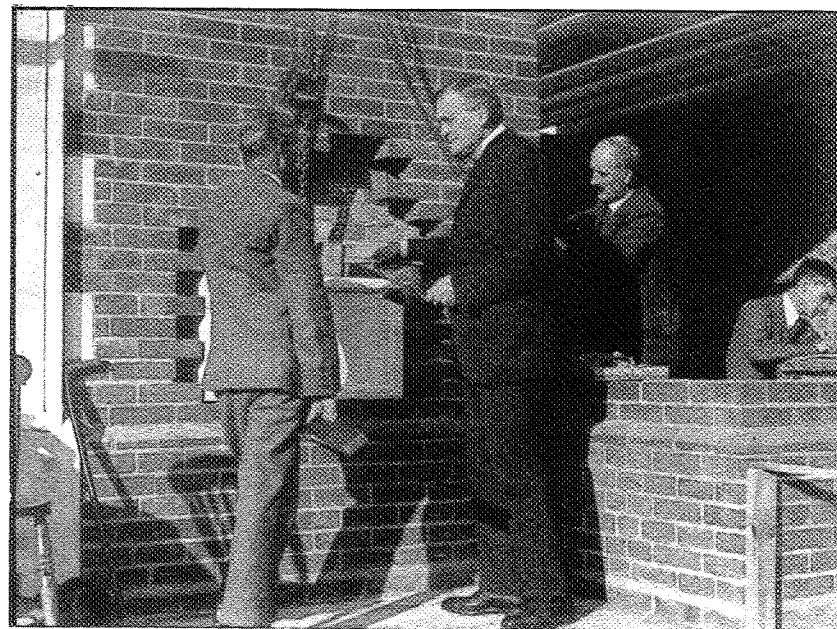
had outgrown the building and the Committee, largely thanks to Mrs. Ridley of Maperton, were given the sum of £1,100, the surplus from a Red Cross Gift Sale held in 1917. It is interesting to record that the Sale had been opened by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, whose interest in Wincanton Hospital was maintained for many years. The new funds enabled the Committee to purchase and



Pine House

adapt Pine House, thereby providing eight public beds; one private ward and staff accommodation. The new building was named 'The Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital', so called in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War, and was formally opened in February 1922 by Lady Theodora Guest.

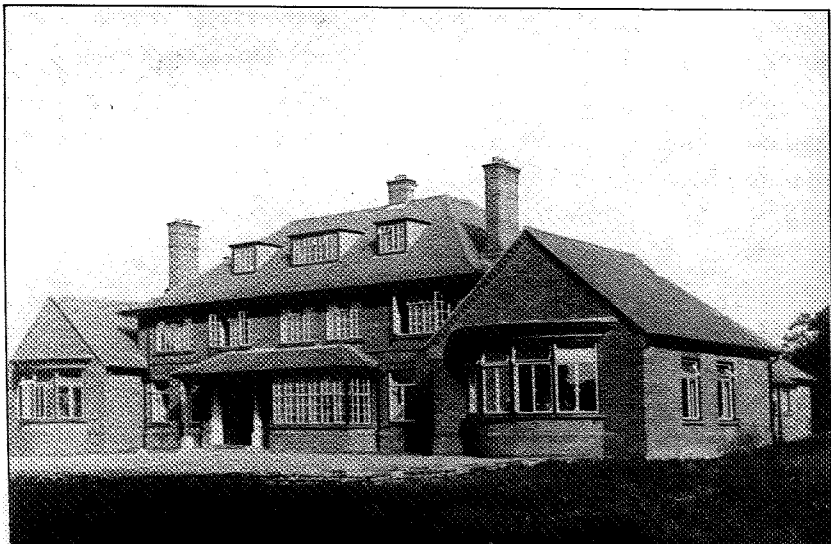
In the first year 80 in-patients were treated. By 1931 the number had grown to 304 patients. Major surgical operations also increased in numbers and, once again, the work and the staff had outgrown the building. The Committee decided to find a new site and to embark



The Stone Laying

on a purpose-built project. In October 1931 the Marquis of Bath laid the foundation stone of the new Hospital in Balsam Fields. This was designed to provide 12 public beds, two private wards and services accommodation, all on the ground floor. The grounds, attractively laid out, were extensive enough to supply the vegetables required throughout the year.

THE PRESENT HOSPITAL



The formal opening of this Hospital was performed by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, on 16th July, 1932.

July 16th 1932

*Vice Countess of Athlone
Athlone.*

Charles St. John's

Bath.

George Benedictus Plummer.

J. Harold Thomeby

Augusta West

Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital.

Opening of the New Hospital

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS ALICE,

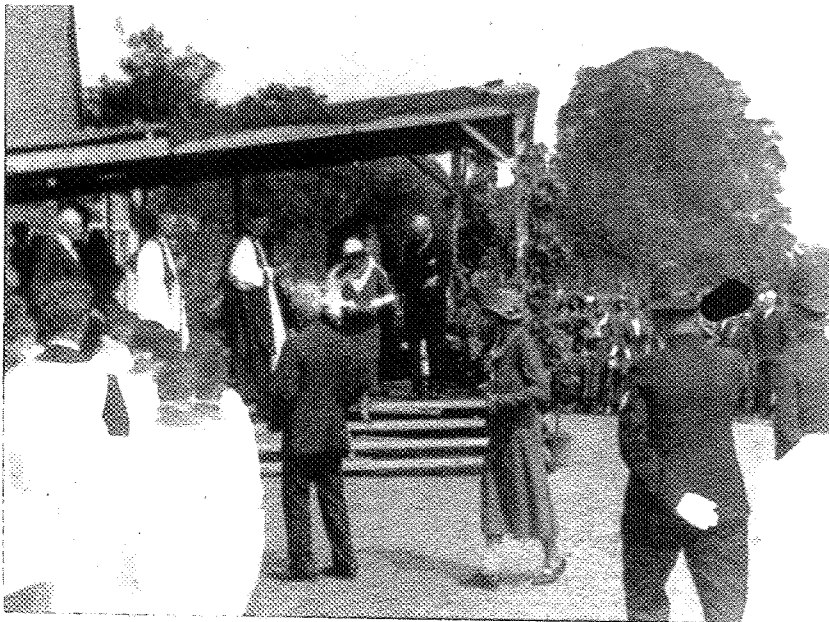
COUNTESS OF ATHLONE.



ON

SATURDAY, JULY 16th, 1932,

at 3 p.m.



The Opening

Extract from the Shepton Mallet Journal, 22nd July 1932

“WINCANTON

PRINCESS ALICE OPENS NEW HOSPITAL.

The new Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, on Saturday — a ‘Red-letter’ day. Heavy rain fell in the surrounding villages, but Wincanton was favoured with brilliant sunshine which flooded the Hospital grounds at the opening ceremony.

The entrance was gaily bedecked with flags and the Princess, who was the guest at the weekend of Mrs. Ridley of Maperton, was received by Lord Bayford, President of the Hospital, and the Marquis of Bath, the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset.

Lord Bayford extended a hearty welcome to Princess Alice and said she was no stranger to Wincanton, for in June 1917 she opened a Red Cross fete which resulted in a surplus which was set aside towards the cost of the new Hospital. For sometime the late hospital had been conducted in premises in High Street, but now they were moving into new and better premises. He hoped, because in the space of time they had worn out one hospital and had built a new one, that Her Royal Highness would not think that the reason was that that was an unhealthy neighbourhood (laughter). Although the principle industry of the district was agriculture, Wincanton was on a main road and increased motor traffic had added to the work of the hospitals.

A SPLENDID EFFORT

Princess Alice was presented with a silver key by the architect, Mr. A. J. B. Abbott, and she proceeded to the entrance and opened the building. The Princess congratulated everyone concerned upon such an excellent and modern little hospital. It was splendid in these difficult times that sufficient money had been subscribed to pay for almost everything.

Mr. A. W. Knight, on behalf of Mr. R. Lake, the hon: treasurer presented a financial statement. The total cost of the Hospital was £6,653. On the other side they had nearly 200 subscribers and the subscriptions totalled £2,068. The various villages in the district had organised functions and the result was that £2,021 had been raised. Contrary to certain views expressed that it was reckless to build a hospital in such difficult times, they had gone forward with courage.

They had sold certain investments that had brought their income to £5,757. That left a balance roughly of £900 and they still possessed an investment that it was expected would relaise about £800, so that they hoped that in a short time the hospital would be completely out of debt.

The Marquis of Bath, who was celebrating his 70th birthday, proposed a vote of thanks to the Princess and said the work to which the Princess had so graciously placed the seal would prove of the utmost value to the whole district.

Major Sir Archibald Langman seconded the vote of thanks and said by her presence the Princess had exemplified the spirit of service which was always to be found with members of the Royal Family.

THE NEW BUILDING

The building was dedicated by Bishop de Salis and the singing of the hymns was led by the choir of Wincanton church. The Princess inspected the Guard of Honour and the Voluntary Aid Detachments, Somerset Four and Somerset Five and the 17 and the Somerset 44, and inspected the hospital before leaving.

The new hospital provides accommodation for 12 beds and two private wards, all on the ground floor, and is easy of extension, if and when required. The Matron is Miss E. Round and the Senior Surgeon is Dr. T. E. Coulson. The hospital is delightfully situated and is away from all traffic noises. It is equipped with the most up-to-date appliances and each patient will be supplied with wireless if he or she desires, for headphones will be available at each bed.

The great generosity of Mrs. Ridley of Maperton was referred to by many speakers, and it is worthy of special mention that her many gifts included the operating theatre which she gave in memory of her brother, Brig-Gen. J. L. Nicholson."

THE HOSPITAL LEAGUE

Recurring financial difficulties faced by the Hospital have been mentioned, but a decided improvement began in 1927 when the Hospital League was formed. Members of the public who joined could, for a very small weekly subscription, enjoy access to the Hospital services without the financial burden that so often made people hesitate to seek treatment.

Practically all the administration of the League was done voluntarily by several branch secretaries, who worked under excellent Chairmen. Of these Mr. Knight of Bruton, Cmdr. Legge, Mr. Spencer, Miss Locke, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Thomas, Mr. S. Lane, Mr. Davis and Mr. Ham are remembered with appreciation. Beginning with 358 members in 1928, the League had grown to 2045 members by 1935.

The weekly subscription was only 4d per person for many years, yet this built up steady funds, which enabled the Hospital management to receive from League members fees much greater than previously when individual patients had to be 'means-tested'.

Other benefits which the League provided for its members were:— help with transport; the costs of an ambulance; the provision of surgical appliances; payment for massage and the giving of maternity benefits.

After the new Hospital was opened, the League Committee invited the townsfolk of Bruton and Castle Cary to join them and thereafter all three formed the Wincanton, Bruton and Castle Cary Hospital League.

The League continued its excellent work for 21 years until its final meeting on 26th January, 1949, when the Committee felt that the State Medical Scheme, paid for by a weekly insurance contribution, would provide the service. The purpose of the final meeting was to distribute its Reserve Fund amounting to £1,180. £500 was given to the Royal Cancer Research Fund and the rest distributed equally between four Hospital Comforts Funds viz; Wincanton, Bruton and Castle Cary, Shepton Mallet and the Bath and Bristol Funds.

THE WAR YEARS

As has already been remarked elsewhere there are practically no documents from these years, but the following facsimile of the 45th Annual Report of the Wincanton and East Somerset Hospital Committee gives an idea of some of the activities and difficulties of those years.

It is interesting to note that in 1945 Attendances numbered 976, whilst in 1987 the numbers were 1457 with 1105 patients attending Casualty.

Wincanton & East Somerset Memorial Hospital

1945.

President—MRS. H. M. RIDLEY, O.B.E.

Vice-Presidents—

MISS AUGUSTA GUEST, SIR A. LANGMAN, BART.

Trustees :—

MRS. H. M. RIDLEY, O.B.E. CAPT. J. BAILWARD.
SIR A. LANGMAN, BART. LORD BLACKFORD.

Honorary Medical Staff :

Hon. Consulting Surgeons } C. W. EDWARDS, F.R.C.S., ED.
T. E. COULSON, F.R.C.S., ED., M.D.

Surgeon :—E. M. TUSTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Physicians :—J. C. G. WHITELAW, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
J. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.
DR. LOUISE BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.
P. W. D. GODDARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
A. J. PATENALL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Radiologist : DR. E. M. TUSTIN. *Hon. Masseuse* : MR. J. L. JONES.

Committee:—

DR. T. E. COULSON (Chairman).
MR. H. ST. V. CHANCELLOR (Vice-Chairman).
MRS. BOYT. MR. E. H. DYKE. MRS. C. W. EDWARDS,
BRIG. E. N. FORTESQUE HITCHINS.
REV. PREB. W. E. HODGSON. LADY LIGHTON.
MRS. FOLKES. MRS. W. PEPPER.
MR. WALTER PITMAN (Representative of Hos. League Committee).
REV. R. W. DUROSE. MRS. L. RUTTER. MISS WARREN.
MRS. HENRY HOBHOUSE. MRS. W. B. MACKIE
MR. HUGH SATOW. UNITED SERVICES FUND SECRETARY.
MRS. ANNESLEY. MRS. M. BAILWARD.

House Committee :

DR. T. E. COULSON. LADY LIGHTON. MRS. W. PEPPER.
MRS. L. RUTTER. MRS. FOLKES.
MR. H. ST. V. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Treasurer : THE MANAGER, Westminster Bank, Wincanton.

Secretary : MRS. A. M. DAVIS, 16 Balsam Park, Wincanton.

Solicitor : MR. L. K. ARCHER, Wincanton.

Auditors : MESSRS. CHALMERS, WADE & Co.

HOSPITAL REPORT, 1945.

The Committee have pleasure in presenting the 45th Annual Report.

The number of In-Patients treated during the year is 181, which exceeds the number of last year by 12.

The number of Out-Patients is 479, an increase of 53 on last year.

Attendances number 976.

104 Major and 108 Minor Operations have been performed. We have had 219 X-Ray Cases and 384 films were taken.

The Private Wards were occupied by 15 Patients.

There have been many changes in the Nursing Staff, Matron Gough having left in July, to be married. The Committee were very sorry to lose her, and as they did not know her requirements, presented her with a cheque as a token of their esteem, accompanied with their best wishes and congratulations. Sister Yarwood was offered, and accepted the post of Matron, to the satisfaction of the Committee who have confidence in her and her capabilities in many directions. She is an expert in the X-Ray Dept. Sister Tomlinson, who has had many years experience, took the place of Sister Yarwood. There have been several changes in the Junior Nurses, and we are still trying to obtain a qualified Staff Nurse.

The Medical Staff have suffered a loss, by the death of Dr. David Price, M.B., as he had been on the Staff for a very long period. We are glad that Dr. Whitelaw and Dr. Barlow have returned from the Army Services.

The Linen League under Mrs. Folkes continues to be of great service, linen of all kinds being such an essential need in a Hospital. She would be glad to hear of more members who would subscribe in money or in goods. A statement appears on another page of Report.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Hospital on April 3rd, at 3 o'clock.

The Report of the Committee was read by the President, Mrs. H. M. Ridley. The Balance Sheet was presented, and both were adopted unanimously. Mr. Ainsworth, as Manager of the Westminster Bank, was elected as Treasurer.

Mrs. A. M. Davis, Secretary, was re-elected.

Mr. L. K. Archer, Solicitor, was re-elected.

Messrs. Chalmers, Wade, of Yeovil, were appointed as Auditors.

The Committee was elected *en bloc*, with the exception of Mrs Phipps and Rev. W. Jenkins, both having left the neighbourhood, and the late Commander Legge.

The vacancies were proposed to be filled by Mrs. M. Bailward, Brigadier E. S. Fortescue Hitchins and Mrs. Annesley.

Mrs. Folkes gave a Report of the work in regard to the Linen League. She asked for more Subscribers, and was thanked for her interest in the League by Mrs. Ridley.

Mrs. Ridley then spoke about the Govt. proposals and strongly opposed the Scheme as affecting the Voluntary Hospitals. She proposed that a strong protest be sent to Col. Boles, M.P.

Lord Blackford supported Mrs. Ridley but thought that a very strong protest should be sent to the Prime Minister and Mr. Aneurin Bevan. Mr. Chancellor strongly supported it.

It was unanimously decided that this should be done and Lord Blackford was asked to draw up a protest to be sent to the three named Officials, which he kindly consented to do.

Dr. A. J. Patenall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. was elected as a member of the Medical Staff.

Lord Blackford proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Ridley for presiding over the Meeting and spoke in great appreciation of her work and interest in the Hospital, lasting over many years. Preb. Hodgson seconded and it was heartily agreed to.

The Annual Appeal for Eggs was organised by Mrs. Coulson and Mrs. Tustin with the wonderful result of over 3000 Eggs being brought to the Hospital. The preservation of a great number of them makes it possible for the Patients to have Eggs all the year round.

The Committee are very grateful to the Organisers and the donors of these gifts.

We have had several losses during the year, through the death of Commr. J. A. Legge, and Mr. R. E. Spencer; also through leaving the neighbourhood, Mrs. Phipps and Rev. W. Jenkins.

The financial year has been quite satisfactory, and our Receipts from ordinary Income, amounting to £2639 16s. 1d., and Ordinary Expenditure £2254 1s. 1d., leaving a balance of £385 15s. 0d. on the year's working.

About 3/5ths of the Ordinary Receipts are derived from Patients' and League Payments.

Subscriptions are £46 less, and Donations are considerably less than last year, but that is accounted for by several large amounts being paid into the General Fund last year, which had been intended for the Special Appeal fund at the end of the previous year, but were not sent in until after the Appeal Fund was closed.

We stated in last year's Report that the late Miss Rogers had left a Legacy of over £2000 to the Hospital. Since then we have received it and the amount was £2448 14s. 4d., less a refund which had to be made of £78 7s. 8 1/2d., owing to an increase in the death duties of the Yarlington Estate.

A rebate of Income Tax was claimed on some of the Investments, and a sum of £39 13s. 6d. has been remitted, but too late to include in this year's A/cs.

Our greatest need and one of the most difficult problems is to obtain Nurses, either fully qualified, or Assistant Nurses.

We hope, ere long, to be able to have the necessary Painting and Decorating done, which has been so long neglected.

The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the Medical and Nursing Staffs, and also to all others who have so generously contributed Gifts and Personal Service, and to the hard-working Collectors who have achieved such good results.

WINCANTON & EAST SOMERSET MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Summary of Accounts to 31st December, 1945.

1944	RECEIPTS	£	s	d	£	s	d
	Balance brought forward, 31st Dec., 1944	...	...	...	262	9	0
198 19 0	Subscriptions ...	...	...	...	152	18	0
61 8 7	Collectors' Accounts--Wincanton	...	57	8 5			
59 5 1	Per Mrs. Boyt, Bruton	...	47	9 9			
	Per Mrs. Beckett, Horsington	...	5	10 0			
70 0 8	Per Mrs. Boyt--Dance, Bruton	...	51	9 1			
	Per Miss Moore, Castle Cary	...	6	10 6			
13 13 9	Per Miss Warren, Castle Cary	...	10	7 0			
	Per Mrs. T. C. Parsons	...	2	10 10			
12 12 6	Per Miss Mackie--Rose Day	...	12	8 0			
9 17 6	Per Mrs. Annesley, Brewham	...	16	3 0			
					209	16	7
428 6 4	Donations ...	...	...	...	232	7	9
	Boxes--Mr. Dyer	...	2	5 11			
28 19 3	Mr. Knight	...	1	15 6			
	Hospital...	...	2	15 0			
					6	16	5
135 2 1	Church Offerings...	...	...	...	119	9	0
120 3 1	Investment Income	...	135	1 2			
	Income Tax recovered on Investments	...	63	10 0			
	Income Tax recovered on Covenant Subs.	...	33	18 0	232	9	2
77 19 0	Ministry of Health	...	44	5 2			
64 0 0	British Hospitals Assn. Rebate on Salaries	...	68	0 0			
					112	5	2
302 8 6	Private Wards ...	...	153	19 6			
180 9 6	Public Wards ...	...	263	3 0			
68 0 0	X-Rays ...	...	100	0 0			
					517	2	6
	HOSPITAL LEAGUES---						
556 0 0	Wincanton, Castle Cary & Bruton	...	669	11 0			
29 14 0	Yeatman, Sherborne	...	184	14 0			
33 7 6	Hospital Savings Association	...	67	16 0			
16 9 6	Railway Leagues...	...	35	19 6			
	Other Leagues ...	...	61	15 6			
					1,019	16	0
8 9 6	Somerset County Council	...	...	...	12	4	6
20 0 0	Maperton--Whist Drive	...	...	...	20	0	0
	Telephone £4-1-0; Sundries 10/-	...	...	...	4	11	0
	LEGACY--The late Miss Rogers	...	...	...	2,448	14	4
					<u>£5,350</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>5</u>

INVESTMENTS as at December 31st, 1945--

£300 2½% Consols	300	0	0
£300 Australia 3½%, 1961 66	300	0	0
£1358-14-10 3½% Conversion Loan	1358	14	10
£536-11-0 3% Conversion Stock	536	11	0
£1000 3% Defence Bonds	1000	0	0
£1320 3% Savings Bonds, 1960, 70	1320	0	0
£2850 3% Bonds, 1965 75	2850	0	0

PROPERTY--

Hospital, Garden and Grounds	8500	0	0
Equipment, Surgical Instruments, X-Ray, Etc.	1500	0	0

WINCANTON & EAST SOMERSET MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Summary of Accounts to 31st December, 1945.

1944				PAYMENTS				1945			
£	s	d			£	s	d	£	s	d	
HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES											
53	14	2	Butcher	...	...	57	0	3			
19	3	9	Baker	...	...	19	12	7			
10	15	6	Fishmonger	...	...	17	3	1			
54	7	10	Milkman	...	...	74	4	11			
129	2	0	Grocer, etc.	...	...	125	2	4			
			Greengrocer	...	...	7	7	9			
126	12	3	Laundry	...	...				300	10	11
767	14	9	Wages and Salaries	...	...	832	1	1	118	2	2
45	0	0	Secretary's Honorarium	...	...	45	0	0			
172	5	8	Porter Gardener	...	...	169	0	0			
18	8	1	Staff Assurances	...	...	18	14	0	1046	1	1
30	6	1	Fire and Storm Insurances	...	...	27	0	3			
35	18	8	Rates	...	...	45	5	4	45	14	3
18	14	0	Water Rate	...	...	21	19	0			
23	3	11	Telephone	...	...				67	4	4
161	16	6	Heating	...	...	224	7	9	22	19	6
13	8	6	Gas	...	...	8	16	6			
44	8	5	Electricity	...	...	35	2	4			
									268	6	7
133	7	8	Repairs & Renewals	...	...				50	10	4
39	6	4	Chemists and Instruments	...	...				140	14	4
2	2	0	Drapery and sundry Accounts	...	...				40	2	4
17	11	5	Subscription, B.H. Asc.	...	...				2	2	0
9	3	10	Printing and Stationery	...	...				23	11	1
21	7	11	Postages	...	...				9	17	0
			X-Rays--Films, etc.	...	...				71	0	8
			Dyne, Hughes & Archer, re. Miss Rogers' Estate	...	...				78	7	8
			Dr. Tustin--S. C. Council & M.O.H. Fees	...	...				7	4	6
			Refund to Wincanton Hospital League	...	...				27	11	0
			Taunton Hospital	...	...				9	0	0
			Dyne, Hughes & Archer, re. new Trustee	...	...				6	0	0
			INVESTED--3 per cent Savings Bonds	...	...				2500	0	0
			Credit Balance	...	...				518	10	8
									£5,350	19	5

We have examined the above account with the Books and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be correct.

6th March, 1946.

CHALMERS WADE & CO.

Chartered Accountants,

Bank Chambers,

Yeovil.

BENEFACTORS OF £50 AND OVER

		£	s	d.
1911	Mr. C. Blyth's Legacy	...	50	0 0
1911	Mr. G. T. Gifford's Legacy, £600— 2½% Consols, less duty, etc.	...		
1915	Mr. J. Whittle's Legacy	...	300	0 0
1917	Bruton Flower Show Committee	...	50	12 9
1918	Wincanton Farmers' Whist Drive Committee	...	100	15 8
1919	Red Cross Hospital Endowment	...	1100	0 0
1920	Miss Arnold's Legacy	...	58	0 0
1920	Miss Sopwith's Gift (in memory of Miss E. Norris)	...	50	0 0
1920	Original Subscribers to first Building Fund	...	1730	3 7
1921	United Services Fund Endowment	...	308	15 0
1923	Sir Arthur Sutton, Bart.	...	100	0 0
1922, '26, '27, '30, '34, '35, '36, '37, '38, '39, '40, '41,	—Red Cross 'Our Day' Fund	...	270	0 0
1927	Miss Hannah Cox's Legacy	...	300	0 0
1911 to 1932	Wincanton Carnival Committee	...	2528	9 7
1931	Mr. Geo. Mead's Legacy and Interest	...	102	2 11
1931	Mr. W. A. Kelly's Legacy (Penselwood)	...	50	0 0
1931	Mr. R. Deanesly's Legacy, £1000, less Legacy Duty	...	900	0 0
1934	Mrs. M. Howell's Legacy, free of Duty	...	100	0 0
1929 to 1938	Wincanton, Castle Cary & Bruton Hospital League	...	303	5 0
1937	Mr. F. S. Francis, £325 Canadian National Railway Debentures, since repaid and invested in £332-9-5 3% Conversion Stock	...		
1938	Miss Anna Garland	...	50	0 0
1938	The James Henry Stephens Bequest, per Lloyds Bank	...	50	0 0
1941	Mr. W. Tuftin	...	94	18 10
1941	B. P. Coulson, Esq.	...	200	0 0
1942	Miss B. Hoskins	...	50	0 0
1943	Mr. H. G. Townsend	...	69	3 11
1943	Miss L. Bottle	...	100	0 0
1944	Capt. A. E. Blake	...	100	0 0
1944	Miss Rogers	...	2448	14 4

DONATIONS

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss Vitler ...	69	0	0	In memory of the			
Mrs. J. Bailward ...	5	5	0	late Mr. D. W. Ash ...	2	2	0
Dance, per Mrs. McGerr	60	5	0	In memory of the			
Yarlington, Whist Drive	21	1	6	late Mr. Drewett ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Symonds ...	14	0	0	Mrs. Suttell, £1; Mrs. Tilling £2	3	0	0
N. Coulson, Esq. ...	10	0	0	O.A.P., £1 ...	1	0	0
Samaritans' Fund, Charlton				Castle Cary W.I., £1 ...	1	0	0
Musgrove (Rev. Courtney)	9	0	0	Mrs. Woodward, 10/-...	10	0	
Children's Victory Party,				Anon., 10/-; Dr. Coulson, 10/6	1	0	6
per Miss Dyer ...	15	0	6	Bear, Skittles, 10/-;			
King's School, Bruton,				Co-ops., 7/6 ...	17	6	
Carol Service ...	3	7	3	Christopher Apsey, 7/6;			
Lovington, Mothers' Meeting	6	0	0	Brian and Alan Sweet, 5/-	12	6	
Bruton Sisterhood ...	1	0	0				
In lieu of flowers for the							
late Mrs. Steane ...	7	5	0				
					£23	7	9

CHURCH OFFERINGS

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Alford ...	3	7	6	Holton ...	4	5	7
Barrow, South ...	2	11	0	Horsington ...	5	15	2
Barrow, North ...	3	0	0	Lovington ...	3	11	3
Bratton ...	3	12	0	Maperton ...	7	15	6
Brewham ...	2	7	0	Pitcombe ...	4	7	0
Bruton ...	2	4	6	Penselwood ...	1	13	1
Blackford ...	5	2	1	Redlynch ...	1	2	7
Cadbury, North ...	9	10	10	Stoke Trister and Bayford	4	8	5
Compton Pauncefoot ...	4	4	0	Wyke Champflower ...	1	10	9
Castle Cary ...	8	0	8	Yarlington ...	2	12	11
Castle Cary Gospel Hall	4	0	0	Wincanton Parish Church	7	8	1
North Cheriton ...	2	13	9	Wincanton Baptist Church	14	0	
Cucklington ...	1	16	7				
Charlton Musgrove ...	15	6	0				
Ditchat and Alhampton	6	8	9				
					£119	9	0

RULES.

NAME AND OBJECT. 1—The Wincanton & East Somerset Memorial Hospital is designed for the accommodation of patients suffering from disease—not being either infectious or chronic—or accident, which cannot be properly treated at home.

PAYING PATIENTS. 2—Persons in better circumstances than the very poor will be required to pay from 5/- to £3/13/6 (3½ guineas) per week. Special Nursing, Wine and other luxuries will be charged in addition, at the discretion of the Committee. Patients assessed by the House Committee under £3 per week shall not be charged for professional work. Patients assessed at £3 or over per week shall make their private arrangements with the Doctors as to fees to be charged.

Members of the Wincanton, Castle Cary & Bruton Hospital League will be free of all Professional Charges in accordance with the following scale:

	Weekly Income
Single persons, widows and widowers without children under 16 ...	£3
Widows or widowers with children, and married persons without children under 16 ...	£4
Married persons with children under 16 ...	£5

AREA. 3—Patients will be admitted from the various parishes of the Wincanton R.D.C. and from all other places within 10 miles of the Hospital.

ADMISSION. 4—Cases coming from a distance must first send a certificate from a medical man that they are suitable for the Hospital and are likely to receive benefit. Cases of accident will be received at any time.

FOOD AND CLOTHING. 5—No food or drink shall be brought into the Hospital or supplied to a Patient without the sanction of the surgeon in charge of the case, or the Matron. All patients must bring with them decent clothing and a proper change of linen.

HOUSE RULES. 6—Every Patient must conform to the Rules of the Hospital and obey the Medical Officers and Matron.

VISITING. 7—Patients may be visited by their friends on Wednesdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., and Friday Evenings from 6 to 7.

LENGTH OF TREATMENT. 8—No patient may remain in the Hospital longer than four weeks, unless under special circumstances to be reported to the Medical Officer and approved by the House Committee.

TRUSTEES. 9—The Property of the Hospital shall be vested in four Trustees for the sole benefit of the Hospital, to be dealt with as the Committee may direct. The Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee.

MANAGEMENT. 10—The General Management of the Hospital shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Trustees, the Medical Officers, a nominee of the Wincanton, Castle Cary and Bruton Hospital League, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Auditor, and not more than 20 members elected at the Annual General Meeting by the Subscribers of not less than £1-1-0, with power to fill vacancies that may occur during the year of office.

The President, Vice-Presidents and Trustees shall hold office for life.

OFFICERS. 11—The Medical and other Officers shall be appointed by the Committee, and the Medical Staff will have the general superintendence of the Medical Department of the Hospital, subject to the approval of the Committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. 12—All annual subscriptions shall be payable in advance, and become due on 1st January in each year.

COMMITTEE. 13—The Committee shall meet early in February, May, August and November, and eight members shall form a quorum. No allocation of Capital monies beyond the sum of £300 shall be made without a Resolution passed by the Committee and with the consent of the Trustees.

ANNUAL MEETING. 14—A General Annual Meeting of Subscribers, to receive a report and statement of accounts from the Committee, and for general business, shall be held as soon as convenient after the February Committee Meeting.

ALTERATION OF RULES. 15—No existing Rule shall be altered except at the General Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting convened by the request, in writing, of at least six subscribers, and then only by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those present, but the House Committee are empowered to make regulations for the better carrying out of the details connected with the management of the Hospital.

PRIVATE WARD. 16—The charge for a Private Ward, when available, shall be: Minimum 5 guineas per week, Maximum 7 guineas per week, inclusive of all except Medical Attendance or Special Nurse, or Alcohol, Special Drugs, Sera, Vaccines, X-Ray, etc. Use of Theatre, £1-1-0.

OUT-PATIENTS. 17—The Out-Patient Department of the Hospital shall be used only for the treatment of Minor Accidents and Minor Surgical Operations. The further dressing of the latter, if any, can be done by the District Nurse of the parish from which the patient came. When there is no District Nurse, these dressings can be done at the Hospital.

THE STATE TAKES OVER—1948

On the 5th July, 1948, the Minister of Health became responsible for the running of all the country's Hospitals and delegated the work to Hospital Management Committees. In the case of our Hospital, we are able to draw on the following report in the Parish Church Magazine.

“WINCANTON PARISH MAGAZINE 1949

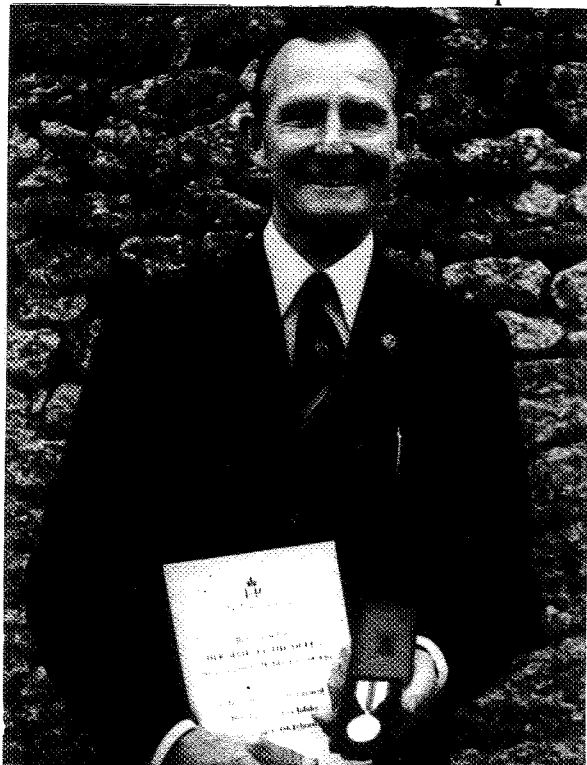
THE HOSPITALS.

Although all the main expenses of the hospitals are now paid by the State, there is still room for private gifts to the hospitals. There are many additional amenities which are not provided for by the State, but which it is desirable should be available. At Christmas time and on other occasions extra help is very welcome. Most hospitals have started a 'Comforts' or 'Amenities' Fund which is at the disposal of the local house committee. Under the new system for the hospitals which started on July 5th, 1948, there is a house committee which is responsible for the working of the Memorial Hospital and the Wincanton Sanatorium. Dr. Coulson is chairman of the committee and the other members are Mrs. Folkes, Mrs. Hobhouse, Mrs. Mackie, Mr. H. St. V. Chancellor, Captain Knollys and Preb. Hodgson. Mr. Roberts is secretary of the committee. This house committee works under the South Somerset Hospitals Management Committee which meets at Yeovil, which in its turn is under the Bristol Regional Committee for the West of England. Dr. Coulson is Vice-Chairman of the South Somerset Management Committee and Mrs. Hobhouse and Dr. Tustin are among the members of that committee. There used to be two 'Comforts Funds,' one for the Memorial Hospital and one for the Sanatorium, these have now been merged into one fund. Any one who wishes can now subscribe to the above fund, and anyone can get up an entertainment on behalf of this fund and all such money will be spent only on behalf of the Hospitals in Wincanton. Anyone getting up such an entertainment should ask permission first from Mr. Roberts the Secretary and the money should be sent to Dr. Coulson or Mr. Roberts. Recently a piano was purchased out of this fund for the Memorial Hospital, which in the past always had to borrow a piano when one was needed. This piano will also be used for any services held at the hospital. The Minister of Health is very anxious that the general public should keep up the interest it used to show in the days when the hospitals were mainly supported by voluntary subscriptions, by helping these 'Comfort Funds' and in every other possible way."

On 31st December 1948, Dr. Coulson reported to the House Committee that, though the radiologist at the Hospital was Dr. Tustin, practically all the work fell upon the Matron, Miss Yarwood, who was acting as radiographer and who had taken over 720 films during 1948. The Chairman of the Committee recommended to the Hospital Management Committee that Matron's salary should be increased by £35 per annum in view of the fact that much of the work of developing these films had to be done during her off-duty time. This recommendation was carried unanimously, but Matron Yarwood received only £30 in January 1949.

The Rev. Hodgson, as Chaplain received £26 p.a. for attendance at the Memorial Hospital and £28 p.a. for the Sanatorium.

Sid Pleasants, who came to the Memorial Hospital in 1946 as the Porter for two years and stayed for 39 years, was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. His work at the Hospital was so varied,



Mr. Sid Pleasants

not one day was the same as the next, his jobs being:— Gardener, Porter, Theatre Attendant, Male Nurse, Electrician, Carpenter, Plumber, Cleaner, Carpet Layer, Painter, Cook and, occasionally, 'Washer-up'.

In the garden, crops were weighed and booked before being taken to the kitchen and surplus vegetables were salted down and stored for the winter. All fruit was bottled and apples were stored in the loft of the garden shed. All vegetables and flowers were grown from seed at the Hospital and up to 1970 the whole garden was dug by hand.

The following list of seeds ordered for the Wincanton Memorial Hospital gives a good idea of the work involved.

SOUTH SOMERSET HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SEEDS ORDERED FOR WINCANTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Peas, Gradus	½ pt.
Peas, Peter Pan	½ pt.
Peas, Pilot	1 pt.
Broad Beans, Long Pod	1 pt.
Dwarf Beans, The Prince	½ pt.
Beet, Crimson Globe	1 oz.
Broccoli, Michaelmas White	1 pkt. 9d.
Broccoli, Purple Sprouting	1 pkt. 9d.
Broccoli, Nine Star Perennial N.A.	1 pkt. 9d.
Broccoli, Late Queen	1 pkt. 9d.
Cabbage, Primo	¼ oz.
Brussels Sprouts, Rous Lench	¼ oz.
Cabbage, Durham Early	¼ oz.
Cabbage, The Herrald	1 pkt 1/3d.
Cabbage Velocity	¼ oz.
Cabbage, January King	¼ oz.
Carrot, Amsterdam Forcing	½ oz.
Carrot, Chanternay Red	½ oz.
Carrot, St. Valery	½ oz.
Cauliflower, Northern Giant	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Celery, Invincible White	1 pkt. 9d.
Cress, Triple Curled	¼ pt.
Cucumber, Conqueror	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Kale, Crisp Green Curled	1 pkt.
Leeks, Musselburch	¼ oz.

Lettuce, All Year Round	½ oz.
Lettuce, Trocadero	¼ oz.
Lettuce, Early Wonder	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Onions, Prize Taker	1 oz.
Onions, Zitten Giant	1 pkt. 9d.
Onion Sets	3 lb.
Parsley, Moss Curled	1 pkt. 9d.
Parsnip, The Student	1 oz.
Radish, Sazo	1 oz.
Radish, Woods Early Frame	1 oz.
Radish, Sparkler	½ oz.
Savoy, Best of All	¼ oz.
Savoy, Drumhead	¼ oz.
Spinach, Perpetual	½ oz.
Tomato, Money Maker	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Turnip, Green Top Stone	1 oz.
Turnip, White Milan	1 oz.

A & Bs Mixed Giant Spencer Sweet Peas	3 pkts. 1/0d.
Ageratum, King of the Blues	1 pkt. 1/0d.
Alyssum, Little Dorrit	1 pkt. 8d.
Alyssum, Saxatile	1 pkt. 8d.
Antirrhinum, Rust Resistant Mixed	1 pkt. 1/0d.
Asperula, Azurea Setosa	1 pkt. 8d.
Aster, Giants of California, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Aster, Ostrich Plume, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Calendula, Indian Maid	1 pkt. 8d.
Canterbury Bell, Mixed	1 pkt. 8d.
Cheiranthus, Golden Bedder	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Cineraria, Hybrida Grandiflora	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Coleus, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Dahlia, Cactus Double	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Lobelia, Crystal Palace	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Marigold French, Dwarf Gold Laced	1 pkt. 1/0d.
Mesembryanthemum	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Pansy, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/0d.
Petunia, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Primula, Giant Flowering Strain	1 pkt. 2/0d.
Salvia, Fireball	1 pkt. 1/6d.
Stocks, 10 week mixed	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Verbina, Mixed	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Tagetes	1 pkt. 8d.
Wallflower, Scarlet Emperor	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Wallflower, Old Gold	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Wallflower, Rose Queen	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Zinnia, Giant Dahlia Flowering double	1 pkt. 1/3d.
Gladioli, Mixed	2 doz.

THE LAST YEARS AS A G.P. HOSPITAL

This programme is a photographic reproduction of that printed for the opening of the hospital in 1932. The original, which was in a very fragile condition, has been recently repaired by the conservators at the Somerset Record Office in Taunton.

WINCANTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Sunday 18th July 1982

at 2.30 pm

with

LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH

(daughter of HRH The Princess Alice,
who opened the Hospital in 1932)

WINCANTON SILVER PRIZE BAND

(Bandmaster: Robert Gilham)

TEAS. LEAGUE OF FRIENDS STALL

Admission Free

Please park your car in the Memorial Hall Car Park

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Sund ay 18th July 1982, at
2.30 p.m.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

conducted by the Chaplain,
the Revd. John Everett.

The form of service will be that used at the opening of the hospital on
Saturday 16th July 1932.

LADY MAY ABEL-SMITH, daughter of H.R.H. the Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who opened the hospital, will then be invited to address the gathering, and then to plant a tree to commemorate the GOLDEN JUBILEE of the present hospital.

Presentation of a bouquet to Lady May, by Miss Shelley Lampert.

Lady May and the invited guests will then be invited to tour the hospital.

After the ceremony, the hospital will be open for inspection. An exhibition of the history of Wincanton's hospitals has been arranged by the archivist of Yeovil Hospital and the curator of the Wincanton Museum in the Day Room. The exhibition will be also on display in Wincanton Library during the Summer months.

Visitors and guests are cordially invited to partake of tea after the ceremony.

INVITED GUESTS:

Lady May Abel-Smith	daughter of H.R.H. Princess Alice
and Sir Henry Abel-Smith	
Lady McCreery	
Mr. Henry Hobhouse	
Mrs. D. Pepper	member of the hospital's Committee of Management before the inauguration of the National Health Service.
Group Captain Deacon	former Chairman of the League of Friends.
Mr. Sharp; Miss McKay	Red Cross

Mr. Murray
Mr. Peter Knipe, FRCS
Dr. F. X. M. Beach, MD
Dr. P. J. Horniblow, FRCR

Dr. Jean Guy, FRCE
Revd. John R. Guy, ARHistS
Mrs. C. Heath
& Mr. Heath
Miss F. J. Firmstone

Mrs. Hunnikin

Mr. Mulhall
& Mrs. Hulhall
Miss V. Stokes

Mr. R. Pritchard
& Mrs. Pritchard
Mr. S. Oakes

Revd. John Everett

Mrs. Elcomb

Dr. & Mrs. D. H. Pickett
Dr. & Mrs. R. G. Jones
Dr. & Mrs. C. F. Farrant
Dr. & Mrs. Fellows
Dr. H. E. Rhys-Davies

Chairman, Wincanton Council
Consultant Surgeon
Consultant Physician
Member of the Local Management Team;
Consultant Representative
Consultant Radiologist
Archivist, Yeovil Hospital
Chairman, Somerset Health Authority
Divisional Nursing Officer, Yeovil District Hospital
Nursing Officer, Crewkerne Hospital
Nursing Officer, Verrington Hospital
Senior Nursing Officer, peripheral hospitals & Community Nursing Service
Sector Administrator, Yeovil District Hospital
Administrator, Wincanton Memorial Hospital
Chaplain (C. of E.) Wincanton Memorial Hospital
daughter of Dr. E. M. Tustin, sometime Surgeon & Radiologist to the Hospital
Wincanton
Wincanton
Wincanton
Wincanton
Milborne Port



Front Row: Matron, Dr. & Mrs. Pickett, Sir Henry Abel-Smith, Dr. Guy
 Lady May Abel-Smith, (on stand) Rev. John Everett, Dr. & Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Elcombe,
 Dr. & Mrs. Fellows
 Back Row: Mrs. Carroll, Dr. & Mrs. Horniblow, ? ? Mr. & Mrs. Mulhall, Mr. &
 Mrs. Prichard, Miss B. McKay, Mr. Sharp, Brenda Jeans.

Lady May Abel-Smith *Henry Abel Smith*



Lady May Abel-Smith, Miss Scharf & Dr. John R. Guy



Lady May talking to Harold Goldsworthy

FROM A WINCANTONIAN

I was living in the High Street at Pine House and had a clear view of Wincanton Memorial Hospital and my garden adjoined the hospital grounds.

I can recall the wealth of crops grown with every square yard of ground occupied by plants, so making the hospital completely self-supporting. From time to time one could see the Matron and Nurses taking a stroll and occasionally having a discussion with the gardener.

Often we would see the operating theatre lights switched on and one knew that an operation was in progress. Of course, when the war came, black-out restrictions denied one this knowledge.

In 1935 when the Wincanton Branch of the British Red Cross was formed it was arranged for the members to attend at the hospital in the evenings to practice bed-making. Often the Matron would storm into the ward to tell us to hide in the men's lavatory whilst Dr. T. Coulson made his customary evening visit. Since he lived only two or three minutes walk away at Balsam Gate, we often had to take evasive action!

From time to time, Red Cross members would act as attendants on the local ambulance which was operated by the district council, the vehicle being driven by Wincanton Transport personnel.

During these years, the hospital was maintained by voluntary contributions from the public and looking back on the amounts subscribed, one wonders how a credible service was maintained.

When the war ended, changes gradually took place and one began to feel that ultimately the good service being provided would decline. With the completion of the new Yeovil General Hospital, Wincanton's operating theatre was closed and one's worries multiplied.

The vegetable garden began to lose its importance as bulk buying became the order of the day. Despite the sterling work of Mr. S. Pleasants who performed as gardener and general factotum, much ground reverted to lawns and eventually outdoor staff from Yeovil took over, Mr. Pleasants then doing many inside jobs at all hours of the day and night.

Now that Wincanton's Memorial Hospital is due for closure, one looks back on the many years of service rendered by a dedicated team of doctors and nurses, who often worked under trying conditions, with feelings of gratitude and pride.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLOSURE

'Improve not Remove'

Letter sent out by the League of Friends to inform the public in July 1989.

"As we near the end of the time allowed by the Somerset Health Authority for representations to be made against its proposed closure of the Memorial Hospital in Wincanton, we, the League of Friends, would like the community to know how we have used the funds it has so generously provided.

At the A.G.M. of the League it was decided to open a 'Fighting Fund' account as we knew that money given for the benefit of patients and staff could not be used for campaigning. The response to our appeal resulted in the magnificent sum of £3500.

We had car-stickers printed with the words 'We will fight to Save the Wincanton Memorial Hospital. Improve not Remove'. Demand for these was very great and alerted the District to the possible threat to the Hospital.

Two meetings with the Somerset Health Authority resulted in confirmation of the threat of closure. Mr. Boscawen, our M.P., advised us to obtain professional help and this resulted in 'The Memorandum of the League of Friends', compiled by Mr. Fenton Rutter of Rutter and Rutter, Solicitors, Wincanton. This memorandum was distributed to all interested organisations as well as to Mr. Boscawen.

People were encouraged to write letters to the M.P. and to the Somerset Health Authority and for those unable to do this, typed ones were available. The Press were most supportive and we kept them well supplied with information.

The Community Health Council, which is required by statute to review all proposed hospital closures, organised a Public Meeting

which was in danger of being seriously restricted owing to lack of seating. The League of Friends was able to offer to meet the cost of the hire of chairs and, on a filthy night, over 400 people took part in a lively discussion.

A petition against the proposed closure was organised by the League Committee and resulted in 8000 signatures being handed to the Mayor who presented it to the Chairman of the Health Authority during the following week. The hand-over was given Press and T.V. coverage and the marchers carried placards through the Town.

The publication of the Somerset Health Authority's Consultation Document called for detailed research by our Committee members into such subjects as:— valuation of site and buildings, population growth, Social Services, access and parking at Verrington, costing of transport, resources of the Health Centre as a Casualty Department, availability of beds at Verrington and Physiotherapy. The results of this work were put together by Mr. Fenton Rutter and the League to form the 'Case for the Retention and Improvement of the Wincanton Memorial Hospital'. This Document has been sent to each member of the Somerset Health Authority Committee and has been followed up by either a personal visit or a prolonged telephone call; to the Community Health Council, with which we had a meeting to discuss it; to Mr. Boscawen. to Parish Councils, Schools, Medical Practitioners, Consultants and other interested groups. All these have been strongly urged to make their views known to the Authorities.

Whatever the outcome of the present crisis may be, such funds as the League of Friends may raise in the future will be used to supplement Health Services in the Wincanton area.

We realise that the N.H.S. has to cope nationally with a difficult situation and we hope that the members of the Somerset Health Authority, lay, medical and administrative, are aware of the facts relating to the Wincanton Memorial Hospital."

SOME NEWSPAPER HEADLINES DURING THE CAMPAIGN

June 1988

Hospital Closure Threat.

Merger of Hospitals planned.

July 1988

Improve not Remove, say Friends.

Fight to Keep the Memorial Hospital.

February 1989

Families in Fight to Save Town's Doomed Hospital.

Battle Lines Drawn Up in Hospital Fight.

March 1989

M.P.'s Backing Sought.

Mayor Pledges Hospital Fight.

Doctors Join Fight to Save Cottage Hospital.

Meeting's Plea for Memorial Hospital to Stay.

Wincanton March Against Closure. 7,500 Sign Petition.

April 1989

Friends Fight Back to Block Wincanton Hospital Closure Threat.

May 1989

Tory M.P. Joins Battle to Save Hospital.

June 1989

Hospital Closure Opposed.

Town's Casualty Service in Danger.

Community Health Council Backs Hospital Campaigner.

July 1989

Consultation on Hospital Before Change, is Urged.

Mayor Wants More Say on Hospital.

August 1989

Hospital's Future Hangs in Balance.

Hospital is Axed Despite Protests.

Health Chiefs Allow Closure of Hospital.

**A PUBLIC INQUIRY
INTO THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF
THE
WINCANTON
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
will be held on
Monday 20th March
at 7.00 pm
AT THE RACECOURSE**

TRANSPORT:

Coaches will run from:—

Memorial Hall	@	6.35
Common Road	@	6.38
Balsam Fields	@	6.40
Railway Inn	@	6.42
Rodber Close	@	6.45

WINCANTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**PETITION
HANDING-OVER
CEREMONY**

in
Carrington Way
on
SATURDAY, 25th MARCH
at 11.30 am

**PLEASE BE THERE
SHOW YOU CARE**

WINCANTON DOCTORS 1794

1794	Silas Blandford Robert Perfect	1910	Dr. Edwards Dr. McReady
1823	Silas Blandford Robert Combe Surrage & Eastman		Dr. Gardiner
1835	William Bourton Eastman & Surrage Samual Newton Parsons	1913	Dr. Fenton Dr. Edwards Dr. Dixon
1842	William Bourton Eastman & Surrage Samual Newton Parsons	1923	Dr. Coulson
1852	William Bourton John Eastman & James Surrage Samual Newton Parsons	1924	Dr. Buckley
1861	William Bourton & Parker Eastman & Surrage	1943	Dr. Baines
1875	George Cardel James Colthurst	1950	Dr. Tustin Dr. Everett Dr. Goddard
1894	Dr. MacDougall Dr. A. W. F. Sayres	1966	Dr. Holliday
1896	Dr. Colthurst	1968	Dr. Westwood
1907	Dr. E. Scallon Dr. McBride	1960	Dr. D. H. Pickett
		1972	Dr. R. G. Jones
		1975	Dr. C. F. Farrant
		1982	Dr. M. J. Fellows

MATRONS 1946—1985

Miss Yarwood	Miss Stansfield
Miss Evans	Miss Abbott
Miss Wright	Miss Scharf
Miss Mitten	

WINCANTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

G.P.'s TREATING OWN PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

<i>Wincanton</i>	<i>Milborne Port</i>
Dr. D. H. Pickett	Dr. A. R. Gaymer
Dr. R. G. Jones	Dr. J. M. Gledhill
Dr. C. F. Farrant	Dr. L. Burke
Dr. M. J. Fellows	

LOCAL G.P. PATIENTS TREATED BY DR. FELLOWS AT WINCANTON MEMORIAL

<i>Castle Cary</i>	<i>Somerton</i>
Dr. A. L. N. Jayasuriya	Dr. R. M. Barker
Dr. M. K. Roylance	Dr. J. J. Webb
<i>Bruton</i>	<i>Queen Camel</i>
Dr. A. M. Genton	Dr. R. Winstone
Dr. Player	Dr. R. W. Scott
Dr. Chambers	Dr. K. T. Nicholson

Gillingham/Bourton

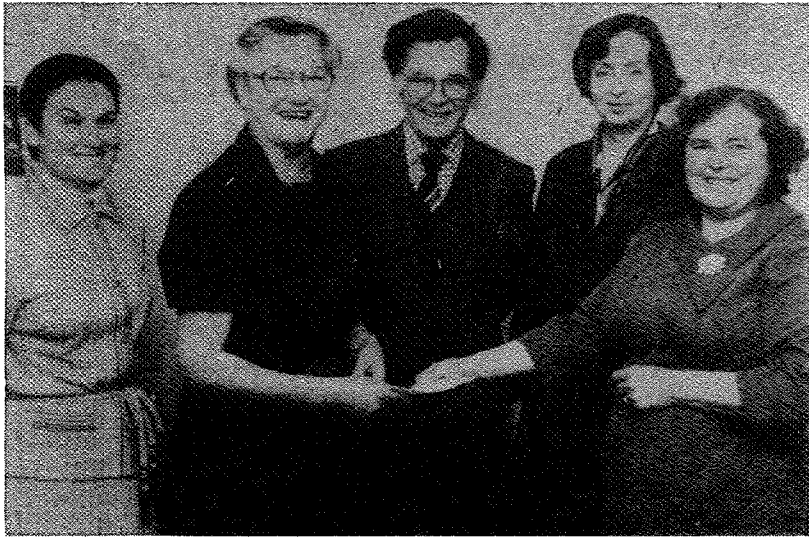
Dr. Freeland

CONSULTANTS USING WINCANTON MEMORIAL FOR CONVALESCENT USE

<i>Medical</i>	Dr. F. X. M. Beach Dr. Fawcett Dr. T. G. Palferman
<i>Surgical</i>	Mr. P. Knipe Mr. R. J. Clarke Mr. D. A. Griffiths
<i>Gynaecology</i>	Mr. R. V. Stephenson Mr. A. J. Davies
<i>Orthopaedics</i>	Mr. M. J. Maxted Mr. Priaulx Mr. Tricker
<i>Ophthalmic</i>	Mr. Lyons Mr. Acheson

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

In 1980, the League of Friends of the Memorial Hospital, having been in abeyance for a number of years, was revived at the instigation of Miss Scharf, the then Matron. The inaugural meeting,



League of Friends

held in March 1981, elected Group Captain Deacon as Chairman, Mrs. J. Culpin as Secretary, Mrs. M. Stevens as Treasurer and the members of the Committee were:— Mrs. Pickett, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Auld, Mrs. Marsh, Miss Scharf as Matron and ex-officio Mr. Engert and Mr. Martin.

Affiliated to the National Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends, the League is bound by its Constitution to provide amenities for patients, ex-patients and Staff.

The first target of the re-formed Committee was the provision of a Day-Room for female patients. To this end many fund-raising



The Day Room

activities were organised including the annual Christmas Fair with its Draw, the Plant Sale and Pet Show. Public support was so generous that the Day-Room was opened by Mrs. Heath, Chairman of the Somerset Health Authority, in August 1983.



Mrs. Heath opening The Day Room

By this time Group Captain Deacon had been succeeded as Chairman of the League by Mrs. Pickett, who in January 1983 was followed by Mr. Schutte.

Having built the Day-Room the Committee's attention then turned to other requirements and provided two Parker Baths; a Photo-copier; Physiotherapy equipment; Christmas gifts for patients and Staff and various other items requested by the Hospital.

In 1985 Mr. Ross took over from Mr. Schutte and was followed in 1987 by Mrs. Chancellor. A year later the intention of the Somerset Health Authority to close the Hospital was confirmed by the publication of its Working Party Document. The League thereupon set up a Fund to enable it to alert the public; to prepare and publish a document rebutting the proposals and to present the case for the Retention of the Hospital. (See chapter 'The Campaign against Closure').

The League considers its efforts to have been partially successful as extra services have been provided at Verrington Hospital and the Memorial Hospital buildings are to be retained as a Psychiatric Unit.

The Committee, consisting in 1990 of:— Mrs. Chancellor, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Culpin, Miss Scharf, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Trott, Mrs. Ellard, Mr. Pleasants, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutter, Mr. and Mrs. Schutte, Mrs. Worrall and ex-officio Mrs. Illingworth, voted that the League of Friends should continue in being and its funds used to provide support for the Memorial Hospital of the future.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

In 1957 a Group Ball was held at The Digby Hotel, Sherborne. All the Hospitals in the Yeovil Group were invited. These were held for a few years but faded out.



1955 - Dr. Everett, Dr. Coulson, Mr. Nichols, Dr. Tustin and their wives



1955 - Mr. Harding, 1st Chairman S.S.H. Management, Dr. Tustin, Mr. Nichols, Dr. Coulson

HOSPITAL BALL AT SHERBORNE



1957 - Hospital Ball at Sherborne

Our own Hospital had its social side which included Skittles, which we played in Yeovil Hospital League, being winners of the Knock Out Cup. Also our Pantomime float always got the biggest cheer of the night, as well as winning the cup very often.



Matron, Mrs. Smith, Heather Taylor, D.Cooper, Sid, Franklin Children, Sister Hill, Debbie Sainsbury, Miss Searle, Issy Sainsbury, Marilyn March



Sid Pleasants, Sister Sainsbury, Trish Bowden



Mrs. Kiddle, Mrs. Kealy, Sister Hayne, Mr. Pleasants, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. French

Programmes 2d. each.

- Wincanton -

Hospital Carnival

THURSDAY, NOV. 3rd, 1927.

DON'T FORGET THE

Grand Popular Concert

-AT-

The DEANESLY HALL,

to commence at 8 p.m.

Popular Prices:—2/- (reserved); 1/-; Standing Room 6d.

Grand Carnival Dance at Ireson Dance Hall,
(DOLPHIN HOTEL.)

STAN BEACHAM'S ORCHESTRA (Frome)

TICKETS 3/6 SINGLE, 6/- DOUBLE, DANCING 9.30 till 2.

Grand Dance at 10 p.m.

(FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL)

at The TOWN HALL,

TICKETS 2/- EACH.

Special Engagement of
Mrs. Drury's Orchestra.



Front Row: Mrs. D'Arcy, Mrs. King, Mrs. French, Mr. Sid Pleasants, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. March, Mrs. Stride Mrs. White

Back Row: Mrs. Fudge, Miss Stokes, Mrs. Darke, Mrs. Searle, Mrs. Walker



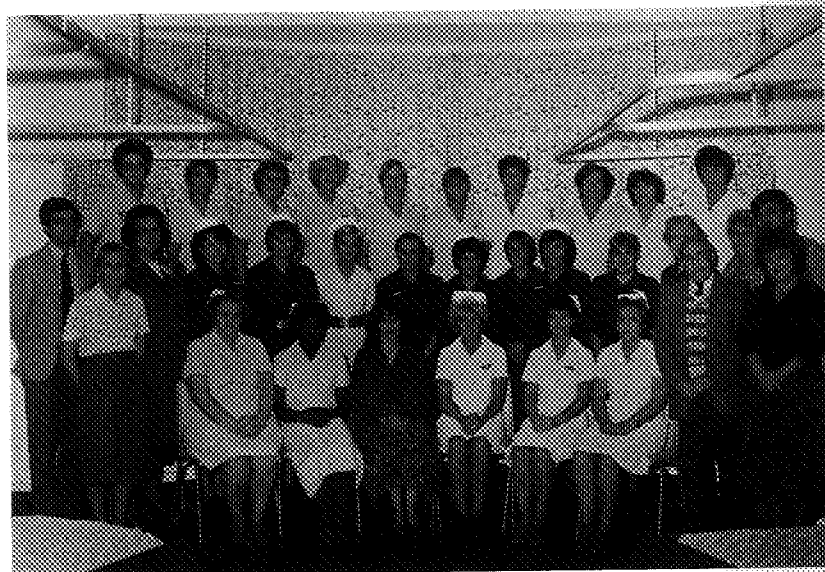
Front Row: Sisters Sainsbury, S.N. Smith, Nurse Cooper, Mr. Sid Pleasants, Sister Hunt, Nurses Reed, Luff & Scott. Middle Row: Nurses Cook, Atkins, Puckett, Sister Parker, Nurses Whitmarsh, Stocker, Halstead. Back Row: Sister Fish, Mrs. Franklin, Nurse Roads, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Cottis



Front Row: Sisters, Hunt, Smith, Braybon, Randall, Wiggins.
Back Row: Sister Milne, S.N. Courtage, Sister Fish, Sister Parker

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

*This Operating Theatre was presented by
Mrs Ridley of Maperton
to honor the memory of her much loved brother
Brigadier General John P. Nicholson C.B. CMG. CBE. DSO.
7th (Queen's Own) Hussars*



Front Row: Mrs. Kiddle, Nurses Whitmarsh, Brain, Mrs. Illingworth, Nurses Dowding, Neville, Hodges, Mr. Shave, Mrs. Franklin. Middle Row: Dr. Fellows, Mrs. Cottis, Sisters Fish, Wiggins, S.N. Courtage, Sisters Smith, Milne, Braybon, Randall, Hunt, Parker, Mrs. Loader, Dr. Farrant. Back Row: Nurses Merriitt, Roads, Edge, Atkins, Newth, Hill, Puckett, Faulkner, Higgins, Cook

THE
WINCANTON
HOSPITAL CARNIVAL
BED

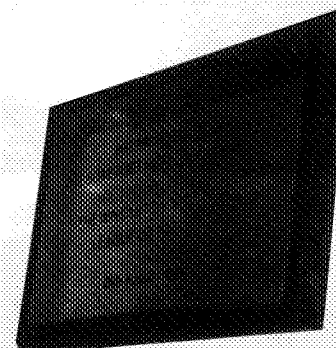
THE
SISTER MILLER BED
IN MEMORY OF
SISTER FRANCES MILLER
MAJOR OF THIS HOSPITAL
1918 - 1931

IN MEMORY OF
LT. COL. C. W. EDWARDS, FRCSE.
OWING TO WHOSE INITIATIVE
THIS HOSPITAL WAS FOUNDED
HON. SURG. 1900-1921.
HON. CONS. SURG. 1921-1946.

THE RIDLEY BED
IN MEMORY OF —
COLONEL RIDLEY
OF HIS OWN HUSBAND
OF PERTON
MAJOR OF THIS HOSPITAL
1914 - 1922
PRESIDENT 1922-1931

THE
BRITISH LEGION BED
LEST WE FORGET
1914 - 1918

THIS HOSPITAL
WAS OPENED BY
PRINCESS ALICE
COUNTESS OF ATHLONE
ON JULY 16TH 1932



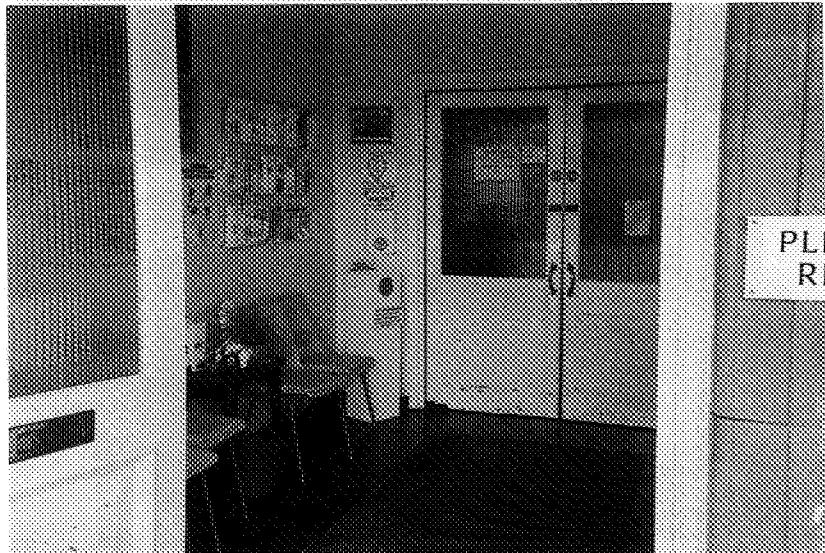
THE
SOMERSET BRANCH
OF THE
RED CROSS SOCIETY
OF BATH

THIS FOUNDATION STONE
WAS LAID BY
THE MOST HONOURABLE
THE MARQUIS OF BATH
CHIEF GUEST OF THE SOCIETY
OCTOBER 15TH 1931

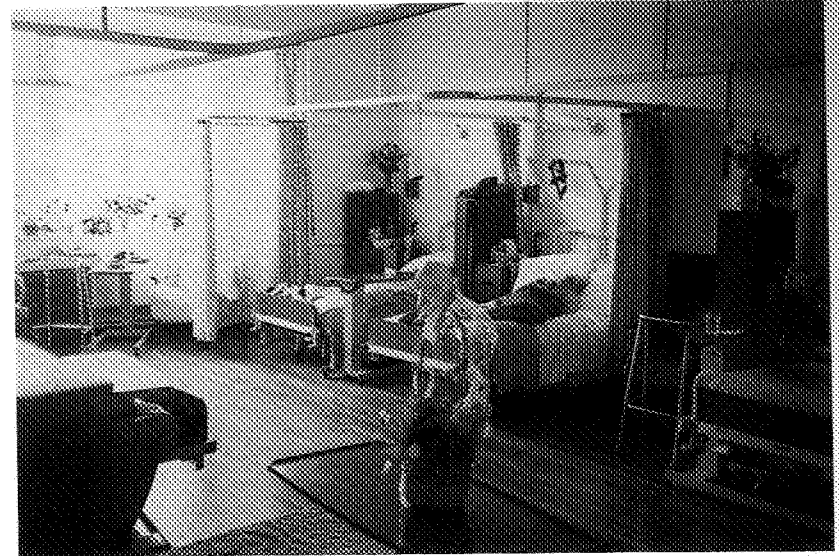
A PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR OF THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 1989



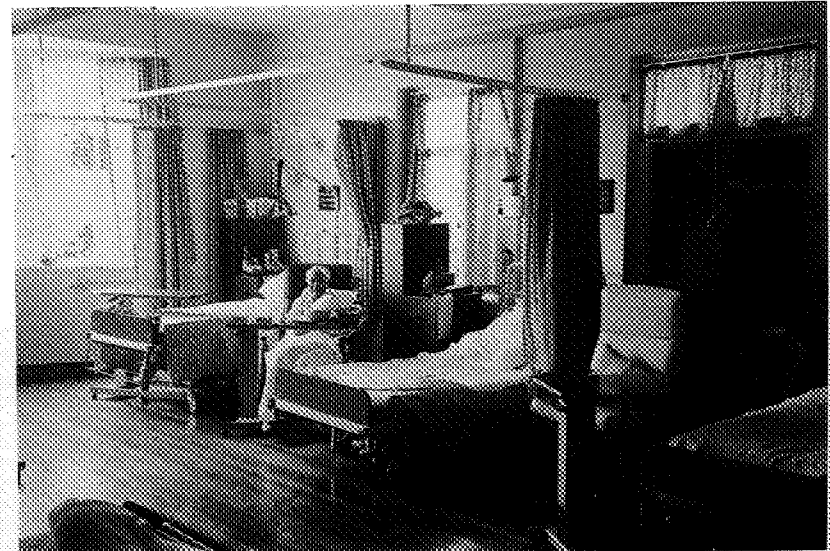
Outside Front



Entrance Hall



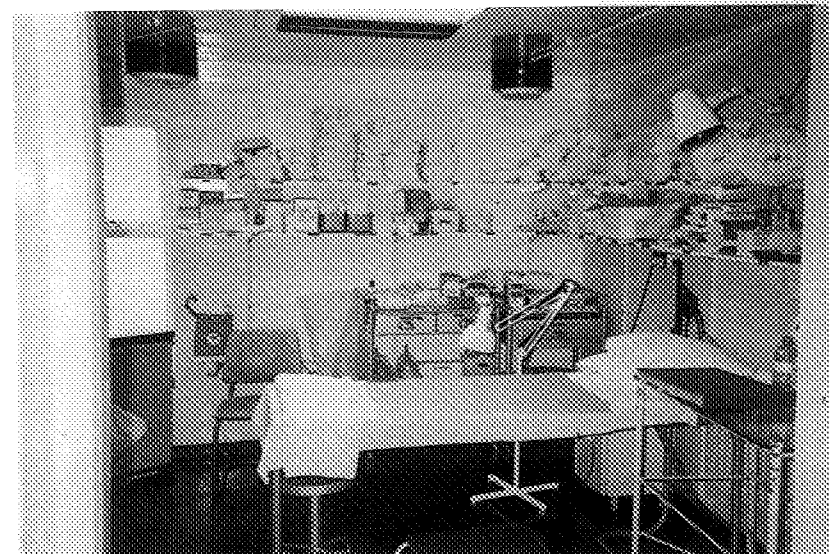
Women's Ward



Men's Ward



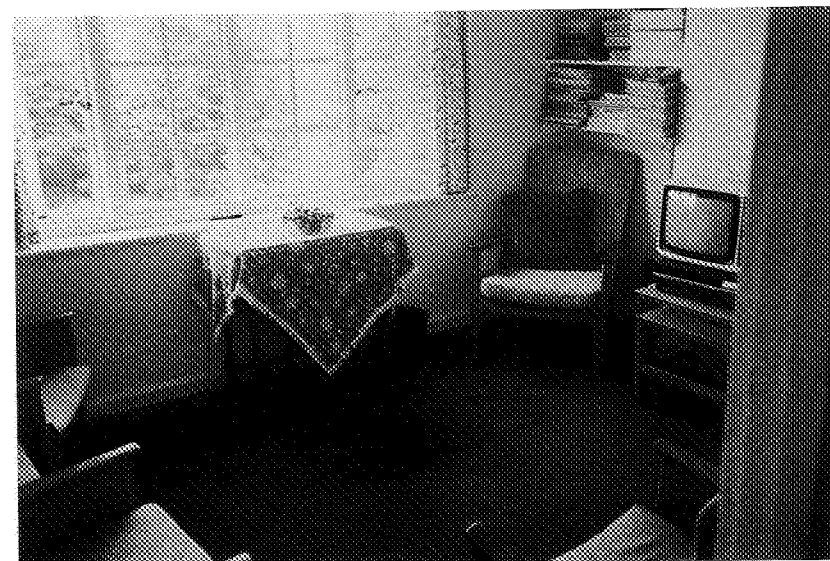
Women's Day Room



Casualty Room



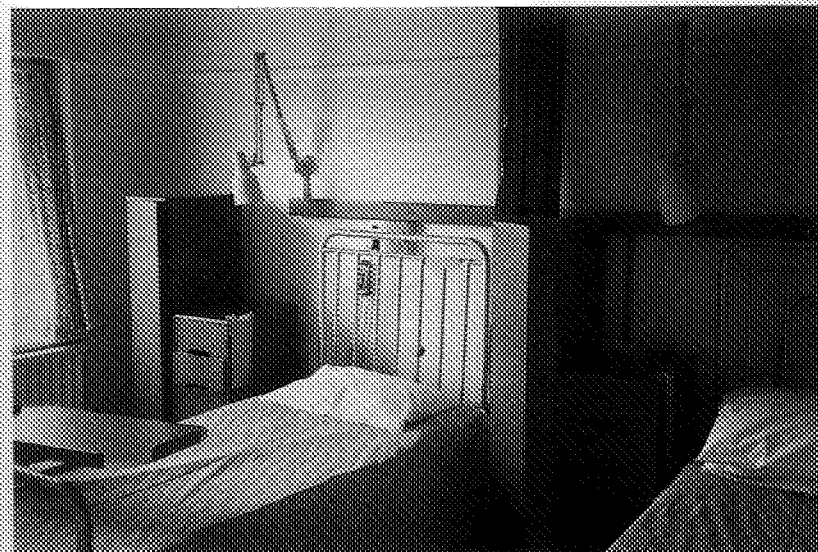
Men's Day Room



Nurses' Rest Room



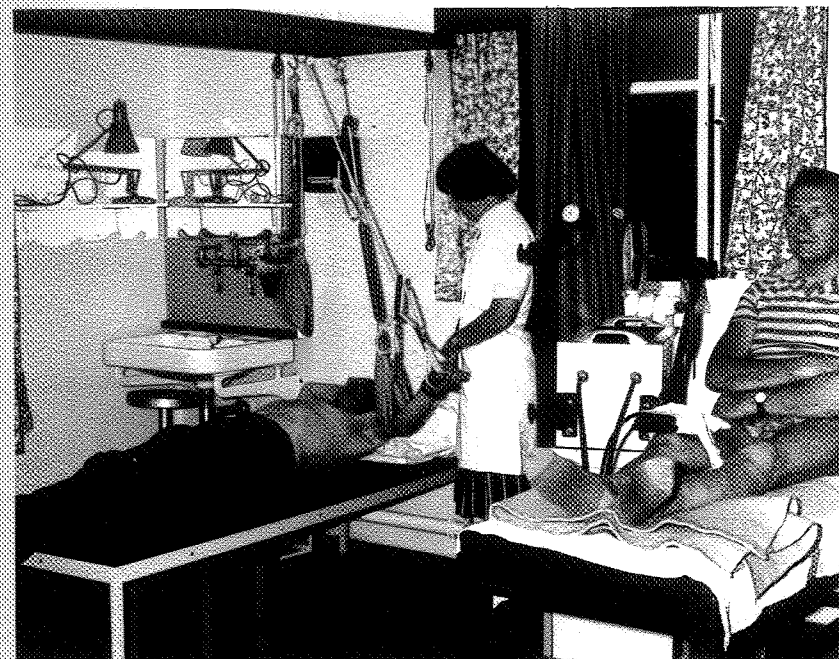
Side Ward



Upstairs Ward



Kitchen



Physiotherapy



Back Garden

LIST OF DATES

1900	High Street Hospital
1920	Pine House Bought
1922	Pine House Opened
1927	Hospital League Started
1932	Memorial Hospital Opened by Princess Alice.
1948	N.H.S.
1949	League Ended
1950	Desperate Staff Shortages
1951	Coal House Converted to Linen Store
1955	Male & Female Wards Changed Over
1956	Hospital Closed for Fortnight for Staff Holidays
1982	X-ray removed
1985	Contract Cleaners Started
1986	Kitchen Moved to Verrington
1990	Hospital Closed

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