

# A Brief History of Moreton-in-Marsh District Hospital

by

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Hospital Secretary

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## MORETON-IN-MARSH DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Most things have a small beginning and it is usually those in which the Organisers have one object that prove to be the most successful, this has certainly been the case as regards the Hospital.

It was in 1870 that Dr. Leonard Yelf remarked to Miss Rebecca Horne, when attending a friend, Miss Challis, in her home, how much he wished he could get a bed in some cottage which he could use for some poor patients. After talking the matter over with Miss Grace Malcolm of Batsford and the Committee of the Cottagers Dispensary, Lord Redesdale was approached and he immediately offered to give a site and £150 towards the building. Soon after this time, in preparation for taking over the new hospital when it was built, Miss Horne went to join a group of nurses being trained at Winchester by the "Nightingale Trust".

It is unfortunate that the records of the very early days which were probably concerned mainly with the planning of the hospital appear to have been lost when the Rev. H. Bullocke left Moreton-in-Marsh, so that the first authentic records that are available are contained in the Report of the first part years work up to December 1873. From this report it is noted that "The building, which affords accommodation for seven patients, has been erected at a cost of £875. The site was generously presented by the Right Honourable Lord Redesdale." It goes on to say that the funds were raised from several sources, by Donations and Subscriptions £666.9.0, Proceeds of Bazaar, £272.18.4 and Church Collections £56.5.2; a long list of Donors and Subscribers is included.

The building was commenced in 1872 and "Opened" by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester on July 24th, 1873. From the opening day until December 31st following twenty-two patients were admitted and Miss Horne records 'only one of these cases was "ulcer of the leg" thus disproving the prophecy of a friend (who afterwards became an energetic helper in the hospital) who said we should never get any patients except old women with bad legs'.

The management of the hospital was from its earliest days vested in a Committee representing all sections of the community. Lord Redesdale was President with eight local

Gentlemen as Governors, the Trustees were The Rev. R. Jarrett, Sir James Buller East, Bart. and E. T. Godman, Esq. The 'Committee of Management' consisted mainly of residents of Moreton-in-Marsh or local district and was as follows :-

Rev. R. Jarrett (Chairman), Rev. J. W. Clarke (Hon. Secretary), Mr. T. Horne, Mr. Finlay Dun, Mr. R. G. Francis, Mr. A. Norton, Mr. W. Philips, Rev. S. Beilby, Rev. H. Bromfield, Mr. Fred Horne, Mr. J. Scovell, Mr. R. B. Belcher, Mr. W. Arkell, Mr. T. Sankey, Mr. Thomas Meadows, Mr. C. E. Martin (Treasurer).

The medical and nursing duties were carried out by George Moore, Esq., (Consulting Surgeon), Dr. L. K. Yelf and J. N. Moore, Esq., (Honorary Surgeons) and Miss Horne (Matron).

The services of the hospital were available for patients from a wide rural area and included parishes as far as Quinton, Brailes and Whichford, etc. Apart from the building and furnishing of the hospital it is interesting to note the expenditure for the first half year from July to December, Provisions £27.5.5. Beer, Wine and Spirits £6.14.6, Medicines £6.15.6, Coal £10.7.3 and Sundries, printing, etc., £18.2.7, making a total for six months of £69.5.3.

Thus it was that the Hospital came into being, three years from the time the idea was first conceived until the building was erected, furnished and in use. When it is remembered that in those days there were no telephones, no motor cars, all the letters had to be written in long hand and many other, what we should now consider, handicaps, it was no mean achievement to carry out this considerable project in three years; in fact, with all the present day hustle, it is doubtful if it could have been done in any less time to-day. As previously mentioned it is a great pity that the early papers are not available as they must have given some interesting information as to the various steps that were taken before the work was finally started, the various meetings that must have been held, the consideration of the plans, the appeals for funds, the organisation of a grand Sale of Work, held on the Cricket Field with the Band of the Horse Guards in attendance and other activities. The architect of the original building was Mr. Callaway of Batsford and the early arrangements were made by the Rev.

H. Bullocke who was the first Secretary and Treasurer but left Moreton-in-Marsh before the opening, tribute was paid to him in the first report, for his 'exertions in successfully inaugurating the Cottage Hospital'.

So for the next few years the good work went on, the number of patients gradually increasing from the 22 in 1873 to over 50 during 1877. It was in 1876 that the Committee first became aware, through notice of it appearing in the press, that Mr. Sands Cox had died the previous December and left a legacy to the Hospital of £3,000. Mr. Sands Cox whose ancestors were connected with Barton-on-the-Heath was an eminent surgeon and left numerous bequests to various medical bodies; he was a close friend of Dr. Warneford who for many years was the Rector of Bourton-on-the-Hill, also of George Moore, Esq., Honorary Surgeon of the Hospital. Besides the £3,000, £1,000 of which was to be used for building a Board Room and other accommodation, his medical library, surgical instruments, and microscope, the oak furniture and pictures, also the chair in which Charles I sat during his trial at Westminster, were all bequeathed to the hospital.

According to the Rev. W. L. Warne's History of Moreton-in-Marsh, this "King Charles' Chair" was originally the property of Archbishop Juxon of Little Compton and was probably purchased at a sale by a Mr. Sands Cox about 1800. It stood in a glass case in the Board room from 1878 to 1925 when it was removed to another room. In 1927 it was considered to be in danger of decay and it was eventually sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum for the sum of £550.

Unfortunately, although Mr. Sands Cox died in 1875, it was not until 1878 that the legacy was received owing to the "determination of the Trustees to seek protection of the Court of Chancery in the administration of the Testator's estate". The plans of the new buildings had been prepared, however, and the work was being carried out by Mr. Gill of Bourton-on-the-Hill. The corner stone was laid by George Moore, Esq., on behalf of Mrs. Sands Cox, on Wednesday, 24th July, 1878 exactly five years after the official opening of the Hospital. During the building operations the hospital was unavoidably closed and as the severe weather hindered the work being carried out, the closure extended for a period of eight months. This was one of the

very few occasions when the hospital has been closed in all of the ninety-three years of its existence.

It is rather interesting to note that in spite of this handsome bequest, the organisers did not forget to point out that the extensions made would increase the number of patients admitted and so increase the maintenance expenses and they took this opportunity to appeal to the Subscribers to continue and even increase their support.

In 1880, the first complete year since the extensions, the number of patients increased to 70 and the work continued to be carried out without any noticeable change, the majority of the Committee and Officers were duly re-elected each year with an occasional new entrant to fill a vacancy caused by a death of a member or someone leaving the district. It is noticed that at this time there were six clergymen on the Committee out of a total of fifteen and several others in the districts were regular attendants at the annual meetings. The report for the year 1882 refers to the death of the Rev. R. Jarrett, Rector of Moreton and Bourton-on-the-Hill for 27 years, who had been a Governor, Trustee and Chairman of the Committee.

The use of the hospital continued to grow and there is no doubt there were many patients who were refused admission to hospital owing to lack of room. This was the cause of the ill feeling, it appears, between the medical staff and the Committee, the rule of admission being that "Applications for admission shall be made to the Committee at their monthly meetings; or, in the case of emergency, to the Secretary, who, with at least two of the Committee and one of the Medical Officers, shall decide whether the case is fit for admission".

Patients also had to be 'recommended' by a Subscriber and every subscriber of half-a-guinea had the privilege of recommending one, and every subscriber of a guinea or upwards, two patients. At one time the Sub-Committee used to meet once a week to consider the applications for admission and if the application was approved the patients were admitted "any day, between the hours of 12 and 4 p.m."

There is no doubt this method of admission proved rather irksome to the doctors and during the year 1886 the rules were revised to allow a little more latitude in cases of

emergency. The Annual General Meeting on January 19th., 1886 was in no way dull, the first bone of contention being the election of a Governor in the place of Mr. R. N. Byass. Apparently Mr. Baring Young had been asked to be a Governor and had accepted the office. Lord Edward Churchill thought this was pre-arranged and suggested the election should be made at the Annual Meeting, causing a good deal of argument.

The next objection made by Lord Edward Churchill was on the number of Committee members that retired each year. The argument was taken up very strongly by the reverend gentlemen on the Committee in no uncertain terms and developed into a heated discussion as to whether members who had not paid their annual subscription for the year (by the 19th January) were entitled to vote! The question then arose whether the Rector of a parish was allowed to vote as a representative of the congregation that sent a collection to the hospital and if he was also a subscriber whether he would be entitled to two votes. "The Hon. Sec. said the point was not provided for in the rules."

Two more matters of more serious aspect were also considered; one was the proposed alterations to the rules, brought forward by Mr. J. N. Moore, which would give the medical officers the right to admit cases of emergency without reference to the Secretary and two Members of the Committee, the second was a letter from Canon G. Domville Wheeler, Rector of Wolford, alleging mismanagement of the Hospital. The former was discussed at some length and eventually, on a vote being taken, the decision went against Mr. Moore who promptly gave in his resignation. This caused some consternation in the room and it fell to Lord Edward Churchill to apply the soother in this case and he suggested an adjournment so that proper notice might be given of the different points that had been raised.

In spite of these minor differences in Committee the main work of the hospital progressed satisfactorily over the years and these small differences were forgotten when matters of more importance were brought forward.

The next large project of the Committee was the leasing of a plot of land adjacent to the hospital grounds for the building of an "Infectious Ward", previously known as The Pest House and now known as the Matron's Bungalow.

This took place in 1887 and cost '£300 to £400'. As the hospital served some 30 villages this new ward was very soon the cause of a new controversy, the people of Moreton-in-Marsh strongly objected to infectious patients being brought from all the villages into Moreton-in-Marsh and to allay their fears only infectious cases from within the hospital and from the parishes of Moreton and Batsford were admitted to the new ward. The representatives from the villages objected to this arrangement as their donations and gifts had been used to build the ward and they should be entitled to the same privileges. This went on until 1894 when to surmount these objections Mr. J. P. Mann of Moreton offered to refund to the Treasurer the whole cost of this new ward and defray the cost since it had been built on the condition that only cases from Moreton and Batsford were admitted; this offer was gratefully accepted.

Having overcome that trouble the good work of the hospital was continued until the Committee was faced with another serious setback by the resignation of the Matron, Miss Rebecca Horne. Miss Horne had been Matron since the formation of the hospital in 1873 in an honorary capacity and this arrangement had now come to an end. Her assistant for several years, Miss Smith of Blockley, took over the Matron's duties and became the first Matron to be paid a salary.

As this seemed to end a significant period in the life of the hospital let us look at the statistical record for the last year of the century :-

Number of beds : 12.

Number of patients : 122 from 35 parishes.

Average length of stay : 25 days.

Average cost per week per patient for food and stimulants :  $5/7\frac{3}{4}$ .

Total cost per patient : £4.2.2.

In 1900 the President, Mr. A. B. Freeman Mitford, C.B., presented the hospital with a Rontgen-ray apparatus, at that time, no doubt, a very up-to-date piece of medical equipment.

The next major extension took place in 1903 when Mr. Piers Thursby of Broadwell very generously provided the money to build a new theatre block as a memorial to

the late Lt. Col. A. E. Thursby 'who died in South Africa during the late war'.

A regrettable incident occurred in 1909 when it was found following 'the unfortunate disappearance of the late Honorary Secretary that large defalcations had taken place as indicated by a series of deficits in the accounts over several years'. When this had been sorted out the whole of the money was refunded by the Treasurers, the Metropolitan Bank.

In 1910 the first paid Secretary was appointed, Mr. Arthur W. Drury, who held this post in a most satisfactory manner until his death in 1945.

A new hot-water heating system was installed in the Theatre and Hall in 1911 through the generosity of Mr. J. T. Dugdale of Sezincote.

The first world war did not appear to affect the hospital continuing in its work unduly except perhaps by the gradual rise in the expenses which necessitated the organisation of more outside events to raise the money. One which is recorded was a special sale of stock to commemorate the opening of the new cattle market in 1923 when the proceeds of a heifer and calf, sold by Sir Gilbert A. H. Wills, Bart., was given to the hospital, having sold for £47.

During the 20 years up to 1920 the work had been carried on without many new innovations but with several changes of staff and members of the Committee of management. Reference is made to the death of the Rt. Hon. Lord Redesdale in August 1917, who had been President and general benefactor for the past thirty years.

## BUILDING EXTENSIONS

Up to this time the number of patients admitted each year remained much the same; in 1901 the number admitted was 118, in 1920 the number was 131, but the total expenditure in 1901 was £442, in 1920 it was £953. Immediately after the war the number of patients increased rather rapidly, there were 202 admissions in 1923, partly due to the introduction of two maternity beds being made available at the instigation of Mrs. Arthur Dugdale who equipped and furnished this small ward in 1922 and "13 babies were born in the 9 months of that year".

It appears obvious that there was a shortage of beds at this time as in 1925 a further extension scheme was carried out to improve the sanitary conditions and provide more maternity beds. The new maternity ward of 8 beds was completed at the expense of the Dugdale family and opened by Mrs. Arthur Dugdale.

From 131 patients in 1920 the numbers increased to 232 in 1930 and continued to increase, 354 being admitted in 1934, including 93 maternity patients. This called for still more accommodation and in 1935 two new wards were added, together with various other small rooms.

The plans for increasing the patient accommodation in the early days were drawn up with foresight and imagination; rather than alterations to the existing house type of building, they were additions extending from the rear of the original building where there was plenty of space available. First the theatre block, then in 1925 the maternity ward on each side of the main corridor. Later, in 1935, the corridor was extended and two single bed wards and two general wards were added with the necessary small store and other work rooms. The original house part of the hospital was then used for resident staff and other rooms, previously used as wards, for X-ray, Casualty, Physiotherapy and Out-Patients. This must have added much to the convenience of working and the plans are such that, if at any time, it is found necessary to extend still further the same policy could be adopted by extending the main corridor and adding accommodation as necessary.

The In-Patient accommodation now stands at 31 beds and is made up by Male Ward 8 beds Female Ward 12 beds, Maternity Ward 8 beds and three single bed wards.

During the next five years, with the extra beds available, the number of patients admitted increased to 500 in 1940 from 28 different parishes, of which 176 were maternity patients, the length of stay had reduced to 15 days, the average cost per patient had remained very much the same at £5.5.0, the total expenditure, however, had increased alarmingly from a total of £1900 to £3500, mainly owing to the necessity of engaging more and better trained staff to look after the extra patients. In the next year the rate of pay for nurses was fixed by the British Hospital Association which increased the expenditure again by nearly £300.

During the war years 1939-45 the number of patients admitted tended to decrease, probably owing to the increasing difficulty of obtaining nursing staff, but the costs had again increased alarmingly. It was in 1946 that the National Health Bill was passed and, "although the Committed were not in favour of the hospital being 'Nationalised' they felt that no useful purpose would be achieved in opposing the Bill".

The difficulty of obtaining qualified nursing staff at this time had become so acute as to cause a crisis and for a period of three months in 1947 the hospital was closed, the third time in its whole life that the work had ceased, the second time being in 1904 when it was closed for 16 weeks.

This break did make an opportunity to have the hospital redecorated as far as possible, the Bungalow, which had been renovated and furnished for staff quarters, as laid down by the Ministry of Health, was put into use as soon as trained staff could be appointed. The stocks of linen, cutlery, china and other household requisites were replenished.

And so on July 5th, 1948 the hospital was taken over by the Banbury and District Hospitals Management Committee, under the Oxford Regional Board, fully furnished and redecorated, together with the investments of over £10,000. This completed 75 years of service to the public of a wide area, entirely supported by voluntary effort on the part of its many supporters.

## BENEFICIARIES AND SUPPORTERS

In the entrance hall of the hospital at the present time is an illustrated roll of supporters who have made donations, gifts and bequeathed legacies to the hospital during the 75 years of its existence under voluntary financial support. To conform to more modern ideas this took the place of the usual black boards on which the names of subscribers, donors and others were painted in gold lettering, these now stored as museum pieces.

This list of donors is in some ways a history of the hospital as it gives the dates of special gifts for the extensions which have been carried out and other matters affecting the hospital.

Apart from these special donations which have been placed on record, many other ways and means of raising funds for the hospital expenses were arranged which were to a great extent part of the normal life of the people of the district at that time.

There were the usual annual subscriptions, donations, church and chapel collections from all of the 36 or so villages, gifts of vegetables, game, eggs and other commodities were received weekly, most of which were thankfully acknowledged in the reports issued each year.

In 1873 the Moreton Horticultural Society arranged a show, supported by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, and this annual flower show was continued for several years in conjunction with various other attractions. In 1877 it was on the same day as the Stow, Chipping Norton and Moreton Agricultural Society's exhibition and in 1885 it was on the same day as the "Grand County Cricket Match between Gloucestershire and Somerset to be played at Moreton-in-Marsh."

Other money-raising activities were instituted at various times, such as the Hospital Sunday movement at Blockley and Moreton; Pound Day and other gifts from Harvest Festivals. Many other supporters names do not appear on the illustrated roll. Mrs. d'Este East of Bourton House was thanked in many annual reports for the 'weekly gifts of vegetables'.

In 1920 a contributory scheme was started on the Sezincote Estate. From 1923 to 1932 a Whist Drive Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Tom Smith, organised whist drives in the villages with a champion drive at Moreton; in the nine years of their activities they raised a fund of over £3,500 for investment. The Ox Roast Committee raised over £100 a year for several years and the Easy Six Dance Committee in 1947 made a donation of over £100.

The Sezincote contributory scheme had proved very successful and in the 1930's a district scheme was commenced and carried on by voluntary collectors until the hospital was taken over in 1948.

From 1873 to 1948 the hospital was built, managed, extended and kept up to date solely by the voluntary generosity of the people of Moreton-in-Marsh and District.

## VISITORS and VISITING

Since this hospital first had a Committee of Management, members of the Committee have visited the hospital in turn each month to enquire from the patients whether there was anything they could suggest should be done to improve their position in the hospital or for their comfort. Records of these visits right up to the present time are still in the hospital and although in the majority of cases there was nothing but praise and thanks from the patients, several visitors have noted some items which could improve the comfort of the patients and these have been adopted where possible.

Another small matter which has been in operation for many years is that each patient is given a form on which he or she is asked to make any suggestions, or criticisms if there is anything to criticise, which would be of benefit to others. This form is sealed in an envelope and addressed to, and opened by, the Committee; on many occasions improvements have been made arising from these suggestions.

In the early days of the hospital any visitors from outside were asked to sign their names in a visitors book many illustrious names being recorded in the book. The great day, of course, was the day the hospital was visited by H.M. Queen Mary, then Queen Mother, who visited the hospital on September 9th, 1939, accompanied by two Ladies in Waiting. It was said that she very much wanted to see Sezincote House and as the owner, Col. Arthur Dugdale, was also Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, an official visit to the hospital was included in the arrangements. The date and time were duly arranged and there is no doubt that the hospital had an extra polish for the great occasion, the day arrived and the full staff were on duty, as well as a few extras who had donned white coats, the special constables were in position at the cross roads, all prepared and waiting for the expected time of arrival. By some mischance, however, or some misunderstanding, the Queen arrived too early and reached the hospital to find no guard of honour or even the Chairman to greet her. After being shown round the hospital by the Matron she was about to leave the hospital when the Chairman arrived, with Mrs. Dugdale, and the party then went on to Sezincote.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and MEDICAL STAFFS

Earlier in this report the names of the original members of the Committee of Management who had started this hospital are given; from this original Committee very few changes were made except to fill vacancies caused by the death of a member or the removal of a member from the district.

Some of these early names would appear to be a little out-of-date at this time, 93 years afterwards, but it is curious to note the continuance or connections of these original names with the supporters of the hospital of the present day. In some cases where the family name has died out the connection can be traced through the large houses or estates now occupied by their successors, such as Batsford, Northwick. Sezincote, Banks Fee, Barton House, etc. The first President was the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Redesdale, who continued in office until his death in 1886, when he was succeeded by Mr. A. B. Freeman-Mitford, C.B., a relation but not a direct descendant, who took the title of Lord Redesdale. The Batsford Estate changed hands in 1919 and Lord Redesdale left the district. The Presidency of the hospital was taken over by the new owner of Batsford, Sir Gilbert A. H. Wills, who later became Lord Dulverton, the greatest benefactor the hospital had during the whole time of its voluntary support.

The name of Horne has been associated with the hospital during the whole of its life. Mr. T. Horne and Mr. Frederick Horne who were brothers, as well as brothers of the Matron, Miss Rebecca Horne, were members of the original Committee, in 1890 Mr. T. Horne was succeeded on the Committee by his son Mr. Frank K. Horne and in 1900 Mr. Fred Horne's place on the Committee was taken over by his son Mr. A. F. Horne whose son, Mr. A. L. Horne, took over his place in 1933 and was eventually Chairman when the hospital was taken over by the National Health Service in 1948, he continued his connection as Chairman of the House Committee until his retirement in 1955. Since then he has been greatly interested in the formation of the League of Friends of the hospital of which he has been Chairman since its inception. A family voluntary service of 93 years.

These are two examples, several other connections can be traced down to the present time, the Treasurer of the hospital was normally the Manager of the Metropolitan Bank, now the Midland Bank, and since the inception of the League of Friends the Manager of the Midland Bank has been the Treasurer.

The members of the Medical Staff did not follow quite the same pattern of family connections, only in two cases has a practice been passed on to a son. Dr. R. E. B. Yelf, more familiarly known as Doctor Bob, was appointed to the Staff and eventually took over and continued the practice of his father Dr. Leonard K. Yelf, and Doctor Leslie King was succeeded by his son Dr. Michael King; the length of service as general practitioners, however, does appear to show a lifetime's work in the majority of cases. The Honorary Surgeons of the hospital up to 1948 were :

Dr. George Moore, 1873—1888. 15 years Hon.  
Consulting Surgeon.  
Dr. L. K. Yelf, 1873—1895. 22 years.  
1895—1910. 15 years Hon. Consulting Surgeon.  
Dr. J. N. Moore, 1873—1903. 30 years.  
Dr. Mark Style, 1884—1919. 35 years.  
Dr. R. E. B. Yelf, 1889—1931. 42 years.  
Dr. Clark Nicholson, 1919—1948.  
Dr. L. R. King, 1923—1948. Retired 1953, died 1955.  
Dr. J. E. Jameson, 1932—1948.  
Dr. Jean Haine, 1945—1948. Still in practice.  
Dr. M. D. King, 1946—1948. Ditto.  
Dr. A. J. Saxton, 1948—1948. 1964 took over another practice.

In the early days the medical staff of the hospital was confined, mainly, to the two general practitioners in Moreton-in-Marsh, but after the first world war it was extended to include Dr. Leslie King, practising at Stow-on-the-Wold, and after the second world war it included Dr. Jean Haine of Blockley in 1945 and later Dr. Frank Haine, her husband who has eventually taken over the practice of Dr. Clark Nicholson, in addition to the practice at Blockley.

And so 1948 terminated another era in the life of the hospital, and, at that time, many great changes were anticipated under the National Health Scheme.



## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

When any organisation is taken over by a larger body the inevitable changes are introduced slowly and the change is so gradual that it becomes difficult to tell the difference between the new organisation and the old one. To some extent this is what happened in the case of the hospital, the administration of the hospital's affairs was still under a committee, now called the House Committee, which consisted of many of the same members as in recent years. The existing Chairman of the old committee was nominated as Chairman of the House Committee by the Management Committee of the Group of hospitals, in this case the Banbury and District Hospital's Management Committee and this Committee were responsible to the Oxford Regional Board, who were in charge of several 'Groups' of hospitals and responsible to the Ministry of Health.

This set-up has continued up to the present time, 1966, and as the House Committee have always been consulted on any matters affecting the administration of the hospital, and their recommendations for alterations or improvements always carefully considered by the Management Committee, the local 'feeling' for the hospital has always been retained. One major change was the financial control, this administered by the Ministry through the various Committees until the funds available for a small local hospital were not sufficient to allow for a very high standard of comfort for the patients. It was for this reason that some local supporters got together and started the League of Friends, to provide some extra amenities for the patients which the Ministry would not find. These amenities, such as T.V. sets throughout the wards, bed curtains for all beds, earphone instead of loud speakers to all general ward beds, a mobile telephone trolley for the use of patients, and many other similar amenities, culminating in a sun parlour, known as the Solarium, for the women's ward so that the ambulant patients can sit in the sun outside the ward, has raised the standard so much that it is now considered one of the best equipped hospitals in the district.

The accommodation for in-patients in the wards has not been extended since 1935, an outside annexe for out-patients clinics was built in 1950 and this type of medical work has increased very considerably since the hospital was taken over. Specialists and surgeons hold regular clinics for various diseases and these cases are followed up at this

hospital or at the Radcliffe Infirmary, so that under the National Health Scheme any patient can be seen by the specialist consultant and have the best of treatment at no extra cost. Minor operations are carried out at this hospital and it has been found that these patients do not have to wait so long for their operations as they would do at the bigger hospitals where there may be a long waiting list.

During this period since the take-over, the number of patients admitted to the wards has increased from 426 in 1946 to 752 in 1965, and the average length of stay in hospital has reduced from 12.5 days to 9.8 days. In 1965 there were 2472 outpatient attendances at the clinics held by eight specialist consultants, 2,000 physiotherapy treatments and 1,823 patients were X-rayed.

This brings us to the end of another system of administration, from April 1st, 1966 the House Committee was disbanded and the hospital is now under the control of an Area Committee consisting of two representatives from each of four local hospitals. This Committee will have more power to deal with problems more quickly and, at the same time, will relieve the work of the Group Management Committee, but it would appear that each of these four hospitals will have lost the local touch and become more like a very small cog in a big machine.

Over 93 years there have been, of course, many changes of members of the Committee but it is rather remarkable that the period of service on the Committee, in the majority of cases, has been well over 10 years. The members of the first Committee are given at the beginning of this report; the members of the House Committee at the time of it being discontinued on 31st March, 1966, were :-

Capt. P. G. D. Aizlewood, Chastleton, 10 years.  
Lady Ashton of Hyde, Broadwell Hill, 13 years.  
Brig. G. A. P. Coldstream, Blockley, 6 years.  
Dr. M. A. Fenton, Moreton-in-Marsh, 8 years.  
Rev. W. E. Gladstone, Bourton-on-Hill, 3 years.  
Mrs. V. I. Hood, Bledington, 11 years.  
Dr. M. D. King, Stow-on-the-Wold, 19 years.  
Mr. A. P. Lloyd, Moreton-in-Marsh, 18 years.  
Mrs. R. Lucas, Icomb, 18 years.

Miss D. M. Marshall, Stow-on-the-Wold, 19 years,  
Chairman 11 years.  
Mrs. R. C. Freer, Little Compton, 1934-1965,  
died 7.11.65.

Similarly, of the hospital staffs, the Matron, Miss Hedington, was first engaged as Sister in 1956, appointed as Matron in 1963 and still in office. Of the twenty-five other members of the nursing staff, ten have been at this hospital for longer than 10 years, Miss E. M. Bruce, Receptionist, has been in office for 14 years and Mme. Raymonde Othelot, chief Cook, for the past 16 years. There are several other instances of long and satisfactory service, which says a great deal for the good team work of all the staffs concerned.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT up to the CENTENARY YEAR 1973**

There have been a number of changes at this Hospital since the previous history was printed in 1966. A sun parlour has been added to the Men's Ward, presented by the League of Friends, and extensions to the bathrooms of both the Women's and Men's Wards by the Banbury Management Committee.

Since that time there have been many changes both in the administrative staff and the work of the hospital. The hospitals at Chipping Norton, Moreton and Bourton-on-the-Water are now known as the Western Area Hospital. The medical geriatric beds at East View, Stow-on-the-Wold have been closed and geriatric patients accommodated in new units built at Bourton-on-the-Water (18 beds) and Moreton-in-Marsh (12 beds) Hospitals, and both these units have been fully occupied since their completion in 1972. This brings the total number of beds at Moreton up to 53.

These three hospitals still retain matrons, now known as nursing officers, who are under the direction of a principal nursing officer at Banbury, and a good deal of the work such as laundry, disposals, etc. are now transported to Banbury daily, and all prescriptions are now made up there; C.S.S.D. has also been introduced.

The report up to 1966 mentioned that an Outpatients Unit had been built at this Hospital in 1950 and the work of this has increased very considerably since then. Specialist surgeons from the big hospitals at Oxford, Banbury, Stoke Mandeville and Cheltenham attend clinics once a month, or as required, and make reports to the local doctors on the patients referred to them. The clinics now held are orthopaedic, ophthalmic, gynaecological, surgical, medical, rheumatic, ear, nose and throat, and chiropody (a Gloucestershire Council Clinic). In one year recently, 4,709 patients were seen by consultants or received out-patients treatment. In one year 1,400 patients were x-rayed and 4,500 received physiotherapy. In addition to all this, the Outpatients Hut is used by the Gloucestershire County Council for family planning clinics and by the district nurses for slimming clinics.

It is evident that the work of the outpatients department has grown considerably during the last few years, and the wooden hut in which most of these clinics are held has deteriorated. Built in 1950 when materials were difficult to obtain and not of the best quality it has deteriorated noticeably and need many repairs; it certainly does not match up to other parts of the Hospital.

As this is the centenary year of the Hospital being opened, a committee has been formed by representatives from various organisations in the district to raise funds for the improvement of the amenities at the Hospital and the necessary repairs to the Outpatient Department; to bring it up to the standard of the new Geriatric Ward will be the first major consideration.

As July 24 will be the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Hospital, let us give a thought to the people who have given so much of their lives to the care and comfort of the patients who have been in their charge — the doctors, who have been on call and available during the whole of this time, the nurses who have carried out their duties day and night, and the administrative staff who have coped with the problems of the ever-growing needs of the Hospital and the increasing numbers of in-patients as well as out-patients. We have to record the deaths and pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Clark Nicholson and Dr. J. E. Jameson during these last seven years, both of whom had spent practically the whole of their medical lives as honorary surgeons at the Hospital.

If we have been patients in this Hospital, or have attended as outpatients, we must be grateful for the services received. If we have never found it necessary to attend as a patient at the Hospital we must be even more grateful, and express our gratitude by helping to support the Moreton-in-Marsh hospital as a thankoffering for all it has done during the last hundred years for the relief of the sick.

### LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE MORETON-IN-MARSH HOSPITAL

#### Main items on which money has been spent from 1956-66

Television set and table.  
Chairs for Sisters' room.  
Tubercail and curtains for Women's Ward.  
Mobile telephone and telephone trolley.  
Wheelchair.  
Two oak bookcases.  
Headphones (Women's Ward).  
Settees and chairs for Out-Patients.  
Bath grab-rail and mats.  
Chairs for Hospital.  
Formica tops for tables.  
12 overbed tables.  
21 bedside lockers.  
Newspapers for patients.  
Transport and surgical equipment for needy patients.  
Soundproofing for side ward doors.  
Tubercails and curtains for all beds in Men's and Maternity wards.  
Provision of aerial and rental of television set.  
Electric razor for Men's ward.  
Stethoscope type headphone for television and radio sound.  
Six tubular garden chairs for patients.  
Twelve rugs.  
21 ins. Pye television set.  
Venetian blinds for ward.  
Curtains for Maternity ward windows.  
Twenty hymn books.  
Two portable magicoal fires for wards.  
Clock for Staff dining room.

Clock for Sisters' sitting room.  
New lightweight wheelchair.  
Venetian blind for Maternity ward.  
Magazine pockets fitted to overbed tables.  
Loose covers for furniture in Sisters' sitting room.  
Outside sun parlour, built and furnished, for Women's ward.

Contributions in cash each year for Christmas festivities and presents for patients at Moreton-in-Marsh Hospital and at East View Hospital, Stow.

The total amount spent on these extra amenities from 1956 to 1966 is approximately £4,350, an average of more than £400 a year, mostly raised by 25 or so Collectors, covering the immediate district, from their regular annual subscribers a minimum subscription of 2/6 per year.

1966—73

Main items of expenditure since 1966 include :

Men's solarium.

Part cost of ambulift equipment.

Contribution towards cost of installation of radio distribution system.

Television sets.

Furnishing and equipment.

for an expenditure of approximately £2221, making with the £4350 up to 1966 a total of £6571.

It is a happy thought that still people are willing, and even anxious, to give a little to help their more unfortunate neighbours.

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R.A.C.\*\*\*

\*\*\*A.A.

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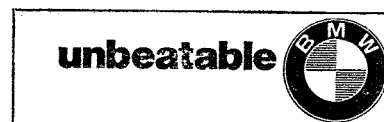
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