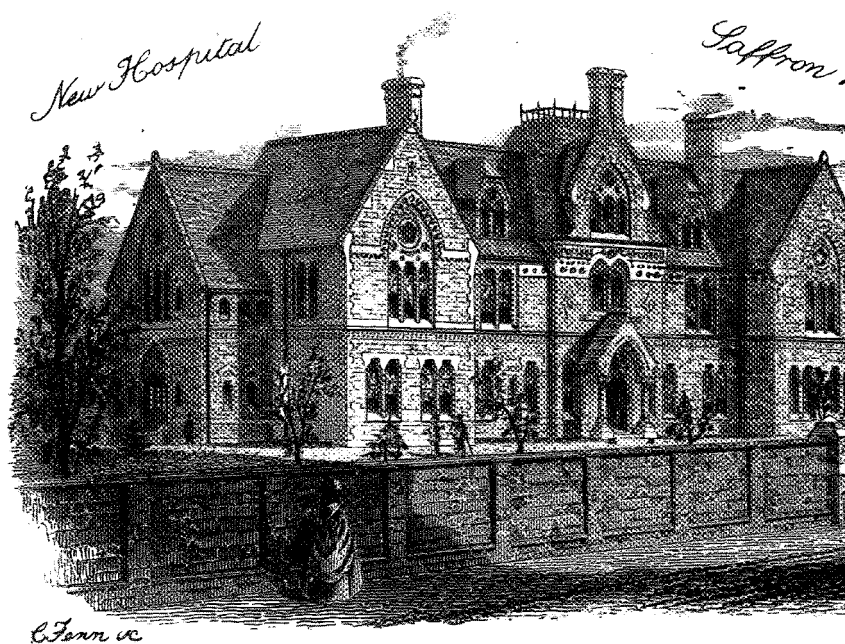


SAFFRON WALDEN GENERAL HOSPITAL



CENTENARY

1866 — 1966

SUNDAY, 11th September, 1966

Thanksgiving Service in the
Saffron Walden Parish Church
11 a.m.

FRIDAY, 16th September, 1966

Open Day and Gift Day
at the Hospital
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, 17th September, 1966

Reception at the Hospital
by Invitation

Guests invited to the Reception will include:—

Col. Sir John Ruggles Brise, Bt., C.B., O.B.E., T.D., J.P.
Lord Lieutenant of the County of Essex

Alderman and Mrs G. T. Barnard
Mayor and Mayoress of Saffron Walden

Sir Stephen Lycett Green, Bt., C.B.E., J.P., D.L.
Chairman of the East Anglian Regional
Hospital Board

Mr J. F. Burnet
Chairman S.W. No. 1 Group Hospital
Management Committee

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

In November, 1862, a sum of money was willed by Mr Wyatt George Gibson for the building of a hospital for the town and neighbourhood of Saffron Walden, and a Committee was formed to discuss a proposed site on the London Road, which had been presented by Lord Braybrooke.

Plans were invited for a £3,000 building, and were all submitted anonymously. When the identifying envelopes were opened it was found that the successful architect was William Beck.

Tenders were invited for the building of the hospital and eight were received, varying in price from £5,704. 8s. 1½d. to £4,896 by Messrs Bell & Sons, who agreed to modifications, thereby reducing the tender to £4,206.

Building commenced, and in December 1864 the workmen were provided with a "Raising Feast" furnished by Mr James Day, grandfather of Miss Elizabeth Day. Miss Day was Secretary of the hospital and in charge of the X-ray department from 1924 to 1950.

In May 1866, Mr George Stacey Gibson mentioned that he had "received an application from a party in Bristol for the situation of Matron" so Ann Cogle was appointed the hospital's first Matron at a salary of £40 per annum. Staffing problems were apparently just as great in those days, for no applications had been received for the posts of Nurse, Cook, Porter or Housemaid. Nevertheless, three days before the hospital opened, Nurse Mary Ann Bishop was engaged at a salary of £18 per annum.

Lord Braybrooke was elected President, Mr George Stokes, Hon. Secretary and Mr George Stacey Gibson, Hon. Treasurer. The Medical Officers were the four Doctors practising in the town, Drs Alfred Nicholas James, Henry Stear, Francis Fawcett Welsh and Edward Harley.

William Horatio Nelson Haylock of the Parish of Hempstead had the distinction of being the first patient, admitted when the hospital opened in September, 1866.

The seventh Annual Report, dated 1873, states that the Committee was disturbed by the rising costs and low bed occupancy. The cost per patient per annum had risen from £54 to £61.

In 1874, it was stated in the Annual Report that the hospital had been of great use in checking a serious outbreak of fever, by free admission of patients from North End and Littlebury. Eighteen patients suffering from fever were admitted, yet only three deaths occurred.

It is interesting to note that, according to the Board records of 1874, "the expense was incurred in fitting up two bathrooms, one for male and one for female patients."

Surgical treatment was simple and less frequent than now, and operations were carried out in the "Doctors' Room" next to the dispensary on the ground floor. This must have been inconvenient, and in 1893, Doctors Smith, Boswell and others asked for a new operating theatre "the present room being inadequate and necessitating the patients being carried upstairs by porters and Doctors. Operations were carried out at a cost of £151, and a few years later a new theatre was purchased "not to cost more than £3."

In 1899, an indoor ambulance was obtained so that patients could be brought to the hospital with care. In the same year, Mrs Biscoe and other ladies formed a horsedrawn ambulance to be available for the removal of accident and sick patients from the surrounding villages. It is interesting to note that patients were brought from places as far away as Quendon, Berden, Clavering, Stansted, Bartlow, the Bumpsteads and Bishop's Stortford.

In 1900, it was reported that the fees charged for the horsedrawn ambulance had paid for its cost and upkeep.

An X-ray apparatus was installed in 1901, at a cost of £50.

In 1904, the first House Committee was formed, followed a year later by the Finance Committee. The House Committee were advised to see that the beds, drains and water closets are clean; to see that the servants do their duties, and that prayers are regularly said." The House Committee were responsible for the admission of all patients, but before admitting a patient, it was necessary to enquire who would be making the weekly payment of 1/6d.

In 1909, finding an electric or hydraulic lift too expensive, a wooden lift was constructed at a cost of £215. This lift was in use until the new one was installed in 1963-64. This cost approximately £5,000.

In 1911, the Annual Report states that the abnormal increase in the number of in-patients per head per patient "is accounted for by the falling off in the daily average number of in-patients. This we attribute to no slackening in the popularity of the hospital, but solely to the healthiness of the hot summer".

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, twenty beds were placed at the disposal of the War Office, by the Board of Management, for the treatment of wounded soldiers, without cost to the nation, but in establishing the sub-hospital to the military base at Colchester, the War Office intended that it was desired to pay similar fees in respect of military patients as were paid to the Red Cross Hospitals. In 1915, a local Red Cross Hospital was opened in the town, and the number of beds in this hospital was increased to 30. The

**SAFFRON WALDEN HOSPITAL
RADWINTER ROAD**

(Essex Area Health Authority — Harlow District)

SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX, CB11 3HY

Telephone: Saffron Walden 22464

Your Ref.

Our Ref. **WAKM/SKW**

15th August, 1980.

Dr. M.A. Weller,
c/o London Road Unit.

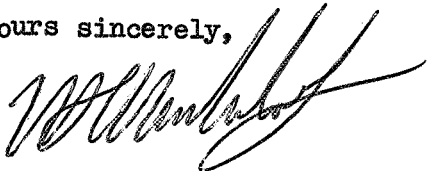
Dear Dr. Weller,

I am sure you will be interested to read the enclosed paper. I regret that it is nearly four months out of date. It has been shown to Dr. Chalmers, but I know that you take a great interest in such matters.

I am wondering whether you might like to write a contribution concerning the letter from Dr. Emrys-Roberts. No doubt his research project will take some time to complete and is unlikely to be affected by a late contribution.

It would be interesting to see the results of his research.

Yours sincerely,



W.A.K. Mackintosh
Administrator

was turned into a ward, as it was also during the last war. During the period, 1914 to March 1919, more than 750 military patients were treated.

Improvements and additions continued gradually. One effect of the influx of military patients had been the greatly increased demand for X-rays. In 1926 the new X-ray room, together with an operating theatre and anaesthetic room were added.

A Nurses Home was built in 1928 for the increasing staff, and enlarged in 1933. A sun balcony was added to the front of the hospital in the same year.

A new block was built onto the west end of the hospital in 1935, to accommodate private patients and a children's ward. The opening ceremony was performed by Miss Gracie Fields on November 9th, 1935.

In 1935, the hospital admitted 570 patients, against 284 in 1913, and road accidents made their appearance in the Annual Report.

A proposed joint scheme between this hospital and the Essex County Council in 1939, whereby the hospital would have trebled in size in order to concentrate local hospital services, was prevented by the outbreak of World War II.

Through the busy years of the second world war, the hospital once again played its part, geared to meet any emergency.

A Hospital Contributory Scheme, which was inaugurated in 1929, was functioning successfully, and gave the hospital substantial financial support. It came to an end with the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948.

A long required physiotherapy department was established in 1946.

Private wards in the new block were discontinued in 1954, and structural alterations made in 1954-55, to accommodate the Out-Patients Department, which has since been enlarged, and now deals with thousands of patients each year, under the direction of a visiting Consultant Medical Staff assisted by local medical practitioners.

Throughout the years, the hospital has adapted itself to all the ensuing changes, and it stands today, a busy and much needed unit within the Health Service.

" . . . that the medical gentlemen are of the opinion the hospital will be the means of reducing the burden of sickness among the poor in the Parish of Saffron Walden at least one half in the approaching winter."

Cambridge Chronicle and University Journal,
Isle of Ely Herald and Huntingdonshire
Gazette. 22nd September, 1866.

MATRONS

Miss Cogle	—	1866 - 1869
Mrs Winter	—	1869 - 1891
Miss Winter	—	1891 - 1892
Miss Minedew	—	1892 - 1896
Miss Fawcett	—	1896 - 1917
Miss Ashley	—	1917 - 1921
Miss Bulmer	—	1921 - 1926
Miss Johnson	—	1926 - 1930
Miss Smeeton	—	1930 - 1935
Miss Stevens	—	1935 - 1937
Miss Parker	—	1937 - 1939
Miss Ford	—	1939 - 1940
Miss Gratwick	—	1940

PRESENT HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mrs J. M. Leonard
(Chairman)

Mrs E. Barker	—	Mr J. Burnet
Mr H. R. Buck	—	Mr A. R. Cobb
Mrs C. Custerson	—	Mr A. L. Godfrey
Mr T. E. Sugden	—	Dr C. Webb
Dr E. Welbourn	—	Mrs K. A. Wilson

THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Mr A. L. Godfrey
(Chairman)

Mrs J. M. Leonard
(Chairman of the Hospitals' House Committee)

Miss E. Day	—	Mrs P. Kenworthy
Mr G. Fotherby	—	Mr A. J. Turnbull

Miss M. E. Gratwick
(Matron)

Mr A. W. Youngs
(Group Secretary)

Mr C. H. A. Roberts
(Secretary)