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comp.

THE NORTH CANTERBURY HOSPITAL BOARD

FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY

HOSPITALS - TUBERCULOSIS AND BENEVOLENT

INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

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COMPILERS NOTE

In completing this work the compiler gratefully acknowledges the courtesy and valued help of men and women who have shown a kindly interest, and also to the nurses who graciously allowed the loan of old photographs.

That some facts and figures have evidently been lost to posterity is indicated in the work of an investigator of some years back.

The fields of research are limited and the early records of the institutions of the province are scanty and scattered.

It is hoped that the inedited fragments that have been collected will prove useful in acquainting readers with some interesting items concerning the ramifications of the hospitals and institutions of Canterbury.

Any shortcomings in the compilation of this work may be attributed to the writer's difficulty in consolidating the records of the various governing bodies.

W.R. Norris

The North Canterbury  
Hospital Board Office  
24th February, 1942.

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INTRODUCTION.

To ascertain who were first prompted by the thought to establish a hospital for the early Canterbury Pilgrims, one has to go back to a period antecedent to their arrival in the Colony. In 1837 when the young Queen Victoria ascended the throne, an Association was founded in England for the colonisation of the country. A member of it was Edward Gibbon Wakefield whose efforts to establish a sound system of colonisation was beginning to bear fruit. Twelve years afterwards the responsible officer for the choice of the original site of the settlement was sent out with despatches to the Governor and the Bishop of New Zealand and to undertake survey work. For a time he was resident in Lyttelton and on the first town plan of that port was marked a site for a hospital. The Canterbury Association whose affairs were managed in London designed the settlement.

In 1850, the Association's Agent arrived and established a small hospital in Lyttelton, the first in the new province. Reference here to the Canterbury Association would be out of place but for the fact that from it emanated the first idea of providing hospital facilities for the pilgrims about to voyage to the Antipodes. Four years after their arrival, the Association presented to the Canterbury Provincial Council, as a site for a hospital, a block of land where now stands the old Provincial Council Chambers and Government Buildings. For a number of reasons, the land was unsuitable for a hospital. The Council then provided five acres in Hagley Park and in 1859 passed an Act authorising the building of a hospital on that site.

The Canterbury Association was thus to some extent identified with hospital affairs long before the earliest Christchurch Hospital Board came into being. The Archbishop of Canterbury was President, and the members numbered fifty-two including a Committee of Management. Readers of these notes may be interested in the Association's personnel:-

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The Archbishop of Dublin     | Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P.   |
| The Duke of Buccleuch        | * Hon. Sir Edward Cust, K.C.H.    |
| The Marquis of Cholmondeley  | The Dean of Canterbury            |
| The Earl of Ellesmere        | * G. B. Adderley, Esq., M.P.      |
| The Earl of Harwood          | W. H. Pole Carew, Esq., M.P.      |
| The Earl of Lincoln, M.P.    | * Hon. R. Cavendish               |
| Viscount Mansfield, M.P.     | * Hon. F. Charteris, M.P.         |
| The Bishop of London         | * Thos. Somers Coombs, Esq., M.P. |
| The Bishop of Worcester      | * Rev. E. Coleridge               |
| The Bishop of Exeter         | * Wm. Forayth, Esq.               |
| The Bishop of Ripon          | * Rev. G. R. Gleig                |
| The Bishop of St. David's    | * J. R. Godley, Esq.              |
| * The Bishop of Oxford       | * Edward Halswell, Esq.           |
| Bishop Coleridge             | Ven. Archdeacon Hare              |
| Lord Ashburton               | * Rev. E. Hawkins                 |
| Lord Lyttelton               | Rev. Dr. Hinds                    |
| Viscount Alford, M.P.        | Rev. Dr. Hook                     |
| * Lord Courtenay, M.P.       | * John Hutt, Esq.                 |
| Lord Ashley, M.P.            | * G. K. Richards, Esq.            |
| Lord A. Hervey, M.P.         | * J. Hinson, Esq. M.P.            |
| Lord J. Manners              | A. Stafford, Esq. M.P.            |
| * Sir Walter Parghur, Bart.  | Hon. J. Talbot                    |
| Sir W. Heathcote, Bart. M.P. | Rev. C. M. Yorlesse               |
| Sir W. Jones, Bart.          | Rev. R. C. Trench                 |
| Sir Willoughby Jones, Bart.  | * E. Jerningham Wakefield, Esq.   |
| Right Hon. H. Goulburn, M.P. | Ven. Archdeacon Wilberforce.      |
- \* Formed the Committee of Management.



#  
 With reference to the genesis of hospitals, it is believed that the first hospitals were Druidic and were founded in Ulster about 300 B.C.

The Christian spirit which led men to care for the poor and sick was introduced by St. Augustin in A.D. 596, but the caring was rather for the souls than the bodies.

The first authentic Saxon hospital was at St. Albans in 794. Henry 1st founded St. Bartholomew at Oxford and later in 1123 the Prior of St. Bartholomew in London founded the hospital on the site in Smithfield where it still stands. This is said to be the oldest Hospital with an unbroken record.

It has been difficult for historians to trace the foundation of St. Thomas' Hospital, but it is authentic that in <sup>1207</sup>~~1220~~ there were two hospital foundations united and dedicated to Thomas à Becket and in 1228 the direct fore-runner of the present St. Thomas' Hospital was founded.

During the Middle Ages, the hospitals were under Monastic rule. Kings used to lodge in the hospitals when travelling about the country and sent old retainers to end their days in them, and thereby the sick were really crowded out. The Monks that controlled them spent the revenues in purchasing relics of saints.

At the Reformation the hospitals were found to be as corrupt as the Monastries on which they depended and Henry VIII suppressed them both alike. After this, there were practically no hospitals.

Henry VIII's reign saw the foundation of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1538 a petition was presented to the King asking him to hand both the St. Thomas' & Bartholomew Hospitals back to the public. The ancient hospitals of St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew having been practically suppressed. The citizens promising so to conduct them as not to encourage vagrancy.

Finally some of the confiscated property of the religious orders were set aside to found five new hospitals and these were the St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas, which were practically refounded at that time, and his successor Edward VI carried out the responsibilities later. Hardly any other hospitals were built. Very little movement was made in the erection of hospitals.

In the 18th century an outcry called attention to the deficiency. The principal public view appeared to be to relieve the needy and set them to work rather than to care for the sick and most of the old hospitals had been put to other use.

In the early years of the 18th century the Guy's Hospital was founded by Thomas Guy, a bookseller and publisher in London, who left over £200,000 to found and endow a new hospital, and Guy's Hospital has been in close co-operation with St. Thomas' ever since.

Hospitals proper had many vicissitudes until they got into the 19th century when by degrees public attention was drawn to them, and as a matter of gradual evolution, the British Hospitals are as they are today, but it was well on in the 19th century before any really serious attention was called to them.

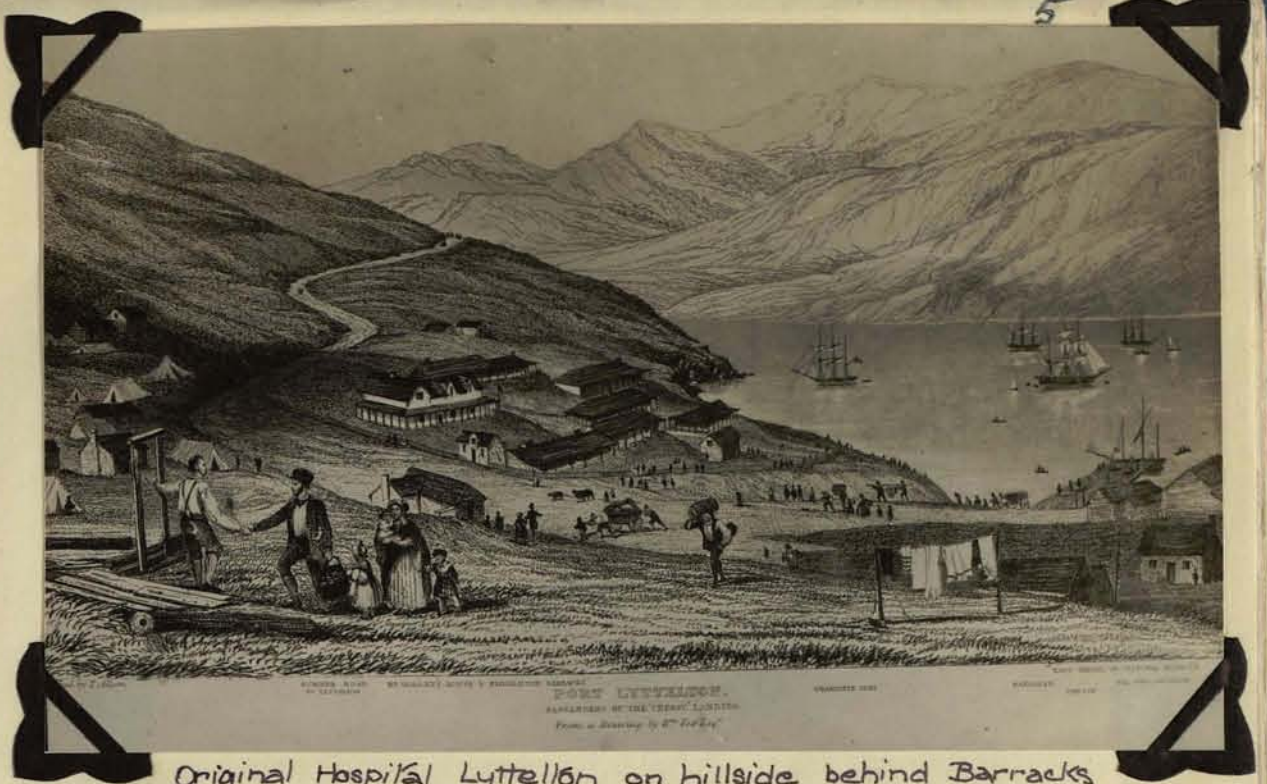
Infirmaries came under the Boards of Guardians, otherwise the Poor-Law Authorities.

The report of the Poor Law Commission of 1832-34, hardly mentions the sick poor, only assuming that they shall receive outdoor relief, but this condition has now been altered and many local and county hospitals have been established throughout Great Britain.

Under the present condition of the Law, the County and Borough Councils are responsible for the care of insane and fever cases.

It was not until 1929 that the Local Government Act abolished the Poor Law and transferred all the duties and property of the Boards of Guardians to the Local County and Borough Councils with the duty of dealing with public health matters and the old Poor Law Infirmaries became Municipal Hospitals.

Of course the whole thing has been a matter of gradual progression until today Great Britain is almost in the forefront with its hospital establishments. But we in New Zealand have had an advantage over Great Britain inasmuch as we have had a compulsory Hospital System since 1885 whereby the cost of maintaining these institutions and equipping them and keeping them so as to maintain a certain level of efficiency, has fallen upon the public shoulders and no person in New Zealand has had occasion yet to complain of the burden which this system has been to them.



Original Hospital Lyttelton on hillside behind Barracks  
below Lyttelton-Sumner Road.



quay site.



Dampiers Bay.

LYTTELTON HOSPITAL.

1849.

In 1849, a year prior to the settlement of the Canterbury Province, Captain Thomas, an expert Surveyor from England and the responsible officer for the choice of the original site of settlement, applied to the New Zealand Company's Agent in Wellington (Mr. W. Fox), for a Medical Officer to be appointed at Port Cooper the reason being that a doctor was required to attend men working on the roads at the Port. (The name of the port was later changed to Lyttelton).

1850.

In April, 1850 (seven months before the arrival of the "first four ships" in the harbour) Mr. J. R. Godley, the Canterbury Association's Agent, secured the lease of a house belonging to the Rev. O. Mathias for the purpose of a hospital in Lyttelton. The site for the Hospital reserved on the town plan of 1851 was Section 29, at the junction of Coleridge and London Streets, but it was not considered a good one, so was offered for public sale in November, 1855. Dr. Donald was appointed Provincial Surgeon and Medical Officer at the Hospital at a salary of £150 per annum. Mrs. Snelling, the matron, was replaced in 1853 by Mrs. Anne Roberts.

1854.

In 1854 complaints were made that the hospital building was not weather-proof in roof or walls. Mrs. Roberts threatened to resign owing to this and to the fact that she had no private room and had six patients to attend to. She was an efficient nurse and Dr. Donald pointed out the difficulty of finding anyone to replace her. When the lease of the building was nearing expiry, he recommended the building of a new hospital or the acquisition of a more suitable place. Arrangements were made with Mr. Henry Sewell for the old Custom House building, on which repairs had been effected and additions made by Mr. Nutton, at a cost of £119.14.0. To this the patients from the leaky old hospital were removed in August, 1854.

As there was no Mental Asylum, patients of unsound mind were placed in the older hospital, and whilst they were housed there, considerable damage was done. The Provincial Government was called upon to pay for the damage to Mr. C. E. Dampier, who was agent for the Rev. O. Mathias. Failing to have the lunatics placed in the Auckland Asylum, they were ultimately lodged in the Lyttelton Gaol.

Dr. Donald drew attention to the drawbacks of the existing reserved section. The site was not isolated enough, being buried in a gully and was not near good water, and generally inferior to the site of the existing hospital. In November alterations and repairs costing £127 were made to the hospital.

1856.

Mrs. Roberts resigned, and Mrs. Harriet Simpson took up duties from 1856 till 1862. She maintained three orphans as well as her own daughter till she married Captain Preece. Mrs. Louisa Cahagan took up duties, but resigned the next year owing to her husband's behaviour, and Mrs. Edmiston from Auckland was appointed.

During Mrs. Simpson's term the hospital narrowly escaped fire by the destruction of Tribe's store. Repairs to the hospital were made by Messrs. Salt and Nutton.

Lyttelton Hospital, contd.1861.

In 1861 Dr. Donald was gazetted as Resident Magistrate of Lyttelton, also visiting Justice, Inspector of Cattle and Inspector of Immigrants, Church Property Trustee and Coroner.

1862.

In 1862/63 a return of lunatics - Lyttelton Hospital - shows the causes, or the supposed causes, of lunacy; in the cases of nine males as "apparently from drink"; two, from solitude on out-stations; three, injury to head; one, unknown or undetermined; and the cases of five females were classed under the last heading.

1863.

Three acres of land, part of rural section 247, fronting the Governors Bay Road, was purchased in 1852. The Lyttelton Town Board was constituted in 1862, and decided to build a new hospital, voting £200 for that purpose. Arrangements were made with Joseph Blaymires for the purchase of sections 212 and 213 on Brittain Terrace and the conveyance thereof to the Superintendent of Canterbury - Crown grant dated 5th July, 1856. The land - 3 acres, 9 perches - was purchased in 1863 for £964.17.6 being at the rate of £300 per acre, plus six months' interest. Plans were submitted by the Provincial Architects, Mountfort and Luck, and forwarded with a description of the site to the Lyttelton Municipal Council (W. Godfrey, clerk). The new building, costing £1,793.19.6. was completed in December, 1863. The designer was C. H. Iggleden, Surveyor to the Lyttelton Corporation, and England Bros. were the Contractors. The Provincial Government voted £920 towards the land, and £1,000 towards the building, later another £500 and again £291. Dr. Donald was instructed to sell the old hospital for whatever it would realise. It was eventually sold for £32 provided no time was lost in removal. Most of the wood for the new buildings came from Tasmania and some from the bush at French Farm, Banks Peninsula. The staff consisted of Matron (Mrs. Edmiston) £75, Head Nurse (Mrs. Trounce) £40, Under Nurse £30, Cook £30, General Servant £25. I. A. Rouse was appointed Dispenser at £100 per annum, and had to find all medicines required.

1864.

Additions to the institution became necessary in 1864. The Resident Engineer and Surveyor at Lyttelton, Mr. Iggleden, submitted plans and specifications for a fever ward, kitchen, and "dead" house, estimated at £1,140. These were rejected by the Government and a more modest scheme was submitted, representing an outlay of £360, but this was likewise vetoed. A further pruning was made and specifications estimated at less than £500 were accepted and advertised.

Dr. Donald reported that in February, 1865, there were twenty-four males and two females (patients) in hospital, also that he had authorised a pint of beer daily to each nurse! The monthly average number in hospital was twenty. The causes of death in 1866 were given as malignant disease of pharynx, hypertrophy of heart, chronic disease of rectum, haematemesis (aneurism). In 1867 - accident, laceration of kidney, fracture of femur, libra, pelvis, malar bone and phthisis.

Lyttelton Hospital, contd.1866.

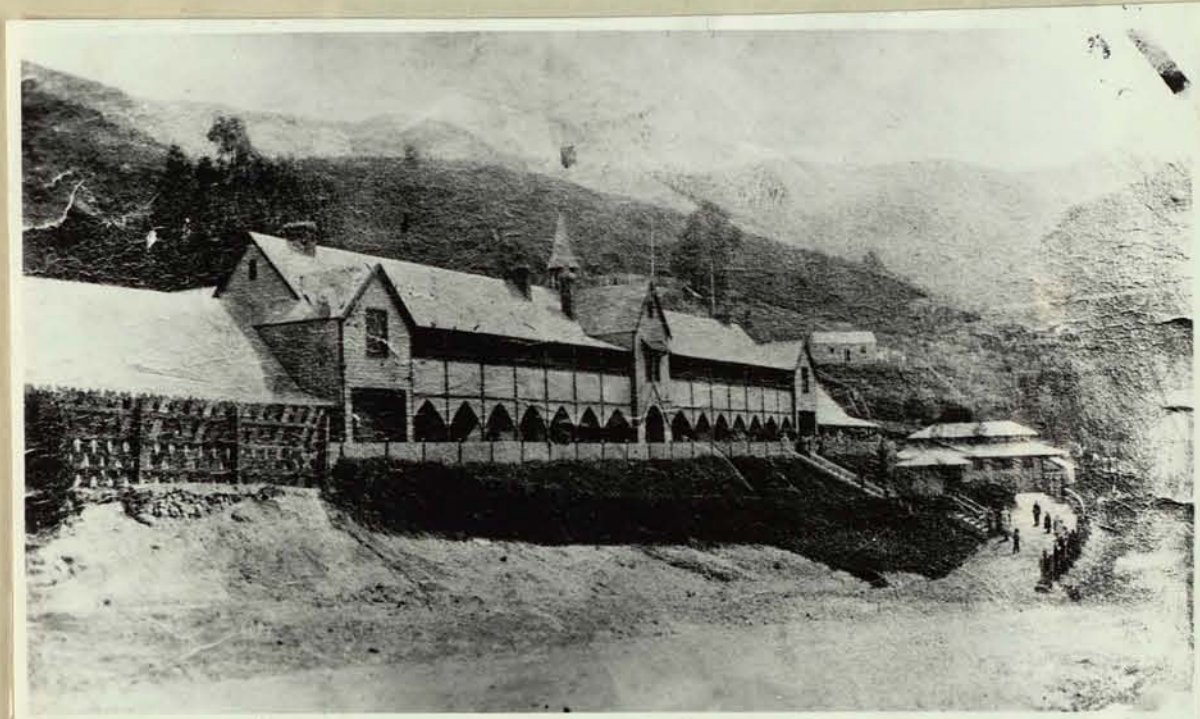
The Lyttelton Town Board made strenuous efforts to obtain control of the Hospital and petitioned the Superintendent of Canterbury, but the proposal was vetoed by the Provincial Government. Mrs. Trounce accepted the position of Matron, but was disappointed when a reduced salary was paid in July, 1868. The staff was unaware of any likely reduction being made by the Provincial Government, and unanimously objected. The Matron then resigned and Mrs. Scanlon was appointed. Acting on the instructions of the Superintendent of Canterbury, Dr. Donald served notice on all the staff that their engagements would terminate on 30th November.

1870.

Further alterations were made to the hospital buildings in order that they could be handed over for the purpose of an orphanage. Mrs. Scanlon was re-engaged till 30th June, 1870. Two patients were nearly cured and there were two incurables. The names of the last patients in the hospital were Thomas Pesti and Henry Donett. J. E. March, Secretary to the Immigration Department, made arrangements with Hawkins, Nation Contractor at Christchurch Hospital, to supply rations to Pesti and Donett, who were transferred to the Immigration Barracks. An inventory of furniture, stores and equipment etc. was made by Mr. March, and most of the material was selected by Dr. Burrell Parkerson, Jnr. for the Christchurch Hospital, while the remainder went to the Immigration Barracks. The hospital closed on 30th June, 1870.

An Accident Ward was completed and ready for use on 24th October, 1870, and from that time it was known as the Lyttelton Casualty Ward. The old hospital became known as the Canterbury Orphanage Asylum from August, 1870. (See Orphanage file.) The name was changed from the Canterbury Orphanage to the Waltham Orphanage till 1940, when it was again changed to the Children's Home, Waltham.

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- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1 | STAFF      |
| 2 | BOYS       |
| 3 | GIRLS      |
| 4 | PRAYROOM   |
| 5 | SCHOOLROOM |
| 6 | LAUNDRY    |

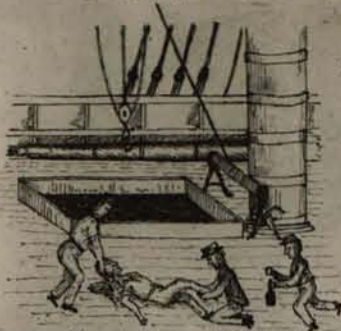
wide flight of steps at  
Entrance with lych-gate.  
(or covered gateway)

see Wallāin Ophauage.

Canterbury Ophauage, 1853, Lyttelton.

# HUMANITY, (in LYTTTELTON TIMES.)

"And the Hospital at Lyttelton may be closed." *the Lyttelton Times, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1868.*



Thomas Bobstay, A.B., having been knocked by a bale of wool down the hatchway of the ship "SIREN", Capt TULIP, and sustained sundry contusions, dislocations and fractures thereby.



Is with all possible dispatch conveyed ashore, to be placed in the Christchurch Hospital; that in Lyttelton having been closed, in accordance with the suggestion above.



On arriving at the Lyttelton Railway Station, the 10 a.m. train having just started, a slight delay of three hours occurs before he can be forwarded to



the Station at Christchurch, where the above easy and commodious vehicle is chartered for his removal to the Hospital.



But owing to the increase in sickness consequent upon the 19th overflow of the Waimakariri River, not a bed is vacant.

FINIS.

## HUMANITY.

"And the Hospital at Lyttelton may be closed".

1. Thomas Bobstay, A.B., having been knocked by a bale of wool down the hatchway of the ship "Siren", Captain Tulip, and sustained sundry contusions, dislocations and fractures thereby
2. is with all possible dispatch conveyed ashore, to be placed in the Christchurch Hospital; that in Lyttelton having been closed in accordance with the suggestion above.
3. Arriving at the Lyttelton Railway Station, the 10 a.m. train having just started, a slight delay of three hours occurs before he can be forwarded to
4. the Station at Christchurch, where the above easy and commodious vehicle is chartered for his removal to the Hospital,
5. but owing to the increase in sickness consequent upon the 19th overflow of the Waimakariri River, not a bed is vacant.

FINIS.

("Lyttelton Times", 19th February, 1868.)



11

CANTERBURY ORPHANAGE - LYTTELTON.

1869.

The Executive Council of the Provincial Government decided in 1869 to fit the hospital at Lyttelton to receive orphans and to remove the orphans placed by it in the Orphan Asylum at Addington. Reports from Synod show that this was done in 1871 and the Addington institution closed owing to the smallness of numbers. The institution founded at Lyttelton became known as the Canterbury Orphanage. Munificent contributions were made to the Orphan Asylum by the workmen of the Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway Construction Service.

1870.

Arrangements were made with Chief Gaoler Weston to send forty-eight hard labour prisoners to work on the Lyttelton Orphanage in 1870. The Provincial Council Secretary, through the Police Commissioner, Mr. Shearman, notified that the hospital at Lyttelton was vacated and the buildings were under police care till Mr. Girard took possession to keep out strangers. Mr. Girard reported that the institution had been carried on under the supervision of the Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Smart at £1 per week, 2 nurses, 1 undermaster, and a cook. Great difficulty was experienced in procuring suitable people as nurses as they had no discipline, were tired, and unable to instruct young children. School was held in the dining hall. In 1868 there were 49 boys and 25 girls; 1869, 57 boys and 27 girls; 1870, 54 boys and 32 girls; 1871, 54 boys and 45 girls; and in 1872 there were 51 boys and 36 girls. By 1875 the number of inmates had risen to the maximum of 120, and the institution was managed at the annual cost of £2,500. In the gazette for 1870, the financial statement for the quarter ending 30th September shows no statement of salaries paid, but £420 under voted expenditure, while one quarter in December, 1879, shows £120 in salaries. The Orphanage was purely a public institution and very satisfactorily conducted by Mr. Peter Fox who was in charge from about 1877-79. The boys, as soon as they were old enough, were apprenticed to various trades, and the girls were sent out to situations as domestic servants.

1877.

1879.

In 1879 a monthly report from the Master of the Orphanage was presented and read to the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board and the Board resolved that the medical officer should give a quarterly report on the general health of the children. There were 64 boys and 39 girls making a total of 103 in the institution. There was an outbreak of diphtheria at this time, the probable cause being the dampness of the building, and the flooring of the dormitory had to be renewed. The Minister of Immigration placed Quail Island at the disposal of the committee for the children whilst a careful inspection was made of the Orphanage buildings and drainage.

A report from the Inspector of Schools on the Lyttelton Orphanage was read and the Hospital Committee was of opinion that the report should be adopted:-

"That the infant boys and girls be formed into one class and taught on the kindergarten method; that the older scholars be taught the theory and notation of music, and that singing of the infant classes should be chiefly by ear; that the classes which passed the third standard should be taught elementary science relating to such common things as suitable clothing, health, cleanliness, and the use of the lever gage and other mechanical powers, also linear and free-hand drawing."

Canterbury Orphanage - Lyttelton.

The committee concurred with the opinions expressed by the Matron that the older girls who were carefully trained to do domestic duties should not be placed out until after the winter, their services being required to look after the younger children.

Mr. William Rolleston, Minister of Lands, who personally inspected the orphan asylum, was unwilling to sanction increased expenditure until the institution was placed under the management of a more efficient Master and Matron. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter were appointed in 1881.

1880.

In October, 1880, the Colonial Secretary requested that all correspondence connected with the Lyttelton Orphanage should be addressed to the Secretary of the Education Board.

Application was made to the Education Department with a view to ascertaining if the Canterbury Orphanage was entitled to a grant for additional purposes from funds voted for that purpose. It was suggested that application be made to the Auckland Education Board to recommend a certified teacher and to give the services of their Chief Inspector. It was desirable that the schoolmaster should be able to teach singing and that a fife and drum band be organised. This would certainly prove a source of attraction. As the Education Department was entrusted with the general supervision of the Orphanages, the whole question was brought under their notice.

1882.

On the motion of the Mayor of Sydenham (a member of the Board) it was resolved that the Orphanage Committee make enquiries in 1882 into the probability of procuring a training ship connected with the Orphanage, and further attention was drawn to the favourable expressions and promises made by the Premier and also by the Minister of Public Works of the Grey Administration to the effect that the training ship was a necessary adjunct to that and kindred institutions in Canterbury, and the Government would do its best to secure one without delay. The Board was of opinion that the annual cost of maintaining and instructing boys on board the training ship would not exceed their present maintenance. The Board was fully aware that the Government was much occupied in matters affecting the wellbeing of the Colony, and suggested that a petition be made to the Admiralty praying that a training ship be granted to the Colonial Government stationed at the Port of Lyttelton. An offer was made by Mr. C. W. Turner to place the brig "Derwent" at the disposal of the Lyttelton Naval Brigade for the Orphanage. A letter was read from the Government stating that they considered that the Orphanage was not in such a condition as to require or be much benefited by the acquisition of a training ship, therefore, the Board could not see its way to accept Mr. Turner's offer. The Board pointed out the unsuitability of the structure used as an Orphanage at Lyttelton. The ground for recreation purposes was hardly bigger than some to be found within the walls of the public gaols. Whatever view the Government took of the application, provision would have to be made to remove the children to a more desirable place.

Canterbury Orphanage - Lyttelton.

Mr. Restall (Inspector of Schools) reported on the Orphanage in February, 1882: The Master, Mr. J. C. Sopp acted as Steward, Accountant, etc.; Assistant at the boys' school, Mr. Catterick; Mistress of the girls' school, Miss L. Kissell. There were forty-two children presented for examination in standards. Classification of results:

	Standards	III	II	I	Total
Passed		8	17	16	41
Failed		-	1	-	1
					<u>42</u>

Infants in the school below Standard I - 35.

The Department of Justice asked His Excellency the Governor to grant a prisoner who was working at the Orphanage a remission of three months off his sentence of two years for his conduct on the occasion of a child being burnt and losing her life through falling into the fire.

1883.

When Mr. and Mrs. Sopp resigned in June, 1883, the position of Master and Matron was advertised at the salary of £200 and £75 respectively. Mrs. and Mrs. T. H. Ritchie were then appointed. Mr. and Mrs. James Fox followed them in 1883 and were later transferred to the Old Men's Home at Ashburton as Master and Matron.

As the Government had no fund for repairs to the Orphanage, the Board again applied in March, 1883, for the change of site and to obtain if possible a grant of fifty acres for the purpose.

The Education Department informed the Board that on and after the 1st January, 1883, the Lyttelton Orphanage would cease to be an industrial school unless brought under the new Industrial Schools' Act. With a view to classifying the children of the Burnham Industrial School, the Board recommended that the Government be requested to place the institution under the control of the Board, and for the purpose of economising and such classification, the Government also be requested to bring the Lyttelton Orphanage under the provisions of the Industrial Schools Act so that the children of the non-committal or neglected class at Burnham may be graded into the Lyttelton Orphanage.

It was decided in September, 1883, that the Board should take steps to secure an endowment of land for the Lyttelton Orphanage, and for the building of a benevolent institution for the province of Canterbury, and that a deputation consisting of the Chairman, H. Thomson, The Hon. N. C. J. Stevens, Mr. Montgomery, and the Mayors of Christchurch and Sydenham, be appointed to wait on the Hon. W. Rolleston, Minister of Lands, requesting him to withdraw from sale until the next meeting of Parliament the Police Reserve at Sheffield then advertised. Several applications had been made for a change of site of the Orphanage to somewhere in the country, and the Board was of opinion that the Lyttelton site would be very suitable for the Old Men's Home. The Home at Ashburton was a source of continual expense in patching and had never been intended

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to be occupied for such a purpose and the site at Russell's Flat was considered too cold a climate.

1884.

Mr. James Gunning, Inspector of Schools, reported in April, 1884, that according to the class lists, the school connected with the Orphanage had acquitted itself very creditably; the result of 100% should prove pleasing to the Board. The questions set were the same as those given to town schools, and the same tests were applied. The lower school was considered to be in a more satisfactory condition than the Canterbury schools as well as the standards being up to the average of the state schools. The children were bright and happy. All that was wanted to make the institution a home was more ground. Arrangements made by the Master regarding a band master were approved, but he was requested not to incur any expenditure without permission being first obtained.

THE NORTH CANTERBURY AND ASHBURTON HOSPITAL  
AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

1885.

The newly formed Board held its first meeting at the Orphanage on the 2nd December, 1885. The institution was inspected and the Secretary was instructed to obtain all possible information as to the working of kindred institutions and prepare a draft set of rules and regulations. The Master was requested to prepare a return of all children giving as much information as possible, an inventory, and a return of all moneys received and expended from the date of his taking office till the present time, also arrears due for maintenance of each child.

The Master attended a meeting regarding a recreation fund. There was an amount still due for band instruments of £131. It was decided to allow the boys' band to go out at a fee of £5.5.0. The Board, on behalf of the children and their band, accepted the invitation of the Caledonian Society to play at the Lancaster Park Sports.

In 1879, William Lucas left a large estate comprising various properties. Amongst the beneficiaries under the will was the Orphan Asylum in the Provincial District of Canterbury. The Ashburton and North Canterbury United Charitable Aid Board being the owners of the Asylum situated in Lyttelton automatically became the beneficiaries in respect of the residue of the estate.

Intimation was received from the Crown Lands office in 1885 to the effect that R.S. 27095 was found to contain two acres, 1 rood, 24 perches in excess of that purchased and requesting payment of £4.16.0. before the 31st December. As this land was a portion of the estate left by the late Mr. Lucas for the Orphanage, it was resolved to pay the amount.

It was decided that application be made to the Board of Education for accommodation of orphanage children in the Borough schools. Since the committee came into office in November, 1885, it had endeavoured to become acquainted with the general working of the institution in which there were 103 inmates, namely - 71 boys and 32 girls (of whom a large number had either one or both parents living) besides a considerable number who have been placed in service or

Canterbury Orphanage - Lyttelton, contd.

apprenticed to various trades. The question of the education of the Orphanage children was considered and it was concluded that these children were equally entitled to the benefits to be derived from the course of education given to children at the Borough schools. Besides the superior education thus obtained, the fact that the children mixed with others of the same age would be of service to them by tending to prevent a feeling that they were in an isolated position and of a different class, a feeling which might have a tendency to prejudice their future. In the meantime the Master (Mr. Ritchie) was authorised to engage a pupil teacher to fill a vacancy on the teaching staff.

A petition was circulated to have the Orphanage formed into a separate institution. The petitioners proposed to contribute \$100, the minimum amount required by the Act and there was no provision in the Act compelling even that sum to be contributed after the first year. It was considered advisable that the Board should endeavour to obtain a statutory enactment giving it more power over the children placed in the institution. In July, 1886, advice was received from the Premier's office that the Orphanage could not be incorporated as a separate institution under the existing Act. The Secretary of the Board, with the approval of the Colonial Secretary, was made manager of the Orphanage for the purpose of Section 4 of the Hospitals and Charitable Aid Act. Owing to the sudden death of Dr. H. McDonald, the Board lost the services of its medical officer; Dr. T. O. Guthrie undertook to fill the position.

An amended schedule of the Governess's duties was laid before the committee, and at the same time it was agreed that the Master should be held responsible (especially) for Standard IV and upwards. The Education Board notified that the Inspector of Schools would examine the children at an early date. The Union Company made an offer to take a lad who was anxious to go to sea. Two more boys were discharged from the Orphanage and joined the "Rimutaka" as assistant stewards, and another boy was engaged as bugler and assistant steward on the "Kaikoura". Several children who were boarded out in November, 1887, were admitted into the Orphanage. The Chairman of the Orphanage Committee (H. H. Halder) was appointed to execute indentures on behalf of the children who were apprenticed out and to act as trustee on their behalf.

A resolution was passed in April, 1886, that the Government be asked to allow the Board to have access to all papers, minute books and documents in connection with the Lyttelton Orphanage and all other institutions under the control of the Board. Later the Board asked for temporary use of old minute books for reference. Until a reasonable period had elapsed under the new management, the cost per head could not be determined, but it was considered to be approximately 10/- per week. A letter was received

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from Mr. J. C. Sopp asking the Board's assistance in securing documents and books relating to the past management of the Orphanage. It was decided that the Government again be asked to allow the Board to have access to all papers in connection with the Lyttelton Orphanage.

1886.

A requisition was made to the Government in 1886 to convey all sites and buildings under the control of the Board. An insurance against fire for £3,000 was divided amongst various insurance companies. The annual cost of the institution was about £2,500. In March, 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee, late of Burnham Industrial School were appointed Master and Matron, temporarily.

1889.

Through the courtesy of the Board of Education, Mr. L. B. Wood made an examination of the school work of the children in 1888. The Board did not recommend sending the children out of the institution and asked that the teaching might be carried on within the Orphanage by arrangement with the Education Board in 1889. The Board was desirous that the Education Board should be induced to provide the teaching staff at the Lyttelton Orphanage. The solution of the difficulty was to make the Orphanage a public school under the Education Act, in which case the duty of providing teachers, furniture and appliances would fall on the Education Board. In January, 1890, owing to the alterations in the system of management, the school teaching staff was dispensed with and the children sent to the public schools. Arrangements were made for placing out several of the bigger boys at service. At this stage Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Newton were appointed to the joint position of Master and Matron.

1890.

A satisfactory report was received from the Orphanage Lady Visitors' Association in 1890. Apparently the boys generally were anxious to enter the Navy, and it was suggested that it would be a great advantage and a relief to the institution if a training ship could be started in which the boys might be trained. Two of the boys joined the Royal Navy aboard the H.M.S. "Opal."

The Board was unanimous in recommending that the boarded-out system should be applied to the greater number of the inmates of the institution, and that carefully selected "foster parents" residing in the country districts in healthy surroundings should be selected. Such a plan enabled the Board to effect reductions in the maintenance of the institution where only a limited number would be kept in residence. Applications were invited from persons willing to undertake the custody of children, so that a limited number might be retained in residence at the Orphanage. There were twenty-nine boys and sixteen girls in residence. After a selection of homes was made, the number resident was reduced almost to the minimum.

1894.

In March, 1894, the Board had to face a difficult problem with so large a building as the Orphanage, seeing that the boarded-out system had been adopted for the majority of its inmates. In recognising that the cost of maintenance was beyond all proportion, and before closing such an institution, the Board had to guard against the risk of jeopardising the endowments. It was hoped that the place might be adopted by the Government for a school for deaf and dumb children who require to be kept together

Canterbury Orphanage - Lyttelton, contd.

in an institution rather than the orphans who are better separated and boarded in rural homes. An exchange of Crown Lands other than at Lyttelton was another suggestion. In endeavouring to reduce the expenditure, notice was given to the Master and Matron to terminate their engagement and offers were to be invited for the maintenance of not less than six children on the premises at per head per week. Rooms and furniture would be provided free of rent. Further consideration was given to the matter, and Mr. and Mrs. Newton were re-appointed in 1895, resigning after ten years' service in 1900. The Board placed the Orphanage under offer to the Government on any reasonable condition with regard to price or exchange of site, but the Government was not disposed to help the Board with regard to utilising the premises.

1902.

It was agreed that Mrs. Carpenter should take up her residence at the Orphanage and that a housekeeper should be engaged to take care of the premises under Mrs. Carpenter's direction. In October, 1902, it was recommended that the Matron of the Orphanage be relieved of her other duties as the Board's Inspecting Officer, in order that her whole attention be devoted to the affairs of the institution. (Mrs. Carpenter was also Charitable Aid Inspector.)

In 1902 the Board's attention was drawn to the dangerous cliff on the boundary of the Orphanage premises which threatened to cause serious damage unless preventative means were taken. An arrangement was made with the Lyttelton Borough Council in January, 1903, to share the expense of a retaining wall on the boundary cliff above which is a public road. The question of liability appeared to be somewhat complicated.

1904.

In 1904 the Government was again approached with a view to making some reasonable exchange, and whilst negotiations were being made, the building was totally destroyed by fire. Temporary arrangements were made for housing the children on the property of Mr. Joyce in Lyttelton. It was decided that the site of the Orphanage should be retained by the Board and the area was subdivided into building sections. At this stage it was proposed that a portion of the Twigger land should be acquired for Orphanage purposes rather than build a new Orphanage at Lyttelton, or on a site on the Ferry Road in which Mrs. Lucas had an interest during her lifetime, and which would ultimately come into the Board's possession. However, in March, 1905, Mrs. Spender's property in Austin Street was offered to the Board at \$1,200 and was accepted. Owing to the change of locality, the name of the Orphanage was then altered to "Waltham Orphanage."

See Waltham Orphanage  
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