

CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL.



Entrance Galin & Porten Lodge -  
Christchurch Hospital.

Copia from a faded photo by W. R. L. M. O. S.

1846.

The first hospitals in New Zealand dated from 1846. They were all in the North Island and maintained out of General Government revenue. During the first 12 years from then, no real hospital, so far as Canterbury was concerned, existed.

1858.

In December, 1858, eight years after the arrival of the first pilgrims in Lyttelton, the Provincial Council of Canterbury passed an Act authorising the building of a hospital in Christchurch. One of the provisions of the Act empowered the Superintendent of the Province (William Sefton Moorhouse) to sell certain reserves for the purpose of providing funds. This Act was disallowed by the General Government in Auckland.

1859.

On 6th August, 1859, a strong petition was sent to the Superintendent praying that a hospital be established in Christchurch. Christchurch Public Hospital Bill (notice of introduction, 1st October, 1859) passed its first reading on 6th October; second reading 7th October; committed to Select Committee 11th and 13th October; third reading 20th October; assented to by the Superintendent on the 4th November.

John Ollivier, Provincial Secretary, introduced a Bill into the Council proposing to take 5 acres of Hagley Park for a site for a public hospital. This raised a spirited protest locally, but the measure was carried by a margin of one vote, and the worst spot which could probably have been found, enveloped in river fog for so many nights during winter, was selected for the treatment of bronchial and other troubles incidental to the functions of a public hospital.

1860.

A letter dated 9th July, 1860, signed by W. S. Moorhouse, H. B. Gresson and C. C. Bowen reads as follows:-

"The want of a hospital for Christchurch has long been much felt, and a Bill has just been passed by the Provincial Council for selling certain lands, the proceeds of which, are to be applied to the building of a hospital, but a considerable time must elapse before the necessary funds can be obtained, and a proper building completed, and in the meantime there are constantly recurring cases of illness or accident which require not only regular medical assistance but also a comfortable house, nourishing food, and good nursing - requisites that frequently cannot be obtained by patients of whom many have not been in the country long enough to have enabled them to attain a competence or even moderate comfort. It is believed that the want of a hospital has been much felt by stock owners, who live for the most part at a distance from medical advice and who are obliged in cases of illness or accident occurring to their servants, to send them to Christchurch for advice, to some public house or lodging, where they cannot have the quiet or constant care and attendance which a hospital would supply. It is proposed to rent a building in Christchurch or its neighbourhood to be used as a hospital until a permanent one shall be completed and it is hoped that the Stockowners, as well as the inhabitants of Christchurch, will contribute liberally to the support of so useful an institution, but before incurring the heavy expense which the establishment and maintenance of a hospital would involve, it is necessary to ascertain what income may be relied upon. Should the amount of

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"contributions promised appear to justify the undertaking, a public meeting will be summoned for the purpose of forming a Committee and arranging other necessary details."

1861.

*luck* The Provincial Government voted £1,500 for the erection of a hospital in Christchurch. Mountfort and Luck, the Provincial Architects, estimated the cost of the buildings to be £1,756. Plans and specifications were submitted and approved by the Provincial Government, and in 1861, J. Fergusson's tender for £1,747 was accepted. The first building was a barn-like, two-storied erection, situated near the site of the present Nurses' old Home.

1862.

The Christchurch Hospital situated on the Riccarton Road, was opened on 1st June, 1862, with Dr. Burrell Parkerson as Surgeon, and Dr. Silas Stedman as Physician, at salaries of £300 per annum each. Horatio Bunting and his wife were appointed Master and Matron, J. Dalgleish, Dispenser, a married couple to do odd work and a cook. Mrs. Bunting continued to act as Matron until Mrs. Harvey succeeded her. At that time the Dispenser resigned and W. R. Cooke was appointed in his place.

Patients admitted to the Hospital from May, 1862 to July, 1863 numbered 214. The amount due for maintenance was £1,108:8:0½d. and the amount received was £97:0:10d.

A report on the water supply for the Hospital was made in 1862, and the drainage was completed at a cost of £145. A gang of relief workers was put on to improve the evil-smelling stream entering the River Avon when the drain was improved at a cost of £60.

1863.

Dr. Stedman was given sole charge in 1863 at a salary of £900 per annum.

1864.

Minor additions were made to out-buildings and £889 was spent on improvements. The erection of two fever wards was advocated and in 1864 the resident doctor's house was completed. £545 was spent on additions, including drainage and doctor's quarters. Alterations to the Dispensary, Board Room, Chapel and operating rooms were made.

The census taken in 1864 showed a population of 32,276 for Canterbury - 18,931 males and 13,345 females.

*Messrs* In 1864 an election of the Board of Governors took place under the Superintendent of Canterbury, Samuel Bealey. A Board of Management consisted of the Ven. Archdeacon of Akaroa, Rev. H. Jacobs, Justice Gresson, Robert Wilkin, George Gould, C. O. Torlesse, Barker, Bishop, Bowen and F. Thompson.

The management of the Hospital during its early period was not running smoothly, and the Provincial Government in July, 1864, placed the control in the charge of a committee consisting of the Superintendent of Canterbury, the Provincial Secretary, Judge Gresson and Messrs. Sewell and Ollivier, and the Governors of the hospital resigned. In October the Hospital and Charitable Aid Bill was introduced and the Government handed over the management to the public, glad to be rid of an expensive institution. Dr. Burrell Parkerson retired and Dr. H. H. Prins was appointed Resident Surgeon; Dr. Stedman consulting physician. Mrs. Harvey resigned and Mrs. Cooke, wife of the Dispenser was appointed to the position.

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1865.

The following report to the Provincial Secretary, Ed. Jolly was from the Resident Surgeon (Session XXIV No. 78):-

"I have the honour to forward the Annual Report for the year ending October 31st, 1865 and take this opportunity of adding a few observations on the cases treated at the Christchurch Hospital:-

"Taking into consideration that the cases admitted into Hospital are of all ages and every variety of diseases, many of which are incurable and brought as a last resort, the success of the Hospital treatment has been very satisfactory, specially in cases of fever and surgical operations. Ninety-four cases of fever have been admitted and only five deaths occurred; a great many of these cases were brought in a very advanced stage of disease. The surgical operations were 33 in number, of which 3 died, one after the amputation of the hip-joint, one after the operation of tracheotomy, the other being a child aged 5 years, after amputation of the thigh for diseased joint. These three were unfavourable cases but were operated on in order to give the unfortunate sufferers the last and only remaining chance of saving their lives. About 40 accident cases were admitted into Hospital; chloroform had been administered to 33 persons (men, women and children) without a single accident or deleterious effect arising during or after the administration. Although the Hospital is not adapted for the admission of lying-in cases, we were obliged to admit 15 cases, chiefly of single women and perfectly destitute persons. There has been one case of instrumental labour, and one of puerperal mania, both fortunately recovered. 212 out-door patients were treated and only one (a delicate child) to my knowledge died. 302 people were vaccinated during the year, the proceeds from this source amounting to £22:15:00. I must remark here that the patients who now seek admission are chiefly charity cases and the receipts from them will hardly amount to those of the preceding year. May I close with respectfully suggesting, if the Government contemplates making any extensions to the present Hospital, that a new building be erected on the Pavilion plan, which is not only favourable to this country, but will be added to as the colony progresses and the population increases."

Dr. H. Prins was given the control of the Hospital at a salary of £650 per annum. Dr. L. Powell became resident surgeon in November, 1866, Dr. W. E. Phillips in November, 1868, resigning in May, 1869, and Dr. Burrell Parkerson, Jnr. took his place at a salary of £200 p.a.

RULES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL, 1865.

1. The Hospital shall be under the management of the Resident Surgeon, subject to the authority and approval of the Provincial Secretary.
2. The Resident Surgeon shall have charge of both medical and surgical cases. Reference to be made to the consulting physician when considered by the Resident Surgeon to be requisite.
3. The Resident Surgeon shall be responsible to the Provincial Government for the proper management of all stores, and for all monies received and disbursed in connection with the hospital.

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4. The Resident Surgeon shall have the power of appointing such persons as he may deem fitting to fill subordinate situations as may from time to time become vacant, and also of discharging such as may be unfit. He shall report officially to the Provincial Secretary any such appointment or discharge, stating his reasons for same.
5. The Resident Surgeon shall forward a full monthly report in accordance with the prescribed form, to the Provincial Secretary for inspection and approval.
6. The Resident Surgeon shall give six months notice to the Provincial Secretary of his intention to resign office.
7. The Dispenser shall walk the hospital every morning and evening with the Resident Surgeon; dispense all medicines, take note of the diet and extras ordered, and also keep such books as shall be entrusted to him by the Resident Surgeon.
8. The Dispenser shall receive, weigh and measure all stores forwarded to the hospital, before they are conveyed to the store room.
9. The Dispenser shall assist the Resident Surgeon in keeping order and regularity among patients and servants, and shall report to him any instance of neglect or insubordination which may occur.
10. The Matron shall have charge of the household furniture, linen, etc. and keep an account of the same, and shall serve out the stores daily (Sundays excepted) as ordered by the Resident Surgeon. She shall visit the wards at least twice per day, and see that the different wards, linen etc. are clean and in good order. She shall also assist in keeping order and regularity among servants and patients, and report to the Resident Surgeon instances of neglect or disobedience.
11. The Porter shall act as messenger and general servant, obey the orders of the Resident Surgeon, Dispenser, and Matron; attend at operations and assist the nurses at the different wards when called upon to do so. On visiting days (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday) from two till four p.m. he shall attend at the principal entrance to the hospital. He shall lock all doors in the evening and open them in the morning, at such hours as shall be prescribed by the Resident Surgeon, and shall on no account unlock the doors except for the admission of urgent cases, or with the permission of the Resident Surgeon. The porter shall when not otherwise employed, attend to the hospital grounds and gardens.
12. The nurses must all be able to read and write. They shall have their respective wards cleaned by 9.30 a.m., shall administer all medicines, diet and wines ordered by the Resident Surgeon, treat the sick with kindness and attention, see that all patients are in bed after the doors are locked; put the lights out on retiring to rest; and report to the Resident Surgeon any irregularity or disobedience among the patients.
13. The Cook shall keep the kitchen and cooking utensils clean and in good order. She shall have the meals ready at stated hours; viz. 8 a.m. breakfast; 12.30 m.d. dinner; and tea at 5 p.m. The Cook shall report to the Resident Surgeon, Dispenser or Matron whenever provisions are not of good quality.

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14. No subordinate officer or servant shall leave the premises without obtaining permission from the Resident Surgeon.
15. The Dispenser, Matron, Nurses and other Servants shall give one month's notice to the resident surgeon of their intention to resign their situations.
16. Patients shall be admitted into the hospital by the Resident Surgeon only.
17. All patients admitted to the hospital shall be accountable for the expense incurred on their behalf. The charge will be made by the Resident Surgeon according to the position and circumstances of the person. In all cases, of alleged poverty, the Resident Surgeon shall determine what remission, if any, shall be made.
18. No patient shall be allowed to go beyond the hospital grounds without permission from the Resident Surgeon on pain of expulsion.
19. Any money or other valuable property in the possession of a patient will at the request of the patient, be taken charge of otherwise no responsibility will be incurred by the Authorities.
20. No spirituous liquors or provisions of any kind, shall be introduced into the hospital, or supplied to any of the patients without the permission of the Resident Surgeon.
 

N.B. The law will be strictly enforced against any person breaking this bye-law, and any servant of the hospital who is privy to the infringement of this rule will be immediately dismissed.
21. All visitors shall enter their names in a book to be kept for the purpose.
22. Out-patients shall attend twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) from 10 to 11 a.m. with an order from the Provincial Secretary. Such orders will be given only in charitable cases.
23. All patients and servants connected with the hospital shall conduct themselves with sobriety, cleanliness and honesty, both out of and within doors. They shall not use profane language, play at any game of chance, nor smoke or chew tobacco within doors. They shall obey the viva voce instructions of the Resident Surgeon, and if guilty of insubordination shall be subject to immediate dismissal.
24. The Provincial Government will recognise no accounts that are not in accordance with the dietary scales, unless ordered by the Resident Surgeon, such order to be vouched for in writing and annexed to the Bill, when forwarded to the Provincial Secretary's Office.

Christchurch Hospital, Contd.

1866. Extract from Provincial Government papers - Session 27-30, Vol. 1867/68.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>1866.</u>	M.	F.	<u>1867.</u>	M.	F.
Fever	2	2	Heart Disease	4	
Gangrene of Lungs	1		Fever	5	2
Gunshot Wound	1		Phthisis	3	
Enteritis	1		Compression of brain	1	
Phthisis	2	1	Laryngitis	2	
Gangrene of Feet		1	Crushed leg	1	
Chronic laryn- gitis.	1		Gangrene of Abdom- inal tumour.		1
Heart Disease	1		Mesentric Disease		1
Gangrene	1		Cancer of Womb		1
Jaundice	1		Cirrhosis of Liver.	1	
Hip Joint Disease	1		Endocarditis	1	
			Pneumonia	1	
			Pneumonia Hottia	1	

1867. In 1867 additions were made to the Hospital. D. Reese secured this contract at £860. For a period of twelve months in 1866-67 the Hospital had a monthly average of 37 males and 13 females, or 50 patients.

Dr. L. Powell, Resident Surgeon, wrote to the Provincial Government and stressed the need for a bath-room for the Hospital, and suggested that one be erected immediately in the kitchen yards.

The Staff consisted of:

House Surgeon	£250	4 Night Nurses totalling	£40
Visiting Surgeon	£100	Cook	£40
Visiting Physician	£100	Laundry Maid	£10
Dispenser	£150	Housemaid	£25
Matron	£ 50	Porter	£50
4 Nurses totalling	£170	Boy	£185/-

Total Salaries paid - £1,033:5:0d.

Expenditure.

Diets Etc.	£1,000	Crockery etc.	£100
Wine & Spirits	250	Surgical Materials	100
Ale for Nurses	30	Undertaker	120
Fuel	150	Consultation Fees	105
Drugs	150		

Total expenditure - £2,005.

Christchurch Hospital, contd.1869.

By 1st January, 1869, the hospital accommodation was taxed to the limit, and three or four patients had to be removed to the Immigration Barracks. Approval was given for the building of a padded room, and an additional wing was built to accommodate twenty patients. The hospital, with six wards, had accommodation for 67 patients, who were attended to by four day nurses and two night nurses. Patients were expected to pay £1/-/- per week each. The number admitted during the year were 198 males and 83 females - 254 were discharged and 27 died. The cost of each bed was reckoned at £47/-/- per annum. The out-patients numbered 1,071, and the expenditure for the year was £2,702:5:0d. Dr. Burrell Parkerson, Jnr. reported that spirituous liquors at a cost of £300:8:6d. had been consumed during the year.

1870.

Extract from Government papers - Session XXXIV, No. 9, 16th April, 1870, Medical Staff, Christchurch Hospital:-

"Coincidentally with abolition of the Lyttelton Hospital, the introduction of machinery, in the various branches of industry, the extension of the railway, and the increase of population, it has been found necessary from time to time to enlarge considerably the accommodation afforded by the Christchurch Hospital. At present it numbers 67 beds, and there is every prospect of further additions being found necessary."

The medical and surgical staff consisted of one visiting physician, one oculist, one visiting and one resident surgeon. This, in the opinion of the committee, was insufficient. It was recommended that two visiting physicians, two visiting surgeons, an oculist and pathologist and a resident surgeon be appointed. Such an enlargement of the staff would have the further advantage of affording to the profession generally more opportunities for the practical study of medical and surgical science.

1871.

Extract from the Christchurch Hospital Annual Report, November, 1871 - Session XXXVI - No. 35:-

"The working of the hospital during the year was considered satisfactory. The number of accidents had been considerably less, partly owing to the better protection of the flax machinery, as there were more cases from that source than any other. Fever had been very prevalent. Sixty cases were received into the hospital and only four deaths occurred. The out-patient department had much increased, over a thousand cases having been attended during the year - admissions, 214 males, 85 females; deaths, 17 males, 8 females. The first consignment of drugs was received from Home, and proved so satisfactory that an earnest recommendation to the Government for regular supplies was made. The hospital was lighted with gas - a most decided advantage, with forty-two lights. There was much less danger of fire. The interior had been thoroughly whitewashed. The fever wards were the oldest part of the building and it was proposed to apply to the Government for a grant to supplement the legacy of £100 - later increased to £250 from the lat Mr. Maunsell to build a new fever ward."

Dr. B. Parkerson, Jnr. pressed the need for a new fever ward in 1872. Contracts were entered into for two new wards (4 and 5) known as the Maunsell and Rolleston wards. There were twenty-four beds in each, attached with a covered way.





original Hospital - Christchurch  
1862.



Christchurch Hospital - 1872.

Christchurch Hospital. contd.1872.

The old Heathcote Road Board office on the corner of Ensors and Ferry Roads was taken into service as a fever hospital during an epidemic when smallpox broke out in July, 1872. B. W. Mountfort, Provincial Architect, furnished plans and specifications for the erection of a temporary hospital. The estimate came to £366.10.0. In October, Dr. Parkerson complained of having as many as forty-seven out-patients in one day in the hospital dispensary, and as few made any attempt to pay for service. He requested that the Charitable Aid Officer should sift out the able-to-pay from those who required free treatment. The accommodation of patients about that time was limited to approximately 60 to 70 patients and remained as such for some time.

1873.

Dr. B. Parkerson, Jnr. - Session XL - No. 2 - 1873:-

"Little change has taken place in the Christchurch Hospital. I had hoped before this to have had two new wards in working order, but I fear some time must elapse before that takes place. At the rate immigrants are arriving, it is absolutely necessary that they should be completed as soon as possible. The present building has on one or two occasions lately been filled to over-crowding. The number of patients treated this year in the hospital shows a large increase on former years, the admittances for the twelve months being 276 males, 115 females, making a total of 391 patients. The out-patients department has also increased the number receiving advice and medicine during the year. The number of patients treated when the new wing is finished may be double the present figure. The newly appointed day nurse is of great benefit to the comfort and well-being of the patients as there are many things to be done. There is one thing to which I beg very strongly to call the attention of the Government, namely the necessity for having a public morgue and jury-room attached. A public hospital is not a proper place for dead bodies brought by the Police, and the present dead-house at the hospital is so small and inconvenient that if the present system is continued it must be rebuilt. Coroner's inquests are now held in our operating room, which is most inconvenient. I should suggest a proper morgue and room be attached to the new Police Department, and the present dead-house with some alterations would be large enough for hospital cases. I would also urge on the Government our great want at present of a good laundry. A great loss of time and labour is the present experience by the distance all clothes have to be carried. I would also advise that the internal fittings should at once be sent from England, that no unnecessary delay may take place from that cause."

In 1873, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke resigned and were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Fridgeon in the offices of dispenser and matron. The architects, Harman and Stevens forwarded to the Provincial Government the sum of £222.7.3d. - a legacy from the estate of C. F. Maunsell towards the erection of one of the new wards with a request that it be named the "Maunsell" Ward (Ward IV). The lying-in ward (1874-76) was in charge of Nisne and Lewis at a salary of £50 each per annum.

1875.

In 1875 Dr. Guthrie resigned as House Surgeon and Dr. Robinson was appointed. The question of control of the hospital brought variance.

Christchurch Hospital, contd.

1876.

In July, 1876, Dr. Robinson resigned, Dr. J. S. Hayes of Kaiapoi accepting the position. The question of control still loomed and Dr. Hayes relinquished office on 5th December, 1876, when Dr. Guthrie took over temporarily until March, 1877.

In 1876 the Provincial Government called for tenders and approved the addition of Ward 3, costing £5,350. This Ward was situated near the present Wards 12 and 13 and was removed in 1880.

At the close of the Canterbury Provincial Government regime in December, 1876, the Hospital had 115 beds, and when the new ward was completed, 28 additional beds were provided. Besides the medical and surgical wards there was a special ward for the diseases of women. Six beds in the hospital were kept for ophthalmic cases.

The following was the dietary scale:-

Full Diet. No. 1.

Meat (beef or mutton)  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. cooked free of bone, or 12 oz. with bone, bread 12 oz., potatoes  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Vegetables supplied on three days per week, bread or rice puddings on alternate days. Other items:- tea  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. sugar 1 oz., butter 10 oz., milk  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, salt, pepper, mustard. Meat is boiled or roasted on alternate days.

Broth Diet. No. 2.

Vegetable broth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints, if made from mince meat  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., bread 12 oz., tea  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., sugar 1 oz., butter 1 oz., milk 1 pint, porridge or gruel.

Milk Diet. No. 3.

Oatmeal for porridge or gruel 3 oz., if arrowroot  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz., if sago 3 oz., sugar 1 oz., bread  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., butter  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., milk  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints.

Items:-

Mutton chops, fish, milk, eggs, beef tea, when made from 1 lb steak or gravy beef free from fat to 1 pint of water; mutton tea, cocoa, beer, wine, spirits, lemonade, soda water.

Children under ten years of age received half diet.

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THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

1854. The founders of the Canterbury Province did not overlook the necessity for and the importance of providing for the care of the sick, for the treatment of disease and for the training of medical men. As early as 1854, the Canterbury Association presented to the Provincial Government as a hospital site the area now occupied by the Provincial Council Chambers and the old Government buildings. Five years later the inadequacy of this area was realised and the Council provided instead five acres in Hagley Park.

1858. But the Association further contemplated the establishment of a medical school in connection with Christ's College and it was to be attached to the hospital; for in 1858 it instructed its Agent in New Zealand on the initial steps it deemed advisable to take.

1875. During the earlier years of the Hospital's existence the project was more or less forgotten, but in 1875 the Provincial Government placed the sum of £300 on the estimates as a grant towards the establishment of a medical school as an adjunct to the hospital. That this scheme was well supported by the local practitioners is shown by lists drawn up by them of lectures and of lecturers and demonstrators. It may have been the inauguration of the medical course in the University of Otago at the beginning of that year which gave an impetus to further action in Christchurch. An interview was arranged between the Board of Governors of Canterbury College and a committee of the Hospital staff. This committee had reported that, as the College had no intention of introducing instruction in medicine, the Hospital staff wished to have the assistance of the Professor of Chemistry and the Lecturer in Biology to conduct courses suitable for medical students, for it had itself no funds available for such instruction. At a meeting on 6th August, 1875, the committee adopted a resolution referring the proposal for a Medical School to the College committee.

1876. But no other action is disclosed by the minutes of the Board until 29th February, 1876, when a letter was received from Dr. H. H. Prins, Chairman of the Hospital Staff, covering the report of a Commission set up by the Provincial Council to enquire into the matter of establishing a medical school. The Provincial Council on the eve of extinction set aside £300 as a grant for a Medical School.

Stressing the lack of such advantages as those offered by Universities, Technical Schools and similar institutions, the report suggested that a Medical School, besides providing a sound education in medicine would raise the tone and extend the usefulness of the teachers and lecturers, who for the most part would be the leading physicians and surgeons then in practice. In his letter, Dr. Prins indicated the need of land endowments, finance and management, making it clear the transfer to Canterbury College would meet the wishes of the Hospital staff, provided that any grants of land or money made to the proposed school would be allocated to a Medical Faculty in the College.

The School was established by proclamation in the Provincial Government Gazette, 15th September, 1876, but after the scheme had been drawn up in greater detail between the Council of School and the Board, it was found that no ordinance had been passed, the proclamation having been the outcome of consultations between the Superintendent of the Province and the Medical Staff of the Hospital.

The Medical School. contd.

1877.

However, a special committee of the Board of Governors recommended incorporation of the School, and in July, 1877, a resolution was adopted to that effect, and a Council was set up consisting of five members of the Board with five members of the Faculty, Dr. Turnbull being the first Dean; while in the following December a reserve of 5,000 acres was set aside as an endowment for the School.

There still remained the difficulty arising from lack of official recognition of the Faculty by the Hospital. The matter was referred to the Premier in Wellington, Sir George Grey, who assured the staff that he would bring legislation before Parliament to meet the situation and to set aside further reserves to provide the necessary finance. This was never done, for shortly afterwards the Premier was succeeded in office by Sir John Hall, and subsequently the Colonial Secretary informed the Council that the Government had no funds and also that no tenants could be found for the reserve of 5,000 acres.

Thus the attempt to establish a School of Medicine in Christchurch was productive of no result, for the ideal of the Association in connection with Christ's College has never been realised; and though the annual report of the Canterbury College Council shows that it still has a "Medical School Reserves Account," this does not suggest that it cherishes, for the present at least, any hope that a second Medical School will come into being. The income available is used as a contribution to the cost of the tuition of medical students in their intermediate year at the College.

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Original wards 1 and 2 - Ward 1 used for Tuberculosis cases.  
 Ward 2 later out-Patient Dispensary  
 Left hand portion - Porters.



Residents Staff Quarters.

Christchurch Hospital. contd.1876.

Exclusive of several private hospitals maintained by various medical men, there were two hospitals in Canterbury in 1875, one at Christchurch and one at Timaru with a Casualty Ward at Lyttelton. The annual vote of the Council for maintenance of the Christchurch Hospital was approximately £5,000. New and extensive fever wards had been built, containing excellent accommodation and capable of being isolated from the rest of the building. Patients were supposed to pay £1 per week for the first six weeks and 10/- per week afterwards, whilst in the hospital, but the institution was kept as much as possible for those who could not afford to pay for medical advice, and who were admitted gratis. The hospital at Timaru was of a smaller class maintained by the Government at approximately £1,200. There were 28 hospitals in the Colony in 1878 with provision for 768 males and 278 females. Through the year, 3,300 males were admitted and 1,000 females, and during the same period 380 deaths occurred - 305 males and 75 females. The total number of out-patients for the year was 17,000.

Undoubtedly the period 1876 to 1885 was one of confusion in administration. Conferences were held and most efforts defeated regarding the establishment of hospital districts, till in 1885 the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Bill was introduced and became law.

The Superintendent in 1876 requested Drs. Guthrie, Hedwill and Powell to take rotation as Acting House Surgeon until a permanent appointment could be made. The position was advertised in other centres, and it was hoped that a Doctor would be available from Wellington. The average number of patients at Christchurch Hospital was 70 at the cost of £110 per patient per annum.

1877.

On the 4th January, 1877, a new system of local self government entered upon the first stage of its existence. The representatives of the people were in most cases to know as much of the Counties Act as the Act knew about them. There was a haze of discussion in which loans, endowments, great works or small works struggled to reach the light.

Mr. William Rolleston, Chairman of the Selwyn County Council stated that there was one very important point in the Act with regard to the maintenance of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions. There was no doubt that many parts of the Act were defective and in which mistakes had been made by the legislature of the previous session. With regard to funds taken from the Counties, there was apparent conflict in the Act regarding the charge of Hospitals and Charitable Aid for the next six months. (Financial Arrangement Act.) As the law stood, it seemed that the charitable aid question would depend on the land fund.

1878.

Dr. Turnbull, Chairman of the Medical Board, tried to ascertain the status of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board - the Government had determined whether the members were appointed as individuals or as representatives of Local Bodies.

Christchurch Hospital, contd.

1879.

In 1879 the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board consisted of Henry Thomson, Chairman, the Mayors of Christchurch and Sydenham (and later Lyttelton), W. Montgomery, J. E. Brown, and Dr. Turnbull. Maurice A. Chilton had resigned and Mr. Pridgeon (Dispenser) acted as House Surgeon. J. E. March was Secretary; Mr. Souter, Collector of hospital accounts which were not paid to the Steward on the patients' discharge, but collected on a 15% basis; R. T. Bell, House Steward, L. A. Hawkes, Assistant Dispenser and Librarian. The Board resolved to take into consideration the appointment of a qualified Resident Surgeon at £500 per annum. The total number of patients in hospital was 74.

The receipts for the quarter ending 30th September, 1879, were as follows:-

Christchurch Hospital.	£95.10. 6
Hospital Cottage, Akaroa.	51. 4. 0
Orphanage, Lyttelton.	51.10. 0
Casualty Ward "	1. 1. 0
Charitable Aid Refund	2. 0. 0
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	£201. 5. 6
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A letter was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary showing the number of medical practitioners connected with the Hospital, and for that reason, there was delay in the appointment of a permanent medical officer as requested by the Government. No minutes had been kept by the Hospital Staff of their proceedings.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded for the information of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, a copy of the letter from certain members of the Medical Profession. The Board considered it unnecessary to waste any more time in reply to specious statements made by members of the late Hospital Staff, and relied on the Government to sustain the Board in its voluntary and arduous duties.

Instructions were received from Wellington by the Mayor of Christchurch for the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board under the Provincial District of Canterbury to undertake the administration of hospital and charitable aid for Christchurch and environs, a Committee to consist of the Mayors of Christchurch and Sydenham, the Chairman of the Selwyn County Council and Messrs. Montgomery and Brown.

The Government forwarded a copy of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Bill and asked for any recommendation which the Board might suggest.

Mr. and Mrs. Pridgeon, Dispenser and Matron, resigned, and the Board placed on record the valuable services rendered by the former during the long period he held office both in the position of Acting House Surgeon and Dispenser in the hospital. L. A. Hawkes was appointed in his place as Dispenser. Applicants were invited for a House Surgeon at £250 per annum with apartment and attendance and Dr. W. R. Davies was appointed.

The Secretary of the Destitute Patients' Relief Fund, Mr. Bell, asked for two members of the Board to be appointed to co-operate in managing the fund. The Mayor of Christchurch and the Chairman were nominated.





1888-90.



1881

Christchurch Hospital, contd.1880.

Applications were invited for the services of a Matron who had to be a trained hospital nurse. Miss A. M. Emmond was appointed in 1880, and resigned in 1881. Nurses were paid at the rate of £10 per annum for the first six months. The House Surgeon was allowed to permit probationers to act as nurses outside the hospital, upon the Medical Attendant of the person requiring the services agreeing to pay the Hospital Board 30/- per week. It was ordered that in the future all stimulants to patients should cease and only be given as medicine on the order of the House Surgeon. The subject of granting an allowance for nurses and laundry women was referred to the Hospital Committee. It was recommended that day and night nurses and their assistants as well as the dresser and laundry maids be allowed one pint of beer daily, or 4 oz. of brandy in lieu thereof at the discretion of the House Surgeon. In 1880, two night nurses who resided outside the hospital received notice that a resident permanent nurse would be appointed, and so were given notice that their services would not be required further.

CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITAL STAFF, AUGUST, 1880.

House Surgeon	p.a.	£250	Day Nurses (3 females)		
House Steward	"	200		p.a.	£135
Secretary	"	100	Night Nurses	"	45
Dispenser	"	120	Cleaners		
Matron	"	60	(3 females @ £30)	p.a.	90
Dresser	"	100	Cook		80
Gatekeeper	"	30	Kitchen Boy	"	18
Porter	"	52	Housemaid	"	50
Night Nurses			Laundress	"	40
(2 males @ £45 ea.)		90	" asst.	"	35

The Colonial Secretary intimated that a reduction of 10% per annum was to be made from all salaries and wages of persons employed by or under the direction of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. (About this time a serious depression raged throughout the Colony.)

1881.

The question of providing accommodation for infectious cases was brought up, and the Hospital Committee conferred with the Hospital Staff as to the accommodation required. It was decided that the limit of residence for the patients in the Hospital be one month, and that a certificate by the attending surgeon or physician be given, such certificate to be renewed from time to time. Several applications for relief which were made to the Hospital Board were referred to the Charitable Aid Committee.

The Government was requested to furnish a return of the amount contributed from each local body towards the cost of the hospital, the Orphanage, the Ashburton Home, and Charitable Aid expenditure, since the formation of the Board.

The Board's attention was drawn to the very low salary (£60) per annum paid to the matron, which was also subject to the 10% reduction. A low salary was possibly named with the intention of increasing it in the event of the duties being efficiently performed. The committee reported that the matron gave entire satisfaction and her salary was increased to £80.

Permission was asked to replace the trees on the ground adjoining the Acclimatisation Society, almost two acres in extent, to form an orchard, which would not only

Christchurch Hospital. contd.

be a source of pleasure, but one of profit to the institution by the sale of surplus products.

The House Surgeon was informed that the Board could not entertain any change in the interior management of the hospital pending the passing of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Bill then before Parliament. Letters were read from the Hon. E. Richardson, Messrs. Stevens, Andrews and Fisher, M.H.R., regarding the establishment of a benevolent institution.

The Colonial Secretary notified the appointment of the Hon. E. C. J. Stevens as an additional member of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board in consequence of the strong representation made to the Government with regard to increasing the number of members.

The matron of the hospital resigned on the 14th November, 1881, and the House Surgeon, Dr. A. F. J. Nickle, also resigned at that time, Dr. R. M. Robinson being appointed to fill his place. Amended duties of the matron were considered and application was made to the Colonial Secretary for the salary to be raised to £100 per annum. Applications for the office of matron were read, but as not one of the candidates possessed the requisite qualifications, the matter was referred to a special meeting. The Hospital Committee recommended that an attendance book be kept for the staff to sign daily.

The following is a return of all moneys paid to the Public Account since the Board took office:-

<u>Christchurch Hospital.</u>	<u>Akaroa Hospital.</u>	<u>Casualty Ward.</u>			
1879. £675. 2. 11	1879. £35. 14. 8	1879. £63. 13. 3			
1880. 507. 18. 7	1880. 109. 14. 0	1880. 42. 0. 0			
1881. 558. 1. 8	1881. 47. 14. 0	1881. 37. 8. 6			
<u>£1,741. 3. 2</u>	<u>£193. 2. 8</u>	<u>£143. 1. 9</u>			
<u>Canterbury Orphanage.</u>	<u>Ashburton Home.</u>	<u>Charitable Aid.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>		
1879. £331. 12. 0.	1880. £10. 12. 0.	1879. £40. 17. 5			
1880. 258. 18. 7.		1880. 12. 14. 0			
1881. 194. 11. 2		1881. 22. 7. 2			
<u>£785. 1. 9</u>	<u>£10. 12. 0.</u>	<u>£75. 18. 7</u>	<u>£2948. 19. 4.</u>		

Mr. H. Thomson expressed his desire to resign from the office of Chairman. He had held the position since the Board was formed, a period of 3½ years. It was the unanimous wish of the Board that he should retain the office.

The Honorary staff impressed upon the Board the absolute necessity of erecting a contagious ward. It was suggested that a conference be sought with the Board of Health on the subject.

An application was made for admission to the Hospital for instruction in nursing. In the opinion of the staff, it was undesirable that any person should be admitted to the Hospital for the purpose of receiving instruction in nursing, there being no trained person to impart the necessary instruction.

Christchurch Hospital, contd.

The expenditure for the three years of the Christchurch Hospital was:-

1879	£5,307. 7. 3
1880	4,693. 9. 2
1881	4,730. 1. 11

1882. In 1882, the resignation of the Dispenser, Mr. Hawkes was received, and Mr. Hobden was elected.

The Hospital had no proper, organised Medical Staff, but a system of electing an Honorary Staff was under consideration in 1883.

1883. In March, 1883, the Christchurch District Local Board of Health brought under notice the desirability, for health purposes, of the erection of a building for the reception of infectious diseases and suggested that with the likely extension of hospital grounds, this would be regarded as a matter of urgency. The Acclimatisation Society was agreeable to the extension being made in the direction of the grounds under its control and to transfer a portion of the same to the Hospital Board. As the Government was in possession of the whole circumstances connected with the matters of the hospital kitchen and drainage, the Board considered that both works should be put into hand immediately. As the Hospital Board had taken no steps to have the drainage nuisance abated, the Drainage Board had no alternative but to prosecute the Board. The Colonial Secretary authorised the immediate purchase of a kitchen range but could not sanction further expenditure until the result of the action taken by the Drainage Board was known.

1884. In April, 1884, the Government was asked that the vote of £1,000 allocated for the Christchurch Hospital should not be allowed to lapse. The Colonial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Dick, was asked to meet the Board to discuss the question of improvements. As the present arrangements had existed for eight years, it seemed to have assumed a permanent character. The Minister had not undertaken anything in the matter of hospitals, and the Board was in the powerless position of a mere recommending body. There was no Act in existence defining their powers. It was resolved that the Board recommend the Government to carry out the drainage of the hospital as advised by the Government officer.

1885. In 1885, an attempt to reduce a somewhat chaotic state of affairs to some semblance of order, and uniformity took shape in the Hospitals Act which provided for the constitution of special hospital districts and boards.

The Hospitals and Charitable Aid Institution Act, 1885, provided that the administration of hospitals should be placed under one Board and of charitable aid under another. The former became the North Canterbury Hospital Board.

Several points in connection with the administration of the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885, were emphasised by the Premier. The Boards of united districts were only "for the purposes of the contribution for and distribution of charitable aid" and the Minister thought it probable that the Boards need only meet once or twice a year to arrange for the obtaining and allocation of the funds.