

KING GEORGE V CORONATION MEMORIALHOSPITAL.

1911.

On 10th May, 1911, His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, T. E. Taylor, Esq. called together a meeting of citizens of Christchurch and surrounding districts to consider the best means of celebrating the Coronation of His Most Gracious Majesty, King George V. At a meeting held on the 22nd June, it was decided that a permanent memorial in the form of a Home or Hospital for persons suffering from advanced consumption should be established.

A Coronation Memorial Executive Committee was formed consisting of:-

His Worship the Mayor,
Christchurch.

The Hon. C. Louison

The Hon. H. F. Wigman

Dr. Thacker

Dr. Chilton

Messrs. J. A. Frostick

W. Miller

J. J. Dougall

H. G. Ell

S. H. Seager

W. R. Smith

Jas. Jamieson

C. Allison

F. Vincent

Geo. Scott

E. W. Ralph

T. H. Davy

C. H. A. T. Opie

A. S. Taylor

Charles Bean

Geo. Harper

H. J. Deswick

E. Norton.

His Worship the Mayor, Woolston

His Worship the Mayor, Spreydon

His Worship the Mayor, Sumner

The Mayoress (Mrs. T. E. Taylor)

Messdames Burgoyne

W. H. Cooper

J. J. Dougall

T. Gapes

A. D. Hart

H. Holland

W. Hunter

W. Miller

C. D. Morris

E. Smith

W. R. Smith

H. B. Sorensen

A. Williams

Mr. Henry Holland was elected Chairman and Mr. H. R. Smith (Town Clerk of Christchurch) was appointed Honorary Treasurer to the fund.

Dr. G. J. Blackmore emphasized the need for a Home for patients who had tuberculosis in an advanced form. The Sanatorium was ill devised for economical and efficient working, and the site was by no means suitable. The expense of removal (to Oxford) and transferring the Sanatorium was beyond the Board's financial means. A Home would be part of a comprehensive scheme to eradicate consumption and would be of untold benefit to the public generally.

Nurse Haude, who for twenty years or more, had devoted her life to the relief of suffering humanity, gave some impressions gained from personal contact with the patients in their homes. She had tried for years to cope with consumption in a small way and was more than ever anxious to get at the root of the evil instead of filling the institution with patients. She told of revolting facts which had to be faced, and pleaded for help for the many who were suffering and for the liberal giving of money "as a thank offering for one's own good health."

King George V Coronation Memorial Hospital, contd.1912.

Subscriptions were received from all classes of the community until the sum of approximately £4,453 became available. This amount was placed at the disposal of the North Canterbury Hospital and Charitable Aid Board and with the Government subsidy - a further sum of £5,037 - a total of £9,234 was reached. The gift was handed over unconditionally.

The General Committee recognised that in the selection of a site and preparation of plans, the Hospital authorities must have full control as the final responsibility rested with them. Plans were drawn up by Messrs. Collins and Harman with the advice of Dr. G. J. Blackmore, the Medical Superintendent of the Sanatorium. In October, the Board was advised by the Inspector-General to accept the lowest tender of £10,450 including extras; the successful tenderer was Mr. J. Taylor. Considerable excavating had to be made for the building - designed in brick with a tiled roof. There was accommodation for forty-four patients with rooms for staff and Junior House Surgeon.

1913.

The foundation stone of the King George V. Coronation Hospital was laid on the 28th January, 1913, by His Excellency the Governor of the Dominion, the Earl of Liverpool. On His Majesty's birthday, 3rd June, 1914, the Hon. Sir R. N. Rhodes officially opened the Hospital. It was primarily established for advanced cases of tuberculosis, most of the admissions being placed there for the purpose of observation. Miss M. Urquhart was appointed Sister-in-charge, and Miss Trumble followed till she left for active service in 1915 when Miss Webster filled the vacancy. Eighteen patients were transferred from the Christchurch Hospital, and the forty-three beds were soon occupied.

1917.

It was not long before demands were made for extending the accommodation, especially soldier patients returning from active service. Verandah and balcony extensions were carried out to accommodate twelve more patients in 1917, and a cottage was erected for the use of the Sister-in-charge and another for the Medical Officer.

1920.

Twelve more beds were available and there seemed no limit to the number of beds required. People from other parts of New Zealand were tending to find their way to Christchurch and Dunedin, the only two Boards dealing with consumption. In the North Island only a few beds were available for advanced cases. Since the Coronation Hospital was built, twenty-four beds had been added.

1923.

A recreation room built on the terrace and west of the Institution was brought into use, also the extensions to the Nurses' Home, which gave extra accommodation for the staff and to ensure the regular fortnightly day off duty.

The Red Cross Society promised a liberal donation in 1921 towards an X-ray plant, but the matter was held over till 1923 when a cheque of £512 was handed to the Board as the Society's contribution towards a building and apparatus.

King George V Coronation Memorial Hospital, contd.1927.

Some Men patients were transferred from the Coronation Hospital to the Upper Sanatorium to make room for more women. Owing to the lack of accommodation and the conditions prevailing in the homes of the patients, women were admitted temporarily to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Burwood. By the end of 1928, 797 patients had been admitted to the institution.

1929.

More room was required for advanced cases. A new storey for 37 beds for patients, extensions to the maids' quarters and the porters' cottage were built. The porters had been housed in the lightly constructed shelters that originally stood in the Christchurch Hospital grounds, and were moved to the Cashmere Hills sixteen years ago.

1930.

The ground floor of the Coronation Hospital was completely renovated in readiness for the cases of bone and joint tuberculosis, thereby relieving the Christchurch Hospital of the cost of maintaining such cases. Dr. L. A. Bennett was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Tuberculosis Institutions at this date.

1931.

Economies were practised as in all the Board's institutions, and the staff reduced to the extent that when a member of the staff left of his or her own accord, the position was not filled. Patients were transferred from the Upper Sanatorium to the Sanatorium and Coronation Hospital when the Upper Sanatorium closed. As the patients were confined to two institutions and brought under the one heading, the Board terminated the engagement of Dr. E. H. H. Taylor in 1932.

1932.

Other than the ordinary upkeep and improvements, there is little to record in connection with the Coronation Hospital from 1933 to 1939.

A tender was accepted for £2,248 and the X-ray plant for the Tuberculosis Institution was installed.

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MILITARY SANATORIUM - 1916 - 1922.

KNOWN AS THE UPPER SANATORIUM FROM 1922 - 1932.

1916.

The Board approached the Government to ascertain whether it would be advisable for it to erect a sanatorium for soldiers on the new ground attached to the Cashmere Sanatorium. The Sanatorium could be made applicable to the whole of the South Island and when the need for it ceased to exist, it could be taken over by the Board as an extension of its institutions. The Minister of Defence notified the Board that all soldier patients should be at the Te Waikato Sanatorium where additional accommodation was about to be erected. The Hon. G. W. R. Russell intimated that a proposal was under consideration for the establishment of a separate consumptive Sanatorium in the Provincial District of Canterbury. The Te Waikato Sanatorium was devoted entirely to the reception of male patients, and it was possible to arrange transport of soldiers from Cashmere to Cambridge. The patients signed a petition begging that they should not be sent north, and wished to complete their treatment under Dr. Blackmore.

1918.

The Defence Department decided to erect its own buildings where both soldiers and discharged men would be provided for entirely independent of civil requirements. Surgeon-General Henderson, Director of Medical Services, asked the North Canterbury Hospital Board for the use of land at Cashmere for a temporary sanatorium - all expenses to be borne by the Defence Department. He also asked for permission for Dr. Blackmore to give medical supervision. The medical and nursing staff would be provided by the Defence Department. The site would in no way affect the building proposals of the Board with regard to the Open Air Home for Children. Sketch plans, preliminary estimates and the best methods of securing an early completion of the work was discussed. The Board was not desirous of granting a lease of the land nor did it require any return in the form of rent, but was prepared to give occupancy to the Department of a definite area for the purpose of the treatment of soldiers suffering from tuberculosis. A temporary annexe was arranged for. The Board's surveyors were instructed in 1919 to prepare a plan showing the area of land loaned to the Defence Department.

1919.

1920.

The Military Sanatorium was built and the Board relieved of the care of soldiers. The buildings were hurriedly erected and completed within six months at the end of the War. Consideration of such essentials as the lasting quality of the buildings, economical working and administration were over-looked in order to hurry forward the completion of the institution. The Departmental Officers believed that the institution would only be required for five years for the treatment of tuberculous ex-soldiers, and with this idea in view, the buildings were erected as cheaply as possible as they were not to be permanent.

The Vocational Branch of the Defence Department established a poultry farm and commenced demonstrations in fruit culture etc. In April, Brigadier-General McGavin asked if the Board would be willing to take over the Military Sanatorium towards the end of June, and if so upon what terms. A special committee met in June with regard to the transfer of military patients. The following points were agreed upon and recommended for the Board's acceptance:-

Military Sanatorium - Upper Sanatorium, contd.

- "(1) Buildings and equipment to be handed to the Board free of cost, present transport vehicles to be regarded as equipment.
- (2) The Board to undertake the maintenance and treatment of all patients in the institutions at the time of transfer and such patients as may be sent in by the Defence Department from time to time.
- (3) The Board to maintain all buildings and equipment.
- (4) The Department to pay the Board full cost of maintenance, less any proportion of the cost applicable to such civil patients as may be admitted by the Board.
- (5) The Board's medical officer to have full control over patients.
- (6) Payments on account to be made from time to time as may be agreed.
- (7) The present staff will be available for selection, or the Department will retain the services of such till the Board is able to fill the necessary positions."

1920. An agreement was arrived at, and the North Canterbury Hospital Board took over at midnight on the 31st August, 1920. The transfer was withdrawn in September, 1920. Patients petitioned the House against the Hospital Board administration but this action was based on grave misunderstandings on their part.

1922. The Military Sanatorium was taken over by the North Canterbury Hospital Board in 1922, running as a separate institution over which Dr. Blackmore, as Medical Director of Tuberculosis Institutions, exercised no control. The Military Sanatorium was, in the future, to be known as the "Upper Sanatorium". The staff consisted of Dr. Aitken, Medical Superintendent, Dr. Pemberton, Assistant Medical officer, Miss Trumble, Matron. All medical and ordinance equipment on loan was transferred to the Board.

1923. Miss Trumble, who was appointed Matron to the Fresh Air Home in 1923, was replaced by Miss McLeod. The Board decided in July that civilian patients were to be admitted to the Upper Sanatorium, five beds to be held open for service patients.

1925. The civilian men patients were transferred to the Upper Sanatorium, and Dr. Aitken became responsible for their treatment. During the previous three years of the Board's control, the patients had all been ex-service men. Further shelters were built to leave the Middle Sanatorium available for women.

1927. Dr. H. T. Jennings was appointed Assistant Medical Officer temporarily, and resigned in August. Dr. E. H. H. Taylor filled the vacancy.

Military Sanatorium - Upper Sanatorium, contd.1929.

Dr. Macintyre was in charge from 1st March, 1929 and Dr. W. Aitken left in May. Patients were transferred to the Middle Sanatorium and Coronation Hospital.

1932.

The Upper Sanatorium, which was a temporary building erected by the Military Authorities, was abandoned in 1932. Furnishings and equipment were taken into stock or absorbed into other institutions. The building was dismantled and sold by auction. The buildings reserved were, the doctor's cottage, the nurses' home and Orderlies' cottage. The shelters were sold for removal as they stood.



Fresh Air Home. Upper Sanatorium.

Nurses' Home
Administration Block

Men's shelters

Dr's' House.
Coronation Hospital.

FRESH AIR HOME.1914.

The movement for the erection of the Fresh Air Home for children who were predisposed to tuberculosis commenced in March, 1914 when Dr. Blackmore reported that Sister Rochfort who was then in charge of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, was anxious to initiate a movement having for its object the provision of an institution for dealing with children. The Board granted her permission to take action. She called a meeting of ladies interested in philanthropic work in the city to secure their co-operation in the Dispensary work and the subject of an institution for children which met with general approval.

The following executive was appointed:-

Sister Rochfort, Bishops Julius and Grimes, Dr. Fenwick, Messames Fountain, Humphreys and McLennan, Misses Meadows and Stodard, Dr. J. Hight, Messrs. R. E. MacDougall, G. T. Aschman, D. Hember, J. A. Fisher, P. L. Hallenstein and H. Holland.

A provisional committee was set up, and the Mayor of Christchurch was asked to hold a meeting. A large sum of money was collected, reaching a total of £3,411. The Executive Committee asked the Board if it would take charge of the money raised and take over and maintain the Home when erected. Owing to the outbreak of war, the matter was not followed up as Government finance was then uncertain and the Minister was not disposed to grant a subsidy on so large a sum.

1915.

Mr. G. D. Greenwood of Teviotdale very generously offered to provide a site for the institution on his property north of Amberley, but, for various reasons, the Board could not accept the offer. The cost of building material and labour went up by leaps and bounds due to the war. Plans were prepared which served to meet the requirements, and the site selected was situated east of the Military Sanatorium, but in view of financial stringency, the Hon. the Minister reluctantly withheld his consent. He considered that only work of an absolute necessity should be carried out.

1919.

The consent of the Minister was given to the subsidy being paid, and authority was given by the Board to proceed with the plans. The cost again was prohibitive, and efforts were then made to obtain a modified plan, and in this, the Board was successful, and then, once again, intimation was given to the Board that the Department would prefer that the erection should be put off for at least another year.

1922.

In June, 1922 the Board was much gratified at the decision of the Minister to grant subsidy on the donations, and in September, consent was given for the erection of the building.

The Home was opened on 20th October, 1923, and placed under the guidance of Matron Trumble who was transferred from the Upper Sanatorium.

The capacity of the Home was thirty-two; 4 four-bed dormitories for boys, and 4 four-bed dormitories for girls, all opening on the verandahs. Twenty-eight children were in residence from the 16th October. The age limit was twelve years for boys and fourteen for girls.

Fresh Air Home, contd.

There were many enthusiastic workers for the campaign to raise funds for the building. The Canterbury Commercial Travellers alone contributed £839. It was Dr. Blackmore's suggestion that parts of the Home be named after the contributors and districts which had donated £100 and over. The Board agreed to inscribe a brass plate at the main entrance of the Home to indicate that the money for the building of the Home was contributed by residents of the North Canterbury Hospital District.



Fresh Air Home.



Open Air School.



OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

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1923. Consideration was given to the education of the children at the Fresh Air Home, and a room was provided in the administrative block of the Sanatorium. The Hospital Board made application to the Education Department for them to undertake the staffing of a school for the instruction of the thirty children who were all of school age.

1924. The Education Board appointed Miss Hilda Walker in February to take charge of the school subject to the regulations and gladly co-operated with the Hospital Board in the preparation of plans, and the supervision of the building of an open air school.

The Canterbury Rugby Union handed the Board a cheque for £375 in September, being the proceeds of a "Charity Day" collection allocated for the purpose of erecting a schoolroom based on the plan of a room at St. Andrew's College. As a result of the efforts of Mrs. J. C. Holmes, approximately £200 was collected through contributions from two hundred and twenty schools. Young New Zealanders, through their goodness of heart, had willingly given their pennies towards the cause. The total amount received in donations and subsidy was £1,116 and the Education Department agreed to contribute one third of the cost provided that the plans met with its approval.

1925. The building was designed by the Architect of the Canterbury Board of Education with suggestions from Dr. Blackmore, the Board's Specialist in tuberculosis. The work was carried out by the staff of the Education Board.

The school was officially opened on the 11th August, by His Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand, Sir Charles Ferguson.

SWIMMING POOL.

1939. The swimming pool was contemplated in 1937. The North Canterbury Hospital Board provided £300, the Lord Ruffield Fund £100 and the Government contributed by subsidising labour from the men engaged on scheme 13 to the extent of £80. The Sanatorium Service Society, through Mr. P. H. Harris, found the balance of the money required. The pool was completed in 1939.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.1912.

Dr. Blackmore explained the working of a dispensary should the North Canterbury Hospital Board undertake to establish a building and carry out his proposals. A conference was held between the Medical Superintendents of the Sanatoria, the Chief Health Officer and the Board, regarding the measures to be undertaken.

1922.

The Dispensary was established in Aruagh Street in the building formerly the offices of the Ashburton and North Canterbury Charitable Aid Board.

Dr. Blackmore interviewed the first patients in August. A Sister attended daily and visited the patients' homes as desired.

The Dispensary assists the Tuberculosis Institutions, but the work is chiefly preventative. Precautions are taken in the homes to prevent infection, and advice is given and recommendations made as regards examinations. Ex-patients of the Institutions are periodically examined at the Dispensary.

The routine of the Dispensary work progresses with little variation.