

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.



Diphtheria Ward.



Isolation Ward and Nurses' Home.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

BOTTLE LAKE.

1900. In 1900 the Commissioner of Health (Dr. W. H. Symes) approached the Hospital Board to ascertain if any arrangements or proposals had been made for the medical care and nursing of possible plague cases. As the Board had not made any provision on the estimates for such a contingency, the Government was communicated with asking for a loan for the purpose. If granted, the Board would undertake to place a similar sum on the estimates for the next year. The Board proposed to utilize the infectious diseases ward at the Christchurch Hospital in the meantime, if a case of plague should occur. Although the Board had the power to erect buildings, it would not compel the local contributing bodies to contribute to the erection of such buildings (Southland Contributors versus Southland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board).

It appears that the Bottle Lake Hospital was established on the reserve vested in the City Council, and known as the Bottle Lake Cemetery Reserve (in pursuance of the provision of the Public Health Act, 1900, pt. 41, Sec. 37). The local authorities left the selection of the site to Dr. Mason, Chief Health Officer for the Colony. The Hospital Board agreed to purchase from the City Council the freehold portion, about twenty acres at £4.10.0 per acre, and the lease of the reserve at £25 per annum. As soon as the purchase and lease were completed, the City Council was authorized to hand over the management of the Infectious Diseases Hospital to the North Canterbury Hospital Board on such terms as were approved of by the Health Department. Dr. Mason pointed out that the onus of providing for infectious cases was cast upon the local authorities, but in fairness to them after providing the land, the Board should take over the management and allow the Health Department to have some measure of control as it would have had if the City Council continued the supervision of it.

1902. In November, 1902, the Board took over the management and control of the Bottle Lake Hospital temporarily with a guarantee from the City Council to cover all expenditure, and permanently as soon as the Hospital and Reserve were definitely vested in the Board to come within the Hospital and Charitable Aid Act, 1885.

For the purpose of a site for an infectious diseases hospital, the area of ground was transferred to the North Canterbury Hospital Board under the Hospital Reserves Act, on the 19th December, 1903. One Hundred and eighty-seven acres, one rood, 23 perches, was conveyed to the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Christchurch in pursuance of the Cemeteries' Act, 1882, entered in the office of the District Land Reserves on the 15th October, 1900. The Board actually took over from 1st June, 1903. The buildings were of a very temporary character being canvas-covered structures and tents.

1903. Nurse Frances J. Beere accepted the Board's offer of £2.2.0 and food in payment of salary to act as nurse-in-charge. The Honorary Staff of the Christchurch Hospital was of opinion that it would be incompatible with the proper discharge of their duties for either the House Surgeon or the Assistant to have anything to do with the management of the Bottle Lake Hospital or the treatment of patients therein.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.

Owing to the multiplicity over the control and management, there is little wonder a deadlock occurred; the Chief Health Officer, the District Health Officer, the Mayor, the Hospital Board, the Honorary Staff, and the local authorities were all in disagreement.

When the City Council refused to authorise an outlay of £1,000, the Board resolved to take no further action in the management. The Council asked that the matter be reconsidered and that the Board continue the charge of Bottle Lake, limiting its expenditure to necessities until such time as the hospital was vested permanently in its hands. The City Council having practically agreed to the proposed expenditure on the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Hospital Board proceeded with the work with as little delay as possible.

Messrs. Collins and Harman, reported that as the levelling was finished and the sand firm, it would be safe to use concrete for piles instead of totara wood. The smallpox ward, about a quarter of a mile from the main building, was completed at a cost of £55, and two rooms for a doctor cost approximately £120. Dr. Livesey was appointed for three months at £250 per annum with quarters and food. In consequence of the decrease of scarlet fever there were comparatively few patients, so the resident medical officer resigned and the staff was re-organised in 1903. A married couple was advertised for, and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Seymour were appointed caretakers. Part of the caretaker's duties was to prevent patients walking outside the boundaries of the reserve. A qualified nurse with an assistant was also engaged.

When the Public Health Amendment Act was passed, and Bottle Lake Hospital became a branch of the main hospital, the onus of the care of infectious cases was transferred from the local authorities to the Hospital Board.

For the year ending March, 1903, 128 scarlet fever cases were treated in Ward 3, Christchurch Hospital. The following year they were transferred to Bottle Lake.

1904. The expenditure on maintenance was £200 for the first year.

1904 - 1905.

| <u>Receipts.</u> | | <u>Expenditure.</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Balance 1st Apl. 1904 | £1.15. 7 | Maintenance, Bottle |
| Contributions from | | Lake Hospital |
| local authorities - | | Refund, Ch.Ch. |
| Christchurch City | | City (Cost Bldgs.) |
| Council | £1,362.17. 4 | Refund Treasury |
| Lyttelton Borough | 100.17. 0 | (advance) |
| New Brighton " | 27. 1. 3 | Balance, Bank H. 2.1,296.10. 4 |
| Sumner " | 27. 9. 0 | 31/3/05. |
| Woolston " | 52. 4. 6 | |
| Avon Road Board | 50. 0. 0 | |
| Halswell Road " | 84. 4. 6 | |
| Hentcote " " | 59.19. 9 | |
| Lincoln " " | 81. 0. 0 | |
| Tai Tapu " " | 28. 2. 6 | |
| Templeton " " | 117.10. 6 | |
| Riccarton " " | 100. 0. 0 | |
| Subsidies | 937. 5. 8 | |
| Patients' Payments | 8.10. 0 | |
| | <u>£3,038.17. 7</u> | <u>£3,038.17. 7</u> |

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.1904.

The Mayor of Christchurch (H. Wigram, Esq.) called a conference in 1904 to adjust finally the accounts of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Sir Joseph Ward authorized the Chief Health Officer to act as Banker, and although the Health Department was technically in control, the institution was still under the Board's charge. A further meeting of representatives and members of the contributing bodies liable for the maintenance was called for the purpose of apportioning the cost, but amicable arrangements were delayed.

The Hospital Board was approached by the City Council to carry the establishment of the Infectious Diseases Hospital into effect by designing and erecting a suitable building, the Council meeting all necessary expenditure. The Chief and District Health Officers conferred with the Board and the local bodies adjoining the Bottle Lake Reserve. An agreement was arrived at by which the hospital was taken over from the City Council and a levy was made on the restricted area by which, with subsidy accruing, the City Council could be reimbursed for its outlay. The Hospital Board received no official communication from the City Council as to its manner of financing the project, consequently trouble arose from a misconception as the audit-inspector found on auditing the City Council's accounts that half the cost of the building and equipment had been met by subsidy, and when the Hospital Board's accounts were audited, he found that a subsidy claim was made for the same purpose. The Board's original intention was to pay the City Council its total outlay.

Dr. Pinch, the District Health Officer, asked if the Board would undertake the care and treatment of consumptive patients at Bottle Lake and at what charge, but the Board was not in a position to entertain the proposal. When Parliament gave the Board power to erect shelters for treatment of consumptive patients, the District Health Officer assumed that the Board would desire to take some action. Nurse Maude was doing splendid work at her camp (now Linton Street) but she did not take cases which were far advanced.

1905.

In March, 1905, a special meeting was held to discuss the question brought forward by the management of the Nurse Maude consumptive camp which was willing to hand over its work to the Board, including property, buildings and funds. The committee was willing to carry out the work if the Board would ultimately arrange to take over the responsibility. The provision laid down in the Health Act of 1905 empowered Hospital Boards to build annexes to accommodate consumptive cases. Such could not apply to the Christchurch Hospital as there was no space available, and Nurse Maude's camp was not suitable for a large number of patients.

With a view to taking concerted action in the matter, other Hospital Boards were communicated with. Messrs. G. Witty and Eli assured the meeting that they would use all their efforts to assist the Board in bringing the matter before Parliament to induce the Government to provide the necessary means for erecting a suitable building for the treatment of consumptives. A special conference committee was appointed to meet delegates from the Hospital Boards in the Canterbury Health Districts to discuss the whole question of providing a sanatorium.

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1905.

As there is little recorded on the Hospital files with regard to the infectious Diseases Hospital during the next few years, the following statement of receipts and expenditure must, therefore, suffice:-

| <u>Receipts.</u> | | <u>Expenditure.</u> | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Balance, 1st Apl. 1905. | | £1,296.10. 4 | Maintenance |
| Contributions from | | | Bottle Lake |
| Local Authorities - | | | Hospital |
| Christchurch | £123.17.11 | | £430.15. 9 |
| Riccarton | 100.12. 3 | | Balance, Bank |
| Heathcote | 59.19. 9 | | H. S. 31st |
| Spreydon | 39.15. 6 | | March, 1906. |
| AVON | 84. 8. 3 | 408.13. 8 | 1,582. 9. 8 |
| Subsidy £ for £ | | 282.17.11 | |
| Patients | | 18.16. - | |
| Refunds | 1. 7. 6 | | |
| " | 5. 0. 0 | 6. 7. 6 | |
| | | £2,013. 5. 5 | £2,013. 5. 5 |

| <u>Receipts.</u> | | <u>Expenditure.</u> | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| Balance 31st March, 1906 | £1,582. 9. 8 | Maintenance | |
| Refund | 2. 8. 9 | Bottle Lake | |
| Interest | 18.18. 1 | Hospital | £594. 0. 4 |
| | | Balance 31st | |
| | | March, 1907. | 1009.16.2 |
| | | £1,603.16. 6 | £1603.16.6 |

| <u>Receipts.</u> | | <u>Expenditure.</u> | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| Balance Mar. 31st. 1907. | £1,009.16. 2 | Maintenance - | |
| Rent Reserve | 15. 0. 0 | Bottle Lake | |
| Refunds | 7. 8. 4 | Hospital | £515. 5. 4 |
| | | Balance 31st | |
| | | Mar. 1908. | 516.19. 2 |
| | | £1,032. 4. 6 | £1032.4. 6 |

| <u>Receipts.</u> | | <u>Expenditure.</u> | |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Balance, 31st Mar. 1908. | £516.19. 2 | Maintenance | |
| Local Authorities | 500. 0. 0 | Bottle Lake | |
| Refunds | 3. 3. 0 | Hosp. | £525. 0.10 |
| | | Balance, 31st | |
| | | Mar. 1909. | 495. 1. 4 |
| | | £1020.2. 2 | £1020. 2. 2 |

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.

1909. Under the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1909, the hospital was transferred to the Board as the Infectious Diseases Hospital for the North Canterbury district, the area then being 187 acres, 1 rood, 23 perches. A large portion had to be remodelled in 1910, and a series of detached buildings was made.

The property was covered with broom, manuka, gorse and lupins, with a shelter belt of pines about thirty years old on the south side. Roughly 30 acres were occupied by the main wards, shelter sheds and outbuildings. The small-pox hospital was about 50 chains from the main building in a northerly direction. The balance of the land was let for a short term at £20 per acre. There were two large wards in the main building used for scarlet fever cases; there were also two moveable shelter sheds or tents, one was occupied by the caretakers and the other by the assistants. Five single shelter sheds or tents were used for observation cases, measles or chicken pox. The additional building consisted of bedroom, fumigating chamber, and washhouse. There was also a building 200 yards from the main building for a resident doctor. The water supply was from a deep artesian well and a run, and the drainage was taken into pits dug in the sand for that purpose. It appears that the well was sunk in 1903, approximately 280 feet deep, and the following are the strata of the locality:-

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 to 15 feet sand | 147 to 160 feet blue clay & peat |
| 15 " 40 " blue shingle | 160 " 170 " brown shingle |
| 40 " 83 " Blue sand | (2nd stratum) |
| 83 " 93 " clay and peat | 170 " 185 ft. yellow sand |
| 93 " 147 " brown shingle | 185 " 193 " blue sand |
| (1st stratum) | 193 " 211 " brown shingle |
| | (3rd stratum) |
| | rising 11 feet. |

The capital expenditure from April, 1910, to September, 1913, was as follows:-

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|----------------------|
| Hospital extension | £204.19. 7 | Playroom | £264.15. 9 |
| " " | 11.13. 4 | Treeplanting, clearing, fencing, etc. (1911) | 187.12.10 |
| Moving & Renovating Doctor's house and repairs to shelters | 52.15. 1 | Treeplanting (1913) | 42.16. 4 |
| Asphalting | 14. 0. 0 | Fencing (1913) | 85. 3. 6 |
| Small-pox hospital (1910/1911) | 223.16. 6 | TOTAL | <u>£ 1,110.17. 9</u> |
| (1913) | 26. 4.10 | | |

The staff consisted of Mrs. Seymour, Nurse-in-charge, Mr. Seymour, caretaker; a cook, and temporary nurse. A laundress was engaged when required. The food supply was taken from Christchurch by a neighbour who also supplied the milk to the institution. Medical attention was given by junior assistants from the Christchurch Hospital who received extra remuneration and were under the supervision of the Medical Superintendent, who visited all serious cases as required.

In 1903 - 113 cases were treated. In the years 1904-9 inclusive the annual numbers of cases of scarlet fever treated were 48, 23, 44, 37, 26 and 24. In May, 1910, there were 25 cases. It was considered that in the event of an

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.

epidemic the accommodation was certainly inadequate. The work entrusted to the Nurse-in-charge and those working with her had been carried out as efficiently as the adverse conditions existing there permitted. During the six and a half years that the Nurse-in-charge was in residence she received leave of absence only twice.

1911. Dr. Duncan who was appointed Medical Officer, required a certificated nurse to assist him at Bottle Lake in 1911. The position then was that nurses were sent from Christchurch Hospital, and incidentally the Board had to pay for the isolation week which the nurses had to undergo after leaving the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The caretaker's wife had worked hard and done well, but she was not a trained nurse. Sister Bowie was placed in charge under the Matron of the Christchurch Hospital; the staff arrangements were re-organised, the wards fumigated and thoroughly cleaned, and the grounds put in good order.

1912. With all the improvements, difficulties arose regarding the domestic staffing in 1912. Keeping help so far out of town, coupled with the mosquito pest, made it almost impossible for anyone to remain for long. Several cases of severe poisoning were caused from mosquito bites, especially with some of the children, to such an extent that it was hoped that the Board could be induced to close the hospital grounds, thus simplifying all nursing and domestic arrangements, and to allow of daily supervision. To say the least of it, arrangements were primitive at Bottle Lake. Alternative estimates were prepared for a fever hospital at Bottle Lake or in the Christchurch Hospital grounds.

1913. Instructions were given in 1913 to prepare for small-pox cases, and accordingly bare necessities were sent down. The nurse who volunteered for duty was vaccinated in readiness to receive any patients.

At the Infectious Diseases Hospital, 124 cases were admitted during 1913; the greatest number in hospital at any one time was 36. Owing to the lack of accommodation another year of difficulties was endured. Sister Trumble was in charge with twenty-seven patients. Throughout the year, the sister with thirteen nurses carried on; the daily staff consisted of Sister, 2 Nurses, 1 Porter, 1 Cook and 1 Housemaid. One nurse was on day duty and one on night, each being twelve hours on and twelve hours off. The Nurses' Cottage was completed, the eight hour system was adopted and brought into line with the Board's other institutions. It was strongly recommended that the Sister-in-charge should have the status of Matron with full charge, and nurses for periods of three months should be sent from Christchurch Hospital to be under her control. She would be responsible to the Medical Officer and the Board. This did not meet with the wishes of either the Lady Superintendent or the Department of Health. However, the Board decided to separate the fever hospital from the Christchurch Hospital, and Miss Thurston nominated Miss E. Stanton to be Matron on probation for three months.

1914. There was a serious outbreak of scarlet fever in 1914 and the accommodation proved to be wholly inadequate to cope with the situation, although a new building was almost completed. Additional tanks were erected and the water supply met all the requirements; the nurses' home was finished and added much to the comfort of the nurses; the petrol gas plant was satisfactorily installed and bells

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connected with the entrance gates. A contract was entered into for £264 for lighting and £220 for the discharging room.

1915.

Miss Stanton volunteered for active service in December, 1915, and Miss Burnett took up the duties of Matron in February, 1916.

There were 112 cases of scarlet fever in May, and the highest record of patients was 119. The excessive over-crowding was overcome by the erection of four large marquees in which the convalescent cases were accommodated, and a small one erected for the staff.

The scarlet fever epidemic of May showed no signs of abating in July. The need of special provision was urgent and increasing, and it was considered that the only means of solving the difficulty which confronted the Board was the use of the Waltham Orphanage to provide accommodation at short notice. The Director-General advised the Board to be satisfied with obtaining the Minister's consent for the additions and alterations, namely, one pavilion, observation block, and ear clinic. Whilst he was in entire sympathy with the Board with regard to reconstruction of the old parts, he considered that in the matter of an epidemic the proposals were best deferred.

The tender of Mr. J. Searle was accepted (£141) for maids' quarters.

It was decided not to press on with the Bottle Lake extensions in the hope that there would be a diminution in the number of patients. Tenders were received in September, 1916, for a pavilion containing twenty-five beds and observation ward, and the necessary alterations for the ear clinic. Mr. Searle's tender for £2,382 was accepted.

The drainage question opened up another problem for the Board to deal with. A new system was urgently needed as there was no proper drainage disposal for the institution other than the system of pits and £350 was approved by the Hon. Minister. A contract was entered into for the electric supply from the Waimairi County.

Miss G. A. Robinson commenced duties as Matron in September, 1916, with 168 patients, and the staffing of the hospital was an added difficulty. The Director-General approved of nurses being transferred from the Christchurch Hospital to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for three months out of the term of twelve months. This would be counted in the course of three years required under the Nurses Registration Act.

The conditions concerning the Infectious Diseases Hospital were far from satisfactory; independently of scarlet fever, there was an outbreak of chicken pox, and severe cases of diphtheria occurred. There also appeared to be some condition that affected the health of the staff, many of them breaking down without contracting any of the ailments mentioned. The Public Health Committee invited Drs. Blackmore, Lester and Pearson to furnish a report for the Board's guidance. A full report was received. Nothing but an extreme devotion to duty on the part of the staff, under the most disheartening conditions, could have enabled the work to be carried on at all." Dr. Frengley also inspected and reported at the Board's request.



Aerial view of
Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital. contd.

He made enquiries into the conditions incidental to the use of the hospital for the accommodation of cases of infectious diseases, more particularly scarlet fever. One of the most important matters, related to the water supply. In dealing with the reports the Hon. Minister of Health consented to £1,100 being spent to give effect to the recommendations.

The alterations and additions included moving the nurses' and maids' homes; building change rooms, new foundations, and a verandah to the maid's quarters, nurses' dining room, lowering of the old verandah roof, and putting in fanlights, and minor alterations to the duty and operating rooms in the old building. The water service was greatly improved; the well flowed into a concrete reservoir capable of holding 4,000 gallons. The service was taken round the buildings for garden and fire prevention use.

1917. The old Bottle Lake Hospital was practically wiped out of existence and a new institution almost double the size sprang up in its stead - two buildings of 3 wards each, the observation ward, quarters for nurses and maids were erected and the only remaining portion of the original block was renovated.

A lengthy chapter could be written of the heated discussions regarding the Bottle Lake Hospital and surroundings. With the many changes that took place, the title was altered from Bottle Lake Hospital to the North Canterbury Infectious Diseases Hospital, Burwood.

The new institution for infectious cases proved equal to all the calls on it and it supplied a long felt want.

1921. The question of transferring all infectious cases from Christchurch Hospital to Bottle Lake was again under consideration in 1921, as also the necessity for a resident medical officer, possibly junior medical officers for six months or so who would be under the supervision of Dr. J. F. Duncan. The suggestion met with the approval of the Inspector-General. With the object of carrying out these building proposals, plans were submitted in 1922, and suggestions made by the Department were brought about, covering buildings, electricity, steam heating, destructor etc. and nurses' home (£13,009). In addition to the main hospital a sterilising and boiler house and chimney were erected in 1923.

1923. Dr. T. A. McGibbon, who had been responsible for the operations carried out at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, resigned in 1923, and the work was then divided between the three members of the Honorary Staff of the Christchurch Hospital. Miss McKay, who had been Matron for a few years, resigned in 1925 when Miss Cochran was promoted to the position.

The number of infectious cases dealt with during August, 1928, totalled 374 - Scarlet Fever 365 and diphtheria 9. This was a record number. Up to the

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.

end of August, out of practically 1,000 cases which occurred since the beginning of the year, there was only one death. Comment was made on the very excellent work which had been done by the staff, and to give some relief, short holidays were arranged for those who suffered most from the strain under which they had worked.. This did not interfere with the regular holidays. The following list shows the number of patients remaining in the I.D.H. on 31st May for the past thirteen years.

| <u>Patients.</u> | <u>No. of Cases treated.</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1918 | 34 |
| 1919 | 23 |
| 1920 | 34 |
| 1921 | 45 |
| 1922 | 45 |
| 1923 | 29 |
| 1924 | 80 |
| 1925 | 44 |
| 1926 | 55 |
| 1927 | 40 |
| 1928 | 199 |
| 1929 | 106 |
| 1930 | 23 |

29 scarlet fever only.
 " " "
 " " "
 23 miscellaneous
 " "
 " "
 " "
 " "
 " "
 " "
 " "
 " "

1930.

An additional sanitary block was erected in 1930 to make distinct and separate provision for diphtheria patients. Steam heating of the wards replaced the use of fireplaces and to increase the water supply for fire protection, slight alterations were carried out at the suggestion of the Christchurch Fire Brigade.

1935.

Two conferences were held in 1931 and another in 1935 to deal with safety measures regarding the fire menace. Though the Christchurch City Council had matters well under control as far as their reserves were concerned, the question of inflammable undergrowth on adjoining properties was the hazard to be overcome. Apparently there was no law to compel owners to clear their properties (according to the State Forest Service) and the local authority could only compel owners to clear their land of noxious weeds such as gorse, etc. Early in 1937, enquiries were made to see if there was any possibility of purchasing a strip of land on the border of the Board's property so as to enable proper protection to be made for its plantations. This was reiterated in 1939, but the matter was again deferred. In 1940 it was decided to ask the Christchurch representative in Parliament to press for legislation in the matter with the object of enforcing adjacent owners to clear.

1937.

Rearrangements were made in 1937 regarding nurses in training who had been sent from the Christchurch Hospital for duty. Instructions were issued for a trained staff and hospital aids to be engaged.

The Nurses and Midwives Registration Board took a serious view of the lack of training given to pupil nurses in infectious diseases work, and urged the Board to make provision for training in this direction. The matter was left entirely in the hands of the Medical and Lady Superintendents to make the best possible arrangement with the Department concerned.

An extensive programme was prepared for further

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additions, and the diphtheria ward was brought into use in September, 1936.

1939.

Miss J. Lambie resigned from the position of Matron in 1939.

Great changes took place as regards the purpose of the institution, when Hospital Boards were instructed to prepare for and to undertake the care and treatment of soldiers. Very soon an outbreak of influenza occurred, followed by other infectious ailments. Cases were so numerous that it became necessary to put the hospital at Burwood into use as an adjunct to the Christchurch Hospital. To cope with the influx of patients, Voluntary Aids came to the rescue through the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society. Miss Cooke was appointed to take charge of the nursing of military patients.

The position hitherto of Matron was superseded by the appointment of Sister E. T. Compigne as Sister-in-charge under control of the Lady Superintendent of the Christchurch Hospital.

In 1939 the hospital experienced one of the quietest periods since 1934. This, no doubt, largely influenced the Board in taking decisive steps with regard to the congestion at the base hospital. The Board determined to place chronic patients in the diphtheria block at Burwood and the control of the Institution so far as it related to patients was handed over to the Hospital Committee from the Public Health Committee.

1940.

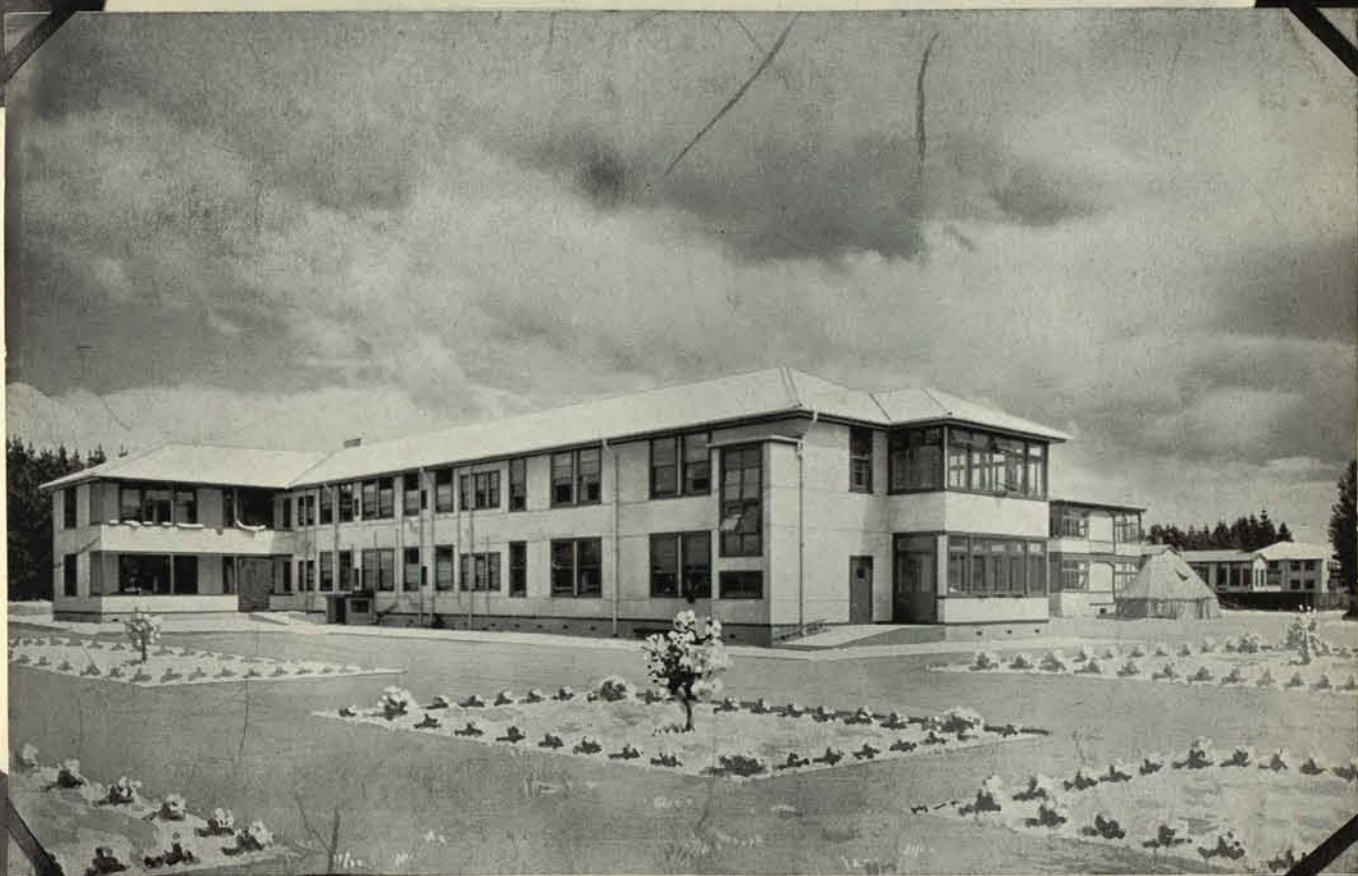
There was a further outbreak of influenza in June, 1940, at the Burnham Military Camp. Cases were admitted to the Christchurch Hospital and Burwood Hospital. The orphanage at Waltham housed the convalescent patients, as did many citizens of Christchurch and its environs. The inrush of influenza patients, approximately two hundred, added a great burden on those responsible for staffing, and without the voluntary aid which was so readily given, the strain would indeed have been great. By November, the number of cases decreased leaving a majority of measles cases.

1941.

The clearing of land was carried out ready for levelling by the Public Works Department and 1940 brought about swift changes to keep up with the increasing demand for accommodation. The cost of the new wards and Nurses' Home was met by the Government. The Christchurch Hospital was relieved of approximately one hundred beds. The Matron's cottage, Homes for trained nurses, aids and maids were erected, and two new wards were completed. In 1941 the staff consisted of nurses 13, nursing aids 43, senior aids 10, V.A.D.'s 20, domestics 11 and 4 porters. The title of the institution was altered to that of "Burwood Hospital" and new rules were drawn up and approved. A new position instituted, was that of Supervisor to be responsible for the clerical work, House Manager and other duties. Dr. H. Wales, Jnr. commenced duty as Resident Medical Officer in February, 1941. Arrangements were made for the training school to come into operation with Sister Slade as tutor sister.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, contd.1941.

With the admission of military patients, the Defence Authorities helped considerably by the erection of marquees and arranging transport. Assistance was also given by the Red Cross Workers as regards staffing, clothing and equipment. The highest number of patients on any one day totalled 234. Miss Lambie, Director Division of Nursing, paid a visit of inspection and was favourably impressed with the arrangements and conditions generally.



Wards v and vi - Burwood Hospital - 1941.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL - BURWOOD.

TREE PLANTING.

1911. The property was inspected by several members of the Board, and of the Hospital Committee with Mr. Adams of Greendale, with a view to making recommendations regarding tree planting. The property then consisted of a fine well grown belt of pinus insignis trees thirty to thirty-five years old, growing on the western side and partly on the southern boundary.

1915. The whole of the first plantation had the blanks filled in with between 4,000 to 5,000 trees. The six acre triangular section on the north west corner was planted and towards the north west of the reserve there was another four to five acres ready for planting. At this stage tree felling was in operation, and approximately forty cords were stacked.

1920. The Selwyn Plantation Board reported in August on the afforestation work, pointing out that undoubtedly the pinus insignis was the most suitable tree for the sandy surface. It was recommended that two marginal lines of fire-resisting poplars should be planted to check any outbreak of fire. Rigid measures had to be taken with regard to the suppression of the rabbit pest.

The Board had planted about sixty-eight acres of land altogether. The area of the first plantation which was ten years old contained twelve acres planted with Abies Douglassii which did fairly well, Abies Excelsa and Abies Menziesii which did not do so well; the Pinus Ponderosa and Pinus Maritima gave good results; the Pinus Laricio and Cedrus Atlantica were no good at all; all the Pinus Insignis gave splendid results. The remaining forty-eight acres were planted with this species. There were a few breaks through the pines, planted with Lombardy Poplars as a safeguard against fire. It was difficult to grow trees on the flats which had been flooded at times with salt water as the reserve was only about one mile and a half from the sea.

1923. It appears that a large number of pines, poplars and willows were planted; and to complete the whole reserve a further consignment was planted in July, 1923.

1926. Twenty five acres of gorse and broom were cleared in 1926. In September the Superintendent of the Selwyn Plantation Board was asked to report as to whether the trees were suitable for milling or firewood. As the tenders for the purchase of trees were not satisfactory, a contract was let for felling, splitting and stacking at 14/- a cord. The number of cords cut by the Contractor totalled 563 1/2.

Some were divided among the Board's other institutions, and a considerable amount was sold privately up till March 1927. Notice was then given to Mr. Cairns to have all the reserve cleared up as it was essential for the ground to be ready for re-planting.

A satisfactory report was received on the tree planting in November, 1927. Out of 1,600 pines planted on the block previously occupied by pines which were taken down for timber, not one plant had suffered, and the macracarpas planted the year before were also doing well.

Tree-Planting, contd.1928.

In 1928 twenty acres were cleared of gorse and bracken, and it was found that 80% of the pine trees were in a healthy condition. The mature trees on the boundary line of the Bottle Lake Road were ready for felling to make room for more planting, and a contract was entered into for this purpose. The fire breaks on the property amounted to approximately 6½ acres.

A large fire occurred on 13th January, 1931, and of the 90,000 to 100,000 trees planted, 41,190 were still standing. It was decided to cut down all the damaged trees and to accept an offer made by the Returned Soldiers' Association to donate £100 provided the Board contributed the same amount, thereby earning a subsidy of £200 from the Unemployment Relief Board. On the 30th January the Board voted a further sum of £200 with a view to obtaining Government subsidy.

1931.

The Board accepted the offer of the Returned Soldiers' Association in 1931 of £100 towards the cost of employing men to clear in the reserve; the Board contributed £100 and the Unemployment Board £200. Returned soldiers nominated by the Association and appointed by the Labour Bureau were to be employed. About fifty men commenced work in chopping down trees and cutting up the timber as approximately 167 acres planted in pines had been destroyed by fire in January, 1931, out of the 177 acres planted. Forty acres were cleared and the scorched wood was cut up for firewood ready for the Board's Institutions and for sale. Labour was obtained from the Labour Bureau under the No. 2 Scheme of the Unemployment Board. A contract was entered into with the Radley Milling Company on the understanding that a total clearance would be made within six months. Formal notice was given in September, 1932 for the firm to cease work owing to the very unsatisfactory way in which the work was being carried out.

A conference was convened by the Waimairi County Council, held in the Council Chambers, to discuss safety measures to prevent the recurrence of fires in the Burwood and New Brighton districts. Another conference was held in 1935.

A letter was received from the secretary of the Department of Labour with reference to a new schedule to come into force on the 1st June, 1931. The Board made enquiries regarding the payments proposed to be made to the workers.

The replanting was finished in August, 1932. Fifty-five thousand pines were planted - 78½ acres - and it was proposed to plant 58½ acres in the following year.

Statement of expenditure for year 1st April, 1931 to 31st March, 1932:-

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Trees for planting | £50. 0. 0 | By Sale - wood | £145. 0. 0 |
| Foreman's wages | 30. 0. 0 | " Refund wages | 608. 18. 2 |
| Fire workers' wages | 36. 0. 0 | | |
| Wages - No. 5 Scheme | 608. 18. 2 | | |
| Balance | 29. 0. 0 | | |
| | <u>£753. 18. 2</u> | | <u>£753. 18. 2</u> |

Tree-Planting. contd.1935.

In 1935 the Director-General drew the Board's attention to a memorandum from the Controller and Auditor-General in which attention was drawn to the expenditure on the grounds of the Little Lake Hospital where six hundred unemployed workers had been engaged, and reduced the number to four hundred in August, 1935. The cost on the 187 acres for 1934-35 was over £23,500, and for the previous year £9,300. It was made clear to the Department that the employment of the large number of relief workers on the grounds was not of the Board's choosing.

1940.

More scrub and grass fires occurred in 1936, and the City Council asked for the Board's co-operation in a fire-prevention campaign. In March, 1940, the Canterbury members of Parliament urged the Government to introduce legislation making some provision for enforcing property owners to clear their sections to minimise the risk of fire by accident or otherwise.
