

## THE HISTORY OF NAPIER HOSPITAL.

The first Hospitals in Napier were military Hospitals, situated first in Onepoto Gully ( 1859) and then in Emerson Street, approximately where Messrs. A. Simmond's building now stands.

In 1860 the Hospital was transferred to the corner of Harvey and Sealy Roads, to a building which is still standing, approximately 10-15 patients were accommodated.

It was in 1850 that the Hospital was transferred to it's present site, taking over the area that was used as, the barracks for various detachments of Imperial Regiments who had been stationed here from 1858-1870. There was also a refuge for old people, on the site at present occupied by Margaret and Stokes Wards. About 60 years ago, the Old People's Home at Park Island was established and these patients were transferred to that institution.

It was interesting to note that in the early days, the Hospitals were financed by Voluntary Contributions and Government Subsidy. At one period owing to the Subsidy from the Government not coming to hand, the Tradesman of the town were kept waiting for 3 months for the payment of accounts and the staff were 2 months behind with their salaries. Concerts were held and subscription lists opened. In country districts, shearers were fined for bad work and the money sent to the Hospital fund.

In 1894, 3 Nurses employed by the Hospital were dismissed for the part they took in demanding an 8 hour day, although the 3 shift system had been in operation in Wellington Hospital, since 1886.

Prior to the earthquake in 1931, Napier Hospital took all the patients from Hastings and surrounding districts. The Memorial Hospital at Hastings was then only a Maternity Hospital although emergency cases were admitted and treated there temporarily. Napier Hospital therefore grew steadily as the twin towns flourished. In 1930 the established Bed State was approx. 267.

A high proportion of the patients in those days were suffering from infectious diseases and the numbers in Hospitals were greatly increased from time to time as epidemics of scarlet - fever diphtheria, etc. occurred. A large infectious Block was situated where Ward 4 now stands and occasionally a marquee had to be erected to accommodate extra patients. Nurses who were on duty in the infectious Block live in a Separate Nurses' Home and were not permitted to mix with the other nurses.

The original Wards, with the exception of Ward 4, were built with money donated by philanthropic citizens of Napier and named after them.

On February, 3rd, 1931, Napier was shaken by the most disastrous earthquake of our N.Z. History.

The first shock, which caused most of the damage, lasted about 3 minutes and another severe shock followed after 5 minutes bringing down many buildings damaged by the first shock.

The Nurse's Home just recently completed in a Spanish style of architecture, collapsed into a pile of rubble and bare walls. The Hospital itself was damaged, but did not collapse. Margaret, Shrimpton Robjohns and Stokes Wards, however had to be rebuilt. Midgley and Coleman were cracked in places.

They were re-conditioned in 1932 while the patients were nursed in marquees.

Bridges were quickly required and the patients were transferred to the Greenmeadows racecourse during the small hours of the morning.

Registered Nurses from Napier and other parts of New Zealand looked after the patients there.

The lunch-room in the grandstand was turned into an operating theatre and light was provided by head-lights of cars.

The water supply was cut off and there was no lighting or sewerage, but soon health inspectors had provided privies, repaired the watermain and provided lanterns, for lighting.

During the morning, Marquees were erected as Wards and equipment was brought from the Hospital. Miss Lambie and Dr. Watt arrived from Wellington and nurses and doctors arrived from many places to help.

Miss McDonald who had retired from the position of Matron some 6 months previously came back and assisted greatly in assembling the records of student nurses and providing information that had been lost.

The student nurses were placed in other training schools throughout N.Z. to continue their training.

Miss E. Roy was Matron at the time of the earthquake but retired soon afterwards.

Miss L. Croft was then appointed. Dr. Biggs was the Medical Superintendent and Dr. Foley was the Medical Register.

Dr. Biggs later went into private practise in Napier and Dr. Foley was appointed Medical Superintendent.

The Hospital remained at the race-course for about 2 months and then when a little order had been restored on Hospital Hill, temporary building and Marquees were assembled for the patient's reception about where the Robjohns block is now. The nursing was continued by register staff and nursing aids until June 1933 when Napier Hospital again became a training School. 12 candidates commenced at the time and 10 of them qualified in June 1936. The salary was then £1.16.1 per month and days off were given only every 6-8 weeks.

The present Nurse's Old Home which used to be part of the Hospital was badly damaged by the earthquake and never used again as Jellicoe Ward and Out-patients Departments.

In 1932 it was reconstructed as the Nurses Home and in the meantime the Staff lived at McHardy Home.

It was due to the tireless service of Nurses and the prompt co-operation of Government and voluntary organizations that order soon replaced chaos after the earthquake and the very real danger of epidemics of disease was averted.

#### HAWKES BAY HOSPITAL BOARD.

The Hawke's Bay Hospital Board's area extends from the Mohake River in the North to Te Aute in the South of Kuripapanga in the West, and embraces the Hawke's Bay Country Council, Napier and Hastings Borough Council and the Havelock North and Taradale Town Board.

The Members of the Board are:-

3 from the Napier Borough.

3 from the Hastings borough.

4 from the combined districts of the H.B. Country Council and Havelock North and Taradale town Board.

INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE H.B. HOSPITAL BOARD.

Napier Hospital 330 beds.

St. Mary's Ward 30 beds.

Lesley McHardy Maternity Home 30 beds.

The fallen Soldiers Ward Memorial Hospital at Hastings

Maternity Annexe Hastings. ....

40 beds.

Staff employed.

Approx. 500 in all at Napier.

Total Hastings and Napier Staff 740.

-----oOo-----

HISTORICAL EVENTS - NAPIER HOSPITAL OF NURSING

- 1851 Donald McLean. Purchase of Ahuriri Block of 265,000 acres for £1500.
- 1858 H.B. Province. Population 5'4. Napier 343.  
Arrival 65th Regiment: established in Onepoto Gully and on Barrack Hill.
- 1859/60 1st Hospital in Emerson Street, by Ritchie's Shop. 12 patients.
- 1860-80 2nd Hospital in Sealey Road. Still stands. 2 wards. 10-15 beds.
- 1870 Master and Matron - Troy, Gray and Raven. Omarunui Battle.
- 1874 Borough of Napier founded. Population H.B. Province: 9228; Napier: 35
- 1876 H.B. Province divided into 4 areas - Napier Borough, Wairoa, H.B. and Waipera - 3 Counties.
- 1875-77 Typhoid Epidemics.
- 1880 The Barrack Hill Hospital. One storey. 2 wards. 10 Beds.  
Opened finally on June 30.  
July 20 - 1st operation. Sequestectomy on a boy aged 11.  
Acting Matron - Miss Gorgina Stenson.
- 1881 Staff: Resident Surgeon; Superintendent Dr. Menzies; Consulting Surgeon Dr. Hitchines; Matron Miss Stenson; 2 nurses; 1 cook; 3 housemaids; 1 porter.
- 1882 701 Out Patients; 305 In Patients; 19 Deaths. Typhoid Epidemic.  
Matron Miss Mary Stewart.
- 1884 Matron Miss Ada Kobect. Case of Small Pox - fatal.  
First 4 nurses from Wellington - Jenner, Bigg, Hughes, McGilvey.
- 1885 Gas Lighting. Nurse Jenner - Head Nurse and Matron.
- 1886 Fever Ward built. Named in 1887.
- 1887 Nurses trained - Jenner, Smith, Faynter. Probationers accepted:  
Miss Brown - Matron.
- 1888 Mrs. Spenser and Preston begin lectures to nurses.  
Matron Miss Squire.
- Nurse Murphy appointed Night Nurse. Matron Miss Lees.
- 1889 Trained Nurse - Waldron added to staff.
- 1890 Head Nurse acting as Dispenser. Nurse Mayson accepted on staff.
- 1891 53 applications as probationers on Waiting list.
- 1892 Use of thermometers. 7 trained nurses on staff.
- 1894 Typhoid epidemic. Miss Tutin Matron.
- 1895 Nurses' Home built. 10 Nurses on staff. 5 Probationers.
- 1896 Introduction of water closets.
- 1897 Tennis Court for Nurses. Second storey added to Hospital.
- 1898 Hospital Nursing Scholarship to train two Maori Nurses from Hukarere School. Emma Mitchell and Mary Jones.
- 1900 Matron Sister Margaret Connor. Australasian Trained Nurses Assn.  
Curriculum accepted.
- 1901 Use of Dr. Thomson's Rontgen apparatus.

1905	14 Nurses on staff.
1906	Electric light introduced.
1907	Matron - Miss Edwards.
1908	New Nurses' Home - 30 beds. Reconstruction. Addition of Margaret Williams, Children's wards, Stokes, Midgley and Coleman.
1909	Mrs. Berry - Matron.
1912	Miss MacDonald - Matron.
1914-18	1st Great War. District Nurses appointed - 1st pr Hastings. 1 then Napier later.
1916	McHardy Home acquired.
1918	Influenza Epidemic.
1926	Miss Cassin - 1st district Nurse at Napier.
1929	Miss Roy - Matron.
1931	Miss Croft - matron to 1952.  Feb. 3. Earthquake. Population: Napier 16025. 190 patients 100 nursing staff. Killed: H.B. 256; Napier 161; Hast. 93. 8 nurses trapped in Nurses' Home: Sister R. Mitchell; W. Steines; E. Williams Nurses M. Insull; L. Stone; J.G. Keddell; N. Thorne-George. Temporary accommodation of nursing staff in McHardy Home.
1932	New Nurses' Home begun and completed by 1937.
1939-45	2nd Great War.
1950	Napier a City.
1952	Matron - Miss I.H. Henderson.
1953	Ormond House purchased.
1954	Hinepare opened. - accommodation 88.
1960	Reconstruction contemplated. Present bed state - 306. Nursing staff - 2 Population: Napier 30,000
1961	Nurse Ann Bruce, Dominion President of the N.Z. Student Nurses' Association, (Student Nurse 1958-1961) represented New Zealand at the I.C.N. Congress at Melbourne.
1962	Miss P. Goodwin - Matron.
1965	Miss P. Shaw - Matron.