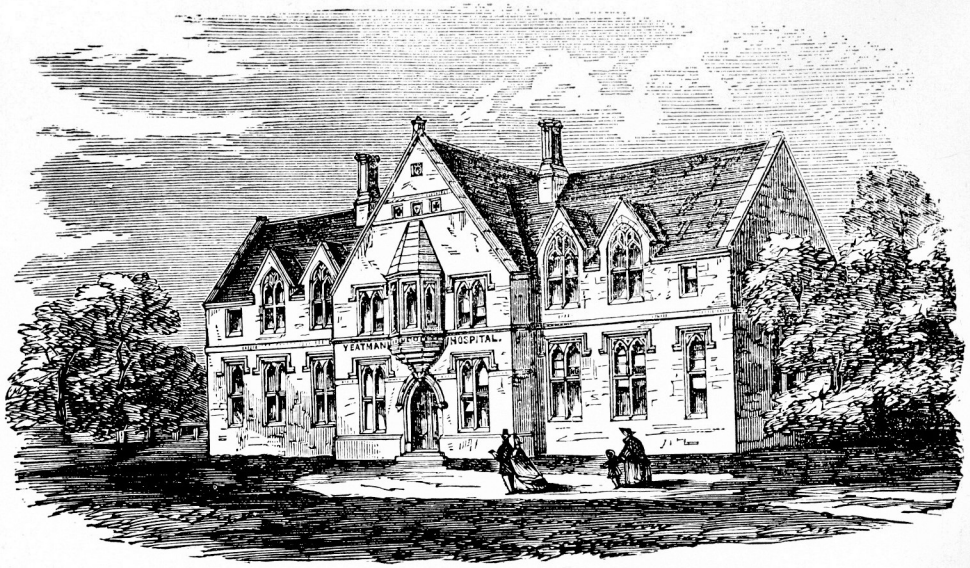


From an original sketch

THE YEATMAN IN 1866

A Century of Service

THE STORY OF THE YEATMAN HOSPITAL 1866 — 1966

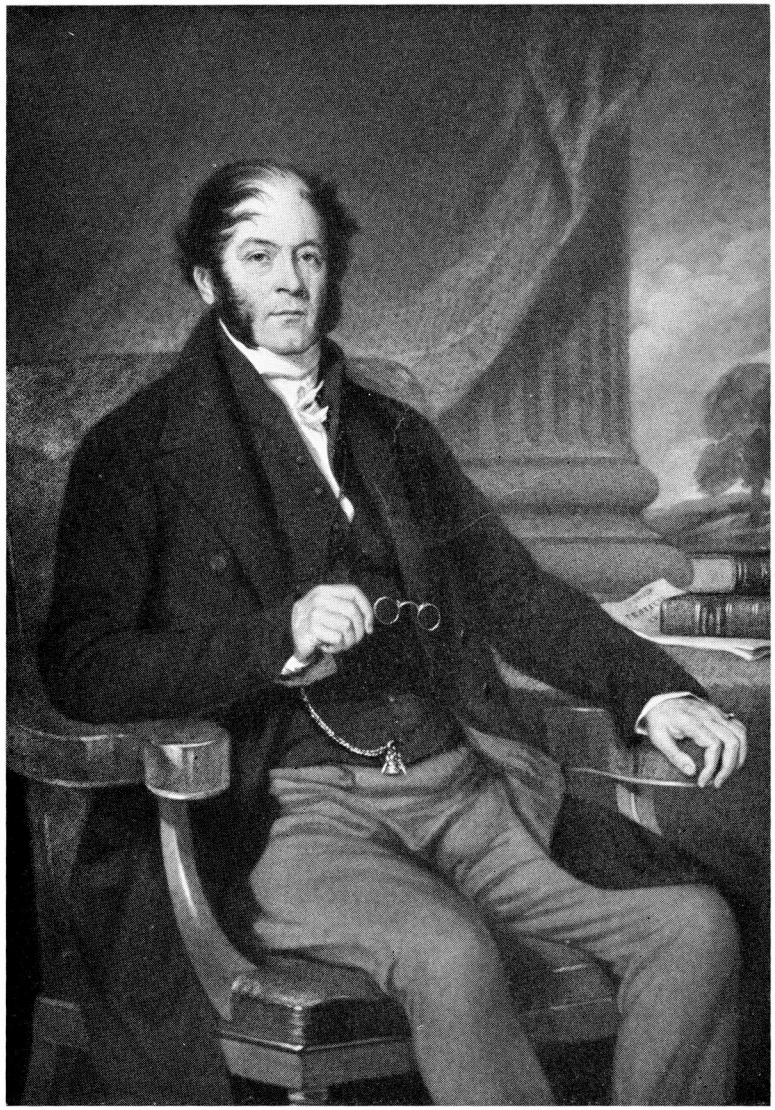
by

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and

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Published by the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital



THE REVEREND HARRY FARR YEATMAN LL.B., J.P.
1786-1861

HARRY FARR YEATMAN

BY

LT-COLONEL J. L. YEATMAN, D.L., J.P.

The Rev. Harry Farr Yeatman was born in 1786, died in 1861 and lived all his life at STOCK GAYLARD HOUSE.

He was what was called in those days a SQUARSON, that is a squire who took Holy Orders and became incumbent of one of the Livings of which he was the Patron.

This was quite a common arrangement in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and a Devon Squarson who frequently stayed at Stock Gaylard House was the Rev. Jack Russell who gave his name to the famous breed of terrier which he founded.

H. F. Yeatman was Chairman of Dorset Quarter Sessions for 25 years and in his day Quarter Sessions, as well as being a criminal court much as we know it today, was also responsible for much of the administration of the County since a County Council did not then exist. He also had a private pack of hounds which he kept at Stock House and hunted himself and this evolved into the Blackmore Vale Hunt.

These activities brought him a large number of friends and associates who, after his death, founded the Yeatman Hospital in his memory.

Henry Farr Yeatman was my great great grandfather.

John L. Yeatman
The Old Rectory
Stock Gaylard
Sturminster Newton
Dorset.

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FOREWORD

by COLONEL J. W. WELD, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.
Lord Lieutenant of Dorset
Chairman, West Dorset Group
Hospital Management Committee

For one hundred years, the Yeatman Hospital—the second oldest in Dorset and so splendid a memorial to Harry Farr Yeatman—has served the people of Sherborne and the countryside around it.

The hospital as it stands today testifies to the loving care lavished on it over the years by the people of this corner of Dorset.

Times change and the Yeatman has taken its place as part of the National Health Service, but there is still great need and scope for the voluntary work which helps so much to make the hospital a happier and pleasanter place for the patients.

Sherborne may well be proud of its hospital which, to this day, has a reputation second to none in our county. May the next century give as excellent a record of service to the community as has the last hundred years, and may the many friends of the hospital continue to support and sustain it as their predecessors have so splendidly done in the years gone by.

J. W. WELD
Lulworth
Dorset

THE STORY OF THE YEATMAN HOSPITAL 1866 - 1966

Origins

On the death of the Rev. Harry Farr Yeatman of Stock Gaylard in 1861 the question of a memorial was discussed by his fellow magistrates, and a committee was set up to give the matter further consideration. We can follow the development of the scheme for building a hospital in Sherborne as it is given in the newspaper *The Sherborne, Dorchester and Taunton Journal* for February 12th, 1863.

The Vicar, the Rev. E. Harston, presided, as Mr. G. D. Wingfield Digby of Sherborne Castle, the Chairman of the Yeatman Memorial Committee, thought "he would hardly be discharging his duties with impartiality if he attended". The Vicar said that while the original suggestion that the memorial should be of the nature of a hospital, infirmary or dispensary had come from Mr. Gordon (of Sherborne), the idea that it should be situated in Sherborne had come from Mr. Harvey of Sturminster Newton, who had declared that it would be of the greatest benefit to them at Sturminster.

The Vicar did not minimise the difficulties – £1,000 would hardly build a hospital – and "they must also bear in mind that those living at the other end of the county were very jealous of their proceedings here . . . they look with suspicion upon anything that might be a rivalry . . . but he did not believe that they would diminish the funds of Dorchester or Salisbury hospitals one sixpence", at which the audience cheered.

Next there was a report of an un-named hospital in a rural part of Surrey which showed that in "a well ventilated cottage" with four airy bedrooms, beds could be provided for £9 10s. each, and that running costs worked out at between 3s. and 5s. a week per patient ("always readily afforded by friends or employers"). The expenses allowed for per bed were a three foot iron bedstead and mattress (horse hair or wool), three pillows and a bolster, four blankets and a quilt, three pairs of sheets, two pairs of pillow cases, a commode, a locker and a chair, the total coming to £9 7s. 5d.

The rest of the suggested furniture was a kitchen range with boiler and oven, a dresser with drawers, an easy chair, a clock, chairs, table, etc. The staff at this small cottage hospital was to be one nurse at 25s. a week and a charwoman for three days a week at 1s. a day. The total cost in this case of fitting up a hospital of six beds was estimated at £70, which doubtless seemed at that time a daunting sum to raise to the small country village from which the estimates had come.

However, Dr. William Highmore, the well-known Sherborne doctor, was not satisfied with the picture which these estimates gave. Sherborne

was no small country village. He got up to say that he did not think Sherborne would be satisfied with anything less than 16 beds to start with, in four wards. Take in the town and the neighbourhood for 12 miles around and there were many thousands of the poor. He also wondered whether the name "Yeatman" might only apply to one wing and thus "some future donor's name could also be incorporated".

The matter of infectious diseases was raised; erysipelas was particularly mentioned. Dr. Highmore said that it was called the curse of hospitals, once in they were rarely free from it, so when they were free they took care to keep it so.

The long meeting was drawing near its end. The character of the Rev. Harry Farr Yeatman had been lauded, his demise deplored, and before the meeting separated support for the scheme was promised by all those present as well as on behalf of many not there.

Once the decision to build a hospital was taken no time was lost in implementing it. The immediate subscriptions of the five magistrates had amounted to £66 10s., and this sum formed the nucleus round which grew the Building Fund, the Endowment Fund and the Maintenance Fund.

Before long the architect's plans were ready; the land (a valuable site near the centre of the town) conveyed from Mr. G. D. Wingfield Digby of Sherborne Castle to the Committee at the very generous price of £100; and the building begun to rise. In order that the infant hospital should not be burdened with too great a debt, only "the Central Block and one Wing of the proposed Building have been erected, containing a Ward for the male patients on the ground floor, and another for females in the upper storey, together with excellent Offices, and Apartments for the use of the medical officers, matron and nurses".

The Building Account for 1866 shows the full details:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Down (The Builder)	1735	0	0
Land	100	0	0
Architect	120	0	0
Conveyance	26	1	10
Clerk of Works	43	10	0
Fixtures	75	7	0
Printing and Advertisement	3	5	0
Extra Drainage	15	13	0
Levelling Ground and making Garden ...	35	2	4
Making Back Yard and Drying Ground ...	25	16	6
Sundries	15	7	4
	£2471	1	6

By the time the first accounts were issued in 1866 the donations to the Building Fund had reached £2,204 10s. 2d. and so there was still £266 11s. 4d. to raise to pay off the debt.

But there was much to be thankful for, when on a "gloriously fine New Year's Day" in 1866, after a thanksgiving service in the Abbey, the Yeatman Hospital was formally opened at a meeting held in the Hospital, and attended by all the Elite of the neighbourhood. The Committee had the pleasure of announcing that the work with which they were entrusted was so far complete, and that "the Wards will be ready for the reception of sick persons as soon as the means of completing the work of furnishing them are completed". This, it was estimated, would cost £150.

The money for furnishing was soon forthcoming, and so, on March 19th, 1866, Miss Mary Brine, from Trent, was the very first patient to be admitted to one of the eight beds.

Subscriptions and Donations

This might have seemed a shaky start, but Sherborne people knew what they wanted, and with zeal and enthusiasm they went to work to raise the money to put the Hospital on a firm foundation. By the end of the first year things looked sounder. There was an Endowment Fund of £1,000 invested in India Stock, of which £500 came from the Marquis of Westminster, who owned land round Motcombe and Templecombe, and subscriptions and collecting boxes had raised £321 for maintenance (with £5. 7s. 2d. in this account due to the Treasurer as overspending).

The Report for the next year, 1867 shows great progress. The President, Mr. G. W. Wingfield Digby had promised (besides his gift of £621 to the Building Fund, and an annual subscription of £25) an extra £25 each year towards the training of nurses. A Bazaar run by the ladies of Sherborne and the neighbourhood raised £557 13s. 6d. "Your Committee desire to record their great obligation to those ladies for that well-timed and most acceptable contribution, which justified them in commencing the erection of the additional wards"; but a warning followed: "It most not be forgotten that to carry out efficiently the working of the *enlarged* establishment a still larger sum will be required annually".

However, the Marquis of Westminster had given a further £500 and Mrs. Burge of Childe Okeford donated £150 – these sums were invested – while Miss Gordon, late of Leweston but then living in London, paid off the Building Fund debt of £256. This year the debt due to the Treasurer on running costs was only £3 4s. 2d., for regular annual subscriptions totalled £226 16s. and collections in the local churches amounted to £45.

"Donations" make interesting reading. Here are some examples:—

	£	s.	d.
Sturminster Newton Cattle Insurance Assoc^{tn} ...	14	5	3
Sherborne Cattle Plague Prevention Assoc^{tn} balance	1	5	0
Carter's fine for driving without a rein to his leader ...		10	0
Collection in the Hunting Field	2	0	0
Fee, from a Special Juryman	1	1	0
Proceeds of Needlework (from the Misses Penny) ...	2	0	0

and of course that never failing support of the Hospital in all its years of service – the Friends – perhaps described as "an Aged Friend" or "A Friend Pauperibus" or "A Friend, for the recovery of Personal Property" but most frequently just "A Friend".

Sherborne residents and those living in the neighbourhood clearly took the Hospital to their hearts from the beginning. One feels that everyone contributed to its support. All the well known Sherborne names appear regularly, each year, in the Lists of Subscribers, as well as those from the surrounding parishes; the congregations of up to 72 churches and chapels were contributing through "Hospital Sunday" and "Harvest Thanksgiving" collections by 1880. This increased particularly after an appeal in the Report of 1874 when it was said "the Committee believe that more may be done on these occasions, as it enables many to contribute who would not otherwise have an opportunity of helping the funds."

There were collecting boxes not only in the Hospital itself but also in the Hotels and Public Houses, and at Railway Stations throughout the district. Local businesses and industries in Sherborne, Milborne Port, Sturminster and Templecombe sent their contributions. The Railway Platelayers sent 3s. 6d. and a Bill Sticker 1s. 6d. "Robert and Amey" sent 5s., Mr. Adams sold roses and collected £1 15s. 9d. There were some involuntary contributions such as the 5s. fine for trespass which ended up in the Hospital Funds, and Joseph Pope's "Wages Forfitted, 5s." sent along by Mr. Hilary, and a Moiety of a Fine incurred by Mr. Bishop which was sent up to the Hospital by Superintendent Florence. Three men had to pay 10s. each for trespassing, but the three boys were only fined 10s. between them to the benefit of the Funds. They were also benefitted by the Proceeds of a Calico Ball and the Prizes won at a Spelling Bee, and the shilling enlistment money contributed by Mr. Lemon. Concerts and theatricals in Sherborne and the villages gave generous support, and of course, there are many "thanksgivings".

Royalty, even, appeared in 1898 when an enormous Bazaar was organised to wipe off a deficit on the year's working of £341; Her Grand Ducal Highness Princess Louis of Battenberg graciously

honoured the occasion, which was "liberally patronised by the Town and neighbourhood". The Bazaar, with such a personality as a draw, raised £346.

Louis Napoleon Parker – he of the Sherborne Pageant fame – acted as Father Christmas in 1888 when he distributed the contents of a large Snow Ball to the patients and the Rev. Gordon Wickham and Mrs. Wickham exhibited their magic lantern. But there was a bigger treat in 1903 when Captain Rowland "at Considerable expense to himself, gave a remarkable Bioscope Show in aid of the Hospital". Captain Rowland was the owner of a family Fair which still comes every year to Sherborne – the family still, as they always have done, take an interest in the Hospital. In 1905 Captain Rowland "with much enterprise and considerable cost, procurred a realistical Cinematograph representation of the Sherborne Pageant and generously gave a benefit night". Captain Rowland bought this very early film and showed it round the countryside over many years. Recently it was rediscovered and has been reprocessed. It was shown in Sherborne again in 1965 – half a century after the famous Pageant took place.

But perhaps it is the steady procession of local families which is so impressive, whose names appear each year in the lists of subscribers giving generously to the support of the Hospital and serving as Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Trustees and on the Committee—the Yeatmans, Wingfield-Digbys, Digbys, Gooddens, Medlycotts, Ffooks, Parsons, Dykes, Southcombes and many others equally familiar. It is perhaps unfair to pick out just a few of the names, for there are all those others whose descendants still live in Sherborne and the country around, ever willing to serve the community in every way that is needed, as their parents, grandparents, and **their** parents before them, in the English tradition of unpaid voluntary service.

Articles given for the use of the Hospital

Not only gifts of money but also gifts of actual articles were welcomed, and each year in the Reports such gifts are listed.

The list for the first year is as follows:—

John Hussey, Esq.	A handsome Oak Table
Colonel Eardley Wilmot	An Easy Chair
A few Friends	A Water Bed and Mackintosh Sheet
Miss Harston and her brothers	Set of Bedroom Ware
Mr. Thomas Penny	Bath
The late Rev. Thomas James	A handsome Bed Rest
Mrs. Wingfield-Digby	Books
A few Friends	A Dial and American Clock
Mrs. John Longman	A Garden Chair
Miss Collins	A Garden Chair

S. Talbot Esq.	An Umbrella Stand
Mr. Belben	An Iron Bedstead
Miss Ball	Scripture Puzzles
Mrs. Chandler	Draught Board and Draughts
By a Person who has derived benefit from being an in-Patient	Four Day Caps
Mr. Quinton	An Iron Hook for Grate
Mrs. Sherrin	A Pair of Crutches
Mr. W. Parsons	A Sack of Potatoes
Mr. Sydenham	A Donation Box
A Friend	Five Print Jackets
William Norris	A Kneeling Stool
Mr. James Ellis	A Handsome Ink Stand.

Besides the names in this list there were a number of ladies who responded to the appeal for old linen and calico—used for bandages, dressings and drawsheets.

As the years pass the lists of "articles contributed" change their nature. Perhaps Matron and the Committee let it be known that more than enough framed and illuminated texts had been received; but they must have been pleased when in 1867 "A Few Friends" presented Electro-plated Spoons and Forks, for the use of Matron. Books, games and puzzles came, so did newspapers, daily, weekly, monthly; (*The British Workman* and *The Cottager* were monthlies, *The Sherborne Journal* a weekly). A Galvanic Battery and a lot of Trusses arrived in 1868 (the latter anonymously). In 1869 a Wheelbarrow, a Garden Roller and a Lawn Cutter were given by Friends and Patients. But steadily the amount of Produce increased. A sack of potatoes was all that could be eaten among the first gifts in 1866, but soon the big landowners and farmers in the neighbourhood were sending gifts which must have been most welcome. There was G. D. Wingfield-Digby's "Handsome present of Venison" and Sir W. C. Medlycott's many times repeated gift of "A Present of Game", and Sir Richard Glyn (of Lillington) regularly sent gifts of rabbits and, less often, large quantities of grapes. Not less appreciated by the Committee, perhaps, were the several loads of Manure for the Garden from Mr. Coats and Mr. Burt in 1876, or three dozen bedding plants from one of those constant Friends.

Mr. Parsons gave a turkey on many Christmasses, and Mr. Stewart helped the pudding forward with currants and raisins in 1882, and gave oranges, nuts and figs at Christmas-time over many years. And did Mr. Ensor in December 1882 send five bundles of straw to protect the eleven bags of potatoes sent in by the Poor of Bradford Abbas? Mrs. Ffooks gave a pound pot of Liebeg's Food; and a Bird-cage, but no bird, came from Mrs. Hoddinott.

Furnishings came too. A Friend gave a new carpet in 1881, and the two Miss Rees Moggs gave an armchair for each of the four wards

and Mrs. Whittle gave a sofa in 1880. The Whittles of Bradford Abbas deserve special notice, for Mrs. Whittle also gave "*The Quiver*" (a monthly magazine) regularly, eggs and butter frequently, and a davenport for Matron in 1888, while Mr. Whittle gave a quarter of lamb and two rabbits in 1886 and "one port wine" in 1887 (amongst other gifts listed each year), but the Hospital can be proud that their direct descendant, Mary Whittle, is a Nursing Sister at the Yeatman Hospital today, and that another of the family, Margaret (Perham) has only recently resigned her post as Sister on the arrival of a member of the newest generation. (The Perhams, too, were generous supporters of the Hospital).

You can get a mental picture of the patients in the wards in those early days by some of the things contributed; six scarlet bed jackets from the Hon. Louisa Portman, who also persuaded her friends to send red blankets for the new wards in 1868. Scarlet was the fashionable colour, for Mr. Hawkins of Hitchen sent twelve Nightingale Scarlet Flannel Capes for the female patients in 1875, while Mrs. Churchill Longman gave the men patients twelve flannel capes without letting us know the colour. One can also picture the National School Children coming shyly up with their wild flowers, and the wagons coming in from the villages after Harvest Thanksgiving piled up with vegetables, fruit and flowers.

When the time came in 1886 to do up Matron's room the cost of papering it was defrayed by Mr. Longman, and the paintwork by Mr. Silas Dyke, while Mr. W. Parsons gave a Gasalier. Mr. Longman added an extra gift of two screens. The names of these and many other faithful and generous friends can be seen year after year giving active thought to the needs of the Hospital, both of staff and of patients. What better end for the pike weighing 16½ lbs. caught by Mr. W. H. Blake than for it to go up to the Hospital, or who but Mrs. Ridout would think of sending "Bonbons and Christmas Letters to Everybody"? Jane Rayes, an old patient, found a China Toast Rack to express her feelings, and the Secretary himself, Major General W. H. Waller, saw the need for a summer house in 1888 and made one available—some years ago this summer house was made into the beautiful little chapel. The lists continued being reported each year and make pleasant and moving reading in these very different days.

Rules and Admissions

Admissions were carefully regulated under the Rules. The Hospital was open to the poor of the town and neighbourhood, both as in-patients and out-patients, but preference was given to those who were not receiving parochial relief. Only those who could not be efficiently treated at home were to be admitted, while infectious, incurable and consumptive diseases were excluded.

But first, would-be patients had to find an annual subscriber to the hospital funds to recommend them. Subscribers received each year cards which allowed them to recommend two in-patients, or one in-

patient and two out-patients for each guinea they subscribed annually. Hence clearly one reason for the large number of local clergymen who were regular subscribers. A Benefactor of £20 corresponded to a yearly subscription of one guinea.

After having received their nomination cards, patients had to attend at the Hospital on Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Here they were seen by two members of the Committee appointed each month as Visitors for the month. It was these Visitors who were empowered to admit patients on the recommendation of the Medical Officers. If the patients were in "better circumstances, such as household servants" they were charged 7*s*. a week for their board, and it was laid down that "every in-patient shall be sent into the Hospital in decent clothing and with proper change of linen".

Patients' relations and friends were only allowed in on Thursdays between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. "provided the Medical Officer in attendance does not consider it improper". By 1868 visitors were also allowed in on Sundays between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. If patients remained in longer than a month a further ticket of recommendation was required, and after three months, special sanction was required from the Committee and Medical Officers for a patient to remain on the Hospital Books. This must have been by no means a rare occurrence; the average number of days spent in hospital seemed to be between 40 and 50 days, in the early years.

Additions to the Rules make their appearance, indicating scenes of difficulty and distress. After the first year it was sometimes required that patients should bring from some responsible person a security to defray the expense of removal or burial in case of death. One was not encouraged to die in the Hospital. In 1877 the Report states that the deaths – eight – have been more than in former years, attributable to railway and other accidents, and to some patients having been brought in to the Hospital in almost a dying state. A note to subscribers advised them "not to recommend any persons for admission who are so ill that even the journey might be injurious to them". Again, in 1899, the Report complains that most of the deaths were people beyond recovery at the time of admission and were quite unfit to be moved at the time they were brought to the Hospital.

One can picture what lies behind the new Rule added in 1868 that convalescent patients shall, at the request of Matron, assist in cleaning the Wards and waiting on the other patients: after all, the staff to begin with was only to consist of Matron and a house servant, though two girls who would be trained as nurses were soon to be appointed. And some doubtful literature must have been circulating to make it advisable to insist that no book or publication be admitted without the permission of the Chaplain or Monthly Visitors – though, of course, a great many approved newspapers, journals and tracts were sent along regularly by friends of the Hospital, and in 1885 "a large and useful Bookcase with over 100 volumes of Books has been presented to the Institution".

There must have been a wild scene or two before 1868 when a rule was enacted by which "Patients who offend against any of the rules of the house, or behave themselves irregularly or indecently, shall be expelled and no readmissions allowed without a special order". This rule was challenged more than once, for in 1881 it is recorded that two patients were summarily expelled for misconduct, and in 1882 is listed in the statistics "Expelled – 1", and in 1898 there was a patient who was "discharged for not complying with the Rules of the Institution".

All in all the Committee had reason to be satisfied with the general tone, for in 1877 after expressions of appreciation of the work of the Medical Officers and Nursing Staff, they go on to say "it is also hoped that the patients have been benefitted by the healthy moral influence that pervades the establishment."

The Cost of Maintenance

Here are the housekeeping accounts for the years of 1867 and 1897 for comparison. Figures must be judged on the difference in the numbers of beds in the two years – 8 in 1867 and 20 in 1897.

	1867			1897		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Meat	58	16	3	209	7	1
Bread and Flour	32	15	4	32	19	7
Butter (and eggs, 1897)	—	—	—	46	18	2
Milk (and butter, 1867)	20	13	5	69	10	1
Vegetables	7	9	11	10	8	4
Beer and Porter	25	2	0	6	10	0
Wine and Spirits	1	10	6	4	11	8
Fish and Ice	—	—	—	8	2	8
Salaries and Wages	55	4	10	231	1	7
Coal and Coke	6	17	0	66	11	11
Gas	—	—	—	30	14	11
Washing (or soap, 1897)	6	19	7	6	16	9
Drapery	22	13	1	21	5	9½
Printing, Stationery, etc.	11	19	2	29	18	5
Repairs and Renewals	59	15	8	48	5	5
Drugs	63	4	0	60	8	7
Dispenser	—	—	—	50	0	0
Surgical Instruments, etc.	11	3	6	62	10	10
Fire Insurance	3	0	0	3	19	6
Hair Cutting and Shaving	—	—	—	4	14	11
	£264	2	7	£1364	11	11½

The quantities of beer and porter progressively lessened until 1907 when they cost £1 10s. after which they disappear until the first world war when small quantities of "Ale" were bought. As the bill for Beer and Porter decreased that for milk increased. (That milk should be supplied fully pasteurized was minuted in July 1942). There is a marked stepping up of the standards of warmth; the bill for coal, coke and gas is many times greater in 1897 than in 1867, and indeed the Report for 1893 mentions that "a heating apparatus has been supplied by which all the rooms and passages are now heated by hot water pipes. This arrangement has added materially to the comfort of the inmates". In 1886 the Committee who had been concerned about the growing gas bill state that it will be checked in future by the use of incandescent gas burners.

Gifts of vegetables in later years clearly kept down the cost of that item. Fish makes its first appearance in the accounts in 1887 when the bill was just under £2. Later, the account was presented as "Fish and Ice" and after 1904 as "Fish and Poultry".

The average cost of provisions per head each week during the first 30 years of the Hospital's life seems to vary between the lowest recorded figure of 5s. 4½d. a week in 1887, to the highest figure given of 6s. 9¼d. in 1884. The total cost of an in-patient was of the order of 2s. 6d. a day, give or take a penny or two. (This may be compared with a figure of over £5 15s. a day in 1966).

One of the greatest problems for the Committee was the Drugs bill. As today, the expense was constantly rising above the limits budgetted for, and in 1871 the drug bill for the year topped £150. At that the Committee decided that a ceiling must be set and strictly adherred to – and so it was: for seven years, until 1878, the figure showing in the accounts is precisely £120, and one wonders who, if anyone, was subsidising it and to what extent.

In 1880 it was decided to dispense on Hospital premises, and a Dispenser, paid £50 a year, was appointed under the Medical Officer's supervision. As a consequence the drug bill started to fall; it went down steadily until in 1883 it reached the almost record low level of £38 6s. 3d., which even with the Dispenser's £50 was still a great economy, and at the end of the century the bill for Free Drugs was still being kept round about £40 a year.

Fifty Years of Service

It is not feasible, alas, to follow in detail the development of the Yeatman Hospital; however, the year 1915 marked fifty years of service and is perhaps a good point in time to survey the story.

The first world war has been going on for 17 months and 185 wounded soldiers have been nursed at the Hospital, with little if any falling off in civilian use. The Government gives a capitation fee of 3s. a head per day for each soldier nursed, and it has been necessary to engage two extra nurses, one extra helper in the kitchen and two more in the

laundry. But everyone helps and presents of game, vegetables, fruit and comforts come flooding in to the support of the Hospital.

There is an X-Ray machine now which is in daily use and is of service also to the Red Cross Hospitals at Wincanton and Holnest. ("This most useful adjunct to the efficiency of the Hospital has now been suitably housed in a new room of its own at an outlay of £50", the Report of 1909 records). Luckily, the new wing was completed in 1912; it was designed to provided a children's ward, and to make the Nurses and Servants more comfortable, (it is that part of the Hospital now used for the Nurses' Sitting Room and the floor above). Beds for 10 men were put here and Mr. John Beckly of Plymouth marked his Jubilee by providing £65 for a glass corridor. The Hospital Authorities were no natural optimists; the Report issued after the first five months says "The Worst Stages of the War are yet to come and Funds are urgently needed for the support of the Hospital in this grave national emergency".

Luckily, too, the operating theatre has been modernised. Sir Frederick Treves, the distinguished London surgeon who operated on King Edward VII for appendicitis in 1901, whom we in Dorset perhaps know even better for his delightful book "Highways and Byways in Dorset", was called in to make recommendations in 1906. These were extensive and meant a new drive to raise the necessary money to pay for them. But by the following year, 1907, it is reported with great satisfaction that the new operating theatre has been built and equipped for £600. The range of operations performed is now very extensive and it is rare indeed for a death to occur on the surgical side of the Hospital's work.

The names of the Committee and Staff in 1915 become ever more familiar to present day residents of Sherborne and the district. Colonel Goodden of Compton House is President and Chairman of Committee. The Chaplain is the Rev. Stephen Digby, Vicar of Sherborne. The Honorary Medical Officers are J. F. L. Whittingdale and T. MacCarthy, and for Out-patients, Major G. R. Rickett. There is an Anaesthetist, first appointed in 1904, and an Honorary Dental Surgeon – F. Vosper – who, appointed in 1904, served the Hospital until after it was taken over by the National Health Service in 1948. The first mention of a Dental Chair was in 1906 when a collection was made to buy one and £11 8s. 6d raised.

The Honorary Treasurer is Mr. H. R. Wilcox of the National Provincial Bank. This Bank merged with the local Sherborne Bank of Pretor and Co. in 1843 and served as Bankers for the Hospital. They gave an annual subscription of two guineas from the very beginning, and the Manager of the Bank today is the Honorary Treasurer of the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital.

The Secretary is Alderman A. Dingley, appointed in 1898. The Matron is Miss Kearvell; Sister-in-Charge, she is called in the "Report of the Committee" who express their gratitude to her for "the Charge so splendidly fulfilled, not only as 'Sister' but as several soldier patients

have gratefully said, she has been a good 'Mother' to us all". (She looks the perfect Matron in her photograph in a later Report, stoutly holding the first twins born in the new Maternity Department, wrapped like cocoons, and encircled by her large capable hands).

By 1915 the costs of provisions have risen to £1,225 10s. a year, and that of "Establishment" to £1,463. But the Government's Capitation Fee brought in £1,171 16s. and there is a Yeomanry Grant of £25. Generous support for the Hospital shows no slackening; the subscription list each year from 1902 is headed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with a subscription of three guineas, no matter whether his name was George or Edward. The West End Working Men's Club, via Messrs. Evans and White, was thanked for its "energetic and liberal efforts on behalf of the Hospital". The annual Chysanthemum Show was a popular and successful annual occasion, frequently sending subscriptions of up to £45. A former Post Master of Sherborne, Mr. J. F. Penny, and his two brothers, for 16 years in succession gave the sum of £30 to the Hospital, and when one brother died the other two made up his subscription between them.

Great occasions lead to great benefactions; the debt on the New Wing was extinguished by the munificence of an anonymous Widow Lady who gave £500. Mr. Charles Bewsey of Leigh gave £100 to the Endowment Fund in 1908 for the very good reason that he had attained his 80th birthday. The Head Mistress of Sherborne School for Girls, Miss Mulliner, in 1915 sent the £30 collected by the Girls and Staff.

Indeed, the lists of Gifts, Subscriptions, Congregational Collections, Donations and Legacies are far too long to do more than touch upon in this survey of the first fifty years of the Hospital's existence – there is still another 50 years to consider. But the Committee did not let the occasion pass without acknowledgement. They looked back "with great thankfulness over the half-century during which, from small beginnings, the Hospital has, by the generosity of Founders and Benefactors, been a Home of Love and Healing to many thousands of sick and injured folk . . . In the 50 years there have naturally been many changes in the *personnel* but none in the spirit of devotion, unremitting care and gratuitous service in which there has never been a break or flaw."

An Up-to-Date Hospital: 1916—1940

By the time the war ended in 1918, 926 soldiers had been nursed at the Yeatman Hospital of which number only 8 had died. They were reported as "excellent fellows, happy and bright in spite of their sufferings and full of expressions of gratitude". It had been necessary to erect two large tents to accommodate 15 men each, and huts had been put up for Recreation and Mess Rooms.

But now "we have wished goodbye to the last of our wounded heroes" and the time had come for restoration and refitting.

There had been a bright romantic glow over the early years; now the Yeatman Hospital was an Institution – as far as most people knew it had always been there to help them when ill, but to those who had its welfare particularly at heart there were constant problems to solve regarding its efficiency, organisation, modernisation and paying its ever more expensive way.

First improvement to be effected was when Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fletcher of Leweston, whose son had been killed in the war, generously refloored and re-equipped the consulting room; but before any further work could be undertaken it was clear that a financial crisis was upon the Hospital. The debt in 1919 rose to £636 17s. with provisions costing three times and establishment costs almost twice the 1914 figures. Unless the work of the Hospital was to be restricted, an annual income of not less than £4,000 was required. And so the momentous decision was arrived at. Patients must pay according to their means, except for Old Age Pensioners who would still be treated free. In-patients would be charged from 7s. 6d. a week, and out-patients 1s. each for each visit.

The 1920 Report is jubilant. "No sooner did the very numerous friends of the Hospital realise the critical position, than, promptly and generously, one and all, rose to their privileges and gave".

With a steady income now coming in various improvements were set in train. In 1920 electric lighting was installed and complete power for an up-to-date X-Ray Installation provided; and in 1924 £350 was spent on a renewal of the heating and hot water system. Also – surely very early – "the generosity of a few friends provided the means which enabled us to install the Wireless within the reach of every bed . . . A truly great boon". And an "absolutely up-to-date operating table" was bought from a gift of £100 in memory of a member of the Yeatman family; at the same time £88 was found by Friends for a "splendid French lamp for lighting the theatre".

In 1927 a long planned major extension at last took shape with the building of a three storied block to the north-west costing £6,000. This was to house the first maternity ward and to increase the number of private patients who could be accommodated. By the end of 1928 31 mothers had tested the efficiency of the Maternity Wards, "where 30 little ones have first seen the light of day".

With no pause plans were prepared for the provision of a new Out-Patient Department with accommodation for massage, eye treatment, X-Ray, Porter's Hostel, Staff Bedrooms and well-equipped Office, and on the 3rd December 1930 that most attractive building (cramped and inadequate now 36 years later) with its sheltered portico for prams and bicycles, was opened by Sir Percy Sargent.

"A Red Letter Day" says the Report, "there was the Beauty of the Abbey Service, the choice words of those who spoke later, and happy greetings of the great crowd of well pleased sightseers all combined to make the day a memorable one".

Year by year the small improvements went on – new instruments bought, an up-to-date lift installed, the heating once more improved, an iron lung presented for Poliomyelitis patients (infantile paralysis, it was called then) and so on; until finally, in 1937 the big extension to the south was decided upon, and in 1938 the building was started. "HOPE prevails over APPREHENSION, and CONFIDENCE in the future that awaits us".

Apprehension there must have been indeed; for the cost of the completed 3-story building was £17,839 13s. 10d. and more than half the accumulated reserves of legacies and the like were sold to pay for it; while every one in Sherborne and the countryside did what they could to raise the extra money – over and above the usual strong support which has always been forthcoming – to wipe off the remaining debt of £2,000.

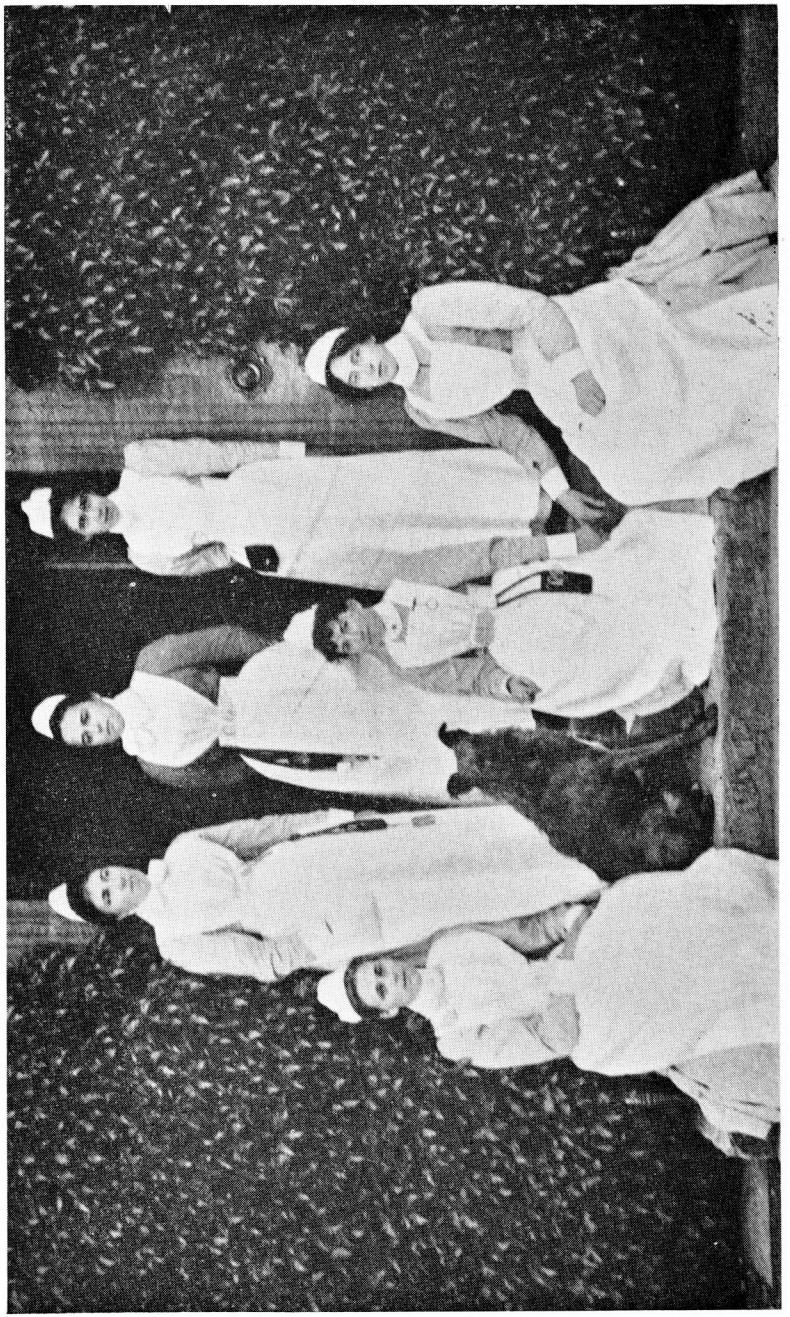
But when the Second World War came in September 1939 all those who had worked for an Up-to-date Hospital must have been satisfied when they thought of what had been accomplished in the last 20 years, even though their plans had not been completed – the reconstruction of the Old Buildings, scheduled to begin immediately, had to be post-poned – indefinitely!

Yeatman Hospital Leagues

The principle that patients should be charged was first formulated in 1919 ("the system, now, we believe, in use in most voluntary hospitals"), but it was realised that even the figure of from 7/6d. a week might prove too much for many people to find unless money be providently laid aside. So it was suggested that "if Farmers and other Employers of Labour would encourage their employees to leave at least one penny per week, each Pay Day, for the Hospital, they would be rendering most valuable aid to an Institution which exists for the benefit of Sherborne and its neighbourhood".

Old Age Pensioners and some others were still treated free of charge. In 1926, for example, when there were 346 In-Patients and 1,020 Out-Patient attendances, 54 Patients were treated without any expense to themselves.

However, in 1925 "History was made" as the Report puts it, with the launching "under the exceptionally able command of Captain Warleigh, R.N., and his officers and crew" of the Yeatman Hospital League. By 1926 the Report notes "the extraordinary growth from nothing of our allied Association, the League, with its 51 Branches, 258 Sections and 3,128 Members, to say nothing of its financial help to our work and the self-respecting manner in which it enables Members to obtain our aid in times of sickness". By paying into the funds of the League members were able to receive benefits for themselves and their families when hospital treatment was necessary.



A group of nurses at the Hospital in 1903



An aerial view of the Hospital



The new Sun Rooms



Miss A. E. KEARVELL, 1900-1934

Miss C. M. TAYLOR
1909-1933

Miss U. SCHILBACH
1910-1934

From the 1934 Annual Report

A comparable scheme was started in 1927 on behalf of Private Ward Patients who were expected to pay the full cost of their treatment in Hospital. (This League still exists as an insurance which will pay part of the cost of a private room in the Yeatman or other Hospital at which the insured person may require to be treated).

Linen Guild

The next association formed to help the hospital (apart from the Silver Lining League set up in 1928 to collect silver paper and other saleable metals) was the Linen Guild. At first, in 1929, the Women's Institutes were asked to provide bed linen, operation socks, towels and the like, but the job proved too big, so in 1939, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bright, with Mrs. Jeaffreson Harris as Secretary, it was reorganised and nearly 100 Members enlisted to make garments and to subscribe to a Fund for buying materials, with the result that 200 Articles were provided in the first year for the Hospital's linen store cupboard.

The War Years: 1939 – 1945

After 1940 the issue of Annual Records to subscribers was discontinued. From now until the handover of the Yeatman Hospital to the Ministry of Health in 1948 the story has to be extracted from the Minutes of Committee Meetings.

In these Minute Books we see the story from inside. It is as if, instead of viewing the growth of a wood from outside, we have stepped within and are now examining each tree in turn. As in all committees, much time is spent in routine matters – the condition of the water softener and the Esse Cooker, the inspection of the lift and the lightning conductor, the bad state of the linoleum and the outside paint-work, the lack of blankets and the shortage of china take as much time to discuss and settle as do great matters of historic importance.

The Chairman was Sir Hubert Medlycott, elected to that position after the death of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake in 1938, whose work for the Hospital is commemorated on the plaque inside the main door.

Mr. J. Dingley was the Secretary. He took over in 1917 when his father's health failed, and apart from a very small salary in his last few years, served the Hospital in an honorary capacity until 1943, and continued to attend meetings until the final handover to the National Health Service. Mr. C. B. Brett was Chairman of the House Committee throughout the war, and Mr. B. C. Forder Chairman of Finance and Estates until he retired in 1942 when his place was taken by Brig. General Waller.

As early as January 1939 preparations were being made for a possible "emergency", for Matron was at that time authorised to lay in a

month's extra supply of non-perishable stores, and it was decided that while no sandbags were to be got, window blinds must be inspected.

In September 1939 the "National Emergency" did indeed occur, bringing many immediate problems to be faced. Jack Durrant, who was helping his father, A. T. Durrant (the Porter and Radiological Attendant) was called up. The Grand Opening Ceremony of the new Wards had to be reduced to a short Service of Dedication carried out by the Bishop of Salisbury. For a time the new wards remained vacant under a demand by the military authorities that 20 beds on each floor should remain available for casualties which did not, fortunately, come in the numbers expected, although 87 army casualties were received in 1940.

Sherborne's own afternoon of bombing was on September 30th, 1940, when 19 Air Raid casualties were received. Luckily, the damage to Hospital buildings was slight: £38 was the sum received from the Ministry of Health as "payment of War Damage at the Blitz".

There was difficulty throughout the whole period in making the Black-Out effective, in fact, it is described as "a perfect nightmare". Devices such as adding extra bands of black paper round the offending windows were constantly being tried. The glass itself had to be guarded from dangerous splintering by criss-crossing each pane with bands of sticky paper.

Patients' gas masks had to be stored somewhere; stirrup pumps and fire buckets to be used in tackling incendiary bombs are noted, and instructions given to the staff on how to tackle new types of incendiary bombs. The railings are removed and sent to the Sherborne U.D.C. salvage drive. Two 500 gallon asbestos cisterns arrive for emergency water supplies and have to be set up. Sometimes the Home Guard are doing the Fire Watching at night and sometimes volunteers are being sought.

Sister Golledge was in charge of the Hospital Air Raid Precautions and received a grant from the S.U.D.C. for this responsibility.

We hear about the Gas Contamination Room on the ground floor with its separate entrance from the Tradesmen's Yard – never used but always kept in readiness. A baffle wall against bomb blast is built, sandbags placed along the balconies (the problem arises in October 1941 as to how to get rid of these, and it is decided to try throwing them over on to the ground below). And in November 1941, Matron organised a Baby Show in aid of Warships Week and was congratulated on the success of the occasion.

In 1941 the cost of provisions was 2s. 4½d. a day per patient, and the total cost of a patient had gone up to 10s. 3¾d. a day. The Treasurer's Report shows that £660 had been allocated from the Ministry of Health to cover the cost of both occupied and unoccupied requisitioned beds and the expense of additional staff. The wonderful work of both the General and Private Ward Leagues in bringing

ever-increasing income to offset ever-rising expenditure was praised, and the need for extra effort to rebuild capital structure against "less fruitful days" was emphasized.

There, in the Minutes for 1943, are the names of the domestic staff whose conditions of work are being considered – Miss Kenniston, Mrs. Wilson and Alice, Flora, Iris, May and Kathleen. There is the complaint that the Laundry is damaging irreplaceable linen by using too much chemical in the water, and there is the resolution that a letter of thanks should go to the Boys Brigade and the Boy Scouts who have helped with the Porter's work during Noyce's absence through illness.

In 1943 Mr. Dingley decided he must hand over the Secretaryship of the Hospital to a younger man. His decision brought many tributes to his efficiency, hard work and unfailing courtesy over 26 years. For the first time the post was advertised in the Press and a professional hospital administrator selected to fill the position which for almost 80 years had been filled by a Sherborne resident in a part time voluntary capacity.

The invasion of Europe grew imminent. General Waller, early in 1944, says the old wards may be required for emergency cases "very soon". By May, Matron is giving Nurses 14 days' holiday "now, in case it is not possible later". It was calculated that the Hospital could take 75 army and civilian casualties exclusive of Maternity and Private Patients. (There was a Naval Hospital on the present Cold Harbour Hospital site, and the two hospitals collaborated where necessary).

The Allied Invasion of France started on June 6th 1944. Only the fact that "sleeping away" passes had been cancelled, and that 20 patients had been received from Portwey Hospital after an Air Raid on Weymouth shows that anything out of the ordinary was occurring. On June 23rd there is mention that 20 service casualties (presumably the Portwey ones) had been received on May 29th and that the men had carried out repairs to earphones, radio, etc. and it is said that in the event of any further casualties being admitted there would be a free issue of cigarettes and tobacco.

But the end of the war approached. The Emergency Medical Service for Requisitioned Beds was terminated in February 1945. There were even plans for a big money raising Hospital Festival to be held in the summer in conjunction with the Rotary Club. £1,000 was optimistically hoped for, and £1,400 was the sum raised.

The Ministry of Health requested the return of the beds and bedding issued on loan at the beginning of the war for the emergency beds. Matron was nonplussed – they were worn out and supplies already too low. The only possible answer was to offer to buy the already well-worn sheets and blankets.

And in fact, although it is not mentioned, in the summer of 1945 victory was gained and the enemies defeated. It was now necessary

to face the stringencies and difficulties of the peace, with the ultimate prospect of the National Health Service Plan for Hospitals ahead.

But before that happened many schemes for the good of the Hospital were germinating in the minds of the members of the Committee of Management, and to these we must now turn.

Towards the National Health Service: 1945 - 1948

There was no quick getting back to normal after the Victory Parades. The rationing of food was stricter than ever, and supplies of ordinary stores and equipment scarce and difficult to get. Licences were needed for any building or repair work. The Hospital was in want of radical modernisation and re-equipment in several respects, and looming ahead, was the somewhat intimidating prospect of the absorption of this very personal and locally integrated hospital in the great wide sea of the National Health Service.

The first mention of a "White Paper" was in March 1944 when a questionnaire was received for completion. A year later the Secretary attended a conference called by the British Hospitals Association to study the implications of the White Paper. He reported back to the Committee that he had no hesitation in saying that the Voluntary Hospitals were having their interests safeguarded by the Association.

The chief matter in which the Hospital was now deficient was in Nurses' Accommodation. There were 29 Nurses working at the Hospital when it was fully staffed and only 11 bedrooms available. This meant that some were sleeping out in the town and others sharing rooms. When staff shortages became acute and the private wards had to be closed (as they were for 6 weeks in 1946) it was possible to give the Nurses some of the vacant rooms. But a more permanent solution had to be sought.

When Ramsam House was coming on the market the question which the Committee had to decide was, should they find the capital to buy this large and very decrepit house, do it up and equip it for Sisters and Nurses, or should they attempt to make cubicles within some of the old wards in the Hospital itself. For several months arguments for both points of view were pressed, until, in March 1946, the brave decision was made that, whatever the future might bring, as each of the staff must be provided with a proper bed-sitting room, Ramsam House would be bought. There was a heavy dilapidations bill of £600 due from the Military Authorities who had been in occupation, but plans were drawn up, tenders invited and the necessary licences applied for. They were granted but for less than had been requested, and the fitting of wash basins in the bedrooms had to be postponed.

But the time came when Matron was given permission to spend £320 on furniture and early in 1948 the Nurses moved in and were reported to be delighted with the amenities.

The Staff position eased, there were more nurses available, J. Durrant was demobilised and returned to the Yeatman, and was at once given six weeks leave on full pay to learn practical radiology at the Royal Naval Hospital at Cold Harbour. R. Bishop was appointed Stoker-Handyman (both these men are still at the Yeatman Hospital) and the prospect on the whole seemed more cheerful.

The Committee at any rate were resolved that, whatever the future would bring to the Hospital, they would hand it over as fully modernised as possible. £4,000 had been spent on renovating and furnishing Ramsam House; a new X-Ray Plant was bought for £2,158 to replace the obsolete one; a flat was made for Matron over the Out-Patients Department; the new Children's Ward became fully operational; there is even talk in the Minutes of those newest of inventions, penicillin and plastic (for Curtains).

Finally, in June 1948, came the last meeting of the House Committee of the Yeatman Hospital as a Voluntary Hospital. Mr. Brett was in the Chair, Mrs. T. Bartlett, Miss Goodbody, Mr. Dingley, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. D. O. Stewart, Mr. C. W. H. Steele, Brig.-Gen. Waller and Matron attended, while Mrs. Bright and Sir Hubert Medlycott sent their apologies. After some appreciative backward glances at the past history of the Hospital from Mr. Brett and expressions of pleasure by Members that General Waller was nominated to serve on the new Hospital Management Committee of the West Dorset Group of Hospitals, the Chairman formally moved:

"That the Meeting Terminate and the Committee Dissolve".

Sherborne Area House Committee

There was a short-lived "House Committee" formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. D. O. Stewart which met monthly from September 1948 to February 1949 to deal with day to day decisions on the administration of the Hospital. Its chief outside anxiety was that local interest in the Hospital should not be lost, and the idea of "Visitors" who would inspect the Hospital on a monthly rota basis was reintroduced, members of the Committee volunteering to serve in this capacity. These Visitors are now an Official Body under the Hospital Management Committee.

Finally, when the House Committee was itself disbanded, it was suggested that the formation of a body of "Friends of the Yeatman Hospital" might come into being, so that an active interest in Hospital matters could be spread widely over the town and neighbourhood. These "Friends" took formal shape in 1951 with Mr. D. O. Stewart as their Chairman and Captain L. L. Yeatman as President.

The Yeatman Hospital Today

Today the Yeatman Hospital is a 60-bed General Hospital, with an Enrolled Nurse Training School in association with Damers

Hospital in Dorchester. It is rare for a hospital of this size to offer such a complete range of departments – medical, surgical, maternity, childrens, outpatients, X-Ray and a variety of weekly clinics.

Naturally, since Vesting Day, costs have gone up at the Yeatman Hospital as they have at every other Hospital in the country, but the number of staff has increased to allow for shorter working hours and more leave, and well-deserved pay rises have also added to the total cost. Of the total expense of treating a patient in the Hospital today, over half is attributable to the salaries of the Medical, Nursing, Professional and Technical Staff.

The Yeatman has had a share of the implementation of the general rising standards of Hospital building and equipment over the last few years. The big improvement was the installing of the ultra-modern operating suite (partially financed by the Hospital's own accumulated reserves of "Free Monies") which was opened in March 1961. At the opening ceremony, performed by Captain L. L. Yeatman, great-grandson of the Hospital's namesake, and first Chairman of the West Dorset Hospital Management Committee, it was described as "quite outstanding, for a Hospital of this size". There has also been a new X-Rray apparatus; central heating has been installed at Ramsam House, and a big new car park made on the south side of the main hospital buildings. Other improvements too have been carried out.

Happily, the close contact with the locality has not been lost. The Red Cross gives a Library Service, and the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital take round a trolley-shop once a week and provide refreshments on busy afternoons in the out-patients department. An active interest in the welfare of the Hospital is taken by many of the organisations in Sherborne and the neighbourhood and there is a steady generous flow of funds from various money-raising occasions, which is all channelled through the Bank Account of the Friends. This has made it possible to provide many comforts for patients and staff such as lie outside the scope of the National Health Service.

A Centenary is a great occasion when it is celebrating something which has worked itself into the lives of so many people as the Yeatman Hospital has done. But let us not forget the great debt of gratitude and thankfulness which is owed to those countless people, remembered and un-remembered, who have given love and service and devoted care, for every day of the one hundred years we are commemorating.

Nursing Staff Through 100 Years

Sherborne has never been in any doubt as to the vital part played by the nurses in its hospital. The two medical officers, Drs. Highmore and Williams, were appointed on New Year's Day, 1866, when the hospital was formally opened. But not until they had "secured the services of a very efficient Matron", Miss Beall, was the first patient received, on March 19th. No doubt one competent nurse could cope with the early trickle of patients, but before the year was out, 32

in-patients and 54 out-patients were recorded, and the Committee was able to proceed with a pet scheme it had apparently harboured from the beginning. This was the training of nurses, and thanks to the liberality of the President, Mr. Wingfield Digby, who promised £25 towards the extra expense, the hospital was able to start this in 1867, reporting the following January that 'two young persons were now being trained for this important work'.

The primary aim was, of course, to provide efficient nurses for the hospital and the two young persons learned their job, like their successors today, at the bedside. Drs. Highmore and Williams obviously took them in hand, for the next year's report records appreciation of 'the careful teaching of the Medical Officers and the judicious management of the Matron' due to which 'these nurses have already become very useful and are going on satisfactorily'. So much so that the Committee meaningfully suggests that 'others might be advantageously received, if the requisite funds were provided'. There is no evidence, however, that anyone took the hint.

In 1870 Miss Beall resigned on account of ill-health, amid general regret. Of the two estimable young women in training, one, Emma Burrows, alas, had left after two years as 'the occupation did not agree with her'. The other, Louisa Ironsides, completed her three years to the satisfaction of the Committee and the Matron, and in July 1870 had her wages increased. Though Miss Ironsides appears to have been made of sterner stuff than her fellow pro, ill health caused her also to resign in April 1871, and the new Matron found herself short staffed at the beginning.

By spring 1873 this Matron, too, had gone and in her place came Miss Corneille. She preferred to be known as Lady Superintendent, and she was obviously used to 'lady probationers', for she twice made request to 'have a lady in the hospital as a pupil'. Possibly the first one was a young relative, for in 1876 a Miss Zoe J. Corneille appears as a Day Nurse. The Committee record somewhat complacently that 'through the skill of the Medical Officers and the kind attention of Matron and Nurses, some valuable lives have been prolonged for future usefulness in their several callings'.

Did Miss Corneille, however, become too highhanded? There is a whisper of trouble in the autumn of 1880; the night nurse had left, and the day nurse (Zoe?) had been absent from her duties for some time 'without the sanction or knowledge of the Visitors or Committee'. The Visitors duly saw the Lady Superintendent and made a ruling, that the engagement or dismissal of nurses must be authorised by the Committee and that no leave must be given to any nurse, except by the Committee. A sub-committee was set up to go into the whole question of nursing and establishment charges. The following month Miss Corneille resigned.

The sub-committee recommended that 'a matron thoroughly experienced in nursing at a salary not exceeding £40 a year, and 2

qualified assistant nurses whose combined salaries shall not exceed £40 with uniform' would be adequate for the requirements of the hospital.

Perhaps in anticipation of this recommendation three nurses resigned.

The new Matron, Miss Ellen Woodward, came to a hospital almost without nurses; and staffing was to prove a headache for some time to come. Night nurses were particularly difficult to find, and in 1885, the 'local supply having failed when most needed', the Committee was driven to engage two nurses in succession from the Salisbury Diocesan Training Home for Nurses, for 14 weeks at a guinea a week. This expense could not go on indefinitely, however, so all attempts to get a night nurse having failed, it was agreed to engage a third nurse and share the night work.

In the meantime another nurse had resigned, complaining of want of outdoor exercise. Thoroughly alarmed, the Committee investigated, then called the nurse in. She agreed to stay on if she could have a month's holiday to recruit her health. It was granted, plus a rise in salary! And rules were drawn up 'for the guidance of the Matron and the comfort of the nurses'. These laid down regular time off for both night and day nurses 'to take outdoor exercise'. The health of the nursing staff was recognised as vital to the hospital.

When Miss Louisa Gardner was elected matron in 1885, the Committee doubtless hoped she would stay longer than her predecessors. However, in May 1886 the Honorary Secretary of the Hospital, Mr. Long (a widower) asks permission (after his marriage to Miss Gardner) to be allowed to reside in hospital, paying what the Committee decides for board and lodging, and finding his own wine, spirits and fruit. This is agreed and the sum of 21/– a week fixed. At the same time Matron asks for a few weeks absence from the end of July. At the end of the year both Matron and Secretary hand in their resignations, the Committee expressing great regret, and recording appreciation of Mr. Long's 7 years of service, finally presenting *him* with a silver teapot and cream jug. Nowhere is there any reference to the Matron getting married, but did Mr. and Mrs. Long take up residence in the matron's quarters early in July? If not, who then was the Miss Gardner Mr. Long mentioned in his request.

Miss Marie Jennings, who became Matron in 1892, came from the Devon and Cornwall Hospital and is described in the Report as a most excellent nurse and housekeeper. The newly appointed Medical Officer, Dr. J. F. L. Whittingdale noticed this too, and in August 1893 Miss Jennings left to become Mrs. Whittingdale, (and the mother of a doctor who was also to give notable service to the hospital).

Fortunately a successor was on the spot. Nurse Wiginton, who had been on the staff for 18 months, was appointed Sister-in-Charge, and with evident satisfaction the Committee records that 'having passed the examination of the Society of Apothecaries, she was

appointed dispenser, in addition to her other duties' – and a male dispenser is dispensed with.

It had been the general rule to pay probationers a small salary, but in 1894 the hospital passes regularly to taking a fee from nurses in training, and sister-in-charge receives an extra £5 a year for adding the duties of sister tutor to those of matron and dispenser. One wonders why the following year this sum has gone down to the odd sum of £3. 18. 9 – which indeed disappears altogether the next year.

But then, in 1898 so does the highly thought of, versatile Miss Wiginton, who just sinks without trace. The annual report merely mentions the new matron, noting that dispensing is to be provided for until she is qualified as a dispenser.

Miss Clarke, this matron, stayed longer than most of her predecessors, and saw the hospital into the 20th century. The 1903 report carries two revealing illustrations. On the cover is a delightful sketch of a nurse, skirts and apron down to the ground, carrying a large cup of steaming liquid; and as a frontispiece is a photograph of the nursing staff, six in all, complete with dog, in the doorway of a creeper-covered house. No names are given, but presumably Matron stands at the back, flanked by two senior nurses, each with chatelaines hanging from their waists.

In 1908 Miss Clarke was succeeded by Miss Ada Kearvell, who was at the helm not only during the War, but in the difficult years following. In 1924, her 'silver wedding' (to quote the press) was celebrated by three months leave of absence to go to South Africa, a gift of £300, and an illuminated album – and tributes to gladden any woman's heart. In reply she referred to the help of her nurses, 2 of whom had been with her for over 15 years, and her domestics, one with 18, and two with 12 years' service.

Miss Kearvell was a great matron, supported by a fine staff. When she came to retire, in 1934, there was an even greater demonstration of gratitude and affection, which included a £580 cheque from all her friends. With her retired those two stalwarts on the nursing staff, who now registered 24 years each at the hospital, and a grateful Committee, with 'appreciation of their long and able service', presented each with £100.

The hospital's appreciation of its staff throughout the whole century has been constant, heartwarming and practical. Always the success of the Yeatman is linked with the service given by all concerned. On more than one occasion 'splendid work' during the absence of matron is acknowledged by extra leave, and even a bonus, and, throughout, the welfare of the nurses has been one of the Committees' chief concerns. Salaries from the first were as generous as funds would permit; in 1935 an inquiry of other hospitals showed those at the Yeatman to be 'on the satisfactory side', and when in 1943 the Rushcliffe Committee put forward the first national scales, these were immediately accepted, in spite of considerable extra cost.

By 1945 the problem of accommodation for nurses was again a headache. Projects to buy various houses were dropped on account of cost, in favour of a plan to convert a spare ward into cubicles for nurses, but finally Ramsam House was acquired in May 1946. Not before it was needed; there were only 17 bedrooms for 29 nurses; some were living out, others doubling up. Even so, staff shortages had caused the private wards to be closed and as late as 1947 Matron was reporting that poor accommodation caused candidates for sisters' posts to turn them down.

For it was two years from the purchase date before the nurses moved into their new home. There was a joyful house-warming on March 30th, 1948, and next month Matron reports to the Committee that the staff are happy in their new quarters and the Sisters are enjoying the amenities. By May 'the garden was looking very nice, although the turf had not arrived'. Matron also benefitted, in that she was able to have a new sittingroom, bedroom and bathroom 'on the green landing' in the nurses' old quarters in hospital.

Training of Nurses

The Yeatman Hospital can with some pride recall that it began training nurses only a few years after Florence Nightingale set up her famous school at St. Thomas' Hospital, London. Little is known of the actual curriculum in those early years but Emma Burrows, Louisa Ironsides, and their successors obviously had a sensibly practical course of instruction, taking three years to complete, with clinical instruction on the wards, and theoretical teaching from matron and later a suitably qualified sister.

Judging by the variety of diseases listed in the analysis of patients received, they certainly had practical experience which might well have been envied by nurses in a larger hospital. So that when the time came in the 1930's, after the introduction of State Registration, for the probationers trained at the Yeatman for their first two years to go on to another hospital to complete the requirements for final State examinations, they seem to have been well thought of in their new places of instruction at Salisbury and Oxford. Time and time again, Matron reported 100% (or near) success in the State Preliminary examinations, and unfailingly the Committee responded with congratulations to her and the sister tutor. Once again the Committee's appreciation took a practical form – £4. 0. 0 to be spent on prizes for the student nurses doing best in the examinations. On April 19th, 1945, after the latest 100% results, they had their first prizegiving – a most successful afternoon.

After the N.H.S. came into being in 1948, the Yeatman, now linked with other hospitals of West Dorset had a number of happy and profitable years as part of a training school which included Bridport and Dorchester, and its student nurses, whilst still receiving much of

their training at the Yeatman, both in classroom and in the wards, in addition went off gaily to Dorchester for further lectures and study 'blocks'.

Then in 1959 the Yeatman Hospital once more undertook complete nurse training, coming round full circle to its beginnings in 1867, when Emma and Louisa came rather nervously through its doors not knowing quite what to expect. Now the young women who come, through the very same doors as did the first two, know perhaps more what is in store for them. A hundred years later, they are training in the practical, up-to-date two year course for State Enrolment. In the well equipped classrooms at Ramsam House they will have theoretical work and practical demonstrations; on the modern wards of their own hospital they will learn the art of bedside nursing (with a period at Damers Hospital, Dorchester, for specialist geriatric experience). And they will still have those pleasurable expeditions, this time to Weymouth, for extra lectures – in the words of the Sister Tutor 'to give them greater variety'.

Now the prizegiving is two yearly, and when the special centenary prizegiving takes place in December 1966, graced by the President of their own professional organisation – the National Association of State Enrolled Nurses – the success of the Yeatman training school will be seen not only in the pupils who receive their awards, but in the supporting rows of qualified S.E.N.'s – as well as some senior nurses of earlier training days – who have been through the school themselves, have remained or returned, to put their excellent training into even better practice, in their own hospital.

Patients

According to the rules drawn up in 1866 patients wishing to be admitted to the Hospital were to present themselves, armed with a card from a subscriber, on Monday mornings at 10 a.m., when the Medical Officer and two members of the Committee would consider their case. Severe accidents would, however, be admitted at any time, without a card, and this presumably was taken to cover medical emergencies as well.

The earliest list of patients, beautifully written out in the 'Visitors Book' records that on Monday, March 19th, 1866, two patients duly presented themselves – Mary Brine of Trent (wife of a smith), who was admitted as an in-patient, with cancer, and placed under Dr. Highmore, and George Hillary of Glanvilles Wootton, who was treated as an out-patient. Next Monday, no patients at 10 a.m., but in the evening Frank Francis of Thornford, aged 21, was admitted with disease of the lungs. (He was transferred to Brompton Hospital, London, on July 12). The following Monday, the Medical Officer and his colleagues refused admission to a labourer from Marnhull as he was 'not likely to be benefitted by a residence in hospital' – reason not given.

So the hospital was in action, and a continuous stream of patients from both town and neighbourhood began, which has gone on increasing steadily for 100 years. Only 8 beds were open during 1866, but they received 52 patients during the year, and somehow managed to accommodate 9 patients at the end of the year. Original plans had, of course, been for 16 beds and a new wing adding this further 8 was opened in 1868.

Among the patients listed in these early days is a ratcatcher with a bad leg, a wheelwright with jaundice, a thatcher with a head injury, several carter's boys with broken legs, a traveller with a chest infection, a dressmaker with a tumour in the face, and several servants out of work, with various disabilities. One such, aged 20, from Thornford, with disease of the lungs, is noted as 'not likely to get another situation for a long time'.

Both the cost of medicines and the free treatment of patients who could well afford to pay were to cause much anxiety in years to come. In 1882 it is recorded that indiscriminate relief in out-patients was 'a burden to the hospital, a cause of injustice to the medical officers, an obstruction to self-help and independence and conducive to pauperism'.

From the first patients expressed their gratitude for the care and treatment they received. One patient, indeed, carried his gratitude in his heart for 66 years; Mr. Sydney Frampton, who had been admitted as an emergency from Ryme Intrinseca, with a broken leg, on January 27th, 1870, returned in 1936 anxious to 'satisfy his debt of honour'. He gave to the hospital £150 worth of Peruvian stock, valued at £100. Less spectacular, perhaps, but maybe just as grateful, was the 'fainting lady at the Pageant' in 1905 who sent a donation of 4/–.

The authorities considered that precious beds should be kept for those likely to benefit from treatment, and there are repeated complaints mostly in connection with the number of deaths (on which perhaps the hospital was understandably touchy) of patients 'arriving in a dying condition, and should not have been sent'. A few patients were expelled, for breach of rules or misconduct, (after being heard in their own defence) and usually they were never re-admitted. By 1884 patients had to be refused for want of room – the reputation of the hospital was spreading – and the staff were coping with many accidents and pressing cases. Patients in those days stayed in hospital much longer than now; in 1884 the average stay was 45½ days and 6 cases between them totalled 1,033 days.

By 1926 over 82 parishes in the 'catchment area' are listed – including Ireland, Gloucester, London, Bognor and Guildford. (Who said Sherborne was not a popular holiday resort?) It certainly had its young families, for whom the opening of the maternity department in 1927 was a boon, and after the completion of the new out-patients department in 1930 – designed, incidentally, by Mr (later Sir Edward)

Maufe, the architect of Guildford Cathedral 6 years later, the number of out-patients more than doubled.

It certainly could be regarded as a tribute to the hospital that so many people wished to be treated within its walls; the Yeatman was famous for its surgical work, and the Management seem to have regarded this as a very important aspect of the hospital's service.

By the 1950's the annual intake reached four figures, and with modern treatments length of stay dropped to an average of 16.5. In 1965 the hospital received 1,379 in-patients, and 71 more would have wished to have come, had beds been available; there were 1,668 out-patients, including 1,274 accidents or other emergencies; with 9,267 out-patients and clinic visits all told. Average stay had dropped again to 10.5 days (14.86 for medical cases) and 210 babies uttered their first cries within its walls.

And what of the centenary year, 1966 and those years to come? For them it is surely appropriate to quote what was said when the hospital was approaching its 21st birthday: "Who can estimate the happiness and comfort conferred on (the many) patients who have experienced the benefit of the institution, and how many families have been helped by the relief afforded to (the many) out-patients . . .Surely the hand of God can be traced in the measure of prosperity which has attended it"

A Century of Medical Care

No hospital, surely, could have been better served by its medical men than the Yeatman. Even before it opened, the doctors of the town were actively concerned with the project. The meeting in Sherborne in February 1865, when the suggestion for a hospital was approved, was attended by the senior practictioner of the place, Mr. Nathaniel Highmore, then in his 75th year, who offered his help should it be needed. (He lived just long enough to see the hospital successfully established). Also present was his nephew, Dr. William Highmore, who had worked out in readiness for the meeting, exactly the sort of institution he thought was required. Both doctors attended the opening ceremony on New Year's Day, 1866, and Dr. William Highmore and his son-in-law, Dr. W. H. Williams were elected the first two Honorary Medical Officers.

This seems to have set the pattern for the 'family associations' which became such a feature of the Yeatman Hospital. Later Dr. Williams' son, with the same initials, was to join this medical family, which contributed between them over 70 years' service, a record which the Whittingdales, father and son, were to equal.

Long service has been a notable feature of the medical staff; twenty years and over is common, between thirty and forty was achieved at least four times, there is one 42 year span and one of over half a century. Some of these figures are being totted up by present members

of the medical staff and old records being challenged. There is something about the Yeatman which encourages loyalty and devotion.

Undoubtedly appreciation plays its part, and the Committee never lacked in this. Unfailingly each year the Reports, from the very beginning, have recorded gratitude for 'the constant and unwearied attention' of the Medical Officers (1866); 'most cordial thanks . . . for their untiring zeal' (1902); 'appreciation of long hours of un-grudging service so cheerfully shown' (1916).

Long as the doctor's hours in the wards might be (there can be no figures for these) they also had other duties. From the first the two Medical Officers were expected to sit with selected members of the Committee on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. punctually (there was once a complaint that they appeared late) to consider patients presenting cards for admission. This called for judgment and decision, and would have been no sinecure had all the patients arrived at the prescribed time. Naturally they did not, for sickness does not come to rule; in fact the second patient admitted arrived on Monday evening, and one can imagine a tired doctor, after a full day's work, being hastily recalled to the hospital for the emergency.

This was a pattern which was to be repeated endless times in the hospital's history – 'untiring zeal and constant attendance' it is called in one place, and it earned the gratitude of patients, relatives and Committee alike. When, through advancing years or increasing pressure of work outside, a Medical Officer resigned from this very active post, more often than not he remained associated as 'Honorary Consultant'. Probably too he would find himself on one of the Committees, so his experience and wisdom remained at the service of the hospital.

Naturally the Committee depended on the expert advice of the medical officers when new extensions were planned, or there was new equipment to buy. They would make expeditions to London to look at surgical apparatus; they would consult with the architect on the layout of new departments; in 1880 they organised a system of hospital dispensing to save rising costs, and in 1940 a scheme to give medical and nursing help outside the hospital if needed in an emergency of war.

On one celebrated occasion they were reinforced by the 'biggest gun' to be found; in 1905 the Royal Surgeon, Sir Frederick Treves, all the more welcome as a Dorset man, visited the hospital and made suggestions for improvements, and one gratifying result was the provision of a fine new up-to-date operating theatre.

Surgical work was always heavy, it seems, at the Yeatman, and from the figures of operations published in most annual reports, one judges it was varied, exacting and highly successful. In 1883 the Committee congratulated the new young surgeon, Mr. W. H. Williams, Junr. on the success of a difficult ovarian operation, and one senses a quiet but persistent pride in the repeated statement that the (always

few) deaths were in *medical* cases – and particularly those who had been brought into the hospital in a moribund condition, and should not have been admitted anyhow. Obviously the standard of medical care was also high, and the hospital was always trying to reserve its skill and resources for those who could profit from the treatment given, and to protect its medical and nursing staff from undue burdens whether through 'indiscriminate relief in out-patients' in 1882, or 'unsuitable cases' from a nearby Polish camp in 1948.

On the whole the medical staff were uncomplaining, at any rate about their work. On one occasion, however, they were roused to protest, perhaps inspired by a similar upsurge by the nurses some years previously. This was about the food. It was not the quality, they said, but the cooking, the monotony of the menus and the serving. The hospital was obviously having one of its rare lapses in the kitchen. Immediate action was taken, as on the earlier occasion, when the nurses complained. It was recognised that the matron was over-burdened; an experienced cook was found, and a fully qualified sister appointed to act as Assistant Matron, and doubtless to keep an extra eye on things.

From the first the doctors took an active share in training the nurses, and at times in their selection – and dismissal. One sees them backing up the matron in her request for extra staff, explaining a new project for a nurses' training school – even enlisting members of the nursing staff to pick gooseberries for the hospital from the doctor's garden. (Another of the keen medical gardeners used regularly to supply the patients with fruit and vegetables).

Obviously the two complementary sides of medical care must work closely and harmoniously together, but maybe the Committee felt this could be overdone when in 1893 Dr. Whittingdale, Senr. removed a competent matron of whom they had great hopes, to be Mrs. Whittingdale, and so caused a vacancy on the nursing side. They could not know then that she would compensate them by producing a doctor son who would give many years of service to the hospital.

Both World Wars meant extra burdens on the medical and nursing staff. In World War I these took the form of a 'constant ebb and flow of war casualties' (nearly 1,000 in all), many seriously wounded. It is pleasant to note, therefore, that the two principal medical officers Dr. Whittingdale and Major Rickett each were awarded the O.B.E. for their services and Matron received the Royal Red Cross. World War II brought fewer casualties than expected, but there was much Civil Defence work and on one occasion Sherborne found itself in the front line of attack.

When Dr. J. Whittingdale died, mourned and honoured by all, in 1946, half a century's service was brought to an end; the next year Dr. Rickett, a 'great stand-by of the hospital', resigned after 42 years work in the hospital. But new medical men, some already on the

staff, others to be appointed at that time and later, were to carry on the Yeatman tradition. They were to steer it smoothly through the upheaval of the National Health Service take-over, which saw a change of atmosphere in so many hospitals, but not in this one. The traditions of medical service were unbroken, and with their lay colleagues, many of whom are of the same long-service vintage, they will see the Yeatman into its second century.

The Cot Fund and Children's Ward

A cot is first mentioned in the Report of 1875, which records that "A handome Cot, completely furnished, having been presented to the Hospital during the year 1873, a separate fund has been raised for its support". Previously no children under eight years of age were admitted except when special circumstances occurred; but from now on the Cot Fund appears as a separate account, £20 being allowed yearly for maintenance. The money was raised at a summer bazaar in the early years and any excess paid in to the general fund.

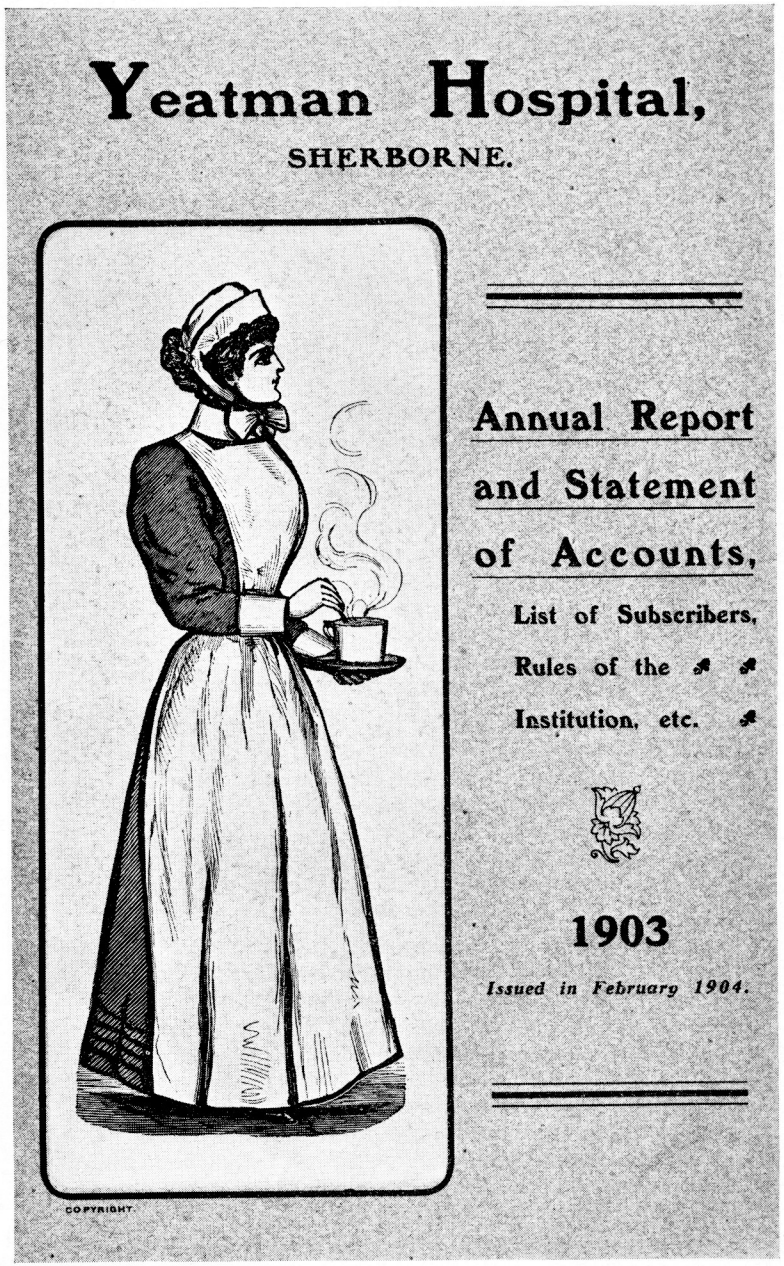
In 1902 Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Young of Pinford passed over to the Trustees a sum of £800 to endow a fully equipped cot in memory of their only child, to be called "The Ida May Cot". This was followed in 1903 by the gift of the "David Cot" from Mrs. Munro of Bazzleways, and £100 towards its endowment.

The first special children's ward for the cots was built in 1912; and in 1936 Sherborne School for Girls gave an endowment of £500 towards a fourth cot at the Hospital.

Later it appears that a special ward was no longer reserved for child patients, because in September 1944 there is a report in the Minute Book that Sister Hayward was to be put in charge of the Children's Ward as she wanted to take all the children out of the Men's and Women's Wards. It goes on to say that the number of children admitted had increased and it was considered unfair to both adults and children for them to be in the same ward. The Committee approved the scheme, and invited donations towards the expenses of the necessary alterations.

For many months after this the Committee could not make up its collective mind as to whether the children's ward should be situated on the ground floor, or the first floor; but once this had been decided in favour of the latter, the necessary permits for the work were applied for (this was just after the end of the war). Work started in November 1945 and by March the following year the Ward was ready to receive its first tonsil cases, and by the summer it was fully operational, with three beds and five cots installed.

In this centenary year the Children's Ward is being renovated, or "Up - Graded" as it is now termed in the Hospital Management's phraseology.



The cover of the 1903 Annual Report and Accounts

Mrs. Long's Samaritan Fund

Mr. Long, who was the Honorary Secretary from 1879 to 1886, made available in 1884 the sum of £281 5s. invested in North British Railway 4% Preference Stock for the purpose of endowing what was to be called "Mrs. Long's Samaritan Fund".

This fund provided money and equipment for "deserving cases as the Monthly Visitors and the Hon. Secretary may deem fit". It was the interest of about £10 – £11 a year which was available for such purposes as conveying Robert Gibbs home, 7s.; or providing Susan Caines (and many others) with elastic stockings (4s. 5d.) or sending Emily Bishop to St. Peter's Home, Worthing, (10s. 6d.). Louisa Cave was given £2 2s. towards the cost of an Artificial Foot in 1892, and poor William Norris was helped to buy a spinal support in 1894. Tommy Phillips was allowed £2 towards his charges at the Orthopaedic Hospital in London in April 1897, and a further £1 in November when he was still a patient there.

There is the skeleton of an unhappy story which can be traced in the Reports based on this Samaritan Fund. In 1907 the Fund, with the help of other subscriptions, bought a Wheel Chair with a Leg Extension for a paralysed patient called Ernest Dark. In the accounts for this year is a figure of £270 received by the Hospital as Award of Court for Ernest Dark, being the issue of the trial of Sarel *v.* Dark. And in the next year, 1908, there is an acknowledgement of two cheques, each for £5, from Mr. G. Read of Cadbury, "the kind employer of the late Ernest Dark".

In 1911 the LADIES' HOSPITAL GUILD was formed under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Goodden. For the few years of its life this fund dealt exclusively with patients' travelling expenses, and the Samaritan Fund was then devoted to helping patients buy surgical equipment, but disbursements are no longer itemised in the annual accounts. In later years a subscription of up to £10 was regularly paid to the Sherborne Ambulance Fund from the Long Samaritan Fund.

In October 1947, Miss E. Frampton gave £300 in memory of her father and asked that the gift might be associated with some special object. It was agreed that a new operating table costing £230 should be bought and that the remaining sum of money should form the nucleus of a new Fund out of which items of special equipment could be bought as the need arose. Later donations were added to this fund, and when the Government Auditors examined the Books and various Hospital Accounts it was agreed that the "Long Samaritan Fund" and the "Frampton Fund" would stay outside the Government Hospital Service and remain to be administered solely on behalf of the Yeatman Hospital.

There was a determined effort by the Yeatman Management Committee and Trustees to keep these special funds in the hands of local administrators; but when the short-lived "House Committee"

was finally wound up in 1949, it was necessary to transfer the administration to the West Dorset Hospital Management Treasurer's Department where the Funds still exist in a special account. They are classed as "Free Monies", that is, they are available to give such help to patients, staff and the Hospital as the Exchequer cannot normally provide.

The Endowment Fund

From the earliest days the importance of an Endowment Fund was recognised, for, as it says in the Annual Report for 1900, "until this fund has become largely augmented the Committee will continue to feel how precarious is the income of the Hospital, since its other sources of revenue are fluctuating and uncertain".

It was the invariable policy of the Committee to invest all legacies, but even before these began to accumulate, contributions to the Endowment Fund were encouraged and gratefully acknowledged. The first one thousand pounds was received even before the Hospital opened when the Marquis of Westminster gave £500, W. Beale £300, and J. Longman, brother of Robert Longman, the first Hon. Secretary to the Hospital, gave £100, and three other benefactors made up the last £100.

The Marquis of Westminster gave a second donation the following year, 1867, and Mrs. Burge of Child Okeford gave £150. When legacies started to come in they were allocated to the Endowment Fund, until by 1874, there was £1,000 invested in India Stock and £1,919 in Consols. By the next year all the India Stock has been disposed of and the investment is recorded as being £1,000 in Russian Stock, bringing in an extra £6. 10s. interest.

In 1883 Mr. George Wingfield Digby died and the Hospital received the handsome legacy of £2,000, less £200 estate duty, under his Will. "As is generally known" the Report for the year says, "it was through the influence and liberality of our late revered President, Mr. G. D. WINGFIELD DIGBY, that this memorial to the Rev. H. F. YEATMAN was erected in Sherborne".

If money was borrowed at any time from the Endowment Fund as it was in 1882 for painting the Hospital throughout, and in 1884 to pay for the reversion in fee of the garden attached to the Hospital and to buy four adjacent cottages, ready for expansion when needed, the money was strictly repayed as soon as opportunity allowed. Much of the investment was in various parts of the Empire— Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, but after the beginning of the new century the investment was in the Sherborne Gas Company and "Local Loan Stock".

Income Tax was deducted but later recovered by the Hospital. For example, the figure for income tax recovered in 1914 is £23 2s. 8d. The next year, 1915, dividends fell by £40 "because of the high rate of Income Tax, but this tax will be returned later".

During the war years, 1914 – 1918, any available money over and above that needed for maintenance was invested in War Bonds and the like, but was ear-marked for renovations when times would once more be normal. After 1919 with the extra help that charging for accommodation brought in, and with the usual generous subscriptions, donations and legacies, etc., investments increased substantially. By the end of 1926 the Endowment Fund was valued at £17,917, so when in 1928 £1,600 of the investments of the war years were sold to help towards building the new block it was done ungrudgingly. But urgent appeals were made at once for funds to replace investments sold.

In 1931 a value of £30,000 was put on the Hospital Buildings and Equipment, and a new "General Fund" Investment Account started, leaving the original Endowment Fund available for helping to finance the big extension of 1938, when investments were sold realising £12,021 19s. 5d. It was explained in the Report that "this was done with the greatest of care, regard being paid to the history of each Investment, and remembering that at least £10,000 must be left unrealised". The actual cost of the extension was £17,839 13s. 10d.

Once more the Hospital faced a World War, as it had in 1914, with buildings enlarged and modernised, even if its endowments had been more than halved, and there was a debt of £2,000 to clear.

The Friends of The Yeatman Hospital

The last organisation of which notice must be made is that known as "the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital". With the taking over of the Hospital by the Ministry of Health in 1948 all the then organised bodies were disbanded; but it was soon realised that local interest was still essential if the Hospital were to fill its proper place in the community. Only the people it served could appreciate the inevitable gaps in the provision which the National Health Service gave; and so, in 1951, the "Friends" took shape under a President whose name assured a happy continuity – Capt. L. L. Yeatman.

Its aims and objects are as follows:—

(*a*) To encourage, foster, organise and maintain the interest of the Public in the Patients and Staff and to support the work of the Yeatman Hospital by voluntary service.

(*b*) Raise funds to provide comforts for Patients and Nursing staff outside the scope of the National Health Service Act in such manner as "The Friends" shall decide.

and in the 15 years in which they have been active many are the comforts which have been provided and great the interest maintained.

We cannot attempt to list all the work which has been done but mention must be made of the Centenary Year's special celebration – the glassing in of the verandahs on the south side of the two main wards to give Day Rooms, or Sun Parlours, for patients, the considerable cost born entirely by the subscriptions of local people through the "Friends" organisation.

Happily yet another Yeatman, Col. J. L. Yeatman, the great great grandson of the Rev. Harry Farr Yeatman is President of the "Friends" in this centenary year. The Yeatman coat of arms is engraved on the central glass panel of the new addition and under it is written the Motto "PROPOSITI TENAX"; and in truth "Tenacious of my Purpose" is the spirit which has lain within the Yeatman Hospital for all of its hundred years.

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