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The Albert Memorial Hospital

Wollongong, N.S.W., 1864-1908

By A. P. FLEMING



The Albert Memorial Hospital as extended (C.1869)



*A paper commemorating the
Centenary of the opening of the "A.M. Hospital,"
Tuesday, September 27, 1864.
Read to the Illawarra Historical Society
Thursday, October 1, 1964
(the Monthly Meeting of the Society nearest to the Centenary)
in the presence of Staff Members of
The Wollongong Hospital.
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the author being a Councillor of the Society.*

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The "A.M." Hospital

1864-1908



Albert the Good, 1819-1861.

Introduction

The aim of the paper is to give a record of the "A.M. Hospital" (as it was usually referred to in the press of the day), the first in the Illawarra District.

It was erected by public subscription as a memorial to FRANCIS CHARLES AUGUSTUS ALBERT EMMANUEL BUCISI, Duke of Saxe, Prince of Coburg and Gotha, K.G., second son of the hereditary Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; cousin and husband to Queen Victoria — Prince Consort of England.

The Hospital in its life of 44 years occupied two sites, both with buildings on them to-day. The first on the western side of Princes Highway a short distance north of the Keira Street intersection where the original building stands, the property of Davis & Penney Pty. Ltd.; the second bounded by Crown-Darling Streets/New Dapto Road is the magnificent modern complex of The Wollongong Hospital.

N.B.—With the introduction of Decimal Currency on 14 February, 1966, £.s.d. has been converted — £1 = \$2.

Death of The Prince Consort

A second ("extra") edition of The Sydney Morning Herald of February 27, 1862 advised the news source as a telegram from Melbourne that morning on the arrival of the barque "Thomas Brown."

Death had occurred December 14, 1861 at Windsor Castle, the cause being typhoid. Congestion of the lungs set in following a preliminary diagnosis of influenza.

The paper commented the Castle was well drained but the town of Windsor notoriously the reverse. Typhoid had previously claimed the lives of a younger brother of the Prince and a cousin of the King of Portugal.

Statue Proposed

An editorial on March 21, 1862 in eulogistic strain evinced with satisfaction "*a movement is likely to be raised by small subscriptions to erect in this City (Sydney) a statue of the Prince Consort, a form in which all ages and nations have expressed their veneration of the illustrious.*"

An appeal for donations was circulated throughout N.S.W. by the Chairman (E. Deas Thomson, Colonial Secretary) of "The Prince Consort's Statue Association."

In Wollongong Thomas Hale advertised a meeting at the Court House (now the Drill Hall, Harbour Street) at noon Tuesday, April 15, to carry out the formalities for public action. A meeting was also arranged at Brownsville, then the "centre" for the present Dapto locality.

Hale's meeting appears to have lapsed as the Mayor of Wollongong Ald. George Waring called a meeting for 7 p.m. at the Queen's Hotel, Market Square, Wednesday, April 23, to consider the Statue proposal or alternatively adopt some other means to honour the dead Prince.

The Wollongong meeting in common with the rest of N.S.W. was poorly attended. In places as far apart as Tamworth and Goulburn response was as equally lukewarm. Whether, due to a disbelief in statues and/or the spending of money is not clear.

After a formal motion agreeing to co-operate with the Sydney Promoters of the statue proposal an amendment was moved by G. P. Lambert: *"That it is the opinion of this meeting the best way of perpetuating the memory of the late Prince Consort would be the establishment of a Hospital in Wollongong to be called The Albert Hospital."*

Prior to this a letter in The Sydney Morning Herald of April 4, signed "An Admirer of The Dead Prince," suggested the endowment of almshouses instead of the erection of a statue.

However, despite the lack of general support the Sydney Committee erected a statue at a cost of several hundred dollars. Located at the corner of Bridge/Macquarie Streets opposite the Chief Secretary's Department, it was unveiled by the Governor, Sir John Young, on St. George's Day, Monday, April 23, 1866. On construction of the Cahill Expressway it was moved and re-erected in the Royal Botanical Gardens near the gate from the Conservatorium entrance in Palace Gardens. A street running east from Macquarie Street to Hyde Park carries the name of Prince Albert Road.

The Founding of The Hospital

Mr. Lambert (actually Dr. Lambert) instanced many cases where the absence of a hospital or proper place of the kind had proved fatal. He would be happy to render professional assistance gratis and had no doubt Dr. Marshall would do the same.

After other speakers had orated in a similar vein, it was resolved to build a hospital. A Provisional Committee was elected of the following gentlemen, all prominent in local affairs: The Mayor, Dr. Lambert, Messrs. Pearson, Lott, Fairs, Hale.

Lambert and Lott were appointed Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The Committee met immediately after the public meeting and ordered 250 circulars, 100 collecting cards and asked the Colonial Secretary for Government assistance.

A press appeal typical of the period was made in The Illawarra Express, May 24, 1862:

"The Provisional Committee beg respectfully to solicit the earnest support and cordial co-operation of the inhabitants

of Illawarra; and trust that the following brief exposition of their intentions will suffice to dispel any doubts which may exist concerning the expediency or necessity of building a Hospital in Wollongong.

The necessity for some place where the sick and injured settlers and miners could be received and minded has long been apparent, especially when a severe accident has occurred. The medical attendant has laboured under great disadvantages in treating such a case at the home of the sufferer; and at last, he has sometimes been compelled to advise the removal of the patient to Sydney, that he may receive skilful nursing and the frequent visits of the Surgeon. It should be remembered that the removal to Sydney is accompanied with great suffering, danger, and expense, and when arrived there, the patient has to risk refusal in consequence of the Infirmary being crowded. If admitted, his friends cannot be near him to smooth his sick or perhaps dying couch; he dies surrounded by strangers, instead of those loved ones so dear to him; his friends know nothing of him until they receive the sad news that he is dead and buried. He also goes there to be treated at the expense of Sydney citizens, which is unfair to them and dishonourable to us.

The Committee do not intend to make the Hospital a Refuge for the Destitute, or a home for the skulker, but emphatically a Working Man's Hospital, where any person, by paying a small sum (say 25c per diem) or producing a letter of recommendation from a subscriber, can receive the care and attention necessary for his recovery. The cost of maintenance will be trifling; all that will be required will be rooms for a married couple, rations, and say \$40 per annum. The extra cost of patients will be defrayed by a few yearly subscriptions, the fines and fees from the Police Office and the Government aid equal to that privately subscribed.

The Medical attendance will be gratuitous until the Institution is in a position to pay for it. C. T. Smith, Esq., J.P., with his usual liberality, has promised to grant a portion of his land as a site for the Hospital wherever the Committee may select it.

The managing committee will consist of gentlemen annually elected by subscribers. As the Hospital is intended for the working classes, it is hoped that they will cheerfully contribute according to their means, and that the employers will see that it will be to their interest to largely subscribe. The number of electors on the Wollongong Roll is more than

1600 and the total number of inhabitants more than 6000, so that if the movement be general, and every person gives a few shillings, a handsome and useful building will soon rise in Wollongong, testifying that the inhabitants are loyal, humane, and independent.

Search For a Site

The appeal said Mr. C. T. Smith had promised a site (actually half an acre on Fairy Meadow Road), the offer being accepted.

Mr. W. J. Wilshire later offered half an acre in Church Street West (?). The site was inspected, Wilshire thanked for his offer but nothing was done. Letters were written to gentlemen whom the Committee thought might donate a site. Wilshire's Church Street site was then chosen with an option to purchase an adjoining half acre for \$60. This decision was protested on the ground the site had drainage problems! Negotiations were re-opened with Smith for the acquisition of the original block on Fairy Meadow Road.

It is an interesting speculation as to where Church Street West is, the street running North and South. Also what was the private re-action of Smith to the procrastination? Apparently he bore no ill will as he offered three allotments each of 66 feet for consideration.

Building Plans

On November 14, 1862 the plans of Mr. J. Backhouse, a Wollongong Architect, were approved, subject to alterations to be suggested by Drs. Marshall and Lambert. In December Backhouse provided an amended plan and became Architect at a fee of 5% of the outlay. He was instructed to call tenders returnable on or before January 1, 1863.

The tenders submitted were all too costly for the funds in hand and action was deferred for one month. The Illawarra Express of November 19, 1862 described the proposed edifice:

"The building is of brick, on a stone foundation. There are two wing facades decorated with cement cornices. The plan embraces a centre building and two wings, which, as wards, will suffice for the accommodation of about twenty patients. The front is to be erected first, and, when the central building is completed, then the wings are to be added. Tenders will shortly be called for the erection of the first part. The site is on the Fairy Meadow Road on the left side proceeding to Bulli, immediately beyond the first tramway, having a frontage of 66 feet to the Road, with a considerable depth on a new return road. The ground is ample for the purposes of an hospital. The portion of the building to be first erected will consist of waiting room.

corridor, two six-bedded wards, store, pantry, and linen-closet, parlor, bed-room and kitchen. The future additions will consist of two extensive wards, external kitchen, dead-house, &c., by which some parts of the first erection will become available for other purposes. The area of the complete building will be 66 feet by 55 feet with a total height of 22 feet. The style will be the modern Italian."

Laying The Foundation Stone

Progress was such that Miss Jenkins of Berkeley was invited to lay the foundation stone, the ceremony being scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, June 25, 1863. Why the invitation was extended to Miss Jenkins is curious, she being quite young, and not to a more senior lady of the "quality" is not recorded. Throughout she was referred to as "Miss Jenkins" and after performing her allotted task does not figure largely, if at all, in the life of the hospital.

The stone was well and truly laid as reported in the Illawarra Mercury of June, 26:

"The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Albert Hospital, took place yesterday afternoon. There was a large assemblage of persons to witness the interesting sight, amongst whom we noticed a number of country residents as well as the families of most of the residents of Wollongong. The site chosen for the Hospital is near the spot that the Mount Keira Tramway crosses the Fairy Meadow Road, and at three o'clock or a little after, the assembly drew close together to witness the ceremony. Flags were hoisted on the scaffold posts, and every effort by means of evergreens was employed to give effect to the proceedings.

Dr. Lambert as Honorary Secretary to the Hospital, said that it was with mingled feelings of pain and pleasure that he took part in the proceedings of that day. Of pain that the mournful occasion should have arisen, to regret the death of a truly good and great man, one who had looked not for fame in the Camp or in the Senate, but who by his unaffected and sterling piety, his acts of munificence, and the encouragement which he had given to the arts and sciences, and his earnestness in endeavouring to mitigate the condition of the poor, had enshrined his memory, in the heart of every British subject, and enlisted their sympathy for their widowed Queen. He might allude to the fact that the late Prince had judiciously abstained from obtruding himself on the council of his country, or of taking an active part in the Government. He had rather occupied himself in philosophic and philanthropic pursuits, and the education of his children. But he (Dr. Lambert) would

not enlarge on such topics as there were others ready to address them. Although the wood and stone of the contemplated Hospital might decay he trusted that its name would be perpetuated and that many amongst the maimed who may have received comfort and aid within its walls will have cause to bless the name of Albert. It was probable that Illawarra will some day be visited by one of Prince Albert's sons, then surely would he see with pleasure the proof of the love and esteem in which his father was held. Miss Jenkins then took a small trowel in her hand and the mortar having been laid by one of the contractors and his men, gently smoothed it with the trowel, and by means of blocks, and pulleys, the stone was lowered into its place, Miss Jenkins saying: "I declare this stone well and truly laid."

Three cheers were then called for and heartily given.

We may here mention that in the stone on which the foundation stone rests, there was a hole chiselled in which was deposited a bottle containing copies of the latest "Illawarra Mercury" and "Express," and also a neatly engrossed parchment."

After C. T. Smith said a few words the local clergy as customarily all spoke "briefly," i.e. as long as they could decently hold their audience!

Building Progress

A public meeting in August, 1864, received a financial statement from the Building Committee which showed:

Receipts:		\$	\$
Subscriptions		1,322	
Government Subsidy		1,206	2,528

Payments:			
S. Chambers (Contractor)		1,850	
Land Purchase		330	
Survey, Conveyance & Fencing		104	
J. Backhouse (Architect)		94	
Sundries		72	2,450

Balance on Hand			\$78

A silver mallet used by Miss Jenkins cost \$6 and lettering (name, building date) on the front of the edifice also \$6.

No reason was sighted for the spending of \$330 on "Land Purchase" although the land was said to have been donated.

Operation and Administration

On September 1, 1864 the rules for the conduct of the Hospital were approved. The rules, 22, were in four sections:

- viz:*
1. *Objects.*
 2. *Administration.*
 3. *Duties of the Officers.*
 4. *Admission of Patients.*

They provided the institution should be managed by a Committee consisting of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Resident Clergy, Medical Officers with 12 other subscribers to be elected annually as detailed in Act of Council 11th Vic., No. 59. Two subscribers were to be elected as Auditors for the same term.

The Managing Committee was required to meet every three months and from its membership appoint a Visiting Committee of three. The Visiting Committee met weekly to attend to complaints, engage/control the domestic staff, the receipt/expenditure of provisions — in short, run the Hospital.

The Medical Officers were elected at the Annual General Meetings, the professional gentlemen to be members or licentiates of a British College of Physicians or Surgeons and hold a Certificate of the Medical Board of N.S.W. Their duties were to supervise all medical and surgical practices.

Patients could be admitted on the recommendation of qualified subscribers, who were debited at 25c per day subject to the approval of a Medical Officer who certified applicants would benefit by admission, or on a cash payment of \$7 entitling them to 28 days' treatment. Any adjustment being at the 25c above.

The rules precluded the admission of pregnant females for the purpose of confinement, no person insane or suffering from delerium tremens, contagious and infectious diseases.

They are printed in full as an Appendix to the Centennial Report of The Wollongong Hospital.

Preliminary to Opening

Messrs. G. Waring, T. Garrett, S. J. Pearson, T. W. Smith were appointed Trustees; C. T. Smith was elected President, with J. Biggar and G. Hewlett, Secretary and Treasurer, most of the Provisional Committee for various reasons declining office.

The Colonial Secretary was requested to supply one dozen bedsteads with the necessary linen, blankets, etc.. against \$600 voted by Parliament.

A most important adjunct appears to have been overlooked as it was resolved to erect a "maison d'aisance (Victorian euphemism for toilet) at a cost not exceeding \$24.

Domestic Staffing

Meanwhile, an advertisement had been placed for a married couple to take charge as Warder and Matron. Five applications were received, Mr. and Mrs. Weller being selected. Their terms of service were: Matron's salary \$40 per annum with two rations (20 lb flour or bread, 15 lb meat, 1 lb butter, 4 lb sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb tea), firing, lights and use of two private rooms. She was required to wait upon four patients. This arrangement also covered the husband, as they were employed as a married couple.

The Wellers were employed for five years with constant demands for more pay and less work. When they resigned their salary had doubled to \$80 in addition to which they received "overtime" at 50c per night for sitting up with critically ill patients.

Invariably a new couple were referred to with the highest approbation by the Committee and inevitably there followed a demand for increased wages. By 1883 the annual salary was \$160 plus bonus with domestic help at \$1 per week.

One Warder, after asking for and getting an increase, immediately requested four months' leave of absence on full pay. The leave was granted provided he obtained a replacement at his own expense.

On the other hand, one couple, Mr. and Mrs. Stenhouse, served so well that on retirement they were given a testimonial. During their employment Stenhouse was "promoted" from Warder to Superintendent.

Opening

The Hospital opened for the care of the sick on Tuesday, September 27, 1864, without formality, the only intimation a modest notice in the local press. The first patient was admitted on October 24, a man from Wingecarribee.

The first Annual Meeting on February 2, 1865, learned six patients had been admitted to December 31, of whom four were still inmates.

The Government promised a grant of \$400 provided a similar amount was raised by private subscription and advised application should also be made to have the Poundage and Police Office Fees made over to the institution.

The Committee reported the Hospital was working under the provisions of the Legislature Acts governing Public Hospitals.

These Acts gave a recognised standing and position among the public institutions of the Colony, effectually protected their property and enabled the officers to discharge their duties with advantage.

1865

Draught Sets and Chessmen were available for convalescent patients who were required to play on the verandah. Visiting hours were brief, 2-4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday.

1866

At the Second Annual Meeting, i.e., after one complete year of operation, it was announced the estimated daily cost of attending to and maintaining a patient without regard to rent was 39c.

A verandah was added to the northern side with a room at the end for operations, \$304. A set of surgical instruments was ordered from England.

The visiting surgeons reported on a patient admitted in the previous year suffering from the effects of severe burning caused by the bursting of a hogshhead of rum. He was reported incurable and in accordance with the practice of English institutions ought to be removed. Amputation was the only cure, but the patient would not consent. The Secretary received instructions to give the patient a month's notice.

1867

An honorarium of \$40 total was allowed the two Medical Officers.

1868

In October an amalgamation was effected with The Wollongong Benevolent Society, resulting in outdoor relief becoming available. Thirty adults, with their children, received 130 grants, gross \$191, ranging from \$5 to 40c.

The amalgamation had a sequel when the Secretary, Rev. George Charter, Congregational Minister, complained two sets of books were necessary. He later remarked with feeling on the ever-increasing number and complexity of Government forms to be completed. His handwriting shows the faithful cleric was no clerk!

1869

Six suits of apparel for male and three for female patients were obtained and the Matron instructed that the patients must use them during their stay.

Consideration was given to the erection of a building for the temporary relief of paupers and a stable for the surgeon's horse. The stable was built.

1876

There was dissension with one of the Medical Officers, Dr. Lyons. The Doctor wrote to the Committee, subject unknown, his letter being returned with the comment they were not disposed to receive flippant letters. For months he was writing to the press and understandably did not get re-elected to the Medical Staff.

One accouchement occurred in direct violation of the rules

but as it was solemnly agreed the patient had not been admitted for the purpose, such an event not being expected, the Committee felt it could not justify removal.

1877

The building was insured by The Sydney Fire Insurance Co. for \$2,000 at a premium of \$4.

1878

A cottage next door was purchased (\$270) as a detached ward for special diseases.

A change in the rules required patients to help themselves and assist in keeping the ward clean if considered well enough by a Medical Officer.

As usual there was a severe shortage of funds and The Wollongong Argus speculated if the memory of the Prince Consort was fading or the local people were less liberal than before. A concert realized \$74 and an equal grant from Government balanced the budget.

1879

New patients, if not under the care of a particular doctor, were allocated in turn to a Medical Officer — one of the latter claiming a breach of ethics by another "appropriating" a patient.

A charge of not less than 25c a day was made if the patient could afford it. If special nurses lived in the Hospital the patient was levied \$1 per day.

1881

The year brought two unusual decisions in prohibiting the keeping of cattle and/or poultry in the grounds and forbidding the Warder to trade with the Hospital.

1882

Saw the erection of a wash room, post mortem room, 140 feet of fencing, a 600-gallon tank and most important the formation of a Sub-Committee to look for a new site. Nothing happened immediately, but the new site proposal was not allowed to be forgotten over the years.

1883

John Bright, a leading Wollongong businessman, on a honeymoon trip to England, died at Naples of typhoid. He bequeathed the Hospital \$2,000.

At the same time a note was made of the annual cost of "Stimulants" (\$27). No aspersion was cast on the current Warder but the "Medicine" Cabinet came under strict security.

The Wollongong Argus of August 29 criticised the site for a number of reasons: Low-lying (?), the proximity of the Keira

Tramway and the ever-increasing traffic on the Main Road did not allow any extension. The paper strongly suggested a number of excellent sites were available, one of which should be conditionally secured for the future.

1884

The Colonial Secretary was asked to place the sum of \$30,000 on the Estimates for a new hospital. After an investigation by the Inspector of Public Charities the request was denied, Government opinion being there was no pressing necessity for additional hospital accommodation in Wollongong.

A new cottage (\$500) replaced the old one next door, \$5 being received as an offset.

1887

Concern was shown at the price of medicine, variations between 17c and 25c a bottle being noted. Dr. Lee "considered 25c for an 8 oz bottle exceedingly moderate." Hosking and Son, local chemists, allowed 5% up to \$10 and up to \$20, 10%. A tender of \$5 was accepted for the burial of paupers.

The Government granted \$1,000 for extensions, a tender of \$1,596 being accepted from Tabreth & Draper, of Newtown.

1889

At Christmas \$1.50 was approved for extras to the patients.

1890

The Board of Health requested the admission of patients suffering from infectious diseases. The Committee in reply asked for the supply of two tents which was refused and a Ward provided.

Visiting days were Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday with hours 2-4 p.m.

1892

It was found insufficient excavation had been made in the original building of 1864. The flooring of three rooms was lifted, 30 loads of earth removed and air shafts inserted in the walls; lath and plaster ceilings of five rooms replaced with boards and the roof slates rendered.

A group of ladies formed a Benevolent Society to relieve the Hospital of outdoor payments. The Committee, whilst highly commending the philanthropic efforts of the ladies, felt obliged to mention that subscribing to the Society was not giving to the Hospital and also losing the equivalent Government subsidy.

1893

Bulli Hospital opened for the care of the sick of the northern end of the district. The Committees of the two institutions conferred on the boundaries of their respective areas of healing in 1894.

1895

Previously "Hospital Saturdays" (door-knocks) had been the practice, but this time "Sunday" was suggested. In the words of the President, Archibald Campbell, M.L.A., "No Sunday afternoon could be better employed than in the relief of suffering humanity so long as proceedings were carried on with decorum". The collection realized "\$16, one button and one eyeglass".

The reported expenditure for the year came under scrutiny by the Government. It was so small (\$586), surely an error had occurred? As the annual meeting heard "all that was wrong, however, was economical management".

1897

An operating room was added, \$150. The "Hospital Saturday" yielded \$200.

1898

The Hospital had a royal patient on the admission of "King Mickey" with a severe cold. On being asked if it was a fact his people understood the preparation of medicine from herbs, he replied "We make our own medicine and it got me over the worst of my illness, for I have been nearly dead — a few days here will make me right again — never been in hospital before — but me getting old now — me 66". The South Coast Herald of February 2 noted his brass plate, presented at the Illawarra Centenary celebrations of 1896 hung above the bed.

1899

John Richardson, Secretary for 14 years, resigned due to ill-health and advancing age. Some years before he said he did not want the job and would only carry on with remuneration, even if purely nominal. A salary of \$4 per month was granted, which on his resignation was advertised at \$50 per annum. J. A. Mayo became Secretary after an exhaustive ballot, defeating Richardson's son by a draw from the hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Stenhouse (supra) resigned and a Matron appointed as Officer-in-Charge at \$110 per annum with the assistance of a probationer nurse at \$40. This latter position attracted 58 applicants. The Committee later announced with satisfaction the success of their experiment of having a lady in charge and gave tangible proof with a bonus of \$20.

1900

The Corrimal miners proposed they obtain hospitalisation by contributing one penny (1c) per week. A Sub Committee examined the request but regretted the rules in force would not permit the scheme. It suggested the Corrimal people establish a fund to meet the hospital fees of their members who were unable to pay. This early attempt at hospital insurance received strong support, the Committee facing criticism for its non-acceptance.

A New Site Purchased

In the latter part of 1900 the Committee announced with pleasure that Garden Hill House and grounds of seven acres had been secured as a new hospital site. Mr. H. Cox, a solicitor, made the purchase on behalf of the Committee at a price of \$2,306. The records over the years indicate the search for a new site always had Garden Hill as its object.

At the same time the Government made a special grant of \$200 to meet increasing demands on the present Hospital.

Progress was made in 1903 when the Government requested the preparation of plans for a modern hospital. Plans of a building excluding an infectious block, mortuary and septic tanks were submitted to cost \$15,000. As usual this amount was not foreseeable and eventually a building estimated at \$7,300 was approved.

In The South Coast Times of April 30, 1904, appeared the first mention of "Hospital Hill," a name retained to the present day.

However, two years later, The Illawarra Mercury strongly protested the Government's refusal to provide the money granted due to shortage of funds. The paper hoped the Committee would not lose heart and continue pressure for the release of the money "unjustly" withheld.

An item of interest was the introduction by Mr. O. G. Reinitz, a local photographer, of a novel collector in the form of an automatic penny in the slot polyphon — an early type "juke box", which aided the Hospital to music!

Foundation Stone of New Hospital

August 29, 1906, was a gala day marking the visit of the Chief Secretary, Hon. J. A. Hogue, to lay the foundation stone of the long-awaited new hospital.

Mr. Hogue had two prior tasks. They were to present to the Wollongong City Council on behalf of the ratepayers a picture of the inauguration of the Commonwealth Parliament and open a Mineral Museum in the Town Hall, donated by Dr. Robertson, manager of Mount Kembla Colliery.

An inspection was made of the old Hospital. Whilst everything was found in order and scrupulously clean, it was agreed the place was totally unsuitable for use as a hospital.

At a complimentary luncheon, the Mayor, Ald. Wiseman, also Deputy President of the Hospital, suggested the present Technical College (in Smith Street) be converted into a Museum and the old Hospital into a Technical College (loud cheers!). The Chief Secretary in reply promised everything and nothing.

A procession of Friendly Societies headed by the Town Band marched up Crown Street to Garden Hill, where, despite heavy

rain, a good crowd saw the stone laid with "a handsome silver trowel". Family illness caused the absence of the President, Mr. J. P. Galvin.

A description of the new building said it comprised a Male Ward with 12 beds, Female Ward with 6 beds, Separation Ward, Nurses' Duty Room, Bathroom and Sanitary Conveniences. It would be erected about 15 feet from Garden Hill House, the house itself to be renovated as an administrative block, the two buildings being connected by a glass subway.

W. Holloway of Goulburn contracted to use Pendlebury's dry-press bricks at a cost of \$6,570. The usual cash shortage caused the important omissions of an operating theatre and isolation block. Following speeches by six local notables, \$976 was placed on the stone.

The Trustees were formally authorized in November to sell the buildings on the old site and arranged an auction for February 22, 1907.

1907

The Chinese residents collected \$18.

Lord Northcote, the Governor-General, made a visit, leaving a donation of \$10. He spoke to every patient and gave the Matron money to purchase toys for the child inmates.

Opening The New Hospital

The opening was fixed for "Pay Saturday", July 27, 1907, at 2.30 p.m. The Chief Secretary, Hon. T. Waddell, consented to be the Guest of Honour. Mr. A. Brickwood, a local jeweller, received a commission to make a suitable gold key.

After the usual procession, the Hospital was duly declared open, but not by the Chief Secretary, a last minute telegram regretting his absence. In response to an urgent appeal, the Premier, Mr. (later Sir) Joseph H. Carruthers opened the building in the presence of approximately 3,000 people. Once again the Vice-President, Ald. Wiseman, acted as Chairman due to the illness of the President, Mr. Galvin.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Robertson, reported building and land cost \$10,494 with a debt of \$1,314 plus an isolation block and fencing yet to be provided. A two-bed ward was donated by Mrs. H. O. MacCabe in memory of her late husband (Major MacCabe lost his life attempting to save others in the Mount Kembla Colliery Disaster, July 31, 1902).

The public subscribed \$240 and the next day (Sunday) a religious service in the grounds brought another \$8.

The South Coast Times of November 11 reported the new hospital buildings were occupied (5th) by the staff and patients (9) of the Albert Memorial Hospital, the old building was empty

and no longer used as a hospital. A month later the Hospital Committee sat in the new Board Room. They resolved to sell the old building by auction after transferring any useful articles.

A New Name

Prior to opening at Garden Hill, there had been a query as to the likelihood of a change in name. The reply said the institution would remain as it was, as all deeds, rules, etc., were in the name of the Albert Memorial Hospital and it would not be desirable to alter the position. This was not to be, for at the Board Meeting of May 7, 1908, it was announced the institution would henceforth be known as "The Wollongong District Hospital", to be administered under a new set of rules.

A Tribute

This record of the "A.M. Hospital" has lightly touched on many people and things and totally ignored others. People of course, being most important, those who unfortunately entered as patients and those who tended them so faithfully.

To mention a few of the latter: Archibald Campbell, President for over 20 years; J. P. Galvin, who missed the foundation stone and opening ceremonies through illness, served loyally as Vice-President for nearly as long before becoming President; Rev. George Charter, Secretary for 18 years, was followed by John Richardson, 14 years, and at the changing of the name, J. A. Mayo had been in office seven. The original Treasurer, George Hewlett, retired after 13 due to illness, to be succeeded by W. G. Robertson 38 years (a record?); and many more who gave their best. Lastly, the Medical Officers, Warders and Matrons, who demonstrated time and again theirs was a labour of love — however they might feud with the Committees.

Conclusion

Since the opening in September, 1864, of the "A.M.", hospitals have been established in the Illawarra at Kiama (1887), Bulli (1893), Berry (1909), Coledale (1916) and Warrawong (1966).

The Wollongong Hospital today has a staff of over 70 Medical Officers, with 332 Nurses and 374 beds.

The direct descendant of the "A.M.", with the help of devoted people over the years, it may fairly claim the title on the 1964 Annual Report "A CENTURY OF SERVICE"!

Postscript (1967)

It is of interest to record The Wollongong Hospital is currently arranging completion of contract documents for the construction of a multi-storey unit at a tender cost of \$2,562,869. 34.

APPENDIX I — SOME STATISTICS

(Mainly from Hospital Annual Reports and N.S.W. Annual Register)

Year	No. of Beds	Admissions		Total	Receipts		Total	Expenditure
		Male	Female		Govt. Subsidy	Other		
(1) The "A.M. Hospital" —								
1864	6	5	1	6	137	210	347	\$ 262
1865		17	6	23	400	471	871	550
1870		16	12	28	400	405	805	557
1875		35	6	41	291	329	620	609
1880		40	12	52	261	338	599	705
1887	15	86	24	110	910	1779	2689	1637
1892	19	36	2	38	468	330	798	1124
1895		Not available		45	395	250	645	523
1900		70	37	107	572	436	1008	2048
1905	18	73	38	111	Not available		801	1098
1908		122	65	187	"	"	2626	2608
(2) The Wollongong Hospital —								
1964	374	3933	6971	10904	722754	790236	1512990	1496412

APPENDIX II—PATIENTS AND FROM WHERE
ADMITTED

	(From Annual Reports)	
	1878	1964
Wollongong	14	2,628
Bulli	7	72
Dapto	4	649
Mount Pleasant	3 (Balgownie)	192
Shellharbour	3	113
Fairy Meadow	2	630
Mount Keira	2	45
Cordeaux River	2	—
Illawarra Lake	2	156
Avondale	2	—
Marshall Mount	2	—
Broughton Creek	2	—
Sydney	2	118
Woonona	1	115
Charcoal	1 (Unanderra)	595
Figtree	1	187
Albion Park	1	159
Kiama	1	96
Wilton	1	—
Campbelltown	1	—
Kangaloon	1	—
Melbourne	1	—
Hobart (Town)	1	—
S.S. "John Penn"	1	—
Warrawong	—	942
Port Kembla	—	770
Berkeley	—	712
Corrimal	—	386
Cringila	—	368
Warilla	—	263
Primbee	—	198
Coniston	—	136
Windang	—	178
Mt. St. Thomas	—	172
Nowra	—	146
Towradgi	—	145
Oak Flats	—	139
Sundry District	—	517
Sundry Other	—	77
Total	58	10,904

APPENDIX III — "ALBERT THE GOOD"

(Mainly from Encyclopedia Britannica)

Born Rosenau, Germany, August 26, 1819; died Windsor, England, December 14, 1861; aged 42.

Educated privately and University of Bonn; studied natural science, political economy, philosophy. Interested in music, painting; excelled in gymnastic exercises.

Introduced to his cousin Victoria, 1836, by their Uncle, Leopold I of Belgium. She found him "extremely handsome" and thanked Leopold for the "prospect of great happiness you have contributed to give me in the person of dear Albert. He possesses every quality that could be desired to render me perfectly happy." Married February 10, 1840.

Elected Chancellor of Cambridge University (1847) and later Master of Trinity House.

Suggested Great Exhibition of 1851, which displayed Britain to the world and realized a surplus of \$300,000, resulting in the endowment of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Given formal title of Prince Consort (1857) to settle certain difficulties of procedure raised at Foreign Courts.

Buried at Frogmore.

Queen instituted Order of Victoria and Albert (1862) as a tribute to their happy married life and the Albert Medal (1866) for gallantry in saving life.

Notable memorials are the Albert Hall (1867) and the Albert Memorial (1876) in London, as well as place names throughout the British world. On a mundane note, he wore a heavy gold watch chain and frock coat which became standard male fashions for many years. Today a well known brand of tobacco bears his name and effigy.

"A man of cultured and liberal ideas, well qualified to take the lead in many reforms which the England of that day sorely needed."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SOURCE MATERIAL:

"The Illawarra Mercury," "The Illawarra Express," "The Wollongong Argus," "The South Coast Times," "The South Coast Herald," "The Sydney Morning Herald," "The Illustrated Sydney News," "Town and Country Journal."

The Minute Book of The "A.M. Hospital," 1864-1899.

A series of 11 articles by W. M. (Billy) Parkinson, Member of the Hospital Committee for 53 years, in "The Illawarra Mercury," 1926/1927.

The Centenary Report of The Wollongong Hospital, 1964, to which the Author contributed.

FINALLY, my sincere thanks to the many friends who assisted in ways both large and small, particularly: Misses M. E. B. McDonald, J. M. Rowan; Messrs. W. A. Bayley, K. M. Marshall (all of Illawarra Historical Society), P. H. Hannelly, and especially A. E. (Bert) Knowles (Chief Executive Officer, The Wollongong Hospital).

WORKS BY A. P. FLEMING

- 1966 — "THE ILLAWARRA TOLL BARS" (Kiama and RusseH Vale)
- 1967 — "THE PIONEER KEROSENE WORKS AT AMERICAN CREEK"
(Mt. Kembla)
- 1967 — "THE ALBERT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WOLLONGONG,
1864-1908"
- 1968 — "OLD MARKET SQUARE — HISTORIC HEART OF
WOLLONGONG" (Illustrated)
- 1968 — "PIONEER PARK" (The Old Church of England Cemetery,
Wollongong)
- 1968 — "THE INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL CRICKETERS v
ILLAWARRA" (1867)
- 1969 — "BRIGHTON BEACH, WOLLONGONG" (Illustrated)
- 1970 — "THE ILLAWARRA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF 1843-1858"
- 1971 — "THE WOLLONGONG REST PARK AT GLOBE LANE AND
BURELLI STREET WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEMORIALS
THEREIN" (Illustrated)
- 1972 — "WHITE TOWERS — THE ILLAWARRA LIGHT-HOUSES"
(Illustrated)
- 1975 — "THE WOLLONGONG PILOT SERVICE 1840-1867"

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