Dr. Lee called his lecture "Recollections," because when one is asked about any historical event one instinctively looked for the oldest resident and to his horror found that he himself was most fitted for the honour. Miss Osbourne, Mrs. Frank Waples, and Dr. Stevens had given him some particulars but most of the recollections came from what he knew or had been told from time to time.

The lecturer stated that he was an Englishman and arrived with his father and mother in 1883, hastening to add that he was very young indeed at the time, and if he added a few personal incidents to the account he hoped he would not be accused of egotism for when one looked back 40 years what had happened to oneself was more impressed on one's memory than what happened to one's contemporaries.

The first medical men so far as he knew and supposed practiced in this district were two brothers, retired Naval Surgeons, named Osborne. One lived in the big house on Garden Hill which was demolished when the present Hospital was built. The other lived in and built a house called Mangerton.

The next man started at Dapto, a Dr. Gerrard. Following him there was a Dr. Reddall. There were two brothers, one a farmer with a property on the shores of Lake Illawarra, the other practiced at Dapto. He lived in the house built by Dr. Gerrard at Kembla Grange, which he understood was approximately 105 years old. About the same time a Dr. Vanzetti practiced at Kiama.

The next record Dr. Lee had of a doctor residing in Wollongong was a Dr. Thomas. After him came a Dr. Marshall, who lived in the house which was for many years the Presbyterian Manse. In course of time, Dr. Marshall moved to Sydney. He had a daughter who married an Osborne and gave the name Marshall Mount to where they lived.
Following Dr. Marshall came Dr. Thompson, who lived in a house in Market street opposite the Court House. He was later joined by his son. Dr. Thompson, his wife and son, are all buried in Brownsville Cemetery round the Red Church. By this time, Wollongong was growing and was trying to support a second doctor, and a Dr. Gould started in opposition to Dr. Thompson. He sold his practice to Dr. Lee's father and died soon afterwards.

The lecturer's father started his practice in the house in Market Square where Mr. Beatty now lives. At that time there was no railway. All communication with Sydney was by boat or coach. The coach ran twice a week, and starting from the Queen's Hotel (the best hotel) now the Queen's Flats, travelled up the Bulli Pass to Appin, then on to Campbelltown, where the train was joined for Sydney. Quite a trip!

About this time, just after Dr. Lee's father arrived, the railway was begun, and he remembered getting a half holiday when the Bill passed Parliament.

The area covered by Dr. Lee's father was from Unanderra to Otford and was all done by saddle horse. It was a full time job, but gave him a wonderful start in a new country and from that time he never looked back.

In those days there was no sanitation and typhoid fever was rampant.

At this time there was only one doctor north of Wollongong—a Dr. Sturt, at Bulli. He was always referred to as "old Dr. Sturt" but he must have been young once. When he died, Dr. O'Connor took over his practice and then Dr. Palmer succeeded him. In Dr. O'Connor's time, a second doctor started at Bulli, which was then becoming a big town, a Dr. Dixon. After many years he was succeeded by Dr. Crossle and afterwards Dr. Cook took over.

During that period many changes took place in the Wollongong practices, perhaps one of the most important being the building of the present hospital. The old hospital was in Flinders street and had 8 male beds and 4 female. Our present hospital has 150 beds and it is just as hard to find room for a patient now as it was then.

On the death of Dr. Thompson, Dr. Jarvie Hood took over his practice and on his death was succeeded by Dr. Wade.

A third doctor then appeared in the town—a Dr. Fielder. After about 10 years he sold his practice to Dr. Kerr and moved to Gosford. Dr. Kerr practiced for some years and was joined later by his brother until they both retired selling their practice to Dr. Goldie, who, as is known, in conjunction with Drs. Wiseman and Finlayson, still holds it.

In 1902, on the day of the Kembla disaster, Dr. Lee joined his father, having had the honour of being the first Wollongong man to take the Sydney University degree. For seven years the lecturer lived with his father, but in 1909 built the house in Keira street from which he now practices. He lived there for 16 years until the practice became too large to manage single-handed and built another house in Church street and put a junior partner in the Keira street house. Drs. Kirkwood, Britten, Milroy and Bennet had in succession helped him.
When Dr. Wade retired he transferred his practice to Dr. W. L. Kirkwood, who enlisted when the first World War broke out, and was succeeded by Dr. Jackson. Dr. Jackson subsequently transferred to Dr. Street, who, in conjunction with Drs. Suttor and Davies, still holds it.

During the last ten years, Drs. McKinnon, Duck, Bell and Bedkober have started separate practices in Wollongong.

In Kiama there was a Dr. Vanzetti and afterwards Drs. Hermann Tarrent, Dr. Calib Terry, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Hedley Terry, Frecker and Fox. D. Stevens succeeded Frecker and is there now. In addition to the above the following practiced for a longer or shorter time—Drs. Partridge, Beith, Corner, Shallard, Harris and Carnner, who is there now.

In Dapto, Dr. Scott practiced for a time and after him Dr. Greenwood. Dr. Henry succeeded Dr. Greenwood who eventually went to Shellharbour. For years there was no doctor in Dapto then Dr. McKinnon started there and after a time moved into Wollongong where he now practices. Dr. Israel commenced practice and then Dr. Douglas who is still there, succeeded him.

In Port Kembla, Dr. Kerr and Dr. Lee shared the medical practice, both working from Wollongong, until Dr. Lee’s share, getting more than he could manage, he built a house there and installed a resident assistant. This was at the end of World War I. Dr. Kirkwood, Dr. Greeves, and Dr. Perkins each in turn worked three years. Dr. McKellar later went to the Port and after a few years transferred to Dr. Luscombe. The latter is now one of a firm of three, Drs. Luscombe, Harper and Howe. Dr. Green was also with the firm for a time but he now practices in Sydney.

For many years Corrimal was worked by Dr. O’Connor in Bulli and the lecturer’s father in Wollongong. Later a Dr. Park settled there and after that many doctors came and went, usually only staying a few months. When he returned from World War I, Dr. Goldie took over the practice but later moved into Wollongong and a Dr. Roper took Corrimal. On his retirement, Dr. Caselberg took charge and it is still in his capable hands. Drs. Foy and Diment also practice there.

Albion Park has really only one resident doctor, Dr. Bateman.

Looking back over the forty odd years Dr. Lee has been practising in Wollongong, the speaker was amazed at the changes that had taken place. When he began there was no water supply, and no sewerage. There was no telephone, electric light, or ambulance, a very small and ill-equipped hospital, no private hospitals, motor cars or X-ray plants. The first X-ray plant was installed in 1913.

When Dr. Lee qualified in 1901 there were three men practicing in Wollongong, his father, Dr. Wade, and Dr. Kerr.

With the building of the present hospital, with the formation of the Ambulance Brigade, with private hospitals and with the advent of younger doctors educated in surgery the practice of surgery in the district has been laid on a sound foundation.

Obstetrics also were very crude forty years ago and no hospital catered for them. When one sees the elaborate care with which these cases are now treated on wonders how any survived, but the fact remains that they did. On the day before the lecture, Dr. Lee had passed an old stable in which he had attended a woman many years ago. He attended her daughter twenty years later and could not help contrasting the comfortable private hospital in which her baby was born with the stable in which her mother had been attended.