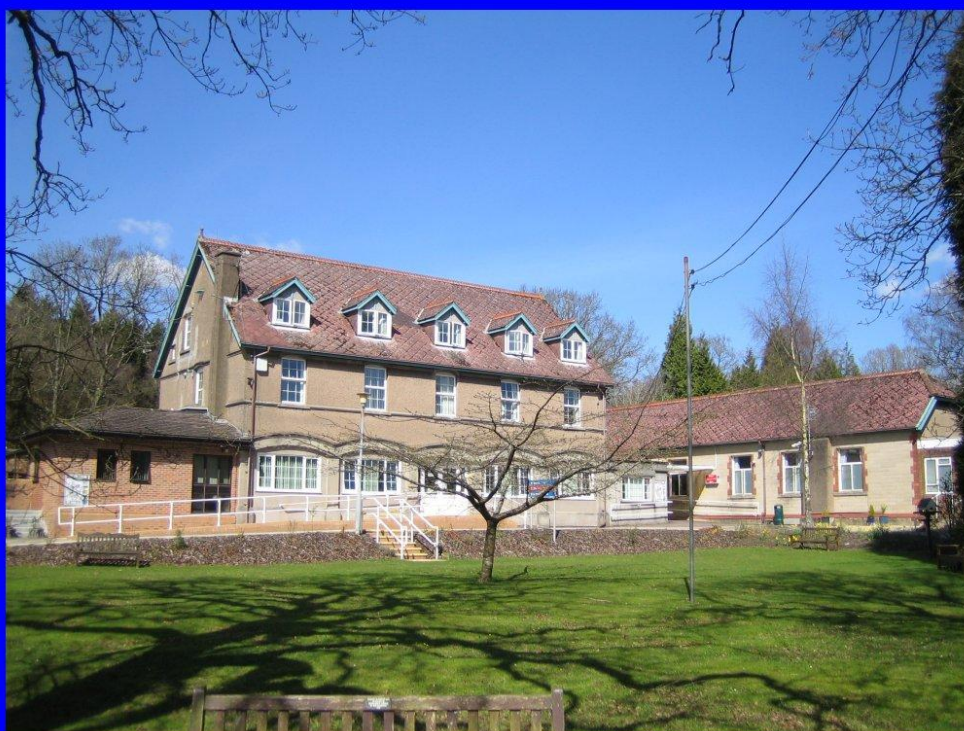


THE DILKE HOSPITAL CINDERFORD



A detailed history and description of
The Dilke Hospital, Cinderford

Curated and edited by Nick Oldnall

Nick Oldnall

The Dilke Memorial Hospital, Cinderford

Contents

The Idea For A Memorial Hospital	3
The Proposal for a Memorial Hospital	4
Contributors to the Funds for the Dilke Memorial Hospital.....	8
The 1921 Census	11
Publicity about the Opening of the Dilke Memorial Hospital.....	12
The Opening of Dilke Memorial Hospital	17
X-Ray Equipment at the Dilke	22
The New Wing of the Dilke	24
Dr M.L. Bangara	29
The Hospital Day committee June 1933	31
The End of the Second World War.....	32
Queen Mary's Visit.....	33
Closures & Miscellaneous News of the Dilke	37
Image gallery	39

The Idea For A Memorial Hospital

PRESS RELEASE DATED FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH 1911

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE FOREST OF DEAN

A meeting of the Provisional Committee for the erection of a Hospital as a memorial to the late Sir Charles Dilke was held in Gloucester, on Thursday, over which Sir Williams Wedderburn, Bart., presided. It was announced that Earl Beauchamp, K.C.M.G., the Lord Lieutenant of the County, had heartily approved of the project, and consented to act as chairman of the General Committee, Sir William Wedderburn agreeing to act as his deputy. Mr. H. Webb, M.P. for the Forest of Dean Division expressed the desire to act as treasurer of the fund, which was thankfully accepted. Several substantial donations were announced, including £100 from Sir William and Lady Wedderburn. It was decided to invite influential citizens, irrespective of politics or creed, of the county and elsewhere to become patrons or to assist on a large general council, and a draft form of appeal was agreed upon, to be submitted to a more general meetings. Already there are indications that the movement is likely to have national and international support. Subscriptions, large and small, may be paid into the Dilke Memorial Fund at the Capital and Counties Bank, or Lloyds Bank, or branches; or can be sent to the Deputy Chairman, Treasurer, or Hon. Secretary (J. Cooksey, Cinderford). A sum of several thousand pounds is really needed, not only to erect, and equip a small up-to-date hospital, but also to have an endowment fund to assist in its maintenance. Whilst it is anticipated that the bulk of the money will come from outside the Forest of Dean, it will help to impress and stimulate outside friends if the Foresters themselves respond heartily and promptly.



The Proposal for a Memorial Hospital

PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 20TH 1911

THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SIR CHARLES DILKE

Appended if the form of Appeal which will be now issued by the Provisional Committee, in connection with the above project, and all in the Forest of Dean especially are asked to give it their earnest and generous support, for the two-fold reason of recognising the worth of their esteemed and faithful (unto death) Member, and to secure the long-talked of and much-needed local hospital, which will be erected in the interest of one class only – those who shall be unfortunate enough to need it. Such an institution as it is hoped to obtain, would be in keeping with the work and purposes of the late Right Hon. Member, and also his beloved wife – who gave themselves and of their wealth, for the benefit of their poorer, suffering and oppressed fellows, in various parts of the world, and it is thus fitting that some of their many friends up and down the world should have an opportunity to shew their appreciation of Sir Charles Dilke's public services, and this will now be afforded in part at least, and, if it is adequate, sufferers in the Forest of Dean, will have cause for gratitude. It is too early yet to talk of the exact nature, the scope, the exact site, the government etc., of the proposed hospital – the first thing is to get the money, and much will depend upon the sum raised. We trust, for the security of the scheme, and the credit of the district, the Forest of Dean will respond as generously as possible, and to encourage those less directly interested. It is hoped to get the approval and practical sympathy of a large and influential body of representative gentlemen and ladies of all classes. Already those whose names are subjoined to the appeal have personally signified their desire to be associated with the movement. Locally, it is suggested that public meetings shall be held all over the constituency, at which local committees shall be chosen, composed also of all classes, to further the object in view, at which also it is suggested a representative or representatives shall be chosen to form a general committee. We hope, having heard so much of the need of a local hospital in the past, that the inhabitants generally will now put some practical enthusiasm into this effort – the most promising that has, or is likely, to occur to secure the hospital.

APPEAL

When friends of Sir Charles Dilke took up this question, it soon became evident that the undertaking could not be restricted to the Forest of Dean, or the County of Gloucester. In every quarter of the world there are to be found sympathisers desirous of associating themselves with the movement; and the Provisional Committee have therefore decided to make the appeal a general one, extending it to all who appreciate his great and manifold services to the United Kingdom and "Greater Britain" and including also Foreign States where he had many friends and admirers.

In determining the nature of the Memorial it is felt that, looking to the life-long work of Sir Charles on behalf of the labouring poor, there could not be a better purpose than the relief of

physical suffering incidental to dangerous industries. The Committee therefore promise that the Memorial should take the form of a

Free Hospital, to be called "The Dilke Memorial Hospital". And as regards the choice of a locality it seemed peculiarly appropriate that such a Memorial to their late Member should be located among the workers of his own constituency since it was the unflinching devotion of the Foresters which enabled him to place his services at the command of the poor and suffering in every part of the world. Moreover, in the Forest area, there has long existed a sorely felt need for medical and surgical aid available on the spot. Within this area about 5,000 men and boys are employed in the collieries, and 300 or 400 on the quarries, besides many tin-workers, dockers, railway men etc., Altogether there is a population of at least 7,000 working people with an average of accidents, slight and serious, amounting to about 20 in the week: and the distance by hilly roads to the Royal Infirmary in Gloucester is too great to take an injured man, suffering acutely, and sometimes nearly dead. It can confidently be affirmed that there are few, if any, similar industrial districts in this country where charitable treatment, medical and surgical is so far to seek. The "Speech House", where courts were held to administer the Forest law, is the ancient centre of the mining industry; it is at the Speech House that Sir Charles loved to reside; and it is there that the Free Hospital should be placed, a fitting Memorial of a strenuous life devoted to the cause of suffering humanity.

It is roughly estimated that a substantial beginning of the building and equipment can be made with a sum of £3,000, and it is hoped that the friends of Sir Charles will combine to provide this amount. For purposes of maintenance an Endowment Fund will be required, in addition to what may be obtained from the workers.

Lord Beauchamp as Lord Lieutenant of the County, has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Executive committee, working in co-operation with a National – or International Council, which is proposed to form of influential supporters of the movement whose names would be a guarantee to friends residing in the Colonies, in India, in the United States, on the Continent of Europe, and in more distant foreign lands. Looking to the wide area to be covered, it is hoped that the Press will kindly co-operate in giving publicity to the appeal.

The names of those forming the Council will shortly be published. In the meantime subscriptions will be received and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer.

On behalf of the Executive Committee
BEAUCHAMP, Chairman
W. WEDDERBURN, Deputy-Chairman
H. WEBB, Hon. Treasurer
J. COOKSEY, Hon. Secretary

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On behalf of the Executive Committee
BEAUCHAMP, Chairman
W. WEDDERBURN, Deputy-Chairman
H. WEBB, Hon. Treasurer
J. COOKSEY, Hon. Secretary

Contributors to the Funds for the Dilke Memorial Hospital

Press Release November 10th 1911

THE PROPOSED DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR DEAN FOREST.

The following additional names have been received this week as desirous of forming part of the International Council for the above memorial ;Mons. A. Lachenal, Membre du Conseil des Etats, Suisse a Geneve ; Mons Ile Depute Jules Siegfried, Paris ; M. Ernest Hecht, Paris ;

M. Andre Jeremaly, Paris ; Mons. Le Señateur, R. Waddington, Rouen ; Sir W.H. Lever, Cheshire ; Miss Tuckwell, London ; Sir Hubert Parry, Bart., Highnam Court ; Miss Orme, LRB, London ; Mr. Jas. J.. Mallon, Sec. National Anti-Swearing League ; Mr. Enoch Edwards M.P., Minders' Agent, Staffordshire ; Miss Mary Macarthur, Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League; J. Ridgley Carter Esq., United States Embassy ; Mr. Will Crooks, M.P. ; Rt. Hon. Thos. Burt, Miners Agent, Northumberland ; Rt. Hon. Sir John Brunner, Bart. ; Mr. Harvey, M.P., Miners' Agent Derbyshire ; Gen. Sir Ivor Herbert, Bart., M.P. ; Rt. Hon J.B. Seeley, M.P., Under Secretary for War, etc.

Subscriptions having been received this week from :

Russell Rea, Esq., M.P. ...
M. Georges Pallain (Paris) ...
Lord Aberconway ...
Russell J Kerr Esq. ...
General Sir Ivor Herbert, M.P. ...
Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt M.P. ...
Sir Hubert Parry, Bart. ...
Hon E.S. Montagu, M.P. ...
Rt. Hon McKenna, M.P
R. Phipson Beale Esq., Q.C., M.P.
Earl Spencer ...
A.P. Gooch Esq, ...
Madame Constance Hinton Smith ...
Sir C.S. Henry M.P. ...
J.H. Whitley, Esq., M.P. ...
James J. Mallon, Esq. ...
Austin Smyth Esq. ...
Mr. and Mrs. Ponsonby-Blennerhassett ...
Miss Monck ...
Miss Mary MacArthur ...
Sir G. Askwith ...
Rev. Hy. Scott Holland ...
Judge Wightman Wood ...
T. Oliver Esq.
M. Ernest Hecht (Paris) ...
Hon, H.C.W. Lawson M.P. ...
Sir Robert Hobart, ...
J.R. Seymour Tower Esq, ...
Miss Orme ...
Lord Boston ...
Bishop of Hereford ...
R.B. Cunningham-Graham ...
Mons. Andre Jeremaly (Paris) ...

Stephen Gwynne, Esq., M.P. ...
 G.W. Osborn, Esq., ...
 Rt. Hon. Arnold Morley ...
 M. Arthur Fontaine ...
 Miss Squire, H.M.I.F. ...
 Col. Eyre ...
 C. F. Waldstein, Esq. ...
 Archdeacon Escreet ...
 Eugene Watson, Esq., M.P. ...
 Rev. Stewart Headlam ...
 Sir Courtney Warner M.P. ...
 J.C. Wason Esq., M.P. ...
 Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P.onHh
 Archdeacon Bevan ...
 Enoch Edwards, Esq., M.P. ...
 Eyre A. Crowe Esq., ...
 E.W. Bennett, Esq., ...
 Will Crooks, Esq., M.P. ...
 Rt. Hon. Thos Burt, M.P. ...

All who are about to marry would do well to buy their wedding and keeper rings at N.A. Greening's Watchmaker and Jeweller, High Street, Cinderford.

Press Release November 17th 1911

THE PROPOSED DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR DEAN FOREST

Among those who have this week expressed a desire to be added to the Council for the above, are:- Lady Abinger ; Mrs. Deane Streatfield . H.M. ex-Lady Inspector of Factories ; Mons. Le De Joseph Reinach, Paris ; Earl of Eldon, Stowell Park, Glos; Rt. Hon. J.W. Wilson, M.P., ; Rt. Hon. Lewis Harcourt, Secretary for Colonies; Mrs. Arnold Forster ; Mons. Camille Favre ; and others.

Amount banked up to last week ; £390. 13s. 7d.

Sums received this week :

H. Webb Esq., M.P. ...	100	0	0
Earl of Elson, Glos ...	25	0	0
David Davies Esq., M.P. ...	20	0	0
Lydney Friends in small sums, per Mr. C. Ridley ...	8	2	10
Eleusis Club, Chelsea ...	5	5	0
Rt. Hon. John W.. Wilson M.P. ...	5	5	0
F. Martin Esq., ...	5	5	0
D.H. Kyd Esq., ...	5	5	0
Capt. Jessel M.P. ...	3	3	0
Mons. Le Commandent Weil, Paris ...	3	0	0
Sir F.A. Monteflore ...	2	2	0
Mons. Ferrier Lubin, Geneva ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Arnold Thomas, Newnham ...	1	1	0
t.c. Ovens, Esq., Cirencester ...	1	1	0
W.C. Nigel Jones Esq., Newnham ...	1	1	0

Mrs. A.E. Deane-Streatfield ... 1 1 0
 Rt. Hon. C. Fenwick, M.P. ... 1 1 0
 R.W. Essex Esq., M.P. ... 1 1 0
 T.H.W. Idris Esq., ... 1 1 0
 Miss Rhoda Broughton ... 1 1 0
 Athelstan Rendall Esq., M.P. ... 1 1 0
 Sir Edward Thorpe ... 1 1 0
 Hugh Law Esq., M.P. ... 1 1 0
 Committee Dewsbury Branch Yorkshire General Union of Weavers and Textile Workers, per
 Mr. B. Turner ... 1 1 0
 Huddersfield ditto, do per Mr. Allen Gee ... 1 1 0
 Mrs. Arnold Forster ... 1 1 0
 R.G. Foster Esq., Gloucester ... 1 1 0
 Mr. D.J. Shackleton, Home Office ... 0 10 6
 Mr. Wm. Mullin ... 0 10 6
 Alex Wilkie Esq., M.P. ... 0 10 6
 Mrs. A.A. Brooke ... 0 10 0
 Mr. Will Thorne M.P. ... 0 5 0
 Alderman Allen Gee J.P. ... 0 5

Press Release December 29th 1911

THE PROPOSED DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR DEAN FOREST

Since publishing the last list – a fortnight ago – the following g have signified their desire to be added to the International Council, namely, La Marquise de Sassenay, La Baronne de Laumont, Madame Emile Olivier (wife of the Ex-Premier), of France, and His Highness the Aga Khan, G.C.I.E., Bombay.

The following additional subscriptions have also been received:-

£ S D

Mons. Messiney, Paris ... 4 0 0
 Arthur Crosfield, Esq., ... 3 3 0
 Sir Samuel Scott M.P. ... 2 2 0
 Amalgamated Union of Clotheirs' Operatives ... 2 2 0
 London Society Sheet Metal Workers ... 1 1 0
 Lord Claud Hamilton M.P. ... 1 1 0
 H.V. Carr-Gomm Esq., M.P. ... 1 1 0
 Arnold S. Rowntree Esq., M.P. ... 1 1 0
 Sir John Henry Bethell, M.P. ... 1 1 0
 Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association ... 1 1 0
 Amalgamated Society of Wood Turners and Sawyers, Todmorden ... 1 1 0
 Amalgamated Wool Combers' and Gill Makers' Society ... 1 0 0
 Cigar Makers' Association ... 1 0 0
 Wm. Clough Esq., M.P. ... 1 0 0
 Col. Pryce-Jones, M.P. ... 0 10 6
 Brechin Mill Operative Union ... 0 10 0
 Bishop of Winchester ... 0 10 0

The 1921 Census

PRESS RELEASE - CENSUS RETURNS

DETAILS OF FOREST ENUMERATION – GENERAL POPULATION

We are able to give this week some interesting details of the census of 1921 for the Forest of Dean. The figures provide the best evidence procurable on the question of housing accommodation and we have endeavoured to extract all possible information bearing on this matter. The increase in population everywhere as compared with 1911 did not come up to expectations. In the Forest of Dean Parliamentary Division it is shown that while Sir Henry Webb represented 57,114 persons in 1921, Mr. Wignall has 59, 678 constituents.

Census enumerators and those who analyse so wonderfully their returns, parish by parish, union by union, division by division and county be county, cannot be infallible. Sometimes the figures seem inexplicable. For example: Newnham is said to have had 25 more dwellings occupied in 1921 than in 1911, and the population of the town is declared to have varied in this remarkable way: 1901, 1184; 1911, 1021; 1921, 1181.

The following gives the population of each civil parish in 1921 and in 1911 and other information

Civil Parish	Population		Private Families	Structurally separate dwellings occupied	Rooms per person
	1911	1921			
<u>Abenhall</u>	188	189	51	48	1.36
<u>Alvington</u>	366	387	82	81	1.08
<u>Awre</u>	1070	1147	271	268	1.32
<u>Aylburton</u>	817	921	199	199	1.07
<u>Blaisdon</u>	230	230	51	51	1.43
<u>Coleford</u>	2604	2781	636	627	1.19
<u>East Dean</u>	14594	15010	3428	3315	1.02
<u>English Bicknor</u>	558	671	145	144	1.19
<u>Flaxley</u>	91	89	19	19	1.53
<u>Hewelsfield</u>	419	442	107	107	1.37
<u>Littledean</u>	823	906	197	194	1.09
<u>Longhope</u>	864	964	241	255	1.47
<u>Lydney</u>	3776	3775	850	824	1.15
<u>Mitcheldean</u>	626	624	164	157	1.34
<u>Newnham</u>	1021	1181	278	273	1.42
<u>Newland</u>	2203	2233	484	471	1.04
<u>Ruardean</u>	1273	1266	291	284	1.12
<u>Staunton</u>	123	132	37	37	1.73
<u>St. Briavels</u>	1128	1210	294	293	1.37
<u>Tidenham</u>	1710	2248	524	511	1.24
<u>West Dean</u>	10570	11614	2568	2486	0.94
<u>Westbury</u>	1821	1791	401	397	1.37
<u>Woolaston</u>	779	853	194	187	1.10

Publicity about the Opening of the Dilke Memorial Hospital

Press Release June 22nd 1923

THE DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TO BE OPENED NEXT WEEK - HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

UP-TO-DATE INSTITUTION

Exactly twelve months, except for one day, after the laying of the foundation stones of the Dilke Memorial now established at Yew Tree Brake, near the Speech House Road, Cinderford, this much-looked forward to institution will be opened with fitting ceremony next Thursday. Splendid as has been the service rendered by the Gloucester Royal Infirmary for so many years past, it is well that, especially for patients requiring immediate attention after accident in this coal-mining area, a hospital should be established at our doors, and it is also well indeed that it will bear a name so honoured in the Forest of Dean as that of Sir Charles Dilke. "I venture to think," said Major Penberthy, presiding at last summer's ceremony "it will not be deemed invidious to say that, as far as I am able to judge, no name ever sank so deep into the heart of the Forester." "It therefore, appears to be appropriate," he added, "that sentiments so established should take expression in a form intended to perpetuate the great aim of his life, the improvement of the conditions of those he represented, and particularly that this should be raised and remain in the midst of scenes and among people he loved so well. To have one's name associated with means devised for the relief of human suffering must ever be among the loftiest aspirations of the human soul.

INITIATION OF THE PROPOSAL

To the better understanding of the initiation of the project now happily brought to fruition and to permanency, it will be well to trace the history of the movement. We believe we are correct in the assertion it was felt from the first that a Member who had not only brought honour to the constituency by his distinguished position in the world of politics, but had so truly captured the personal affection of the people of the Royal Forest, should be remembered in a form which, in its spiritual essence, continued a bond so firmly established. It was in October 1911, that an Executive Committee was formed, consisting of Earl Beauchamp, Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Mr. Harry Webb (who succeeded Sir Charles in the representation of the constituency), and Mr. John Cooksey. Sir William and Mr. Cooksey have not, unfortunately, lived to see the completion of the labours thus begun.

This committee issued an appeal. They suggested that the memorial to the late Member should take the form of a free hospital, to be called the Dilke Memorial Hospital. It was thought then that near the Speech House would be a suitable site, and it was estimated that the cost of building and equipment would be about £3,000. Apart from the committee being perhaps a little too sanguine, many things have happened since that day. The great war has revolutionised all ideas of cost in matters of this kind, and it will be found, without mentioning any precise figures at the moment that when double this sum has been added an appreciable amount has been required to meet the necessary expenditure for an up-to-date hospital. When the appeal went forth it was hoped that the friends of Sir Charles would combine to raise the £3,000, in addition to which an endowment fund would be necessary for maintenance purposes.

FIRST SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was further suggested that an international council should be formed to secure the necessary funds, the late baronet having a reputation as a sound and far-seeing statesman not only in his land but among the Great Powers of the Continent. Such a council was formed and a preliminary list and first list of subscribers was issued amounting to £400. The former list contains many distinguished names' in the realms of politics, religion, literature etc., and a strong representation of Forest and Gloucestershire people. The list of those who promised or had paid subscriptions, contained amounts ranging from £500 by His Majesty's Treasury and two amounts of £100 each by Sir Wm. Wedderburn and Mr. Harry Webb. The names ' of many of the best known statesmen appeared, and what was an entirely pleasing and significant feature, substantial sums were forthcoming from a number of representative trade unions. Mr. John Cooksey was then, and for some time afterwards, the hon. Secretary.

SIR WM. WEDDERBURN CIRCULAR

On the 1st November 1911, Sir Wm. Wedderburn issued a circular, in which he stated that he had corresponded with a large number of people at home and abroad, but also mentioning that he had neither medical nor local knowledge to move further, and suggesting that the Forest people must organised themselves and form a working committee to include owners, medical men, and workmen, to prepare a practical scheme. On November 13th Mr. Cooksey sent out a letter suggesting that meetings should be held in the various districts for promoting the object and for electing representatives for the Executive Committee. A small committee was afterwards appointed to draw up a scheme. On June 17th a meeting of miners was held at the Town Hall, Cinderford and was addressed by Mr. Martin H Perkins, and by the then agents for the Miners' Association, Mr. G.H. Rawlinson, and at this gathering a favourable expression of opinion was received from the men. A further definite step was taken on September 14th, when the Executive Committee passed a resolution urging that negotiations be pushed forward for providing the hospital. Certain points were raised and discussed during the year, which need not now be detailed.

A HANDSOME SUBSCRIPTION

In a letter to the Forest papers in November, Sir Wm. laid certain figures before the public, some of which, for the reasons already stated, are now out of date, but he referred to the fact that an anonymous donor had come forward with a handsome proposal. The amount then subscribed by the public was £1,400 and if this could be raised to £2,500, an equal sum would be provided by an anonymous donor. In addition to this, £500 was promised by the Crown if the scheme was approved.

On the 22nd February 1913 a meeting was held at Cinderford, at which a motion was passed authorising the secretary to instruct the various local centres to hold public meetings and appoint representatives to form a new general committee to proceed with the formulation of a scheme. The anonymous donation which became known later as the magnificent gift of Sir Henry Webb was raised to £3,000 and the committee at this meeting decided to take steps to collect the mount

necessary to secure this offer, and to take other steps, Mr. Cooksey, owing to his condition of health, resigning the secretaryship, Mr. Walter Rhodes acted for some time as the hon, secretary.

THE SITE SELECTED

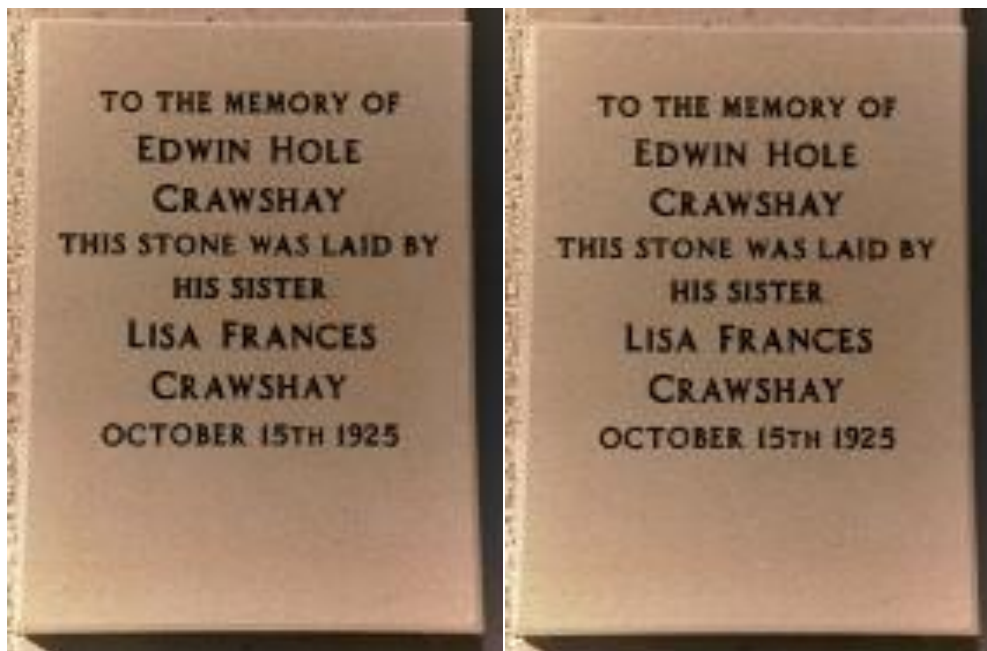
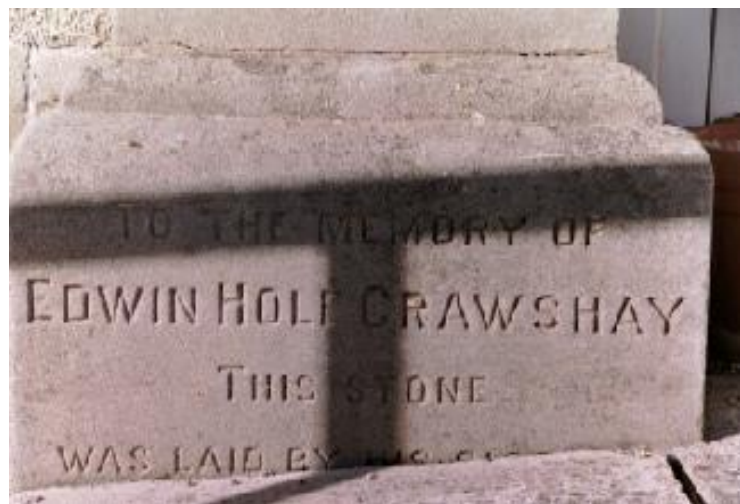
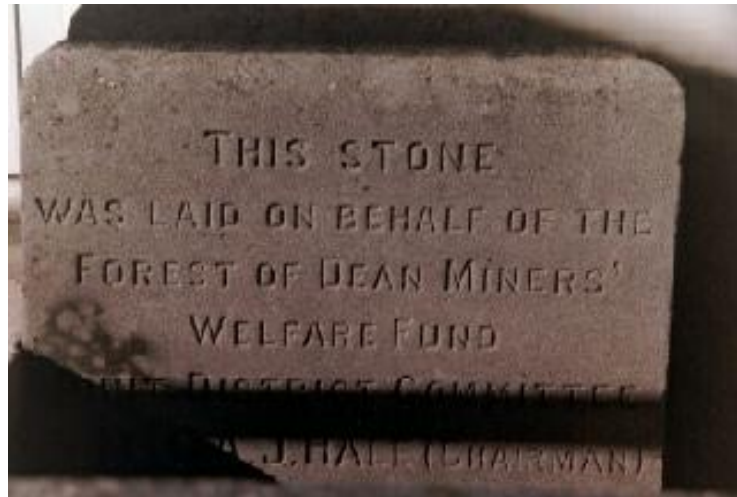
The war came, and, like a thousand and one other projects the matter had to remain in abeyance for some time. Still, Sir Wm. was determined to push forward, and he and Mr. Rowlinson, who had taken on the secretarial duties, wrote again to the Press in December 1916, stating what had already been accomplished toward the fulfilment, including the opinion of a sub-committee that the best site for the hospital would be Yew Tree Brake. That position, they pointed out, was central, with pleasant surroundings, the rocky sub-soil was suitable for building, and facilities existed for water supply, lighting and drainage. It was thought better, so many of those directly interested and specially acquainted with local requirements being absent at the front to postpone the holding of a general meeting of subscribers and supporters' till a later date. Both in the Press and in conversation some impatience was shown as to the actual starting of the project. There was much to be considered and necessary caution to be observed before the committee could proceed with the work, but eventually the way was clear for the establishment of the hospital, and in the spring of last year the actual preliminary steps were set on foot. A site was cleared of trees on the Cinderford side of the bridge over Lightmoor Colliery grounds, and on June 29th the foundation stone was laid. On that occasion Mr. Rowlinson made some observations, showing what had been then subscribed. The general subscriptions then amounted to £1,433, the miners had subscribed £865, the Crown had given a donation of £500, the same sum had come from the Inglis Charitable Request, Bournemouth, the employers had promised £250, and they had received £700 in war loan interest. Sir Henry Webb, who acted as treasurer to the fund, subscribed £3,000 and Sir Francis Colchester-Wemyss did not forget that the Forest miners did their part in the war, and the Red Cross Fund had given them £4,000. So that they had altogether then £11,000., With the instalment of the X-rays and other things, he pointed out, they wanted to make the hospital quite up to date. What the present state of the funds is and what hopes are entertained with regard to sufficient funds for maintenance will be made known at the ceremony next week.

HIS MAGNUM OPUS

Mr. Rowlinson remarked to the writer recently, in a half-playful and a half-serious mood, that when he could have seen this hospital established and doing his work he would be content to say his Nunc-Dimittis. Mr. Rowlinson was commencing his seventies, has played many good parts during his long career in the Forest, in which he made his home. We have not asked him what exactly he would regard as his "magnum opus". His sagacious and able fulfilment of difficult work in the leadership of the miners and his voluntary public services in the many prominent positions he has fulfilled are both well known, but perhaps, after all, his continued strenuous and untiring labours for this hospital will be regarded in some senses as his highest work. He has had an admirable chairman of committee, since Sir William's death, in Mr. J.J. Joynes, and a good committee, to whom we are sure he would pay every tribute, but his influence and his plodding work during the last two years especially, have had a very real effect in bringing about the position as we find it today.

THE BUILDING

In our issue of April 18th, we gave some particulars of the building. These were kindly furnished by the architect – Mr. Hy. Weaver, M.I.C.E. of County Chambers, Gloucester. The facts we published showed that the proposal about the year 1914 was to erect a two-storied building, with single-storey wings which might be extended as required. The enhanced cost of building necessitated a severe abridgement of the plans, which later provided for a one-storey building, designed like the letter “H”, with the entrance, the out patients accommodation, and the staff quarters in the centre and the wards forming the two sides. Accommodation is provided for eight beds in two wards (if really necessary 12 beds could be temporarily accommodated), and there is beside a single bed ward next the operating theatre for special cases. There are two nurses’ bedrooms, a sitting room, and accommodation for the matron. The kitchens and offices appear to be very conveniently sited and the whole building to be well designed. There is a block of buildings, which includes accommodation for an ambulance and a mortuary. The building is of cement blocks, faced with coigns and plinths of red brick. The roof is tiled with red asbestos tiling, indistinguishable at as distance from the tiles, and the lighting of the entrance hall is by roof lantern lights. The contractors were Messrs. T.J. Williams and Co., Gloucester. The hospital is in every way a good modern institution. Amongst other features, the electric light required will be generated on the premises. The provision of X-rays equipment has been rendered possible by a fund kindly managed by Dr. Bangara, known as the War Memento Fund, whose purpose in remembering the boys who fought in the war, was a very laudable one and created much kindly thought at a time when comfort and recognition were much needed and valued. The Cinderford branch of the Dickens Fellowship have, as a nucleus to a small library provided for the hospital a full set of the master’s works. In these and other ways no effort has been spared to make the institution everything we can think it ought to be. “It will be, “ as Sir Henry Webb prophesied when he laid one of the foundation stones last year, “a beautiful building, and I hope a source of pride to every Forester, who will be able to say – That is what we can do to help others in their time of trouble”. Mr. M.W. Colchester-Wemyss, who laid the second stone in the name of his son Sir Francis, added the other thought also in the minds of us all – that the hospital perpetuated the name of Sir Charles Dilke who took the best possible measures from his earliest days to qualify himself for the great part he afterwards played in the public life of his country and the empire.



The original foundation stones now partly covered by the disabled access ramp and the replacement stones

The Opening of Dilke Memorial Hospital

PRESS RELEASE FRIDAY JUNE 29TH 1923

THE DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - OPENING CEREMONY ON THURSDAY

The splendidly-equipped hospital which has been erected at Yew Tree Brake, near Cinderford, in memory of the late Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., was formally opened on Thursday in beautifully fine weather and in the presence of a large assemblage of people from all parts of the Forest and a number of distinguished visitors. A detailed history of the movement which had now happily reached its' climax in the actual opening of the institution, together with a description of the building and many interesting particulars, was given in our last issue and need not now be repeated. The speech-making etc., took place from the stone platform in front of the south ward.

After the singing of the appropriate hymn "At even, ere the sun was set", the Rev. F.G. Gatehouse, superintendent Wesleyan minister, read a lesson, consisting of appropriate passages from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, and the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The chairman of the committee (Mr. J.J. Joynes) then called upon the Bishop of the Diocese (Right Rev. A.C. Headlam D.D.) to conduct the dedicatory service. His lordship, who was accompanied by his chaplain, bearing the pastoral staff, then read the prayers suitable to the occasion, including the Lord's Prayer, and after proceeding through the building and returning, continued the service and formally dedicated the building to its high use in the service of humanity.

THE BISHOP'S BROADMINDEDNESS

The Chairman said he was sure that they were delighted that they were favoured with such weather for the opening ceremony of the hospital. They were also very highly favoured with having the Lord Bishop with them on that occasion. Although many of them were Nonconformists-he was himself-he could say that they were all of them delighted that he had been able to be with them, and they appreciated his presence very much indeed, particularly so because they knew that Dr. Headlam was an extremely broad-minded churchman. He was working whole-heartedly for the unity of the Christian churches.

A WIDE BASIS

That day, however, they had met on a very much broader basis still than in the interest of any Christian sect or otherwise. It had been his (the speaker's) privilege to be a miner himself and to be connected with various working miners during the whole of his life in the Forest of Dean, and he had never yet, in the case of accident come across a man, whether a religious man or otherwise, who had not the greatest sympathy for the sufferer and who would not do everything he possibly could, with great sacrificed perhaps, even to the sacrifice of his own life if need be, for the salvation of his fellow man. In his desire for the alleviation of human suffering they had as their pattern their Lord and Master Jesus Christ, who went about doing good, and who spent his life in a way that they might

have something to follow. There had been erected a hospital which they hoped and prayed would be for the alleviation of sufferers in this district for many years to come. It had not been erected in opposition to any hospitals which might be in existence, but in order to co-operate with and to aid the work of all those hospitals. As, however, men met with accidents they could be must more quickly brought to a place where they could be treated, and where through the dispensary and the provision at the hospital they might be treated in illness, and there might be an immediate means of alleviation of suffering,

SIR HENRY WEBB'S ABSENCE

He was sure, continued Mr. Joynes, they would all with him regret very much the fact that Sir Henry Webb was not able to be with them, being laid by with very severe illness in London. The speaker read a letter from Lady Webb in which she mentioned that Sir Henry was suffering badly with sciatica and gout and was still confined to bed in London. He was fearfully disappointed because he would have loved to be with them on that day of all other days. He felt it would be a red letter day in the history of the Forest. He had no doubt that generations would be grateful not only for the hospital but for the great man who in his life-time evinced such unflagging regard for the welfare of those who needed help, and in his passing lent his name to that hospital. It was fitting that in the Forest of Dean an institution like that should bear his name. Sir Henry's thoughts would be with them that day. Apologies for non-attendance had also been received from Lord Dalziel, Lt-Col. And Mrs. Russell J Kerr, Messrs J.C. Wedgewood, M.P., Stephen L. Gwynn, M.P., A Henderson, M.P., M. Maclean, H.K. Hudson (late Sir Charles Dilke's private secretary), and W. Foster Brown.

FREE FROM DEPT

In his statement the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G.H. Rowlinson) said that the institution was complete and up-to-date. He had hoped that day to say that he would be able to make the statement that the hospital was free from debt. In fact he would make that statement, although he had had a letter that morning which upset his calculations. He prepared his speech before and had to alter it that morning. He had, however gone into the figures during the last two hours, and he thought that they would take it from him that that hospital would be opened free from debt. Mr. Rowlinson then proceeded very briefly to outline the history of the movement, but pointed out that he need not follow all the details, because the Forest papers last week had provided his hearers with an almost complete history. Such an institution had, he understood, been talked of for forty years and they had now seen its erection in memory of, and he trusted worthy of, the man who served the constituency for twenty years, one of the finest politicians and statesman who ever entered the House of Commons. (Applause). The late Sir William Wedderburn was the first hon. Secretary of the fund, and they were very pleased to see his daughter with them that day.

AN APPEAL THAT WAS SUCCESSFUL.

Mr. Rowlinson then proceeded to give some financial details and to show how the money had been forthcoming. He appealed last March that fifty friends of the late Sir Charles Dilke should give £5 each, and then he asked 100 persons to give him a guinea. He got 51 sums of £5 and instead of 100 guineas he got 200, and he was within £8 of having £500 in that way. (Applause). He started out for

£350 and he got £500. He did not get a lot of that outside the Forest. There were men he knew his Right Hon. Friends helped on the ladder of fame, and they turned him down, and he did not get anything from them. Of the £500 he got 80 per cent in the Forest and to a very great extent from the working men of the Forest. Included in the larger amounts most of which were referred to in our last issue, were the following:- £1,000 from the public, from the miners £273, from the Red Cross Fund £4,000, from Sir Henry Webb £3,000, from the Commissioners of the Woods and Forests £500, from an estate in Bournemouth £500, from the Miners Welfare Fund £200, and another £200 was promised in another quarter on Wednesday. Taking all the figures into consideration, including bank interest, their income had been £12,800 14s 1d. The total cost, including furnishing, etc., had been

£10,800. That left £2,000 balance. That had been the object before him – to have £2,000 in hand at the opening of the hospital, and if the committee took his advice, they would not touch that amount, which was invested in war loan.

THE UP-KEEP

A sub-committee had gone thoroughly into the matter of upkeep, and they had estimated what would be necessary to meet every emergency and every cost that could probably come in. He wanted to see the best that could be done for all who would come to that institution. They desired off the public a matter of £2,000. He did not say that it would take £2,000 every year for upkeep, but he also wanted to build up a reserve, so that some day or other they might get a resident doctor on the spot and if ever necessary, provide increased accommodation. £2,000 would easily be found. He detailed the substantial amounts he had already been promised, including £25 a year for five years from their chairman, (Mr. Joynes), and in connection with which he pointed out that if only seven other gentlemen would promise £25, it would bring in £200. If, he continued, the men of Dean Forest would only pay one penny per week that would bring in £1,300. The quarrymen had decided to subscribe one shilling per quarter, and the employees of several of the larger works and numbers of the Forest woodmen had promised to subscribe. He appealed to the tradesmen of the Forest to help and for the influence of the teachers etc., Where was the man or woman who would not give a penny per week? He did not think that anyone would be hostile to a hospital of that kind. There was only one village he had had to shake the dust of his feet from in the whole Forest. He walked twelve miles the other day and got £12, and an old woman,, an old-age pensioner, showed a splendid soul by pressing upon him half-a-crown. That day a "little yellow 'un" (holding up a half sovereign) had been put in his hand. In conclusion he addressed a few earnest words of appeal for their kind help for an institution in their midst that would bring, as it was designed to do, relief to suffering humanity.

MAJOR PENBERTHY OPENS THE HOSPITAL

In the regretted absence of Sir Henry Webb, Major J Penberthy, as representing the Red Cross, opened the main door in the centre of the hospital buildings. Returning to the platform, the Major expressed his regret that Sir Henry was not able to be there to perform the duty, and at the same time his own sense of the high privilege which had been conferred upon him (the speaker) in inviting him to take his place. The institution, he said, was a splendid one, an honour to the Forest and the

Forester, and one which he hoped would for ages remind them of the great man in whose memory it had been raised (Applause).

MISS TUCKWELL'S ADDRESS

In an eloquent address, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, in receiving the hospital, said that she had owed many a debt of gratitude for kindnesses in the past to her old friend, Mr. Rowlinson, but it was an unexpected honour that she should be allowed to receive that hospital on behalf of the people of the Forest of Dean – an unexpected honour to be allowed to receive that monument to her uncle Sir Charles Dilke, in the name of the people and for the use of the people whom he loved so dearly. (Hear, hear). She thought that the fact that Mr. Rowlinson should have chosen her to take it for them seemed to her the greater honour because they knew how persistent and patient had been the work, during the war, when they forgot personalities in the cause, through the time of the death of friends like Sir Wm. Wedderburn, a kind and trusted friend and a wise man. One after another has passed away, and Mr. Rowlinson had gone on until he stood there that day and saw the fulfilling of their purpose. She drew a vivid picture of Sir Charles and Lady Dilke's work in the Forest and of the feeling that she had, being with them so much there, in coming back to the Forest that day – as a home. Her uncle gave them love and service and they gave him their love. In those days now gone by, when they realised only too well how the fact that they were faced with danger gave to the miners sometimes, as she had walked through their exquisite Forest glades, a strange far-off look in their eyes. There was no hospital then to take accident patients to nearer than Gloucester. She had felt, she said in her concluding words that she had never been so honoured. There was in the Forest of Dean always that character of bravery, courage, loyalty and love which distinguished them all the time, character which alone made life beautiful and possible, character which summed up so typically in him whose memory they had celebrated there that day. (Applause).

After an adjournment for tea, which was provided in large tents on the grounds, and the public had had an opportunity of passing through the hospital buildings, Mrs. Sidney Dykins, on behalf of the Cinderford Memento Fund, presented to the hospital the X-ray apparatus, and on behalf of the committee. Mr. Joynes expressed their grateful thanks.

The Right Hon J.H. Tennant, a colleague of Sir Charles Dilke, afterwards, in an able speech, concentrated attention on general aspects of his work, in his concern for the cause of labour, and for the empire. And in other ways, and he also paid a high tribute to the devotion and labours of Miss Tuckwell. He was thankful, he said, to be associated with the opening of a memorial which would be of great service for many generations to come and form a fitting tribute to the memory of the work nobly done by Charles Wentworth Dilke. (Applause).

Mr. T.H. Deakin proposed and Mr. F. Ashmead seconded, a very cordial vote of thanks to all who had taken any part in that day's happy proceedings, and Miss Tuckwell kindly consented to respond, assuring the people that the thanks they desired was that they should make the venture a great success.

During the proceedings the Cinderford Male Voice Choir and the Ruardean Hill and District Choral Society rendered selections, and the Cinderford Excelsior Bands was also present. The Girl Guides

were also present, and the event altogether was one that will be memorable in the history of the Forest, and in efforts achieved by Mr. Rowlinson, and others who have assisted him in one of the finest of all causes



Staff at the Opening 1923

X-Ray Equipment at the Dilke

PRESS RELEASE JULY 20TH 1923

THE DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - GOOD SERVICE BEGUN

THE X-RAY APPARATUS

The services of the Dilke Memorial Hospital have already been requisitioned and it has splendidly responded. Several patients are finding first-class treatment and the courteous and efficient staff are discovering that appreciation awaits their kindly ministrations. Four minor operations were performed on Tuesday and the fine X-ray equipment has been brought into good use. The purpose and value of the latter was demonstrated in a photograph which one of our representatives saw that evening showing the fracture – near the heads – of the two bones of the lower portion of one of the legs of the little lad who was knocked down in the Steam Mills Road at Cinderford on Monday, and whose thigh bone of the other leg was also broken. The little fellow was lying patient and quiet in a bed in one of the wards. As he glanced at the doctor and our representative he looked, perhaps, just a wee-bit frightened. The people and the place were all strange to him, and no doubt t his nerves had not quite steadied after the serious shock he had sustained. But a gentle pat on the cheeks and a kindly word-and what was better still, an assurance that daddy was sitting by his bedside- and he was quite composed. Another little chap was in the opposite bed. He was naturally looking a little fretful at the moment as he glanced toward the doctor- for he had that afternoon had to have his tonsils seen to, but in a moment or two his tiny desire to cry was gone. He had turned on his side- and apparently was soon in the 'land of nod'-and perhaps dreaming of mammy and all the kind folks in the home to which he would soon return. This is the sort of service the fine, compact little hospital and many other similar institutions, is rendering in the alleviation of human suffering by the skilful treatment of the doctor and the tender, good attention of the nurse.

The hospital's mission is, therefore, in full operation. On Tuesday the finance and the House Committee met and discussed questions which put the institution into a position in which rules and arrangements are in being for the carrying on of the hospital, so that it's beneficent objects may in every sense be well attained. Good folks are helping the committee, the visiting doctors and the, matron and staff to achieve this end. Among recent gifts we find that Mr. George Kear of Cinderford has kindly supplied a bed-table, Mrs. Beadles has been collecting books, and the matron has received flowers, too, and other things. She will by no means be averse to receiving many other gifts for the b brightening of the hours spent here by the patients and for their use and comfort. Let our readers think that there is an institution at our very doors which appeals for an expression of practical sympathy and kindly thoughtfulness. The medical services will be kindly taken in weekly turns by Drs. D.R. Campbell, J.N. Beadles, G.F. Rigden and M.L. Bangara. On Tuesday morning there was a meeting of the ladies of the Cinderford Memento Fund and others, who, amongst other business, arranged for the holding of a garden party in August. Dr. Bangara is in charge of the X-ray apparatus. It will be remembered that among the local, kindly efforts during the war there was a disabled soldiers; welcomed home fund, and in connection with this two largely-attended gatherings were held in the Town Hall, the first presided over by Dr. Bangara and the second by Captain Angus Buchanan, V.C., This was followed by the establishment of a Memento Fund. A considerable

amount was subscribed and collected by various efforts through the labour of love on the part of a number of ladies. Mrs. S. Dykins being chairman of the committee. It was felt that a personal memento to each mother or widow would have been of such a trifling nature that it was decided to conserve the fund and add to it by 'flower days' etc., in order to provide a substantial, permanent memorial. The Dilke Memorial Hospital would come into being some day.

Why not place a memorial to the memory of the lads in this institution. The thought soon crystallized. It became an actuality. The hospital would need an X-ray apparatus. The Committee accepted the gift, and it has been installed and is in efficient working. The equipment of the room in its entire cost has meant an expenditure of £250 and the Memento Fund is finding £205 for the 'Medical Service Set', as this example is called, and £195 has been found. Who is coming forward with the further £10 required? A good purpose for a surplus ten pound note! If there is a rush with notes of this denomination- the hon secretary of the hospital has still a hand open for money needed for the maintenance fund and other useful purposes. That hand- the hand of G.H.R. (the initials will suffice to indicate it's owner, where the said owner has done so much for this institution and in other good public work in the district) was put in front of the X-rays when our representative and others were present on Tuesday evening. There it was – fingers, hand-bones, wrist bones, and all the rest of it. But these were not all – there was a very obvious and a very palpable shadow of muscular tissues as well and Riding Hood's 'Grandma' would have said –'The better to grip you with my child,' Mr.R. will say to the public, already so kind and generous but not yet tired of helping on such real Christian service – 'the better to receive from you, sir, and to dispense for the good of suffering humanity, the aid which little or great, you are able to tender'.



Typical X-ray Equipment 1923

The New Wing of the Dilke

PRESS RELEASE – FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 1926

DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - OPENING OF THE NEW WING



The formal opening of the new wing of the Dilke Memorial Hospital took place on Thursday afternoon, the ceremony being performed by Miss L.F. Crawshay, a member of a family well known to past generations of the Forest of Dean, and who laid one of the foundation stones of the extension on October 15th last year. As in last week's issue we gave a detailed account of the additional buildings and the purpose they will serve; it is unnecessary to repeat them here. Sufficient to say that they have entailed an expenditure of some £6,300 some hundreds of pounds in excess of what was originally contemplated. The architect was Mr. Wm Whitehouse of Cinderford, and the building contractors Messrs. Powell and Giles, of the same town while Messrs R. Alger & Sons, Ltd., of Newport, carried out the heating, plumbing and electrical work.

It was unfortunate that Thursday's weather was more like that associated with November than early autumn, for it undoubtedly kept many away from the interesting proceedings, but nevertheless a large number of friends of the Hospital from all parts of the Forest of Dean assembled, and in the depressing climatic conditions the attendance was eminently satisfactory. Mr. J.J. Joynes, Chairman of the Committee presided and he was influentially supported.

The proceedings were opened by the singing of the hymn 'At even, 'ere the sun was set', followed by the reading of a portion of scripture by the Rev. F.W. Balch (Superintendent Wesleyan minister) and prayer by the Rev. F.W. Baldwin, (Vicar of St. John's, Cinderford).

The Chairman then, in his opening speech, expressed his delight at seeing so many present. They were of course very much afraid, when they saw that the weather was not all that they could desire

it to be, that the attendance that afternoon might have been sparse, and they were very glad to see that it was quite the reverse and that there was a very representative company present. That fact, he thought, indicated the spirit that existed in the district in reference to the Dilke Hospital. He expressed to them, and through them to a much wider constituency, the thanks of the Committee for the very kindly support that they had given to the Hospital since it was first instituted. The very fact, that it had been necessary to call them together on such an occasion as the present shewed clearly that the Hospital hitherto had had their support. Its work, as they expected it to be, had been of great benefit to the district. Many might have thought at the commencement that it would be very largely for the benefit of the miners and the mining community in general, but not only had it been most useful on hundreds of occasions to miners and their families, but it had appealed to a very much wider constituency, and they had received people of all shades of opinion and callings, and they had been very glad to be able to cater for them.

The Chairman having explained that the limited accommodation provided in the original buildings had proved inadequate, said it was soon found that it would be impossible to carry on the work satisfactorily without very considerable extensions, and he acknowledged the very capable advice that the Committee had received in this connection from Mr. Whitehouse. The result of the extensions which had been made had increased the number of beds from 18 to 31, and a separate ward for the children had been provided, in addition to the administrative block of buildings, a room for the reception of casualties, an X-ray room,, a Board room, nurses quarters, a caretaker's cottage etc.,

Mr. G.H. Rowlinson, the Hospital's enthusiastic hon. Secretary, then presented a report as to the institution's financial position. He wished, he said, that his health was sufficiently good to permit him to undertake the task as he should like to do, and in carrying out his duties in this respect he was afraid he was going against his medical adviser. He echoed the words of the Chairman in thanking everyone for the help they had rendered to the Dilke Memorial Hospital. Up to date they had succeeded in raising no less than £23,000. (Applause). After 2½ years from the opening of the Hospital they found that it was imperative to have increased accommodation, and now they had, as they had already been informed, made provision for 31 beds, which, bearing in mind the accommodation also provided at Gloucester, Lydney, Ross and Monmouth, ought to be sufficient to meet the needs for a long time to come. They thought they would manage to provide the increased accommodation for about £5,000, but certain further provision which it was deemed advisable to make had increased the figures to £6,300. There was no one more pleased than himself when, on going through the figures, he found that up to date the Hospital only owed about £15 – (applause) – but added Mr. Rowlinson, 'there are some bills yet to come in'. If it had not been for the present industrial trouble they would have been entirely out of debt, and they would have opened the new wing without any indebtedness upon it, as they did the original building. Through the industrial trouble they had lost quite £500, and that had to be met before the year was out.

He was hoping that with the bazaar which they proposed holding and their Christmas effort they would have got through the year free of debt, but with the bills that had yet to come in he foresaw that they would be about £850 to the bad by the end of the year. Among the suggestions he made towards raising this sum was one that the employees of the Forest of Dean collieries should for a matter of six or 12 months, increase their contributions from 1d to 1½d., and Mr. Rowlinson went on to say, 'If there are some good people who have got more than they know what to do with, let them

come this way and we will find a way to spend it. As far as the Committee are concerned, they have done their best to meet the necessities of this neighbourhood. I know the Committee don't get everybody's good name-I know the Secretary does not: he has never tried for that: he has never aimed at it. I have always tried to take a straight course, and I want to say to those good people who say that Rowlinson is making a good thing out of the Hospital, that they can come and have the job any time they want. When a man thinks that I have taken up public work to make money out of it, he doesn't understand Rowlinson. To work for this Hospital has given me love and pleasure. It is run for the benefit of the people of the district'. In further remarks Mr. Rowlinson gratefully acknowledged Miss Crawshay's handsome donation of £1000 and the gift of £2,500 from the Miners Welfare Fund. Other receipts for the Extension Fund were: Donations etc., from various sources, £1,162. 15s 7d; and Bank interest £29. 14s 8d making a total of £4,722. 10s. 3d; and with £900 that they had taken from the Maintenance Fund, they had already spent £5,491. Debts were not pleasant either for individuals or for institutions and he hoped all would do their utmost to assist the Committee in clearing off the debt that existed upon their Hospital. (Applause),

The Chairman in introducing Miss Crawshay, said she had proved to be a very good friend to the Hospital. Before asking her to unlock the door of the new wing he had much pleasure on behalf of the Committee, in presenting her with a silver key inscribed with the date and the circumstances.

Miss Crawshay, whose rising was the signal for much applause, said she was glad to be in the Forest of Dean again after an absence of some months. During that time she had been wandering in the East seeing strange countries, but she had seen no country that appealed to her more than the Forest. (hear hear). When coming up the hill to this beautiful building, words could not express what her feelings were. The whole idea of it came from one's man's mind- that of helping others. Continuing Miss Crayshaw said I am not going to ask any one of you to help it, I take it for granted you will do so for our hospital. The times, she knew, were hard for all of them, but they must not remember the dark cloud but work for the light, and each of them doing their little the clouds would pass and prosperity would come back to them all. (Hear hear). She thanked them for the silver key, which she would always keep amongst her great treasures. They knew what it meant to her to come there, and to see the stone which she laid in memory of her dear brother. She knew they would help the hospital all they could. The little was what is the great thing in life. 'It is the mickle that makes the muckle.' And the mickle was what she asked of all of them, for it would develop and grow into the great thing. Miss Crawshay having paid a deserved tribute to the self-sacrificing labours of Mr. G.H. Rowlinson in connection with the Hospital, unlocked the door of the building amid considerable applause.

Miss Tuckwell, niece of Sir Charles Dilke accepted in his name the extension, and proceeded to give an interesting speech. She first gave them greetings from Mr. Tennant, formerly Under Secretary for War and Secretary for Scotland and Mrs. Tennant, who were with them last autumn, the latter being Lady Dilke's great friend in the far-off days. John Galsworthy in one of his books said: 'If there is a saving way for the nations it is to substitute as our watchword health and happiness for wealth'. She thought that was a great saying. One naturally linked happiness with health, and they could link with health efficiency and the capacity for pleasant work. Having referred to the large number of young children who dies before they were four months old and to the number who started life ill and maimed, she stated that Government reports informed them that 10 to 15 times more time was

lost in sickness than strikes. In connection with the Hospital they must not forget the people who had helped make it, and she particularly mentioned Miss Crawshay and Sir Henry Webb, but the moving spirit had been George Rowlinson. To succeed in such a work a man must be a great organizer and a perfectly appalling beggar, and that Mr. Rowlinson had proved himself to be. (Laughter). As a mark of his friendship for Sir Charles Dilke he had built that monument in stone. Some of them had tried to do it with pen and ink, but his monument would endure long after the other had disappeared. (Applause).

Mr. T.H. Deakin in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Crawshay, congratulated everyone upon having such an excellent little hospital in the Forest of Dean. The name of Crawshay, he said, was one that had been associated with the Forest of Dean for many years. It was the Crawshays who laid out the furnaces and who opened the collieries, and whatever they might think today they had a great deal to thank the Crawshays for. He knew that people felt a little cross-ways at the present time, but that phase would pass. He had had over 60 years in colliery work, and he had know something of strikes, but 'Thank God, when the strike is over the old friendship returns and we and our mean have been friends again, and it we are left to ourselves we shall be friends until the end of the day. (Applause). What we want are a few kind words, a little bit more common sense, and less slogans.' (hear, hear).

Mr. Arthur J Morgan seconded, and Lieut. Col. Russell J Kerr, in supporting, said the interest and sympathy that he felt in the Dilke Hospital had been greatly stimulated by what he had seen and heard that afternoon. No one had rendered greater public service to the district than Mr.; Rowlinson, but of all the public services which he had rendered it seemed to him that that Hospital would be the greatest and most enduring memorial to his capacity, pertinacity and courage, (Applause).

The proposition was carried with much heartiness, and a similar vote of thanks was also accorded Miss Tuckwell, the Ruspidge Male Voice Choir, and the Cinderford Excelsior Band, both of which combinations rendered excellent selections during the afternoon and evening. The services of the Matron, nurses and medical staff were acknowledged with cheers, This part of the proceedings then closed with the Doxology and the Benediction, the latter pronounced by the Rev. F.W. Baldwin.

Most of those present then partook of tea, provided in a large marquee, and the ladies assisted the Hospital funds by disposing of articles from a couple of stalls. There was also a cross-word competition and a motor car given by a friend of the Hospital, was offered for sale, and realized £65.

The Matron acknowledges with thanks the following gifts:-

Mrs. Moulton, Coleford , donation vegetables

Mrs. Davies, Bradley Hill, flowers and vegetables

Congregational Church, Drybrook (per Mr. Roy Smith), grocery, flowers, fruit, vegetables and bread.

Mrs. Bullock, Soudley, plums, flowers, vegetables.

Mr. Cooper, Ruspidge, meat.

Mrs. Beddis, Ruspidge, bread.

Sir F.H. Crawley Bovey, Flaxley Abbey, flowers.

Double View School (per Mr. Emery), vegetables.

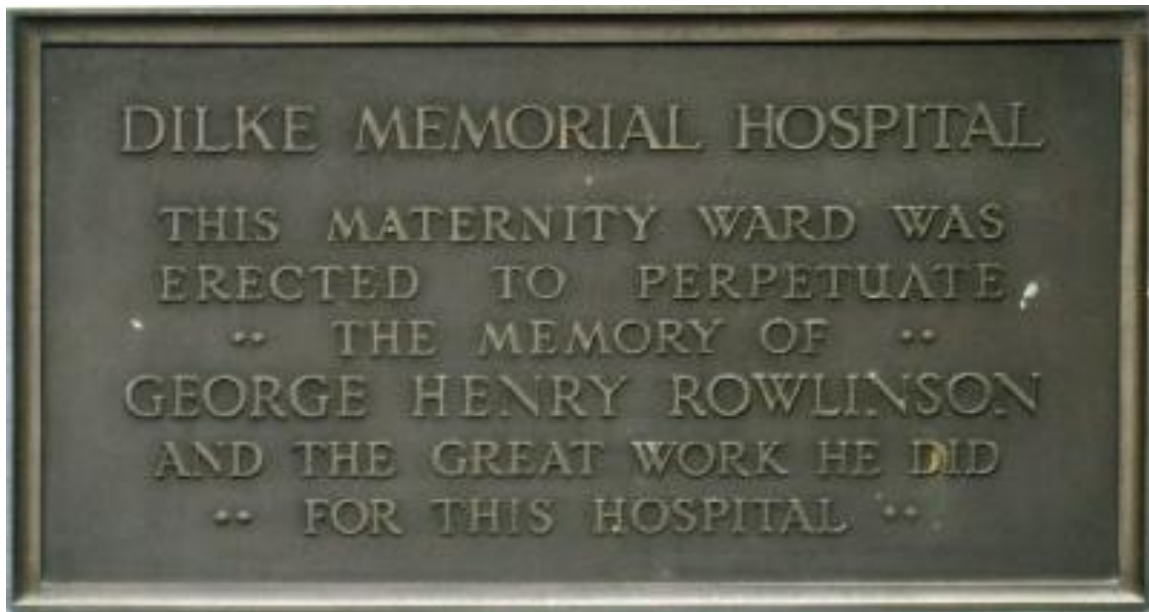
Patients admitted, 3; discharges, 6; remaining in hospital, 17;

Surgeon on duty this week: Dr. Chesser.

Surgeon on duty next week: Dr. Bangara.

The service for the patients will be held on Sunday at 3 p.m. Mr. S. Dorrington will conduct the service.

L.H. BOLTON, Matron.



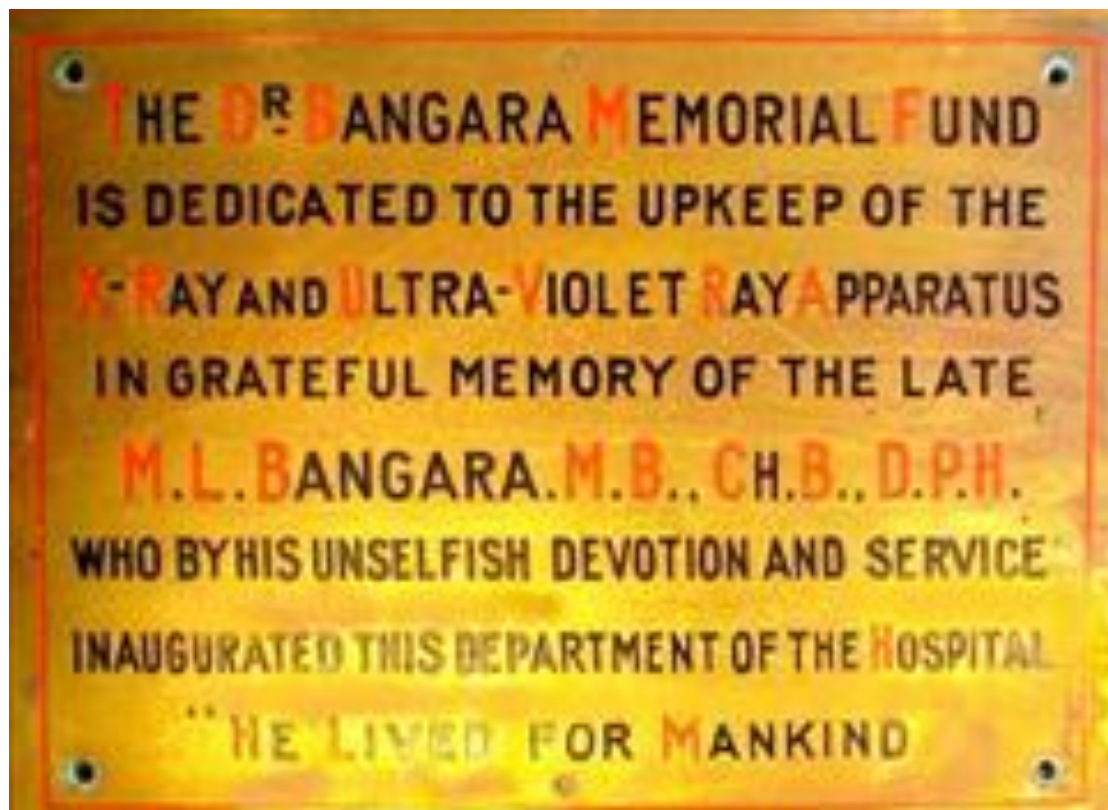
Dr M.L. Bangara

M.L.Bangara was born at Mangalore in South India in 1881. After qualifying as a doctor at Edinburgh University he moved to Cinderford in 1915 working in his own practice and at the Dilke Memorial Hospital.

In addition to his work as a doctor, he was an active member of the community and a leading light in a variety of local organisations including the Freemasons, Cinderford Horticultural Society, Dickens Fellowship, Excelsior Band and Cinderford Male Voice Choir.

Dr Bangara died of complications following influenza shortly after his 46th birthday in 1927. The 'In Memoriam' pamphlet published later that year shows the very considerable affection and respect in which he was held in Cinderford.





Plaque outside the current X-Ray department

The Hospital Day committee June 1933

The Hospital Day committee were favoured with ideal weather for their annual event. There was a satisfactory attendance at the sports meeting on the recreation ground despite rivalling counter attractions at neighbouring places.

The programme for the day comprised of The Carnival Procession & field sports.

The judges for the day were Mr & Mrs Wellington of Littledean & Mr G H Rowlinson JP presented the prizes.

The Committee honorary secretary was Mr Stanley Davies.

The main events in the sports programme were a whippet handicap & a horse handicap race.

Side Show attractions included a guess the weight of a load of firewood competition – the wood was kindly donated by the Lydney & Crump Meadow Colliery Company.

Four people were successful & shared the prize.

Judging the weight of an iced cake was won by Mr John Hiatt, the cake was a gift from Mr Frank Knight.

The Carnival Winners were

Miss Margaret Hale – Flanders Poppy.

Mrs L Mason, Brierley – Red Queen.

Miss M Tippins – Nippy.

Miss Violet Davies – Rinso.

E Whittington & T Blanch – Monks.

S Edwards – Baker's Boy

Tradesmen's Turnout - Messrs Marshall, The Pludds.

The Cinderford Town Band led the Carnival & played throughout the afternoon & evening.

A profit of £19 10s was made on the day & divided between Gloucester Royal (£10) & The Dilke (£9 10s).



The End of the Second World War

Press Release – March 1945

Cinderford and District Emergency Hospitals Wound Up

The Cinderford and District Emergency Hospitals, established at the time of the fear of invasion, under the instructions of the Invasion Committee, have now been wound up. The Committee have received instructions to dispose of the balance and the hospital requisites that had been purchased so as to be ready if they had had to be called into being. The Committee issues a report to the Invasion Committee as to the disposal of the funds and requisites which the Committee approved. This disposal has now taken place. The balance of subscriptions amounted to £204. 8s and that has been handed to the Matron of the Dilke Hospital for the Theatre Fund. This sum would easily have been utilised had the hospitals been called into being.

The stock of hospital requisites has been allotted – some to the Cinderford and District Nursing Association for the user of local sick, some to the Cinderford Nursing Division (St. John Ambulance) for a similar purpose if required and the residue (a very considerable amount) to the Dilke Hospital.

Once again the Committee would like to offer their thanks to the generous support of the citizens of Cinderford to the appeal for funds which they had to inaugurate. In all £324. 9s. 9d was collected and £120.1s. 9d expended upon the necessary black-out of the rooms allocated to the hospitals, the airlock to Bilson School and the purchase of the stock of hospital requisites.

Tom T. Haines

(Chairman)

PRESS RELEASE APRIL 6TH 1945

DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Chairman and Executive Committee of the Dilke Memorial Hospital extend a warm invitation to all those who subscribed so generously to the New X-Ray and Emergency Lighting Funds to be present at the Hospital on Thursday April 26, 1945 at 3.15p.m., when the X-ray will be on view and will be demonstrated by an expert.

The Chairman would have liked to send a personal invitation to all subscribers, but it was felt that this was not possible, in the time available, so will they please accept this as their invitation?

Teas will be provided at moderate charges.

Queen Mary's Visit

PRESS RELEASE FRIDAY APRIL 27TH 1945

QUEEN MARY AT DILKE HOSPITAL

Keen Interest in the New X-Ray apparatus and Maternity Wing

THIRD WAR TIME VISIT TO THE FOREST



A welcome of warm loyalty for a well-respected Queen-Mother was accorded to Her Majesty Queen Mary when she visited the Dilke Memorial Hospital, Cinderford on Thursday afternoon and spends about three-quarters of an hour inspecting the hospital and the many improvements and useful extensions which recent years have brought.

Since the war Queen Mary has paid two visits to the Forest of Dean, one to Huntley and one to Lydney. Before that the last Royal visit to the Forest was in 1934, when the late Dike of Kent made his well-remembered tour.

On Thursday, Queen Mary took particular interest in the new X-Ray apparatus which has recently been installed and she asked several questions. Her Majesty has a sound practical knowledge of nursing – it will be remembered that she personally assisted with the nursing of King George in the illness which ended his life – and she takes a lively interest in the equipment and facilities at the many hospitals she visits from time to time. She spent a considerable time in the new maternity

wing and chatted to Mrs. R.J. Mansfield, wife of the Vicar of Newnham, whose baby was born the previous day.

In the heart of the Forest of Dean, Queen Mary saw a hospital which compares in equipment very favourably with hospitals run on a much larger scale in thickly populated areas. She saw bright and airy wards, passages with walls coloured to reflect every bit of light and designed to be cheerful to the eye.

Her Majesty saw a modern operating theatre, the newest feature of which is a recently-developed adjustable light over the operating table specially constructed to eliminate shadows as the surgeon works on his patient. It is an elaborate piece of modern hospital lighting with a spot-light effect, surrounded under its massive reflectors by four emergency lights, with which the hospital is equipped in essential parts like the operating-theatre and labour room so that should the main supply fail at any time the hospital can get four hours light from a set of batteries.

Every move which is being made by the hospital authorities is highly progressive and tends towards greater and greater efficiency in all departments.

In the children's ward its walls colourfully decorated with drawings of all sorts of animals which are the delight of the young patients, Her Majesty was shyly but very correctly greeted.

The new X-Ray apparatus for the provision of which Lady Crawley-Boevey is running a most successful fund, is a great improvement on the old installation and of inestimable value to the hospital. It is able to photograph clearly larger areas of the body; the old X-Ray could be used only on the smaller joints like the wrist and to photograph smaller members of the body like hands and feet. Already the hospital has a substantial library of X-Ray films which have been taken of many patients who were suffering or believed to be suffering from some form of joint or internal trouble. In maternity cases the new X-ray is of untold value.

GREETING

When she arrived at the hospital just after 3.15pm, Queen Mary had driven across from the main road at Elton Corner, through Littledean, down St. White's Road, Cinderford and the White Hart Hill, and on the way she was greeted by many people who waited by the roadside and by school children some of whom had flags which they waved in welcome.

The hospital itself was nicely decorated with flags to greet the Queen.

At the hospital Her Majesty was received by Lady Crawley-Boevey (Chairman of the House Committee; presented to here were Sir Lance Crawley-Boevey, Mr. D.N. Lang (Chairman of the Executive Committee), and Miss Dorothy E Barrell (Matron). A guard of honour was formed by members of the staff, including the auxiliary nurses and members of the Order of St. John. Most members of the Executive Committee were present and the Queen shook hands with each and with members of the Linen League,

The Queen was wearing a grey silk coat, grey shoes and stockings, and a blue straw hat with pink flowers.

Walking on to the veranda of the hospital, Her Majesty then met the medical staff – Mr. W.H. Tandy, Drs. H.H. Sumption, J.M. Hughes, Rocyn-Jones and R.M. McMinn – and Mrs. O de W Gibb of Gloucester. She was then conducted round the hospital by the Matron, accompanied by the lady-in-waiting, the Hon. Margaret Wyndham, the equerry (the Hon. John Coke), Lady Crawley-

Boevey, Mr. Lang, Mr. W.E.F. Jones (Acting Secretary)) and Mr. F.E. Plummer (Treasurer).

Queen Mary first saw the physio-therapy department and then the new X-Ray Department which was described to her by a representative of the London firm who installed it. Mr. G.F.W. Haill to whom she addressed several questions. Mr. Haill explained that this was the type of installation which was used throughout the world and supplies to the Russian allies. While he was giving a demonstration, the Queen asked “Is it English?” “Yes” Mr. Haill replied, “It is British made”. She commented that it was a wonderful piece of equipment, and Mr. Haill said it was the result of much development and was a complete unit capable of carrying out all types of X-Ray work in the hospital.

Again replying to Her Majesty, Mr. Haill said the weight was four hundredweights and the unit could be taken into any of the wards for use. Its cost was about £700.

Queen Mary asked whether any films had been taken and the Matron showed her a number of excellent photographs in which Her Majesty displayed a deep interest.

She then had an X-Ray photograph of her own hand taken, and about half-an-hour later Mr. Haill showed her the clear X-Ray film.

After seeing the casualty ward, Queen Mary went to the men’s ward, and on the balcony spoke to Mr. Rowland Hyett. “He comes from Ruardean, your Majesty,” Mr. Wallace Jones said jocularly; “the place where they once killed a bear!”. Queen Mary smiled at the joke, which apparently conveyed its meaning to her.

MATERNITY WING

In the new wing which houses the maternity wards, Queen Mary commented favourably on the restful colour scheme which reflects the maximum of light, and looked at the new babies who gurgled contently in the little cots in the crèche to alongside the wards. Attached to the crèche is the specially fitted baby’s bathroom.

Her Majesty was shown the excellent lighting scheme in the operating theatre and was impressed by the efficiency of this modern system, which is of such value to the surgeon whilst he is operating.

Then she went to the children’s ward and saw some happy youngsters who waved little Union Jacks in loyal greeting. She found little Billy Troutman a very cheerful patient.

Her Majesty had already been photographed with the Executive Committee, several pictures were

taken inside the hospital and outside she sat with the Matron and senior members of the nursing staff, the medical staff and Mr. Gibb and officials of the administrative side for a further photograph. Before she got into her car a beautiful bouquet was presented to the Queen-Mother by the youngest nurse, Nurse Ruby Holder.

Queen Mary drove away with Lady Crawley-Boevey, her lady-in-waiting and equerry, accompanied as she was before by Service despatch riders. She expressed a wish to take the route through Steam Mills and over The Point at Mitcheldean to see the wonderful view from the well-known Forest hill-top. She went to Flaxley Abbey to tea with Sir Lance and Lady Crawley-Boevey, and again the route through Cinderford and the villages was lined with people including many schoolchildren, anxious to catch a sight of a Royal personage who had paid the Forest a great honour by her presence and seen with obvious satisfaction a local hospital which is a credit in every way to all who are connected with it.

The Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Col. W.F. Henn was among whose present.

Tea was provided for the three or four hundred visitors in a large marquee, the arrangements being made by Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. Sale with the assistance of their helpers.

Queen Mary had never actually visited the Forest of Dean before the war, but she paid two visits in the vicinity many years ago. The late Mr. A.T. Bright referred to these in his reminiscences published in our columns in 1939. The first occasion was about 1890, when as Princess Mary she accompanied her mother to stay with Mr. Michael Biddulph at Ledbury, a boating excursion taking place down the Wye to Symonds Yat. The other time was after her marriage. The Duke and Duchess of York staying at The Hendre, near Monmouth. It was then that the present Queen Mary had her first ride in a motor car, with the Hon C.S. Rolls.



Closures & Miscellaneous News of the Dilke

1988 Closure of the maternity unit

Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

The Society assisted in 1988 in an unsuccessful campaign to prevent the closure of the maternity unit at the Dilke Memorial Hospital in the Forest. Its closure greatly reduced the chances of future generations fulfilling one of the necessary conditions to become a freeminer, that is to be born in the Hundred of St. Briavals

Wednesday, 10 October 2001

The Scotsman · www.scotsman.com

143 SNAKES IN CUPBOARD

A nurse yesterday opened a hospital boiler room cupboard to be confronted by 143 snakes. The nurse screamed in terror and leaped to safety as the grass snakes moved towards her. Staff rushed to help but the nurse, who has not been named, was unable to calm down until she was told they were not poisonous. Eric Pritchard, a reptile expert who caught the snakes at Dilke Hospital in Cinderford, Gloucestershire, said: "I suspect a pregnant snake sneaked into the boiler room and then set up home."

Wednesday 22nd 2004

The Citizen

DILKE CLOSURE CONCERN IS SPARKED BY REVIEW

Cinderford's historic Dilke Memorial Hospital could face closure under a major shake-up of health services in the area.

But health chiefs have been warned they would have "a fight on your hands" if they tried to close it. But health chiefs have been warned they would have "a fight on your hands" if they tried to close it.

Thursday 30th September 2004

The Forester

Town may lose the Dilke but not a Hospital

Forest hospitals' future is bright

Local Nhs chiefs have backed Forest hospitals against any rumours they might be threatened. "Both Community Hospitals have a vibrant and healthy future at the heart of their local communities and expansion and development of their services for the benefit of patients is the top priority," a spokesman said

Friday October 1st 2004

The Citizen

Early Days Yet

The future of the Dilke Hospital at Cinderford is under review, Here Liam Williams, West

Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust Development manager, North Forest explains why the review is being undertaken.

Thursday 26th May 2005

The Forester

Countdown starts to deciding their future

Tuesday 30th October 2007

The Citizen

The Dilke saved as a GP led unit

Image gallery





DILKE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, COLEFORD.



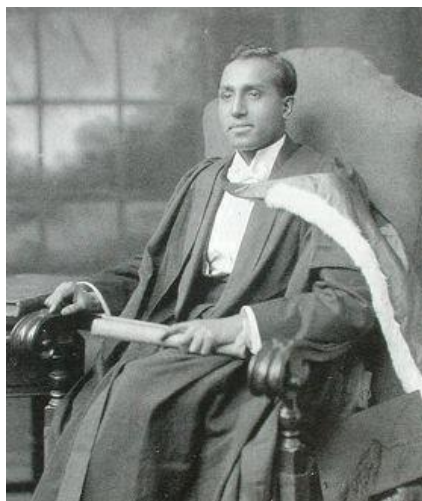
BACK ROW.—Mr. F. E. Plummer (Treasurer of the Hospital), Mr. G. F. W. Haill (from the firm of X-Ray manufacturers), Mr. W. E. F. Jones (Acting Secretary of the Hospital), Sister Marjorie Preest, Dr. J. M. Hughes, Sister D. H. Pirie, Lady Crawley-Boevè (Chairman of the House Committee), Dr. H. H. Sumption.
 FRONT ROW.—Dr. R. M. McMinn, Mr. W. H. Tandy, Mr. D. N. Lang (Chairman of the Hospital), Her Majesty Queen Mary, Miss Dorothy E. Barrell (Matron), Dr. Rocyn Jones, and Mr. C. de W. Gibb (Gloucester).



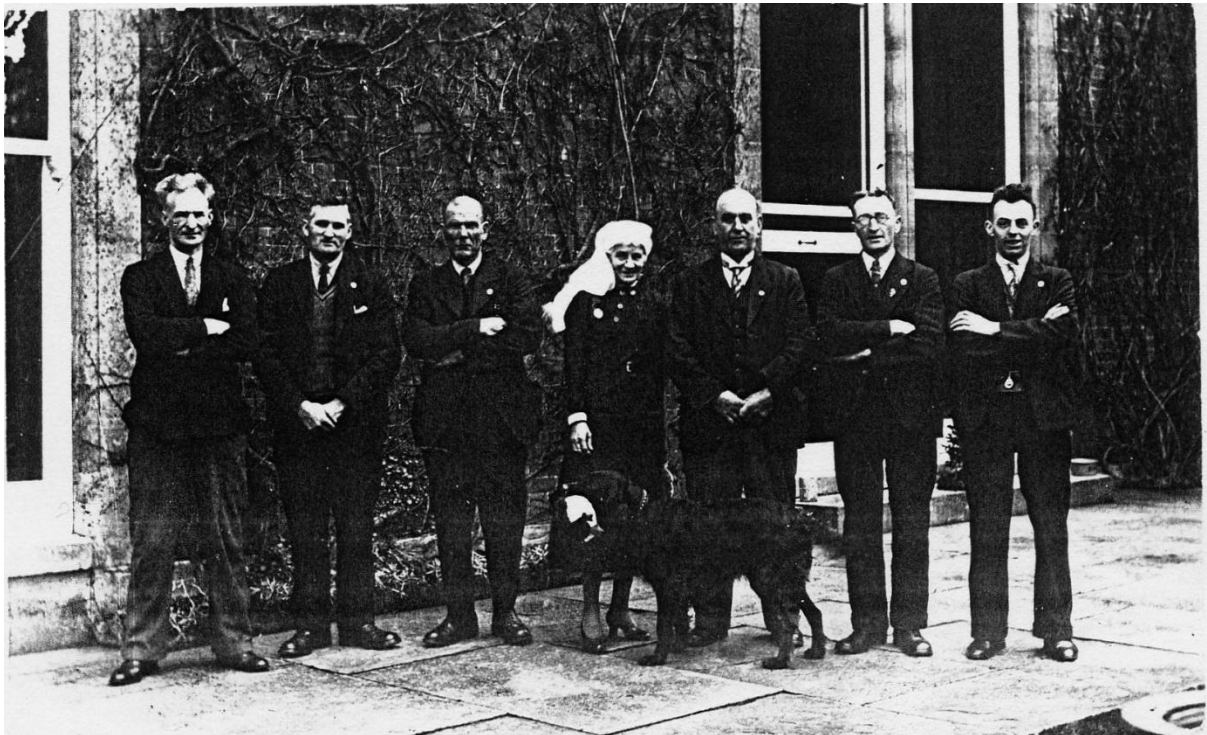
Dr Bangara

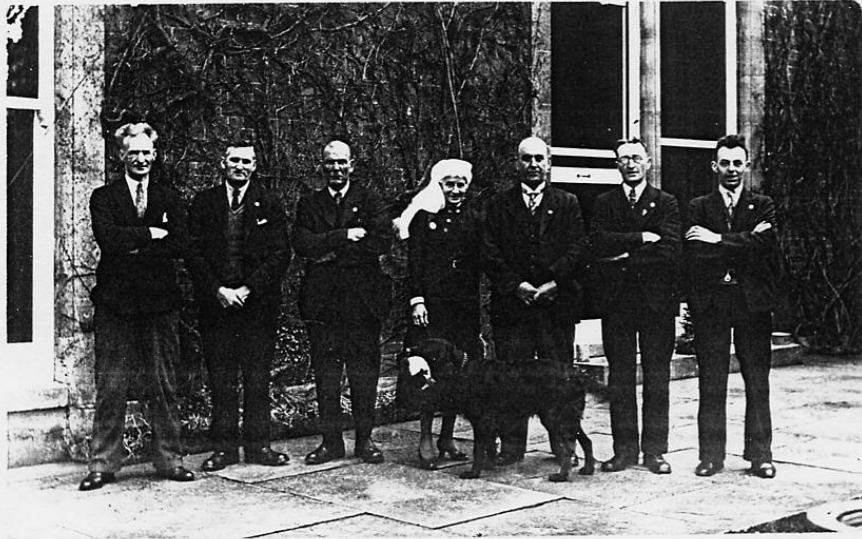


Dr Nandara



Dr Seal





I am not sure whether this ^(copy) photo will be of any use to you in your research on Pe Delle Hospital -

It was probably taken 60+ years ago (maybe more). My grandfather Stevens is the 3rd from left (next to Matron). I don't know anything about it - what occasion etc. You are welcome to this copy.

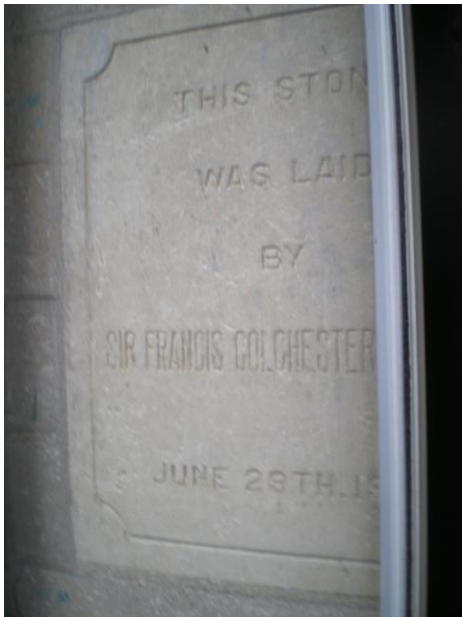
The only other snippet of info. I have is that when Queen Mary visited the hospital (approx. 40+ yrs ago) I believe all the little girls born at that time had the name Mary added to their own. I know this because a younger cousin of mine was named Jean Patricia Mary Lawhags!

from
Kathleen Smith (Mrs).
(824898)

OLD PHOTOS OF THE FOREST OF DWAIN
www.sun-green.co.uk
Must be re-written and
without permission
to 2006, G.K. Davis
Brent, U.K.
GDavis@SunGreen.co.uk



















Picture: Paul Nichols C108845_4



FACILITIES: Jan Stubbings, NHS Gloucestershire chief, back right, with Matron Mandy Hampton, back left, Linda Bevan, radiographer, and Elizabeth Smith, sonographer.

£500k Dilke revamp brings new services

CAMPAIGNERS have heralded a new era for Forest healthcare after a £500,000 revamp was unveiled at the Dilke Memorial Hospital.

The major refurbishments at the Cinderford hospital - which include a children's therapy centre and an updated X-ray department - follow hot on the heels of a £400,000 expansion at Lydney hospital.

The new facilities were officially launched yesterday by the chief executive of NHS Gloucestershire Jan Stubbings.

She said: "We are committed to investing in active and vibrant community hospitals and these developments are another important milestone in the devel-

By Luke Sellars

citizen.news@gloucestershire.co.uk

opment of health services in the Forest of Dean." She went on to say that the new facilities at the Dilke and Lydney would provide 12,000 more outpatient appointments in the Forest each year.

In 2006 both the Dilke and Lydney hospitals were saved from closure following a campaign. And in a light-hearted exchange with hospital campaigner Maurice Bent, Mrs Stubbings assured guests once and for all that the Forest hospitals would not be closing.

"The revamp has seen existing buildings renovated to create a more comfortable environment for patients. The new facilit-

ies include a children's therapy centre designed specifically for families and a larger, air-conditioned ultrasound room.

There is a new plaster and splinting room, outpatients' rooms and a reception area.

Mr Bent said: "This shows the hard work people put in to save the hospitals is paying off. It is great to have more services on our doorstep."

Bob Young, chairman of the hospital's League of Friends, also welcomed the improvements and is encouraging people to make the most of the new facilities.

He said: "The more services we have here in the Forest the better it is. We now need people to make sure they ask to be treated here so we make the most of the new facilities available."



