

Booklet

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HOSPITAL ON A HILLTOP
PIONEERING THE SYDNEY SANITARIUM

By Milton Hook



Seventh-day Adventist Heritage Series

Not for Resale

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SDA Heritage Series: Entry into the Australian Colonies
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Milton Hook is the author of "Flames Over Battle Creek", a brief history of the early days at the Review and Herald Publishing Association as seen through the eyes of George Amadon, printer's foreman at the institution. Dr Hook's doctoral dissertation researched the pioneering years of the Avondale School, 1894 to 1900, and he has published some of these findings.

He spent three years as a mission director in Papua New Guinea. His teaching years include primary, secondary and college level experience, especially in Bible subjects, in Australia, New Zealand and America. He is an ordained minister, married and the father of two sons.

He would welcome any information which may enhance the content of this series.

Not for Resale

The Sydney Adventist Hospital is one of the most significant Seventh-day Adventist institutions in the southern hemisphere.

The hospital's predecessor, the Summer Hill Sanitarium¹ in suburban Sydney, became totally inadequate in a very short time and some alternative was quickly sought. The expanding enterprise forced the superintendent, Dr Edgar Caro, to rent nearby buildings in the same street and while this provided extra space it physically fragmented the institution. These hired quarters all had internal stairways which only added to the nurses strenuous work load as they struggled up and down with buckets of hot and cold water, meals, linen, and everything associated with the care of patients. The shoe-string budget was so frayed it could not support many labour-saving facilities.

Despite the odds the denomination felt they should press ahead and build their own structure, Some, however, sounded alarm bells because of mounting debts and warned that a large sanitarium could become a white elephant. These forecasters of doom were ignored.

Sites were being explored as early as 1898. Charles Schowe, Sr., a church member in the Hills district west of Sydney, offered his orchard for sale but the church leaders considered it unsuitable for a sanitarium. Early the following year properties near the Hawkesbury River and at Hornsby Junction (later

¹ For more details of this institution see the booklet "Rescue Homes and Remedies with Water".

called Hornsby) were also investigated. It was conceded a large sanitarium in the bush would need feeder branches in Sydney and Newcastle if either of these remote sites were chosen.

A site selection committee of three was eventually elected in April 1899. They were Pastor Arthur Daniells, Dr Edgar Caro, and George Morse. For six months prior to their nomination many letters were despatched to John Wessells in South Africa urging him to come to Australia and manage the venture from its infancy. Wessells was a wealthy businessman who had experience in the management of a similar sanitarium in his home country. It was hoped he would inject some of his own money into the Australian sanitarium as he had done in the South African sanitarium, but that did not eventuate. In actual fact, when Wessells left the sanitarium in South Africa it was staring bankruptcy in the face.

Wessells and his family arrived in Sydney in July 1899. He was soon presented with Caro's grandiose plans for a four-storied sanitarium of one hundred rooms costing \$16,000 or more.

During the 1899 session of the Australasian Union Conference at Cooranbong it was formally voted to erect a sanitarium in the vicinity of Sydney. Immediately after this agreement was reached on Friday morning, July 21, the one hundred members who were gathered at the report of the Australasian Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association pledged over \$1,800 cash and \$200 in interest-free loans. This was a spontaneous demonstration of their zeal for the project. A patient of the Summer Hill Sanitarium, Anglican minister John Geiss, was so impressed with the venture he initially donated \$1,000 as well as becoming a member of the Adventist church.

Despite the site selection committee Wessells did most of the laborious searching. Sites at Manly and Bondi were explored. He preferred the north shore of Sydney and looked at many

properties there, including ones at Ryde, Eastwood, Asquith, Pymble and Wahroonga. After checking factors such as water supply, access to gas mains, roadways, and sunny aspects, his interest gravitated more and more to twenty-nine hectares at Wahroonga on one of the higher ridges in Sydney. A portion of this bushland was already cleared and planted in orchard and its proximity to two railway lines as well as good creek water were all compelling reasons to buy. On three sides the land sloped away into fern-filled gullies. A sanitarium on the hilltop would command a sunny vantage point.

The owner, widow Elizabeth Evans, would sell at the bargain price of \$4,200. On October 31, 1899, after consultation with some church leaders, Wessells quickly agreed to buy, paying a cash deposit of \$400 and finalizing legalities in mid-November. The remainder was to be paid in instalments over twelve months. In November he also arranged to purchase from Joshua Johnson an adjoining 3½ hectare orchard with shanty for \$1,280 on similar terms. The present-day Wahroonga church approximates the site of this early orchard. Some years later additional purchases of neighbouring bushland more than doubled the total area of the property.

The search and purchase proved to be the high point of Wessells contribution. Soon after, he was elected as Corresponding Secretary and Business Agent for the Australasian Union Conference. This meant travelling throughout Australasia and a division of interests. Personal matters unsettled him too. He and his wife lost a daughter at birth in late November. Uncles were killed fighting for the Boers in South Africa and with the war turning against the Boers he felt he should hurry home to protect his financial interests. He left in March 1900.

In the wake of signing the contract for the Wahroonga property, and before the cash flow became critical, Ellen White recommended sanitariums be built in Melbourne and Geelong

also. Wessells, on the other hand, had advised it would be wiser from a business viewpoint to firmly establish one main Sanitarium first before branching out to other centres.

Two caretakers were employed to live on the Wahroonga property and work the orchards. Little else was accomplished during the first half of 1900 except that church leaders voted to go ahead and build immediately in order to open by December 1900. Their vision of a sixty-bed sanitarium costing approximately \$20,000 struggled for fruition despite some significant donations. Ellen White and an Adventist farmer in Tasmania, Edward Muffet gave \$200 each. Muffet followed later with more donations and loans.

For two years, 1900 and 1901, the enterprise floundered in a maelstrom of political intrigue and questionable bookkeeping as Dr Caro and the Summer Hill Sanitarium manager, Fred Sharp, battled to keep their own institution solvent at the expense of Dr Kress and the planned new sanitarium. The coming of John Burden from America in January 1901 and the exit of Dr Caro in the same year snatched this dilemma from the brink of bankruptcy. For these reasons, instead of beginning the new building project with some cash reserves they were virtually paupers, indeed, deeply in debt.

Dr Merritt Kellogg, both a medic and carpenter, returned with his young Australian wife, Eleanor, to Sydney in June 1900 after a term of mission service in Tonga. Although he was in his mid-sixties he was hale and hearty and took up his duties with gusto as architect and building supervisor. He submitted two different plans, one less pretentious than Caro's tall dream. Ellen White advised against a brick building. Instead, plans for a three-storied timber structure were accepted by church leaders.

Brick foundations were laid without fanfare in the summer of 1900/1901. When Burden arrived stringent measures were introduced to cut costs. The original plan was reduced to a two-

storey building with a functional attic and an iron roof instead of a tiled one. By February 1901 the first storey was up and weather-boarded. The only experienced carpenters helping Kellogg were Fred Lamplough and Will Taylor, but Percy Mills and John Nichols came later. Many amateurs assisted, including Bert Guillard, Harold Hughes, Arthur Baker, Charlie Harlow, and other Avondale School students. Often they worked twelve hours a day on the project.

Building on Sundays stirred some local animosity and the labourers were reported. The police visited the site on two occasions and took down their names. Police intended issuing summonses but they were not sure how they could get convictions. Kellogg reasoned with them, explaining that the sanitarium was to be for charitable work in the community. His carpenters, he added, had agreed to work fifty-seven hours per week and only accept wages for forty-eight hours. Therefore, Sunday work was their donation to a charity and they were really not earning their living by working on Sundays. Whether the argument would have survived in court will never be known for it satisfied the police and they left the workers alone. However, Kellogg took extra care to subdue noise on Sundays from that time onwards.

When the Foreign Mission Board paid Kellogg eighteen months wages in one lump sum he used \$200 of it to buy more building materials. Dr John Kellogg also sent \$2,400 to accompany the charter of "The Sydney Sanitarium and Benevolent Association". This charter recognized the Sydney Sanitarium as a sister institution in a worldwide Adventist network under the umbrella of the International Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association.

The Sanitarium's purpose, the charter read, was to be "undenominational, unsectarian, philanthropic, humanitarian, charitable, and benevolent, and in no way, directly or indirectly, for private profit or dividend paying to any one". The

Australasian Union Conference immediately dropped the words "undenominational" and "unsectarian", demonstrating that the institution was definitely to be identified as an Adventist one. This action reflected the attitude of church headquarters in America where the wording was also a bone of contention with Dr John Kellogg.

Building progress petered in the latter half of 1901 as the scandal of the Summer Hill Sanitarium's \$2,400 debt became more evident. Merritt Kellogg reported to Ellen White, "The Summer Hill institution and the Health Food Company have used up more than £2,300 [\$4,600] of the Building money". The Australasian Union Conference President, Pastor George Irwin, admitted their dilemma when he addressed the membership saying, "We are at a point in this enterprise where we cannot go back without great loss and disgrace, hence our only course is to push on at once to victory".

Urgent calls for carpenters were sent out. Many responded from Cooranbong, travelling by train to Hornsby on Friday afternoons and working a twelve-hour Sunday before returning home late Sunday evening. Church leaders voted to buy materials only as funds came in, rather than take a \$5,000 loan to complete the building. Church members were admonished to pay a second tithe for one year. Their Sabbath School offerings for the second quarter of 1902 were also used to keep the building program going.

These funds furnished enough to complete the first two storeys and verandahs, in addition to the outer shell of the roof attic and tower, and a separate rear building for hydrotherapy treatment rooms.

Building costs to the end of 1902 totalled almost \$17,000. The second tithe brought in about \$3,000. The Sabbath School offering provided \$400. Dr John Kellogg donated the royalties of his medical books sold in Australasia. This amounted to over

\$600. He and other benefactors in America gave over \$4,000. The balance was met by Australasians.

A quiet dedication service was held in the Sanitarium parlour on New Years Day 1903. No government dignitaries were present, unlike the opening of some earlier Adventist health institutions in Australia.

Even the architect and building superintendent, Merritt Kellogg, was absent, having returned to America a few weeks earlier with the promise of work in his homeland - a promise that proved to be empty.

The Sanitarium administrative staff was entirely American. Drs Daniel and Laretta Kress took charge as physicians. Burden continued as manager and his wife, Eleanor, served as secretary and treasurer. The Conference President's wife, Nettie Irwin, transferred from the Avondale Health Retreat and acted as matron until their return to America in 1905.

Kress was a man of austere habits, warning against the medical dangers of bicycle riding and advocating strict vegetarianism, two meals a day, and no liquids with meals. He ate only unleavened bread because yeast bread, he said, "contained .05 of alcohol and other products resulting from the cultivation of the germs which produce the gas and lighten the bread." This, of course, was completely foreign to the typical Aussie and Kress often despaired of educating them to his own regimen. "The church is largely made up of people who are "worthless" and "unconverted", he bemoaned to his close friend, Irwin. Adventist ministers, he alleged, were intent on making Sabbath- keepers rather than health-reformers.

It was during the Kress era, and when Pastor Ole Olsen replaced Irwin, that the idea of nurses wearing black uniforms was also entertained. Thankfully, a more cheery dress prevailed.

Kress never dispensed drugs. He was prone to cite instances when patients at the Battle Creek Sanitarium had their pain taken away by prayer. However, he was not as rigid as two trainee nurses who objected to studying physiology on the grounds that reliance on the prayer of faith would serve the patient best. Their zeal is to be admired but these oddities were perhaps symptomatic of naiveté. However, it remains a fact that the British Medical Association looked askance at what was offered and did not remove the Sanitarium from its black list until 1912.

The Doctors Kress had transferred with their trainee nurses from the Avondale Health Retreat to the Sydney Sanitarium in the last half of 1902². These nurses lived in the unfinished attic under spartan conditions. Hessian was hung for doors, tacked to the stark framework as partitions, and spread on the floor as matting. There was no heating for winter and in summer it became a sauna as the sun beat unmercifully on the unlined iron roof. Toilet facilities were downstairs. This situation improved very slowly as the attic and tower were finished piecemeal from 1906 onwards. On the other hand, patients were provided tasteful rooms and kind treatment. Front rooms were at a premium, costing up to \$2 per week. A room at the rear could cost as little as eighty cents per week. For heating, wood-burning open fire-places were located in the rooms. Consultation together with a prescription carried a fee of fifty cents, but a full examination including urine and blood tests would cost \$2.10. All bathroom treatments were fifty cents each. A 10 percent discount was offered to professional men indicating it was this class of people the Sanitarium was most anxious to attract.

Their first patient was an emergency case accepted before the official opening. Fifty-seven-year-old Lewis Butler, the village storekeeper near Wahroonga Railway Station, became ill with rheumatic fever. Kellogg and his carpenters were in the habit of

² For background information see the booklet "Rescue Homes and Remedies with Water".

buying many of their supplies from Butler's store so naturally the stricken man was well-known to the little Adventist community. He responded to the treatments and recovered. His thirty-two-year-old wife, Lillian, who did not enjoy good health, received regular hydrotherapy treatments once the Sanitarium officially opened. One of the nurses she befriended, Anna Nordstrom, would share the Sabbath-School lesson study with her. Lillian eventually asked for a minister to visit their home and Bible studies resulted in their baptism. Butler then threw out all the tobacco, ham, and soft drinks in his store and the locals declared he had gone mad. Before selling his business and reopening at Cooranbong, the Butler family regularly worshipped on Sabbaths with the Sanitarium group. Weather permitting, these services were held outdoors until adequate facilities were built. The change of hearts in the Butler family proved to be the harbinger of many more conversions to Adventism. Kress reported in 1906 that "about thirty have thus far commenced to keep Sabbath as a result of our Sanitarium work".

Three weeks after the official opening Dr Laretta Kress delivered the first baby at the Sanitarium. Maternity cases were the exception rather than the rule in the early days, but on this occasion it was the child of an employee, Thomas William Palmer, and his wife, Clara. They named their infant Reuben.

Patronage was very slow in materializing. The number of patients at any one time during 1903 was no more than twenty. For years only a fraction of the Sanitarium's potential was used.

Approximately seventy patients was the maximum number that could be accommodated. Annual balance sheets repeatedly showed a loss until 1912, despite the distribution of attractive advertising cards at the health food cafes and monthly health promotion meetings in Adventist churches.

Perhaps the highlight of 1903 was the first nursing class graduation at the Sanitarium. These seven trainees had begun their course at the Avondale Health Retreat with Dr Kress. Thursday evening, September 17, was a stormy one weather-wise and many did not venture out. The audience, therefore, consisted mainly of Sanitarium workers. Eva Hodge, who passed all her examinations despite being low with tuberculosis, had died three weeks before graduation and this cast a note of sadness over the gathering. Lily Williams led the small group down the aisle, followed by Sara Young, Bertha Ford, Edgar Davey, and Fred Redward. A gap was left in honour of Eva, and Bert Thorpe brought up the rear. It was something of a practise walk for Lily and Bert because six weeks later they trod the same aisle to be married before embarking to work at the Christchurch Sanitarium.

Maud (Cammell) Smith, and Louis and Lizzie Currow, who were all earlier products of the Summer Hill Sanitarium training, served in overseas missions. The first graduation class of the Sydney Sanitarium also provided missionaries to the Pacific and South-East Asia. Sara Young, a Pitcairner, who had served on Rurutu Island and in Tonga before training in Australia, worked in Samoa until she was fatally felled with pneumonia in 1906. The Thorpes later served in Tonga, Java and Fiji. Edgar Davey worked as a missionary nurse in Singapore. These individuals, especially, typified an essential purpose of the Sanitarium. That is, they were trained to use the medical work as a means of introducing unbelievers to the Christian lifestyle. These names were among the vanguard of an army of graduates who served as missionary nurses in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Low patronage and nagging debt hindered major improvements in facilities. Only by gradual degrees were some high priorities met. Fire escapes, hoses and extinguishers were added. The courtyard between the rear of the building and the treatment rooms was paved and used as an outdoor gymnasium. Two

years later, in 1905, a proper gymnasium was built and doubled as a temporary church until 1912 when the first Wahroonga church was erected. Electric light was not installed until 1908.

As incentives to persuade patients to prolong their stay some of the ageing orchard at the front of the building was replaced by a croquet court in 1913 and, soon after, a tennis court. These outdoor activities were introduced to replace gardening which able patients were encouraged to do but it had proved to be generally unpopular. At the same time the main building received its first real coat of paint. Originally, Kellogg had only enough funds for an oil primer. The institution bore a very cold and stark appearance, lasting for a decade. But in 1913 the hungry timbers were painted grey with white trimmings and the iron roof was covered red. The following year a washing machine and other labour-saving devices were installed in the laundry, new lino was laid in the hallways, the stairs were recarpeted and a Chinese gardener was employed because, from the outset, they hadn't had much success with growing vegetables. He returned to his homeland in 1921.

Dr Laretta Kress suffered declining health before she and her husband finally returned to America early in 1907. She could not carry a heavy work-load so consideration was given to employing a third doctor. Dr Caro heard of these plans and made himself available but his offer was rejected. Instead, Dr Howard James sold his practice at Bendigo and joined the staff as an assistant physician in the latter part of 1905. He remained for approximately eighteen months before transferring to the Adelaide Hydropathic Institute. Just prior to the departure of the Doctors Kress another husband-wife team arrived to replace them. They were Doctors Franklin and "Lala" (Sisley) Richards who had briefly practised at the Leicester Sanitarium, England. "Lala" Richards was a niece of Nellie Starr whose husband, George, was chaplain at the Sydney Sanitarium.

The Kress era is notable for an important feature which represented one of the goals of the institution, i.e., soul-winning. On November 8, 1906, an adjunct of the Sanitarium was opened in "Como" cottage on the corner of Bondi Road and Park Parade, Bondi. Nurses who had completed two years of training were appointed to spend four months living at Bondi and gaining experience in medical missionary work. (By this time the training course had been extended to three years). Accepting a drop in wages, they canvassed health literature and gave home treatments, Bible studies, cooking demonstrations and discussions on dress reform wherever opportunity arose. In effect the Gospel Medical Home, superintended by the Starr's, was a testing ground for suitability to home and foreign mission service. For easier access the location of this venture was soon transferred to North Sydney, but a short time later Starr himself also transferred and the project was abandoned. This relatively short-lived enterprise was an attempt to equip the nurses for practical health evangelism.

Usually, only a small percentage of graduates remained to work at the Sanitarium. The majority scattered to take up work with either health food cafes, church boarding schools and public evangelism teams, or went to foreign mission fields and self-supporting medical work. Much of their working life was therefore not simply a routine of nursing but rather an evangelistic witness. A requirement before they even started their training was that they sign a statement disclaiming any mercenary motives. Their intentions were meant to be entirely humanitarian. Other requirements were that they be a mature twenty to thirty years of age and strong enough to work a fifty-four hour week, plus Sabbath duties, with one week's holiday each year - all on a minimum wage. First year trainees in 1906, for example, received \$1.50 each week and the entire amount was divided between tithe, meals, room rent, and tuition fees. They were expected to have a cash reserve for other necessities such as their ankle-length uniforms and aprons.

Second and third year trainees accrued a small credit which could be used for board in times of sickness.

Like Caro, Kress placed little importance on secular recognition of their nurses training. In fact, in 1906, Olsen, then President of the Australasian Union Conference, even moved to abolish graduation services because he believed they stimulated vanity. These attitudes merely reflected the goal of training nurses solely for mission service. From the same perspective many nurses cut short their training and took positions at overseas posts just as soon as they were offered to them.

At that time the institution held scant medical recognition and Kress neither expected nor courted any improvement. He prophesied before he left that "the time is not far distant when, if faithful, we shall receive no state recognition". He did not anticipate that the Sanitarium would receive registration as a private hospital in 1910 under the Private Hospitals Act. Later, after Doctors George Sherwin and Marguerita Freeman took over from the Doctors Richards in 1912, Sherwin persuaded the British Medical Association to recognize the Sanitarium. And in 1927, concurrent with the extension of the training course to four years, nurses were granted State registration if they passed the government exams.

In the Kress era there were two nurses in the second class at the Avondale Health Retreat, who, after their graduation in 1904, remained to work at the Sanitarium. One was Anna Nordstrom who eventually had charge of the culinary department and then, in 1907, embarked for a lifetime of mission service in South-East Asia. The second was Esther (Kelly) Anderson. Her deceased husband, Alex, had sailed to New Zealand as part of the crew on the PITCAIRN. After her graduation Esther served as a senior nurse and finally was appointed matron of the Sanitarium in September 1906. At the beginning of 1908, when Alfred Semmens transferred from Adelaide to be the new manager, Esther began sharing her

duties with Emma Semmens. Esther served as domestic matron and Emma as medical matron. Esther's sister, Louisa Jacobson, suffered a premature death during Christmas 1911, leaving two little boys, Howard and Arthur. Their father abandoned them, not even attending his wife's funeral, so Esther voluntarily gave up her nursing at the Sanitarium in order to care for the boys.

Another name of enduring character was Elsie Shannan. She, as an American, received her training at Battle Creek Sanitarium. It was there she met and married George Shannan of Hobart. Both worked at the Summer Hill Sanitarium but George died prematurely of tuberculosis in 1902. Elsie, with her little daughter, Dorothy, went home to America, but in December 1904 she was asked to return and work at the Sydney Sanitarium. Home duties allowed her to do only relief and special nursing for a few years. When Dorothy was older she joined the staff on a full-time basis. Tragedy struck at Christmas-time in 1910 when Dorothy died, aged only eleven years. Rather than return to her homeland Elsie stayed on and when Emma Semmens went to America in 1911 Shannan was appointed matron. In this capacity she served until 1929, returning only once to America for a holiday. In 1929 it was found her American certificate was no longer acceptable to the State Nurses Registration Board. She could not continue as matron so she stepped down. However, she continued to teach trainees hydrotherapy until 1938 when she fully retired at sixty-six years of age. Her shock of snow-white hair and kind Christian manner were familiar to all at Wahroonga.

Patronage was on a climb in 1911. Dr Richards reported up to forty patients at the institution. This was the estimated number required to balance the budget. A quarter of the patients, he said, were Adventists. These included Charlie Holland, an Avondale School student who had fractured his skull, mangled his arms and had two fingers amputated when he became entangled in moving machinery at the health food factory. He made a good recovery. So also did Will Patrick, a Cooranbong

church member who was rushed to the Sanitarium with a ruptured appendix and peritonitis.

Nursing was not for the faint-hearted. Having committed oneself to the course there was little respite from the constant duties. A typical day's routine began at six in the morning. It was then that the night watchman and a skeleton staff of nurses retired and the main group reported for duty. A worship and breakfast break occurred, followed by further chores and treatments until one o'clock. Dinner was then served. A relatively relaxed period followed with convalescents taking physical exercise, either in the gymnasium or outdoors, and the nurses continuing their round of duties. Classes for the nurses were held 3:30 - 5:30 pm on Sundays to Thursdays.

After the evening meal a short exercise period was held in the gymnasium and treatments were given to insomniacs and patients admitted that same afternoon. At 9 pm the night watchman and night nurses returned. Half an hour later all patients and nurses not on duty were expected to retire. Lights were extinguished at 10 pm. On Saturday evenings everyone attended a special class in gymnastics. On Sunday evenings a gospel service for the patients was held in the parlour.

The risk of fire in such a large wooden building led the management and staff to practise their fire-drill very seriously. These exercises were not wasted. Early on the morning of January 10, 1919, the Sanitarium was brought to the brink of disaster when a fire mysteriously broke out in the operating theatre on the second floor directly under the tower. The alarm was sounded and all hands were at their prearranged posts within minutes.

The patients were hurried outside and their belongings, wrapped in sheets, were tossed from the windows. At great personal risk, the hosemen clambered onto the roof and played water at the base of the tower which had lit up like a huge

candle. Pressure would carry the water no higher. By the time fire brigades arrived from Hornsby and Chatswood the drama was over. The tower, operating theatre, and some nurses rooms in the attic, where the fire had crept along the roof timbers, were destroyed.

The tower was quickly rebuilt, using a new design. It was shortened by six feet and made broader because the original one tended to sway in strong winds. Under the tower the large room was transformed into a visitor's lounge room which opened onto a top floor balcony. A decorative lead-light incorporating the initials "S.S." for Sydney Sanitarium was installed on the face of this room.

Immediately after the fire the building insurance cover was more than doubled to over \$44,000. Furthermore, the precaution was taken of building any further extensions in brick rather than timber.

The first of such extensions was completed in 1920. Located on the north-west side, and lacking the aesthetic grandeur of the original building, it was a three-storied structure with verandahs. It had a flat promenade roof with adamax applied - a bituminous overlay for weather-proofing. On May 3 the promenade was decorated with ferns and flags for the dedication of this new wing. Approximately four hundred people, including local dignitaries and newspaper reporters, sat or stood on the roof as a brief service was held overlooking the surrounding bushland.

The extension provided room for an extra thirty patients, a new operating theatre, and better quarters for some of the female staff. But it was not built without some criticism. Some church members branded it as extravagant, a denial of God's will, and contrary to standard Adventist practice. These accusations were answered in a candid statement published in the "Australasian Record". Church leaders explained that patronage had increased, the need for more trainee

missionaries had become urgent, and the earning capacity of the institution was hampered. It was a case, they said, of expand or cease to operate as a missionary training institution.

Resistance to change was also reflected on other occasions. One example was some ongoing prejudice against the purchase of an X-ray unit in the 1920's. Sherwin argued that better equipment was imperative in order to stem another slump in patronage. Ultra-conservative leaders balked at the high cost and argued that such equipment rapidly became out-dated and before long they would have to buy a better model.

By 1924 Sherwin had theoretically won the debate about the X-ray. The Sanitarium Board voted to buy a unit. Donations came in until by the end of the year a total of nearly \$1,000 was reached. However, the project degenerated into a legal wrangle with those installing the machine. The company was pressing for the installation of a number of accessories and because the Sanitarium was reluctant to agree, work came to a standstill. The Sanitarium Board then hired a solicitor to handle their rejection of the entire deal. Nevertheless, by the end of 1926 money was appropriated for the additional equipment and the installation company were satisfied.

Other improvements included the installation of a lift in 1924 so that patients did not have to struggle up and down the stairways. It was located in the centre of the original building. The culinary department was upgraded with a washing-up machine. Toilet facilities were fitted for the top floor in 1926. The following year Harry Tempest and Ernest Baldwin modified the electrical wiring throughout the building to enable the link-up to the city power supply. Once this was accomplished the dam which had supplied water for the coal-fired steam boilers began to be converted into a swimming pool but the \$4,000 cost proved too much. The task was abandoned and the dam filled in.

The orchard, vegetable garden, dairy, and poultry run were all functioning at a loss in the 1920's. The Sanitarium Board tried a number of strategies to improve the situation. By 1930 a section of the orchard was uprooted to make way for a golf links but then the project was stopped. The remainder of the orchard continued to be leased to Robert Watson, and Thomas Carr rented the dairy and vegetable garden. Giving these auxiliaries over to free enterprise seemed to be the best solution. The poultry run, worked and later leased by A S B Craig throughout the 1920's, became such an eyesore and noisy annoyance to the patients that it was closed down in 1931.

Some changes were also made to nurses' working conditions. In 1925 the required working hours were reduced to forty-four per week. This fluctuated in the following years, at times being set at fifty, or forty-eight when State registration was gained. Fifty-two hours were still required when classes were not being held. Two weeks holiday on full pay was granted. Payment for overtime, which was discouraged in the early days, was set at eight cents per hour, but it was paid as a lump sum at the end of the year. Regular rates were also modified in 1925. Second-year trainees, for example, were paid ten cents per hour. Eighty-five percent of their wage had to pay for tithe, full board, tuition fees, text books and uniforms. This left them with about seventy cents each week in their pocket.

The highlight of development in the 1930's was the construction of a three-storied brick and concrete annex to the south-eastern wing. On July 18, 1933, over five hundred staff, church members, and government dignitaries gathered for its official opening. The Australian Broadcasting Commission's Military Band was also there to play in grand style.

The lower floor of the new section was devoted to ladies and men's hydrotherapy treatment rooms. Features of these facilities were the all-copper plumbing and special non-slip floor

tiling. Upstairs was set aside for medical and obstetrical wards, twenty-five in all. Some rooms in the original building had been transformed into office space, but with these new additions the total bed capacity for the institution now topped 116. The new wing was centrally heated, hot and cold water was available in each room, and a private telephone was at each bedside. The sun-room was fitted with special glass which admitted ultra-violet rays, doors were equipped with noise-reducing rubber-roller latches, and the corridors were laid with cork tiles - a first for hospitals in Australia.

It does appear, however, that building costs outstripped available finances in the tough depression years because the third floor remained uncompleted for more than a decade. Known throughout that time as "the skeleton", it was finally opened as a surgical ward on Friday afternoon, November 10, 1944, with a quiet in-house ceremony.

Since the 1950's major changes have taken place both to the physical plant and the services offered to the public. Principal among the many developments with bricks and mortar has been the demolition of Kellogg's original wooden building and its replacement with a multi-storied utilitarian hospital opened on June 10, 1973. It was renamed the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

In the 1970's there also occurred a significant reduction in the need for missionary nurses as Pacific Island territories became self-sufficient. Nursing graduates nowadays usually remain in the homelands.

The Sydney Adventist Hospital, like any other institution of its kind, is not a monolith offering the full spectrum of medical services. It has its own specialties. Preventive medicine or health education is still a feature. Hydrotherapy is but a shadow of its former prominence, its place being overtaken by maternity and surgical cases. Gradually, since its opening in 1903, the

hospital has laboured to increase its professional and technological excellence. It has diversified into radiotherapy and oncology for cancer treatment, open heart surgery, ultrasound and computerised tomography ('cat-scan') for soft tissue analysis, as well as nuclear medicine. It is one of the most highly regarded private hospitals in Australia.

Major sources for this booklet are the "Australasian Record", the Minutes of the Medical Missionary Committee (Sydney Branch), the Minutes of the Summer Hill Sanitarium Board, the Minutes of the Sydney Sanitarium Board, private letter collections stored at Avondale College, and the author's personal collection of pioneer data.

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