

First Superintendent Of Hospital

Sentinel Star - May 5-1965



MISS ETHEL WOOD



DR. J. A. IVEY 1862-48

In the above photograph is shown Ethel Wood, the first superintendent of Cobourg General Hospital. The photograph was the property of the late Dr. J. A. Ivey, and was given recently by the family to the hospital board to be presented to the Hospital Board by Dr. F. N. Blackwell at a meeting of the Board.

Dr. Ivey, whose picture also appears, took the initiative in regard to the establishment, about the year 1895, of a one-room hospital in Cobourg; the room was part of the Old People's Home. When the doctor asked a member of the committee to place one room at the disposal of emergency cases, the answer was "you have been good enough to give our old people here your services without charging us. We shall gladly set aside any room you suggest".

According to a notation on the back of Miss Wood's photograph (said to be written by the late

Dr. Ivey) Miss Wood moved from her position here to Chatham, where she passed away shortly afterward, having contracted typhoid fever. Another source of information claimed that Miss Wood had gone to the Marine Hospital in Owen Sound when she left the Cobourg General Hospital.

Mrs. H. B. Winter, daughter of the late Dr. Ivey, said Miss Wood was not a Cobourg girl; those who had known the late superintendent, spoke of her sterling qualities, saying she had been a splendid teacher-director of nurses, and had been greatly respected in the community.

Miss Ethel Wood was the first Superintendent of the present General Hospital when it opened its doors to the public in 1914, and had been the superintendent of the "Cottage Hospital" on James Street.

The origin of the "Cobourg Cottage Hospital" was the Home for the Aged and Infirm, which

commenced in 1895 in a small brick house on the south side of James Street, across from the Floyd home.

In the Book of Cobourg, Dr. Ivey told the story of the addition of a four-room wing on the Old Folks Home. The committee in charge of the Home was asked "if they would set aside a room for accidents or emergencies, where prompt attention could be given, and a room was chosen capable of accommodating four. It was not long before all beds were filled with accident cases, one a railway employee who had been badly injured at Port Hope. Imagine our pride when Port Hope called at midnight asking if we could take charge of the case, and were able to do so."

"In 1900 a wing was built at the south end of this old building for hospital work alone, with Miss Lucy Crossen as Superintendent of Nurses. Miss Janet Graham, late Superintendent of

S
th
hav
ner.
vari
Tre.
plie
the
G
snea
of t
Que
ceiv
ege.
of M
stud
ches
Dr
sub
educ
seek.
titled
liter
Alfre
"Wh
Dr. I
"A
stude
the
shoul
cation
ents
essen
unles
ific
prepa
in th...

as they mature and learn more

the present (General) hospital, received part of her training here before going overseas in the first Great War. During its existence the Cottage Hospital nursed 700 patients.

"Just before World War I the present hospital was opened. Its erection was made possible by three large gifts and many smaller. A former resident of Cobourg, John Helm of Port Hope, bequeathed \$20,000 for the purpose; Harry Black of New York and W. J. Crossen of Cobourg gave \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Opened in January, 1914, Cobourg's first General Hospital, with accommodation for some forty patients, has efficiently served not only the town, but the surrounding district."

Cotton was grown in the U.S. as early as 1607.