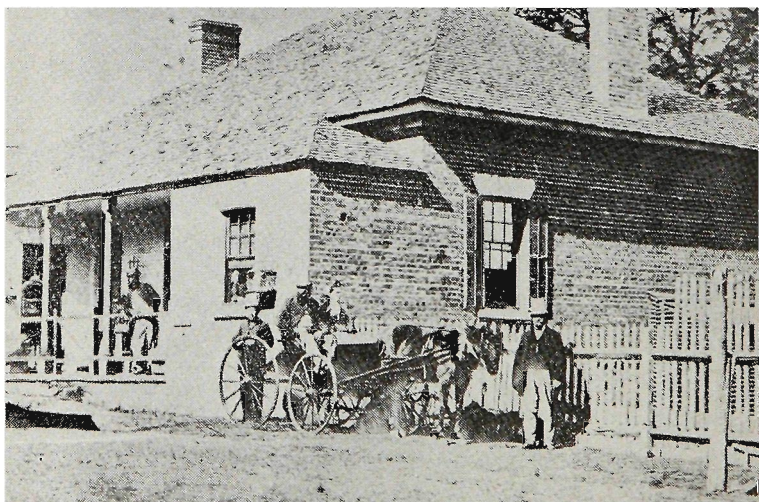


THE HISTORY OF SURGERY IN QUEENSLAND

[By C. A. C. LEGGETT, M.B.E., M.B., M.S., F.R.A.C.S.,
F.A.C.S.]

(Read before a Meeting of the Society and members of the
medical profession at A.M.A. House, Brisbane, on 29
August 1974.)

It is my intention in this paper to deal with some aspects of surgical practice in Queensland from the time of separation from New South Wales in 1859 until the present time. I will talk of some of the surgeons who practised in Queensland during this century of time and will discuss in a critical fashion some of the factors which influenced the standards of surgical practice. The memory of the tragic death of Ballow at Dunwich from typhus fever in 1850 was still fresh in memory when the story begins. When the story ends complex operations are common place and open heart sur-



First Brisbane Hospital. Built as convict hospital (1827-1839). Used until 1879 when Supreme Court was built on site.

From the Oxley Memorial Library collection.

Dr. Leggett is a senior Brisbane surgeon who has made extensive research into local medical history.

gery is being carried out in Brisbane with results comparable to any obtained anywhere in Australia.

I will talk of Barton and Bell, Cannan and O'Doherty in the earlier years. I will observe that Joseph Bancroft, scientist and naturalist, practised early neurosurgery! Special emphasis will be placed on the life and work of Sandford Jackson. This man came to Brisbane when the first glimmerings of light were beginning to appear after the long night of surgical darkness. He lived to see the full morning light of surgical knowledge and practice.

The story of the struggle for the establishment of a School of Anatomy and a Faculty of Medicine will be studied. Unfavourable comparison will be made between the establishment of a Medical School in Adelaide in 1885 and the opening of the Medical School in Brisbane more than half a century later!

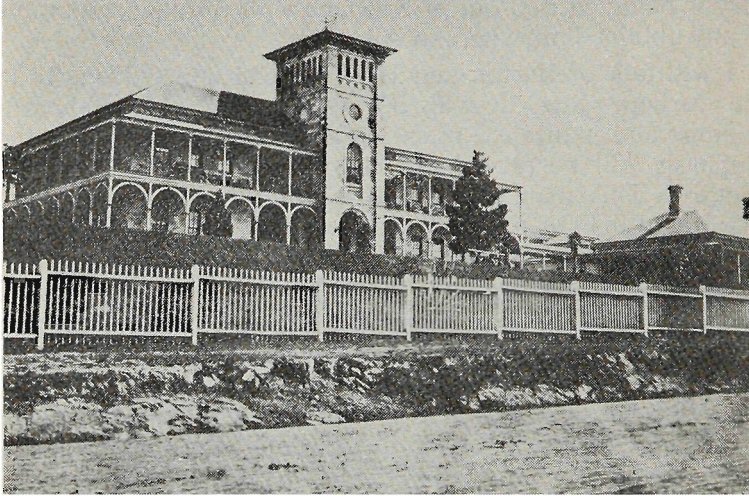
In the 1861 census the population of Brisbane was given as six thousand and fifty-one white people and there were thirty thousand and fifty-nine whites in Queensland as a whole. Brisbane, therefore, at that time was equivalent to an isolated small country town and it is interesting to discover that in February 1861 there were eighteen names of medical practitioners entered on the medical register of the State. There were many other people practising medicine in various forms and some of these practitioners were well trained Europeans who even at that time were not eligible for registration in this State. It is probable that at the founding of Queensland there were twenty-five doctors with some reasonable kind of medical training in the State.

The Brisbane General Hospital was given its name in January 1851 when it replaced the Moreton Bay District Hospital. The Brisbane Hospital functioned on its original site in George Street near Ann Street until it was moved to its present site in Bowen Bridge Road on 8 January 1867.

On the site of the old Brisbane Hospital in George Street stood a surgeon's cottage well shown in an historic photograph which includes Dr. D. K. Ballow, Mrs. Ballow looking out of the window, Dr. Kearsey Cannan with Dr. and Mrs. Barton in a buggy, and Dr. W. Hobbs standing nearby.

One of the other leading surgeons of the early period was Kevin Izod O'Doherty who possessed the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

This man had a most romantic career from the time he commenced his medical studies in 1841. A particularly fine outline of his romantic and finally sad career was given by



Brisbane Hospital, Herston. Opened 1867.

From the Oxley Memorial Library collection.

Dr. P. R. Patrick in the Elkington Oration to the Queensland Society of Health on 23 August 1972. The Oration was titled "Kevin and Eva". O'Doherty apparently had that Irish flair for romantic action and for brilliant operating, and I often liken him to J. B. Murphy of Chicago, one of the founders of the American College of Surgeons.

It was stated by no less a person than Sandford Jackson that up till 1882 the only successful operation performed in Queensland for an ovarian tumour was performed by Dr. O'Doherty on a private patient who lived for many years after the operation. It is interesting that the operation of ovariectomy figures largely in the history of the development of modern abdominal surgery. It is also reliably recorded by E. S. Meyers in a Jackson Oration that Kevin O'Doherty removed the head of a femur in a case of intracapsular fracture of the neck of the femur which was, in the days before blood transfusion and adequate anaesthesia, no mean feat.

Let us talk now of Dr. Kearsey Cannan. Cannan was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and played an important part in the surgical life of Brisbane from 1859 until 1894. In 1842 he arrived in the *Sovereign* at the age of 26 years and began practice in Brisbane in Queen Street in the home of Mrs. Slade, the postmistress. He continued to practise in Brisbane until his death in 1894.

Sandford Jackson says of his long period of surgical practice in Brisbane that it was "to the inestimable benefit of this colony".

On 31 May 1850 Dr. Ballow called Dr. Cannan in consultation in the case of Mrs. Wickham, the wife of Captain Wickham after whom Wickham Terrace is named. Cannan was a reliable and trusted man in the medical world over decades. When the Brisbane Hospital moved from George Street to Bowen Bridge Road, there were two visiting surgeons to the hospital, and they were Dr. Cannan and Dr. Hugh Bell. Dr. Cannan remained on the staff as a visiting surgeon until 1882, when he resigned. He acted as a consultant surgeon to the hospital until his death in August 1894. He was thus attached to the staff of the hospital for a period of forty-five years. He was skilful and courageous as an operator and a sound practitioner overall. His social qualities were high and he was the accepted companion of the squatter class. He was fond of cricket and a perfect master of snooker. At one time he was Chairman of the Medical Board of Queensland and Sandford Jackson, who knew him well, states: "In Bowen Bridge Road stands the Hospital, a monument to him and to Ballow and to their friends who rallied round them to set it going, and there is not even a little brass tablet on one of its walls to commemorate their association with it!" Cannan was buried in Toowong Cemetery (within a few metres of Sir Samuel Griffith and Sir Charles Lilley).

THE KINDLY Dr. HOBBS

I should speak now of William Hobbs, who obtained his membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1843 and arrived in Queensland in 1849 as surgeon superintendent of the *Chasely*, the second ship which arrived with immigrants selected by John Dunmore Lang. This ship brought the first McConnells to Queensland. Hobbs was the prototype of the later physicians and fitted in well with the image of the best type of old English physician. He married Miss Anna Louisa Barton, sister of Sir Edmund Barton, the first Prime Minister of Australia.

Chloroform was discovered a year or two before the *Chasely* left England, and it is probable that Hobbs gave the first general anaesthetic in Queensland when he used chloroform for an operation being performed by Dr. Barton in 1854. He was a kindly man noted for his hospitality, and as Sandford Jackson says, "A gentleman to his finger tips, gentle in his manner and kindly in disposition". He was a



Dr. William Hobbs' house, now The Deanery of St. John's Cathedral. From the upper verandah of this building Sir George Bowen read the Queen's Order-in-Council proclaiming the new State of Queensland, after which Judge Lutwyche swore in the new Governor on 9 December 1859.

visiting surgeon to many government institutions but essentially he was a reliable family doctor. One of his jobs was to be in charge of the Female Lock Hospital. In the Lock Hospital were admitted patients suffering from venereal disease. In those days serious complications of venereal disease were common and Dr. Hobbs would be filled with compassion for the sufferings of the patients. He would soliloquise in the following terms: "Truly, the way of the transgressor is hard".

Hobbs grew cotton in the grounds of the hospital in George Street and became intensely interested in the use of Dugong Oil as a substitute for Codliver Oil. Hobbs practised in Eagle Street near Parbury House but built his home in Ann Street. This is now known as the Deanery of St. John's Cathedral.

When Sir George Ferguson Bowen arrived in Moreton Bay on H.M.S. *Cordelia*, appointed to be the first Governor of Queensland, he was greeted by scenes of great enthusiasm. He proceeded in a procession to Dr. Hobbs' house which the Government of the day had leased for three hundred and fifty pounds a year to be Government House. Dr. Hobbs built another house at the back of the present National Hotel and lived there until the new Government House was built, when Hobbs returned to live in the Deanery. He lived there until 1883 and in that year he bought "Bayview" at the upper end

of Wickham Terrace, opposite the Observatory and lived there until he died in 1890.

“Bayview” still stands. In 1937 it was bought for the British Medical Association and was the office of the B.M.A. until that body moved to its present site. “Bayview” with many modifications is now occupied by a group of pathologists.

The story of Kevin O’Doherty is a romantic one. In his early years he was an Irish patriot. Because of his activities he was tried for treason but finally, the jury after two trials disagreed and he was condemned to ten years penal servitude in Tasmania. While in Tasmania he was given his “Ticket of Leave”, and interestingly enough this is preserved in the National Library in Canberra. He travelled to Port Arthur while on ticket of leave to see his friend Smith O’Brien and this resulted in his being given a sentence of three months in a convict labour gang.

After serving his time he returned to Europe and worked for a year in a Paris hospital. He then gained his Irish Fellowship and married his sweetheart Mary Eva Kelly, who had written romantic and patriotic poems under the nom-de-plume “Eva of the Nation”. O’Doherty was a friend of O’Quinn, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Brisbane, and it was O’Quinn who induced O’Doherty to come to Brisbane, which place he reached in 1862.

O’Doherty had two sons who became medical graduates. One of them (Edward Hyacinth) became active in the affairs of the Medical Society of Queensland and later the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association. He predeceased his father. “Very great sympathy was extended to his aged parents by the Council of the British Medical Association at the time of his death.” It was obvious that both the senior and junior O’Doherty were deeply loved by the medical profession in Brisbane. Kevin O’Doherty became quite infirm in his older years and became addicted to alcohol.

Members of the medical profession placed themselves on voluntary roster to carry out the duties of the posts occupied by O’Doherty. O’Doherty died at the age of eighty-one years in 1905, blind and infirm but respected by all. A small pension was granted to Mrs. O’Doherty and a testimonial of one thousand pounds was raised on her behalf. Eva died in 1908, aged 82 years, and the people of Brisbane raised a handsome monument to Kevin Izod O’Doherty and his beloved wife Eva.

BANCROFT'S WIDE TALENTS

I have mentioned Joseph Bancroft. The name of Bancroft is associated with scientific discoveries, but this man had a multitude of various interests and overall he was a man endowed with a very acute scientific mind. He came to Brisbane in 1868 and became an absolute expert on leprosy and was often called in consultation when the diagnosis of leprosy was suspected. He was a visiting surgeon to the Brisbane General Hospital during the superintendency of Sandford Jackson. Not only was he an expert on leprosy but he was, very surprisingly, expert in the use of the urethral catheter.

Bancroft, in fact, was the second house surgeon to occupy the Surgeon's Cottage at the Brisbane General Hospital in Bowen Bridge Road. It is very interesting to note that he planted many of the trees in the grounds of the present Royal Brisbane Hospital, and it is said that he lived to curse the flying foxes which feasted on the fruit of the Moreton Bay fig. Even the scientific Bancroft became engaged in a number of petty struggles with the matron and the hospital committee. The story of some of these arguments are really comical to read. One of the most humorous is the fight



This group picture taken in the early 1900's includes several of the best-known medical figures in Brisbane of their time. Second from the left in the front row is Sir David Hardie, seated next to Dr. Lillian Cooper. Others in the group are Dr. W. N. Robertson (later Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, fourth from left in back row), Dr. A. Jefferis Turner (third from right in back row) and Dr. J. Lockhart Gibson (second from right in front row), seated next to Dr. Wilton Love.

about who was to keep the brandy for the use of patients needing sedation during the night. The matron did not think that Bancroft was a safe curator for the alcoholic beverage. Bancroft, unfortunately, died in his late fifties at the classical age for the death of an active medical practitioner and he died of the usual cardio-vascular accident.

Lillian Violet Cooper was born on 11 August 1861 in Kent, England, and was the daughter of Captain Henry Fallowfield Cooper. She was educated at home by governesses and from an early age determined to be a doctor. This suggestion in the Victorian era naturally met with fanatical parental opposition. Lillian Cooper was a determined person and entered the University of London as a medical student. However, this academic body refused to issue diplomas to female graduates and this forced Lillian Cooper to travel to Edinburgh, the only Medical School which accepted women students for graduation at that time.

Early frustrations and difficulties may have contributed to the development of a rather abrupt manner, and it may well have been that the adoption of this manner was a buffer against adversity and opposition. Lillian Cooper was induced to come to Queensland in response to an advertisement which was made by a doctor practising in Brisbane. A firm contract of partnership was drawn up, and in this contract the partnership could only be broken by the marriage of Dr. Cooper. This was a very unlikely possibility. Dr. Cooper was a tall, mannish woman who appeared in the real traditions of a woman doctor of the era. She wore long grey pleated skirts with a shirt blouse and tie. Her swearing ability was proverbial. It should be mentioned in the same breath that her medical and surgical reputation at the time was at a high level.

Dr. Cooper arrived in Brisbane in 1891 and found that the doctor with whom she was contracted to practise was an alcoholic and an impossible partner. We can just imagine the reaction of this strong and determined personality when confronted by a person taking refuge in alcohol.

FIRST WOMAN DOCTOR?

It is probable that Dr. Cooper was not the first medical woman in Queensland. It is thought that a Dr. Costello came to Brisbane on 8 December 1881 but there is no factual evidence that Dr. Costello ever practised medicine in Queensland. There is no doubt that Dr. Cooper was the first female

medical graduate to invade the practice of medicine in Brisbane which, until then, had been an exclusively male medical world.

When Dr. Cooper commenced practice she took rooms in The Mansions in George Street, and it is recorded that she did rounds on an old-fashioned bicycle when that form of transport was introduced. Dr. Cooper was accompanied by her student friend Josephine Bedford, and their student friendship lasted throughout their lives. After practising for some time in The Mansions Dr. Cooper, who developed a large practice, bought Auckland House at the corner of George and Mary Streets where she conducted her practice. This home was large and perfectly kept, and quite in keeping with her professional status. Dr. Cooper developed a very active interest in surgery and by 1911 was a member of the Honorary Staff of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital and the Lady Lamington Hospital for Women and from 1896 to 1923 was one of the visiting staff of the Hospital for Sick Children. At the Lamington Hospital for Women Dr. Cooper was very active surgically, and developed very considerable surgical skill.

In 1911 she went overseas and obtained the Doctorate of Medicine of the University of Durham and visited the famous surgical practitioners in Minnesota, William and Charles Mayo. These men were the leaders in surgical techniques of the day and there is no question that the people of Brisbane benefited from the visit of Dr. Cooper to the Mayo Clinic.

So great was her reputation that she was made a Foundation Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1928, and after conducting a surgical practice of the highest ethical standing for forty years she finally ceased practice in 1941. She went at that time to live at Old St. Mary's in Kangaroo Point.

It would be improper not to record the association of Dr. Lillian Cooper with the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. She became associated with this hospital when it was founded in 1906 at North Quay and when it was transferred to its present site on the Mater Hill in 1910 she continued to be very active in all its affairs. It is said that she was indeed responsible for the introduction of the white dress for the nuns while they were on duty within the hospital.

There is no question that Dr. Cooper, in her surgical practice, found it necessary to overcome much prejudice on account of her sex. It has been said that her antagonism to men eventually degenerated into mere contempt. She never

married. Many stories are told of Lillian Cooper, many of which are now apochryphal.

The story is recorded by Lorraine Cazalar of one such episode: "One night when she found a Priest giving extreme unction to an accident victim she barked: 'There's no need for that. He is alive and he is going to stay alive!'" After that it is recorded that the patient was too frightened to die!

Some years ago I was consulted by a patient whose abdominal wall was so scarred that it resembled a battlefield. I asked the patient to explain the appearance of the scars on her abdominal wall and she said to me: "Wait and I will show you". She fumbled in her handbag and brought out for my inspection an old battered pair of Spencer Wells artery forceps and stated: "Lillian Cooper left these inside me for three years!" Unfortunately, I was unable to secure possession of this prize surgical instrument but was stimulated, however, to make enquiries about the matter. Apparently in 1923 Dr. Cooper was sued for a sum of six thousand eight hundred and sixty pounds, it being claimed that during an appendectomy in July 1918 the pair of artery forceps was allowed to remain in her peritoneal cavity. The legal case lasted for one week and eventually the jury completely exonerated Dr. Cooper and all of her assistants.

Dr. Cooper died at the age of 86 years on 18 August 1947 and the cause of her death was given as "senility and myocardial degeneration".

The place of Lillian Cooper in the history of surgery in Queensland is secure. She practised for forty years in Brisbane during a difficult era and maintained a practice of the highest ethical standing. It is fitting that her memorial may be taken to be Mount Olivet Hospital which was built on the site of Old St. Mary's.

The land was willed to the city by Dr. Cooper's life-long friend, Miss Josephine Bedford, with the provision that the land become the site upon which would be built a hospital which would in fact commemorate the dedicated service to the community of Queensland's first female surgeon.

In my introduction I mentioned that considerable emphasis would be placed upon the career of Sandford Jackson. Sandford Jackson has been described as the first real modern surgeon to practise in Queensland. He came to Brisbane in 1882 and saw in his lifetime the transition from the dark ages of surgery to the stage in which modern practice of surgery was firmly established. Dr. A. C. C. Halford wrote of Jackson in his obituary in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on 15 October 1938: "These were, in surgery, tran-

sitional years, and ranged from the days when surgeons performed operations clothed in their every-day apparel to those when they were arrayed in the white armour of the present-day theatre”.

In a personal communication with Emeritus Professor Neville Sutton the view was expressed that Sandford Jackson was, in fact, the first modern-day surgeon to practise in Brisbane. Fortunately he was a man of varied interests and great ability. He wrote and lectured in his later years so that we are fortunate enough to be indebted to Sandford Jackson for considerable historical information concerning the early years of his practice in Brisbane.

A BRILLIANT CAREER

Sandford Jackson was born in Victoria where his father, John Henry Jackson, was the owner of Sandford Station near Sandford. Sandford Jackson's great uncles, William and Samuel Jackson, were with Fawkner's party when the first hut was built on the site of modern Melbourne. Sandford Jackson was born on 18 July 1860 and was educated at Geelong Grammar School and Melbourne University. He entered the faculty of medicine at Melbourne University with four other students and qualified Bachelor of Medicine on 3 December 1881. Jackson actually graduated in medicine before he had obtained his majority and was, therefore, unable to legally sign death certificates. There have been very few other medical men in Australia who have been in a similar predicament.

Queensland was fortunate indeed that in 1882 Sandford Jackson accepted the post of junior resident surgeon to the Brisbane Hospital in Bowen Bridge Road. In 1883 he was appointed as the sole surgeon in charge of the hospital, and remained Superintendent of the hospital until 1898 when he was appointed Honorary Surgeon. At that time, at least seventy patients on an average were in the hospital suffering from typhoid fever but the only thermometer which existed was the one carried in the doctor's own pocket. Wound sepsis was, of course, one of the tragedies of surgery in all parts of the world at that time. Jackson was aware of the early studies in bacteriology and the work of Semmelweiss and of Lister and of Pasteur.

In an effort to limit surgical sepsis Jackson rented a newly-built cottage at Teneriffe, and he later built a separate room made of a brand of thick cardboard in the grounds of the Brisbane Hospital but it was not long before he began to

realise that the boiling of instruments and the preparation of the surgeon's hands were more important than sepsis arising from the walls of the operating theatre.

In 1896 the Hon. W. F. Taylor began to follow the American method of sterilising his hands prior to operation in a saturated solution of potassium permanganate, and Sandford Jackson was not slow to follow. Jackson used this method and this was found to considerably improve his surgical results. He stated many years later: "I abandoned it years afterwards as reluctantly as I would an old and valued friend".

Jackson was a clear thinker. He had a receptive mind and was indeed a bold reformer. Withal, he was a man of lofty ideals and unquestionably a skilful surgeon. He never spared himself in his professional work and throughout his career was always prepared to carry out new surgical procedures if he realised that they carried potential for benefit to his patients.

Jackson was a tall straight figure and may well have been a British Army Colonel. He was somewhat of a martinet and was without compromise and altogether was not an easy man with whom to work.

Another great event occurred in the history of the Brisbane Hospital in 1886, and this was the appointment of Miss Weedon as Matron of the hospital. She and Dr. Jackson were instrumental in inaugurating the first definite School of Nursing in Australia. The School of Nursing was established about 1887 when the first lectures to trainee nurses were given, and the first examination in nursing was held in Brisbane in 1890. This was the forerunner of all the schools of nursing which have grown up in the last eighty years throughout Australia. When we see that all major hospitals in Australia have schools of nursing with nurse educators, it is good to remember that Miss Weedon and Sandford Jackson were the ones who established the first school of nursing in Australia at the Brisbane Hospital in 1887. Miss Chatfield, who followed Miss Weedon at the hospital, spoke of her as truly Queensland's "Lady with the Lamp".

It was Jackson who reformed the dresses of nurses in the hospital in no mean fashion. We see in modern hospitals nurses in mini-skirts attempting to adopt postures during their nursing duties which cause them no little embarrassment. In many hospitals uniform dress now includes the wearing of slacks by nurses, which innovation undoubtedly has much to recommend it. However, when Jackson came to the Brisbane Hospital the nurses on his staff wore dresses



These flouncy caps and ample dresses and aprons gave Dr. E. Sandford Jackson plenty of scope for the reforms to nurses' uniforms which he introduced at the Brisbane General Hospital. The picture is one of the nursing staff at the (former) Lady Lamington Hospital.

sweeping the floors of the wards. He decreed that no nurses should wear a uniform with a skirt less than twelve inches from the ground. One can easily imagine the rebellious attitude taken by the nurses at the suggestion that they should show so much of their leg. The rebellion at the hospital settled down somewhat when the nurses noticed that the matron herself appeared without her long train, and they gathered that this was due to the influence of Sandford Jackson!

Sandford Jackson was a very capable man all round, with great vision and great experience. He was very erect in bearing and a man of obvious authority. When he was in private practice he occupied St. Helen's Hospital, and he had his own consulting rooms in the hospital and moored his boat at the front lawn. Ironically, this hospital which is being still conducted as a first-class hospital under the direction of the Methodist Church, was built as a hotel in the days when most Methodists were very adverse to the use of strong drink!

Jackson retired in 1934 and went to live at Victoria Point. The latter part of his life was as fruitful as the earlier parts. He became an authority on Australian history and wrote many papers thereon, and on 4 September 1931 he delivered his first historical lecture. The subject was "Some Voyages

Connected with the Discovery of Australia: Their Medical History”.

The senior physician who cared for Jackson in his terminal illness told how Dr. Jackson constructed a series of remarkable models showing the voyages of discovery in Australian waters. Apparently this was an extremely outstanding piece of work and a real work of art.

In 1931 the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association founded the Jackson Lecture. This was said “to place on permanent record the appreciation of the branch of the distinguished services rendered by E. Sandford Jackson”.

I will speak more of Sandford Jackson in relationship to the founding of the Medical School.

FIRST MEDICAL KNIGHT

Sir David Hardie was Queensland's first medical knight. Hardie came from Scotland, arriving on 2 April 1887, and settled first in the fashionable residential area in South Brisbane but later moved to Wharf Street, next door to Eton House. Hardie was more of a cultured physician, but frequently presented outstanding surgical cases at the monthly meeting of the British Medical Association.

He built “Firhall” in Wickham Terrace where he practised for some years. On that site he had elegant stables, a tennis court and entertained quite freely. Hardie was a great friend of Sir William MacGregor and visited Sir William in Scotland after his retirement.

Sir David Hardie was President of the Medical Society of Queensland in 1893, and shortly after the invention of Rontgen rays he left his practice in Brisbane and returned to Europe and went to Germany to investigate the possible medical use of this great invention. His daughter tells how he returned to Brisbane with a case containing one of the most primitive forms of x-ray apparatus ever imported into Australia. Hardie was knighted in 1913, and in 1927 was admitted as a Foundation Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Sir David Hardie was for fifty-one years a member of the Queensland Club. His daughter tells some interesting stories in relationship to practice in Wickham Terrace. She states: “Later we had a dogcart, a phaeton and two horses. Dolly, a lovely little black mare, took the fancy of Wirth's Circus officials. The circus at that time was held in the paddock between Central Railway Station and Wickham Terrace!”

Miss Hardie also talked of the ambulance which functioned in those years: "The ambulance station was situated at the corner of Adelaide and Wharf Streets. We frequently saw the driver and the two bearers in a trap drawn by a lovely white horse. Towed behind was the stretcher on two wheels. Its whole length was shaded by a canvas semi-circular canopy".

It is difficult to determine the type of surgery performed from day to day by the early surgeons in Queensland. The blurred record of some memorable operations has come down to us, but there is much that is lost. One of the most useful indicators of surgical progress are the records of the clinical and scientific meetings held by the Medical Society of Queensland, and the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association. The records of the major hospitals leave much to be desired.

The first Medical Society of Queensland was formed in 1871, but this was not a strong body and did not prove viable. On 1 June 1882 a meeting was held in the Temple Building, Queen Street, at 8.30 p.m. and a second Medical Society was formed. Dr. Kevin O'Doherty was the President and the object of the Society, *inter alia*, was to provide for the advancement of medical science.

In January 1883 this Medical Society went to see the Honourable S. W. (later Sir Samuel) Griffith in his chambers. The deputation put forth the argument that Government nominees were not necessarily the most suitable people to control the destinies of the Brisbane Hospital, and the society urged that the visiting staff be empowered to form a committee which would be responsible for the medical management of the hospital. This was not a successful deputation. The failure of the overtures was highly regrettable. It is inconceivable that the proposition that men who had recently formed the Medical Society, dedicated to the advancement of medical science, should be deemed unsuitable to influence the medical aspects of the administration of the hospital. If the Society had been successful in this move it is conceivable that a pattern may have been set for the future. It is reasonable to suggest that this arrangement may well have led to a greater stimulus to academic medical progress.

It is exciting to read the minutes of the Medical Society and of the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association over the decades. It is interesting to see the type of patients presented for discussion and the problems which were discussed. In 1887, for instance, Dr. Ryan of Gympie

rode a horse from that town, 120 miles, to read a paper on "Abdominal Section". This was a remarkable achievement. One thing is obvious in studying these minutes—that the personalities and manners of surgeons does not seem to alter with the ages!

DELAY ON MEDICAL SCHOOL

I would now like to discuss the formation of the Faculty of Medicine within the University of Queensland.

Queensland separated from New South Wales only a very few short years after Victoria, and in 1863 Professor Halford delivered the Inaugural Address of the Medical School in Melbourne. It was three-quarters of a century later before the Medical School was founded in Brisbane. The Medical School in Adelaide was founded fifty years before its counterpart in Brisbane.

I have indicated that there was no lack of merit in the medical profession of the first half century of Queensland's history, and we cannot but be ashamed of the extraordinary delay in the development of the University of Queensland and of the Faculty of Medicine within that University.

In a valedictory address given by C. W. De Visma, read before the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Queensland on 13 July 1889, he made this statement: "The evil of having no University of our own to recruit the ranks, stimulate the zeal, and increase the efficiency of the profession . . ." "Without a School of Medicine their discoveries die with them, they have no disciples to indoctrinate, no sceptics to convert; nor can they themselves, becoming in some respects partially fossilised by the conditions under which they are placed, cut off from emulative association with experimental medicine, surgery and histology, with no opportunities of increasing or even maintaining their early acquirements in the classroom chair, clinical lecture or at the dissecting table . . ."

At about the same time the Medical Society of Queensland got quite agitated about the slowness in the establishment of a Medical School and Dr. Byrne moved and Dr. Wilton Love seconded the motion at the annual meeting "That the society give the movement its cordial support".

The preamble to the University of Queensland Act of 1909 sets out that the University of Queensland was to be instituted for the purposes of "promoting sound learning, encouraging original research and invention, and providing the means of obtaining a liberal and practical education in

the several pursuits and professions of life in Queensland”.

How tardily did the University Senate and the Queensland Government proceed to promote these purposes!

Sir William MacGregor, a medical man and friend of Sir Samuel Griffith, was the first Chancellor of the University and in 1910 he suggested the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine. Actually in 1920 the Senate of the University did appoint a select committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a Medical School but no positive action was taken.

In May 1913 Sandford Jackson gave notice of a motion before the Council of the B.M.A. that he would move for the establishment of a Medical School in Queensland, but a plebiscite of B.M.A. members taken in 1913 showed clearly that the medical profession was not united in this desire to establish a Medical School in Queensland. When Sandford Jackson returned from active service in 1916 he proposed, in the Senate of the University, a resolution affirming the desirability of a Medical School in Brisbane. When Sandford Jackson retired from the Senate no further action was taken.

On 1 April 1924 another inept move was made by the Senate of the University. The Senate referred the whole matter of a Medical School to the British Medical Association for costing and other details. In other words, it had shelved its responsibility and endeavoured to place full responsibility on the British Medical Association for a full feasibility study.

At the same time the Brisbane General Hospital refused any responsibility in the development of a Medical School and this attitude was a forerunner of a policy of partial co-operation which existed for years to come. In spite of official obstruction, men like E. S. Meyers, Sandford Jackson and Duhig persisted in the move to commence a Medical School. It seemed at all times that an unwillingness on the part of the Treasury to adopt a generous attitude towards education was a limiting factor. It may be said that for many years this blight continued to afflict the growth of the movement. Actually the obstruction in relationship to finance became so obvious that a sub-committee of Jackson, Meyers, and Duhig approached Dr. Earle Page in the Federal sphere desiring to secure a site at the Rosemount Repatriation Hospital for the establishment of an Anatomy School and a Medical School.

In 1924 these men met the Home Secretary, Mr. Stopford, on the question of the establishment of a Department of

Normal and Morbid Anatomy as a forerunner to the establishment of a full Medical School. Mr. Stopford was not unsympathetic and recognised the importance of the move but "could give no definite reply".

SCHOOL OF ANATOMY

The Medical Act to allow teaching of Anatomy was modified in 1925 and in 1927 the first so-called Anatomy School was established in an ex-bedding factory in William Street. Dr. Errol S. Meyers was the first licensed demonstrator in anatomy in Queensland, and his technician was Mr. E. Bagnell who arrived in June 1927 and before the end of the year routine dissections were being undertaken.

Mr. Bagnell came from the Anatomy Department of the University of Sydney where there were two famous figures. The senior attendant in the department was Louis Schaeffer. It was he who was responsible for the care and the preservation of the famous "Pyjama Girl" until her murder was eventually solved many years later. I was working in the Department of Anatomy at this time at Sydney University and I can still describe accurately the physical characteristics of the "Pyjama Girl". It was solemnly declared, moreover, by all medical students that Louis was the man responsible for hangings in Long Bay Gaol.

In 1934 a definite advance in the teaching of anatomy was made. The Masonic Hall in Alice Street was donated by the Freemasons of Brisbane for the use as an Anatomy School.

There seemed to be a lack of rapport between members of the medical profession on the one hand and the Queensland Labour Government on the other. This can be gauged by the following. In 1926 at a meeting of the Brisbane General Hospital honorary staff, which was described as being a full and representative meeting, a motion was passed as follows: "That this meeting of the medical staff of the Brisbane Hospital repudiates the false and insulting references to the medical profession made recently in Parliament under the cover of privilege by the Minister of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. E. M. Hanlon". In addition Charles Chuter, the dynamic Under-Secretary of the Department of Health and Home Affairs, was a man who disliked doctors in an almost obsessional way and he had no particular love for E. S. Meyers. One cannot help gaining the impression that Chuter was obstructive and when the Cabinet on 5 April 1935 appointed a committee to investigate the formation

of a Medical School, the name of the main protagonist, E. S. Meyers, was missing. In addition, J. V. Duhig was also omitted from the original committee.

There was no doubt that Forgan Smith had a great respect for education and supported the development of the Medical School. He was a wise but sentimental man. Unfortunately his daughter became ill and gradually became worse and eventually, after much delay, the ultimate diagnosis was made. This girl was the pride and joy of Forgan Smith, and he was really outraged that nothing could be done to save her life. Moreover, he could not understand the delay in making the definitive diagnosis. Jarvis Nye, a man of high ideals and breadth of vision, had considerable influence with Forgan Smith and he exercised this influence in relationship to the establishment of the Medical School.

Duhig states that Meyers had studied very deeply the literature of medical education throughout the world and knew more about it than anyone else in Queensland at this time. Professor Goddard, Professor of Biological Sciences, a man of small stature but a ball of energy and full of enthusiasm, was really a tower of strength because of his academic background and his knowledge of University affairs.

The appointment of Sir Raphael Cilento, as Director-General of Health and Medical Services on 1 October 1934 was a very definite step in the right direction. Sir Raphael was a very able man and well aware of the movements to found a Medical School by members of the medical fraternity.

On 22 March 1935 E. J. Goddard wrote to the Premier, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith, in the following terms: "On the biological viewpoint, I consider the inauguration of Faculties of Medicine and Veterinary Science at this stage in Queensland's history, and especially at the time of the University's anniversary a matter of deep concern. I respectfully commend the sympathetic consideration of this memorandum to you as Premier of the State, and to the Government of which you are the head".

Eventually the Medical School was founded, but the celebrations were on a low key and few celebrities were invited to the opening of the Medical School. The speeches of the Minister were uninspired and he kept emphasising in a grudging way how much the Medical School had cost the Government. The building actually cost ninety-eight thousand pounds.

Why the inordinate delay in the foundation of this Medical School?

Was Brisbane in the early days singularly lacking in men of academic standing?

Did the squatter class of the early days have no interest in higher education?

Were the members of the medical profession negligent in their trust?

Were the political parties too engrossed in minor politics or was the Treasury always struggling to meet its commitments?

The remarkable progress in surgery during this century has been made possible by the amazing advances in the field of anaesthesia.

Successful surgery in the pre-anaesthetic era was based on speed. Military surgery produced amazing surgeons—bold, dextrous and ruthless. Liston was recorded as having amputated a thigh, using a tourniquet, in one minute. The story is told of a young ambitious surgeon who attempted to break this record. His record, however, was not acceptable because during the operation the assistant lost two fingers!

It has been manifestly impossible in this paper to give a more systematic account of the history of surgery in Queensland. I have attempted, however, to highlight the influence of certain men and movements during the period under review.