Pioneer Days

PROVINCIAL
ROYAL JUBILEE
HOSPITAL

Pioneer Days

PROVINCIAL
ROYAL JUBILEE
HOSPITAL

VICTORIA, B. C.

PROVINCIAL ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL
(Present Buildings)

Dedication

To those who with Faith *undimmed,*
Hope undaunted,
and Love *unfailing,*
gave their lives in service for others.

"Hear ye not their voices ringing down the ages—
Echoing still the message, though their task be done—
Voices born of heroes, monarchs, poets, sages,
Yearning still to share the triumphs they had won?"

PATIENCE DAY,
Derreen, Rockland Avenue
Victoria, B. C.

September, 1924

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D. D. Muir, Secy. S. J. Drake J. Harvey Alex. Stewart J. Wallace D. J. Angus J. H. Hill Dr. McCallum J. Forman
G. H. Brown Dr. Pearse Chas. Williams Geo. McGregor Jessie F. Mackenzie H. H. Shandley J. V. Roberts L. U. Conyers D. E. Campbell
Superintendent Vice-President President Director of Nurses Hon. Treasurer

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT

Mrs. C. W. Rhodes, President of the Woman's Auxiliary, M. W. Graham, Wm. Mable, Dr. Hart, Dr. Leeder, Dr. Bapty

Pioneer Days

THE STORY

AS one looks at the well-lit, well-ordered streets and handsome buildings of present-day Victoria it seems a far cry to pioneer days, and yet there may be some still among us who remember the romance, witchery and fascination of those bygone years, when most of the English-speaking people dwelt within "The Old Fort," and ministered unto those without.

The memory of the men and women—whom even we have been privileged to know, who so bravely and uncomplainingly endured the hardships and privations inseparable from pioneer life—is still fresh and fragrant, and from among that long list of illustrious names we single out one for the purpose of this story —one whose ears were not deaf to the cry of pain, whose eyes were not blind to the sight of suffering, and whose heart was not untouched by the sorrows and infirmities of others.

Such an one was the late saintly BISHOP EDWARD CRIDGE, who, from a clerical point of view, has been justly styled "The Grand Old Man of British Columbia," and who, as the Rev. Edward Cridge, Dean of Christ Church, was the Father of Hospital Service in what was then known as "The Colony of British Columbia."

The story is a simple one, told in later years by the Bishop himself with no thought of adulation or self-credit, or any motive other than to perpetuate the record of an interesting event.

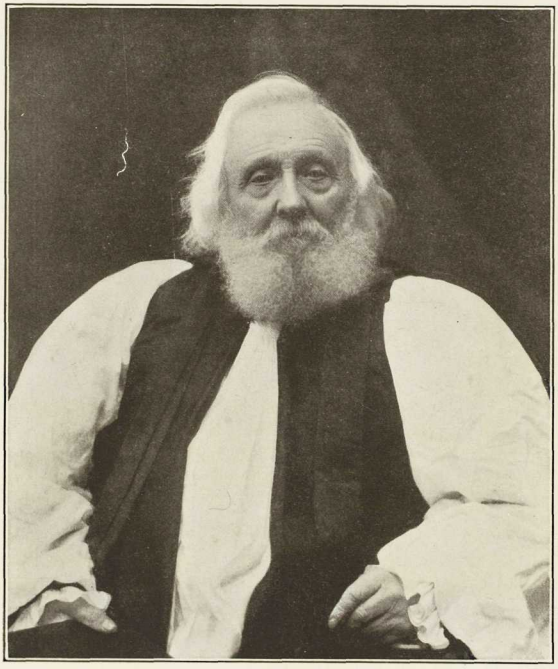
It came to pass "in this wise."

The Rev. E. Cridge was appointed Chaplain of the Hudson's Bay Co., Victoria, in the year 1854, and on Sunday morning, April 1st, 1855, he and his bride arrived from England in the "Marquis of Bute," anchored off Macaulay Point, and were able to "make a landing" the following day, "wind and tide permitting."

At first they lived in The Fort (Fort Victoria), in a building situated where The Canadian Bank of Commerce now stands, but at the end of the year (1855) they moved into "The Parsonage"

on Humboldt Street, which, with the "Church on the Hill" (Christ Church), was built by the Hudson's Bay Co. out of the Colonial Funds.

It was in 1858 that one day a sick man was found lying on a mattress inside the gate of this Parsonage. The man admitted that he had been brought there by certain parties, who shall be



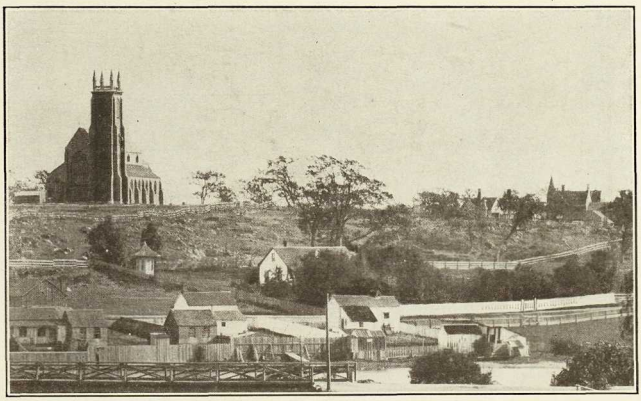
BISHOP CRIDGE

nameless. "I asked him," said the Bishop, "why they had brought him to my house, and clandestinely, too?" "Oh," he said, "they thought you were the proper man," and I suppose I was under the circumstances. So the Parsonage became the first Home Hospital in the Colony.

The Bishop continued: "I appealed to His Excellency the Governor, who took the matter up and nominated a Provisional Committee as follows: Mr. Dallas, a Director of the Hudson's Bay Co.; Mr. A. F. Pemberton, Magistrate and Commissioner of Police, and myself, District Minister of Victoria.

"We used, temporarily, a cottage kindly loaned (rent free) by Mr. Blinkhorn, on the corner of Yates and Broad Streets," afterwards occupied by the B. C. Hardware Company, and now by The J. M. Whitney Co., Jewellers.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Seeley were put in charge, the latter as "Steward," while a man of Spanish extraction, named Emmanuel, "a faithful industrious fellow," was "man of all work," which, in those days, was not a misnomer.



THE PARSONAGE
Showing the Gate where the First Patient was found

The name of the first patient was Braithwaite, and others soon followed, so that the cottage was generally full. As the necessity for more accommodation became urgent, the Committee was enlarged and set to work to secure a suitable site for a building. (The additional names are not given).

Finally, after much difficulty and discussion they "took possession of" a piece of land on the Indian Reserve and erected a wooden

THE NEW EAST WING

building on the site of what was, later, the Marine Hospital. "The Government," be it noted, "though not consulted, offered no objection."

Dr. Trimble was appointed Medical Officer in charge, a pamphlet containing the Constitution and By-Laws of the new institution was printed, and The Royal Hospital became an accomplished fact.

From Bishop Cridge's Diary we learn that Divine Service was held in the Hospital for the first time on December 19th, 1858, and a later note informs us that on Sunday, February 13, 1859, collections for the Hospital were taken up in Christ Church at both morning and afternoon services, amounting to $149. This is the first record we have of an "Hospital Sunday."

In 1860 Victoria's first Directory was issued, and in it we find this entry:

"We have an Hospital (Royal), started originally by the Rev. Edward Cridge of Christ Church, and now sadly overburdened with debt."

A record which is of special interest is contained in the Report of the Grand Jury, presented on February 1st, 1861, as follows:

"The Committee also visited the Hospital and found 13 patients, including one Indian, who all appeared to be doing well.

"We found that a water-closet was much needed for the sick ward and also sundrie small repairs were needed to the Building--we would also urge that more Bedding, Cots, etc., be furnished, so that the inmates be made as comfortable as possible as we noticed that the present blankets are much soiled owing to not having a change of Bedding.

"A new stove is much needed, or the old one should be repaired and would also urge that a brick chimney be built in the kitchen."

It is scarcely to be wondered at that the Chief Justice (Cameron) stated that the Grand Jury had "exceeded its powers" in connection with this report, owing, no doubt, to the publicity given to existing conditions.

Before the end of that year further accommodation was found necessary, and an appeal made to the Colonial Secretary, who asked for more definite information, whereupon the following letter was sent:

"Department of Lands and Works,
"Victoria, May 6th, 1862.

"Sir,

"I have the honour to report that I have enquired into the requirements of the Hospital Committee, with reference to the increased accommodation as proposed, and to state that, a separate building 18′ x 30′ completed with doors, windows, and ventilators, including whitewash and paint, also water-closet and 6 plain, strong bedsteads can be constructed for $625 and within a fortnight.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your most obedient servant,
"J. DESPARD PEMBERTON.

"William A. J. Young, Esq.,
"Colonial Secretary."

With regard to "the burden of debt" we find an entry in the Bishop's Diary to the effect that "The Hon. J. S. Helmcken was then elected President, and, under his capable management, and assistance from the Government, the debt was cleared and the Hospital grew and prospered."

Unfortunately a copy of the pamphlet containing the Constitution and By-Laws has not been preserved, but the records of the first cases admitted to the Hospital are available in manuscript and make interesting reading.

One Antoine Malbeouf, "poisoned by mistake," applied for admission and threatened to "go into the liquor business" if he was refused!. In consequence of this noble (!) resolve he was admitted after promising to pay his expenses by working for the Hospital, and we find him later "digging a well" with this object in view.

It is worthy of note that many of the patients did not consider any claim could be made upon them unless they were cured, and there are entries to this effect:

"H—— Y—— engages to pay $8 a week **if he recovers.**"

"Mr. J—— will see to it that he repays **in case he is discharged cured,**" etc., etc. Quite a wise precaution on the part of the patient, but the observance of which, we note, has not been perpetuated, for obvious reasons.

MRS. HARRIS, Mayoress

One entry records the fact that Seeley, the Steward, had reported that "Hall, the water carrier, had taken Mrs. Smith (a patient) away from the Hospital for a walk and was absent for two hours and a half!" For which, to us, quite pardonable offence, he was brought before the Magistrate and told that "he need not supply the Hospital with water any more." Had the lady been less attractive he would probably have been more leniently dealt with!

In the beginning of the following year (1868) the urgent necessity arose for Hospital accommodation for female patients, some particularly sad cases having been brought to the attention of the ladies of the community, who, in the midst of their busy lives, having no "help" and few, if any, modern conveniences, yet found time to devote to the needy and suffering, and well is it for humanity that the Order of "Elect" Ladies, who "ministered of their substance," did not cease with the Apostolic Age.

A meeting was held at The Parsonage on April 24th, 1863, at which were present Mrs. Harris, Mayoress, Mrs. Cridge, Miss Cridge, Mrs. Alfred Fellowes, Miss Nagle, Mrs. Pidwell, Miss Reid, Miss Thorne, Mrs. C. Woods, Mrs. R. Woods.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs. Helmcken, Mrs. Krimler, Mrs. Shepherd, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Thompson.

MRS. CRIDGE

They met "for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of providing Hospital care for females in need and sickness."

Previous to this a letter, signed by Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Cridge, had been sent to the Board of Directors of the Royal Hospital and that body had obtained a grant of £150 from the Government towards the erection of a Female Ward.

Therefore the ladies mentioned above formed themselves into an Association for the purpose of collecting money with which to complete and maintain the ward.

Mrs. Harris was elected President and, according to the minutes, "Mr. Cridge offered his services as Honorary Secretary, which offer was accepted unanimously."

The town was divided into districts, and it is interesting at this distance of time to note the divisions and the ladies appointed to collect in those districts.

Miss Nagle.....James Bay next the sea.
Miss Harris.....James Bay behind.
Miss Reid.....Government Street
Mrs. Pidwell.....Humboldt Street.
Mrs. Krimler.....Yates, Broad and Douglas Streets.
Miss Cridge.....Fort Street.
Miss Thorne.....View and Meares Streets.
Mrs. R. Woods.....Back District from St. John's Church.
Mrs. C. Woods.....Quadra, McClure, Vancouver Streets.

A copy of the "Original Prospectus" issued is reproduced.

FEMALE AID ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF MRS. DOUGLAS

Object—To Provide Hospital Care for Females in Need and Sickness.

During the past year many patients of this class have been provided with Medical Attendance and otherwise supported by voluntary contributions; and the want of a Hospital for Females has been severely felt.

In consequence of a representation from members of the Female Emigration Committee proposing the establishment of a Female Ward, *to be supported by the Women of Vancouver Island,* the Board of Directors of the Royal Hospital have obtained a grant from the Government of £150 towards that object.

A Committee, composed of the Mayoress and many other Ladies, has been formed for the purpose of raising funds and attending to such cases as require relief.

It is proposed to raise the requisite means by Monthly subscriptions. One dollar per month is asked for, but smaller sums will be thankfully received, as will also donations from the inhabitants generally towards the Building Fund.

The rules for the admission of patients will, so far as they are applicable, be those which are in force in the Royal Hospital; and the number of patients will be limited by the state of the funds.

The Women of Vancouver Island are appealed to in behalf of this object, in the confidence that they will gladly take upon themselves the benevolent work of alleviating the afflictions of those of their own sex who may be laid low in poverty and sickness.

EDWARD CRIDGE,
Hon. Sec.

Victoria, May 12, 1863.

The ladies also undertook to visit their ward in rotation week by week, and in the words of the late Miss Maude Cridge, to whom the writer is deeply indebted,

"There were no tram cars, no motors, no paved roads or sidewalks—but, nothing daunted, the ladies picked their dainty steps over rough roads to collect the needful money or lifted their voluminous skirts and stepped into the dirty ferry boat in order to visit their ward in the Royal Hospital on the Songhees Indian Reserve on the other side of the Harbour."

The following Report, presented by Dean Cridge at the Annual Meeting held on December 31st, 1865, will explain the necessity for abandoning the Female Ward at the Royal Hospital and building the Female Infirmary.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN 1865

FEMALE INFIRMARY

FOR THE

SICK AND DESTITUTE

OF

ALL DENOMINATIONS

PATRONESSES:

MRS. KENNEDY, | LADY DOUGLAS.

PRESIDENT:

MRS. HILLS.

MANAGING COMMITTEE:

MRS. HILLS, | MRS. PEARSE,
MRS. CRIDGE, | MRS. PIDWELL,
MRS. HARRIS, | MRS. WOOD,
MRS. M'DONALD, | MRS. R. WOODS.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

The Managing Committee and the Collectors.

MEDICAL ATTENDANTS:

DR. ASH, | DR. HAGGIN,
DR. DAVIE, | DR. POWELL,
DR. DICKSON, | DR. TRIMBLE.

The Female Infirmary is supported by monthly subscribers, whose contributions are received by Ladies, who visit from house to house in the districts respectively assigned to them for that purpose.

The medical attendants render their services gratuitously in monthly rotation; each also conducting to its termination the case which he first attended.

The internal duties of the Infirmary are wholly performed by one person. Mrs. Ford, as Matron, Nurse, and Housekeeper, receives for her services $25 per month wages, and $5 per week for board, together with fuel and lights.

The Ladies of the Managing Committee visit the Infirmary in monthly rotation.

Eighteen Patients have been admitted into the Infirmary since the last report—six in 1864, and twelve in 1865—several of which have been cases of great severity. Of these, three have died, and eleven have been discharged convalescent. The Infirmary has been a home and a blessing in time of need to many suffering women.

During the past year, Mrs. Harris resigned the office of President, and received the unanimous thanks of the Association for her energetic discharge of its duties. By a unanimous vote of the Association, Mrs. Hills was elected President.

A Concert, kindly given at Government House by His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Kennedy, in aid of the Infirmary, realised the handsome sum of $402.

The refusal of the House of Assembly to assist the Infirmary may justify a few words of explanation. Before the Ladies' Association was formed, no provision was made for the sick of the female sex. The Royal Hospital being designed only for men, the surgery, the kitchen, the clothes room, became in turns, in cases of emergency, the extempore female ward. The promoters of the Female Infirmary provided for their first patients in private houses. Afterwards the Managers of the Royal Hospital, having acquired additional accommodation, appropriated a Ward to the use of the Ladies' Committee, who fitted it up at their own expense, paying the Managers $6 a week for each patient, and $5 a week for their nurse's board. Several reasons induced, or rather necessitated, a change, first, the intervention of the Indian village, always offensive, and sometimes dangerous, for the visiting ladies; secondly, the difficulty of carrying out their own arrangements in another establishment; to which may be added divided medical opinions as to the salubrity of the site. Under these circumstances, the Ladies' Committee removed their patients from the Royal Hospital, and, by the aid of the public, have erected a handsome building on a noble site, where they are gratified to inform the subscribers they have been able to provide for their patients at nearly the same cost as at the Royal Hospital.

The refusal of the House of Assembly to grant the sum of $250, in lieu of a similar sum voted by them last year in aid of the Building Fund, but not paid, has entailed some inconvenience on the Managers, inasmuch as, relying on this grant, they incurred expenses which they might either have avoided, or have provided other means of defraying. The debt on the site and Building Fund is now $775.

They confidently rely on a benevolent public to enable them to defray this debt, and to aid them in their exertions on behalf of a class who have no other refuge but their sympathy.

E. CRIDGE, Hon. Secretary.

Decr. 31, 1865.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS SINCE MARCH 1st, 1864, to DEC. 31st, 1865.

Ash, Mrs.	$10 50
Adams, D. F.	7 25
Alisky	3
Alston	10
Boscowitz	5
Bowman	15 50
Bacon	4
Blinkhorn	10 75
Booth	7 50
Batternoll	6 25
Burr	20
Bond	3 25
Blunden	4
Blakeney	10
Bissett	23
Brown's Mrs School	4 60
Browning	3 50
Cranford	3
Coles	5
Cohen, M. R.	8 50
Cochrane	6
Carter	7
Curtis	5
Crate, S.	8
Carr	12
Cridge	12 50
Carswell	12
Drake	10
Davison	10 50
David, Mrs.	6 50
Deans	3 50
Doolan, Rev. A.	5
Douglas, Lady	16
Donation	10
Davis, Miss C.	4
Denman, Admiral and Mrs.	17
Elliott	9
Ella	11
Edgar	3
Eberhardt	8
Elford	11
Evans	7
Fleming	6
Fellowes, Alfred	5
Fellowes, Arthur	13
Fabre	3
Fowler	2 50
Foster	5
A Friend	3
Green, Sebright	9
Guild	7
Gilson, Archdeacon	5
Gouch	5
Geats	4 50
George	2 50
Grahamslaw	8 50
Hall, Mrs.	11
Hamilton	8 50
Hamilton, L.	5 50
Hayward	6
Harris	19 50
Howard	8
Hibben	6 50
Hart	3 50
Hills, The Bishop and Mrs.	20
Irving	4 50
Jenman, Louisa	5 50
Jeffrey, Miss A. C.	12
Kriemler, Mrs.	5
Kent	10 50
King	8 50
Kennedy	15
Loven	8
Lowenberg, Mr.	9 75
Lindsay, Mrs.	2 50
Lichtenstein	11
Leighton	9
Lady, A.	2 50
Lewis	19
Lang	15
Lyons	5
Langley	9
McKenzie	5
Marwick	3 25
Moss	11
McCann	5 50
Muir	4
Muir, Michael	4
Miller	7 50
McCready	7
Mouatt	9 50
McNeil	5
McCreight, Mrs.	14
Moore, T.	3
McDonald	19
McKay	12
Munro	14
Mattheisen	7
Nesbit	3
Neeley	3
Newbury	4 50
Nicol	5
Nathan	5
O'Reilley	5
Pitts	5
Pemberton, Miss	8
Patrick, Mrs.	3
Pearse	43 50
Piazzio	2 25
Phillips	5
Pike	3 50
Powell	4
Pickett	3
Reinhart	5
Russell	14
Richard	10 50
Redfern	15
Reynolds	17
Robertson	9 75
Reid, Miss	3
Roscoe, Mrs.	3
Stronach, Mrs.	20
Sporborg	12
Scott	5
Sayward	7
Spelde	11
Stott, Miss	3 50
Southgate	14
Sproat	17
Sutro	2 50
Searby	11
Sandrie	2 50
Shepherd	11 00
Seeley	4 50
Steele	10
Turner	11 50
Thomas	5
Todd, Mrs.	3
Trounce	21
Tiedeman	14
Tarbell	10
Wootton	21 50
Will	4
Wright	14
Woods, R.	10
Woods, C.	8
Wallace, C.	12
Wallace	5
Watson	2 50
Wagner	2 50
Westgarth	5 50
Wyllie, Miss	14
Walker	9
Wren	6
Wood	6
Yardley	9
Young	6 50
Zinn	2 50
Sums under $2.50	95 50

COLLECTORS.

Mrs. Pearse	$135 50
Miss Harris	177 50
Miss Thorne	140 25
Miss Jessie Nagle	87
Miss McKenzie	91 25
Miss McDonald	37 50
Miss Cridge	208 95
Mrs. Harris	31 12
Mrs. Sporborg	47
Mrs. R. Woods	53
Mrs. M. Thain	50 60
Mrs. Ella	41 50
Miss Nagle	60
Miss Reid	133 75
Mrs. Townsend	15
Miss Leggatt	59 50
Miss Pitts	77 75
Mrs. Pidwell	22
Miss Baillie	23 50
Mrs. Hills	15 50
Mrs. Guild	24
Mrs. Ford's box	20 13
Mrs. Fisher	4
Mrs. C. Woods	14
Mrs. King	3 50

DONATIONS.

Mrs. Kennedy	$8 24
Mrs. Rhodes	8
Miss Yates	2 50
C. J. King	9 62
Mr. Weir, for Funeral expenses of a Patient	30
Mrs. Hurst, Patient	24
Mr. Cook's child, Patient	12
Rev. A. Doolan	40
Miss Thain	5 50
Mrs. Stronach	33
Collected for furnishing Hospital	55 75
Mr. Pearson	5
S. Johnson, A Patient	5
Balance of Building Fund	141 27
Proceeds of Concert	402 05
Government Grant to Account	250
Mrs. Webb, a Patient	24
Mrs. Bowman	10
J. W. Williams	5
Sundries	3 85
Balance from 1863	299 81
	$2953 52

EXPENDITURE 1864.

To Expenses for Patients	$573 50
To Paid Royal Hospital	250 00
To Printing and Advertising	27 50
To Furnishings	92 32
	$943 32

EXPENDITURE 1865.

To Expenses for Patients	$915 25	
To Contractor for Building	500 00	
To Printing and Advertising	67 00	
To Furnishings	444 85	
To Balance in Hand	83 10	$2953 52

J. G. SHEPHERD, Hon. Treasurer.

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE, 1864

The description of the laying of the foundation stone of this building, which was afterwards taken over by the Hospital authorities and became The Royal Hospital, should find a place in these records, as it only ceased to exist when the present Royal Jubilee Hospital was built.

The following is from The Victoria Daily Chronicle of November 24th, 1864:

"The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Female Infirmary, at the head of Pandora Street, took place yesterday, and attracted a large concourse of people to the spot, a great proportion of whom were ladies. The building, which is to be a commodious one-story frame, is situated on a commanding site at the head of Pandora Street, overlooking the city and harbour, Royal Bay and the Straits, from Dungeness to Point Ringgold—the view taking in for a long distance the American and Metchosin shores, Race Rocks, etc.; the whole presenting a scene of unexampled beauty and loveliness to which the pencil of an artist could scarce do justice.

"Among those present we noticed Lady Douglas and Mrs. Kennedy, Admiral and Mrs. Denman, the Mayor and Mayoress, Revs. Mr. Cridge, Mr. Dundas and Mr. Woods, of the Church of England; Rev. Mr. Evans, of the Wesleyan Church; Rev. Mr. Hall, of the Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Cohen, of the Congregation Emmanu-el, and many others.

"Mayor Harris opened the proceedings by introducing Rev. Dr. Evans, who offered up a most impressive prayer, invoking the blessing of the Almighty upon the institution and upon those who had been instrumental in founding it, and concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

"Rev. E. Cridge then read the following document, which was subsequently placed beneath the corner stone of the building," and is the one which has been brought to light:—

"'This day, Wednesday, November 23, A. D. 1864, was laid, in dependence on the blessing of Almighty God, the corner stone of the Victoria Female Infirmary, by Mrs. Harris, Mayoress of Victoria.

"'Enclosed herewith are the first public appeal on behalf of the institution and the first annual report, conveying information as to its objects and early working; also copies of the local daily papers published in Vancouver Island.

"'The present members of the association are:

"'Patronesses: Lady Douglas, wife of Sir James Douglas, K. C. B., late Governor of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, etc.; Mrs. Kennedy, wife of Arthur E. Kennedy, C. B., present Governor of Vancouver Island, etc.

"'President—Mrs. Harris, Mayoress of Victoria.

"'General Committee and Collectors—Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Cridge, Miss E. Cridge, Mrs. Guild, Miss Harris, Miss Mackenzie, Miss Nagle, Mrs. Pearse, Miss McDonald, Mrs. Pidwell, Miss Reid, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Trutch, Mrs. C. Woods, Mrs. R. Woods, Mrs. Murray Thain.

"'Managing Committee—Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Cridge, Mrs. Guild, Mrs. Pidwell, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. C. Woods, Mrs. R. Woods.

"'Honorary Treasurer—J. G. Sheppard, Esq.

"'Honorary Secretary—Rev. E. Cridge.

"'Trustees—Thomas Harris, Esq., Mayor of Victoria; Edward Cridge, Rector of Christ Church; J. G. Sheppard, Esq., Manager Bank of B. N. A.; Augustus F. Pemberton, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate; John Wright, Esq., Architect.

"'Architects—Messrs. Wright and Saunders.

"'Builder—James McKee.'

"The rev. gentleman (Mr. Cridge) then proceeded to deliver an explanatory address, stating that some three years ago a project was set on foot in England by the Bishop of Columbia and others to promote the immigration of females to this colony. He regretted to say that only two shiploads had come hither. The first came in the Tynemouth, more than two years ago. He was recommended by Governor Douglas to form a committee of ladies to take charge of the females. He did so, and a great many, he was glad to say, had done well and were doing well in service or as wives. The second shipload was by the Robert Lowe. Two of the girls landed sick, and notwithstanding every attention from the ladies of Victoria, died, and it was this circumstance that impressed on the ladies of Victoria the necessity that existed for an institution of this kind. The association was fortunate in having as patronesses Lady Douglas and Mrs. Kennedy, and as for Mrs. Harris, the president, everybody would agree that she was the right person in the right place. It was necessary to go on collecting subscriptions from citizens and not to pause until the whole $4,000 required had been brought in.

"Mr. Cridge paid a high compliment to the lady collectors of the institution and thought that the citizens had reason to be proud that the women of Victoria had proved themselves so public-spirited as in this case. The women of Victoria he looked upon as the backbone of the undertaking. The object of the institution was to give relief to those females who were unable to help themselves—destitute, away from friends, strangers in a strange land. There were others who could not defray the whole expense incident to their sickness, and such also would find a home there. The benefits of the Association would be extended to all classes and denominations; and the reverend gentleman regretted that a misconception had arisen in the minds of a portion of the public because other subscriptions for a similar institution were put on foot at the same time with this, which gave rise to an impression that this was limited in its character, which he again begged to assure the public was not the case.

"Mrs. Harris then proceeded to lay the corner stone, being assisted by Mr. Wright, of the firm of Wright & Saunders, architects. On receiving the silver mallet and trowel, Mrs. Harris said:

"'In the name of the ladies of this association and in the presence of Almighty God, I lay the corner stone of the Victoria Female Infirmary.'

"After having performed this duty, Mrs. Harris made a few remarks which elicited hearty applause from those who were fortunate enough to be within reach of her voice. After short but effective addresses from the Mayor, Rev. Mr. Hall and Rev. Mr. Dundas, the assemblage dispersed."

Excerpt from letter of Dean Cridge:

"To P. J. Hankin, Esq.,
"Administrator of the Government.

"July 22, 1869.

"The building (Female Infirmary) is of a very superior character, was erected by public subscription and cost, together with the site, $4,000."

The Matron of this building "of a very superior character" was to receive the princely remuneration of $25 per month, and, to quote again from the Minutes: "It was unanimously agreed that when there is no patient in the Infirmary no salary shall be paid to the Matron but that the usual allowances for board, lights and firing be continued."

The Medical Men of the city co-operated very heartily in this movement, and the following letter was received by Rev. E. Cridge, Hon. Secretary:

"Victoria, May 3rd, 1865.

"My dear Sir,

"I am authorized on behalf of the Surgeons attending the 'Royal Hospital' to offer their services gratuitously to the Female Hospital.

"Will you be so kind as to place their communication before the Directresses at your earliest convenience.

"I am, dear Sir,
"Very faithfully yours,
"JAMES DICKSON, M.D."

And in addition to this, Doctors Trimble, Ash, Powell and Davie sent personal letters to the ladies offering their "professional services" to "your valuable Institution."

Needless to say these offers were gratefully accepted, each doctor "taking charge" by monthly rotation and being requested "to conduct to their respective terminations the cases which he begins to attend."

In connection with this rotation a paragraph from Dr. T. W. Powell's letter is of special significance:

"The custom which prevails in the 'Royal Hospital' of Physicians attending it in 'monthly rotation' is a most pernicious one, both to the responsible medical man and the poor patient under his charge—a custom which, in my opinion, would be greatly obviated by **three months** continuous attendance instead of **one.** This would even be preferable to the system you are about to inaugurate, of no special time for attendance being allowed other than the principle of continuing a case to its termination."

Many references are made to the Female Infirmary in Dean Cridge's Diary, and it was not very long before circumstances pointed to the necessity for amalgamating the two Hospitals.

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT
For the Opening of the Present Administration Building, 1890

The ladies were finding the financial burden too heavy for them, and the public-spirited citizens, already over-taxed, could not respond to the demands made upon them for maintaining two separate Institutions, involving duplication of equipment and service, and with but one aim and object—the care of the sick and the amelioration of suffering.

Dean Cridge, therefore, at the end of the year 1869, urged the union of the two Hospitals, and Dr. J. S. Helmcken's suggestion

"that the Board take over the Female Infirmary and that the patients from the Royal Hospital be moved there and the Institution in future be known as The Royal Hospital," met with universal approval, the Directors promising to maintain a Female Ward and the ladies pledging their continued interest and support.

Thus step by step this union was accomplished and the foundation "well and truly laid" for the great and noble work which later found fuller expression in the fine Institution now widely known as

THE PROVINCIAL ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

The story of this is fresh in the memory of all, and it will be a simple matter now for another pen to follow and complete these records.

But let it be said, as a tribute to the men and women upon whose hearts the burden of those who sorrowed and suffered in this community was first laid and who shirked it not, that, however magnificent in structure, size and equipment the buildings may be which will eventually supersede the simple Hospital Building of pioneer days—all it stood for will ever remain a monument to the Triple Dynamic of Faith, Hope and Love which fired the hearts, kindled the enthusiasm, and inspired the generosity of those faithful, loving souls of early years.

"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven,
Through peril, toil and pain:
O God, to us may grace be given
To follow in their train."

Acknowledgment

I wish to express my deep indebtedness to the family of the late Bishop Cridge, to Mr. Forsythe and Staff of The Provincial Library, Parliament Buildings, for valuable records placed unreservedly at my disposal, and to Miss Mackenzie, of The Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, for suggesting to me this "labour of love" and assisting me in every possible way.

—P. D.

COLONIST PRESSES

Spam 25946
BDD-8986