

Petone Temporary Hospital

Evening Post 10 Dec 1918

A gathering was held last evening in the Petone temporary hospital – the Technical School – of the workers who had been on duty during the epidemic. The Mayor, Mr J. W. McEwan, presided. The Mayor said the hospital had been opened on 15th November – since when 77 patients had been admitted. There were 18 deaths from influenza, one from heart disease, one of a baby which had been born in the hospital and had lived only 21 hours. There had been 2000 persons in the town affected, and the deaths had been not more, he estimated, than 40, which was only ½ per cent of the population. In some other places the deaths had been over 1 per cent. Most of the cases admitted to the Petone Hospital had been serious, and had been admitted only on the certificates of medical men. The two medical men of the town, Drs Ross and Harding, deserved the very best thanks of the people, and on behalf of the town he accorded it to them. (Applause). Right from the beginning the medical men had been overworked, and the town was indebted to the Gear Company for the loan of motor-cars and drivers for them which had made their services of double value. (Applause). Privates Roseware, Page and Whittaker, Army Medical Corps, deserved the best thanks of the town, also Captain Gibbs for granting their services. Besides the hospital work proper there had been an outpatients' department. Large numbers of persons had received gifts of medicine, fruit, eggs, and soup, and the donors of gifts of this kind should be thanked. (Applause). The Gear Company right from the start had provided, free, rich soup for distribution purposes. The Wellington Woollen Company also had rendered valuable service, not only in gifts of clothing, but in giving the services of at least twelve of its lady workers for nurses. (Applause). The Mayor's distress fund had been subscribed to generously, and had reached the total of £316; out of this temporary assistance had been given in a number of cases, and £250 was still in hand. (Applause). The very best thanks were due to the nurses, both male and female, who had so willingly given their services, and also the kitchen staff (applause); and also all the other workers whom he mentioned. Dr Ross, in reply, said it was unfortunate that the Mayor had not been able to say anything of his own work. (Applause). He had done a very very great work as head of the hospital and anything needed had only to be asked for to be granted. Rev A. B. Todd said most noble service had also been given outside the hospital which would never be recorded. On the suggestion of Councillor Brockelbank, the Nursing Division and the Ambulance Brigade were specially thanked. For her work, a special round of applause was given to Mrs McEwan, Mayoress. The Mayor said he desired to specially mention the great loss the town had suffered through the death of Mrs C. Collett, superintendent of the ladies' nursing division. She had fought the good fight and had given her life in the service of the people. On the motion of the Mayor a vote of sincere sympathy was passed for Mr C. Collett.

Evening Post 15 Nov 1918 At Petone

A large attendance of residents was present last evening to consider the best steps to take to combat the prevailing epidemic. The Mayor presided, and reported that three men were making a house-to-house visit of inspection to ascertain how many families were affected, if receiving medical attention, and if in want of medical comforts or food. Four hundred houses had been visited that day, and influenza was found to exist in 137 – seven serious cases. It was decided to ask the Public Health Department to fit up the Technical School as a hospital, Drs Ross and Harding promising to assist. A number of ladies promised to act as nurses, and Mrs Collett, superintendent of the Nursing Division will take charge of the arrangements for nursing.

Evening Post 16 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone the temporary hospital at the Technical School is doing excellent service under the control of the local medical men and the St John Ambulance Brigade and Ladies' Nursing Division. Although numerous new cases are being reported, it is believed that here also the disease is being held, but, as elsewhere, more help is urgently needed. All who can are requested to apply at once to the hospital at the Technical School. Offers of beds, bedding, food etc., will also be gratefully received at the hospital, which is at present overtaxed.

Evening Post 19 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone a convalescent ward has been arranged for children, which will relieve the pressure on the hospital accommodation, which was getting very congested.

Evening Post 19 Nov 1918

One of the latest victims to the scourge was Mrs C. S. Collett, of 87 Hutt-road, Petone. Mrs Collett was lady superintendent of the St John Nursing Division, Petone branch, and was one of the most valued volunteer nurses in the Petone temporary hospital. She went off duty at 12 p.m. on Sunday, and this morning succumbed to the disease. Deceased is survived by her husband and one daughter.

Evening Post 20 Nov 1919 The Hutt Valley

At Petone the Mayor, Mr J. W. McEwan, has made a public protest to Sir James Allen against a proposal to billet 200 soldiers in the local drill shed. This building is in the midst of a very congested area, and in probably the least suitable part of the town from a health point of view. Mr McEwan offered the use of the Hutt Park buildings, which are much more commodious and quite clear of other houses. The Hon T. M. Wilford has been communicated with upon the matter.

Evening Post 21 Nov 1919 The Hutt Valley

From Petone there comes the cheering news that the medical men state that, given favourable conditions and a continuation of the present precautions, there is every reason to believe that the disease will "peter out" sometime next week. There is, however, still every need for caution and for precautions being taken. Several of the cases which have proved fatal can be directly traced to want of ordinary care by sufferers. Workers are still urgently needed at the hospital, and the office staff is often at its wits' end to secure workers for the "shifts." The action of the Woollen Company in releasing a number of its girls for service has helped considerably in the way of a supply of women workers, though this branch can still do with as many recruits as care to volunteer. The difficulty of securing men is still very acute; last evening, for instance, the office staff had to scour the borough at 10.30 o'clock for men to come on duty at 12. The position is that there are four wards, and each requires a man and a woman in charge. The twenty-four hours have been divided into four shifts, so that sixteen men and sixteen women are required for this work alone each day. The kitchen needs twelve women during the day. Besides this four dispensers and four of an office staff are required each twenty-four hours. Two men have reported for duty from the Defence Department – one as dispenser and the other for nursing duties. The Mayor is in constant attendance at the hospital and the Mayoress, Mrs McEwan, takes her turn on duty. There are now 50 patients in the hospital, eight of whom are serious cases. The Gear Company has rendered great assistance during the epidemic. Motor cars have been placed by the company at the disposal of Drs Ross and Harding, and now arrangements have been made to convey other workers to and from their homes.

Evening Post 22 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone the hospital is practically full, but it is cheering to be able to report that the medical men are finding very few new cases sufficiently serious to demand admission. The doctors are thankful for the southerly winds, which they believe will have the effect of cleansing the town. Although there are signs that the disease is abating, the public is earnestly warned against relaxing in any way disinfecting or other precautions, as the danger is by no means over. Should there be a recurrence the consequences would be serious, as the workers are all exhausted and the hospital accommodation overtaxed. Many foolhardy people were observed out in the rain yesterday before they were fully recovered. Such persons not only endanger themselves but the welfare of the whole community. Helpers are still needed, and are asked to report immediately at the hospital. Goods for the hospital may be left at the Evening Post agency. The following is the staff on duty at the hospital:-

Medical staff: Drs Ross and Harding.

Dispensers: Messrs Page, Bosworth, Armstrong, S. Newland, J. Churchouse, and Miss Morris.

Clerical staff: Messrs J. Lynskey, W. Sturman and W. B. Nicholson

Ambulance Driver: Mr E. Floyd.

Motor-cars: Gear Company (2), Messrs Casey, Long and Lodder

Kitchen No.1: Mrs McEwan (Mayoress), Misses Cochran, Braddock, Francis, Abrahall, Margery Hebbend

Kitchen No.2: Mrs Morris, Misses Croll, Wilson, Beryl, Bowden, Nora Hill, Bessie Mullis

Kitchen No.3: Mrs Brockelbank, Mrs Sampson, Misses Coakley, Smith, Nora McEwan, Muriel Mockridge

Kitchen No.4: Mrs Budge, Mrs James and Mrs Cody

Nursing Staff Supervisers: Messrs Cox, Hislop and Bosworth

Nursing Staff No.1: Mrs Yates, Mrs Liddle, Misses Forest, Shaw, Martin and Mrs Greenwood

Nursing Staff No.2: Mrs Galvin, Mrs Haddock, Misses Matthews, Oliver, C. Morrison and Martin

Nursing Staff No.3: Mrs Cresswell, Mrs Collinson, Misses Hood and A. Senior

Nursing Staff No.4: Mrs Thomas, Mrs Appleyard, Misses G. Senior and M. Senior

Nursing Staff No.5: Mrs J. Sharpe, Mrs Foster, Misses L. Morrison and L. Walker

General assistants: Messrs Marshall, James, Bird, Hogg, G. Andrews, Scholefield, Anderson, Campbell, Peet, Moss, Clark, Burrige, Brice, Marsden, Turner, Hartley, Kerr, Appleyard, Cowie, Bradstock, Coles, Clemens, Hall, Councillors Brocklebank, McKenzie and Jones.

St John Ambulance members: Messrs Kyle, Steinmuller, L. Parrant, McLauchlan, Staples, W. H. Shardlow, H. G. Shardlow, Greenfield, A. P. Deeble, Finch, Lockwood and Taylor.

Evening Post 23 Nov 1918 Death

On the 23rd November 1918 at Petone Temporary Hospital, Jack Clarence, beloved son of Mr and Mrs J. Anderson, of Sanson; aged 19 years.

Evening Post 23 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone Dr Ross expresses the opinion that the end of the month should, unless persons relax their endeavours, see the disease brought to an end. He bases his opinion not only on the present indications but on the experiences of other places. He noted his first case on 5th November. A remarkable matter to which he drew attention was the fact that among his patients he had only one fatality with patients under 20 years of age, and this seems to be more or less the universal experience. It is also to be noted that most of the fatalities are of persons in the prime of life. Among the names of those on the staff of the Petone Temporary Hospital published yesterday, the name of Mr J. Piper was inadvertently omitted. Mr Piper has been indefatigable in his work, and has given his time and service freely, especially in fitting up of the kitchen, where some of the labour-saving appliances have been designed and constructed by him. Mr Piper has also been almost in constant attendance at the building, and has given valuable advice and general assistance.

Evening Post 25 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone there was only one admission to the hospital yesterday and four on Saturday. Fourteen were discharged yesterday and the majority of those remaining are convalescent. There have been 61 admissions, of which some 17 have been discharged, and 12 have died. It may be said of the fatalities that the state of the patients when admitted was such that there was little hope of their recovery. The doctors report that the number of calls to fresh cases is decreasing, as are also the calls for assistance at the hospital depot. The Mayor (Mr J. W. McEwan) has opened a fund for the relief of cases of distress, and gifts of money or kind will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Considering the demands on the people in their own homes or in helping their neighbours the response to appeals for help at the hospital and outside has been magnificent. People are urged not to relax their precautions in any way until the disease is finally vanquished. As some of the hospital attendants, both men and women, are having to give up the work in order to attend to their businesses, fresh workers are asked to give in their names at the hospital in order that the institution may carry on.

Evening Post 25 Nov 1918 Deaths

At the Temporary Hospital, Petone, on 23rd November 1918, Annie Cashmore Arnold, aged 20, beloved daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Arnold, 105 Nelson-street, Petone. At rest.

On 22nd November 1918 at Petone Temporary Hospital, of influenza and pneumonia, Benjamin, beloved husband of Annie Hammington, 6 Hutt-road, Petone; aged 37.

Evening Post 26 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

From Petone the reports are satisfactory. There are still a few serious cases in the town, one or two of these being in the hospital. There have been 65 admissions to the hospital, 19 have been discharged, and 16 died. Among the deaths is that of a woman and her day-old infant son (born in the hospital), who both died at the same time last evening. The father is lying ill of the complaint in his own home. The case is one which will call for some assistance from the public. Men workers for both day and night shifts are still needed. The inspection of the homes of the people has disclosed some cases of woeful insanitary conditions brought about by want of cleanliness. In one case the family were living in absolutely disgusting surroundings, which made the rendering of assistance a revolting task. One prominent worker expressed the opinion that inside as well as outside inspection of premises will have to be a function of the health authorities in the future. The following donations have been received for the Mayor's distress fund: Wellington Trotting Club £50; Ngaroma Croquet Club £5 5s; Dr Ross £5; Mrs G. Scales and Mr Haslam, £3 3s each; R. A. Armstrong (Wellington) £2 2s; J. Anderson (Sansons) £2; Mr C. Harper £1 10s; Mr W. J. Gardner £1 1s; Mrs Tregear, Mrs Sharman and Mr W. Armitage £1 each; Mrs Claridge, Mr A. Leach and Mr Jamieson 10s each.

Evening Post 26 Nov 1918 The Epidemic

An instance of thoughtfulness and generosity, in connection with the Petone Hospital, worthy of note, was the action of Mr P. Sharp, who, on the opening of the hospital, sent two milch cows, which are grazed in the grounds. In addition to attending to the milking of these twice a day, Mr Sharp has offered the use of a third cow, should it be required. His kindness is much appreciated by those in charge.

Evening Post 26 Nov 1918 Deaths

On the 25th November 1918 at the Temporary Hospital, Petone, Roland Fitzgerald Chapman, dearly beloved husband of Dorothy Chapman of 12 Buick-street, Petone; aged 30 years. (Picton and Dunedin papers please copy)

On the 23rd November 1918 at the Temporary Hospital, Petone, of pneumonia and pleurisy, Ernest (Sam), youngest son of Mrs S. Neilson, Rona Bay; aged 18 years and 10 months.

Evening Post 27 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

The latest contributor to the Mayor's distress fund is the Wellington Woollen Company, which has sent out a quantity of children's garments for distribution to needy cases. This morning the Mayoress (Mrs J. W. McEwan) and Mrs Budge, accompanied by a small committee, are going round the borough looking up such cases and taking measurements with the object of fitting out the children. Mrs Udy has donated £20 to the fund. The Mayor, (Mr J. W. McEwan) states, in reply to the Minister of Public Health, that Borough Councils really have very small powers in regard to "cleaning up" towns. Though they have some power to deal with the surroundings, what is needed is power to immediately deal with the interior of houses. No house can be condemned for habitation nor improvement ordered except by the Health Department, and unnecessary delays are often occasioned in communicating to and from the Department. Some years ago Borough Councils had wider powers, but these have been taken away. In no case in Petone has wealth or influence prevented the local authorities

from doing their duty. The present epidemic has shown that greater power must be given to some local authority to deal with cases where immediate attention is absolutely necessary.

Evening Post 27 Nov 1918 Death

On the 26th November 1918 at the Temporary Hospital, Petone, Gus Clements, of Koro Koro; aged 52 years. Deeply regretted.

Evening Post 28 Nov 1918 Death

On the 27th November 1918 at the Petone Technical Hospital, from influenza, Mabel Sylvia, dearly beloved wife of Andrew Cassie, 68 Richmond-street, Petone; aged 44 years.

Evening Post 29 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

Patients at the hospital in Petone had another good night. Most of these are convalescent, their being only two who are giving any concern. The public is requested, now that the worst may be said to be over, to give some consideration to the medical men who have worked so heroically. They are certainly entitled to a few nights' rest, but calls are still being made on them for cases which cannot be said to be urgent. People are asked to refrain as much as possible from night calls. Many persons are expressing the idea that public recognition should be made of the services of some of the workers who have done such noble service, and in such case the doctors should have a prominent place. Several of the hospital staff, both women and men, have contracted the disease, and one, Mrs C. Collett, gave her life in the cause. All the others are practically convalescent. Several of the hospital workers are railway men, and there is a strong feeling that the Railway Department should follow the lead of the Gear Company and the Woollen Company and pay the men so engaged full pay for time lost.

Evening Post 30 Nov 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone the Mayor reports that the disease is steadily dying out, and it is hoped that by the end of next week, unless the unforeseen occurs, the hospital may be closed. The patients all had an excellent night, although one or two cases are very serious. Outside, the doctors report a steady diminution of fresh cases. The Mayor, Mr J. W. McEwan, states that he entirely endorses the opinions expressed by the city engineer as regards the powers of borough councils, and also as to the responsibilities of the Public Health Department.

Evening Post 02 Dec 1918 Thanks

Mrs Hammington and Family, 6 Hutt-road, Petone, wish to Thank the staff of the Temporary Hospital, Petone, for their kindness towards her late husband during his short stay in the Hospital; Dr Ross for his untiring attention; kind friends for floral wreaths and messages of sympathy; and Mrs McEwan and Mrs Budge, for their kindness to herself and family in their recent sad bereavement.

Evening Post 02 Dec 1918 The Hutt Valley

The following are additional contributions to the Petone Mayor's Distress Fund:- Mrs H. J. Palmer £12 12s; George London £5; Thomas Silk £5; Mrs P. C. McEwen £4; D. Bedingfield £3 3s; J. H. Lynskey, McIntyre and Corser, W. G. Lodder, A. Coles, King Bros., McEwen and Carter, G. D. Silby each £2 2s; Mr Dixon (High-street), J. A. Ware, Edward Hartley and Mrs and Mrs Rowe, each £1 1s; Mrs Gower, Mr Gower, Miss Gower, Mr Udy, Well Wisher, Pickard, W. B. N., Tempest, C. P. Brocklebank, W. B. Gough, Mr G. Hursthouse, Anon, W. F. Sturman and W. Hay each £1; W. J. T., 16s 8d; Worker, Gordon Andrews, D. E. Patterson, I. H., Mrs H. Pickering, Mrs Standing, each 10s; Mr Pawson, 7s 6d; Messrs Cooper and Mockeridge, each 5s; Peggy and Arthur Selwood, 10d. At 9 o'clock last night the register showed that admissions to the Petone Hospital were 75, discharged 30, deaths 18. Of the remaining 27, many are on the up grade, but are being detained until fully convalescent. There were no admissions yesterday, and it is anticipated that in a few days it will be quite safe to release half of the voluntary staff.

Evening Post 03 Dec 1918 The Hutt Valley

Mr Humphries, of Horokiwi, has greatly assisted several cases in need in Petone by his generosity in sending daily to Sergeant Bird two gallons of milk and a quantity of eggs for distribution. It is understood that Mr Humphries has also offered assistance in other ways. Feeling reference was made last evening by Mr J. W. McEwan, Mayor of Petone, to the death of Mrs C. Collett, Superintendent of the Petone Ladies' Nursing Division, who has done such splendid public service in the initial stages of the epidemic, and whose life had been lost in faithful service. A vote of sympathy and condolence with the relatives was passed by the Borough Council.

Evening Post 04 Dec 1918 The Hutt Valley

At Petone the admissions to the hospital have been 75, discharged 35, and died 20. Apart from probably two cases, which may not be well enough to remove, the hospital will be empty by the end of the week.

Evening Post 05 Dec 1918 The Hutt Valley

The following additional amounts have been donated to the Petone Mayor's Distress Fund:- Gear Meat Co., £50; Union Clothing Co., £10 10s; A. W. Shaw, Wellington, £5 5s; Eustace King, £5; Dr Harding and J. Gaynor, each £2 2s; Alex. Cowie and _ Woodhead, each £2; Mrs Pointon (Bay-street), £1 1s; "Anon", Mr Duff, Miss Duff and C. R. Robinson, each £1 1s; Sergeant Bird, 10s 6d; Misses D. and A. Wakelin, "Anon", Mrs C. F. S., J. McDougal, "Kiljoe", and "Anon", each 10s.

Evening Post 05 Dec 1918 Thanks

Mrs Chapman, Buick-street, Petone, desires to Thank all who have assisted and sent messages of sympathy to her during her recent sad bereavement, especially Mr Hartley and members of the Temporary Hospital Staff.

Evening Post 09 Dec 1918 The Hutt Valley

The Petone temporary hospital is being closed to-day. One patient is being transferred to the Wellington Hospital, and the others to their own homes, or the homes of friends. Some misapprehension evidently exists in the mind of the public in regard to the services of those helping at the Petone hospital. It cannot be too emphatically stated that all the work of the nurses and other helpers, with the exception of the men sent by the Defence Department, was purely voluntary.

Evening Post 17 Dec 1918 Petone Affairs

A motion moved by Councillor D. McKenzie, and seconded by Councillor Tovey, expressed the appreciation of the council of the work done by the medical men of the borough, the Mayor and Mayoress, and all who had worked, both in the temporary hospital and outside, in the recent epidemic. The motion was passed unanimously.

Evening Post 21 Dec 1918 Thanks

Mr and Mrs Edmey, Union-street, Petone, desire to Thank Dr Ross and the Temporary Hospital Workers for kindness and attention which saved the life of their son Percy.