

WANGARATTA HOSPITAL.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the above institution was held on Thursday evening last. Present: The president (Mr Langtree) and Messrs Bickerton, Brash, Pinkerton, Robinson, Chapman, Meldrum, Tone, and Revs. M'Donald and Poole.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was received from Mr Templeton, managing director of the Trustees, Executors and Agency Company, stating that by the will of the late Rev. Maurice Stack, who died in France, a sum of £750 had been left to the Wangaratta Hospital.—To be acknowledged with thanks.

The PRESIDENT stated that a young man named Lowry had been appointed to the position of under-wardman, in the room of Mr Simms, who had been promoted to the post of head-wardsman. Mr Simms had been discharging the duties of head-wardsman since the retirement of Mr Sherlock, and was, he considered, entitled to the full salary since he undertook the duties of the office.

Mr TONE contended that if the man was not appointed at the time he performed the duties of head-wardsman, during the retirement of his predecessor, he was not entitled to the salary of head-wardsman.

On the motion of Mr BICKERTON, seconded by Mr CHAPMAN, it was agreed to pay Mr Simms the full salary since the time he undertook the duties of head-wardsman.

The House Committee reported: Your committee have examined accounts

committee have examined accounts amounting to £68 16s 2d, certified to by the house steward. As far as possible part of account having been contracted prior to present house steward's appointment, we recommended payment of 30s to W. Rowe for 14 days night duty, and 20s for 15 days as under-wardsman. We have examined the wards, and found them in a satisfactory condition. Present: Messrs Teue, Dodsworth and Pinkerton. We recommend refund of 5s 9d to present house steward. This amount was handed to Mr Sherlock by a patient when admitted, and had to be made good by the present steward when patient was leaving the hospital.

With regard to the amount of 5s 9d paid by the present head-wardsman on his admission, the late head-wardsman denied having received the money.

Dr Macfarlane said he did not authorise the wardsman to pay the man on leaving the hospital. The amount recommended to be refunded to the wardman was therefore disallowed.

The report was received and adopted, on the motion of Mr MELDRUM, seconded by Mr CHAPMAN.

Mr MELDRUM moved that a book be procured in which the house steward shall enter all the money, goods and chattels in possession of the patients on their entering the hospital.—Seconded by Mr CHAPMAN, and carried.

The surgeon reported as follows for month ending November 10th :—Previously under treatment, in-patients 9, out 4; new patients, in 16, out 4; total treated, in 25, out 2; deaths 0; remaining under treatment, in 12, out 6.—The report was received.

The PRESIDENT moved that the

THE PRESIDENT moved that the president of the Yarrawonga Shire, for the time being, be elected an honorary governor of the hospital.—Seconded by Mr TONE, and carried.

—The PRESIDENT said that he thought it would be better to employ a night-wardsman permanently. A man had often to be engaged and the amount came to nearly the same as it would cost for a permanent man. The man would be able to grow vegetables, and save a good sum for that item alone. He therefore gave notice of motion that he would propose at next meeting that a night-wardsman be employed at a salary of £35 a year.

Mr BICKERTON said that, according to the rules, whenever an extra hand was employed it was necessary for the surgeon to report same. Mrs Batty, who had been employed, was not reported to the committee by the surgeon.

The surgeon said the woman was only employed for a few nights, nursing a sick woman.

Mr BICKERTON moved that the collector be instructed to submit the butts of collection-books every fortnight to the honorary treasurer.—Seconded by Mr MELDRUM, and carried.

A copy of the report on the hospital by the inspector was read, and nearly all the clauses adopted.

With reference to the system of collecting, Mr BICKERTON said there should be a more systematic canvass for the year. The collector from the Ovens District Hospital had been in the locality and had worked all round Wangaratta, and he certainly thought the collector should be more active, especially at this time of the year. During the past three months only £26 had been collected

months only £26 had been collected from private individuals. There must be a change in the system, if the hospital was to carry on, and he thought it a matter that should be considered. Shearing was going on at the present time, and money could now be got that could not be obtained at any other time of the year. Shearing was going on at El Dorado, Bontherambo, Taminick, and he thought an effort should be made by the collector.

The collector said that the subscriptions for this year from July to the present time were twenty pounds less than for last year. When it was distinctly understood that subscriptions had been received before the month of March for the year, the matter might be explained. Collections could not be made twice during the year.

Mr TONE agreed with Mr Bickerton. The shearing time was one when the collector should be very active, and he suggested a personal canvass, in place of sending out circulars.

The PRESIDENT said, in looking over the list of subscriptions for the year, he noticed that the names of several persons who had subscribed before, or who, he knew, would subscribe if asked, were absent, and he suggested that the names of persons likely to subscribe (residing in other towns) be furnished to the secretary, and that he be instructed to send circulars to them.

Mr MELDRUM wished to know whether the collector furnished a monthly

report of all monies collected by him to the committee. He was surprised at

to the committee. He was surprised at the small amount that had been collected, and thought if reports had been furnished no doubt the smallness of the amount would have been challenged by the committee. He moved that the collector be instructed to furnish a monthly report of all monies collected by him.

This was seconded by Mr BRASH, and carried.

The following accounts were passed for payment :—

Salaries and wages ...	£37	0	4
W. J. Osboldstone ...	11	11	10
F. Simpson	3	5	6
F. Raisbeck	7	2	0
A. Pinkerton	1	2	6
A. M. Gibson		6	0
Stewart, Dodsworth & Co.	2	14	0
John Moore	1	18	0
Mrs Batty.....	1	5	0
Permewan, Wright & Co.	2	3	0
C. Schroeder		8	0

The meeting then adjourned.