

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG

Reference code: GB 0214 DHPW

Title: PRINCE OF WALES ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL,
CARDIFF

Dates : 1917-1997

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.06 cubic metres [10 vols., 2 booklets]

Name of creator(s): Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital

Administrative/biographical history

The hospital was founded out of an initiative of Sir John Lynn-Thomas, a former senior surgeon to the Welsh Military Hospital in South Africa during the Boer War, and an active assistant to the 3rd Western General Hospital in World War I. His philanthropic work included assistance to the British Red Cross and tuberculosis patients in Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff, and he had donated Bedford House to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary 1914 for teaching purposes. The shortage of medical facilities at Roehampton Hospital, London, for Welsh casualties prompted him to assist the Lord Mayor of Cardiff in negotiating purchase of no.21 The Walk, Cardiff, then on loan by James Howell to the British Red Cross, for medical treatment of limbless sailors and soldiers in 1916.

The hospital opened in 1917 and specialised in the provision of prosthetic limbs and related medical treatment and rehabilitation, initially serving as an annexe to the Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital then in premises provided by Cardiff Council in Whitchurch Hospital. After the war the Prince of Wales Hospital broadened its treatment to a range of physical disabilities and secured experienced surgeons, orthopaedic specialists, and other medical staff.

Additional premises were secured at Crossways estate, Cowbridge, in 1926, establishing a special school there in 1927. The hospital relied heavily on voluntary funding up to the establishment of the National Health Service in 1947 despite obtaining charitable status in 1927.

Most patients were transferred at the beginning of World War II to Crossways. The hospital at The Walk suffered from bomb damage. Inadequate facilities and space for expansion there encouraged plans for a total removal of the hospital to Crossways but financial problems limited led only to acquisition of a former American Army Hospital at Rhydlafer, much of it unsuitable for proper medical care and permanent facilities were not obtained until 1953. Crossways closed in 1965 and the original hospital at The Walk in 1972. The Special School was closed in 1987.

Archival history**Immediate source of acquisition****Scope and content**

Visitors book 1917-1997; attendances of visiting staff 1935, 1941-1953; gift book 1935-1958; statistics 1953-1954; cash book 1948-1953; students nurses records 1957-1959, 1963-1965, 1974-1983; Charity Commission scheme 1927

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals

Accruals are not expected

System of arrangement**Conditions governing access**

Items containing information on named individuals may be restricted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and Record Office policy

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Good to fair condition

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Existence and location of originals**Existence and location of copies****Related units of description**

Records of the Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital Special School (ref. ESE52) and photographs of hospital staff c.1920 (ref. DXPT30).

Publication note

The Prince & the Pioneers. The early work of the Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital Cardiff by Robert Phelps (University Hospital of Wales and Cardiff Royal Group of Hospitals. Cardiff 1993)

Note

All records are held in an outside store and have to be ordered at least one week before any intended visit

Archivist's note

Compiled by the Glamorgan Record Office, with reference to *The Prince & the Pioneers* (1993) and directories

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

November 2007

Visitors

DHPW/1	Visitors book [1 vol.]	1917-1997
DHPW/2	Record of attendances of visiting staff [1 vol.]	

Donations

DHPW/3	Gift book to hospital (specifying date, nature of gift, and name of donor) [1 vol.]	1935-1958
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Statistics

DHPW/4	In-patients statistics. Crossways and Rhydlafer [1 vol.]	Jan 1953-Dec 1954
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Finance

DHPW/5	Cash book [1 vol.]	Feb 1948-May 1953
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Students nurses records

Name, date-of-birth, examinations taken, medical reports, career notes, and photographs

DHPW/6/1	Nurses records	Feb 1957-Feb 1958
DHPW/6/2	Nurses records	Jun 1958-Oct 1959
DHPW/6/3	Nurses records 'no.2'	Jan 1963-Jan 1965
DHPW/6/4	Nurses records 'no.8'	Dec 1974-Sep 1978
DHPW/6/5	Nurses records 'no.9'	Jan 1979-Apr 1983

[5 vols.]

DHPW/7	Charity Commission. Scheme appointing trustees and vesting in official trustee of charity lands. Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff [1 booklet and 1 duplicate]	21 Dec 1927
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