

Press. 22 March 1965 (Papers Past) [03/10/2022]

Obituary

Mr P. Stanley Foster

Mr Philip Stanley Foster, a former director of surgery at the Christchurch Hospital and for many years a member of the North Canterbury Hospital Board, died on Saturday after a long illness.

Mr Foster was born in Timaru in April, 1885, but a few years later his family moved to Hawera, where he spent most of his childhood. A later move took him to Dunedin, where he attended the Otago Boys' High School and then the Otago Medical School, gaining his registration as a doctor in May, 1909.

He began his long association with the Christchurch Hospital in 1910 when he became a house surgeon there. Four years later he was appointed honorary surgeon and then, successively, visiting surgeon, director of surgical services, and on his retirement in 1946, consulting surgeon. He was a board member from 1927 until 1938 and again from 1947 to 1959.

Mr Foster served with the New Zealand Medical Corps in the hospital ship *Maheno* in World War 1.

He was a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (England) and of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. In 1939 he was president of the New Zealand branch of the British Medical Association. He was also a past member of the New Zealand Medical Council and the Board of Health. In 1953 he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Mr Foster played senior club cricket in Christchurch for the West Christchurch club during all seasons from 1910 until 1927 except while away on overseas study or military service. He was club captain for a number of years and made several appearances for Canterbury and Wellington. His best club score was 189 against East Christchurch in the 1917-18 season. On his retirement from cricket he took up golf, playing with the Christchurch club on the Shirley links.

In 1922 Mr Foster was one of those who became charter, or foundation, members of the Rotary Club of Christchurch. He remained a full member until fairly recently, and on his retirement from active membership was made an honorary member. He was club president for the 1927-28 year and district governor in 1935-36.

Mr Foster was for very many years an enthusiastic performer with the Christchurch Liedertafel. He joined in 1918, was president in 1937-38, and again in 1950-53, and was elected a life member in 1943.

He is survived by his wife and three daughters, Mrs E. M. Condry (Perth. Western Australia), Mrs D. T. Stewart (Christchurch), and Miss Diana Foster (Christchurch); and by a brother, Mr H. C. Foster (Palmerston North), and a sister, Mrs Emily Morris (Christchurch).

Chairman's Tribute

Mr Foster's death brought to an end a notable career and association with the medical and hospital services of Christchurch extending over half a century, said Dr. L. C. L. Averill, chairman of the North Canterbury Hospital Board, last evening.

"In association with Sir Hugh Acland, Mr Foster was one of the pioneers of modern surgery in Christchurch, and, as his record shows, he gave generously of his time and skill," Dr. Averill said.

"Although his later years were dogged by ill-health, during his working life he was unstinting in his service to his fellow citizens. He has left behind a record of accomplishment which his medical colleagues, many friends and patients and citizens will always remember with appreciation and gratitude."

NZ Truth. 19 July 1924 (Papers Past) [11/04/2023]

FINE FOSTER FAMILY.

Howard Foster's approaching departure from Wellington for Invercargill draws attention to a rather gifted family of which he is a bright member. Music runs in both sides of the family, His mother and father were the most popular; vocal duettists in Timaru, of which seaport Foster pere was a native, and his brother Phil was South Canterbury's favorite tenor. In those ancient days the Foster family was constantly under toll for concerts. Howard F., who is giving up the assistant-managership of the D.I.C. in Wellington to take over the management of Lewis's in Invercargill, is a popular baritone, and has done some good work as soloist in the city and out in the Wairarapa towns in oratorio. His father also was a notable amateur in oratorio, and the eldest son of his family, Frank, was a tenor soloist in big work in Dunedin before he sought the larger life, first in Australia, and then in touring concert parties in England. Howard F., whose father still lives (in Dunedin), is brother to Dr. Stanley Foster, the well-known Christchurch cricketer; and yet another brother is Mr. Wm. F., language master in the Auckland Grammar School, and previously for some years Principal of Banks College, Wellington. Musical circles, the Savage Club, and some other interests in the Empire City will miss Howard Foster, but he will be a decided acquisition to the capital of Southland.

AWAPUNI MEMORIAL HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

UNVEILING CEREMONY TUESDAY

Symbolised in the unique memorial to be unveiled by the Governor-General at the Awapuni racecourse on Tuesday afternoon are the historical associations of the New Zealand Medical Corps, and the members of that body are commemorated in an obelisk of remarkable design, which has been erected by the Manawatu Racing Club.

Arrangements have been finalised for the dedication ceremony and it is expected that the function will be one of the most notable of its nature which has taken place in the Dominion.

IN ARDUIS , FIDELIS.

“In proud Memory of the Officers and Men of the N.Z. Medical Corps who were trained on these grounds 1914-1918, and who sacrificed their lives for the Empire.”

Thus runs the inscription on the monument, and the ceaseless shower from the cascade which tumbles down the sides of the obelisk will never dim the memory which it keeps in perpetuity. The memorial is in the form of a lakelet in the shape of an ambulance cross, each section being 60 feet long, 20 feet wide, and five feet deep. In the centre of the cross, just above water level, is a concrete platform which carries a cairn of marble 12 feet high, 10 feet square at the base and reduced by sections to one foot square at the top. Through the centre a supply of artesian water runs to the top and falls down the sides in small waterfalls into the water base. A slab with an appropriate inscription is on the side. The cross is outlined with raised flower beds in which red fuchsias are planted, to show up the red cross.

Speakers at the function on Tuesday afternoon will be His Excellency the Governor-General (Sir Charles Fergusson) Bt., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.M., G.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., L.L.D.; Major-General R. Young, C.B., C.M.G., D. S.O.; Colonel R. Tracey-Inglis, C.B.E.; Colonel W. H. Parkes, C.M.G., V.D., C.B.E., and Mr C. Louisson (president of the Manawatu Racing Club).

SURVIVING OFFICERS.

Invitations have been issued to all the surviving officers and men of the New Zealand Medical Corps who received their training or were stationed at Awapuni to attend, and a remarkable gathering is anticipated. Visitors from all parts of the Dominion have signified their intention of being present at what promises to be an unique function, and the ceremony will have all the associations of military tradition. Surviving officers whose names are available, and to whom invitations to be present have been extended are as follow: — Surgeon-General S. Skerman (Wanganui); Colonels R. Tracey-Inglis, C.B.E. (Auckland), E. G. O'Neill, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Dunedin), W. H. Parkes, C.M.G., V.D., C.B.E. (Auckland), P. C. Fenwick, C.M.G. (Christchurch), D. N. W. Murray, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Auckland), H. F. Bernau, O.B.E. (Napier), Hon. W. E. Collins, C.M.G. (Wellington), T. Mill, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Wellington), W. G. Will (Dunedin), D. S. Wylie, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Palmerston North); Lieut-Colonels J. H. Niel, D.S.O. (Auckland), J. L. Frazerhurst (Norsewood), K. McCormack, D.S.O. (Auckland), C. E. Hercus, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Dunedin), C. McB. Dawson (Tonga), R. W. Anderson (Christchurch), Sir Louis E. Barnett, C.M.G. (Dunedin), G. Home, C.B.E. (New Plymouth), **H. J. McLean**, C.B.E. (Wellington), R. H. Makgill, C.B.E. (Auckland), E. E. Porritt (Wanganui), P. B. Benham, M.C. (Pleasant Point), H. H. Cheeseman (Hikuirangi), J. G. Crawford, M.C. (Invercargill), B. J. Dudley (Lower Hutt), P. R. Cook, C.B.E. (Masterton), A. R. Falconer, C.B.E. (Dunedin), J. S. Elliott (Wellington), C. H. Tewsley, C.M.G. (Auckland), J. P. D. Leahy, C.B.E. (Napier), G. Craig, D.S.O. (Morrinsville), C. T. H. Newtown, D.S.O. (Christchurch), R. H. Walton, C.B.E. (Auckland), A. R. D. Carbery, C.B.E. (Wellington), R. N. Guthrie, M.C. (Christchurch), W. C. McCaw (Auckland); Majors R. L. Withers (Kaikoura), F. T. Bowerbank, O.B.E. (Wellington), P. R. Woodhouse, D.S.O., M.C. (Takaka), D. Wilson (Wanganui), I. S. Wilson (Palmerston North), T. McKibbon, C.B.E. (Wellington), G. S. Sharp (Featherston), A. N. McKelvey (Auckland), A. W. Owen-Johnston (Invercargill), H. L. Gould (Auckland), F. J. Borrie (Christchurch), H. R. Gibson (Invercargill), W. D. S. Johnston (Nelson), A. C. McKillop (Christchurch), T. F. Corkill, M.C. (Wellington), S. H. Ward (Whangarei), R. Stout (Wellington), **W. H. Unwin** (Timaru), L. G. Bell (Westland), J. R. Boyd, M.C. (Lower Hutt), J. E. Rogers (Gore), D. F. Myers (Wellington), A. Hosking (Masterton), G. W. Harty (Wellington), W. E. Herbert (Wellington), J. L. Reed (Waipukurau), T. D. M. Stout, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Wellington), H. M. Buchanan, O.B.E. (Hokitika), F. G. Gibson (Christchurch), R. M. Gunn, (Gisborne), F. Cameron, D.S.O. (Feilding), H. Short, O.B.E. (Wellington), J. O'Connor, M.C. (Ashburton), W. Aitken (Christchurch), H. Hardwick-Smith (Wellington), W. N. Abbott, M.C. (Auckland), J. F. Brown (Auckland), D. E. Fenwick, O.B.E., (Wellington), K. F. Gordon, M.C., (Auckland), A. W. Izard, O.B.E., (Wellington), B. C. A. Leeper (Auckland), W. S. Wallis (Rotorua), G. E. O. Fenwick, O.B.E. (Auckland), H. M. Goldstein, M.C. (Auckland), T. Fergus (Dunedin), C. G. Aickin (Auckland), W. S. Robertson (Wellington), R. C. Begg (Wellington), J. W. Williams (Gisborne),

I. E. Faris (Inglewood), F. N. Harvey (paper), R. H. Hogg, O.B.E. (Invercargill), H. W. M. Kendall (Wellington), A. C. Purchas (Auckland), T. R. Ritchie (North Auckland), J. C. Simpson (Ngakawau), E. Teichmann (Hokitika), A. M. Trotter (North Otago); Captains J. J. Eade (Devonport), H. Paterson (Pahiatua), K. McKenzie (Auckland), H. L. H. Steele (Wellington), W. H. Simpson (Wellington), R. G. S. Orbell, M.C. (Oamaru), W. F. Findlay (Wellington), E. D. Aubin (Auckland), J. E. K. Brown (Balclutha), T. G. Gray (Wellington), S. A. Moore (Dunedin), F. D. Pinfold (Hamilton), E. G. Anderson (Wellington), J. L. Will (Christchurch), F. M. Spencer (Hamilton), A. T. McCaw (Invercargill), G. P. Fitzgerald (Dunedin), M. McK. McRae, M.C. (Wellington), S. D. Rhind, M.C. (Wellington), G. B. Isdale (Ngaruawahia), A. D. S. White (Hastings), A. M. Ross (Otahuhu), L. A. Spedding (Auckland), R. C. Brewster, M.C. (New Plymouth), H. Hutson (Waipu), F. W. Kemp, M.C. (Upper Hutt), K. S. Macky (Auckland), C. J. A. Griffin, D.S.O. (Auckland), M. B. M. Tweed (Carterton), J. G. Stewart, M.C. (Milton), R. S. J. Fitzgerald (Oamaru). R. H. Mc. Baxter (Christchurch), B. E. Wright (Wellington), M. G. Louisson (Christchurch), J. N. Edgar (Milton), D. C. Low (Nelson), R. B. Watson (Invercargill), A. H. A. Vivian (Christchurch), A. Wilson (Wanganui), R. M. Wishart (Dunedin), W. Young (Wellington), A. H. Curtis (Otaki), T. Derrick (Wellington) J. D. C. Duncan (Rotorua), A. H. Elmslie (Otago), W. P. P. Gordon (Stratford), T. G. Harpur (Marton). E. C. Hayes (Christchurch), C. E. Howden (Waiuku), J. N. Keith (Nelson), J. Miller (Palmerston North), H. E. Good (Whangarei). W. M. Thompson (Hawera), J. R. Duncan (Christchurch), V. F. Usher (Auckland), E. C. Barnett (Palmerston North), **P. S. Foster** (Christchurch), N. H. Prior (Masterton), A. Bernstein (Morrinsville) D. S. Milne (Otaki), **W. G. Scannell** (Wanganui), T. Harrison (Cromwell), H. L. Widdowson (Christchurch), W. B. O. Ferguson (Arrowtown), W. A. Fairclough (Auckland), W. T. Simmons (Patea), F. L. Scott (Christchurch), A. Kinder (Auckland). A. C. Thomson (Christchurch), J. S. Beedie (Dannevirke), G. N. MacDiarmid (Taihape), G. S. Allen (Auckland), A. W. Hogg, O.B.E. (Wellington), J. A. Marshall (Te Kopuru), T. N. Watt (Opunake), A. D. Nelson, M.C. (Wanganui), A. M. Grant (Auckland), J. A. Pottinger (Invercargill), W. G. Borrie, M.C. (Auckland), **F. F. A. Ulrich** (Timaru), K. Ross (Dunedin), H. B. Ewen (Wellington), E. M. Wyllie (Foxton), G. H. Robertson (Wanganui), G. S. Moore (Auckland), W. W. Moore (Napier), A. S. Morton (Oamaru), F. J. Mulholland (Wellington), H. G. McAllum (Inglewood), W. J. Reid (New Plymouth), A. Robertson (Wellington), C. B. Rossiter (Auckland), I. N. Spedding (Mosgiel), J. Spencer-Daniell (Kaitangata). T. T. Thompson (Amberley) H. M. Hay (Taihape), J. McGhie, M.C. (Hawera), M. M. Earle (Wanganui), A. Kidd (Waipiata), F. W. Lumsden, M.C. (Hanmer), G. W. Russell (Auckland), G. B. Sweet (Auckland), J. M. Hyde (Waihi), B. F. Alfred (Lower Hutt), **P. A. Ardagh**, D.S.O., M.C. (Christchurch), R. D. Barron (Lower Hutt), W. H. Will (Palmerston North), A. L. Singer (Gisborne), J. A. Doctor (Wellington), E. K. Edie (Tokanui), W. H. Davy (Tauranga), W. F. Currie (Nelson), J. R. Wells (Ashburton), D. H.

Bett (Palmerston North), C. A. R. Davies (Manaia), J. D. Marks, M.C. (Christchurch), V. H. Barr (Nelson), C. A. Pemberton (Christchurch), J. A. Jenkins (Dunedin), W. H. D. McKee (Methven), L. H. Whetter (Matakana), T. A. Milroy (Hamilton), G. Walker (Whangarei), J. Reid (Auckland), T. C. Frazer (Hamilton), P. Chisholm (Hanmer), W. S. Baird (Wanganui), W. H. Young (Carterton), M. Ramsay (Kaiapoi), M. M. Hockin (Kaponga), **F. A. Scannell** (Temuka), S. H. Arthur (Wellington), L. C. Mail (Samoa), V. C. MacKnight (Western Samoa); Drs. P. T. Putnam (Palmerston North), F. J. Appelby (Whakatane), A. Cumming (Auckland), L. C. L. Averill (Christchurch), G. H. Thompson (New Plymouth), A. L. Caselburg (Wakefield), **J. A. D. Iverach**, M.C. (Dunedin).

FOUR THOUSAND TRAINEES.

Four thousand members of the New Zealand Medical Corps who participated in the Great War were trained at Awapuni which was a remarkable camp, noted for its cleanliness and discipline. One of the activities of the corps while at Awapuni was the organising of frequent concerts in aid of the Patriotic Society's funds, and the sum of £6500 was raised. Performances were given throughout the district, and as far afield as Napier.

The camp was commenced in September, 1915, when the 12th reinforcements were enrolled. The number that went to Awapuni at that time was 600, comprising four reinforcements and the first Field Ambulance Brigade. The camp commandant was Captain Goldingham, and he was succeeded by Colonel Hardie Neil, Colonel Tracey Inglis, Major Dudley and Colonel Gabites. Lieutenant P. E. Baldwin was adjutant for a number of years.

It was at Awapuni that the first concentration of the Expeditionary Force took place prior to the establishment of the Trentham camp.

HISTORY OF CORPS.

“The origin of the New Zealand Army Medical Service may be traced back to the earliest days of organised settlement in New Zealand,” says Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Carbery, C.B.E., in his work on the activities of the corps during the Great War. “Although the Medical Corps as constituted at the outbreak of war dates only from 1908, a Colonial Medical Corps pre-existed and was in being with unbroken succession from the time when a small body of devoted surgeons attached to militia and volunteer formations in 1845 formed the anlage from which our present corps has evolved.”

Lieut.-Colonel Carbery points out that, as the warlike Maoris were much attached to their ancestral lands and were lacking in a comprehension of the true nature of a land sale, military forces were necessary to protect the settlers. In 1845 three militia regiments were gazetted and surgeons were attached to the formations. In the following year volunteers were organised and several of these regiments had surgeons on their roll. At the commencement of the Taranaki-Waikato war P. M.

O. Mouatt did valuable work in organising the Colonial Medical Service. In 1882 when the defence forces were re-organised ambulance details were organised. In 1888 regulations made it the duty of the senior officer to instruct at least three men per battalion in stretcher drill and field dressing.

Valuable work was done by the medical men during the South African War and several were mentioned in despatches. A period of stagnation followed until in 1905 provision was made for the formation of a corps of officers to be called the New Zealand Medical Corps. The Defence Regulations were amended in 1908 reorganising the corps on R.A.M.C. lines. All officers, non-commissioned officers and men connected with the medical service were for the first time included in the corps.

SHADOW OF WAR.

In the days prior to the Great War there was a regrettable lack of any effort to organise the N.Z.M.C. for war purposes. In 1915 Sir James Allen said: "No steps had been taken to provide a permanent army medical staff or to organise the medical department owing to public outcry against excessive expenditure." However, in one way or another the N.Z.M.C. officers without much encouragement prepared themselves for war.

In an introduction to Lieut.-Colonel Carbery's book Major-General Sir W. G Macpherson, K.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D. refers to the fact that the corps saw service in Samoa in August, 1914. "They shared," he adds, "with the Australians, the immortal fame and glorious record of the Anzac Corps. When they were transferred to the Western Front they were in a position to display their qualities in a still more distinctive manner as units of the New Zealand Division. Their efficiency was a matter of common knowledge, while their devotion to duty and unwavering cheerfulness excited the admiration of those in control. The medical profession responded nobly to the Empire's call. Three hundred and eighty-five doctors and 3248 other ranks embarked for service overseas as did 550 nursing sisters, one of the most poignant memories of whom is the loss of 10 when their transport was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea." After paying a tribute to the organisation of the corps, General Macpherson states: "During the battles of Messines and Ypres, in 1917, for example, the arrangements of the corps for the collection and evacuation of wounded were regarded as historically instructive on account of the careful manner in which details were prepared beforehand."

Press. 15 June 1936 (Papers Past) [26/05/2016]

OBITUARY
MR R. F. FOSTER

The death occurred in Christchurch recently of Mr Robert Francis Foster at the age of 82. Mr Foster, who is the father of Dr. P. Stanley Foster, was an early arrival in New Zealand, and as a business man in Dunedin was well known throughout the Dominion.

Born in Deal, Kent, England, in 1854, Mr Foster travelled with his parents to New Zealand at the age of seven years. He lived with his parents at Timaru for some years, later going to Dunedin, where he soon became prominent in the business world. Mr Foster remained in Dunedin until after his retirement 10 years ago, later going to Napier. He came to Christchurch in 1931 and resided here until his death. Mr Foster had been in failing health for some time.

He married Miss Kitty Margaret Carpenter, of Dunedin. There were five sons and two daughters. Those at present living in New Zealand are Mrs Leyden Baker, Mrs Emily Morris, and Dr. P. Stanley Foster, all of Christchurch. Mr H. C. Foster, of Waimate, and Mr W. T. Foster, of Napier.

Mr Foster was keenly interested in music and was well known in Dunedin music circles, being for a great many years a member of the Dunedin Choral Society. He was a keen sportsman, playing cricket in his earlier years, and later giving much of his time in umpiring Dunedin games.

Timaru Herald. 16 June 1936 (Papers Past) [12/04/2023]

OBITUARY
MR R. F. FOSTER

A prominent musician in Timaru about 40 years ago, Mr Robert Francis Foster died in Christchurch recently at the age of 82. He was an early arrival in New Zealand and as a businessman in Dunedin for many years he was well known throughout the Dominion.

Born in Deal, Kent, England, in 1854, Mr Foster travelled with his parents to New Zealand at the age of seven years. He resided in Timaru for several years and was a partner in the firm of Cowan and Foster. Always a keen musician, Mr Foster was one of the founders of the Timaru Liedertafel, Messrs J. W. Holdgate and C. S. Fraser of Timaru being the only two surviving foundation members. He was a member of the Waimataitai School Committee and was keenly interested in sport, especially cricket, which he played with success. Mr Foster left later for Dunedin, where he soon became prominent in the business world. He remained in Dunedin until after his retirement 10 years ago, later going to Napier. While in Dunedin Mr Foster retained his interest in music and was for a considerable time a member of the Dunedin Choral Society. He was also a keen cricketer and in later years he

gave much of his time in umpiring Dunedin games. He left Napier for Christchurch in 1931 and resided there until the time of his death. He had been in failing health for some time.

Mr Foster was married in Timaru to Miss Kitty Margaret Carpenter of Dunedin. There were five sons and two daughters. Those at present living in New Zealand are Mrs Leyden Baker, Mrs Emily Morris, and Dr. P. Stanley Foster, all of Christchurch, Mr H. C. Foster, of Waimate, and Mr W. T. Foster, of Napier.

Who' Who in NZ, 1938

FOSTER, Philip Stanley.

M.B., Ch.B. (N.Z.); L.R.C.P. (Lond.); F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. Surgeon consultant. Member, North Canterbury Hospital Board Born: Timaru, N.Z., 4th April, 1885. Son of Robert Francis Foster, of Kent, England; and Kitty Margaret Foster, of London, Eng. Educated: Wanganui College, Otago Boys' High School; Otago University, London Hospital. Junior University Scholar, 1903. Senior Surgeon, Honorary Staff, Christchurch Hospital since 1914; Member, N.Z. Medical Council. President, Christchurch Rotary Club, 1927-28; District Governor for N.Z. Rotary, 1935-36. Author of following works: Various contributions to Medical and Surgical Journals. Served as Captain with N.Z.M.C., 1916-1917. Married: Florence Harriet, daughter of J. Chisholm of Wellington, 28th Dec., 1914. Issue: Three daughters. Member, Canterbury Club; President, Chch. Liedertafel; Vice-President, Christchurch Golf Club; Pres., Canterbury Branch, Royal Empire Society. Recreations: Cricket (Represented Otago, Canterbury and Wellington provinces); golf and music. Creed: Anglican. Home address: 399 Papanui Rd., Christchurch, New Zealand.

