

Women Doctors at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Notes from GRH Minute Books

Newspaper cuttings volume, Gloucester Royal Hospital, HO 19/56/2

HO19/1/33 minutes for GRH 1942-1945

HO19/1/34 Minutes for GRH 1945-1948

HO19/1/32 Minutes for GRH 1939-1942

Kelly's *Directory* of 1923 for Gloucestershire shows that from approx. 200 doctors listed, only two were women.

In **November 1942**, a letter was received from the dept of Public Health, Bristol offering to supply American Women Practitioners of the Senior and Junior House Officer type for service in the hospital. The board replied that they were not needed at present but in future may be glad of them if working at capacity owing to air-raid or battle casualties. However, they would have to make their own arrangements for accommodation.

At the meeting on **11th February 1943**, it was decided that the board were not 'desirous' of receiving applications from women for the post of Secretary (*for the hospital*)

In **April 1943**, the assistant masseuse, Miss Price, who was about to be married, requests to be able to continue her employment after her marriage; the board agreed to this.

By **November 1943** the Medical Board recommended that Dr Enid M Browne MRCS LRCP be appointed temporary anaesthetist in place of J Neill who had joined the services. 'The honorarium of £100pa to be paid, provided arrangements can be made for adequate services to be given by Dr Browne'

By **March 1944**, Dr Elizabeth Robinson of the General Hospital, Bristol who qualified in Dublin in June 1943 will take up the post of House Physician. She will replace Dr Carey who has resigned due to ill health – TB.

In **April 1944** Dr Flora MaCauley had been appointed House Surgeon.

By **July 1944** it was reported that a Miss J Mandelstan, a fourth year medical student would report for duty on 7th August.

In **August 1944**, a staff nurse soon to be married requested to remain on the staff but live out; the board approved this.

In **January 1945** approval was given for the appointment of Dr Elizabeth R Mitchell as House Surgeon to the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

In **March 1948**, a female doctor, Hilda M Jones had been appointed to the post of casualty officer. This would be a six-month post; salary £250 resident.