Finding gold in Ballarat’s Medical History.

Gemma Siemensma, Library Manager
During the gold rush of the 1850s the Government Camp provided medical support but mainly for officers and not for miners and the general community.

Those wounded at the Eureka Stockade in 1854 received varying attention and the need for a hospital became apparent.

A year later building of a hospital commenced…
"The Miners’ Hospital” as it appeared in 1859, after the 1856 Hospital had been extended.”  

Taken from:  
Ballarat and District Base Hospital Incorporated.  
100 years of Service: Centenary Souvenir 1856-1956.
The Ballarat & District Base Hospital, 1956.

Taken from:
Ballarat and District Base Hospital Incorporated. 100 years of Service: Centenary Souvenir 1856-1956.
Ballarat District Hospital
Ballarat and District Base Hospital
Ballarat Base Hospital
Ballarat Health Services
“Queen Victoria Building (Present Wards 5 and 7).”

(Caption)

Taken from:
Ballarat and District Base Hospital Incorporated. 100 years of Service: Centenary Souvenir 1856-1956.
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum
Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre
Queen Elizabeth Centre.
Ballarat Asylum
Ballarat Hospital for the Insane
Lakeside Psychiatric Hospital
A repository for all things historical…

“TEN TONS OF WOOD is used daily to provide Steam or Cooking, Sterilizing, Laundry Work and also for Hot Water Supply”  (Caption)

“Our inmates are of all ages, the youngest is seventeen, the eldest is now 100 years. Old and infirm people of many nationalities find a haven in this Home ... Any person really in need of the service provided is welcomed and neither, colour, nationality, religion nor political belief will debar them.”

“The outstanding event of Ballarat’s early history was the Eureka riot, and an important medical event was the amputation of Lalor’s left arm. This was performed at the residence of a priest by Dr. Tim Doyle (ex Kilkenny) who arrived in Ballarat 1853, where he practised till his early death in 1858. He was assisted by three other doctors, all protestants, while Doyle was a Catholic. This ecumenical collaboration was rare in the 19th century and was a tribute to the high standing of Lalor in the community. “


Image of Peter Lalor taken from the La Trobe Picture Collection. State Library of Victoria.
Earliest known caesarean section .... performed at the Ballarat District Hospital, June 4th, 1872.

Note: “She was discharged, cured, at the end of six weeks ... I have seen her several times since, and she is in perfect health.”
“During the month of October, 1887, the honorary medical and surgical staff advocated the desirability of gradually introducing a system of female nurses throughout the hospital, in place of wardsmen ... certain natural prejudices as regards patients treated, have to be encountered, and gradually surmounted. It is, however, quite natural to image that the change will be for the better, as we have all read that “when pain and anguish wring the brow” the ministering angel should be a woman.”

Article reporting on an Annual Meeting on introducing nursing training and female nurses to replace male wardsmen. ‘Ballarat District Hospital.’ (1888) The Ballarat Star Fri 27 Jul 1888
Queen Elizabeth Benevolent Home

“an artists drawing which was widely circulated during last years Radio Appeal”
(Caption)

“In the previous annual report reference was made to the forthcoming Radio Appeal, sponsored by the Managing Directs and Directors of 3BA, Ballarat … The appeal was most successful, the final returns being twelve thousand and forty-six pounds, and sixteen shillings. “

Taken from: The Ballarat and District Base Hospital: Ninty-fifth Annual Report 1951-1952.
“In One Year: Statistics for 12 months
1/7/73 to 30/6/74 (black figures)
1/7/63 to 30/6/64 (red figures)”

Taken from:
Bandage rolling machine and ward lantern
Thank you

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