

# GLASGOW HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL

## Origins of the Hospital - background by Steven Kayne

**A** homoeopathic dispensary was opened in Glasgow around 1880 by a group of Doctors, but after a few years of good work, closed down through lack of funds. Subsequently a consulting room was set up in 1909 by Dr RG Miller, following his return from tutelage under Dr Kent in Chicago, but this also closed for a very different reason - Dr Miller could not cope with the demand! Some five years later a house on Lynedoch Crescent having been purchased with a legacy from Miss Houldsworth of Ayr, the Houldsworth Homoeopathic Hospital opened with twelve beds and four cots. A further generous legacy from the Houldsworth family enabled the inauguration of a much larger facility in Great Western Road in 1931, then known as the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital. When the Lynedoch Crescent building

was vacated by the hospital it became an extremely busy out patients' clinic, serving the community for over fifty years until its services were transferred to Great Western Road in 1987.

Despite plans for a substantial new hospital in 1938, interrupted by World War II, and a rather more modest version in 1991, the hospital and outpatient clinics still function in the building today.

In 1921 Mr and Mrs Fyfe gifted the Homoeopathic Children's Hospital on the east side of the city; this closed in 1987, ostensibly because of falling demand, and an out patient clinic was set up at a Health Centre in nearby Baillieston. Although threatened with closure earlier this year, the clinic is still functioning. However, its future is rather uncertain.

**Enid Segall continues the analysis of the hospital with details of her visit there in June.**

With the NAHAT Conference taking place in Glasgow this year, I was able to visit the Homoeopathic Hospital on the Great Western Road at long last. The hospital also houses the Academic Department of Homoeopathic Medicine and Hom-Inform, the Homoeopathic Library Information Service, which is part of The British Homoeopathic Library, ably run by Mary Gooch.

The Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital has a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Although it is by no means new, it has style and grace with the polished, wooden handrail on the central staircase gleaming warmly and the light above it filtering through stained glass panels. Small, but busy, the hospital has 20 in-patient beds, offering a homoeopathic service seven days a week; a rarity in homoeopathy nowadays.

### Description of Services

The hospital serves as a centre for the integration of complementary and orthodox medicinal treatments. A whole person approach is central, and the skills of an inter-professional team - medical, nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy - combine



*Left: Dr David Reilly, Consultant Physician at the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital*

*Photo: Enid Segall*

to assess the need for complementary and/or orthodox treatments, addressing both the complaint and its impact on the patient. If needed, a full range of conventional specialist opinions and investigations are available through the Western/Gartnavel Unit. In addition to conventional medical practice, therapies including manipulation, Neural therapy, Relaxation training/Hypnosis, Aromatherapy and Dietary/Nutritional advice.

#### **In-patients**

In patients service include acute admissions (so long as intensive care surgery is not indicated), the assessment of complex cases, terminal care, rehabilitation and palliation. There were 698 admissions in 1992, 117% up on 1987.

A recent audit of in-patient care showed that the vast majority were referred after the indicated orthodox treatment had either failed or plateaued in its effects: 97% had seen another specialist for the presenting complaint, and over 68% had been hospitalised at some point for the presenting complaint. Yet over 60% said the presenting complaint was improved by the treatment to a degree that made a significant change in daily living, and over 70% said the same about their general well-being and mood.

#### **Out-patients**

There are currently 60 out-patient clinics each week, located in the hospital and at a satellite clinic in Baillieston. Clinics are also supplied to Glasgow Royal Infirmary: the Pain Relief Clinic and University Department of Medicine General Medical Clinic. The overall referral rate to the service has been rising (the demand in 1991 was 44% up on 5 years before), and is averaging around 230 patients per month.

#### **Waiting Times:**

All referrals are screened: *urgent* cases are seen within the week,

those classified as '*soon*' are seen within 6 weeks, while '*routine*' out-patients are currently waiting several months. Proposals to reduce waiting times have been submitted to all purchasing Health Boards.

Lunching with Dr David Reilly, Consultant Physician in Charge, he told me of his vision for homoeopathy in the future; the success of the Glasgow Faculty's teaching programme, the long hoped-for purpose built hospital and education centre and life in general. He is particularly pleased with the new Primary Health Care certificate which has been introduced at the end of the first year of study. A two year follow-up study after this course showed that 78% of GPs were still using homoeopathy integrated with their Health Practice.

**Dr Reilly is a very dedicated healer and his research papers have been well received. His next piece of research is being supported by the BHA, and members will have the opportunity to hear him in London at our AGM on October 2nd. An opportunity too good to miss, his title being 'Homoeopathy - the vision for the future.'**

**The Library and Hom-inform Service** The librarian, Mary Gooch, has visited the Burford Library on several occasions but I had never been able to repay the compliment. Contained in what used to be the operating theatre, the library is a hive of activity with fax machines and computers squeezed into the already crowded space. Good organisation helps them keep on top of the problem. Mary showed me round, giving generously of her time and expertise. I was particularly interested to learn more about HOM-INFORM which is an information service for research workers, doctors, librarians, all practitioners and students of homoeopathy. While the BHA's Burford Library keeps contact with the Glasgow library, we do not have the same database facilities on offer. Everything is indexed on computer - Mary demonstrated the system by accessing my articles for HOMOEOPATHY on her computer. Was I impressed? You bet! *BHA*

*Below: Mary Gooch, the Glasgow Faculty Librarian.*

*Photo: Euid Segall*

