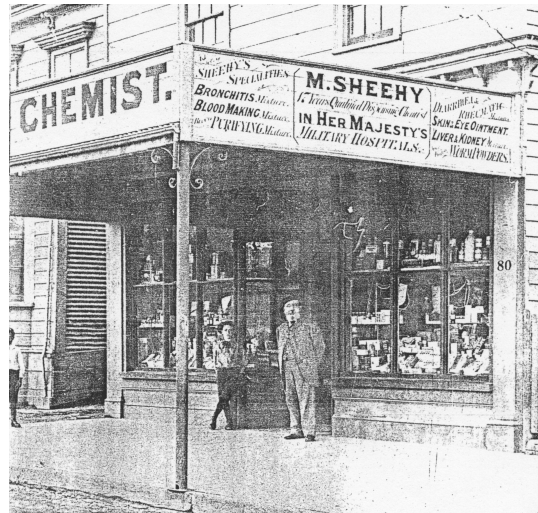**Margaret Sheehy**

b. Co. Cork, Ireland ~ 1862                              d. Melbourne 16 Mar 1897

From 1882, Margaret's father Michael ran a pharmacy at 80 Courtney Place (where the Reading Cinema complex is now located).



Margaret began work at Wellington Hospital in June 1884, as Nurse Dispenser, the first female to occupy this position.



Dr Grabham, Inspector of Hospitals, reporting in 1885 stated "I found the dispensing done by a female nurse under the supervision of the Medical Superintendent and I am satisfied after examining her she is competent for this duty and the knowledge which she has gained of drugs and their uses is very creditable to her."

In September 1885 she was dismissed, not because of anything unsatisfactory about performing her duties, but because she was one of several staff who signed a letter of protest and calling for the dismissal of the Matron.

In 1888 she was appointed Dispenser at Auckland Hospital on a salary of £45 pa. She resigned from that position in May 1889 to take up the position of Matron, Thames Hospital @ £70 pa. She resigned from that post on 1 September 1890.

She moved to Westland where she was Matron at Kumara Hospital.

Margaret subsequently moved to Melbourne where she was Matron at the Stawell Hospital and Benevolent Asylum, remaining there until her tragic death from severe injuries sustained in an accident whilst riding a bicycle downhill and losing control.