

## **The 'Tin Shed'**

This building was erected in 1893 as 'temporary' accommodation for typhoid cases. An outbreak of the disease had hit Wellington, and corrugated iron was chosen as the building material to enable a rapid completion. In 1895 it was converted into an Outpatient Department to relieve the congestion in the main entrance block. By 1900, patient accommodation in the hospital was generally at a premium and the Medical Superintendent, Dr Ewart recommended that the Tin Shed be used for housing paediatric patients, thus freeing up the original Children's ward on the ground floor of the 'Matron's Block'.

By 1903 however, it was used again as a Fever Ward. At this time infectious fevers were a major problem for the hospital and conditions in the Tin Shed were not ideal. In 1910, it was emptied out of patients with all varieties of infectious fevers, vigorously cleaned and fumigated, and made ready as a Diphtheria Ward.

In 1912, a plan was put forward to use the Tin Shed as the hospital's first Maternity Ward. However, the Public Health Department decreed that it was unsuitable for this use as it was 'structurally ineffective'. In 1914 it was proposed to use the ward for delirium tremens cases. In the interim however there was an outbreak of infantile paralysis in Wellington, and the Tin Shed housed such patients.

After the infantile paralysis epidemic subsided, the ward was once again made ready for DT patients.

Cases of diphtheria were on the increase in 1919, and consideration was again given to housing such patients. This did not happen as by now a new Fever Hospital was opened on the top of the hill behind the hospital.

In 1928, with the arrival of the first nursing school tutor, the Tin Shed was used temporarily as a home for the new Preliminary School, before it was moved to a single-story white building nearer the Victoria Wards.

The final role for the Tin Shed was to house a VD clinic and this use continued until the late 1930s when the building was demolished. On that site would be erected Ward 20 in the early 1940s.