



HAGLEY MEDICAL PRACTICE 1926-1999

The Medical Practice in Hagley was originally founded by Dr. J. Millar Smith in 1926.

Prior to this, medical cover was given by Dr. Dudley of Stourbridge or Dr. C. Hicks of Clent. They both held surgeries on two or three days per week.

I believe Dr. Millar Smith started his practice in Station Road and then moved to the "The Ferns," 92 Worcester Road. The doctor's house was where Kings store is now and the surgery was where the shoe repairer's premises are. He had an assistant for a short time, a Dr. A. K. Hill, who qualified at Glasgow University. He lived in Station Road.

Dr. Gosling purchased the practice from Dr. Millar Smith in 1948 just prior to the start of the National Health Service. In 1954, he took in an assistant Dr. James who was the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Allen of the Old Rectory. When he left, Dr. Gosling was joined by Dr. B. Hansell in 1956. He was a graduate of Birmingham University qualifying in 1955.

Dr. Gosling decided to quit the National Health Service in 1960 and emigrated to Australia where he continued to practice, at one time in Canberra and eventually in a remote village in the "bush" in Victoria.

Dr. Hansell then inherited the practice in 1960 and had two assistants for short periods, Dr. Mike Howard in 1960 and Dr. Tony Wood in 1961.

I joined Dr. Hansell in the Autumn of 1963 following my service in the RAMC mainly in the Far East.

We left the old surgery at 92 Worcester Road in December 1963 to move into the new purpose built surgery at 74A Worcester Road. At this time, the building was ahead of its time and visited by the Worcester Executive Council. Mr. Packwood the Dentist occupied the top floor. Mrs. Myers, the Practice Nurse, moved with us from 92 and was joined by a part-time receptionist for the first time.

The following year we amalgamated with Dr. Hicks who was nearing retirement age. In 1969 Dr. Hicks took in Dr. B. Coope as a partner. Dr. Hicks retired in 1973 and Dr. Coope decided she did not want to attend the Hagley surgery and she moved her practice to Belbroughton.

As it was clear that the two practices would not become fully integrated, Dr. Yorke Williams joined us at Hagley as an assistant in 1980. This followed his retirement from his practice in Stourbridge.

In 1986/7, the two practices separated completely, although continued an "out of hours" arrangement. At this time Dr. J. N. Hyde joined us as a partner and Dr. Williams retired completely.

The next move was the retirement of Dr. B. Hansell in September 1991. The Practice took in a new partner in November 1991 - Dr. D. Richards.

In September 1994, I decided to take partial retirement and became a part-time partner. This enabled the practice to add a further partner Dr. L. Evans. This was necessary to give the practice a more balanced outlook employing a female doctor.

During the next transitional period the practice became fundholding. This resulted in a vast increase in staff numbers. Manager, Secretary, fundholding staff to "manage" the business side of a modern general practice.

The practice rapidly outgrew the present building in spite of now occupying both floors.

A search is now on for a new purpose built surgery to accommodate ancillary staff, physiotherapist etc. A possible site has been agreed following protracted negotiations with the local Parish Council.

There are rapid changes in general practice with the new government and I decided to retire completely as from the end of June 1999.

A new young doctor has stepped in to continue this caring tradition, Dr. T. Heywood.

I wish them all the best of luck for the New Millennium.

V. Ross Taylor