

CONTENTS OF A NEUROLOGIST'S BRIEFCASE

Used by Dr Keith Eyre at Auckland Hospital

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- Drug Interaction Alert 5
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- Pupillometers
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- Culture Swabs
- Packet of Tissues
- Height Tape Measure
- Spare Corks & Pins

DR KEITH EYRE - A NEUROLOGIST'S BRIEFCASE

Keith Eyre was an astute, well-informed and highly respected neurologist at Auckland Hospital from 1958 to 1991. He appeared on ward rounds immaculately attired in suit and bow tie. He believed in the importance of obtaining the history and examining the patient himself, never taking anything for granted. His bedside examinations were meticulous, methodical and painstaking. He carried his own examination equipment with him in a suitcase. Some of the items in his examination bag are displayed here.

Keith Eyre was born in 1926 in Sydney. He came to New Zealand with his parents when he was 7 years old. Following secondary schooling at Sacred Heart College he went to Dunedin and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1950 with distinction in medicine. He was a resident medical officer and medical registrar with the Auckland Hospital Board from 1950 to 1953. After winning a Fulbright Travel Grant he trained in neurology at the Mayo Clinic 1954-57 and then the National Hospital, Queen Square 1957-58. In 1958 he graduated with an M.D. for research into the neurophysiology of the visual system of the rabbit. In the same year he was appointed to the visiting specialist staff at Auckland Hospital, where he and Gavin Glasgow established a neurology department in 1959. Eyre had a busy private practice in Symonds Street and later Remuera Road and Manukau Road. He was the President of the Neurological Association of NZ and held many senior positions in the Medical Association of NZ. He was often called upon to give expert neurological opinions in medico-legal cases. One of his daughters, Janet, followed him into medicine and in 1979 she was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and graduated D. Phil. from Oxford. She is the Professor of Paediatric Neuroscience at Newcastle University, England.

NEUROLOGY - List of Objects on Display

All objects are from Dr Keith Eyre's Briefcase except those stated

1. PHRENOLOGY HEAD - Reproduction Ernest & Marion Davis Library Collection
2. AMA READING CARD
3. REACTION TIME TESTER
4. TEST TYPES
5. COLOUR BLINDNESS TEST
6. PLASTIC 'E', for visual testing
7. GONIOMETER, for joint angle measurement
8. REDUCED SNELLEN TEST TYPE
9. GAVIN GLASGOW'S REFLEX HAMMER Donated by Dr Neil Anderson
10. BARANY'S NOISE BOX, for hearing test
11. EYE TESTING FRAMES
12. STETHOSCOPE
13. OPHTHALMOSCOPE
14. JOURNAL REPRINTS by Jock Caughey, 1958 Ernest & Marion Davis Library Archives
15. BRIEFCASE
16. DOUBLE-ENDED EYE TESTER
17. EYE TESTER
18. PERIMETER & SCOTOMA CHARTS
19. SENSE OF SMELL TEST POTS
20. SPHYGMOMANOMETER
21. STOP WATCH

22. **TWINLITE**, for oral examination
23. **REFLEX HAMMER** - Mayo Clinic
24. **TUNING FORK**, for hearing test
25. **PAINT BRUSH**, for touch sensation
26. **PINWHEEL**, for touch sensation
27. **HAT PIN** - in cork, for touch sensation
28. **CHILD'S EYE SHIELD & PICTURE CARDS**
29. **HEIGHT MEASURE**
30. **ANTIBIOTIC POLICY** - Auckland Hospital, 1985
31. **EYE DROPS**
32. **OPHTHALMOSCOPE/AUROSOCPE & EAR TIPS**
33. **PERIMETER CHARTS**
34. **OCULAR PRESSURE GAUGE**
35. **TEST TYPES**
36. **BOOKLET 'THE REVISED SHERIDAN GARDINER TEST'**

PHOTOS FROM TOP: -

ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY - OTAGO MED. SCHOOL, 1947

BACK: David Cole, Jack Saunders & Unknown

2nd ROW: Deryk Gallagher, Jack Sinclair, Gavin Glasgow, Unknown, Unknown

3rd ROW: Mary Hanafin, Unknown, Unknown, Marianne Fillenz, Unknown

FRONT: Unknown, Unknown, Bill Adams, Jack Eccles, Norman Edson, Unknown

SYMONDS' LAST WARD ROUND

Dr Glasgow with Sir Charles Symonds at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London. Symonds was one of the leading Neurologists in the world & Glasgow was his last house physician.

Photos supplied by Dr Neil Anderson

BOOKS ON DISPLAY: - (from top)

'DISEASES OF THE BRAIN' by W. R. Gowers - 1885

'THE BRAIN AS AN ORGAN OF MIND' by H. Charlton Bastian - 1880

'THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF THE HUMAN BODY' by Charles Bell - 1833

'DYSTROPHIA MYOTONICA AND RELATED DISORDERS'

By J. E. Caughey and N. C. Myriantopoulos - 1991

'THE THOMSENS DISEASE - MYOTONIA' by William Erb - 1965

NEUROSURGERY AT AUCKLAND HOSPITAL

Until 1935 the general surgeons carried out surgery for head trauma, but other neurosurgical operations were usually performed by Sir Carrick Robertson. Robertson was a general surgeon, but he had a special interest in neurosurgery. He was one of New Zealand's leading surgeons. He was a technically brilliant operator and he performed a variety of neurosurgical operations including pituitary operations and operations on tumours.

Robertson was due to retire in 1937 and one of the other surgeons at Auckland Hospital, Mr Hardie Neil, persuaded a surgical colleague, Donald McKenzie (b. 1902) to train in neurosurgery. McKenzie was born in Australia. He graduated from the Otago Medical School. He had spent four years training in general surgery in England. In 1937 McKenzie spent 9 months training in neurosurgery with Howard C. Naffziger in San Francisco. On returning to Auckland he continued to work as a general surgeon but he carried out most of the neurosurgical operations after Robertson retired. McKenzie acquired further experience in neurosurgery in WWII when he was seconded to the RAMC Mobile Neurosurgical Unit in the Middle East. Before he returned to NZ in 1944 he worked for brief periods in neurosurgical units in Great Britain. On returning to Auckland he set out to establish a neurosurgical unit at Auckland Hospital. In 1946 McKenzie was appointed Senior Part-time Stipendiary Neurosurgeon and the first operation in the new neurosurgical unit was performed on 9th July 1946. McKenzie was assisted by scrub nurse Marge Noonan and the anaesthetist was Dr Paddy McDonald. At first the neurosurgical unit was in the old Costley Block, but in 1949 it moved to Ward 33 in the Domain Block. A diagnostic x-ray unit was established adjacent to the neurosurgical operating theatre and in 1951 Dr Stephen Moor, an extremely skilful neuroradiologist, was appointed as full-time radiologist.

In 1948 David Robertson, Sir Carrick Robertson's son, was appointed as a full-time neurosurgical assistant. Robertson's experience in neurosurgery was limited and in 1950 he spent 12 months training in neurosurgery in Sir Geoffrey Jefferson's department at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1955 Mr Philip Wrightson joined the neurosurgical unit.

In the 1950s the absence of a neurologist at Auckland Hospital meant that McKenzie assumed control of virtually matters related to neurology, neurosurgery and neuroradiology at Auckland Hospital. The appointment of Gavin Glasgow (in 1956) and Keith Eyre (in 1958) challenged McKenzie's control over neurological problems and he tried to interfere in their clinical activities. McKenzie refused to comply with directives from the Auckland Hospital Board and the Board terminated his contract in 1961. In the later 1960s Robertson and Macdonald were joined by Graeme MacDonald.