

Stonehouse Hospital Welfare Auxiliary Association is the subject of this two part article by Jean T. Leishman. The Association was formed in 1951 as a memorial to the late Rev. G. Renton Brown, Stonehouse Congregational Church minister from 1948 to 1951 and a man who gave great service at the hospital.

and television sets, some day rooms had been furnished and the innovation of bed curtains provided patients with the utmost — privacy, which to them was an undoubted boon.

For some years before the present Canteen and Shop was built — and during the long period of time in bringing this project to fruition — weekend catering for visitors was started in the Out-Patients' Dept., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, in the summer of 1961.

Duties were carried out by ladies from Strathaven Inner Wheel, W.R.V.S. and W.R.I. organisations from Larkhall, Gilmourton, Chapelton and Stonehouse and by members of the Local Boy Scouts' Parents' Committee.

This voluntary service, greatly welcomed and appreciated by the Association spurred on developments towards the dream of Canteen, Shop, and Trolley Service to the Wards the Committee had in mind.

More extensive fund-raising ideas were put into operation and Whist Drives, Coffee Mornings, Dog Shows and Dog Obedience Displays, as well as Christmas Appeals, were generously supported.

The response was magnificent and greatly augmented by donations from the charity funds of employees in various Lanarkshire firms.

It was a red letter day at the hospital in August 1964 when the Canteen and Shop opened for business. Costing £10,000, the Auxiliary Association donated £4000 and the balance was paid by the Board of Management Endowments Fund.

RESPONSE

The Canteen opens seven days per week and the permanent staff include the Manageress, three part-time counter-helpers, and one domestic.

Yeoman service is given by volunteers from 25 organisations who come from Larkhall, Strathaven, Glassford, Chapelton, Drumclog and the Diocese of Motherwell, as well as local organisations.

The average attendance for each group who report for duty on their respective weeks, is twice per year as well as the "stand-bys" — those outwith any organisation willing to give of their services.

Without the willing help and assistance of these faithful workers, the Canteen and shop would not be able to contribute their profits to the funds of the Welfare Association, or patients enjoy to the fullest measure the Trolley Service given throughout the hospital wards. Officials

warmly applaud the unstinted services of the ladies who help in this work.

TREMENDOUS

The Association has, during the years, paid for a tremendous and varied amount of equipment. Film projectors, hiring of films, radiograms and special furniture to wards, including the children's wards.

The Association is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the donated equipment.

A relay radio system with a choice of two programmes to all wards by bed earphones was installed in the early stages and telephone trolleys for ward patients are a constant blessing.

Television sets have been provided in all wards on many of which the sound has been connected to the existing bed earphones. Stonehouse Hospital Welfare Auxiliary Association was first in the West of Scotland to introduce this innovation.

The installation and maintenance of this system absorbs the largest portion of the annual expenditure. Apparatus and sets are constantly being kept up-to-date. Services of Hamilton Round Table must receive recognition for their undertaking over a number of years of record request programmes relayed throughout the hospital from the monitor set in Ward 6.

COMFORTS

Other comforts provided are electric razors, hair dryers, and garden seats. Through the auspices of the Board of Management and the Welfare Association-colour television has recently been installed in the resident Doctors' and Nurses' Homes.

The major object in hand at the moment is to provide up-to-date radio reception at ward level, including re-wiring and supplying earphones, and also to supply to certain wards television sound on earphones.

Cost of this work totals thousands of pounds and the Association, confident that the wherewithal will be supplied, are proceeding with the scheme.

Collection boxes are placed in a number of shops and licensed premises in Strathaven, Larkhall and Stonehouse, and Christmas appeal donations have helped to augment the present funds.

Annual dinner-dances have been the public attraction since 1965, and this year's event will take place in Motherwell on February 20. It is anticipated that approximately 250 people will attend this function.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

late Miss Lauder rendered valuable services to the Committee.

The Garden Fete, usually held in September, was certainly the talk in the village. Strathaven, also, was deeply involved. The outstanding year was 1963 when almost £1400 was raised.

The home baking stall was stocked and "manned" by the Women's organisations of the three local churches, raising over £144.

The bottle stall, organised by Glassford W.R.I., exceeded £65.

RESPONSIBLE

The Townswomen's Guild of Strathaven, responsible for the "White Elephant Stall" cleared it with almost £75 while Strathaven W.R.V.S. supplied sweets to the sum of £100. Youth organisations had also a part to play in this function and the Boy Scouts' Parents' Groups of Strathaven and Stonehouse worked like trojans serving teas to a value exceeding £144.

Farm produce stall organised by Mrs Naismith, Glassford Bridge, realised £155.

Topping all other stalls was Soft Goods, organised by Mrs Pettigrew (wife of the Medical Superintendent). This exceeded £362.

The nursing staff, represented by Sister J. N. Wood (recently retired) did a roaring trade in ices and soft-drinks, raising close on £85, while Nurses' 1/- parcels realised £50.

Through substantial income such as these Annual Fetes, the Association could undertake large scale innovations and obtain many luxury items for patients' comfort and entertainment.

To these large proceeds, were constantly added donations from public funds, firms within the area, and individuals, who, through a term in hospital acknowledged in a tangible way their appreciation and gratitude for services received and enjoyed.

MAJOR

One of the major projects at that time was the erection of a Canteen and Shop in the hospital grounds, to serve the needs of patients, visitors, and staff.

Many of the wards had already been fitted with radio