

Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook

OPENING AND DEDICATION

The Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook has been erected by the Bush Church Aid Society as a memorial to the late Bishop S. J. Kirkby, first organising missionary of the State from 1920-32, and Co-adjutor Bishop of Sydney, 1932-35.

Saturday's train from the east brought a very distinguished personage in Dr. Mowll, Archbishop of Sydney, to perform the opening and dedication ceremony of the hospital.

His Grace was met on arrival at the station by Rev. Tom Jones, organising missionary, and Dr. Roy Gibson, of Ceduna.

Journeying to the hospital soon after, His Grace was welcomed by the Cook Hospital Committee, of which Mr Bruce Woodward is president, Revs H Broadley (Ceduna), A H Constable (Melbourne), E V. Coustable (Penong), and Sisters Dawking (Ceduna) and Gosling (Cook). The Rev. R. B. Robinson was chaplain to His Grace.

Every adult person in Cook was present when the Doxology was sung at the commencement of the ceremony. St Matthew 9:14v. was taken as a very appropriate lesson, and read by the Rev. R. B. Robinson. Rev. E. V. Constable then participated by reading some very fitting lines.

The dedication ceremony was then performed by His Grace, who unveiled a very striking tablet.

Some very eulogistic remarks were made by His Grace on the wonderful work which Bishop Kirkby had done throughout his life. The love of God and His people, especially

of God and His people, especially those of the lonely outback who are often compelled to travel long journeys to receive medical aid, impelled Bishop Kirkby to help those who were so far from civilisation. In many outback places these tributes to the memory of Bishop Kirkby were apparent, and the people of Cook were blessed by having one at their disposal.

The organising of the ceremony was in the very capable hands of the Rev. Tom Jones.

After the ceremony, supper was partaken of in the local hall, of which the ladies of the town had, with the use of gum leaves, geraniums, paper flowers and streamers and pot ferns, transferred into a veritable garden.

His Grace occupied the central seat at the main table, at which Mr Bruce Woodward was chairman.

In opening his address, Mr Woodward said that the people of Cook, and also the people along the line, who would use the hospital, were proud and honored to have His Grace in their midst, one who had travelled hundreds of miles to be present to dedicate the hospital which was so badly needed. Mothers felt more satisfied now, as often sickness in the family entailed much travelling and expense.

Mr J. Rice apologised for the absence of Mr Gahan, the Commissioner of Railways, who was unable to make the journey.

The P.M.G.'s department, who supply the lighting to the hospital, has promised, through Mr T. Henry, to do all in its power to help the hospital in any way possible.

Now that the hospital has been opened, Rev. T. Jones stated facts, not previously known, that were of interest to those present. The total cost of the building was £3,587, and furnishings and equipment £300. Most of this was given by firms and various people throughout the continent. Much must be said of the

various people throughout the continent. Much must be said of the sisters, who came to the outback places to care of the sick. Mr Jones said they did not come for monetary gain, as their wages were not high; they came for the love of the work by doing all they can to alleviate the suffering. He appealed to all concerned to co-operate and make their task as light as possible. Dr. Roy Gibson would do all in his power, by flying from Ceduna when needed, and that would be his part in helping the society, as his services would be gratis, Mr Jones concluded.

His Grace, in responding, said in looking around the hall he was pleased to have come all the way from Sydney to meet the people of who witnessed the dedication of the hospital. The hospital would perpetuate the memory of one with whom he had worked. Bishop Kirkby was not only a good Australian, but also a good Christian who was ever willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, and as a tribute to his work and memory one might add in conclusion, "Something attempted, something done!"

Wellwishers (including Mrs Kirkby) from all parts of Australia sent telegrams to Mr Jones, congratulating the B.O.A. Society on this momentous day, including Rev. N. Rook, Matron Obilds, Mrs Kirkby, Sister Blum, Ven. Archbishop Langley

Rev. H. K. Smith, Rev. A. H. Edwards, Matron B.C.A. Mailbag Sunday School Staff Wilcannia Hospital, Secretary Pioneers Australia (Sydney) and Mrs Bossley