

WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD Recognition Of Doctor

Payneham residents plan to build by public subscription a £3,000 Children's Centre as a memorial to the late Dr. Ernest Lincoln Borthwick's 46 years of noble, self-sacrificing work for the community.

The centre—for children up to five years—will include a baby clinic, free kindergarten and playground.

The Kensington and Norwood Council has already named a playground in Phillip street in honor of Dr. Borthwick and his brother and partner, the late Dr. Frank Borthwick.



Dr. Borthwick

Smiling Dr. E. L. Borthwick never charged a poor patient; instead he often quietly spent his own money in helping those in need, old Payneham residents said yesterday.

Relatives said that when Dr. Borthwick died at the age of 75 on October 14 last, he was not a wealthy man, although he had one of the largest lodge practices in the State.

"Dr. Borthwick thanked me for getting better—he seemed to regard that as the most important thing—after he had saved my life by performing an operation free," a Payneham woman said. "Dr. Borthwick's nature was so sympathetic that he was much upset by the death of a child or plight of an aged person, suffering from an incurable disease, like cancer. When so upset, he would try to conceal his sympathy by assuming a gruff manner which deceived nobody.

"On entering the room of an old patient, he would often exclaim: 'What, you still alive? You should be pole-axed. I thought you'd have been dead years ago.'"

"No one knew, during Dr. Borthwick's life, that he had an understanding with a chemist that when Dr. Borthwick marked a prescription in Latin "ad meum" (to my account), there was to be no charge.

"If Dr. Borthwick considered that a poor patient needed beef-steak rather than medicine, he would promptly instruct a butcher to send steak daily at the doctor's expense until further notice. Dr. Borthwick also often paid for the supply of firewood in winter to poor patients.

"Dr. Borthwick's Scottish wife often accompanied him on his rounds with a basket of delicacies and knitted clothes for poor patients. At Christmas Dr. Borthwick would ask needy patients what

patients. At Christmas Dr. Borthwick would ask needy patients what they would be having for Christmas dinner. If he considered the fare insufficient, he would give money to provide a good dinner.

"Blunt And Honest"

"Never a fashion plate, Dr. Borthwick was always blunt, honest and downright—an admirer of these qualities of the famous 'Iron Duke' of Wellington.

"Patients would laugh and go home when Dr. Borthwick, after a tiring day in latter years, sometimes told a night crowd in his waiting room, 'All those, who think they can survive until tomorrow, can go home. I'll see the rest.'

"Although not a churchgoer, Dr. Borthwick was a practical Christian. He often quoted to patients the Scriptures, also Shakespeare, Byron and other poets. He was a great judge of character."

Councillor M. Blanden, of Payneham, who has been resident in the district for more than 50 years, said that when a teacher once asked in a Payneham Sunday School, "Who was the man who went about doing good?" a child innocently answered "Dr. Borthwick."

"For 26 years, Dr. Borthwick attended free my son, who suffered from an incurable heart ailment," said Councillor Blanden. "Even when Dr. Borthwick was hardly able to walk, just before his death, he insisted on travelling a mile at night in his car to give my son an injection."

Dr. Borthwick was one of three doctor sons of William Borthwick, a Scottish farmer, of Port Lincoln, where Dr. Borthwick was born.

Two Holidays In 46 Years

Dr. Borthwick graduated in medicine in 1895 at Edinburgh University and married an Edinburgh girl, Miss Margaret Oliver.

Dim oil lamps lit the streets of Payneham and surrounding districts when Dr. Borthwick began practice on Payneham road in 1899.

Dr. Borthwick's widow said yesterday that Payneham was then more of a workers' district than it was now. Laborers' wages ranged then from only £1 to 30/ a week. Her husband kept seven horses, as his round covered a huge district, extending to Teatree Gully, Athelstone, Montacute, and Glen Osmond.

"Often the roads were almost impassable in wet weather," said Mrs. Borthwick, "but, hating to disturb his coachman on a wet night, the doctor would harness a horse and drive the buggy himself."

Later, when Dr. Borthwick owned some of the first motor cycles in Adelaide, everybody knew he was on a night call when they heard one of his machines roaring.

"My husband would cancel any holiday arrangement if one of his patients was seriously ill. In 46 years he had only two real holidays—one in Sydney and one in Tasmania.

Despite failing health, he continued to attend, until a few weeks

before his death, patients who in many cases were not so ill as he was himself."

Dr. Borthwick is also survived by two sons, Tom, of Eyre Peninsula, and John, of Gladstone.

Recognition Sought

A well-attended public meeting at the Payneham municipal offices recently decided to ask the public to subscribe to the "Dr. E. L. Borthwick Memorial Fund," and subscriptions may be forwarded to the honorary secretary or honorary treasurer of the fund, Municipal Offices, Payneham. Principal executives of the memorial fund are—President, the Mayor of Payneham (Cr. F. N. Drage), vice-presidents, Mrs. G. D. Stevens and Mr. D. S. W. Humble; hon. secretary, Mrs. A. C. Roberts; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. J. Beck.

The Payneham Council, the Payneham branch of the Mothers and Babies' Health Association, the Payneham Free Kindergarten and other organisations are co-operating in the memorial move.



Dr. Borthwick