

Memories before the NHS

Deddington Surgery

This was held at Featherton House before it became a nursing home¹. The first doctor I remember was Dr Jones who visited me when I had pneumonia at the age of 5 years. We were then living at 5 Hempton Road.

One Saturday afternoon I had a fall and cut my head badly. My father went to Dr Hodges who lived at The Mount.² The doctor said 'take him to the surgery I will be there in a few minutes' which he was and stitched my wound.

The other doctor there was Dr Holloway who was a very respected person but had to go for military service but did not come back to the surgery after the war.

There was also Dr Le-Wolfe who very much liked a tippie.

There was also a Dispensary. The Dispenser was a Miss Legge who was very kind to children and when they required medication would always give them a small bottle for their dolls (coloured water I suppose). Later the dispensary was moved to the chemist in the High Street run by a Mr Stockford.

The surgery then moved to Osborne House³ in the High Street - one of the doctors there was Dr Unsworth who was tragically killed in a road accident.

the Dispenser was Mrs Wing the school-master's wife.

The District Nurse was Nurse Fox who lived in Nurse's Cottage⁴ in the Market Square, she also treated minor injuries from her home.

The Doctor's waiting room at Featherton House had two bench seats and was only large enough for 10 people. There was no appointment system in those days; you just turned up and waited your turn. When you had seen the doctor on your way out you just shouted, 'next one please'.

We are so fortunate to have such an excellent Health Centre as we have today.

DON WALKER

¹ In between being a surgery and becoming a nursing home it was a residential property

² Located at the east end of Goose Green

³ Two houses down from the traffic lights, west side

⁴ South East corner just before the narrow entrance to Chapel Square. Still called The Nurses Cottage.