

Mr. L. A. WILSON - Housemaster, Berry Training Farm.

P 13380. Telephone conversation pf 29.9.64 with Asst. C.E.D.

Shortly after coming to Berry, Mr. Wilson informed me that he had certain medical experience. His actual words to the best of my recollection were: "I was doing Medicine. I got as far as 3rd Year when one day during brain surgery I had a nervous breakdown. I ran out of the room screaming. Although I was all right afterwards I decided to have a rest from it. It was a big decision to make but I decided not to go back to it. I considered it would be better to give it up at that stage than to go ahead with it when I was unsuited."

Naturally I assumed that he had been doing a degree course at the University and I am quite positive that at no time did he mention the words Parramatta or Mental Hospital.

To-day I interviewed Mr. Wilson in my Office. I said to him:

"With regard to the medical training you have told me about, what University were you going to?"

"I didn't go to the University. This was at Parramatta Hospital."

"Parramatta Hospital?"

"Parramatta Mental Hospital."

"What were you there?"

"A male nurse."

"Well what is this 3rd Year Medicine you told me about?"

"That was a course in psychology and psychiatric medicine conducted by the Mental Hospital. It is a four year course; I was in the 3rd year of the course. I went to lectures two nights a week at the Mental Hospital plus films on Wednesday nights. I was there from 1953 to 1956."

"Well naturally I assumed, as anyone would, that you meant you had been doing Medicine at the University. Why, only the other day when I happened to mention to you that I had visited Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney the previous day with my daughter to enrol her as a trainee nurse, you said: It is a good hospital; their training standards are high; it is the University training hospital you know. We used to go up there two days a week."

"The lectures at Prince Alfred were more or less a voluntary affair. It was up to the person himself to decide whether he went to them to better himself. It was a way of seeing the practical work - the machines."

"What machines?"

"The machines they clamp on the patient's head."

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One is left with the somewhat uneasy feeling that Mr. Wilson is a little odd.

J. Alderson
Superintendent.

Assistant Chief Establishments Division.

30.9.64

C.E.D. as requested 29/10/64