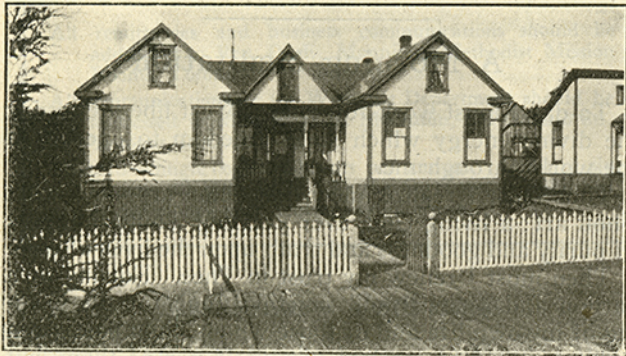


## Medical Missionary Work at Bella Bella, B.C.

GEO. E. DARBY, B.A., M.B.

[The Bella Bella-Rivers Inlet Hospital came to its needy constituency on the Coast, and to the Methodist Church, as the direct gift of Rev. R. W. Large, M.D., whose work as a medical missionary made such an institution possible, and whose industry, ability, and financial contributions brought into existence the institution for which a demand had been created.



BELLA BELLA HOSPITAL.  
They need a new building.

Since Dr. Large's appointment to the Port Simpson Hospital five years ago, the work at Bella Bella has suffered from frequent change of superintendency. Dr. Schlicter removed to Vancouver for reasons of health; Dr. A. F. Lepper, under appointment to China, supplied for only a few weeks when his term was cut short by death. Another supply finished out his year and Dr. A. E. Best, to whom reference is made in this report, spent one year at Bella Bella before sailing for China in the fall of 1914.

The Missionary Society is fortunate in having secured, two years ago, in the person of Dr. George E. Darby, a fully qualified medical man and enthusiastic missionary for this important dual position. Dr. Darby's account of steady improvement and more hopeful outlook will be read with interest by many sympathetic supporters of this beneficent enterprise. [Editor.]

During the year ending March 31st, 1911, the last one that Dr. Large was here, 116 patients were treated in the two hospitals for 2368 days, which represents the average, I think, for several years. After that, there are no records until 1913, when Dr. Best took charge. During this time, slightly more than two years, two doctors and a medical student were in charge with intervals when the nurses kept the hospital open and awaited anxiously the arrival of the passenger steamer and a doctor. Naturally, patients became scarcer and scarcer until the outlook became so discouraging that the nurse in charge wished to close the hospital. However, the building had not outlived its usefulness, and with Dr. Best established for a definite length of time, the people round about learned gradually that they could depend upon finding a doctor at the hospital, and the attendance improved. The improvement, though slow, was sure, yet we often wondered during the winter of 1914-15 if the hospital should be continued here.

But if you look at the figures given herewith, you will see that the attendance was almost as large last year as ever. If the number of patients has grown from almost none to nearly normal in two years, it seems to me that there is just as much, if not more, demand, for a hospital here, than ever before. The probability is that the number will increase each year and that probability leads us to the consideration of

a new hospital building. Dr. Large must have had his hands full in disposing of his patients comfortably; as to doing it hygienically, that was impossible. At present the hospital is not only small, but it has deteriorated a great deal and has not the conveniences which are demanded to-day. It is so easy to get to the city now, comparatively, that we must have a modern plant if we are to care for the sick within our reach. Many of our patients come to us by steamer, and unless our hospital is attractive, except in emergencies of course, they will stay aboard the ship till they reach Vancouver or Rupert.

We wish to give our staff great credit for the share they have had in restoring our hospital to its former popularity. We have found it necessary to keep a nurse on night duty, which means that the other two must do all the ward work and cooking. With an average of six patients, that means ten to cook for every day. The fourth member of our staff, usually a Japanese boy, is kept busy washing dishes, sweeping, scrubbing, and doing outside chores. That the patients appreciate the care that they get is shown in their willingness to help. One ex-patient, while waiting for a boat to call and take him away, mended a bad leak in the roof. Another, who was in with a broken leg, brought us a deer as soon as the season opened, while others have helped with the various odd jobs that there are to do around a place like this. During the hard, cold spell, in which all our water pipes were frozen, and the water had to be brought from a distance, a patient who was recovering from a broken leg, worked the injured member back into usefulness by carrying water for us. Still another ex-patient who won a pig in a shooting contest, presented it to us for Christmas dinner, all nicely scraped, cleaned and ready for roasting. We were very glad to hear the other day that, owing to the influence of one of the nurses, this man had quit drinking.

Last year we moved to Rivers Inlet, on June 1st, that is, some of us did. We made arrangements for a cannery tug to come up from the Inlet to get us and were prepared to go on Tuesday. On Monday morning, however, a Japanese woman who had been waiting for over a month, decided to have her baby at Bella Bella after all, and so upset our plans, as a cannery tug is not a fit conveyance for a brand new baby and its mother. Not having a telephone, we could



KATHERINE ANN DARBY.  
A little missionary and her friends.

not cancel the arrangements for the tug to come, and had to make the best of our dilemma. All but the senior nurse and myself departed on the tug with the supplies that we take each year. I waited until Saturday, and as mother and baby were getting along nicely, I left in our launch about nine a.m. On the way I paid a visit to Namu Cannery, where I earned the heartfelt gratitude of a fisherman by relieving him of a tooth which had been aching for several days. I also called at a lighthouse and broke the monotony



of the life of the young couple who were in charge there. After three more hours' run, I arrived at the hospital about 11 p.m., having gone about seventy miles. Thus I accomplished with my own launch what I would not otherwise have been able to do except at considerable expense. The nurse and her patients left on the following Wednesday, but had to change boats at Namu cannery and wait there till Sunday night, arriving at our hospital Monday morning. As I was only eleven hours while the nurse was four days and a half, you can see how useful a launch is to us, and this is only one example. After a busy summer, which we all enjoyed, we returned to Bella Bella.

In closing this report, we take the opportunity to express our gratitude for the financial help rendered by the Missionary Society and the Women's Missionary Society. The former covers our salary, while the latter provides for the nurses. We are also glad to think that in many places a personal interest is taken in our work as evidenced by gifts both of money and supplies, which, needless to say, were gratefully received.



DR. DARBY AND TWO OF HIS STAFF.

The following figures are taken from Dr. Darby's statistical report:

For comparative purposes a brief report of the attendance of the previous year is given:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| White patients from April 1st, 1914, to March 31, 1915 ..... | 28        |
| Indian patients during same period .....                     | 54        |
| <b>Total .....</b>   | <b>82</b> |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Hospital attendance 1915-16:                  |            |
| Patients in hospital on April 1st, 1915 ..... | 2          |
| Admitted during year .....                    | 131        |
| <b>Total .....</b>                            | <b>133</b> |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Total number of days of treatment .....  | 2,212 |
| Average stay per patient, in days .....  | 17    |
| Average number of patients per day ..... | 6     |

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Discharged:                  |            |
| Cured .....                  | 93         |
| Improved .....               | 28         |
| Unimproved .....             | 3          |
| Incurable .....              | 3          |
| Died .....                   | 2          |
| Remaining in, March 31 ..... | 4          |
| <b>Total .....</b>           | <b>133</b> |

The Northern Baptists, United States, faced with the necessity of cutting down foreign work, instituted in May, 1915, a five-year programme covering both home and foreign work. At the close of the year the foreign funds showed an increase of \$249,874, which more than covered the deficit, and gave the largest income ever received by the Society.

## Despatches from the Front

### Six Nations and Grand River Missions

(Revs. George Carpenter and T. B. Edmonds, Missionaries.)

#### SIX NATIONS.

The work is very slow and difficult. The progress we have seen thus far is, *First*—A waning of the terrible prejudice we found existing when coming to this work. *Second*—A growing friendliness on the part of some of the people of the "long house," so that we can get a little converse with them. *Third*—An increased activity on the part of the leaders of the "long house" to hold their families to its service. I am told that such activity along this line was never known as has existed during the past year. Certainly there must be a reason for it. We feel satisfied the young people of these families are being weaned away from the "long house" ceremonies as a religion. God help us to reach them and win them to the better way. We have in our two schools in this community normal grade teachers. Both are members of the Methodist Church and are living with us in the mission house. One of them is superintendent of the Sunday school and the other is a teacher. The result is a firmer stand on the part of the above-mentioned leaders against the schools. While Indian teachers with very limited ability to teach were in the schools, they were not much alarmed, but now they do not hesitate to say, "If our children go to these schools they will soon be ashamed to go to the 'long house,'" and that is very true, and as their religion demands the children to attend at certain times and dance certain dances; they are trying to prevent their attendance at the schools. The school board, of which I am a member, contemplates the appointment of a proper truant officer to compel attendance. These leaders say if that is done there will be war. Again there have been meetings held of late in the "long house" to discuss the advisability of making an effort to return to what is called the "old system," in which any person professing Christianity cannot be a chief. Now, from all this you will notice there is an influence at work in the community, causing considerable alarm to the leaders of the "long house," and which is also the cause of so much increased activity.

#### GRAND RIVER.

The services at Grand River have been maintained throughout the year, and the young people especially have manifested a deep interest. Considering our membership, the attendance at Sunday school and preaching services has been small, but considering the distances from the church, where practically all our people live, and the condition of the roads during the winter and spring, the attendance has been fair, the actual average at Sunday school being 19, and at church about 35. The financial returns are on the whole better this year than last. Most encouraging of all is the spirit of independence developing among the young people. They are slowly coming to the missionary's viewpoint, of wanting to do things for themselves. Hitherto they had depended upon the missionary to do everything at Sunday school. Now we have a superintendent, secretary, treasurer, organists, and two teachers trained to do at least some of the duties pertaining to their offices. They desire to have a teacher-training class, and to measure up to the standard of efficiency set by the Department in as many other ways as possible, and at their last Board of Management meeting arranged to do so. Their enthusiasm may wane and disappointments may come, but they can hardly return to a condition of absolute dependence. Seventeen of our young men at Grand River Church have enlisted, and their names are on our honor roll.