

## **RESEARCH NOTES – IVY (NELL) HASTWELL**

30 APR 1915 BIRTH

Ivy Nell Hastwell born at Kingswood, South Australia

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23 DEC 1930 INTERMEDIATE YEAR

South Eastern Times, Millicent

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/201003921>

Nell Hastwell came third in the second term of her intermediate year at Millicent High School. It was noted in the official report that the financial difficulties of the Depression had checked the development of the school, and that the inability to build new school buildings would severely hamper the work of the school.

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13 OCT 1936 NURSING FINALS

News, Adelaide

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/132033718>

1936 - Final Nursing Examination results

Ivy Nell Hastwell of Mount Gambier Hospital passed third in order of merit in the October examinations.

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13 Jan 1937 SOCIAL NOTES

Southern Argus

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/96818389>

“Personal

Miss Anne Hartmann, who is undergoing her training at the Mount Gambier Hospital, returned on Monday to her duties, after spending her annual 3 weeks’ leave with her parents at “Sunnydale” Strathalbyn. During the last week of her leave, she had as her guest, Miss Nell Hastwell, who has recently completed her training at the same hospital. Sister Hastwell also left Strathalbyn on Monday for her home at Knightsbridge.”

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11 July 1940 NURSING APPOINTMENT

Border Watch (Mount Gambier SA 1861-1954)

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article78099213>

“Social Notes

Sister Nell Hastwell, who came to Mount Gambier for a brief holiday visit, has accepted an appointment at St Neots Hospital. She is at present the guest of Dr and Mrs J.R.L. Willis.”

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13 Jan 1944 SOCIAL NOTES

(Border Watch (Mount Gambier SA 1861-1954)

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78159558>

“Sister Hastwell, of Adelaide, and Miss Claire Hastwell, school teacher Tanunda, after spending a few days at Tantanoola, left on Monday for Mount Gambier, where they intend to spend a few days sightseeing before returning to their duties.”

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20 JAN 1944 VISIT BY AUNT

Border Watch (Mt Gambier SA 1861-1954) Thursday 20 January 1944 Page 1

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/78159757>

"Mrs R. O. Miller of Hobart Tasmania, who is on an extended visit to relatives in South Australia, is spending a fortnight in Mt Gambier with her nieces, Misses Nell and Claire Hastwell. They are staying at Gifford's Hotel."

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#### 25 AUG 1949 ADDRESS TO ROTARIANS

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA: 1861 - 1954), Saturday 27 August 1949, page 10  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article78633835>

Sister Hastwell, x-ray laboratory technician at the Mount Gambier Hospital, was guest speaker at the Rotary Club's meeting on Thursday night. She began her "Radiography" address thus: "My work, to me, is very interesting and I hope that what I have to say will be of interest to you and will convey some-idea of what a great part radiography has come to play in modern medicine and surgery."

She told how x-rays were also used in the industrial world to detect flaws in metals, and by American Customs Authorities in experiments to detect smuggled goods. "However," she said, "that is outside my sphere."

"I am not a fully qualified radiographer or x-ray technician," she continued. "To obtain a certificate the technician must have four years of study in chemistry, physics, electrical engineering and various other subjects."

"The term radiographer and radiologist are not synonymous. The former exists solely to take the pictures (and the criticism if the picture is not up to standard), while the latter is the medical man or specialist who interprets them."

Sister Hastwell said, when she started on this job she had her nurse's certificate, some knowledge of anatomy and physiology and an elementary smattering of the subjects she had mentioned earlier; and then - "Ever since, I have been struggling to learn more, always it seems, just a step behind."

#### X-RAY DISCOVERED

It was just over 50 years since x-rays were first discovered, she continued. Prior to that time scientists, amongst them Mme. Curie, had discovered the radioactive elements - radium, uranium, etc., and were studying their possibilities. The rays from these elements, though invisible to the human eye, had the power of darkening a photographic plate. Research had proved that these emanations were minute particles of the atoms given off during the spontaneous disintegration of the metals. Some of them were charged with positive electricity and some with negative. The negatively charged ones were called electrons. It had also been discovered that other metals, when heated, gave off electrons, which, when directed towards a plate coated with barium and platino-cyanide, caused the plate to glow.

Sister Hastwell vividly described how x-rays were first discovered.

"In 1895, Dr. Roentgen, of the University of Wurtzburg, Germany, was in a darkened room studying the effects of his invisible electron ray on the plate, when he brought his hand between the source of the ray and the screen. To his amazement he saw the bones outlined on the screen. He persuaded his wife to be the subject of an experiment. While she placed her hand on a photographic plate he directed the ray upon it for 15 minutes. When developed they had a picture of the bones and the rings she wore."

Dr. Roentgen called his discovery the x-ray. His name has been perpetuated in Roentgenology, the (name given to the science and study of radiology. He died in 1823, so that for 28 years he was able to follow the progress made in the improvement and utilisation of his discovery.

At first x-rays were used for bone work alone. Humidity affected primitive apparatus to a large extent.

#### X-RAY TUBE

In 1916, Dr. Coolidge in America invented the x-ray tube as we know it today. Sister Hastwell described it as a glass bulb completely exhausted of air, with a Tungsten filament at one end. An electric current was passed through the filament causing generated electrons to move across the vacuum to a Tungsten target which was set at an angle and charged with positive electricity. The rays were repelled and deflected downwards. For the thicker parts of the body a greater number of electrons travelling at a greater speed had to be used than for the thinner parts. The speaker described the local hospital machine's capabilities. She said "With our modern machine I have a variation in millamperes from 25-300 and in Kilovolts from 30-100. 100,000 volts is quite a fair current."

#### DANGEROUS TO HANDLE

Said Sister Hastwell "X-rays can be dangerous things to handle. Before the days of absolutely automatic control and measurement the technician used to hold his hand before the ray to estimate if sufficient electrons were passing through to take the required picture. Many a man has had his hand so terribly burned that it has had to be amputated. The rays penetrate and attract the soft tissues."

X-rays had been a very difficult thing to describe to the lay world, said Miss Hastwell. In the early 1900's English and American shops had advertised x-ray proof materials, and clothes. The modern x-ray tube, unlike the one it had replaced at the hospital 15 months ago, was completely insulated. A nurse's fashionable high-pinned hair had once touched the target end of the old tube, giving, her and a patient she was holding a minor shock.

Technicians these days wore lead-rubber gloves and a lead-rubber apron. Some time previously it had been discovered that constant communication with x-rays had rendered men and women sterile.

"Our machine can be wired for x-ray treatment of cancer," said Sister Hastwell. "Doctors here send their patients to the city for specialized treatment."

To conclude her address Sister Hastwell showed Rotarians some x-ray plates against an illuminated screen.

To take pictures of the intestines patients first drank chalky barium sulphate to make the organs more defined when the picture was developed. Various dyes, such as sodium iodide, were also used when pictures of internal organs were to be taken. Sodium iodide was carried by the blood to the gall bladder, where it often made the stones of the bladder visible on the plate.

#### SETTING FRACTURES

Mechanical means of setting fractured bones were illustrated by the speaker, who said that without- x-ray such means would have been impossible. A fractured ankle was set and kept in position by a screw. When both leg bones were fractured a steel plate and screws were used until they had set.

Old people who for fear of pneumonia could not be immobilised for very long, had a series of fine wires held in position by a stainless steel pin, inserted when their hip was fractured. They were able to be out of bed within three weeks and walking while the fracture was setting and new bone beginning to form.

X-ray was proving its value in chest work. Tuberculosis could be detected long before there was any clinical sign.

Sister Hastwell was thanked by the President (Mr. G. V. Sheard) for a most instructive address.

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#### 1980's – RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Source: Pearl & Bill Clark's address book:

Nita Claire & Ivy (Nell) lived at 2/12 Edward Street, Plympton SA.

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## 6 AUG 1996 DEATH

Death of Ivy Nell HASTWELL according to: (Source, Coroner's Reports - Finding of Inquests - relevant extract, culled for privacy reasons, taken by Wendy Baker).

### FINDING OF INQUEST

An Inquest taken on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen at Adelaide in the State of South Australia, before a Coroner for the said State, concerning the deaths of Nita Claire Hastwell and Ivy Nell HASTWELL

I, the said Coroner, do find that:-

- Nita Claire Hastwell, aged 78 years, late of 7a Acacia Street, Plympton Park, died on the Sturt Highway near Blanchetown in the State of South Australia on the 3rd day of August, 1996. I find that the cause of death was cerebral avulsion due to crushed head;

- Ivy Nell HASTWELL, aged 81 years, late of 7a Acacia Street, Plympton Park, died at the Royal Adelaide Hospital on 6 August 1996. I find that the cause of death was multiple injuries.

I find that the circumstances of each of these above-mentioned deaths were as follows:-

#### 1. The collision

1.1 At about 1.00p.m. on Saturday 3 August 1996 a collision occurred between the following vehicles:-

- a semi-trailer consisting of a 1993 Ford prime-mover ... and fully laden trailer ...  
and • a 1993 Toyota Sedan driven by Nita Claire Hastwell, aged 78 years, of Plympton Park, South Australia;

1.2 In the Toyota sedan, Nita Claire Hastwell died instantly due to massive head injuries. Her sister, Ivy Nell HASTWELL, who was a front-seat passenger in the vehicle, received serious injuries, was conveyed to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where she died on 6 August 1996 as a result of injuries received in the collision.

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## 6 AUG1986 CREMATION

Centennial Park Cemetery lists gives:

Hastwell, Ivy Nell

From: Plympton Park

Death date: 6/8/1986

Age: 81

Cremation

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